

JAHM JEWISH AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH 

TOOLKIT

&

RESOURCE

GUIDE

JewishAmericanHeritage.org

Let's JAHM together this May!

Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) each May is a celebration of the contributions and experiences of Jewish Americans and highlights how America's Jewish communities have shaped and been shaped by the cultural, social, and economic fabric of the United States.

Recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month is a commitment to a more inclusive and respectful society. This toolkit is designed to help you learn about Jewish American Heritage Month and offers many ways to celebrate and engage in your own organization and community. Access social media posts and easy-to-use resources to get started—and check [JewishAmericanHeritage.org](https://www.jewishamericanheritage.org) for regular updates through May 2023.

Here are a few ways you can prepare for JAHM right now:

JAHM on Social Media

Plan to include JAHM in your social media content this May. Schedule a May 1st post to help launch the month! Sample launch posts are available in the [toolkit](#).

Let people know JAHM is happening

Include JAHM in your e-newsletters this spring to let your community know Jewish American Heritage Month is celebrated each May! Feature JAHM in messages to your organization and to members of the public.

Include JAHM in your existing programs and activities

Plan a program or highlight a resource in May that celebrates American Jewish history, heritage, or culture. Use the JAHM logo provided in the toolkit to connect your work to JAHM.

Feature JAHM in your DEI work this May!

If you or your organization are organizing DEI work and the Jewish experience is currently not part of that effort, it's easy to acknowledge JAHM this spring and begin to recognize the Jewish community.

Keep reading for more JAHM resources and suggestions.

Questions? Contact info@jmuse.org for help. Thanks for your partnership!



Ways to Celebrate and Engage

Here are some ways you can raise awareness about Jewish American Heritage Month.

for anyone and everyone

Use this toolkit!

Sample social posts, resource guides, “did you know” facts, downloadable assets such as a JAHM poster and logo; it’s all ready and waiting for you.

JAHM on Social Media

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DID YOU KNOW? 

Today, 7.5 million Jewish Americans make up roughly 2.25% of the U.S. population, with researchers estimating that Jews of Color represent at least 12-15% of American Jews.

JAHM 

JAHM JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  **CELEBRATE IN MAY!**

DID YOU KNOW? _____

-  The 23 adults and children who would form the first Jewish community in the U.S. came from Brazil in 1654.
-  The majority of American Jews say that working for justice and equality in society are essential parts of being Jewish¹.
-  Today, 7.5 million Jewish Americans make up roughly 2.25% of the U.S. population, with researchers estimating that Jews of Color represent at least 12-15% of American Jews².

Hang up a JAHM poster

Water coolers, breakrooms, lounges, and elevators are great places to feature JAHM print materials. The JAHM poster (in the toolkit) is available for free download and easy to print (on standard 11x17 ledger-sized paper), helping to raise awareness and share fast facts and quick tips.

Dive a little deeper

Create Educational Materials

Your organization may have a lot to say about particular facets of American Jewish life. Whether you're a history museum or a community-based organization, consider creating, repackaging, or distributing your materials in ways that amplifies your work during JAHM—fact sheets, brochures, and posters that provide information about the history and contributions of Jewish Americans are great resources.

Develop Cultural Events & Experiences and Foster Engagement

Book club anyone? Consider organizing performances, mini-exhibits, or lectures that celebrate Jewish American culture and heritage. Already doing this kind of work? Add a note to your publicity that those activities are being held in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month.

Looking for ideas for speakers or performers to feature during May? Review the list of JAHM partners around the country at JewishAmericanHeritage.org and reach out to an organization in your area—they would love to be helpful. And don't forget to partner and invite others to be a partner, which promotes community and allyship.



Host a book club—check out recommendations from JAHM coalition members like the [Jewish Book Council](#) and [Jewtina y Co.](#) to pick your book-of-the-month.

Participate in Community Activities

Check out your local Jewish community's cultural organizations and encourage your staff to join their offerings.

Attend workshops, discussions, and festivals that bring members of the Jewish community to celebrate and learn about their heritage. Attend events and support initiatives that showcase Jewish American artists, musicians, writers, and creators. Watch a livestream together or encourage staff to participate on their own from the comfort of their own home. Find select events (in person and streaming) at JewishAmericanHeritage.org or check with your neighborhood institutions.

Do you have a Jewish museum in your community? Consider organizing a visit during May. Don't forget to snap a photo of your outing and post it to social with [#MyJAHM](#) [#OurSharedHeritage](#).

Advocate for JAHM

Encourage Public Recognitions

Contact elected officials at all levels and ask them to recognize and support Jewish American Heritage Month. Do you have a relationship with your Congressperson, Mayor, City Council, or other officials? Encourage recognition of JAHM in your community through proclamations and speeches by elected officials to recognize the significance of Jewish American heritage. Your city or state may already have something in the works—check in with your local officials.

Advocate for Media Coverage

As you're inviting media coverage for your May activities, be sure press is aware your activities are in celebration of JAHM. Write an op-ed. Encourage JAHM coverage that lifts up Jewish life and culture in your community and sheds light on the experiences and contributions of Jewish Americans.

ABOUT JAHM

Everything you've ever wanted to know about Jewish American Heritage Month.

Learn more about JAHM at JewishAmericanHeritage.org



What is Jewish American Heritage Month?

Jewish American Heritage Month is a national month of recognition of nearly four centuries of American Jewish experience. Recognized each year in the month of May by Presidential proclamation, JAHM provides an opportunity for people to learn about and appreciate Jewish heritage and reflect on the specific history and experiences of the American Jewish community, serving as antidote to antisemitism.



Who is JAHM for?

Everyone! Everyone is welcome to participate in Jewish American Heritage Month on the journey of discovery and celebration that makes American society so special.



When was Jewish American Heritage Month established?

JAHM was established in 2006 by President George W. Bush as a bipartisan effort sponsored in Congress by the late Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida. In 2018, the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History became the official convener of JAHM, responsible for staffing and organizing the month across the nation each year. Click [here](#) to learn more about JAHM's history.



How is Jewish American Heritage Month Organized?

JAHM is organized by the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, located on Historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia—the only national institution dedicated to exploring and interpreting the American Jewish experience. Each May, JAHM is supported by nearly 200 cultural, civic, educational, and government entities around the country who set out to celebrate the inspiring history of Jewish people in America from 1654 to the present; educate public audiences about Jewish culture; and spark crucial conversations about the American Jewish present and future.



Where can I learn more about Jewish American Heritage Month?

[JewishAmericanHeritage.org](https://www.jewishamericanheritage.org) is the centralized portal for JAHM, providing access to American Jewish culture, stories, and experience—and home to resources from some of the 200 partner organizations around the country.

The Library of Congress also hosts [jewishheritagemonth.gov](https://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov) to support the federal government’s commitment to paying tribute to the generations of Jewish Americans who helped form the fabric of American history, culture, and society.

General JAHM Talking Points

- Jewish American Heritage Month is a celebrated national effort that is recognized each May by Presidential proclamation, a tradition that began in May 2006.
- Throughout the month of May, more than 200 diverse organizations make up a coalition that highlights Jewish culture and traditions, shares educational resources, and hosts in-person and virtual events that showcase the American Jewish community’s contributions to the United States.
- JAHM provides an antidote to antisemitism by helping the general public learn more about Jewish Americans. Celebrating and raising awareness of JAHM and the inextricable links between Jewish Americans and broader American history and culture help fight antisemitism by breaking down barriers.
- Celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month in your community helps to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, and creates opportunities for all stakeholders to feel valued and seen.
- Supporting JAHM and all heritage months provide a platform for learning and understanding. These months help to build stronger communities by promoting a sense of pride, belonging, and creating common ground where people can come together and appreciate the richness of our collective heritage.
- Understanding our past helps us navigate our present and shape our future.

General History and Heritage Month Talking Points

Promote Cultural Understanding

By learning about the history, culture, and contributions of different groups, you can gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the diversity of experiences and perspectives in American society.

Foster a Sense of Belonging

Recognizing and celebrating history and heritage months helps individuals feel connected to their communities and to a shared American history.

Honor Contributions

History and heritage months provide an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the contributions made by different groups to the development and progress of America.

Encourage Diversity and Inclusion

By celebrating different cultures and heritage, you can help create a more inclusive and diverse society that values and respects differences and helps to promote equity and address systemic discrimination.

Educate and Inspire

History and heritage months provide an opportunity to learn about the history and experiences of different groups, and to gain inspiration from their achievements and resilience.

Preserve Cultural Heritage

Celebrating history and heritage months helps to preserve cultural traditions, customs, and values, and ensures that they are passed down to future generations.

Learn More!

Find American Jewish history, heritage, and culture resources from JAHM partners around the country at JewishAmericanHeritage.org.

Are you interested in joining JAHM's national coalition?
Please email info@jmuse.org to learn more.

Calendar of U.S. History and Heritage Months

<p><i>FEBRUARY</i></p> <p>Black History Month</p>	<p><i>MARCH</i></p> <p>Greek American Heritage Month</p> <p>Irish-American Heritage Month</p> <p>Women’s History Month</p>	<p><i>APRIL</i></p> <p>Arab American Heritage Month</p>
<p><i>MAY</i></p> <p>Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month</p> <p>Jewish American Heritage Month</p> <p>Military Appreciation Month</p>	<p><i>JUNE</i></p> <p>Caribbean-American Heritage Month</p> <p>Immigrant Heritage Month</p> <p>LGBTQ+ Pride Month</p>	<p><i>JULY</i></p> <p>Disability Pride Month</p> <p>French-American Heritage Month</p>
<p><i>SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15</i></p> <p>Hispanic Heritage Month</p>	<p><i>OCTOBER</i></p> <p>Filipino American History Month</p> <p>German-American Heritage Month</p> <p>Italian-American Heritage Month</p>	<p><i>NOVEMBER</i></p> <p>Native American Heritage Month</p>

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