

**2024 TOOLKIT**

**&**

**RESOURCE**

**GUIDE**

# 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.

## 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 employee education this May*

If you or your organization are organizing employee education or anti-bias training and the Jewish experience is not currently part of that effort, acknowledge JAHM this spring and help to educate your team using the diverse, joyful, powerful, and true stories of American Jews.

### **Keep reading for more JAHM resources and suggestions.**

Questions? Contact [info@jmuse.org](mailto: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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## Let people know JAHM is happening

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## Hang up a JAHM poster

Classrooms, water fountains, breakrooms, lounges, and elevators are great places to feature JAHM print materials. The JAHM posters are available for download in the toolkit and easy to print.

Share fast facts with the “Info Sheet” poster and a five-poster series featuring notable Jewish Americans who have had an impact on broader American society and culture. 3

## 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](http://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](http://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](https://www.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** 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** 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 national month of recognition and celebration held each May by Presidential proclamation, a tradition that began in May 2006.
- Sharing the true, diverse, joyful, and powerful stories of American Jewish life across nearly four centuries counters myths and misinformation about Jews and offers an antidote to antisemitism.
- To confront antisemitism (through efforts like JAHM) is to defend the core American value of democracy.
- Jews have shaped and been shaped by America since the dawn of our nation. The people who would form the first Jewish community in America were Hispanic Jews who came to New Amsterdam (New York) from Brazil as refugees in 1654.
- JAHM is for everyone! Celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month in your community helps to promote openness and inclusivity, and creates opportunities for all stakeholders to feel valued and seen. Raising awareness of JAHM and the inextricable links between Jewish Americans and broader American history and culture helps fight antisemitism by breaking down barriers.
- JAHM's central address is [JewishAmericanHeritage.org](https://www.jewishamericanheritage.org) and includes educational resources for teachers and the general public, links to special events, and marketing tools.

# General History and Heritage Month Talking Points

## *Promote Cultural Understanding*

Learning about the history, culture, and contributions of different groups enables a deeper appreciation and understanding of the diversity of experiences and perspectives in American society, and contributes to and fosters a more inclusive society that values and respects differences.

## *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.

## *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.

## *Know Your History*

Understanding our past helps us navigate our present and shape our future.

## Learn More!

Find American Jewish history, heritage, and culture resources from JAHM partners around the country at [JewishAmericanHeritage.org](http://JewishAmericanHeritage.org).

**Are you interested in joining JAHM's national coalition?  
Please email [info@jmuse.org](mailto: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 &amp; 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>

**JAHM** JEWISH AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH 

[JewishAmericanHeritage.org](https://JewishAmericanHeritage.org)