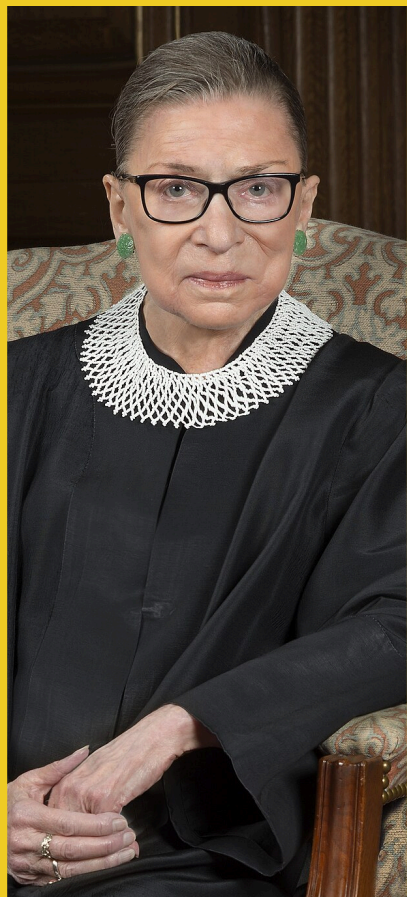




JAHM

**JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
BULLETIN BOARD MATERIALS**



INFO@STANDWITHUS.COM



WHO ARE THE JEWISH PEOPLE?

JEWS ARE A DIVERSE ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUP. JEWISH IDENTITY, LANGUAGE, RELIGION, AND CULTURE GO BACK OVER 3,000 YEARS AND COME FROM THE LAND OF ISRAEL. THOUGH JEWS NEVER BUILT A VAST EMPIRE, THEY HAD A DEEP INFLUENCE ON THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM, AND OTHER KEY PARTS OF HUMAN HISTORY. WHILE SOME ALWAYS REMAINED IN ISRAEL, OVER THE CENTURIES, MOST JEWS SCATTERED ACROSS THE WORLD DUE TO OPPRESSION BY FOREIGN EMPIRES AND OTHER FACTORS. AS A RESULT, MODERN JEWISH COMMUNITIES TODAY ARE EXTREMELY DIVERSE IN CULTURE, SKIN COLOR, CUISINE AND MORE.

HISTORICALLY, THE GLUE THAT CONNECTED JEWS AROUND THE WORLD HAS BEEN JUDAISM, THE RELIGION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. THIS INCLUDED THE STUDY OF THE TORAH, FOLLOWING A TRADITIONAL LUNAR AND SOLAR CALENDAR, AND CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS TIED TO THE SEASONS IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL.



ASHKENAZ (אשכנז) IS THE CLASSICAL HEBREW WORD FOR GERMANY. ASHKENAZI DESCRIBES JEWS FROM WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE, INCLUDING RUSSIA. THOUGH LARGE COMMUNITIES STILL LIVE ACROSS EUROPE, ASHKENAZI JEWS WERE DEVASTATED BY THE HOLOCAUST AND ANTISEMITIC PERSECUTION IN RUSSIA. WITH THE FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION IN 1989, ABOUT ONE MILLION JEWS LEFT AND RESETTLED IN ISRAEL. ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF AMERICAN JEWS AND ABOUT 45 PERCENT OF ISRAELI JEWS ARE CONSIDERED ASHKENAZI.





THE WORD MIZRAH (מִזְרָח) MEANS “EAST” IN HEBREW. MIZRAHI DESCRIBES JEWS WHO LIVED ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA. THOUGH THEY FACED SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION, MIZRAHI JEWS BUILT MANY THRIVING COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING SOME THAT EXISTED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THEY ALSO DEVELOPED UNIQUE LANGUAGES, INCLUDING JUDEO-ARABIC, JUDEO-ARAMAIC, AND JUDEO-PERSIAN—ALL WRITTEN IN HEBREW.





SEPHARAD (ספרד) IS THE HEBREW WORD FOR SPAIN. SEPHARDIC IS USED TODAY TO DESCRIBE JEWS WHOSE ANCESTORS LIVED IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. THE LANGUAGE MOST SEPHARDIC JEWS SPOKE IS CALLED LADINO. IT IS WRITTEN IN HEBREW AND IS A FUSION OF SPANISH, HEBREW, AND ARAMAIC. SOME SEPHARDIC JEWS STILL SPEAK LADINO AS THEIR MOTHER TONGUE. IN 1492, DURING THE SPANISH INQUISITION, SPANISH KING FERDINAND AND QUEEN ISABELLA EXPELLED ALL THE JEWS FROM THEIR KINGDOM, AND THOSE WHO STAYED WERE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DEATH AND CONVERTING TO CATHOLICISM. MOST SOUGHT REFUGE IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, WHILE OTHERS WENT ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE. THE FIRST JEWS WHO CAME TO AMERICA WERE SEPHARDIC. THEY WERE AMONG THE FOUNDERS OF NEW AMSTERDAM, WHICH EVENTUALLY BECAME NEW YORK.





FACTS & FIGURES

JEWISH AMERICANS MAKE UP ABOUT 2.4% OF THE U.S. POPULATION – THAT'S APPROXIMATELY 7.5 MILLION PEOPLE!

THE FIRST AMERICAN SYNAGOGUE, CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL, WAS FOUNDED IN NEW YORK IN 1654 BY SEPHARDIC JEWISH REFUGEES FLEEING THE SPANISH INQUISITION.

OVER 85% OF AMERICAN JEWS LIVE IN JUST 10 STATES, WITH NEW YORK, CALIFORNIA, AND FLORIDA HAVING THE LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS.

JEWISH AMERICANS HAVE WON OVER 20% OF ALL NOBEL PRIZES AWARDED TO U.S. CITIZENS, DESPITE BEING A TINY FRACTION OF THE POPULATION!



FACTS & FIGURES

ככה נראית עברית THIS IS WHAT HEBREW LOOKS LIKE! THE COMMON WRITTEN AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE OF THE JEWS IS HEBREW, WHICH IS INDIGENOUS TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL. WHILE ANCIENT, IT HAS BEEN REVITALIZED IN ISRAEL AS A MODERN LANGUAGE. AN ISRAELI CAN FLUENTLY READ A HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO AS WELL AS A CONTEMPORARY HEBREW ESSAY DISCUSSING CUTTING-EDGE, HIGH-TECH DEVELOPMENTS.

LOS ANGELES IS HOME TO THE LARGEST PERSIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 50,000 INDIVIDUALS. THIS VIBRANT COMMUNITY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FABRIC OF LOS ANGELES, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS LIKE BEVERLY HILLS, SANTA MONICA, ENCINO, AND CALABASAS.



TOURO SYNAGOGUE, LOCATED IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, IS THE OLDEST STANDING SYNAGOGUE BUILDING IN THE UNITED STATES. COMPLETED IN 1763, IT WAS FOUNDED BY SEPHARDIC JEWS—PRIMARILY OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE DESCENT—WHO HAD FLED PERSECUTION IN EUROPE AND THE CARIBBEAN. THE SYNAGOGUE IS A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF EARLY JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA AND OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. IN 1790, PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON WROTE A FAMOUS LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION, ASSURING THEM THAT THE U.S. WOULD GIVE “TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE.” TODAY, TOURO SYNAGOGUE REMAINS AN ACTIVE PLACE OF WORSHIP AND A HISTORIC LANDMARK, REPRESENTING THE ENDURING LEGACY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE FOUNDING OF AMERICA.



LANGUAGE

THE COMMON WRITTEN AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE OF THE JEWS IS HEBREW, WHICH IS INDIGENOUS TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL. WHILE ANCIENT, IT HAS BEEN REVITALIZED IN ISRAEL AS A MODERN LANGUAGE. AN ISRAELI CAN FLUENTLY READ A HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO AS WELL AS A CONTEMPORARY HEBREW ESSAY DISCUSSING CUTTING-EDGE, HIGH-TECH DEVELOPMENTS.

ככה נראית עברית THIS IS WHAT HEBREW LOOKS LIKE!

SHALOM – HELLO; PEACE; GOODBYE

BOKER TOV – GOOD MORNING!

LAILA TOV – GOOD NIGHT!

SHABBAT SHALOM – PEACEFUL SABBATH!

CHAG SAMEACH – HAPPY HOLIDAY!

TIKKUN OLAM – REPAIRING THE WORLD.

BARUCH HASHEM – THANK G-D.



LANGUAGE

ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE ASPECTS OF ASHKENAZI CULTURE IS THE LANGUAGE YIDDISH. WRITTEN IN HEBREW, IT IS A FUSION OF GERMAN, HEBREW, ARAMAIC, AND SOME LOCAL DIALECTS. MOST ASHKENAZI JEWS NO LONGER SPEAK YIDDISH, BUT YIDDISH WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS ARE STILL USED IN MANY ASHKENAZI JEWISH HOMES.

OY VEY – WOE IS ME!

CHUTZPAH – COURAGE, SOMETIMES OVERCONFIDENCE.

KVETCH – TO COMPLAIN OR WHINE.

SCHLEP – TO HAUL OR CARRY (SOMETHING HEAVY OR AWKWARD).



LANGUAGE

LADINO: THE LANGUAGE MOST SEPHARDIC JEWS SPOKE IS CALLED LADINO. IT IS WRITTEN IN HEBREW AND IS A FUSION OF SPANISH, HEBREW, AND ARAMAIC. SOME SEPHARDIC JEWS STILL SPEAK LADINO AS THEIR MOTHER TONGUE.

**GUAY DE MI – OH MY!
BAVAJADAS – NONSENSE!
KE HABER? – WHAT’S NEW?
UNA GRANDE BAMYA – A BIG PROBLEM.
NOCHADA BUENA – GOOD NIGHT.**



CALL TO ACTION

EDUCATE YOURSELF & OTHERS – READ BOOKS, WATCH DOCUMENTARIES, OR TAKE ONLINE COURSES ABOUT JEWISH HISTORY, CULTURE, AND TRADITIONS.

ENGAGE WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY – VISIT A SYNAGOGUE OR JEWISH CULTURAL CENTER TO LEARN FIRSTHAND ABOUT JEWISH TRADITIONS AND VALUES.

ATTEND JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS SUCH AS HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS, PASSOVER SEDERS, OR HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY PROGRAMS.

BUILD BRIDGES ACROSS COMMUNITIES – WORK WITH STUDENT CLUBS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS TO HOST INTERFAITH AND INTERCULTURAL EVENTS. PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND ALLYSHIP BY FINDING COMMON CAUSES THAT DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES CAN SUPPORT TOGETHER.