



# JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MAY IS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### President Obama Recognizes Jewish Americans for Their Valuable Contributions to Our Nation

### Website Offers Details of Celebrations Nationwide

**CINCINNATI, OH—May 2010**—By congressional resolution and presidential proclamation, May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM). This month-long celebration aims to raise the national consciousness regarding contributions Jewish Americans have made to our country's heritage. On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. On April 30, 2010, President Barack Obama issued a proclamation in which he stated "During Jewish American Heritage Month we celebrate this proud history and honor the invaluable contributions Jewish Americans have made to our nation. Jewish Americans have shaped our Nation and helped steer the course of our history."---President Barack Obama

Well-known personalities like Barbara Streisand, Levi Strauss, Sandy Koufax, Estee Lauder, Jonas Salk and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are among the prominent Jews who have contributed to our culture in fields such as sports, arts and entertainment, medicine, business, politics, and science. These and other American Jews are profiled on the **newly launched website**, [www.jahm.us](http://www.jahm.us), which serves as an interactive clearinghouse for programs and activities across the country. With more

than 75 events currently planned and growing, visitors to the site have the opportunity to enter events in their own communities; learn about national programming and garner ideas for local celebrations. The site also provides teacher resources and links to additional sites and resources, including the federal government's Jewish American Heritage Month website, [www.jewishheritage.gov](http://www.jewishheritage.gov). Visitors to [www.jahm.us](http://www.jahm.us) can also sign up for regular email updates to keep informed of new developments. Never before has there been a central resource for JAHM activities, programs, and events across the country.

Throughout the month of May 2010 a variety of events and programs nationwide will celebrate American Jews who have helped to weave the fabric of our history, culture and society. Currently there are over 75 events nationwide.

This year JAHM is pleased to announce an exciting partnership with BIO Channel of A&E Television Networks. In honor of JAHM 2010, BIO Classroom, which airs on the BIO Channel and features an interactive website online, will devote its four May programs to the following Jewish individuals who have had a major impact on American history and culture: Anne Frank, Albert Einstein, Bobby Fischer and Jon Stewart. BIO Classroom airs every Tuesday morning at 7 a.m. EST. Additionally BIO Channel will reach out to more than 250,000 teachers to ensure students participate in JAHM programs. Click on [www.biography.com/classroom](http://www.biography.com/classroom) for more information.

JAHM 2010 is expected to be the most comprehensive and widely celebrated to date. For the first time since its inception, JAHM has received federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS grant in the amount of \$143,000 has enabled the appointment of a national coordinator and more expansive public relations efforts, as well as the development of the website. In addition, **The Manischewitz Company** has come on board as a corporate sponsor, utilizing its considerable reputation as the country's largest Kosher food manufacturer to help make JAHM a household word.

A variety of organizations and institutions in our nation's capital are expected to participate in JAHM 2010 with events and programs at the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

"As the largest kosher food manufacturer in North America, The Manischewitz Company is honored to have joined the Coalition of this prestigious and noteworthy organization. We are proud to be a part of this national effort to promote further the tremendous accomplishments and contributions that Jews have made to help build this country over the years," says Paul Bensabat of The Manischewitz Company.

A variety of organizations and institutions are already planning exciting events and programs with more expected to follow.

JAHM's national coordinator is Abby Schwartz, who is based in Cincinnati, at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA). Schwartz oversees the JAHM Coalition which consists of the leadership from major national Jewish historical and cultural organizations nationwide including the AJA, the Jewish Women's Archive, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the Council of American Jewish Museums, and the Jewish Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Schwartz is building a network across the country to increase JAHM's visibility. She also works closely with the office of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who initiated the congressional resolution to make JAHM a reality.

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*Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) is a national month of recognition of the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture, celebrated in May. JAHM acknowledges the contributions of American Jews in fields ranging from sports and arts and entertainment to medicine, business, science, government, and military service.*

*"During Jewish American Heritage Month we celebrate this proud history and honor the invaluable contributions Americans have made to our Nation. As leaders in every facet of American life--from athletics, entertainment, and the arts to academia, business, government, and our Armed Forces--Jewish Americans have shaped our Nation and helped steer the course of our history. We are a stronger and more hopeful country because so many Jews from around the world have made America their home."*

*--President Barack Obama, Jewish American  
Heritage Month 2010*