

Dear Superintendent/School Leaders,

I am reaching out as part of the Long Island Jewish Coalition (LIJC) to invite you to join us in celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) this May. The LIJC is a group of 22 organizations working together to address the most pressing issues facing the Long Island Jewish community.

American heritage months celebrate the communities that form our country's mosaic, including Black History Month, Women's History Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month, and more. By recognizing heritage months, we learn about one another, honor the richness of our diverse nation, and strengthen the fabric of American society.

May was first proclaimed Jewish American Heritage Month in April 2006 by President George W. Bush. Since 2007, Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden have all issued proclamations for Jewish American Heritage Month, which celebrate Jewish Americans and encourage all Americans to learn more about Jewish heritage and contributions to the United States. At a time when young American Jews are feeling vulnerable amidst a rise in antisemitism, we cannot think of a more crucial time to celebrate the contributions of Jews to our society.

Our organizations are reaching out to schools across Long Island to elevate acknowledgment of the unique contributions of American Jews to America. We hope you will join us!

Here are some resources your schools can use to promote Jewish American Heritage Month:

- Educators may find a wealth of resources about Jewish American Heritage Month by visiting the [Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History](#), which serves as a one-stop website for JAHM resources.
- **Publicity:** Announce to students and parents ([template here](#)) and through school social media channels ([template here](#)), that your school community is celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month. Posters from the Weitzman National Museum may be downloaded by using the following link: <https://jewishamericanheritage.org/posters/> and [StandWithUs](#) has some great resources too.
- **Curriculum:** Devote instructional time and/or co-curricular programming to the study and celebration of Jewish American heritage. Our partner, [Unpacked for Educators](#), has also created a [landing page](#) with incredible educational resources you can use.
- **Guest Speakers and Panels:** Invite guest speakers, scholars, activists, or community leaders to conduct lectures, panels, or seminars on Jewish American history, identity, and social issues. The LIJC can help. Please be in touch with Sam Dubin, dubins@jcrcli.org, Jewish Community Affairs Manager, Jewish Community Relations Council - Long Island to learn more.
- **Cultural Displays:** Prominently display people, artifacts, artworks, and literature related to Jewish American heritage. This can be as simple as a bulletin board or a [display of books by and about Jewish Americans](#) in your school library to a more expansive exhibition in collaboration with a local museum, cultural center, or historical society. Brad Kolodny, President of the [Jewish Historical Society of Long Island](#) has offered his assistance as well. He may be contacted here: jhslongisland@gmail.com.

- **Film Screenings:** Screen [documentaries or films](#) highlighting Jewish American history or culture. Follow up with discussions or Q&A sessions to deepen understanding and promote dialogue.
- **Literature and Book Clubs:** Incorporate [books, stories, and literature by Jewish American authors](#) into the curriculum and/or organize book clubs for students or parents focused on exploring Jewish themes, identities, and experiences.
- **Culinary Events:** Organize cooking classes, food tastings, or cultural feasts featuring Jewish cuisine and traditional dishes. These can be fun and engaging ways to learn about food traditions and culinary heritage.
- **Multicultural Events:** Collaborate with other cultural and religious groups to organize multicultural events celebrating diversity and promoting intercultural exchange. Highlight commonalities and shared values among different communities. May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and the Jewish community shares many ties to this community.

The contribution of Jews to every aspect of American society is undeniable. While the first Jews arrived to America in 1654, many people have a limited understanding of how Judaism can simultaneously be a religion, a nationality and a culture. We hope that JAHM will increase this understanding.

Please know that we are most happy to support your efforts through any/all of ways outlined above.

Thank you in advance for your partnership.

Sincerely,

ADL New York/ New Jersey
 American Jewish Committee Long Island
 Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center
 Jewish Community Relations Council- Long Island
 Simon Wiesenthal Center
 StandWithUs
 Suffolk Y JCC
 UJA-Federation of New York