



April 15, 2026

Dear Superintendents and District Leadership,

I am writing on behalf of the Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) to ensure your district knows that May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) and to offer our support to help your district recognize and celebrate it!

JAHM offers a unique opportunity to support not just your Jewish students but Jewish faculty and families as well. You can do this alongside other cultures that share May as a heritage month, including the Asian-American, Hawaiian-Pacific Islander community. The Jewish community is quite diverse, and our resources include ways to highlight Jewish AANHPI and other intersectional voices.



Senior Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, for example, has been a household name in Jewish communities across the United States and the world. She is the first Asian-American to be ordained as a rabbi in North America. Her sermons and lectures have become regular, reliable sources of inspiration to all people who become better human beings to one another.

You can find a number of recommendations and resources, including rubrics for lessons, reading lists, and more in the following pages.

If you do anything to uplift Jewish American Heritage Month in your schools, please let us know! We would love to amplify success stories to the greater Jewish community. Please reach out to Sarah Viggiani at SViggiani@JewishRochester.org to partner on social media posts. If you need support, we are happy to provide consult to ensure that Jewish people in your community feel included and celebrated.

In Partnership,

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Recommendations for Jewish American Heritage Month

If you would like assistance or support implementing any of these actions, please reach out to mgebell@jewishrochester.org

District Level Recommendations

- [Send a letter](#) to your district letting them know about JAHM and encourage them to learn more about the American Jewish community
- Attend a Jewish American Heritage Month celebration in your community and write about it, sharing your learnings and takeaways
- Establish and support a Jewish staff employee resource group
- Engage with our [Jewish communal resources](#) to support Jewish inclusion and provide training on anti-Jewish harm
- Issue school guidance from the list of In-School recommendations below

In-School Recommendations

- [Put up posters](#) in schools that highlight influential Jewish leaders, both past and present
- Establish a Jewish Student Union (JSU)
 - If you already have one, support student and faculty recommendations and celebrations
- Invite PJ Library to your K-5 classroom for an in-person read-aloud! [Contact Dalit Spindel](#) for more information.
- Hold a cultural night or assembly that could include:
 - Activities and booths showcasing artifacts, photos and memorabilia related to Jewish American history from members of your community
 - Interactive art, music and games related to Jewish holidays, symbols and traditions
 - Discussion opportunities with community authors, teachers or other leaders
 - Scavenger hunts or trivia with questions related to Jewish history and culture
 - Vendors that offer a variety of traditional Jewish foods to create a culinary experience
 - Host a movie night that features a film centered on Jewish American identity
- Put up displays in libraries that both feature stories about Jewish identity and Jewish authors



- **Teach lessons on Jewish Americans**
 - [Lesson plans and resources for all grade levels](#)
 - [9 Ideas for Teaching JAHM](#) (Common Core Standards aligned)
 - Resources developed by the [Institute for Curriculum Services](#):
 - [Lesson plan](#) on Jewish Americans for Grades 6-12
 - [Lesson plan](#) on Jewish immigration to the US for grades 6-12
- Connect with the [Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information \(CHAI\)](#) about resources, speakers to learn more about New York State's Jewish history.
- Go on a virtual field trip to the American Jewish Historical Society's [Emma Lazarus Project](#) or
- Explore additional resources including:
 - [Videos, articles and additional classroom resources](#) on Jewish Americans by UnPacked for Educators
 - [Nine ideas for teaching Jewish American Heritage Month](#) at all grade levels from the Anti-Defamation League
 - [Celebrating and Affirming Jewish American Kids](#) from Nickelodeon and the USC Shoah Foundation
- Partner with a local synagogue, Jewish community center, or human service organization to organize a community service project and support Jewish community members in need



In addition to the resources above, [click here](#) for a singular resource for schools and districts which contains books that celebrate various aspects of Jewish identity or Jewish historical figures, divided by the suggested reading age group. There is additionally a list of Jewish authors who write about both Jewish identity and other subject areas, both fiction and non-fiction.

Remember to share your social posts with us! Tag us @EndHateRoc and @JFedRoc.