



American Corner

Universidad de Tarapacá

May 2007 Vol. 3

Jewish American History Month

May is the month when U.S. citizens remember and celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans throughout the history of the United States. The following is the proclamation of Jewish American History Month made by President Bush:

The faith and hard work of Jewish Americans have played an integral role in shaping the cultural fabric of America. During Jewish American Heritage Month, we celebrate the vital contributions of Jewish Americans to our Nation.

Throughout our history, Jewish Americans have contributed to the strength of our country and the preservation of our values. The talent and imagination of these citizens have helped our Nation prosper, and their efforts continue to remind us of America's gift of religious freedom and the blessings of God's steadfast love. Jewish Americans have worked to promote civil rights and build bridges of mutual understanding among the world's religions. Their deep commitment to faith and strong ties to family enrich our country and set a positive example for others.

This month is also a time to recognize the sacrifices of Jewish Americans who serve our Nation in the Armed Forces. These brave men and women are dedicated to freedom's cause, and all those who live in freedom live in their debt.

Jewish American Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor the accomplishments of Jewish-American citizens and to remember that our Nation is a melting pot of cultures. I join all Americans in celebrating the rich Jewish heritage and the many ways Jewish Americans contribute to a bright future for our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2007 as Jewish American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor Jewish Americans across the country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Jews in America

The history of the Jews in the United States comprises a theological dimension, with a three-way division into Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. In social terms the Jewish community began with small groups of merchants in colonial ports such as New York City and Charleston. In the mid and late 19th century well-educated German Jews arrived and settled in cities across the country. From 1880 to

1924 large numbers of Yiddish-speaking Jews arrived from Eastern Europe, settling in New York City and other large cities. After 1945 numbers came as refugees from Europe; after 1980 many came from the Soviet Union, and there has been a flow from Israel. By the year 1900 the 1.5 million Jews gave the United States third place in numbers, behind Russia and Austria-Hungary. The proportion of the population has been about 2 to 3% since 1900, but in the 21st century the Jews were widely diffused in major metropolitan areas in New York, Florida, California, New England and Illinois.

What is less known is that Jewish-American history actually has its roots in Latin America. In September, 1654, shortly before the Jewish New Year, twenty-three Jews of Portuguese ancestry from Recife, Brazil, arrived in New York, which at the time was under Dutch rule and known as New Amsterdam. This arrival was the beginning of Jewish-American history. Sephardic Portuguese Jews were also the early settlers of Newport (where the country's first synagogue was founded), Charleston, Philadelphia and Baltimore^[1].

By 1776 and the War of Independence, around 2,000 Jews lived in America, most of them Spanish and Portuguese Jews (Sephardic Jews). They played a significant role in the struggle for independence, including fighting against the British (the first Jew to die during the War was Francis Salvador). David Salisbury Franksan, aide-de-camp of Benedict Arnold, suffered from his association with the traitorous general despite loyal service in both the Continental Army and the American diplomatic corps. Jews also played a key role in financing the Revolution, with the most important of the financiers being Haym Salomon.

President George Washington remembered the Jewish contribution when he wrote to the Sephardic congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, in a letter dated August 17, 1790: "May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in the land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants. While everyone shall sit safely under his own vine and fig-tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

For more information on Jewish American history, visit the following websites:

- 350 Years of American Jewry: Illuminating Documents and Photographs from the American Jewish Archive: www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/aje/
- The American Jewish Archives: www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/programs/JAHM.htm

Mother's Day in the United States

As Mother's Day is celebrated around the world, we take a look at some "fast facts" about mothers in the U.S.:

- The driving force behind Mother's Day was Anna Jarvis, who organized observances in Grafton, W.Va., and Philadelphia on May 10, 1908. While the annual celebration spread around the country, Jarvis began lobbying politicians to set aside a day to honor mothers. She finally succeeded in 1914, when Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

How Many Mothers

- **80.5 million** - Estimated number of mothers in the United States in 2001. (Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation)
- **55%** - Percentage of 15- to 44-year-olds who are mothers.



- **81%** - Percentage of women 40 to 44 who are mothers. In 1976, 90 percent of women in that age group were mothers.

How Many Children

- **2.1** - Average number of children that women today can expect to have in their lifetime.

Mothers Remembered

- **21,667** - Number of florist establishments nationwide in 2004. The 109,915 employees in floral shops across our nation will be especially busy preparing, selling and delivering floral arrangements for Mother's Day.
- Months ahead of this widely observed day of recognition, many of the 13,057 employees of the 120 greeting-card publishing establishments in 2004 would have been busy creating Mother's Day greeting cards.

Moms Who've Recently Given Birth

- **4.1 million** - Number of births in the United States in 2005. Of this number, 414,406 were to teens 15 to 19, and 111,190 to moms 40 or older.
- **25.2** - Average age of women in 2004 when they gave birth for the first time. The record high first reached in 2003 was equaled in 2004 .
- **40%** - Percentage of births that are the mother's first. Another 32 percent are the second-born; 17 percent, third; and 11 percent, fourth or more.
- **35,578** - Number of births in 2004 that did not occur in hospitals.
- **1 in 31** - The odds of a woman delivering twins. Her odds of delivering other multiple births were approximately 1 in 565.
- **July** - The most popular month in which to have a baby, with 359,426 births taking place that month in 2004.
- **Tuesday** - The most popular day of the week to have a baby, with an average of 13,045 births taking place on Tuesdays during 2004.

Working Moms

- **5.6 million** - Number of stay-at-home moms in 2006.
- **55%** - Among mothers with infant children in 2004, the percentage in the labor force, down from a record high of 59 percent in 1998.
- **729,040** - Number of child care centers across the country in 2004. These include nearly 72,000 centers employing close to 780,000 workers and another 657,000 self-employed persons or other companies without paid employees. Many mothers turn to these centers to help juggle motherhood and career.

Single Moms

- **10.4 million** - The number of single mothers living with children younger than 18, up from 3.4 million in 1970.

Meals with Mommy



- **61% and 81%** - Percentages of children younger than 6 living with married parents who eat breakfast and dinner, respectively, with their mother every day. The corresponding percentages who eat with their father were 30 percent and 64 percent.

Webcasts in the American Corner

This is an opportunity to watch on-line discussions with experts in a number of different topics. Read the comments of the expert and send them questions in real time. It works a lot like a normal chat room. This is a good opportunity to broaden your horizons and practice your English! For detailed information on webcasts, check out the webpage at <http://webchat.state.gov/>. **Remember** that if you cannot enter the webchat at the actual time that is listed, you may go to the website at anytime to read the transcripts of previous webcasts. Some upcoming webcasts are:

Can Cities Be Environmentally Friendly and Profitable? - Doug Newman, May 15th @ 9:00 a.m. - Sustainable development is defined as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In the United States, there is a new push to develop sustainable communities that are both affordable as well as environmentally friendly. Organizations are working with U.S. government agencies and organizations around the world to create models and best practices for building sustainable communities in the 21st century.

On May 15, join Doug Newman, the director of National Energy Center for Sustainable Communities (NECSC), as he takes your questions on what it takes to develop everything from large cities to small communities centered on cleaner energy systems and energy-smart planning.

Does the Marshall Plan Still Matter after 60 Years? - Edwina Campbell, May 31st @ 9:00 a.m. - As the war-torn nations of Europe faced famine and economic disaster in the wake of World War II, the United States proposed to rebuild the continent in the interest of political stability and a healthy world economy.

On June 5, 1947, U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall spoke at Harvard University and called for American assistance in restoring the economic infrastructure of Europe. Over a span of forty-five months, the United States dedicated 1.2 percent of its GNP and between 6 and 9 percent of its federal budget to efforts focused on aiding Europe's recovery, reconstruction and reform. This became known as the Marshall Plan (officially the European Recovery Program), and it is credited with helping to restore European agricultural and industrial productivity and in preventing political chaos across Europe.

British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin was among the many Europeans at the time who praised this U.S. initiative, calling the Marshall Plan "a lifeline to sinking men, a ray of hope where none had existed before" and an act of "generosity...beyond belief."

Join us May 31 at 9:00 a.m. EDT (13:00 GMT) for a webchat led by Professor Edwina Campbell as USINFO commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Marshall Plan with an online discussion covering all aspects of the initiative and its relevance to the complex world of the 21st century.



Book of the Month

**Mystics and Messiahs: Cults and New Religions
in American History**

By Philip Jenkins

"Are religious fringe movements a recent phenomenon in American history? Are widespread fears of mass suicides, sexual abuse, and brainwashing in cults justified? Do marginalized religious groups play any positive role in American spiritual life? Do panics over such groups follow any discernable patterns? Philip Jenkins gives fascinating - and surprising - answers to these and many other questions in *Mystics and Messiahs*.

American Corner Hours

Monday through Thursday:

9:00 - 13:00

and

15:00 - 18:00

Friday:

9:00 - 13:00

Contact US!!

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Or Come See Us on the Second of El
Anexo del Biblioteca, Campus Saucache.

In May, We Celebrate...

Jewish American Heritage Month

Asian/Pacific Heritage Month

Older Americans Month

Cinco de Mayo – May 5th

Mother's Day – May 13th

Memorial Day – May 28th

Current American Corner Activities

Fun & Game in the Rincón Infantil: Daily meetings @ 10:00-10:30 and 16:00 - 16:30.

English Conversation Hour: Tuesdays from 16:30 - 17:30. (All are welcome!)

Reforzar Ingles para Funcionarios de al Biblioteca: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 17:00 - 18:00.

Sources

Jewish American Heritage Month:
www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/04/20070430-7.html

www.en.wikipedia.com

Mother's Day: www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/009747.html

Webcasts:

usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/upcoming.html