

Jewish Community Highlights

The [Gateway Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators](#) embraces and encourages diversity within the legal profession. We value diversity and those initiatives that promote it and look to partner with affiliated professional legal organizations to advance diversity. We not only strive to raise awareness, but to increase our sensitivity in the area of diversity and more closely reflect the diversity of our community at large. Having a more inclusive and diverse legal community will improve the quality of our organization's workforce and respond to our clients' requirements for diversity.

This month, as a part of our continued diversity efforts, we've elected to highlight Jewish American Heritage Month!

[Jewish American Heritage Month](#) is celebrated in May. Seeking a place to practice their beliefs without fear of prosecution, Jewish settlers first came to America. We celebrate that trek and celebrate the faith and culture of the Jewish people. Through their faith and commitment, America has become a more soulful nation and it is with this in mind that we honor them.

The city of St. Louis has the Jewish Community to thank for the \$100,000 monetary contribution to The Jewish Hospital of St. Louis in the 1900's. The Jewish Community saw a need for a hospital for poor people. The hospital was moved to the eastern edge of Forest Park, which would later become present day, Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Barnes-Jewish Hospital is the only hospital in the state of Missouri to be ranked amongst the top hospitals by U.S. News & World Report.

There are an estimated 60,000 Jewish Americans residing in the City of St. Louis today. Visit <https://www.stljewishguide.com/> for more information on the rich Jewish Culture in our city! See the "eat" section for certified Kosher Restaurants.



Here are some additional facts regarding Kashrut (Kosher):

1. Kashrut – The body of Jewish religious laws concerning the suitability of food, the fitness for use of ritual objects, etc.
2. Foods that adhere to these biblical dietary restrictions are said to be “Kosher”
3. A Religious Official does not have to bless the food to make it Kosher however; a Rabbi examines/blesses the food to certify that it is Kosher.

4. Foods that are Kosher for “year-around” purposes may not be Kosher for Passover, as there are additional dietary restrictions during this religious time.
5. Food that is not Kosher is referred to as treif: torn my beasts

For more information on our diversity efforts please visit our website:

<http://ala-gateway.org/content.php?page=Diversity-Inclusion>

As a committee, we are very interested in your thoughts, comments and suggestions about achieving greater diversity in our Chapter, our profession and in our firms. Please feel free to contact the Chair of the Gateway Chapter’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Lori Hanlon, via email at

ghanlon@sandbergphoenix.com

<https://www.stljewishguide.com>

<http://www.koshercertification.org.uk>

<http://www.jewfaq.org/kashrut>

<https://en.wikipedia.org>



May is Jewish American Heritage Month.

A month to celebrate the contributions Jewish Americans have made to America since they first arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654.

Jewish American Heritage Month had its origins in 1980 when Congress passed Pub. L. 96-237 which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating a week in April or May as Jewish Heritage Week. President Carter issued this first proclamation wherein he spoke about the bountiful contributions made by the Jews to the culture and history of the United States. He also spoke of the significance of April 1980 in the Jewish calendar, which was the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Israeli Independence Day, and the Days of Remembrance of Victims and Survivors of the Holocaust.

Between 1981 and 1990, Congress annually passed public laws proclaiming a week in April or May as Jewish Heritage Week and Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush issued annual proclamations which detailed important events in the history of the Jews.

Between 1995 and 2006, Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush issued a series of annual presidential proclamations designating a week in April or May of each year as Jewish Heritage Week. On April 24, 1998, President Clinton issued Presidential Proclamation 7087 which celebrates the many contributions of Jewish Americans along with the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

There has been a Jewish presence in America since the colonial period. The most famous first communities of Jews settled in New York City; Charleston, South Carolina; and Newport, Rhode Island. Since then, Jews have thrived in the United States, developing their own communities while being an integral part of the development of American society as a whole.

In religious life, the American Jewish community has created some unique brands of Judaism. While Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Judaism all have roots outside of the United States, each has formed its own style in America.

Did you know??

** Jews have had a remarkable influence on Hollywood and American popular culture as a whole. Perceptions of Jewish life and culture in America have been highly influenced by movies, televisions, books. Here are some notable Jewish American people who have made significant contributions over the years:

Barbara Streisand, Actress, Singer, Director, Producer
Steven Spielberg, Director, Producer
Albert Einstein, Physicist
Bernie Sanders, Politician
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice
Sandy Koufax, Baseball Player
Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook

**The Star of David is a generally recognized symbol of Jewish Identity and Judaism.

Sources:

<http://www.jewishheritagemonth.gov/about/>

[Jewish American History, in Wikipedia, Retrieved May 16, 2017, From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_American_Heritage_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_American_Heritage_Month)

[Star of David, in Wikipedia, Retrieved May 16, 2017, From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_of_David](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_of_David)

<http://blogs.bellevue.edu/library/index.php/2017/05/jewish-american-heritage-month/>

<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-american-heritage-month/>

