

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT FORD MORTHEL: JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Dear BUSD community,

May is a rich month of heritage celebrations which includes the upliftment of Jewish American Heritage Month. Since 2006, May has been proclaimed as Jewish American Heritage Month. As is true of any community, there is no single way of being Jewish. In Berkeley Unified School District, we have a beautiful spectrum of the Jewish community represented by our students and families.

The Bay Area has an especially proud history of Jewish activism and spirituality embodying the Jewish concept of *Tikkun Olam*- healing the world to make it a better place for all. It is in this spirit of *Tikkun Olam*, that we offer these resources to our community. And it is in this spirit that we honor all the ways that people are connected to Judaism and Jewish American history and culture here in BUSD: through birth, adoption, marriage/partnership, conversion, and secular and religious ties-we celebrate the diversity of the Jewish American community. Through these resources we also strive to center Jewish community members who are too often marginalized: Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews, Jews of color, Jews with disabilities, LGBTQ+ Jews, and young Jewish voices.

Among the resources shared, you will find first person stories and biographies of creatives representing some of the many ways that people connect to Judaism and Jewish heritage. Some members of the Jewish community are recognizable by the clothes (kippah/yarmulke, tallit, tefillin) or symbols they wear (Star of David), and others you will only know by asking and listening to their stories.

In this month of May, it is important to unequivocally state that we as a district stand firmly united against all forms of hate, which includes antisemitism. We denounce the rise in antisemitic rhetoric against Jewish people and are committed to teaching about contemporary and historical forms of antisemitism, including the Holocaust, and what we as a community can do to stand up against hate. We also recognize that the Jewish American community is more than the stories of the discrimination against them. This month, we take time to shine a light on contemporary Jewish artists and the resilience of the Jewish people.

In unity and שלום (*shalom*),

Enikia Ford Morthel
BUSD Superintendent

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JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH TK-8 TEACHING RESOURCES

Compiled by the Equity Achievement & Belonging Department with BUSD Jewish community members

Portrait of Judith Heumann by Jen White-Johnson, Bay Area artist



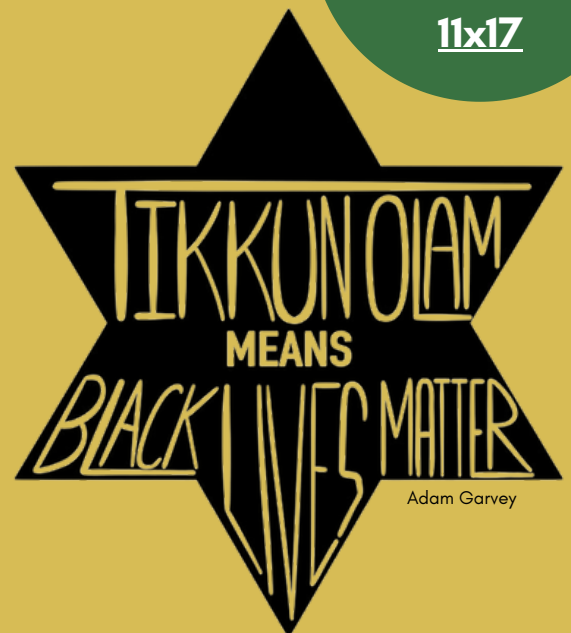
EXPAND KNOWLEDGE

- [PEW RESEARCH](#) on Jewish identity
- [RESEARCH](#) Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color
- [ARTICLE](#) Two Friends, Two Prophets, Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King Jr.
- [WATCH](#) the oral histories of Berkeley Jewish elders and Holocaust survivors from the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum
- [LISTEN](#) to Joyous Justice a podcast by April Baskin
- [WATCH](#) *Crip Camp* documentary, edited by a former BUSD parent, highlighting Berkeley Disability activism and the activism of Judith Heumann
- [VISIT](#) The Magnes Collection, Contemporary Jewish Museum
- [LEARN](#) from the Hate at School Report (2019) by Learning for Justice

GET INTERSECTIONAL*

- [ARTICLE](#) 20 Black Jews You Should Know
- [ARTICLE](#) I Grew Up Jewish, But That's Not How the World Sees Me
- [WATCH](#) LUNAR Ep5: Jewish Enough. Asian Enough.
- [ARTICLE](#) 16-Year-Old Creates 'Tikkun Olam Means Black Lives Matter' Line For Charity
- [LISTEN](#) Podcast "Conversation on Race and Jews of Color with Ilana Kaufman"
- [PODCAST](#) by Jewtina, Voces
- [ARTICLE](#) "Yes, You Can Be Native & Jewish"
- [ESSAY](#) on Latinx & Jewish identity
- [ARTICLE](#) "American Jews are taking a hard look at racism in their midst"
- [LISTEN](#) Spotify Playlist: Mi Granjita by Olamim
- [SOLIDARITY](#) work by Jews on Ohlone Land

**Classroom
Posters:**
8.5x11
11x17



*[Intersectional](#) is a term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw



CONTEMPORARY JEWISH CREATIVES TO KNOW

- ARTICLE: Black and Jewish Identities Converge in Art
- Chella Man: Deaf and gender queer artist and actor
- David Nadel: Founder of Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community Center
- Rebecca Pierce, Bay Area filmmaker
- Gabriela Orozco, DC Poet Laureate
- Kate Bornstein: Nonbinary playwright, performance artist, actor, and gender theorist
- Lonely Island: Comedy group and Berkeley High School graduates, Jorma Taccone, Andy Samberg and Akiva Schaffer
- Michael Twitty: Judaic Studies teacher and cookbook author of *The Koshersoul*
- Miriam Klein Stahl: Artist, activist, BHS art educator, and illustrator of *Rad American Women A-Z*
- Octopretzel: Folk music for the whole family
- Susan Felix: Berkeley artist
- Tongo Eisen-Martin: 2021 San Francisco Poet Laureate
- Daveed Diggs: Berkeley High School alum, actor

CURRICULUM

- LESSONS & TEACHING RESOURCES from Jewish American Heritage Month website
- EXPLORE resources by the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco
- Upper Elementary through Middle School, VIDEO of Hedy Epstein, Holocaust Survivor, on Social Activism
- Upper Elementary through Middle School, VIDEOS 10 Jewish Americans Who Changed History (PBS/ThinkTV)
- Middle School, TEACHING GUIDE for the book, *How To Find What You're Not Looking For* by Veera Hiranandani
- Middle School, TEACHING GUIDE for the book, *Recipe for Disaster* by Berkeley author, Aimee Lucido
- Middle School, RESOURCES Yom HaShoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Middle School, VIDEO History of antisemitism in refugee immigration during the Holocaust
- Middle School, LESSONS on teaching about antisemitism from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Middle School, VIDEO Kids Meet a Holocaust Survivor
- Middle School, TEACHING IDEAS for the impact of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy on the Supreme Court
- 6th grade, LESSON on Jewish holidays

Jewish American
Reading List from the
BUSD Library



Daveed Diggs, Photo: Roy Rochlin/FilmMagic

EAST BAY JEWISH FAMILY & YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

- Camp Be'chol Lashon
- Camp Tawonga
- Jewish Community Center of the East Bay
- Jewish Youth for Community Action (JYCA)
- Olamim- Latinx Jewish belonging for families
- Urban Adamah