

Your Jewish Connection  
Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee  
Written by Linda S Trapasso

## Interesting Facts

There is so much we know and so much we don't know. Here are some interesting facts from a variety of sources.

From [The Jewish Chronicle Online](#) – Israel facts:

- Tel Aviv is a UNESCO heritage site in recognition of the 4,000 Bauhaus buildings that were built in the city in the 1930s and 1940s.
- An estimated million notes are left in the Kotel each year — and cleaned out before Pesach and Rosh Hashanah.
- People who keep Shabbat can buy car insurance that doesn't cover Saturdays, making it cheaper.

From the [Jewish Federation of the North Shore](#) – Israel facts:

- When Golda Meir was elected Prime Minister of Israel in 1969, she became the world's second elected female leader in modern times.
- According to industry officials, Israel designed the airline industry's most impenetrable flight security. U.S. officials now look to Israel for advice on how to handle airborne security threats.
- The cell phone was developed in Israel by Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.



From [Chabad](#) – Torah facts:

- The Torah we use today in your synagogue is written exactly the same way the Torah was written the very first time by Moses 3,300 years ago.
- There are 304,805 letters in a Torah Scroll.
- Each page has 42 lines.

From the [Jewish Women's Archive](#) – facts on Jewish women in North America:

- In 1738, disguised as a young man, Esther Brandeau becomes the first Jew to arrive in New France (later Canada). Revealed as a woman and Jew, she was eventually deported back to France.
- In 1877, the creation of the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society of Montreal, the first Jewish women's organization in Canada.
- In 1924, Florence Prag Kahn of San Francisco becomes the first Jewish woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, replacing her deceased husband. She is reelected five times.

From the [UJA-Federation of New York](#) – a study in 2011 of New York’s Jewish community:



- More Jews live in the eight-county New York area than in the combined Jewish populations of the metropolitan areas of Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.
- More than half of all Jews feel that being Jewish is very important, give to Jewish charity, attend a Passover seder, light Chanukah candles, fast on Yom Kippur, and report that their closest friends are mostly Jewish.
- Poverty affects 71% of Russian speakers with a senior in the household, 43% of Hasidic households, 28% percent of seniors living alone, and 24% of single-parent households.

From the [Jewish National Fund of Australia, Inc.](#) – facts on JNF:

- JNF has been involved in land reclamation for more than 100 years.
- JNF is a pioneer in advanced land and water management practices preventing environmental pollution and reducing demand for scarce freshwater resources.
- JNF has changed the face of a nation – from desert to arable and habitable land.

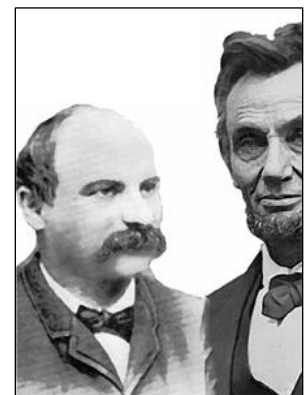
For facts on American Jewry, the [Pew Research Center](#) published a report in October, 2013, “A Portrait of Jewish Americans.” In general:

“American Jews overwhelmingly say they are proud to be Jewish and have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people, according to a major new survey by the Pew Research Center. But the survey also suggests that Jewish identity is changing in America, where one-in-five Jews (22%) now describe themselves as having no religion.”

The survey was conducted from February to June, 2013, with over 70,000 screening interviews. Go to the link above for all the survey details. See [here for an infographic](#) of the survey results.

For a daily dose of Jewish facts, history, culture, etc., sign up at the Jewish Currents daily email called [JEWDAYO](#). Here’s a sample:

President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation was sent out from the White House telegraph office on this date in 1863 by Edward Rosewater, a Jewish telegrapher. Rosewater was an abolitionist (born in Bohemia) who went on to serve in the Nebraska Territorial Legislature, to publish the Omaha Bee, and to establish the Omaha public school system. He was also a founder of the American Jewish Committee, immediately before his death in 1906.



Check these out for yourself, as there are many more interesting facts than what’s here. Who knows where your search will lead?

TO THE EDITOR – in case the embedded links above don't work

The Jewish Chronicle Online <http://www.thejc.com/news/israel-news/105323/65-facts-you-didn%E2%80%99t-know-about-israel>

Jewish Federation of the North Shore <http://www.jfns.org/page.aspx?id=43769>

Chabad [http://www.chabad.org/library/howto/wizard\\_cdo/aid/351655/jewish/Torah-Scroll-Facts.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/howto/wizard_cdo/aid/351655/jewish/Torah-Scroll-Facts.htm)

Jewish Women's Archive <http://jwa.org/350years/timeline>

UJA-Federation of New York <http://www.ujafedny.org/jewish-community-study-fast-facts/>

Jewish National Fund of Australia, Inc. <http://www.jnf.org.au/Page/149/Interesting-facts-about-JNF.cfm>

Pew Research Center <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/10/01/jewish-american-beliefs-attitudes-culture-survey/>

Pew Research Center survey infographic <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/12/03/infographic-survey-of-jewish-americans/>

JEWDAYO <http://jewishcurrents.org/sign-up>