

# הקשר היהודי שלך Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

## Jewish Americans R Us

Like everyone else in the United States of America, Jewish Americans have a story to tell. The first Jewish person in North America arrived in 1585 ([Timeline in American Jewish History](#)). We have been here ever since, with permanent settlements taking hold in the mid-1700s, and we have made our mark.

To view our history, you can check out the PBS series “[The Jewish Americans](#).”



Some of these videos are also on [YouTube](#). My Jewish Learning describes Jewish immigration to America as [three waves of Jews](#) – Sephardic, German, and Eastern European, each having their own impact. The USA’s founding fathers rooted their democracy in the Bible, and then identified with “the people of the book,” and Jewish symbolism became part of the culture (see [The secret amazing story of Jewish influence on the founding of American democracy](#)).

You can find other visual and audio items on the Internet, such as:

[American Jewish Hall of Fame](#) videos

“[The Jewish Americans](#)” and other videos at Facing History and Ourselves

[Webinars](#) and [videos](#) at American Jewish Archives

Online exhibits at [American Jewish Historical Society](#)

So, who are we now?

The Pew Research Center polled Jewish Americans and in 2013 released



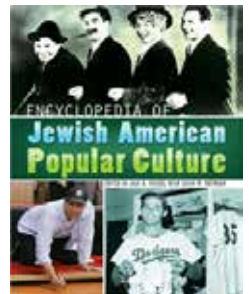
“[A Portrait of Jewish Americans](#).” The Pew Center concluded “American Jews overwhelmingly say they are proud to be Jewish and have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people... the survey also suggests that Jewish identity is changing in America, where one-in-five Jews (22%) now describe themselves as having no religion.” [Huffington Post](#) reported on the

release of Pew’s 2013 survey results, noting that the answer remains complicated even after thousands of years.

There is additional research by the [American Jewish Population Project](#), run out of Brandeis University. The project synthesizes information from many sources, such as the US census, and is continually producing results as new information becomes available.

Have a look at [The American Jewish Experience in the Twentieth Century: Antisemitism and Assimilation](#) at the National Humanities Center. It describes what

Jewish Americans have been through in the



twentieth century – struggles internal to the Jewish American community and outside influences on the community.

As long as we stand together, we will continue to grow, thrive, and contribute to America.

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