

## May is Jewish American Heritage Month

Source: <https://nationaltoday.com/jewish-american-heritage-month/>

Stories of triumph and bravery always get us in the mood for celebrations, and this Jewish American Heritage Month in May is no different. From contributing important scientific discoveries to raising the flag for the abused and neglected, Jewish people have had a huge role to play in where America stands today on the world stage. The more than 350-year history has given us names like Albert Einstein and Ruth Bader Ginsburg — both of whom fought through hard times to emerge victoriously. In order to honor the Jewish communities' continued achievements, May was declared as Jewish American Heritage Month by former president George W. Bush back in 2006.

### History of Jewish American Heritage Month

Jews first arrived on American soil back in 1654 in New Amsterdam. In search of better opportunities and lifestyles, they made the U.S. their new home base, finding in it a space where they could openly practice their faith and lead their lives freely without the fear of persecution. The efforts to create a Jewish American Heritage Month had been in the pipeline since 1980. The U.S. Congress passed and authorized a bill that would allow President Carter to designate a special week in either April or May for Jewish heritage celebrations. Finally, in April of 2006, the whole month of May was dedicated to recognizing and honoring Jewish contributions and achievements.

Albert Einstein and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are some of the most prominent Jewish American figures. Einstein faced ridicule and bullying growing up with many of his teachers giving up on him. If he had



succumbed to society's ugliness, we, as human beings, might have missed out on a lot of great things today. Likewise, Ginsburg faced sexism at her workplace. People did not want to work with her just because she was a woman and many still believed that a woman's place was in the kitchen. However, she pushed on and became the harbinger of many helpful laws, including abortion rights.

Jewish people have also been great advocates for other minorities and their rights in America. They participated in the Civil Rights Movement, making up a large portion of white Americans who showed up at voter registrations, rallies, sit-ins, etc. While, today, things may not be as difficult as they were even less than a hundred years ago, all the achievements by Jewish people, big and small, deserve to be recognized and celebrated — and there's no better time than in Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM).



### May 2022 Calendar

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage  
Jewish American Heritage Month  
National Mental Health Month

- 1 – Beltane (Wicca)
- 3 – Eid al Fitr (Islam)
- 4 – National Day of Prayer (US)
- 4 – National Deaf Interpreter Day (US)
- 6-12 – National Nurses' Day & Week (US)
- 8 – Mother's Day (International)
- 9-15 – National Hospital Week (US)
- 12 – Native American Rights Day (US)
- 27 – Buddha Day (Buddhism)
- 30 – Memorial Day (US)
- 30 – World Multiple Sclerosis Day

### Interpreting via Zoom – Tips and Etiquette

Source: <https://www.midwestlanguageservices.com/news/vri-tips-and-etiquette>

Even with the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic slowly receding in the rearview mirror, Zoom is here to stay. Even when they are no longer necessary for public health purposes, remote meetings will continue to play a role in our daily work and social lives, given their time and energy-saving capabilities. This is particularly true of video remote interpreting, or VRI. VRI was common prior to the pandemic but is now one of the main ways that clients connect to language interpreters. As such, it may be well worth your time to brush up on the basics of Zoom interpreting etiquette, as well as the technical knowledge necessary to make a Zoom interpreting appointment run smoothly. Here are our top pieces of advice for those new to the world of Zoom interpretation:

#### Have Access a Licensed Zoom Account with the Proper Features

An unpaid trial account does not have the features necessary for successful Zoom interpretation. As such, the host of the call should be using a licensed account, such as the Pro, Education, or Business version. This will allow for the implementation of features such as simultaneous interpreting and different sound channels for different language users.

#### Conduct a Test Run Prior to your First Zoom Interpreting Meeting

Once you have familiarized yourself with the basic features available to Zoom users, it may be in your best interest to run a short test meeting and work out any kinks well in advance.

Additionally, make sure to log into the meeting several minutes before it is scheduled to begin, since setup can take a bit of time.

#### Speak Slowly and Clearly

Articulating, avoiding rushed speech, and taking turns in an orderly fashion are all simple but effective ways to make sure that your interpreting session goes smoothly. Even the best simultaneous interpreter can struggle when participants speak hurriedly or overlap one another, so try your best to maintain a deliberate pace throughout the meeting.

#### Follow up with Interpreters and Clients to Improve Future Appointments

Unsurprisingly, most people are not willing to speak up or criticize the meeting host's practices unless there is a serious problem. This means that you may find it helpful to follow up with everyone who attended an appointment in order to make sure that they had the best possible experience. Be willing to accept constructive criticism and change your approach if it is not working for interpreters or clients.

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## New Staff Profile: Jack Kelley



Jack Kelley is a California native and passionate about healthcare, cultural and linguistic anthropology, the pursuit of equity and justice for underserved communities. Jack has lived in Sacramento since 2013 and has recently moved back to the area after spending a year working as a freelance Spanish interpreter serving Stanford Healthcare in Palo Alto, CA.

Jack began learning Spanish in 2009 at Quartz Hill High School and continues to learn and apply the language to help patients across Northern California. He has applied his Spanish language skills to help clients in various settings such as mental health, education, religious services, law and medicine. Jack decided to become an interpreter after experiencing a severe illness while completing a medical internship at the Regional Hospital of Cusco, Peru. Having been a patient in a foreign healthcare system, he is very empathetic to patients who find themselves in the same situation in the United States. Jack has been a certified healthcare interpreter since 2021 and is currently attending Arizona State University online and pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a minor in Spanish.

In his spare time he enjoys exploring and engaging in all of the outdoor activities that Sacramento has to offer such as hiking, biking, kayaking and fishing.

Welcome to UC Davis Health, Jack!