

# Jewish American Heritage Heroes

## Jigsaw Research and Presentation Unit

### MIDDLE SCHOOL EDITION | Grades 6-8

Jewish American Heritage Month (May) - Enrichment Unit

45 Figures - Arts - Science - Sports - Law - Business - Literature

<b>Figures</b>	45 Jewish Americans across arts, science and technology, sports, law, business, and literature
<b>Duration</b>	8-10 class periods (5-day shortened version available using pre-written profiles)
<b>Structure</b>	Jigsaw cooperative research and presentation
<b>Group Size</b>	Groups of 4-5 students; each student researches one figure
<b>Final Product</b>	3-5 minute presentation and completed research template
<b>Heritage Month</b>	Jewish American Heritage Month, proclaimed by Congress, observed each May

This unit celebrates the extraordinary contributions of Jewish Americans across every field of human endeavor. Students will discover that Jewish Americans have helped shape the nation in profound and lasting ways, often while navigating prejudice and discrimination. This is designed as an enrichment unit connected to Jewish American Heritage Month, recognized each May by Congress and the President of the United States.

## TEACHER GUIDE

### Important Note to Teachers

This unit is labeled a 'bonus lesson,' but it functions as a mini-unit requiring meaningful planning. With 45 figures, research, and presentations, students need structured support, clear expectations, and sufficient time. The pacing guide below is realistic. Compressing it significantly will undermine quality. A shortened 5-day version is possible using the pre-written figure profiles in place of independent research, with students annotating and answering guided questions rather than conducting open research.

### Standards Alignment

California Common Core ELA Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6-8.3 - Analyze how individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6-8.7 - Conduct short research projects to answer a question

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6-8.4 - Present claims and findings clearly, with relevant evidence

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6-8.5 - Include multimedia components in presentations

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6-8.1 - Engage effectively in collaborative discussions

California History-Social Science Framework:

Supports integration of diverse American contributions across ethnic, religious, and cultural communities

Aligned with California Education Code Section 51204.5 - instruction on contributions of people of various backgrounds

Jewish American Heritage Month:

Proclaimed by Congress; observed each May

California Education Code supports recognition of cultural heritage months as part of inclusive curriculum

Consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and federal protections for ethnic and religious minorities

### Pacing Guide

Day(s)	Activity	Notes
1	Launch: What is Jewish American Heritage Month? Brief overview of JAHM history. Introduce all 45 figures by category. Assign figures to students.	Allow students to browse the full list before assignments. Try to honor student interest where possible.
2-3	Guided research in class. Students complete research template. Teacher conferences with individual students.	Provide the curated resource list. Monitor for copy-paste; require paraphrase. Brief check-in at end of Day 2.
4	Students draft their presentations. Peer feedback in pairs using the rubric.	Distribute the rubric before drafting so students know exactly what is expected.
5	Jigsaw groups form. Presentation practice within groups.	Each student teaches their figure to the group. Groups should be mixed across categories.
6-7	Formal presentations. Option A: Small-group jigsaw only (lower stakes, all students present). Option B: Selected students present to full class.	Option A is recommended for most classes. Option B works well for honors or advanced students.
8	Synthesis discussion and written reflection.	Use the synthesis prompts provided. A one-paragraph written reflection makes a strong exit ticket.

## Group Formation

Students should be arranged in groups of four or five. The teacher may assign specific individuals for research, allow for individual student choice, randomize assignments by picking names out of a hat, or use any other method that works for the classroom. The goal is for each jigsaw group to contain figures from multiple categories so that students hear about contributions across arts, science, sports, law, business, and literature. Suggested group assignments appear on a later page.

## Differentiation

<b>Scaffolding:</b>	Use the pre-written profiles as the research base. Students annotate, paraphrase, and respond to guiding questions rather than conducting independent research.
<b>Extension:</b>	Require primary source research. Add a compare/contrast essay: How do two figures from different fields reflect shared Jewish American values?
<b>ELL support:</b>	Allow visual-heavy presentations. Pre-teach key vocabulary: contribution, legacy, heritage, innovation, justice, identity.
<b>Special education:</b>	Reduce template length. Allow recorded oral responses instead of written. Partner presentations permitted.

## Synthesis Discussion Prompts

What surprised you most about the Jewish Americans you learned about?
Several people on this list came from immigrant families or fled persecution. How did that shape what they achieved?
Sandy Koufax refused to pitch in the World Series on Yom Kippur. What does that tell you about him? Would you make a similar choice?
Jonas Salk gave his vaccine to the world for free. Why do you think he did that? What does that say about his values?
Emma Lazarus wrote the words on the Statue of Liberty. How does her background connect to what she wrote?
If you could have dinner with any one person from this list, who would it be and why?
Several people on this list faced discrimination or hardship because they were Jewish. How did they respond, and what can we learn from that?

## Suggested Research Resources

Official Jewish American Heritage Month website	<a href="https://jewishamericanheritage.org/">https://jewishamericanheritage.org/</a>
JAHM Resource Guide (2025, free PDF)	<a href="https://jewishamericanheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/JAHM_ResourceGuide_rev2025_general.pdf">https://jewishamericanheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/JAHM_ResourceGuide_rev2025_general.pdf</a>
Eight free full-color JAHM posters (downloadable)	<a href="https://jewishamericanheritage.org/posters/">https://jewishamericanheritage.org/posters/</a>
Jews in Hollywood - Academy Museum of Motion Pictures	<a href="https://www.academymuseum.org/exhibitions/hollywoodland">https://www.academymuseum.org/exhibitions/hollywoodland</a>
Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History	<a href="https://theweitzman.org/home/">https://theweitzman.org/home/</a>
Jewish Book Council	<a href="https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/">https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/</a>
American Jewish Historical Society	<a href="https://www.ajhs.org/">https://www.ajhs.org/</a>
American Jewish Archives	<a href="https://americanjewisharchives.org/">https://americanjewisharchives.org/</a>
Library of Congress Jewish American Resources	<a href="https://www.loc.gov/collections/?fa=subject:jewish+americans">https://www.loc.gov/collections/?fa=subject:jewish+americans</a>

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research	<a href="https://yivo.org/">https://yivo.org/</a>
Tenement Museum	<a href="https://www.tenement.org/">https://www.tenement.org/</a>
The Forward Archive	<a href="https://forward.com/">https://forward.com/</a>
Jewish Women's Archive	<a href="https://jwa.org/">https://jwa.org/</a>
My Jewish Learning	<a href="https://www.myjewishlearning.com/">https://www.myjewishlearning.com/</a>
Jewish Virtual Library	<a href="https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/">https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/</a>
Unpacked for Educators (video-based Jewish content)	<a href="https://unpacked.media/">https://unpacked.media/</a>
National Baseball Hall of Fame (Sandy Koufax)	<a href="https://baseballhall.org/">https://baseballhall.org/</a>
NASA - Judith Resnik	<a href="https://www.nasa.gov/">https://www.nasa.gov/</a>
Nobel Prize website (Einstein, Wiesel, Dylan)	<a href="https://www.nobelprize.org/">https://www.nobelprize.org/</a>
USC Shoah Foundation	<a href="https://sfi.usc.edu/">https://sfi.usc.edu/</a>
Hadassah (Henrietta Szold)	<a href="https://www.hadassah.org/">https://www.hadassah.org/</a>

## ALL 45 FIGURES - CATEGORY OVERVIEW

Use this list when assigning figures. Consider student interests - engagement is higher when students connect personally with their figure.

### Arts & Entertainment

1	<b>Stan Lee</b>	Co-creator of Spider-Man, the X-Men, the Avengers, and dozens of other Marvel Comics characters. Born Stanley Martin Lieber in New York City, Lee revolutionized American popular culture and storytelling for over 50 years.
2	<b>Timothée Chalamet</b>	Award-winning actor born in Manhattan to a Jewish mother of Russian and Austrian Jewish descent. Multiple Academy Award nominee known for Dune, Call Me by Your Name, and his portrayal of Bob Dylan in A Complete Unknown.
3	<b>Gal Gadot</b>	Best known for playing Wonder Woman, starring in the Fast and Furious franchise, winning Miss Israel 2004, serving in the Israel Defense Forces. She became an American citizen and one of the most internationally recognized actresses.
4	<b>Steven Spielberg</b>	One of the most influential filmmakers in history. Director of E.T., Jurassic Park, Schindler's List, and many others. Co-founder of DreamWorks. Deeply engaged with Holocaust remembrance through the USC Shoah Foundation.
5	<b>Bob Dylan</b>	Born Robert Zimmerman in Duluth, Minnesota. Singer-songwriter and poet who transformed American folk and rock music. Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, the first popular musician to receive the honor.
6	<b>Judy Blume</b>	Beloved author whose books, including Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret and Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, have shaped generations of young readers. One of the most challenged authors in American library history.
7	<b>Adam Sandler</b>	Actor, comedian, and filmmaker born in Brooklyn. Known for blending broad comedy with genuine heart. His Hanukkah Song became a cultural touchstone celebrating Jewish presence in American entertainment.
8	<b>Mayim Bialik</b>	Actress best known for The Big Bang Theory and Blossom, who also holds a PhD in neuroscience from UCLA. A prominent advocate for science education and mental health awareness.
9	<b>Barbra Streisand</b>	The only artist to achieve number-one albums in six consecutive decades. Winner of Grammy, Oscar, Tony, and Emmy awards. Singer, actress, director. Activist in politics, women's rights, environmental protection, LGBTQ rights, civil liberties, and Jewish cultural institutions.
10	<b>Leonard Bernstein</b>	Composer and conductor who created West Side Story and served as music director of the New York Philharmonic. One of the greatest American musicians of the 20th century, he made classical music accessible to millions.
11	<b>Billy Joel</b>	Singer-songwriter and pianist from the Bronx, born to a Jewish father who fled Nazi Germany. Known for Piano Man, The Stranger, and decades of iconic American music. One of the best-selling music artists of all time.
12	<b>Gene Simmons</b>	Co-founder and bassist of the rock band KISS. Born Chaim Witz, he became an American citizen and one of rock music's most recognizable figures and savvy entrepreneurs.
13	<b>P!nk</b>	Grammy-winning singer-songwriter born Alecia Moore in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, to a Jewish mother. Known for powerful anthems about identity, resilience, and self-acceptance.
14	<b>Natalie Portman</b>	Academy Award-winning actress born in Jerusalem and raised in the United States from age three. Harvard graduate, activist, and one of the most respected performers of her generation.
15	<b>Jack Black</b>	Actor, comedian, and musician born in Santa Monica to Jewish parents. Known for School of Rock, Kung Fu Panda, and his band Tenacious D. Celebrated for bringing joy and musical passion to film.

## Science & Technology

16	<b>Albert Einstein</b>	Theoretical physicist who developed the theory of relativity, fundamentally changing our understanding of space, time, and energy. Winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics. Fled Nazi Germany and became an American citizen in 1940.
17	<b>Jonas Salk</b>	Developed the first safe and effective polio vaccine in 1955, saving millions of lives. When asked who owned the patent, he replied: 'The people. Could you patent the sun?'
18	<b>Judith Resnik</b>	Electrical engineer and NASA astronaut, the first Jewish American woman in space. Flew on the maiden voyage of Space Shuttle Discovery in 1984. Died in the Challenger disaster in 1986.
19	<b>Ralph H. Baer</b>	German-born American inventor known as the Father of Video Games. Created the first home video game console, the Magnavox Odyssey, laying the foundation for a global industry.
20	<b>Michael Dell</b>	Founder and CEO of Dell Technologies. Started his computer company from his University of Texas dorm room at age 19, revolutionizing the personal computer industry.
21	<b>Sam Altman</b>	CEO of OpenAI and one of the driving forces behind ChatGPT and modern artificial intelligence. Previously president of Y Combinator, the world's most influential startup accelerator.
22	<b>Mark Zuckerberg</b>	Co-founder and CEO of Meta. Created Facebook in his Harvard dorm room, building one of the most widely used communication platforms in human history.
23	<b>Sergey Brin and Larry Page</b>	Co-founders of Google. Their search engine, built as a Stanford research project, changed how the entire world accesses and organizes information.

## Business & Innovation

24	<b>Ruth Handler</b>	Co-founder of Mattel who invented the Barbie doll in 1959, transforming the American toy industry and giving generations of children a doll that could be anything.
25	<b>Rose and Morris Michtom</b>	Russian Jewish immigrants who created the first teddy bear in America in 1902, inspired by a political cartoon of President Theodore Roosevelt. Founded the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company.
26	<b>Levi Strauss</b>	Bavarian Jewish immigrant who invented blue jeans during the California Gold Rush. Founded Levi Strauss and Co., one of the most enduring American brands in history.
27	<b>Ralph Lauren</b>	Born Ralph Lifshitz in the Bronx to Jewish immigrant parents. Founded the Ralph Lauren Corporation and created the Polo brand, reshaping American fashion and the concept of lifestyle branding.
28	<b>Haim Saban</b>	Egyptian-born American media mogul who brought Power Rangers to American television and built a global entertainment empire. One of the most prominent Jewish philanthropists in the United States.
29	<b>Adam Neumann</b>	Israeli-born American entrepreneur and co-founder of WeWork. Now founder of Flow, a next-generation residential real estate company backed by major investors.
30	<b>Sheldon Adelson</b>	Built the Las Vegas Sands casino empire from scratch, becoming one of the wealthiest Americans. A major philanthropist supporting Jewish causes, Israel, and education.

## Sports

31	<b>Aly Raisman</b>	Six-time Olympic medalist and captain of the 2012 and 2016 U.S. Women's Gymnastics teams. After her athletic career, became a powerful advocate against abuse in sports.
32	<b>Julian Edelman</b>	NFL wide receiver and Super Bowl champion with the New England Patriots. Named Super Bowl LIII MVP. A proud and visible ambassador for the Jewish community in professional sports.
33	<b>Amar'e Stoudemire</b>	Six-time NBA All-Star who later converted to Judaism and played professional basketball in Israel. A bridge between communities and a proud member of the Jewish people.
34	<b>Sue Bird</b>	Four-time Olympic gold medalist and WNBA legend who played her entire career with the Seattle Storm. Widely considered one of the greatest basketball players in history.

35	<b>Mark Spitz</b>	Won seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics, all in world-record time. His triumph came at Games shadowed by the murder of eleven Israeli athletes and coaches by Palestinian terrorists.
36	<b>Sandy Koufax</b>	Hall of Fame pitcher for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers. Widely regarded as one of the greatest pitchers of all time. Famously declined to pitch Game 1 of the 1965 World Series because it fell on Yom Kippur.

### Law, Justice & Public Service

37	<b>Ruth Bader Ginsburg</b>	The second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Spent her career dismantling legal discrimination on the basis of sex. Became a cultural icon, RBG, beloved by millions.
38	<b>Louis Brandeis</b>	The first Jewish Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, appointed in 1916. Champion of privacy rights, free speech, and social justice. Called 'the people's lawyer.'
39	<b>Golda Meir</b>	Born in Kiev and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she became an American citizen before emigrating to the land that became Israel. She went on to become Prime Minister of Israel, the first woman to lead a modern nation. Her American upbringing and values shaped her extraordinary leadership.
40	<b>Henrietta Szold</b>	Baltimore-born founder of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, still the largest Jewish organization in the United States. Also organized Youth Aliyah, which rescued thousands of Jewish children from Nazi Europe.
41	<b>Madeleine Albright</b>	The first woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State, and for a time the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. Born in Czechoslovakia, she came to America as a child and became a citizen. A trailblazing diplomat who brokered peace in Kosovo and expanded NATO. Her family's Jewish roots, hidden during the Holocaust to protect them, were discovered later in her life, a story of survival, identity, and resilience.

### Literature & Journalism

42	<b>Elie Wiesel</b>	Holocaust survivor, author of Night, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Devoted his life to bearing witness to the Holocaust and ensuring it is never forgotten or denied.
43	<b>Emma Lazarus</b>	Poet whose sonnet 'The New Colossus' is inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty. Her words, 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,' define the American promise of welcome.
44	<b>Joseph Pulitzer</b>	Hungarian-born Jewish immigrant who became one of America's most influential newspaper publishers. Endowed the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor in American journalism and letters.
45	<b>Abraham Joshua Heschel</b>	Rabbi, theologian, and civil rights activist. Marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Alabama. Said: 'In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible.'

## SUGGESTED JIGSAW GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Each suggested group contains figures from multiple categories. When students teach each other in jigsaw groups, the group will hear about contributions across arts, science, sports, law, business, and literature. Adjust assignments based on class size and student needs. For groups of four, remove one figure per group.

Group	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3	Member 4	Member 5
Group 1	Stan Lee	Albert Einstein	Sandy Koufax	Ruth Bader Ginsburg	Elie Wiesel
Group 2	Steven Spielberg	Jonas Salk	Sue Bird	Louis Brandeis	Levi Strauss
Group 3	Barbra Streisand	Judith Resnik	Mark Spitz	Emma Lazarus	Ralph H. Baer
Group 4	Bob Dylan	Mark Zuckerberg	Aly Raisman	Abraham Joshua Heschel	Rose and Morris Michtom
Group 5	Judy Blume	Sergey Brin and Larry Page	Julian Edelman	Ruth Handler	Mayim Bialik
Group 6	Adam Sandler	Sam Altman	Amar'e Stoudemire	Timothee Chalamet	Henrietta Szold
Group 7	Leonard Bernstein	Michael Dell	Gal Gadot	Golda Meir	Joseph Pulitzer
Group 8	Billy Joel	Ralph Lauren	Natalie Portman	Haim Saban	Madeleine Albright
Group 9	Gene Simmons	P!nk	Jack Black	Adam Neumann	Sheldon Adelson

### Category Key by Group

Group	Categories Represented
Group 1	Entertainment (Stan Lee)   Science (Einstein)   Sports (Koufax)   Law (RBG)   Literature (Wiesel)
Group 2	Entertainment (Spielberg)   Science (Salk)   Sports (Bird)   Law (Brandeis)   Business (Strauss)
Group 3	Entertainment (Streisand)   Science (Resnik)   Sports (Spitz)   Literature (Lazarus)   Technology (Baer)
Group 4	Music (Dylan)   Technology (Zuckerberg)   Sports (Raisman)   Faith/Activism (Heschel)   Business (Michtoms)
Group 5	Literature (Blume)   Technology (Brin and Page)   Sports (Edelman)   Business (Handler)   Science (Bialik)
Group 6	Entertainment (Sandler)   Technology (Altman)   Sports (Stoudemire)   Entertainment (Chalamet)   Public Service (Szold)
Group 7	Music (Bernstein)   Technology (Dell)   Entertainment (Gadot)   Public Service (Meir)   Journalism (Pulitzer)
Group 8	Music (Joel)   Business (Lauren)   Entertainment (Portman)   Business (Saban)   Public Service (Albright)
Group 9	Music (Simmons)   Music (P!nk)   Entertainment (Black)   Business (Neumann)   Business (Adelson)

## FOR STUDENTS: JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

### **What Is Jewish American Heritage Month?**

Every May, the United States celebrates Jewish American Heritage Month. This is a time to learn about the contributions Jewish Americans have made to our country over more than 350 years. It was officially recognized by Congress and the President of the United States.

### **Why Does It Matter?**

Jewish Americans have helped build America in every way imaginable, through science, music, sports, movies, inventions, and fighting for justice. Many of them also faced discrimination and hardship along the way. Learning their stories helps us understand both what America is and what it can be.

### **Your Job**

You are about to become an expert on one amazing person. Your job is to research their life, learn their story, and teach it to your classmates. Get ready: you might be surprised by what you discover.

## STUDENT RESEARCH TEMPLATE

Fill in each section using your research. Use complete sentences. You will share what you learn with your group!

<b>Your Name:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Figure Assigned:</b>		<b>Category:</b>	

### 1. Who Is This Person?

When and where were they born? What field are they known for?

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### 2. What Did They Achieve?

Give at least two specific accomplishments with details.

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### 3. Challenges and Resilience

What challenges and obstacles shaped the path to excellence? How did this person respond? What does this reveal about their character?

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### 4. Why Do They Matter?

How did this person help America or the world? What is their legacy?

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### 5. Jewish Identity

How did being Jewish connect to this person's life or work? Give one example.

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### 6. Your Favorite Fact

What is one fact you want to share with your group, and why?

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### 7. Sources (at least two)

Name of source and website:

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## PRESENTATION RUBRIC

Review this rubric before you begin preparing your presentation.

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing	Beginning
<b>Content (25 pts)</b>	23-25 pts: All facts accurate; interesting details; clearly explains importance.	18-22 pts: Mostly accurate; some detail; explains importance.	12-17 pts: Some errors or vague; limited detail.	0-11 pts: Many errors or very little information.
<b>Research (20 pts)</b>	18-20 pts: Multiple sources; information in student's own words throughout.	14-17 pts: At least two sources; mostly paraphrased.	10-13 pts: Only one source or some copying.	0-9 pts: No clear research evident.
<b>Organization (20 pts)</b>	18-20 pts: Clear beginning, middle, and end; easy to follow.	14-17 pts: Generally organized; minor gaps.	10-13 pts: Hard to follow in places.	0-9 pts: No clear order.
<b>Speaking (20 pts)</b>	18-20 pts: Confident, clear, loud enough; looks at audience.	14-17 pts: Mostly clear; some reading from notes.	10-13 pts: Hard to hear or mostly reads.	0-9 pts: Very hard to understand.
<b>Visual (15 pts)</b>	14-15 pts: Strong visual that helps explain the figure.	11-13 pts: Adequate visual; mostly relevant.	8-10 pts: Visual present but not very helpful.	0-7 pts: No visual included.

### Score Sheet

Category	Points Possible	Points Earned	Teacher Comments
Content	25		
Research	20		
Organization	20		
Speaking	20		
Visual	15		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>		

## FIGURE PROFILES - TEACHER REFERENCE AND SCAFFOLD OPTION

These profiles may be used as: (1) teacher background reference, (2) a reading scaffold for students who need support, or (3) the research base for the shortened 5-day version of this unit. Students using profiles should still paraphrase, annotate, and answer reflection questions, not copy.

### Arts & Entertainment

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## Science & Technology

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## Business & Innovation

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25	<b>Rose and Morris Michtom</b>	Russian Jewish immigrants who created the first teddy bear in America in 1902, inspired by a political cartoon of President Theodore Roosevelt. Founded the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company.
26	<b>Levi Strauss</b>	Bavarian Jewish immigrant who invented blue jeans during the California Gold Rush. Founded Levi Strauss and Co., one of the most enduring American brands in history.
27	<b>Ralph Lauren</b>	Born Ralph Lifshitz in the Bronx to Jewish immigrant parents. Founded the Ralph Lauren Corporation and created the Polo brand, reshaping American fashion and the concept of lifestyle branding.
28	<b>Haim Saban</b>	Egyptian-born American media mogul who brought Power Rangers to American television and built a global entertainment empire. One of the most prominent Jewish philanthropists in the United States.
29	<b>Adam Neumann</b>	Israeli-born American entrepreneur and co-founder of WeWork. Now founder of Flow, a next-generation residential real estate company backed by major investors.
30	<b>Sheldon Adelson</b>	Built the Las Vegas Sands casino empire from scratch, becoming one of the wealthiest Americans. A major philanthropist supporting Jewish causes, Israel, and education.

## Sports

31	<b>Aly Raisman</b>	Six-time Olympic medalist and captain of the 2012 and 2016 U.S. Women's Gymnastics teams. After her athletic career, became a powerful advocate against abuse in sports.
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32	<b>Julian Edelman</b>	NFL wide receiver and Super Bowl champion with the New England Patriots. Named Super Bowl LIII MVP. A proud and visible ambassador for the Jewish community in professional sports.
33	<b>Amar'e Stoudemire</b>	Six-time NBA All-Star who later converted to Judaism and played professional basketball in Israel. A bridge between communities and a proud member of the Jewish people.
34	<b>Sue Bird</b>	Four-time Olympic gold medalist and WNBA legend who played her entire career with the Seattle Storm. Widely considered one of the greatest basketball players in history.
35	<b>Mark Spitz</b>	Won seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics, all in world-record time. His triumph came at Games shadowed by the murder of eleven Israeli athletes and coaches by Palestinian terrorists.
36	<b>Sandy Koufax</b>	Hall of Fame pitcher for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers. Widely regarded as one of the greatest pitchers of all time. Famously declined to pitch Game 1 of the 1965 World Series because it fell on Yom Kippur.

### Law, Justice & Public Service

37	<b>Ruth Bader Ginsburg</b>	The second woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Spent her career dismantling legal discrimination on the basis of sex. Became a cultural icon, RBG, beloved by millions.
38	<b>Louis Brandeis</b>	The first Jewish Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, appointed in 1916. Champion of privacy rights, free speech, and social justice. Called 'the people's lawyer.'
39	<b>Golda Meir</b>	Born in Kiev and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she became an American citizen before emigrating to the land that became Israel. She went on to become Prime Minister of Israel, the first woman to lead a modern nation. Her American upbringing and values shaped her extraordinary leadership.
40	<b>Henrietta Szold</b>	Baltimore-born founder of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, still the largest Jewish organization in the United States. Also organized Youth Aliyah, which rescued thousands of Jewish children from Nazi Europe.
41	<b>Madeleine Albright</b>	The first woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State, and for a time the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. government. Born in Czechoslovakia, she came to America as a child and became a citizen. A trailblazing diplomat who brokered peace in Kosovo and expanded NATO. Her family's Jewish roots, hidden during the Holocaust to protect them, were discovered later in her life, a story of survival, identity, and resilience.

### Literature & Journalism

42	<b>Elie Wiesel</b>	Holocaust survivor, author of Night, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Devoted his life to bearing witness to the Holocaust and ensuring it is never forgotten or denied.
43	<b>Emma Lazarus</b>	Poet whose sonnet 'The New Colossus' is inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty. Her words, 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,' define the American promise of welcome.
44	<b>Joseph Pulitzer</b>	Hungarian-born Jewish immigrant who became one of America's most influential newspaper publishers. Endowed the Pulitzer Prize, the highest honor in American journalism and letters.
45	<b>Abraham Joshua Heschel</b>	Rabbi, theologian, and civil rights activist. Marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Alabama. Said: 'In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible.'