WHAT IS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH?

Jewish American Heritage month is an annual recognition and celebration of Jewish American achievements and contributions to the United States of America.

SCR 39 (Block) recognizes May 2015 as Jewish American Heritage Month and commends Jewish Americans for their notable accomplishments and outstanding service to California and the United States.

It has been observed annually in the U.S. during the month of May since 2006.

Top: California Governor Earl Warren
Lower left: The Independent Order of B’nai B’rith, founded in 1843, is the oldest continually operating Jewish service organization in the world, with lodges and chapters worldwide. The first San Diego lodge, the Lasker Lodge #370 was founded in 1887.

Above: Tifereth Israel Synagogue Dedication 30th and Howard Street, San Diego. In 1948 the congregation, under the leadership of Rabbi Monroe Levens moved to a new synagogue building at 30th and Howard Streets in North Park and changed its affiliation to the Conservative Movement. After thirty years at that location, they built a new building in East San Diego, on Cowles Mountain Blvd, where Tifereth Israel Synagogue remains.
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus is to:

1. Be a Jewish voice for justice, equality, and progress.

2. Promote the, educational, social, legislative, professional and cultural interests of its members.

3. Serve as a resource to, and advocate on behalf of, the professional, educational, social, political and cultural concerns of the Jewish Community.

4. Develop and advance programs and policies that further the interests of the Jewish Caucus.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Senator Marty Block, Chair
Assembly Member Marc Levine, Vice Chair
Senator Benjamin Allen
Senator Robert Hertzberg
Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson

Senator Mark Leno
Senator Jeff Stone
Senator Lois Wolk
Assembly Member Richard Bloom
Assembly Member Tony Thurmond

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Assembly Member Eric Linder
Assembly Member Jose Medina
Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian

Senator Marty Block founded The California Legislative Jewish Caucus in January of 2014. It is the first of its kind in the nation and has attracted international media attention.
CALIFORNIA & ISRAEL
BUSINESS TIES

Economic, Cultural, and Academic Cooperation
On March 5th 2014 Governor Jerry Brown invited members of the Legislative Jewish Caucus to the signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding that the Governor was entering into with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Memorandum will boost economic, cultural, and academic cooperation between California and Israel in the areas of water conservation, cybersecurity, health, biotechnology, education, agricultural technology, and alternative energy.

Google Expansion
In 2006 Google opened its first office in Tel Aviv, Israel. “Live Results” Technology is being developed in Israel, allowing people to see data directly in the Google webpage. Searching for “Weather in Rio de Janeiro” shows the forecast instead of links to websites. Other technology such as, “In-Page Analytics” lets you measure the percentage of visitors who clicked on any clickable item in your website. Google has also purchased Israeli apps. Waze, an Israeli crowd source map app was bought for more than $1 billion.

Micro-Irrigation and Higher Yields
Netafim, an Israeli micro-irrigation business celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Netafim USA based in Fresno was established 32 years ago, the company has positively impacted the agriculture industry specifically in California. There are over 1 million acres of agriculture using Netafim technology in California and over 10 million hectares worldwide are drip irrigated with Netafim technology. Some crops such as the Alfalfa industry have shown a 35% higher yield with Netafim technology.

Desalination in California
IDE Inc. an Israeli-based company is designing the largest desalination plant in the western hemisphere. It’s a complete game changer for desalination in the US and California during the current drought. The Carlsbad desalination project will produce 50 million gallons of water per day and will provide 7% of the potable water needs for the San Diego region.
Philanthropy
The Jewish community has been supporting many causes throughout California and the world. The Jewish Federation of North America is an umbrella organization that represents over 300 networks of communities, which raise and distribute more than $3 billion annually to human services. Currently the Jewish Federation of North America is collecting money to support the recent earthquake in Nepal.

United Service Organizations (USO)
The USO is made up of six organizations: National Jewish Welfare Board, Salvation Army, Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA), Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), National Catholic Community Service, and National Travelers Aid Association. It was common for the National Jewish Welfare Board and the other five organizations that make up the United Service Organizations to host sailors for a reception in the 1940’s and 1950’s.

The Original City of Hope
Founded in 1912 as the National Jewish Consumptive Relief Association of Southern California, in tents in Duarte, California, the treatment and services were available to everyone, regardless of religion or ethnic background. It functioned as a sanatorium for tubercular patients and was known as the “Town of Hope” which later became the City of Hope. Local chapters were started all over the country to help raise funds for the hospital. The Gussie K. Singer Chapter #4 of the City of Hope was started in 1928 as the Jewish Consumptive Relief Association of San Diego. It was the second chapter formed and in 2008 was the oldest chapter still in existence.

Metal Folding Chairs and the United Nations.
Colonel Irving Salomon was an industrialist in Chicago whose company was responsible for the invention and production of the first metal folding chair. He and his wife Cecile came to San Diego after World War II. In 1953 President Eisenhower appointed him to a position at the United Nations. His wife Cecile was a classical pianist who composed Jewish liturgical music. The Salomons entertained notables at their Lilac Ranch in Valley Center and were community benefactors. Their daughter, attorney Abbe Wolfsheimer Stutz was a former San Diego City Council member, law professor and deputy city attorney. Pictured Colonel Irving and Mrs. Cecile Salomon, at left with Golda Meir and Abba Eban.