

DE&I PRESENTS:

# JEWISH-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

*Being a Mensch:  
A Lesson in Jewish Joy*

# WHAT IS JUDAISM?

Judaism is a monotheistic religion developed among the ancient Hebrews that is built upon spiritual and ethical principles.

# WHO ARE JEWISH AMERICANS?

Many of the mid-19th century Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants to the U.S. came from diaspora communities in German-speaking states. Before that, diaspora brought many Jewish people to Europe.

## *What is the Diaspora?*

A diaspora is a scattered population whose origin lies in a separate geographic locale.



# WHAT IS A MENSCH?

Mensch (noun): a person of integrity and honor.

## THE 3 PILLARS:

*Torah, acts of service, human kindness*

Judaism is not a one size fits all religion. There are many different ways to practice and observe with lots of choices.

When it comes to being a mensch, Jews display these values through tradition and the 3 Pillars. Even if one doesn't follow the Torah strictly, at the core of it, the lessons and values throughout are all about being a good person.



## GAME TIME

*Jew or Not Jew*



# DAVEED DIGGS



Jew



# DAVEED DIGGS

Grammy and Tony Award-winner of "Hamilton" fame, Daveed Diggs is proudly Jewish and both a writer and singer of the hit 2020 song, [Puppy for Hanukkah](#).

# P!NK







Jew

P!NK

Singer P!nk (real name: Alecia Beth Moore) doesn't shy away from passing on her Jewish identity to her children. She brings them to historical sites when she tours Europe, teaching them about difficult topics like the Holocaust.



# MICHAEL CERA



Not Jew



**MICHAEL CERA**

# AMAR'E STOU DAMIRE



Jew



# AMAR'E STOUDAMIRE

In March 2019, he received Israeli citizenship, and adopted the name Yahoshafat Ben Avraham. He formally converted to Judaism with a Rabbinical court on August 26, 2020 and also owns his own kosher wine label, Stoudamire Wines.



# SETH MEYERS



Not Jew



# SETH MEYERS

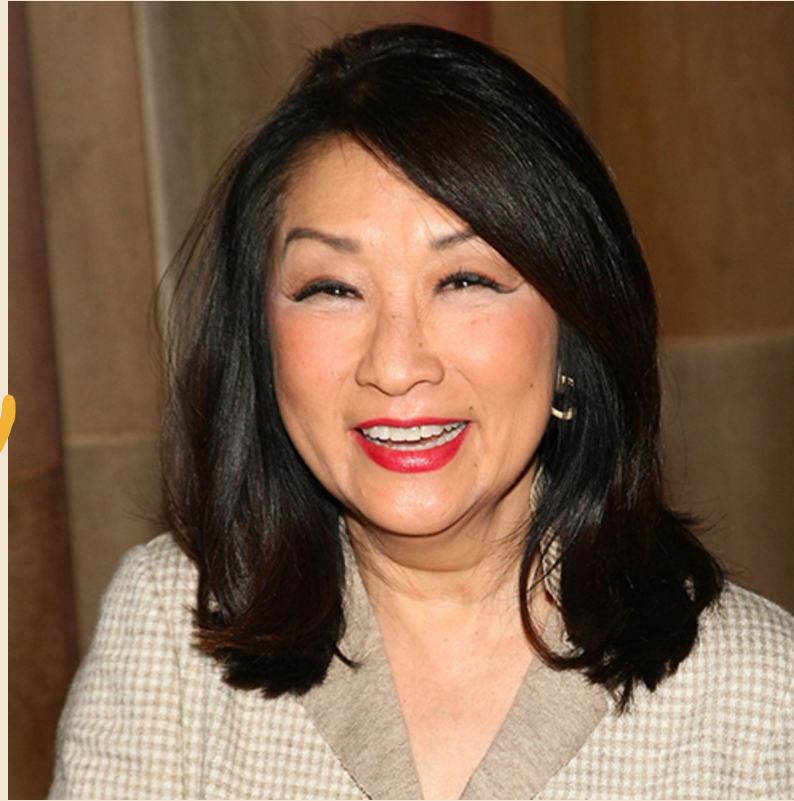
Although Meyers isn't Jewish his wife and children are.



# CONNIE CHUNG



Jew



# CONNIE CHUNG

Chung converted to Judaism at the time of her marriage to Povich. Chung has since become devoted to the faith, and she attends synagogue with her family.

# RACHEL BROSNAHAN



Not Jew



**RACHEL BROSNAHAN**



# RASHIDA JONES



Jew



# RASHIDA JONES

Jones was raised in Reform Judaism by her mother, and attended Hebrew school until age 10. As an adult, she practices Judaism.



## A vibrant collage of various celebrities and animated characters. In the center is a large, glowing, stylized letter 'K'. Surrounding it are numerous images: Sofia Vergara, Elena of Avalor, Sofia the First, and many other actors and actresses in various poses and outfits. The background is a mix of colors and textures, creating a dynamic and celebratory feel.





Marvelous Mrs. Maisel



Seinfeld

BUT WHAT DO  
JEWS LOOK LIKE?



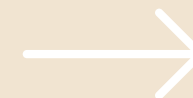
New Girl



Unorthodox



Broad City







*The Hebrew  
Mamita:*

**VANESSA  
HIDARY**

Discussion Questions:

1. WHAT DOES HIDARY'S POEM SAY ABOUT HOW ONE PERCEIVES ONESELF VERSUS HOW ONE IS PERCEIVED BY OTHERS?
2. HAS ANYONE EVER MADE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY BASED ON THE WAY YOU LOOK OR ACT?



# ★ DENOMINATIONS OF JUDAISM ★

## REFORM

The movement has traditionally sought to adapt Jewish tradition to modern sensibilities and sees itself as politically progressive and social-justice oriented while emphasizing personal choice in matters of ritual observance.

## CONSERVATIVE

Conservative Judaism sees Jewish law as obligatory, though in practice there is an enormous range of observance among Conservative Jews. The movement has historically represented a midpoint on the spectrum of observance between Orthodox and Reform,

## ORTHODOX

Orthodox Jews are defined by their adherence to a traditional understanding of Jewish law as interpreted by rabbinic authorities over the centuries.

# ★ JEWS AROUND THE GLOBE ★

*The Jewish world is more ethnically and racially diverse than many people realize.*

*Sephardic, Ashkenazic,  
Mizrahi, & Ethiopian Jews*

*Jewish diversity matters.*



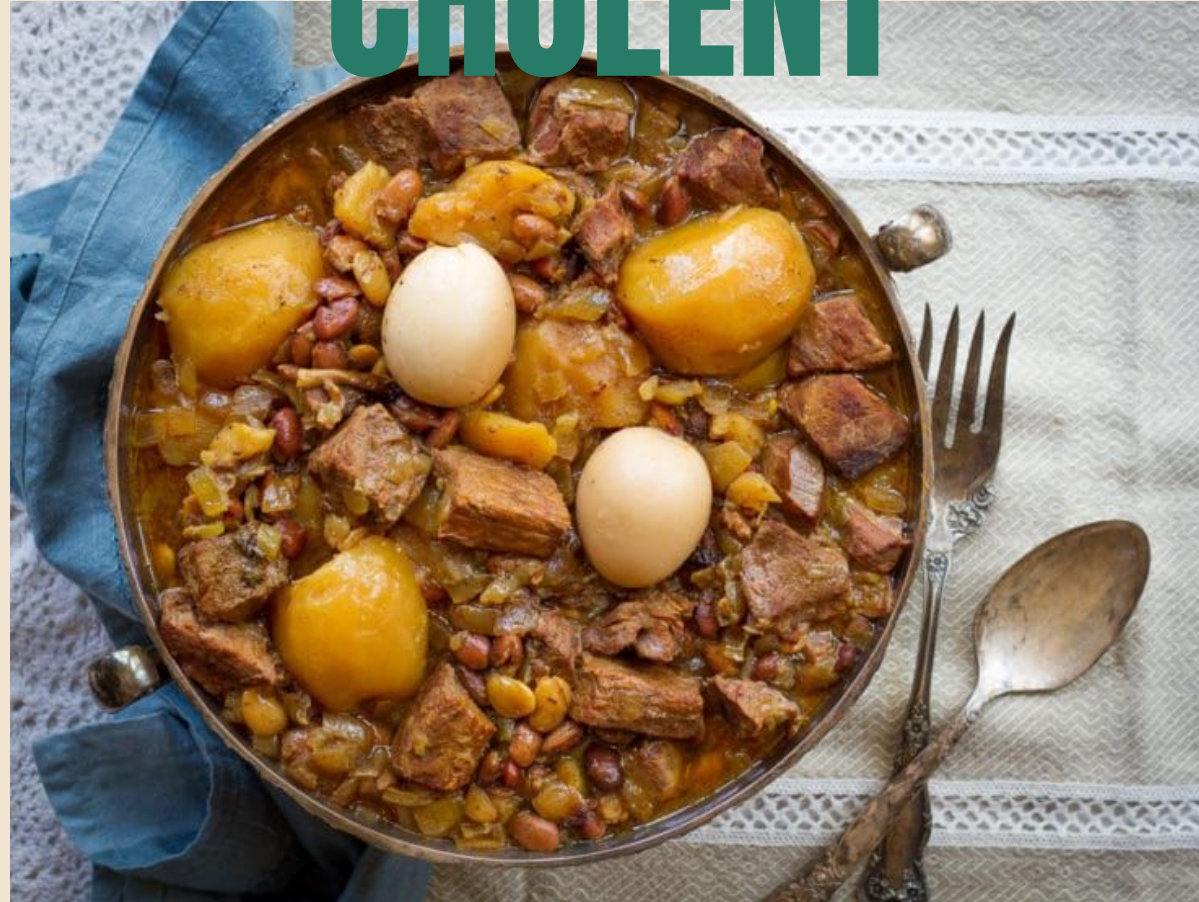
## GAME TIME

*Turn your camera on if you've heard of this Jewish food. Keep your camera off if you haven't heard of it.*

# Jewish Foods



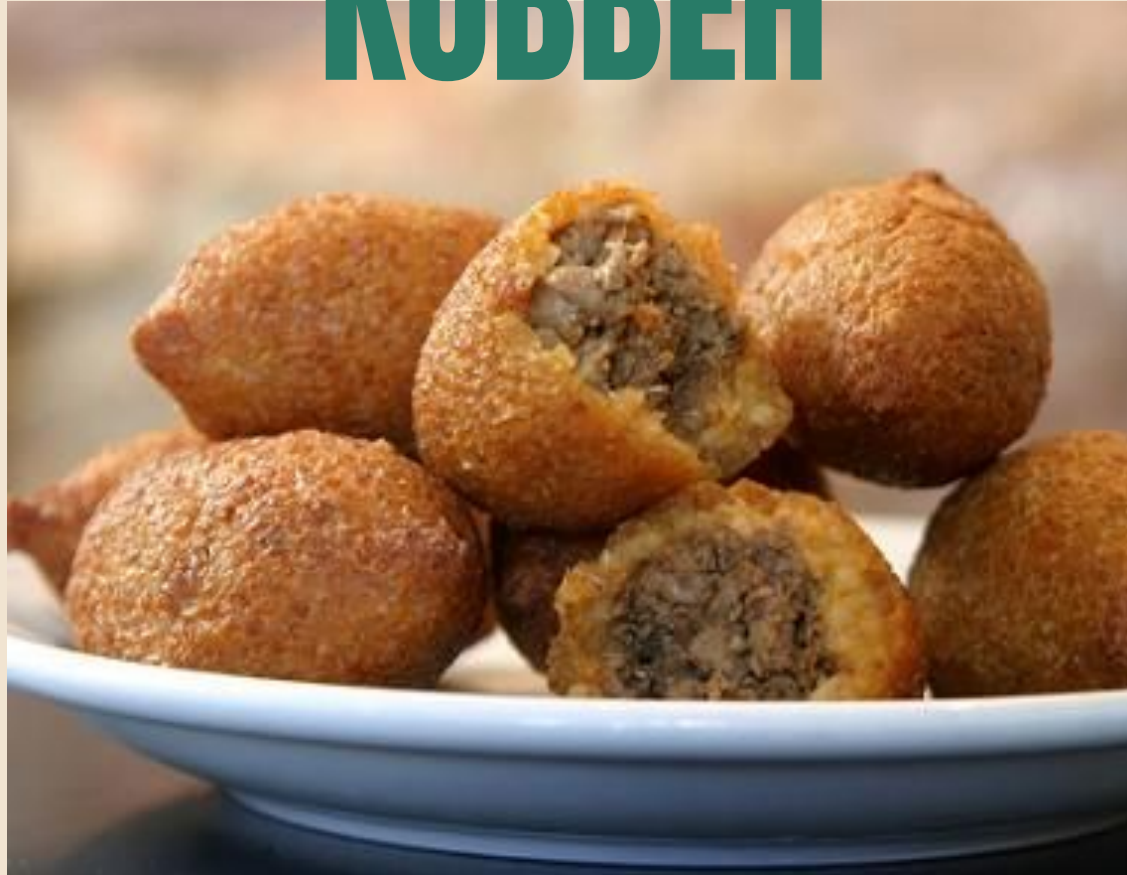
# CHOLENT



# BLINTZES



# KUBBEH





# MUFLETTA



# JEWISH HOLIDAYS

*Major + Minor*

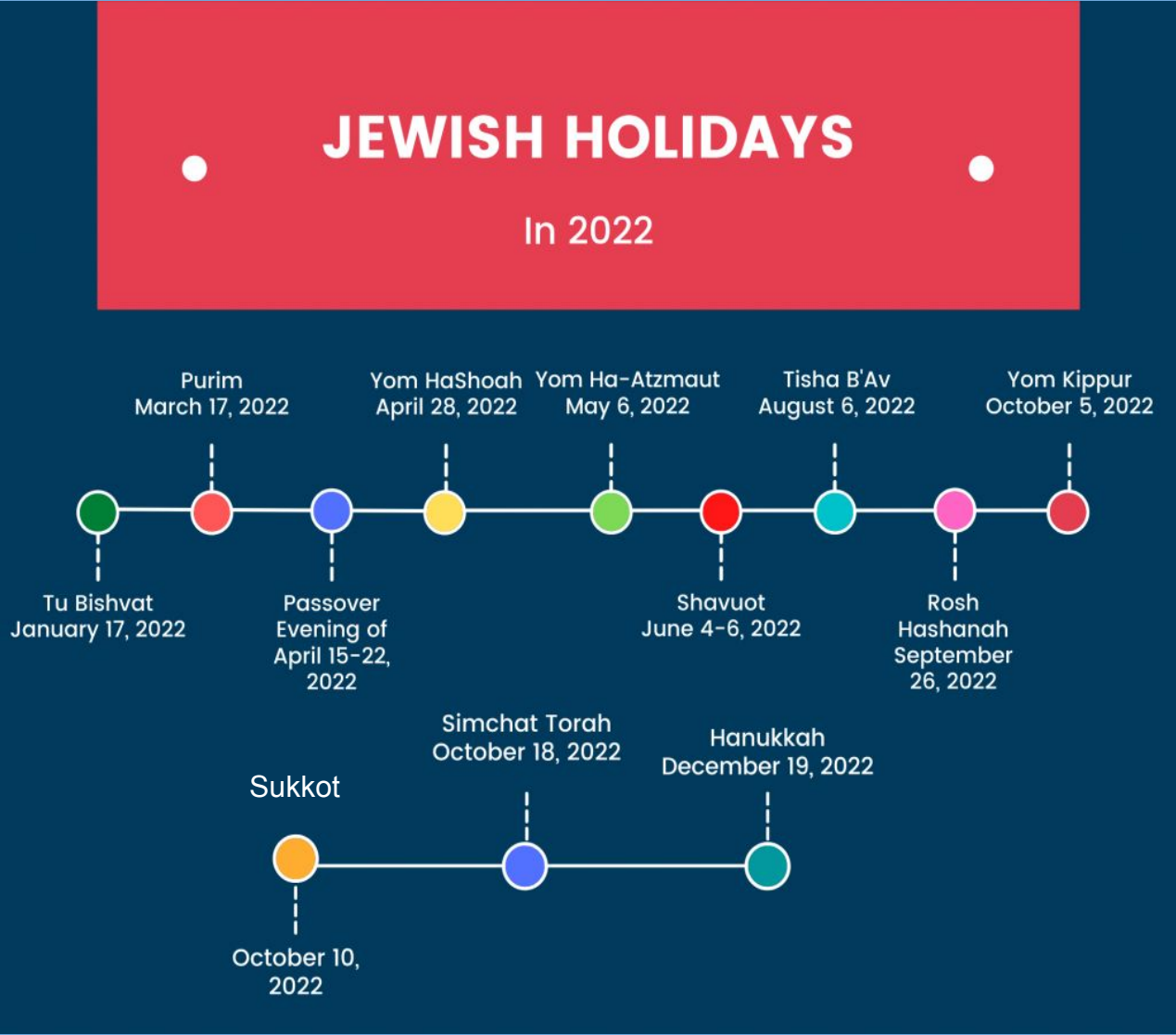
How many Jewish holidays are there? There is not one simple answer, as there are many holidays of varying importance, including holidays that are observed by some Jews but not others.

The most frequent Jewish holiday is **Shabbat**

The most important holidays in Judaism are called the **High Holidays**, which are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

	They Tried to Kill Us	We're alive!	Let's eat!	TREES!
Rosh Hashana	NO	YES	YES	NO
Tzom Gedaliah	YES	NO	NO	NO
Yom Kippur	NO	YES	NO	NO
Sukkot	NO	YES	YES	YES
Hoshana Raba	NO	YES	YES	YES
Shemini Atzeret	NO	YES	YES	YES
Simchat Torah	NO	YES	YES	YES
Yom HaAliyah	YES	YES	OK	NO
Chanukah	YES	YES	YES	NO
Asarah B'Tevet	YES	NO	NO	NO
Tu B'Shevat	NO	YES	YES	YES
Ta'anit Esther	YES	YES	NO	NO
Purim	YES	YES	YES	NO
New Year for Kings	NO	YES	YES	NO
Ta'anit Bechorot	YES	YES	NO	NO
Pesach	YES	YES	YES	YES
Yom HaShoah	YES	NO	OK	NO
Yom HaZikaron	YES	NO	OK	NO
Yom HaAtzma'ut	YES	YES	OK	NO
Lag B'Omer	YES?	NO	YES	YES?
Yom Yerushalayim	YES	YES	OK	NO
Shavuot	NO	YES	YES	YES
Tzom Tammuz	YES	NO	NO	NO
Tisha B'Av	YES	NO	NO	NO
Tu B'Av	NO	YES	OK	YES?
New Year for Animals	NO	YES	YES	YES?
Leil Selichot/Selichot	NO	YES	OK	NO
Rosh Chodesh	NO	YES	YES	NO
Shabbat	NO	YES	YES	YES
Average Yes	50%	77%	50%	37%%
Major Holiday	Minor Holiday	Minor Fast		





# SOCIAL MEDIA

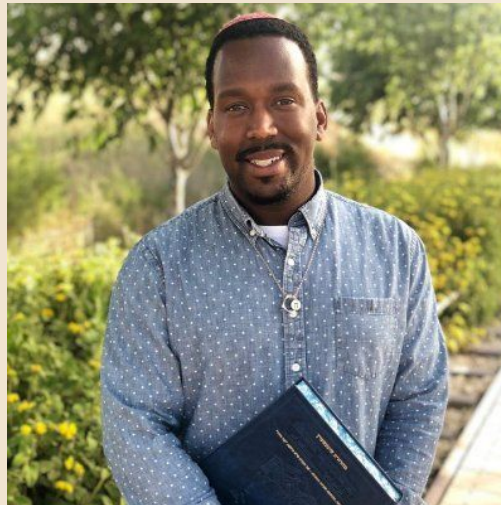
@thatrelatablejew



@henmazzig



@frumjewishblackboy



@yourjewishlife



@theamyalbertson





# SOCIAL MEDIA



@modern\_ritual



@whatjewwannaeat



@jewishgirlprobs



@hey.alma



# THANK YOU

*Don't forget to be a mensch!*

