

Each May, in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month—as proclaimed in 2006—*Moment* is proud to publish our guide highlighting Jewish history and culture in North America. This issue, we've selected three communities—Baltimore, Detroit and Vancouver—to launch our new *Jewish Routes* series, an ongoing feature highlighting cities across the continent with significant Jewish culture and history. We also showcase a selection of online Jewish communities. We thank our sponsor, JDate, for their support in kicking off this series.

DETROIT

Jews have lived in Detroit since 1762, when Montreal fur trader Chapman Abraham settled there. The Jewish population grew slowly until 1880, when the city experienced an influx of Eastern Europeans fleeing pogroms. Within a 20-year period, the number of Jews jumped from 1,000 to 10,000. The community flourished during the 20th century, when Jewish leaders contributed to all facets of Detroit life—from music to business to architecture to sports. During the latter half of the 20th century, most of Detroit's Jews moved to the suburbs, now home to an estimated 96,000. Today, a new initiative, CommunityNEXT, a project of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, aims to draw young Jews back into the Detroit area.

WORTH NOTING



Hank Greenberg, “the Hebrew Hammer,” was the first Jewish superstar in American professional sports. He attracted national attention in 1934 when he refused to play baseball for the Detroit Tigers on Yom Kippur, in the middle of a pennant race. The Tigers lost that Wednesday, at Navin Field—now Tiger Stadium—in Detroit.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

Jewish Book Fair: The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit's book fair is the oldest and largest in the United States. November 7-18, 2012
jccdet.org

Jewish Festival of the Arts: August 28-September 2, 2012
artsfest.jccdet.org

Jewish Music Festival: April 9-21, 2013
jccdet.org

Jewish Film Festival: May 5-19, 2013
jccdet.org



SITES OF INTEREST

The Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, opened in 1921, and is situated in the heart of the city. Now located in a former department store, the synagogue has a distinctive triangular shape. The congregation offers a wide range of programming supporting the revitalization of the city.
downtownsynagogue.org

The Bonstelle Theatre, Wayne State University's 1,200-seat Broadway-style theatre, was originally built in 1902 as Temple Beth-El and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The synagogue's façade has been renovated, but its dramatic dome still dominates the neighborhood skyline.
bonstelle.com

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre, located in nearby West Bloomfield, was founded in 1989 to provide a stage for the exploration of ideas that confront issues of humanity from a Jewish perspective. This year's productions include *God of Carnage*, *Imagining Madoff*, *The Whipping Man* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which is presented every year at a collaborating theater.
jetttheatre.org

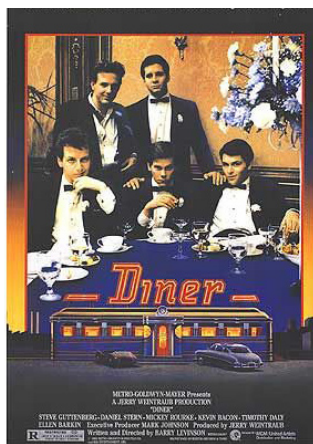
The Holocaust Memorial Center, Zekelman Family Campus, located in Farmington Hills, is America's first freestanding Holocaust memorial center. It “may be the most provocative museum of them all,” says *The Wall Street Journal*, and includes a Holocaust-era boxcar and a unique Kindertransport Memory Quilt.
holocaustcenter.org

BALTIMORE

Since the arrival of the first Jewish colonists in 1657, Baltimore has been a hub of American Jewry. Still, until 1826 when a “Jew Bill” was passed, allowing religious freedom in the state, public officials had to swear an allegiance to Christianity. A trading port with a booming economy, Baltimore attracted waves of immigrants from Europe and by the beginning of the 20th century was home to more than 40,000 Jews. Today, Baltimore and its surrounding suburbs boast more than 93,000 Jews, nearly 60 synagogues and about a dozen day schools. Kosher restaurants and Jewish-style delis abound!



WORTH NOTING



Diner, the 1982 classic Jewish film written and directed by Baltimore native Barry Levinson, was the first of his “Baltimore films,” which also include *Tin Men* (1987), *Avalon* (1990) and *Liberty Heights* (1999). The title refers to a diner that was located at Reisterstown Road and Rogers Avenue, although a diner in the Fells Point neighborhood was used for filming.

SITES OF INTEREST

The B’nai Israel Synagogue (above), with its Moorish Revival-style of architecture, was built in 1876 and is the city’s oldest operating synagogue. The congregation itself dates back to 1873. The structure has been restored by the Jewish Historical Society and is the only functioning downtown synagogue. bnaiisraelcongregation.org

The Lloyd Street Synagogue, in the heart of the old Jewish neighborhood of East Baltimore, dates back to 1845 and was Maryland’s first synagogue. Although no longer in use as a synagogue, the Greek Revival structure is the third-oldest standing synagogue building in the United States. Among its leaders was Rabbi Abraham Rice, notable for being the first ordained rabbi to be employed by a synagogue in the United States. A mikveh was discovered in the building in 2001 and is believed to be the oldest one in the United States. jhsm.org/lloyd-street-synagogue

The Jewish Museum of Maryland includes both the Lloyd Street and B’nai Israel synagogues, a modern museum building with exhibition galleries and programs, a research library and a museum shop. With more than a million photos, artifacts and historical papers, it is the largest museum in the country dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of regional American Jewish history. jhsm.org

The Holocaust Memorial combines dramatic sculpture and outdoor space to provide a place for reflection near the city’s popular Inner Harbor. The triangle-shaped urban plaza recalls the railway system used during the Holocaust to transport millions of Jews to the camps, and two concrete monoliths suggest rail cars. josephsheppard.com

Gertrude’s, the restaurant of The Baltimore Museum of Art, is named for Gertrude Stein, who moved to Baltimore in 1891. Stein introduced friend, Claribel Cone, to artists such as Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso. The Cones purchased paintings, and later donated them to the Baltimore Museum of Art. johnshields.com/restaurant/rest/gertrudes.html

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Brews and Schmooze: A diverse range of programs for young Jewish adults is offered on the first Thursday of every month at the Jewish Museum of Maryland. jhsm.org/youngadult

Christmas Family Fun Day: Now its 12th year, this day of family fun provides art activities and entertainment for children, including puppet shows. In 2011 it featured Chinese food, a Chinese New Year celebration and an origami-making station. December 25, 2012 jhsm.org

William and Irene Weinberg Family Jewish Film Festival: April 2013 baltimorejff.com

VANCOUVER

Jewish history in the coastal city of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, dates back to the mid-19th century, when a few Jewish prospectors and their families came from Europe, the United States and eastern Canada in search of gold. Vancouver, a center of arts and culture in Western Canada, now has the third-largest Jewish population in Canada and is home to 7 percent of the country's Jews. There are more than 16 congregations of various denominations, kosher restaurants, six day schools and the Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library.



WORTH NOTING



Vancouver is home to actor Seth Rogen, most famous for his roles in *Knocked Up*, *Superbad* and *The Green Hornet*. Rogen attended Vancouver Talmud Torah Elementary School. Vancouver has long been a popular stop for entertainers of all kinds. A 22-year-old Charlie Chaplin performed at the original Orpheum theater, and many famous Jewish stars, including Sarah Bernhardt, the Marx Brothers and Jack Benny performed in the city.

SITES OF INTEREST

Founded by the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia in 1970, **The Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia** no longer have exhibition space but are open for viewing and research. The museum provides historical Jewish walking tours around Strathcona and Gastown, two historically Jewish areas of the city. The tours showcase landmarks, special events and architecture.
jewishmuseum.ca

The Vancouver Holocaust Centre was created in 1983 by survivors of the Holocaust. A teaching museum, reaching more than 15,000 students annually, the centre creates exhibits, school programs and teaching materials and maintains a museum collection and archives, survivor testimony project, and library and resource center.
vhcc.org

Schara Tzedek Synagogue, the oldest and largest Orthodox congregation in Vancouver, was founded in 1907. Originally known as Benei Yehuda, the congregation held services in a small rented home until an edifice was built to hold 200 worshippers in 1911. The congregation was renamed "Schara Tzedek" (upon being legally incorporated on June 14) in 1917. In 1945, the congregation built its current home on Oak Street, making it at that time, the proud owner of the most modern and largest synagogue west of Montreal.
scharatzedek.com

The Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture was founded in 1945 as the Vancouver Peretz Shule in response to the threat to Jewish culture and Yiddish language by the Holocaust. Named for I.L. Peretz, the center is open to anyone who feels a connection to Judaism and offers classes for all ages, holiday programs, Shabbat services, theater and more.
peretz-centre.org

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

Chutzpah! Festival: Chutzpah! is an annual Jewish Arts festival that began in 2000, featuring musical performances, dance shows and theater performances. February 14–March 10, 2013
chutzpahfestival.com

Festival Ha'rikud: The 9th annual Festival Ha'rikud celebrates Jerusalem with food, art, Israeli dance performances, and family activities. May 20-21, 2012
jccgv.com

The Vancouver Jewish Film Festival: November 2-11, 2012
vjff.org

The Jewish Book Festival: November 24-29, 2012
jewishbookfestival.ca

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The Jewish online world transcends geography and denomination, connecting Jews to each other in ways never known before. These communities are resources for nearly everything, from finding a spouse, to a Bible verse, a new way to celebrate a holiday or the words to a favorite song. Here are a selected few.



American Jewish Archives (americanjewisharchives.com) is the place to research and reflect on tens of millions of archival materials about noteworthy Jewish American figures and institutions.



JDate (jdate.com) brings together more than 500,000 Jewish singles in search of romance, Jewish events, travel adventures, advice, chat rooms, blogs and more.



JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy (jewishgen.org) allows members to research their ancestry and roots through databases, articles, discussion groups, mentorships and ongoing projects.



Kveller (kveller.com), a project of My Jewish Learning, brings a Jewish twist to raising a family, connecting parents through discussion forums, blogs and event listings.



Milken Archive of Jewish Music (milkenarchive.com) is an archive and virtual museum dedicated to expanding the awareness and appreciation of Jewish music.



My Jewish Learning (myjewishlearning.com) is a trans-denominational resource with articles and information on all aspects of Judaism and Jewish life.



The Jew and the Carrot (blogs.forward.com/the-jew-and-the-carrot) is an open-ended conversation about Jewish food that includes news, recipes, cookbook reviews, interviews with foodies and holiday coverage.



Second Life (secondlife.com) includes a virtual Jewish world complete with a Kotel, mikveh, synagogue, café and more in which visitors can create their own avatar and existence à la The Sims.



Jewish American History Month (jewishamericanheritagemonth.us) is an interactive clearinghouse for nationwide events, programs and activities celebrating Jewish heritage throughout the month of May.

Connect with **Jewish Baltimore!**

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Watch our videos – www.youtube.com/jewishbaltimore

Read our blog – www.associated.org/jewishbaltimoreblog

GET INVOLVED! – www.associated.org/getinvolved



THE ASSOCIATED

Founded in 1920, THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore is the central fundraising and planning organization for Baltimore's Jewish community.