



Judaism: Beliefs, Life, Holidays, and Practices

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Topics

- Jewish Theology and Prayer
- Torah
- Shabbat
- Jewish relationship with Israel
- Holidays- food samples
- Life cycle events
- Conversion

Judaism

- Religion of Deeds
- People-hood – approach to life
- Covenant- Agreement with God
 - obligation to honor god and make the world better than when we entered

Who is a Jew?

- Biblical origin- Abraham lineage
- Birth
 - Matriarchal lineage (All movements)
 - and/ or Patriarchal lineage (Reform movement)
- Conversion

Who is a Jew?- Biblical Origin

- Abraham (Genesis 12:1-2) Goad appears before Abraham and commands him:
- Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation..."
- Not sure why Abraham- first monotheist?

Who is a Jew?- Biblical Origin

- Abraham's son was Isaac (with Sarah)
 - Around 2000 BCE (total of approx 4K yrs)
- Isaac's son was Jacob
 - Story of Jacob fighting the Angel
 - “You have wrestled with God and with men and have prevailed.”
 - Additional name “Israel”
 - Descendent Jews were called Hebrews or Children of Israel

Who is a Jew?- Biblical Origin

- Jewish people descended from Jacobs 12 sons
- One of Jacob's 12 sons was Judah
 - Head of Tribe/Kingdom- Judah
 - Term Jew and Judaism comes from the Tribe/Kingdom of Judah

Census of Jews

- Approx 13-14 million world wide (0.2%)
 - 5-6 million in the USA (1.75%)
 - 146,680 OH (1.3% in OH)
 - 5-6 million in Israel
 - 3 million other countries
 - 1.5 mil Europe
 - 400K Latin America
 - 350K Canada
 - 100K Africa (90% in South Africa)
 - 100K Australia/New Zealand
 - 50K Asia

Census of USA and World

- Numbers based on Oct 31, 2011
 - 7 billion world
 - USA 313,847,465 July 2012

Some countries do not count

Some Jews do not claim

- <http://www.census.gov/main/www/popclock.html>

Hebrew Bible and Jewish Texts

Hebrew Bible Tenakh

- 3 sections
- Torah
- Nevi'im (Prophets)
- Ketuvim (Writings)
- Jews do not use the Christian term "Old Testament)

Torah

Judaism's Central Document (Constitution of Jewish People)

- Genesis (Brei'Sheet) Beginning
- Exodus (Sh'mot) Names
- Leviticus (Va-yikra)
 - Many laws and Temple rituals
- Numbers (Ba-Midbar)
 - Census of Israelites, Korakh's rebellion against Moses
- Deuteronomy (Devarim)
 - Moses' farewell address to Israelites as they prepare to cross into the Promised Land

Hebrew Bible- Nevi'im

- 21 books
- Jewish history of monotheism
- Time of Moses' death and Israelite's entrance into Canaan (around 1200 BCE)

TO

- Period after Babylonians destroyed first Temple and the exile of Jews from Jerusalem to Babylon (568 BCE)

Hebrew Bible- Ketuvim

- 11 books of various focus
 - Psalms
 - Proverbs
 - Job
 - Ruth
 - more....

Jewish Texts

- Written Law- Torah
- Oral Law – legal commentary on the Torah and explanations of how to observe the commandments (halakah)
 - Orthodox- God gave to Moses who in turn passed on to Joshua and so on.
 - Reform and Conservative think it is later, evolving, flexible

TORAH

- Reform- not necessarily written by God
- 4 authors

- Represents history of Northern Israel

Jewish Texts

- Mishna- written systematic codification of the Oral Law (200 CE)
- Gemara- additional commentaries written in Jerusalem and Babylon
- Talmud- The codified Mishna+Gemara with additional dialogue and commentary by Rabbis about meaning
 - 500 CE

Jewish Texts

- halakah- Jewish Law
 - complete binding commandments and practices
 - 613
- Midrash
 - Rabbinical comments (sermons) on Torah
 - Interpretations to derive the principle of Jewish Laws
 - Provide a moral lesson

Commandments

Mitzvot

- 613
- <http://www.jewfaq.org/613.htm>

Jewish Movements

Common to all movements

- 3 Pillars
 - God- monotheism
 - Torah
 - People-hood

Main Movements in USA

- Orthodox (10%)
 - traditional
- Conservative (26%)
 - traditional or liberal/modern
- Reform (35%)
 - liberal/modern
- Reconstructionist (2%)
 - liberal/modern

2000 National Jewish Population Survey

Orthodox

- Jewish law comes from G-d and can not be changed
- G-d wrote the whole Torah and gave to Moses at Mount Sinai
- Torah is interpreted literally
- 613 Mitzvot (halakah) are followed
- Torah has been passed to us practically unchanged

G-d

- The commandment not to erase or deface the name of God comes from Deut. 12:3.
- Write as G-d to prevent sin by accidentally erasing or defacing the name.

Orthodox groups USA

- Modern Orthodox
 - largely integrated into modern society while maintaining observance of halakah
- Chasidim
 - live separate, dress distinctive clothing
 - Not “Ultra-Orthodox”
- Yeshiva Orthodox
- Seminary in USA- Yeshiva University

Israel- Orthodox

- Haredi
 - (Ultra-Orthodox) 15-25%
- Dati
 - (Orthodox)
- Masorti
 - (traditionally observant, but not as dogmatic as Orthodox)
- Hiloni
 - (Secular) 50%
- Orthodox is only legal movement recognized
- Orthodox Rabbinate controls marriage, divorce, conversion

Reform

- A way of life
- A religion of good deeds
- Not a people-hood- Jews can live as individuals on different lands
- Torah not written by God, but is a compilation of several authors
- Do not observe all 613 Mitzvot, but keep values, ethics, practices of Judaism.

Reform

- Germany in early 1800s
- Reaction to Orthodox rigidity and backwardness, isolation.
- Response to more liberal climate of acceptance if one was willing to drop traditions that kept one isolated from larger non-Jewish community.

Reform

- Dominated USA Judaism late 1800s
- 1875- Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise establish Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, OH.
- Confirmation for teens
- First woman Rabbi ordained 1972
- Dropped requirement for religious divorce
- Recognize Patriarchal lineage if mother is not Jewish so long as child raised Jewish.

Reform

- Trending back toward people-hood and more religious rituals.
 - Individual choice/Congregation choice
- Not all conversions require Mikveh or circumcision.

Conservative

- 1887 The Jewish Theological Seminary-
Rabbinical School of Conservative Judaism
- Reaction to tension of differences between
Orthodoxy and Reform.
- God influenced/gave the Jewish writings, but
humans have influenced through the process
of transmission.

Conservative

- halakah are binding, but should change and adapt to culture while remaining true to the intended values.
- Allow women Rabbis
- Variable observance and practices between Synagogues
 - range from Reform style to almost Orthodox

Reconstructionist

- Reconstructionist Rabbinical College 1968
- Judaism is an “evolving religious civilization”
- Do not believe in a God that intervenes with history or knows the mind of the individual.
- Do not believe God chose the Jewish people.

Reconstructionist

- Many Rabbis serve in Jewish college student organizations or Jewish Community Centers.

Chabad (Lubavitch)

- Hasidic movement founded in Russia at end of 18th century
- Community in Crown Heights neighborhood Brooklyn, NY
- Emphasis on outreach
 - community service
 - influence non-observant to accept Jewish ritual practices

Chabad (Lubavitch)

- Orthodox Service
- Chabad House
- Controversial among all movements
 - Lubavitch Rebbe wanted Israel to support only Jews born to mothers or converted by Orthodox Rabbis

Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism

- What is the essence of God?
- After learning Torah and Talmud, then explore areas of
 - heaven/hell
 - angels/devil
 - soul
 - afterlife
 - nature of God and Universe
 - Spirituality

Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism

- Not a separate movement of its own that has legitimacy
- Lots of literature on Kabbalah that has nothing to do with Judaism
- Christian adaptations are not congruent with original Jewish meaning.

Messianic Jewish Movement

- Not a Jewish Movement that is recognized
 - in conflict with the Jewish interpretation of Messiah
 - believe in Jesus as Messiah of Israel per the Prophets and Jewish Law

Jewish Beliefs

Beliefs

- Focus on relationships between:
 - God and mankind
 - God and Jewish people
 - Jews and Land of Israel
 - Man and Man

Beliefs

- One God – monotheism
- God is Unified
 - No parts to God (e.g. not Father, Son, Holy Spirit, etc.)
- No evil force equal to God

Beliefs

- Per movement: observation of 613 halakah
- Deeds and Actions, Ethical purpose
- Room for personal opinion
- No official mandated belief in nature of God, universe, life, afterlife

Beliefs

- People of all religions are Children of God and equal before God
- All people have God's love, mercy and help
- Do not require a conversion to Judaism for Salvation

Beliefs

- People born with free moral will to choose to do good
- Guided by halakah to act ethically
- No original sin from birth
- Through prayer seek forgiveness from directly from God
- Seek forgiveness directly from others to whom we have wronged

Beliefs

- No clear sense of heaven or hell
- God filled with love and mercy so punishment not eternal

Chosen People

- Not Conquerors
- Not the only way
- Not ethnic cleansers
- historically first monotheistic as opposed to pagans (idol worshipers)

OFTEN misunderstood and used as anti-Semitic posturing

Mashiach: The Messiah

- Literal translation- the anointed one
- Idea of Mashiach is ancient in Judaism
- Human leader- not savior
- Hebrew Bible describes several tasks that Mashiach must accomplish
 - Jews do not believe Jesus was Mashiach because did not accomplish all tasks- e.g. Peace of World

Mashiach: The Messiah

- Tasks to accomplish per Prophets
 - ingathering of exiles
 - restoration of religious courts of justice
 - end to wickedness, sin, heresy
 - rebuilding of Jerusalem
 - restoration of the line of King David
 - usher in era of peace

Mashiach: The Messiah

- Orthodox pray 3 times day for coming of Mashiach
- Term Messiah is not used by Jews because it has been used to describe one with qualities other than that in the original meaning.
(Divine or semi-divine who will sacrifice self to save us from consequences of our sins.)

Mohamed

- Lineage through Ishmael
- Ishmael was son of Abraham and concubine
 - Hagar was servant to Sarah
 - 14 years before Isaac

Mohamed

- A practicing Jew
- Claimed he was Messiah
- Became angry when Jews did not recognize (same reasons not Jesus)
- Many statements he made against Jews and Judaism became recognized as divine by Muslims and therefore source of modern day troubles

Similarities between Judaism and other Religions

From a theological perspective.

- Belief in God
- Religion of good deeds
- Desire Peace
- Aspire to Love and care for others

Differences Between Judaism and Christianity

From the theological perspective

- Christianity not a natural continuation of Judaism
- Christianity is a movement that broke away from Judaism

- Jews do not believe in the Christian "New Testament."
- Bible is not one book - it's a collection of books.
- Jews, Catholics, Protestants and Mormons each have their own idea of what books belong in the collection of books named Bible.

Conversion

- Jews do not proselytize to non-Jews
- Jew do not seek out to convert non-Jews
- Halakah instructs Rabbis to make 3 vigorous attempts to dissuade a person from converting.

Conversion

1. Learn Jewish laws and customs
2. Beit Din (Rabbinical court)
3. Hatafat dam brit- circumcision by a Mohel
4. Tevilah- Mikveh purification immersion
5. Jewish name

Jewish Practices

Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World

- Founded in halakah and Jewish Ethics
2000 BCE
- Social policy providing extra protection to those potentially at disadvantage
- Pursuit of social justice
- All levels of life - home to global
- All politics- Conservative to Liberal

Tzedekah

- Charitable giving

Dietary Laws: Kashrut

- Certain foods can not be eaten
- Certain foods must be separated
- Rules regarding preparation of foods
 - Not a style of cooking
- Certification by Rabbis of processed food
 - U, K, P, more symbols
 - Not a Blessing
- Kosher, Kashrut, Milchig, Fleishig, Pareve, Ritual Slaughter

Dietary Laws: Kashrut

- OK- cloven hooved and chew cud
- Cattle, sheep, goats, deer and bison are kosher as long as ritual slaughter
- NO- beasts of burden (horses, camel, etc.)
- OK- birds such as chicken, geese, ducks and turkeys
- No animal blood
- No shell fish (no fins/scales, scavengers)
- OK- fish with fins and scales

Dietary Laws: Kashrut

- Grape products made by non-Jews may not be eaten.
- NO: Rodents, reptiles, amphibians, and insects
- More....
- <http://www.jewfaq.org/kashrut.htm>

Dietary Laws: Kashruth

Why?

- Torah halakah
- Orthodox do not question why because they believe it is commanded by G-d
- Sign of Holiness to observe and put something bigger than “self”
- ritual of Kashruth reminds one of being a Jew

Dietary Laws: Kashrut

NOT

- Based on Health regulations
- Not tied to science logic

- Keeping Kosher in today's world
 - certification of processed food
 - easy to separate meat and dairy
 - difficult in restaurants or non-observant homes

Dietary Laws: Kashrut

- Pork- may never know the reason
- Anthropological studies inconclusive
- Possible reasons:
 - arbitrary and reinforced exclusiveness of Jews
 - Syrian Emperor Antiochus had pigs slaughtered in first Temple
 - Economic? Rabbis realized that pigs do not do well in hot desert life style of herding

Shabbat

- Genesis 2:3
 - “And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.”
- Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
- Holiness in time
- A space within ourselves no one can take away
- Physical space is focus of other 6 days

Shabbat

- Candle lighting
 - 18 min before sunset
 - Women and children, men if no women
 - 2 Candles and sometimes 1 additional for each child
 - 1= shamor (keep)
 - 1= zakhor (remember)

Shabbat

- Candle lighting blessing
- Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to light Shabbat candles.

Shabbat

- Kiddush
- Wine blessing
- Wash hands
- Bread blessing
- Meal
- Songs, Prayer
- Refrain from work
- Study Torah

Shabbat

- Havdala- separation between joy of Shabbat and the beginning of new week
 - bittersweet to leave Shabbat and re-enter world
 - Long candle lit
 - wine cup
 - spice box (lift the extra soul)
 - extinguish candle in wine

House of Worship

- Orthodox- Shul (Yiddish for School, synagogue)
 - Mikhitzta- Separate men/women
- Reform – Temple
- Conservative- Synagogue

Menorah

- One of the oldest symbols of the Jewish faith is the menorah, a seven-branched candelabrum used in the Temple.
- Based on instructions for construction of the menorah found in Ex. 25:31-40.
- olive oil in cups

- <http://www.jewfaq.org/signs.htm#Menorah>

Menorah



Menorah

- It has been said that the menorah is a symbol of the [nation](#) of Israel and our mission to be "a light unto the nations." (Isaiah 42:6). The sages emphasize that light is not a violent force; Israel is to accomplish its mission by setting an example, not by using force. This idea is highlighted in the vision in Zechariah 4:1-6. Zechariah sees a menorah, and [G-d](#) explains: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit."
- The lamp stand in today's synagogues, called the ner tamid (lit. the continual light, usually translated as the eternal flame), symbolizes the menorah. Many synagogues also have an ornamental menorah, usually with some critical detail changed (for example, with only 6 candles) to avoid the sin of reproducing objects of the Temple.
- <http://www.jewfaq.org/signs.htm#Menorah> (accessed 3/7/2011)

Prayer

- Minyan
 - minimum 10 adult males to pray in community
 - Conservative and Reform can count women
- Formal prayer services
 - Morning includes Torah (M-Thurs)
 - Afternoon
 - Evening
 - Shabbat evening, Shabbat morning

Prayer

- Priestly Blessing
- “In the Bible, God commands the Priests (*Kohanim*) to bless the Children of Israel.

The verses of the Priestly Blessing (*Birkat Kohanim*) are among the oldest in continuous liturgical use. Archaeologists found the words etched on silver scrolls found in tombs from the seventh century BCE. The words of the Priestly Blessing come from the Book of Numbers 6:24-26.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look kindly upon you and give you peace."

- http://judaism.about.com/od/shabbatprayersblessings/f/bless_kohanim.htm (accessed March 7, 2011)

Accessories for Prayer

- Tallit (Tzitzit) with fringes
- Tefillin
- Kippah (Yarmulka)

Tefillin



<http://amr2you.blogspot.com/2010/01/tefillin-phylacteries.html>

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Rabbi

- A religious teacher and person authorized to make decisions on issues of Jewish Law

Israel

- Land called Israel is central to Jewish religion
- 2092 BCE
- Genesis 12- God tells Abraham to leave his homeland and promises new land of Canaan (Israel)
- Called Promised Land because God repeated the promise to give to Abraham's descendants (Gen 12:7, 13:15, 15:18, 17:8)

Israel

- Jews have lived continuously on the land in varying numbers and situations
 - exile, conquered, not in control, oppression
- Jews exiled by Romans 135 CE and did not control again until 1948 CE
- No other peoples claimed the land during most of this time

Diaspora

- Term for the concept of Jews living off the land (out of Israel) either because of exile or free will.
- The Jewish prayers (3X day) pray that God restore Jewish people to the homeland

Israel

- Zionism late 1800s
 - Founded by Theodor Herzl and Chaim Weizmann
 - Political movement in Jewish life dedicated to creation of Jewish State per Biblical Promises
 - Need for safe haven for Jews because of oppression in other lands
 - Zion was a stronghold in Jerusalem (Temple)
 - Signified Utopia
 - Legal, Secular focus

Israel

- Long story short- UN partitioned land for Arabs and Jews 1947
 - Israel
 - Jordan (Palestine)
- Israel as a Democratic Country founded May 11,1948

Palestine- what is Truth?

- Palestine was what Arabs referred to as Southern Syria. The people were called Syrians.
- Palestinian Nationality was claimed in early 1900s
- Long story short- UN partitioned land for Arabs and Jews 1947
 - Israel
 - Jordan (Palestine)

Palestine- what is Truth?

- There has never been a land known as Palestine governed by Palestinians
- No language known as Palestinian
- No Palestinian culture distinct from other Arabs in area
- Palestine not mentioned in Koran- only referred to as Holy Land

Palestine- what is Truth?

- Philistine is not equal to what Palestinians claim as Biblical acknowledgement
 - 200 CE (AD) Romans crushed Jewish revolt and renamed Judea as Palaestina deidentify Jews (Southern portion of west bank)
 - Arabic word Filastin is derived from Latin Pal.

Palestine- what is Truth?

- Arabs themselves declared a portion of Southern Syria as Palestine in 1919 (first congress of Muslims and Christian Association)
- Post WWI

Palestine claim of Israel

- UN partitioned land for Arabs and Jews 1947 – Israel and Jordan (Palestine)
 - Triggered an exodus of Palestinians living in the entire area (Syria, Jordan, new Israel)
- Israel as a Democratic Country founded 1948
 - Immediate followed by multiple Arab country invasion- War of Independence 1948

2-State Solution

- Regardless of the truth regarding Palestine's legitimate claim to the land
- Current solution not good for anyone
- If one state- Palestinians will outnumber Jews in Israel and lead to end of Jewish and Democratic State
- If two states- preserve Jewish and Democratic State

2-State Solution

- If 2 states- then first time in history for a real Palestinian state that is recognized by the international diplomatic community and will lead to financial help for reconstruction and development.

2-State Solution

- Difficulties
 - Borders
 - Jerusalem
 - Palestinian Liberation Organization constitution does not recognize Israel State
 - Negotiate with Terrorist organizations
 - Hamas- Gaza; Fatah- West Bank
 - Arab countries use the Palestinians for their own agendas against Israel
 - USA politics

Israel

- 5-6 million approx
50% are Mizrachim
(North Africa, Middle East)
most of the rest are Ashkenazic

Most Jews support Israel even though they might have differences with the policies of the government.

Israel - Threats

- The wars since 1948
- First and Second Intifada
- War in Gaza
- Rockets
- Iran
- Radical Muslim that denies Israel's existence
- Anti-Semitism world wide

Law of Return Khok ha-sh'vut

- First law of Knesset passed after establishment of Israel 1948
- Guarantee right of all Jews to emigrate to Israel and claim instant citizenship
- Issue - Who is Jew?
 - Orthodox Rabbinat controls religious affairs
 - Born to Jewish mother or converted according to halakah

Law of Return

Khok ha-sh'vut

- Converts by Reform or Conservative Rabbis not recognized
 - converted children of intermarriage even if born to Orthodox Jewish mother
 - not always per full halakah
 - in general
- Orthodox Rabbinate want this in law
- Huge issue among the Jewish people living outside of Israel

Aliyah

- Hebrew for “to go up”
- Term for “to go live in Israel”
- Term for “called to the Torah for the reading”

Star of David

- Symbolize gathering of Jewish people from all corners of the world

Life Cycle Events

Newborn

- Jewish boys circumcised 8th day post birth
 - Brit Milah (4000 yr tradition) by a Mohel
 - Abraham did it to Isaac
- Jewish girls- simhat bat- formal welcome
- Hebrew Naming
 - Simchat Bat Rachel
 - Isaac Ben Abraham

Consecration

- Formal recognition of children about to begin their formal Judaism education.
 - Enter Sunday School

Bar Mitzvah Bat Mitzvah

- Become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at age 13
- Obligated to fulfill the mitzvot (commandments)
- Eligible to read Torah in front of Community
- Counted toward the minyan
- Responsible for own actions in Community

Bar Mitzvah

Bat Mitzvah

- Preparation is religious study and learning Hebrew
- Recently adults have ceremony
- If have a ceremony:
 - lead service for the community
 - Generational Torah passing
 - read from Torah

Bar Mitzvah Bat Mitzvah

- Recent- big celebrations
- 1920's Reconstructionist movement first Bat Mitzvah

Confirmation

- Reform movement establish the Spring custom for 16 yr old teens
 - Now in Conservative and Orthodox
- Continued study/reflection post Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- Assume full adult responsibility of a Jew in the community

Marriage Kiddushin

- Holy
- Male and female set apart from rest and are exclusive to each other
- Biblical needs
 - procreate (sexual contact for pleasure is encouraged)
 - not good that man be alone
- Customs
 - ketubah marriage document
 - Chuppah
 - Break the glass

Divorce

- no annulment process
- permitted
- recognized
- remarry of divorced person is allowed

Death

- Natural process at any age even if due to unfortunate circumstances
- Mourning rituals
 - respect for the Dead (kavod ha-met)
 - comfort for the Living who miss the dead (nihum avelim)

Caring for the Dead

- Autopsy only if will save a life or local secular law requires
- Organ donation ok
- not embalmed if secular law allows
- Many communities have an organization to perform the ritual tasks (chevra kaddisha)
- Burial such that body comes in contact with earth- unless local laws prohibit

Caring for the Dead

- eyes closed
- cleanse the body
- wrap with tallit or shroud
- lay on floor
- candles lit next to body
- sit with body until burial is sign of respect (shomerim)
- no open casket if Orthodox

Death

Mourning

- Shiva- 7 days beginning on day of burial
- Shloshim- 30 days
- Yahrzeit- annually on death anniversary
- Tombstone unveiling- 1st year anniversary
- Mourners Kaddish

Jewish Culture

Geographical Influences

- Over the centuries Jews were exiled from wherever they were living.
- Clusters of populations formed.
- Jewish culture was influenced by the customs of the community as a whole.
- As Jews continue to emigrate to other locations the customs are brought to the new location.

Geographical Influences

- Askenazic
 - France, Germany, Eastern Europe, Russia
- Sephardic
 - Spain, Portugal, North Africa, Middle East, India, Red Sea Region
- Mizrachi
 - North Africa, Middle East
- Other
 - Yeminite, Ethiopian, Oriental

Jews in America

- First Jews- American Revolution
 - approx 2000 in number
 - many were descendents (1684 in NY) of Jews expelled from Spain 1492 CE
- Ashkenazic Jews from 1800's
- First country where Jews received equal rights without from the beginning

Jewish Culture

- Historical rich contribution to all aspects society around the world.
- Jews are like everyone else, we contribute because it is our interest/passion – not because we feel a need to flaunt being Jewish.
- On matters of social justice, oppression, equal rights Jews advocate for Jews and other groups.

Holocaust

- Formative event in World History that has influenced Jewish Culture and Actions
- Remember so we can counter those that deny the Holocaust was real

Jewish Culture

- Charity
- Politics
- Science, Health, Business
- Art, Music, Film, Humor, Literature
- Media
- Cuisine
- Many famous Jewish people
 - Known as Jewish
 - Not known as Jewish

Jewish Food

- Some food influenced by Dietary Law
- Some items common to rituals
- Cuisine influenced by geographical and cultural origins (previous slides)
- Cookbooks document the historical origins of food
- Many foods not unique to Jewish culture even though in the USA they may be identified as Jewish

Jewish Food

- Interestingly- no specific Israeli Jewish Cuisine
- Not enough time to develop
- Mostly middle eastern or Arab food
 - hummus, falafel, etc.

Jewish Food

Matzah

- unleavened bread from matzah flour meal
- Biblical description
- When Jewish slaves were freed from Egypt there was not time to allow the bread to rise as they fled.
- Passover

Jewish Food

Challah

- Sweet, golden, egg bread
 - Braided for Shabbat and many holidays
 - Round on Rosh Hashanah
- Portion of bread set aside for Kohein
 - Descendants of Aaron chosen by God at the time of the Golden Calf incident to perform certain sacred work in connection with worship.

Challah



Jewish Food

Bagels

- Donut shaped bread
- boiled then baked
- Lox, cream cheese, tomato, onion
- Holidays, or anytime
- Deli

Jewish Food

Gefilte fish

- Cake or ball shaped chopped fish
- white fish, pike, carp
- chopped veggies
- matzah meal and egg to hold together
- Boiled in broth
- serve warm or cold
- Horseradish garnish
- Passover, or year round



Jewish Food

Matzah ball soup

- Passover or anytime

Knishes

- potato & flour dumpling stuffed with mash potato/onion, chopped liver, cheese, other
- Ukranian for dumpling

Jewish Food

Blinztes

- pan fried crepes stuffed with cheese, fruit or mash potato/onion
- sour cream or apple sauce topping
- Shavu'ot or Hanukkah

Chopped liver

Jewish Food

Cholent

- slow cooked stew of beans, beef, barley, potatoes
- Shabbat

Holishkes (stuffed cabbage)

- several recipes

Jewish Food

Tzimmes

- stew that has sweet items such as carrots, sweet potatoes, prunes
- Rosh Hashanah

Apple slices dipped in honey

- Rosh Hashanah

Jewish Food

- Latkes
- Kugel (noodle or veggie)
- Beef Brisket
- Matzah flour and/or potato starch cake
- Charoset
- Hamentaschen cookies

Jewish Calendar

- Based on the 3 astrological phenomenon (earth rotation axis, moon cycle around earth, earth cycle around sun)
- Holidays on same date, but fluctuate on the civilian calendar
- Years numbered from Creation (Adam and Eve)
- Month is 29 or 30 days
- Year is 12 or 13 months (leap month to sync with sun cycle)
- Day 1 is Sunday, Day 7 is Saturday

10 Adar II, 5773

Today 😊

Jewish Holidays

- Many major, several minor
- Agricultural cycle of Israel
- Special prayers, rituals, food
- Halakah describes if can work or not
- Begin sundown the night before
- Difficult for observant Jews in secular or gentile world if Holidays on week-days (13 days)

Jewish Holidays

- No marriages
 - on Sabbath
 - 3 weeks before Tisha Be'Av
 - Between Passover and Shavuot
 - (April- mid June)

Jewish Holidays

The following slides describe select
Jewish Holidays

Rosh Hashana

- The Jewish New Year
- Days of Awe (Yamim Nora'im)
- High Holy Days
- Civilian calendar in Sept-Oct

- Le-Shana tova teekataivu
 - May you be inscribed for a good year!
 - Psalm 69:29- Book of life in which God writes names of the righteous

Rosh Hashana

- Extremely personal
- Reflection and prayer about ethical and religious assessment of one's life in past year and upcoming New Year.
- The tradition teaches- God decides who will live and who will die.
- Our prayers try to influence God to let us live.

Rosh Hashana

- The Rabbis promote a positive and optimistic approach.
- The belief that God is loving and merciful supports the assumption that God will accept our repentance and extend our lives.
- Begins the 10 days of Repentance (Teshuva)
 - Ask forgiveness of God and others

Rosh Hashana

- Shofar
 - commandment
 - Motivate repentance
- Apple dipped in honey
 - “May it be thy will, O Lord Our God, to grant us a new year that is good and sweet.”
- Tashlikh
 - Throw sins into the water

Yom Kippur

- Bring reconciliation between peoples, individuals, and God
- Sins against God are forgiven
- Customs from the Torah- Leviticus 23:27
 - Fast
- Other rituals
 - No leather shoes, sex, bath

Yom Kippur

- Kol Nidrei- evening
 - One asks to be released in advance from any vows not made and not kept to God.
- All day prayer services
 - List sins
 - Jonah and whale story read
 - Memorial service
 - close the gates
 - Long note from Shofar
- Celebratory Break Fast

Sukkot

- 4 Days after Yom Kippur
- Agricultural Holiday – Harvest in Israel
- Sukka- replicate booths and tents Jews lived in while wandering the desert.

Semini Atzeret

- Recitation of Prayer for rain
- Coincides with beginning of Israeli rainy season (around Sept-Oct civilian calendar)

Simkat Torah

- Joyful, celebratory prayer service
- Completion of annual cycle of Torah reading
- Delight at having completed Study of Gods word and joy for the opportunity to start again
- Congregational re-rolling of Scrolls

Hanukkah Chanukka

- Not a significant Biblical holiday 😊

The Story:

- 165 BCE- Maccabees or Hasmoneas regained control of the Temple in Jerusalem from the Syrians lead by Emporer Antiochus.
- The Syrians had pillaged the Temple

Hanukkah Chanukka

- Temple Purification Ceremonies
 - One cruse of purified oil was found
 - One cruse lasts one day
 - 8 days are needed to for ritual oil purification

The one cruse lasted 8 days! Miracle!

Hanukkah Chanukka

- Celebration today
- Commemorate with lights
- Chanakhiah
 - The nine-branched candelabrum
 - Shamash used to light the candles
 - Place in windows so all can see per the Rabbinic dictum to publicize the miracle
- Dreidle game
- Fried foods such as Latke, fried jelly roll

Hanukkah Chanukka

- Rabbi Samuel Weinstein Dec 2010
- “Soul and Spirit of an eternal Jewish people who will forever prevail over every obstacle and challenge that history places before us.”

Tu B'Shvat

- 15th day of Shvat
 - (mid Jan- mid Feb)
- Minor Holiday
- New Year for Trees
- Plant in Israel

Purim

- The Biblical Story:
- King of Persia gave a Persian ruler Haman free reign to decide the fate of the Jews.
- Haman was angry due to a comment made by a Jew named Mordechi.
- Developed a scheme to draw lots (Purim) for lottery used to choose the massacre date.
- *Meanwhile....* Esther was a beautiful and favorite queen of the King of Persia.
- *However.....* Mordechi and Esther were cousins!

Purim

- *But.... King did not know Esther was Jewish!!!*
- *Then... Mordechi asked Esther to go to the King and ask that Jews be spared.*
- She did. The plot was overthrown. Haman and sons were hanged.

- Civilian calendar- Feb-Mar

Purim

Celebrate

- Megillah- Scroll of Ester Read
- Noise makers to drown out Haman name
- Costume parties at Temple
- An odd commandment that Jews are instructed to get drunk until no longer differentiate between “Blessed is Mordechi and Cursed is Haman.”
- Cookies Hamantashen

Passover

Pesach

- Passover- Celebration of God freeing the Jewish slaves of Egypt, the of Jewish Exodus from Egypt, the beginning of Jewish Nationhood
- Preparation of home- remove leavened food scraps
- Haggada
- Seder
- Civilian calendar: Mar-Apr

Passover Seder

- Matzah
 - Better to live in freedom and eat poor food than remain slaves and eat well.
- Maror
 - bitter herb represent bitterness of servitude
 - Horseradish
- Charoset
 - mortar the slaves made for masters in Egypt

Passover Seder

- Karpas
 - parsley for spring and rebirth
- Beitzah
 - roasted egg symbol of festival sacrifice
- Zeroa
 - roasted lamb shank symbol of festival sacrifice
- Hazeret
 - Koreikh sandwich (charoset and matzah)

Lag B'Omer

- *You shall count for yourselves -- from the day after the Shabbat, from the day when you bring the Omer (grain like barley) of the waving -- seven Shabbats, they shall be complete. Until the day after the seventh sabbath you shall count, fifty days... - Leviticus 23:15-16*
- *You shall count for yourselves seven weeks (49 days), from when the sickle is first put to the standing crop shall you begin counting seven weeks. Then you will observe the Festival of Shavu'ot for the L-RD, your G-d -Deuteronomy 16:9-10*

Shavuot

- Giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai
- Also a harvest holiday
- Civilian calendar May-June

Tisha B'av

- Day of mourning to commemorate the many tragedies that have befallen Jewish people
- example: Destruction of the 1st and 2nd Temple in Jerusalem
- Civilian calendar July-Aug

Newer Holidays

- Holocaust Memorial Day
 - 27 Nissan
- Israel Independence Day
 - 5 Iyyar

Questions?

Susan L. Pocotte, PhD
Temple Oheb Shalom



The following resources can be used to find further information that is reliable. These references were used for this presentation.

General information that can be searched by topic.

<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/>

<http://www.jewfaq.org/index.htm>

<http://www.virtualjerusalem.com/>

<http://www.jewishdatabank.com/>

Website for Central Conference of American Rabbis. Reform

<http://ccarnet.org/>

<http://ccarnet.org/documentsandpositions/>

Reform

<http://urj.org/index.cfm>

Other Movements

<http://www.chabad.org/>

<http://www.aish.com/>

<http://www.uscj.org/index1.html>

The following resources can be used to find further information that is reliable.

Local Jewish Community Information

<http://www.jewishtoledo.org/>

<http://jewishcleveland.org/index.aspx>

<http://clevelandjewishradio.tripod.com/index.html>

Information about Israel

<http://www.science.co.il/Israel-info.php>

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA>

Community, Charity

<http://www.jewishfederations.org/index.aspx?page=1>

Conversion

<http://www.convert.org/>

Media in Israel

<http://www.haaretz.com/>

<http://www.jpost.com/>

<http://www.ynetnews.com/home/0,7340,L-3083,00.html>

Books

- “Jewish Literacy Revised edition: The most important things to know about the Jewish religion, its people, and its history”, by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin ISBN-13: 978-0061374982
- “Basic Judaism”, by Milton Steinberg, Harvest Books. ISBN-13: 978-0156106986
- "To Be a Jew" (an excellent resource on traditional Orthodox Judaism), By Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin Basic Books. ISBN-13: 978-0465086320