



PBS

WETA

BLACK AND JEWISH

AMERICA AN INTERWOVEN HISTORY



HOSTED BY
EMMY®-WINNING
HENRY LOUIS
GATES, JR.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &
DISCUSSION GUIDE



A view of the table set for the Passover Seder. | Courtesy of McGee Media

INTRODUCTION

BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA: AN INTERWOVEN HISTORY is a four-part series from acclaimed scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., exploring the rich, complex relationship between Black Americans and Jewish Americans throughout our country's history. It is a kinship defined by powerful moments of solidarity and painful episodes of division.

Black and Jewish people started out in America on fundamentally different footing. By the early 20th century, however, they were drawn together by rising antisemitism and entrenched anti-Black racism. These shared experiences led to productive civic partnerships and helped spark creative bonds in music and film that shaped American popular culture. The bond between communities deepened after World War II, when the atrocities of the Holocaust reinforced a sense of common struggle, as both communities grappled with the devastating consequences of hatred and intolerance. The civil rights era is often described as the "golden age" of the alliance, when Jewish Americans worked closely with Black leaders and organizers to dismantle Jim Crow laws that fueled segregation.

Yet while Blacks and Jews were united by shared ideals of justice, they were also divided by the realities of race and privilege in America. The alliance suffered as each group turned inward and prioritized its own struggles and agendas in an increasingly fragmented social and political landscape. But the hope and promise of cross-cultural solidarity endures today amid reminders of intractable bigotry. **BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA** is a lesson in that promise, and the challenges of sustaining unity against the forces that seek to divide us.

USING THIS GUIDE

The goal of this guide is to help you facilitate conversations and create engagement opportunities around **BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA: AN INTERWOVEN HISTORY**.

This guide will point you to resources, partners and suggestions that allow you to create the engagement opportunities that truly connect, invigorate and inspire your communities.

The docuseries gives communities an opportunity to participate in a national conversation about American history, civil rights, the arts, society, and Black and Jewish culture in the United States. This guide has tools to help public media stations plan events, spark conversation, share untold stories, and connect communities.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and guests at the Passover Seder seated at the table. | Courtesy of McGee Media

EPISODE DESCRIPTIONS

The series premiered on PBS in four parts beginning on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9/8c, and is streaming on the PBS website and video app.

In BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor at Harvard University and director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, speaks with dozens of scholars, activists, religious leaders, and writers about the kinship between the two groups, defined by powerful moments of solidarity and painful episodes of division. Set around a lively Seder, BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA is interspersed with conversations around the table, archival content, and interviews with notable participants such as Billy Crystal, Tony Kushner, Anna Deavere Smith, Al Sharpton, David Remnick, the children of noted civil rights figures Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Rabbi Abraham Joshua, Rabbi Israel Dresner, and more.

EPISODE ONE | Let My People Go: From intersecting histories of persecution to diverging fates on American shores, Episode One traces the early forces that shaped the Black and Jewish connection in the U.S. Journeys of exile, faith, resilience, terror, migration, early civil rights partnerships, and tests of solidarity define the relationship by the early 20th century.

EPISODE TWO | Strange Fruit: Episode Two explores the alliances between Black and Jewish communities in the first half of the 20th century, and their divides. From the Harlem Renaissance and Great American Songbook to fighting Nazis, it examines influential collaborations, frictions, and the lasting cultural and social impact of their intertwined histories.

EPISODE THREE | The “Grand Alliance”: Episode Three recalls the 1950s and 1960s “Grand Alliance” between Black and Jewish communities. From *Brown v. Board of Education* to Freedom Summer, Jews were key allies in the Black-led civil rights movement. But by the end of the 1960s, fractures grew as overseas conflict and the domestic realities of race and class pushed the communities apart.

EPISODE FOUR | Crossroads: Episode Four explores the evolving Black and Jewish alliance from the 1970s onward. From affirmative action and political milestones to Middle East tensions and rising hate, it examines challenges, shared struggles, and the lessons of solidarity in a divided America.

MEET THE CREATORS

HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR. HOST, WRITER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University. An Emmy, Du Pont, and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, and institution builder, he has published numerous books and produced and hosted an array of documentary films about Black History, including, most recently, *BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA: AN INTERWOVEN HISTORY* (PBS, 2025). Gates’s groundbreaking genealogy and genetics series, *FINDING YOUR ROOTS*, which has received two Primetime Emmy nominations, is now in its twelfth season on PBS. His latest book, *The Black Box: Writing the Race* (Penguin Random House, 2024), was named one of the New York Times 100 Best Books of the Year. Most recently, he was awarded the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the NAACP and was elected an Honorary Fellow by the Royal Academy of Arts in England.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr. | Courtesy of McGee Media

“

This is a deeply personal subject for me. It’s connected to my own coming of age during the heroic days of the civil rights struggle and is an urgent response to the violent forces I’ve seen reawakened in our society over the last decade. By tracing the long arc of Black and Jewish history in America, I hope we can see each other more clearly, more honestly, and find hope in our mutual stories of survival, resilience, and solidarity. But this series is not only about the past. It is about us—and how, together, we can prevail over the forces of hatred that seek to divide us.

”

HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

MEET THE CREATORS

PHIL BERTELSEN | CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/DIRECTOR



Phil Bertelsen is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning producer and director who uses film and television to entertain, inspire, and provoke audiences. Through his storytelling, Bertelsen explores topics absent from our history books and demonstrates how integral Black history is in the whole story of America. Most recently, Phil's HBO limited documentary series SEEN AND HEARD was nominated for an 2025 Independent Spirit Award. His prior feature documentary THE PICTURE TAKER was nominated for a Peabody Award. His History Channel documentary 761st TANK BATTALION—THE ORIGINAL BLACK PANTHERS with Morgan Freeman is now streaming on Hulu alongside his episode of the Emmy Award-winning documentary series, THE 1619 PROJECT. His previous work, WHO KILLED MALCOLM X, is a six-part series currently on Netflix that explores the death and controversial convictions associated with the slain civil rights leader. That series prompted a reinvestigation of the decades-old crime resulting in the exoneration of two wrongly convicted men.

SARA WOLITZKY | CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/DIRECTOR



Sara Wolitzky is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker dedicated to creating engaging, socially relevant documentary programs. Most recently, she served as a director and co-executive producer of the multi-part series with noted scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA: AN INTERWOVEN HISTORY (PBS, 2026). She previously served as supervising producer on Dr. Gates's Webby Award-winning series BLACK HISTORY IN TWO MINUTES (OR SO) and on MS.: A REVOLUTION IN PRINT (HBO, 2025). Earlier in her career, she helped launch the multi-platform documentary series MAKERS, which chronicled the U.S. and global women's movement and profiled hundreds of prominent trailblazers. She was a co-producer of the original three-hour documentary MAKERS: WOMEN WHO MAKE AMERICA (PBS, 2013) and produced the Emmy-nominated MAKERS: WOMEN IN SPACE (PBS, 2014) and the feature-length MAKERS: ONCE AND FOR ALL (Amazon/AOL, 2015). She later directed NOT DONE: WOMEN REMAKING AMERICA (PBS, 2020), which received a News & Documentary Emmy nomination.

JULIA MARCHESI | SERIES PRODUCER/DIRECTOR



Julia Marchesi is a nonfiction producer, director, showrunner, and podcast host based in New York. She directed the feature HBO documentary FREDERICK DOUGLASS: IN FIVE SPEECHES (2022), which was nominated for an Emmy Award and the Humanitas Prize. She was the series producer and director on Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s PBS series RECONSTRUCTION: AMERICA AFTER THE CIVIL WAR (2019), which won a DuPont-Columbia Award. She co-directed the PBS American Masters film MAE WEST: DIRTY BLONDE (2020), which was the runner-up for the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film. In 2017, she was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Music Film category for SOUNDBREAKING, a PBS series about the history of music recording. She was the showrunner on two CNN series: SOUNDTRACKS (2017) and THE 2010's (2023). Most recently, she was the series producer and director on Gates's PBS series GREAT MIGRATIONS (2025) and the writer and producer of THE TRIAL OF ALEC BALDWIN, directed by Rory Kennedy, which appeared at DOC NYC in 2025. She was recently awarded a production grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a film about women war reporters in Vietnam.

AIR DATES

The series premiered on PBS in four parts beginning on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9/8c, and is streaming on the PBS website and video app.

WEBSITE + SOCIAL MEDIA

- www.pbs.org/blackandjewishamerica
- #BlackandJewish | #InterwovenHistoryPBS

PROJECT TOOLKIT

Free resources are available to support engagement in your community, including images from the documentary, press release, clips, social media suggestions and more. To access these assets, please visit the BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA BrandFolder at: <https://brandfolder.com/mcgeemedia/black-jewish-america>

Beyond the broadcast of BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA, public media stations can extend audience engagement through the PBS Video App and their local video platforms. Starting on the night of its premiere, BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA is available for free streaming (FVOD) for four weeks, followed by exclusive streaming for PBS Passport members (MVOD).

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION ONLINE

Share your thoughts and join online discussions using the hashtags **#BlackandJewish** and **#InterwovenHistoryPBS**





[L to R] Group portrait of evicted sharecroppers family. | Courtesy of the Library of Congress; Warsaw ghetto uprisings. | Courtesy of the US Holocaust Museum

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

This series is accompanied by an engagement program designed to bring communities together to reflect on the complex relationship between Black Americans and Jewish Americans and explore its profound impact on our shared history and community identity. We invite you to join this campaign by fostering conversations and creating opportunities that celebrate the diversity within your community.

BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA provides a platform for communities to engage in a national conversation about American history, economics, civil rights, the arts, society, and Black

and Jewish culture in the United States. This guide is packed with tools to help public media stations and community organizations plan events, spark meaningful discussions, share untold stories, and build connections.

Our goal is to empower you to create engagement activities and facilitate conversations around BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA. Inside, you'll find resources, potential partners, and actionable suggestions to help you design impactful opportunities that truly connect, inspire, and energize your communities, fostering a deeper understanding of our nation's history.

PARTNERSHIPS

Use BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA as an opportunity to cultivate new partnerships or strengthen existing ones, while broadening the series' impact in your community. Engage potential partners early in your planning process and leverage their expertise to guide your efforts. Partners can offer valuable insights, provide panelists, and assist with promoting and supporting community events. Consider reaching out to schools, youth organizations, local businesses, libraries, universities, civic groups, history museums, and humanities organizations as starting points for building local partnerships.

Through active collaboration, partnerships can help spark meaningful community conversations and magnify the impact of BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA.

Continue onto the next page for information on our national partners and how you can connect with them for your own initiatives.



Father David Brooks, left, speaking with Freedom Rider, and later member of the Tallahassee Ten, Rabbi Israel Dresner at the Greyhound bus station. | Courtesy of Florida Memory

NATIONAL PARTNERS

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (NGS)

Dedicated to advancing genealogical research and education, NGS provides online courses, publications, and webinars to help individuals explore and preserve their family histories. NGS plays a significant role in preserving Black history by supporting genealogical research that uncovers the stories of Black families and communities. ngsgenealogy.org

PBS BOOKS

PBS Books, a multi-platform initiative celebrating the love of reading is dedicated to engaging audiences in unique experiences to spark their curiosity and encourage a life-long love of reading and learning. WETA is partnering with PBS Books to build and enhance working relationships between libraries, their local public media stations, and other community organizations. pbsbooks.org

PBS NEWS STUDENT REPORTING LABS (SRL)

PBS News Student Reporting Labs (SRL) is an award-winning youth media program connecting classrooms and after-school programs to PBS News and local public media stations. WETA is proud to support SRL in inspiring students nationwide to create content related to this film's themes. studentreportinglabs.org



Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington at meeting of Tuskegee trustees. | Public Domain

SETTING UP A SUCCESSFUL SCREENING

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A great starting point for your screening plans is to collaborate with local partners. Involve potential partners early in the planning process and tap into their expertise to shape your efforts. Partners can offer invaluable insights, recommend panelists, and help promote and support community events. Specifically, they might:

- Recommend or serve as local experts for a panel discussion.
- Offer venues or help promote screenings to their networks.
- Participate in the event by hosting a table or showcasing their work, if possible.



[L to R] Rev. Cheryl Townsend Gilkes on set of her interview. | Courtesy of McGee Media; Howard University students on the class steps (1942). | Courtesy of the Library of Congress; Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Ginna Green at the Passover Seder. | Courtesy of McGee Media; Behind the scenes of Ben Sidran's interview at the American Jazz Museum. | Courtesy of McGee Media

FACILITATION TIPS

- Recruit a host or moderator that can facilitate an interesting discussion, drawing out answers from the panel that are suitable for the audience.
- The role of the host is to keep the discussion moving while remaining neutral. Your host need not be an expert in the field, but rather someone who can facilitate discussion and create a safe environment where the audience members feel free to speak their thoughts and pose questions.
- A good host should plan on previewing the screener in advance to prepare. Journalists and local reporters can make for excellent moderators and help keep the conversation on track.

SETTING UP A SUCCESSFUL SCREENING

PANELISTS

Recruit local experts and invite them to participate in a panel discussion or Q&A. Decide on a screening topic, and bring together a diverse range of panelists.

POST SCREENING

Allow time for audience members to mingle after the screening, to informally continue the conversation and connect with each other.

“It was a dream to explore a story so layered and endlessly fascinating, with countless echoes and lessons for today. The Black-Jewish connection is complicated and was never inevitable. Our struggles overlap, but our experiences in America are distinct. And yet, the times these communities have come together, however imperfectly, produced defining art and civil rights gains in America. We were determined to tell the unvarnished story, in all its glory and messiness/complication.”

FILMMAKERS PHIL BERTELSEN, JULIE MARCHESI, AND SARA WOLITZKY



Want to set up a screening?

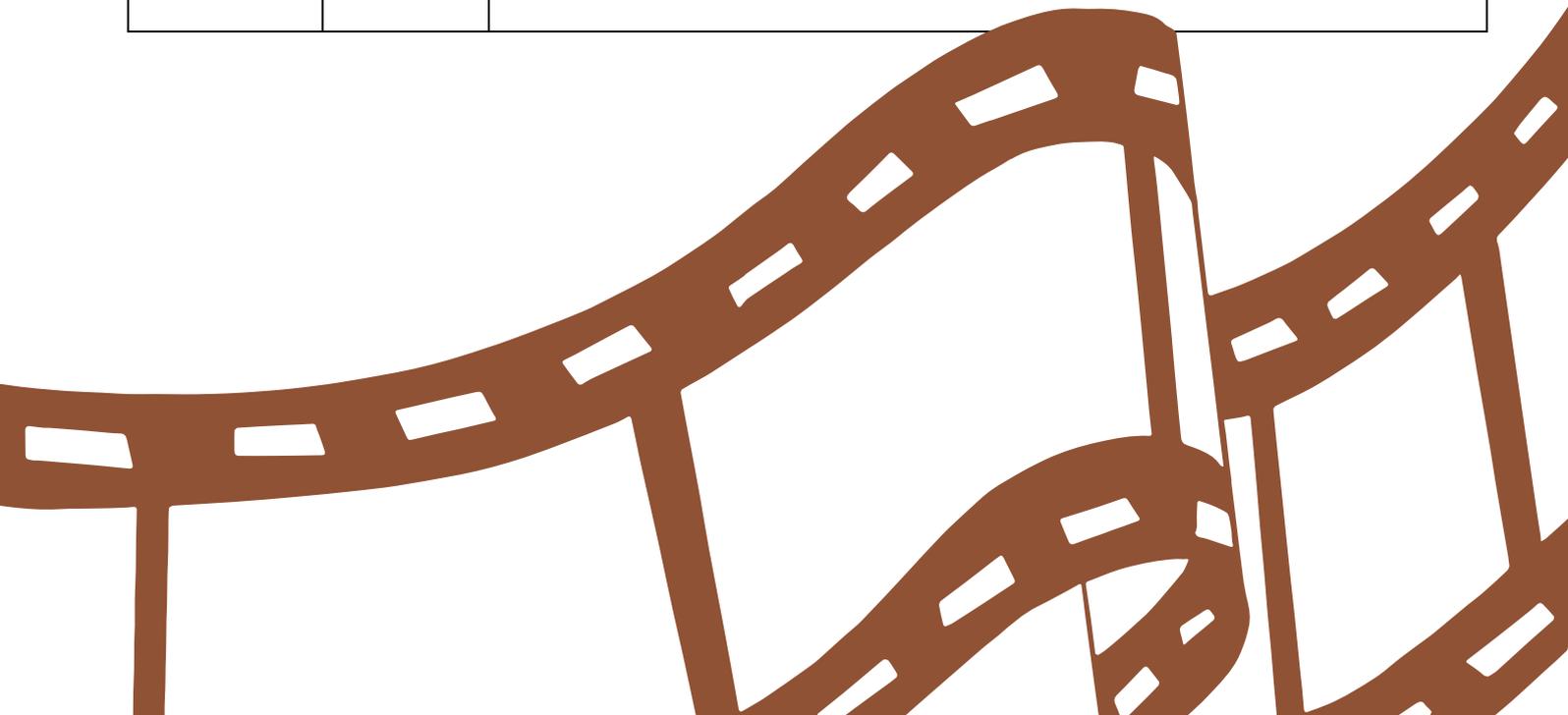
WETA offers a screening reel for PBS stations, libraries, and other organizations. This reel features segments from all four episodes, creating a powerful compilation of highlights. The following pages contain discussion questions designed for use with this screening reel and the larger series.

- Request a screener at engagement@weta.org
- Share the Impact Survey at all of your engagement events: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJA-EventSurvey>
- Get promotion assets from the [Project Toolkit](https://brandfolder.com/mcgeemedia/black-jewish-america): <https://brandfolder.com/mcgeemedia/black-jewish-america>

SCREENING REEL

Below you'll find an outline of the BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA engagement reel. To request access to the screener, please contact the National Strategic Engagement Team at WETA: engagement@weta.org

Clip	Hour	Theme/Description
1	One	Series Open - overview of themes and topics presented in the docuseries.
2	One	Mutual Recognition and Kinship. Great Migration through Springfield riots and founding of the NAACP.
3	Two	Post-war disparity between Jewish success and Black success. Development of Levittown, NY.
4	Three	Brown v. Board of Education and white supremacist response against Blacks and Jews. Alliance between Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King, Jr.
5	Four	UN Ambassador Andrew Young Jackson, Presidential Candidate Jesse Jackson, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
6	Four	October 7th/Gaza War through series finale.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This section is divided into themes and serves as a springboard for discussion around the available screening reel for BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA. Feel free to use these questions to initiate meaningful dialogue, or create new questions that connect directly with your own community. Please share questions with panelists and speakers ahead of time to allow them to prepare, particularly taking into account the historical background necessary to properly discuss these topics.

Mutual Recognition and Kinship

- Dr. Gates says that, “antisemitism is not the same as anti-Black racism, but both are ever present.” What does he mean by this?
- How did the Great Migration and Eastern European immigration converge in America
- What led Jewish Americans to become allies in the early Civil Rights Movement?
- In the years leading up to the founding of the NAACP, both Black and Jewish Americans went through severe hardships. What similarities or shared experiences strengthened their alliance and helped form the NAACP?
- What roles did Jewish allies play in the founding and early leadership of the NAACP?
- What challenges might arise in multiracial or interfaith coalitions like the NAACP?
- Why is it important to recognize both cooperation and disagreement in historical alliances?
- How can allies support justice without overshadowing the voices of those most impacted?
- What responsibilities come with participating in a coalition across racial or religious lines?
- Do you think multiracial coalitions are more effective than single-group movements? Why or why not?

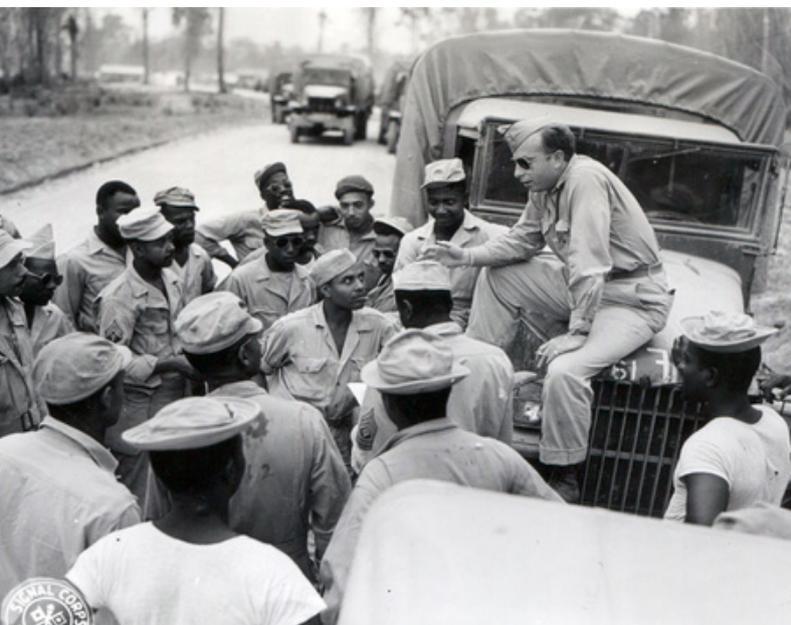


Henry Louis Gates, Jr. walking on set. | Courtesy of McGee Media

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Post World War II Opportunity and Inequality

- What economic and social opportunities became available to Americans after World War II, and how did access to those opportunities differ between Black Americans and Jewish Americans?
- How did the GI Bill shape postwar social mobility, and how did its implementation differ for Jewish veterans and Black veterans?
- What was Levittown, and why is it often described as a symbol of the American Dream?
- How did government policy, private developers, and banks work together to shape who could buy homes in Levittown?
- How did housing access affect long-term outcomes such as education, wealth accumulation, and community stability?
- Why is it important to distinguish between individual prejudice and systemic or structural discrimination?
- Following WWII, in what ways did Jewish and Black Americans share experiences of discrimination, and where did their experiences diverge?
- How do post-WWII housing policies continue to shape neighborhoods and wealth today?
- How can understanding places like Levittowns help communities have more honest conversations about inequality now?



[L to R] WWII Black soldiers being briefed by white battalion leader sitting on truck while standing on road.; Sign with American flags reads, "We want white tenants in our white community." | Both courtesy of The Library of Congress"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Desegregation, Backlash, and Moral Alliance

- What did *Brown v. Board of Education* promise, and why was it such a powerful challenge to segregation?
- Why did school desegregation provoke such intense resistance, even outside the South?
- In what ways were Jewish individuals, institutions, and synagogues targeted alongside Black communities during desegregation efforts?
- What risks did Jewish allies face, and how were those risks different from—and connected to—Black experiences?
- What is the “Grand Alliance” and what strengths did this collaboration bring to the civil rights struggle?
- What are the benefits of the Grand Alliance between African Americans and Jewish Americans?
- How did Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel understand civil rights as a moral and spiritual obligation?
- What did the public partnership between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Heschel symbolize to supporters of civil rights?
- What can today’s movements learn from the alliance between King and Heschel?



Arlington Cemetery event. MLK, Jr. and Rabbi Herschel. | Courtesy of the John C. Goodwin Archive

- How do we build alliances that are honest about differences in power while remaining committed to justice?
- What responsibilities do allies have when standing against hatred and discrimination?
- How should communities respond when progress toward justice provokes backlash?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Global Politics, Moral Tension, and Today

- Who were Andrew Young and Jesse Jackson, and why were they influential figures in Black American political life during the late 1970s and 1980s?
- How did the Civil Rights Movement shape Black leaders' views on global struggles for freedom and self-determination?
- What led UN Ambassador Andrew Young to meet with representatives of the PLO? Why did this meeting create intense concern and backlash within Jewish communities in the United States?
- How and why do words and language matter differently when spoken by national leaders?
- How did the controversial acts of Ambassador Young and Jesse Jackson test the Black and Jewish “Grand Alliance” that had formed during the civil rights era?
- What responsibilities do leaders have when engaging in international conflicts that deeply affect allied communities?
- Is it important to begin conversations about October 7th and the Gaza war by acknowledging grief, fear, and loss on all sides?
- In what ways have October 7th and the Gaza war strained Black and Jewish relationships in the U.S.?
- How should movements for justice respond when solidarity in one context creates pain in another?
- How can Black and Jewish communities hold space for disagreement without abandoning dialogue?
- What does repairing or sustaining alliances require after moments of deep misunderstanding?
- How do we stay in relationship with one another when history, identity, and global politics pull us apart?

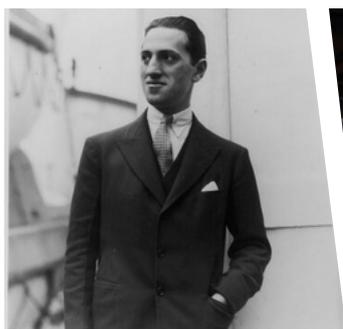


Rachel Fleischer's photos from UCLA protests: Rachel's group together in purple, L.A. supporters standing together. | Courtesy of Rachel Fleischer

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

About Culture - Music, Art, and Film

- Why was jazz an important cultural development in the early 20th century?
- How did Black communities contribute to the creation of jazz and popular American music?
- How might experiences of antisemitism have shaped Jewish musicians' interest in Black music and culture?
- According to Todd Boyd, "When you think about the history of America, one could make the argument that there is no American music without Black music?" What do you think he means?
- Why do you think both groups felt like they didn't belong in American society, and how did Jazz help them create a bond?
- How did Jewish composers like George Gershwin influence American music through the Great American Songbook?
- How did access to money, publishing, and performance spaces shape who benefited most from jazz?
- Do you see similar debates about influence and appropriation in music or culture today?



[L to R - Top Row] Henry Louis Gates, Jr. with Billy Crystal on set of his interview. | Courtesy of McGee Media ; George Gershwin. | Public Domain; Henry Louis Gates, Jr. speaking with Anna Deavere Smith and Tony Kushner. | Courtesy of McGee Media; Milt Gabler with Joe Mooney and Morty Palitz, in Decca studio. | Courtesy of The Library of Congress; [L to R - Bottom Row] Louis Armstrong in 1953. | Public Domain; Todd Boyd on set of his interview. | Courtesy of McGee Media; Strange Fruit - Commodore Record Label 1939. | Co-executive producer and director Phil Bertelsen, along with producer Rachel Fleischer on set with Sam Wasson. | Courtesy of McGee Media

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

To support educators, BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA is accompanied by educational materials for middle and high school classrooms.

WETA created six standards-based, classroom-ready education resources that include video segments from the series, discussion questions, vocabulary, and student-led activities - all accessible for free to educators on PBS LearningMedia.

pbslearningmedia.org/collection/black-and-jewish



Lesson 1:

“Let My People Go”: Exodus as a Source of Hope for Enslaved Black Americans

Students will learn how enslaved African Americans sought inspiration in the story of Jewish enslavement in Egypt in the biblical story of Exodus using a short segment from the film and analyzing a spiritual.



Lesson 2:

From Struggle to Strength: The Origins of the NAACP

Students will learn about the origins of the NAACP, its founding goals and principles, and how it emerged from a multicultural alliance; and how Jewish Americans and Black Americans, side-by-side, played a significant role as founders, leaders, and supporters toward the organization's goal of justice.



Lesson 3:

Finding Connection and Acceptance Through Jazz

Students will gain a better understanding of how jazz fostered the partnership between Jewish and Black Americans, as well as how cultural understanding of how music helps people get through life's hardships.



Lesson 4:

Jim Crow Abroad: Nazi Racial Policy and the 1936 Berlin Olympics

Students will learn about the 1936 Berlin Olympics, how Germany's Nuremberg Laws demonstrated a stark reflection of America's Jim Crow system, and how the powerful forces of hate were present on a global stage.



Lesson 5:

Friendship and Solidarity: The “Grand Alliance”

This lesson highlights activism and shows how collaboration spans all corners of life, from the music studio to school reform to marches in the street. Students will gain a better understanding of the tensions and triumphs between Black Americans and Jewish people in the United States.



Lesson 6:

Equality, Opportunity, and Affirmative Action

This lesson explores the beginnings of affirmative action in 1961 with an executive order from President John F. Kennedy, Jr. Students will use critical thinking skills to talk about how the policies of Kennedy, and later Lyndon B. Johnson, impacted the Black and Jewish relationship and how the alliance survived.

SUGGESTED READING LIST



[L to R] Eric Goldstein on set of his interview; Donzaleigh Abernathy on set of her interview; Producers Phil Bertelsen and Sara Wolitzky posing with Jacques Berlinerblau and Terrence Johnson; Keisha Blain on set of her interview; Bruce Haynes on set of his interview. | All images Courtesy of McGee Media

Want to learn more about this subject? Here is a list of books to explore and share which includes suggestions from program producers, series contributors, and interviewees.

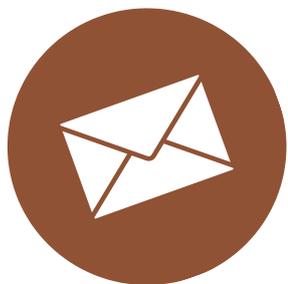
- ***Partners to History: Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, and the Civil Rights Movement*** by Donzaleigh Abernathy
- ***Without Fear: Black Women and the Making of Human Rights*** by Keisha N. Blain
- ***Bright Boulevards, Bold Dreams: The Story of Black Hollywood*** by Donald Bogle
- ***Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging*** by Angela Buchdahl
- ***Fires in The Mirror*** by Anna Deavere Smith
- ***Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s*** by Marc Dollinger
- ***Double Negative: The Black Image and Popular Culture*** by Racquel J. Gates
- ***If It Wasn't for the Women: Black Women's Experience and Womanist Culture in Church and Community*** by Cheryl Townsend Gilkes
- ***The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American History*** by Eric L. Goldstein
- ***Troubling the Waters: Black-Jewish Relations in the American Century*** by Cheryl Greenberg
- ***The Soul of Judaism: Jews of African Descent in America*** by Bruce D. Haynes
- ***Abraham Joshua Heschel: Essential Writings*** by Susannah Heschel
- ***Broken Alliance: The Turbulent Times Between Blacks and Jews in America*** by Jonathan Kaufman
- ***Blacks and Jews in America: An Invitation to Dialogue*** by Terrence L. Johnson & Jacques Berlinerblau
- ***Stokely: A Life*** by Peniel E. Joseph
- ***Jews and Blacks: A Dialogue on Race, Religion, and Culture in America*** by Michael Lerner and Cornel West
- ***A Right to Sing the Blues: African Americans, Jews, and American Popular Song*** by Jeffrey Melnick
- ***There Was a Fire: Jews, Music and the American Dream*** by Ben Sidran and Howard S. Baker
- ***KosherSoul: The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew*** by Michael Twitty

*Listed in alphabetical order by author

LINKS AND SUPPORT

QUICK LIST OF LINKS:

- Official PBS Webpage: pbs.org/blackandjewishamerica
- BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA Project Toolkit at: <https://brandfolder.com/mcgeemedia/black-jewish-america>
- PBS PRESSROOM: pressroom.pbs.org/programs/b/black-and-jewish-america
- Request a screening reel: engagement@weta.org
- Surveys for your engagement events: www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJA-EventSurvey



CONTACT US

For questions about engagement and education assets, please reach out to the National Impact & Engagement team at WETA: engagement@weta.org



Delores Locke-Graves at center with family. | Courtesy of Delores Locke-Graves



20th Annual Conference, NAACP group photo. Sitters include W.E.B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Walter White, William Pickens, Arthur Spingarn, Daisy Lampkin, and Robert Bagnall. | Courtesy of the Library of Congress

PRODUCTION CREDIT (As of 2/2/26)

BLACK AND JEWISH AMERICA: AN INTERWOVEN HISTORY is a production of McGee Media and Inkwell Media, in association with WETA Washington, D.C. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is the writer, host, and executive producer. Dyllan McGee is an executive producer. Phil Bertelsen and Sara Wolitzky are co-executive producers and directors. Julia Marchesi is a series producer and director. Rachel Dretzin is an executive producer. Deborah Clancy Porfido and Robert L. Yacyshyn are the supervising producers. Kevin Burke is a producer and Rachel Fleischer, Bianca Ladipo and Lauren Wimbush are co-producers. Ashley Thomas is line producer. Megan A. Graham is the supervisory archival producer and story producer. Stacey Holman and Eric Thielman are story producers.

FUNDING CREDIT (As of 2/2/26)

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Page 19 photo credits: *The Haggadah*, the book that guides the Passover Seder, during the Seder scene in the film. | Courtesy: McGee Media; The 20th Annual session of the N.A.A.C.P. on June, 26, 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio. Sitters include W.E.B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Walter White, William Pickens, Arthur Spingarn, Daisy Lampkin, and Robert Bagnall. | Courtesy of The Library of Congress; *Billie Holiday*. | Public Domain; *Jessie Owens at the 1936 Olympics*. | Public Domain; *Esther Brown standing outside, next to a plaque*. | Courtesy of Susan Tucker; *Skip as a young man in center wearing red and black striped shirt*. | Courtesy of Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

This engagement guide was written and created by WETA's National Impact & Engagement Team, with contributions from McGee Media and the filmmaking team.