



# EMBRACE: APRIL FACILITATOR GUIDE

## DESCRIPTION

Welcome! For the month of April, we celebrate Jewish Heritage Month (actually May, but for purposes of our year of studies, we have assigned it to April). We lean on our roots as a Jewish organization in our programming throughout the year, but especially during this month. We want to educate and celebrate Judaism and Jewish contributions as well as to make ourselves even more aware of challenges with antisemitism. We also acknowledge limitations with regard to the vast amount of information and experiences, and hope that this guide is a start to a rich and meaningful growth opportunity. As an organization, our goal is to highlight and celebrate diverse cultures, identities, and lived experiences. We want to learn to be better allies, as well as begin to have meaningful and impactful conversations surrounding diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. The purpose of the EMBRACE program is to facilitate dialogue and opportunities for learning. We will continue to answer why this is important for AEPHIS sisters to discuss race, identity, and implicit and explicit bias.

Throughout each facilitator guide, you will find guided conversations and links to other resources you may use with members. This programming is meant to be open to all members of Alpha Epsilon Phi. These resources will allow your chapter to have open and honest conversations, while continuing to build upon the trust shared between you. We encourage you to share these resources with the entire chapter so that others may also participate, if interested. The purpose of the activities included in our monthly programming are to reinforce the information covered while engaging in an activity that allows for open communication, reinforcement of the educational materials, and an opportunity to work with your sisters.

You do not need to complete the entire facilitator guide. Please use this as a resource as you identify what conversations, topics and activities are valuable and will be engaging for your chapter. This facilitator guide can be done in full, it can be broken up over the month, or you can use portions of the guide to host mini sessions prior to, or following, a chapter meeting. Make these resources work for your chapter.

This programming can be modified for virtual or in person programming, depending on the needs of your campus. Please partner with your programming specialist if you need help identifying ways to move these conversations online.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your programming specialist. They will be able to provide additional assistance and answer your questions.

We encourage you to engage with one another in honest dialogue, enriching your sisterhood, while continually exemplifying the high ideals and moral character that makes you uniquely members of Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will...

- Have an understanding of Jewish Heritage Month.
- Acknowledge the importance, relevance, and origins of Jewish Heritage Month.
- Honor and celebrate histories, stories, and voices of people identifying as Jewish.
- Have an understanding how antisemitism has occurred historically and is occurring in present day.

## RESOURCES

- **Land Acknowledgement (continued from November guide)**
  - [A Guide To Indigenous Land Acknowledgement](#)
- **Jewish Heritage Month: Introduction**
  - [2021 White House Proclamation](#)
  - Jewish Heritage Month was declared in 2006, and has been celebrated since in the United States.
- **Alpha Epsilon Phi and Judaism**
  - [AEPHI History](#)
- **Brief overview of the Holocaust**
  - [Overview of the Holocaust](#)
  - [Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust](#)
  - [Memorials of the Holocaust Across Europe](#)
  - [Never Again](#)
- **Antisemitism**
  - [What is Antisemitism](#)
  - [Antisemitism Around the World](#)
  - [How to Combat Antisemitism](#)
- **Notable Jews in the American and World Scene**
  - [Notable Jewish Women Who are Recently Deceased](#)
- **Ted Talks**
  - [I am That Jew](#)
  - [I Love Being Jewish](#)
  - [The Balancing Act of Compassion](#)
- **Chapter Activities**
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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Mehnaz Afridi Assistant Professor and Director, Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center on the importance about learning about other faith and cultures \(8 min\)](#)
- [Danah Boyd on hate speech on social media and how to combat it](#)
- [David Draiman frontman from band Disturbed about using lyrics to address Holocaust denial and antisemitism \(7 min\)](#)
- [From author of Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead \(10 min\)](#)
- [Helen Jones talks about meeting with the daughter of the Nazi she was forced to work for \(7 min\)](#)
- [Elie Wiesel The perils of indifference \(7 min\)](#)

## PREPARATION

- Schedule a time to hold April programming.

- Read through the facilitator guide in advance.
- Select one of the TED Talks provided in the facilitator guide and create questions to facilitate conversation and dialogue following viewing the TED Talk you chose.
- Select one or two podcasts to share with the group.
- Review Chapter Activities: Select a few to do with the chapter.
- Send an agenda to the members prior to the program letting them know what you are going to cover.
- Share the additional resources provided in this guide with chapter members to continue their learning outside of EMBRACE.

## **FACILITATORS**

- Any of the following officers/chairs can facilitate this programming:
  - VP-Programming
  - DEI Chair
  - Jewish Heritage Chair
  - Additional officers or chapter members – provide opportunities to keep members engaged

## HOW TO USE THIS FACILITATOR GUIDE

- Text formatted in standard font is identified as a “talking point” and is intended to be read aloud by the facilitator.
- Text formatted in *italics* is intended as a note for the facilitator; italicized text is not meant to be read aloud.
- Text formatted in **bold** denotes a series of questions to engage participants in a dialogue.

<b>FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The purpose of this section is to give you reminders to make your EMBRACE meetings cohesive and to ensure that members are connecting with one another. Some members may be further along in their understanding of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work; others may not be as comfortable to share. Remind everyone that this is a safe space and encourage everyone to participate openly and honestly. Below are some questions to ask.</i></li><li>• Welcome everyone!</li><li>• Check in on how each member is doing – this programming is designed to provide a safe space for discussion.</li><li>• Encourage members to continue DEI&amp;B conversations outside of structured EMBRACE programming.</li><li>• <i>Make sure to leave time at the end of the meeting to allow for members to ask any questions.</i></li></ul>
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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

<b>FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Before you begin your session, review the land acknowledgement statement your chapter created. If you need additional tips for creating an indigenous land acknowledgement statement you can review those <a href="#">here</a>.</i></li><li>• In November 2021, we created a land acknowledgment statement, before each EMBRACE session we will read it to acknowledge the land we have the privilege to live, study, and meet on today.</li></ul>
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## JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH: INTRODUCTION

### FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- **Who can explain why we as a country celebrate Jewish Heritage Month?**
  - *Allow chapter members to respond. There is no one “right” answer.*
  - Jewish Americans have been involved in this country’s creation and development and have been a part of pivotal moments in our country’s history.
- **Why did Jewish Heritage Month begin?**
  - *Allow chapter members to respond.*
  - On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush announced that there would be a Jewish American Heritage Month following a strong effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish community leaders led by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL) and Sen. Arlen Specter (PA).
  - May was chosen for the national recognition because it was the 350th anniversary of American Jewish history identified by the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration.
- **Why do we as AEPHI celebrate Jewish Heritage Month?**
  - *Allow chapter members to respond.*
  - As a Jewish organization, it is important to take time to focus on our values, history and roots, understand where we are now and where we could be going.
- **How can we celebrate Jewish Heritage Month on our own?**
  - *Allow chapter members to respond.*
  - Some ways to celebrate Jewish Heritage Month are:
    - Purchase a book by a Jewish author or with a Jewish theme
    - Bake traditionally Jewish foods
    - Listen to Jewish music
    - Visit a Jewish museum or place of worship
    - Explore the culture and history of Israel
- The story of Jewish Americans is interwoven into American history. Generations of Jewish people have come to the United States fleeing oppression, discrimination, and persecution in search of a better life for themselves and their children.
- These Jewish Americans have created lives for themselves and their families and played indispensable roles in the country’s civic and community life, making invaluable contributions to the nation through their leadership and achievements.
- Last year, two historic firsts occurred in our country:
- **Can anyone describe what these were?**
  - *Allow chapter members to respond.*
  - We have a Jewish spouse of the Vice President.
  - It is the first time that the Majority Leader of the United States Senate is also Jewish.
- Alongside the narrative of achievement and opportunity, there is also a history, far older than the nation itself, of racism, bigotry, and other forms of injustice. This includes antisemitism.
- In recent years, Jewish Americans have increasingly been the target of white nationalism and the antisemitic violence it fuels.

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- (From the Proclamation of Jewish American Heritage Month 2021, Joe Biden.)
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## JUDAISM AND ALPHA EPSILON PHI

### FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

#### **AEPHI's Founding**

- In 1909, AEPHI was founded by 7 strong Jewish women at Barnard College (now Columbia University's Women College) as they were excluded from other organizations on campus due to their ethnic and religious identities as Jewish women.
- At the time of our founding, other sororities would not allow Jewish women to join their organizations, additionally, NPC did not admit AEPHI into its membership with full privileges until 1951, after many attempts to join since the 1910s.

#### **Philanthropy as a Jewish Value in Action**

- AEPHI has always had a strong connection to Judaism; not just in our founding, but in our philanthropic efforts. AEPHI's first philanthropy was dedicated to supporting Jewish War Sufferers. Today, one of our philanthropies, Sharsheret (meaning link in Hebrew), provides culturally relevant support to Jewish breast and ovarian cancer patients, and their families, due to the increased likelihood of breast and ovarian cancers in those of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

#### **AEPHI today**

- AEPHI, while not a religious organization, has been built upon and dedicated to Jewish culture and values in action through our membership, programs, partnerships, philanthropies, and activities on campus.
  - AEPHI continues to provide a home for Jewish women on campuses across North America where they do not have to pick between their Jewish identities and a social identity during their college years.
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## OVERVIEW OF THE HOLOCAUST

### FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- The Holocaust is the term used to refer to the murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and their collaborators during the Second World War. Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazis sought to eliminate the entire Jewish community of Europe. Jews were murdered by death squads or transported to extermination camps. Six million of the eleven million European Jews perished.
- During this time, others were also targeted by the Nazis including persons with disabilities, Soviet prisoners of war and civilians, Polish civilians, persons identifying as LGBT, socialists, communists, trades unionists, Freemasons, and Jehovah's Witnesses.
- Do any members want to share stories of family members who were alive during the Holocaust?
  - *Allow for members to respond*
- Partisans, armed uprisings, spiritual resistance, and rescue operations were all ways that Jews resisted during the Holocaust.
- Have you heard the phrase "Never Again?" What does it relate to? How is it being used in the present day?
  - *Allow for members to respond*
  - "Never Again" has been used as the battle cry to never again allow an atrocity such as the Holocaust to occur.

## OVERVIEW OF ANTISEMITISM

### FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- The definition of antisemitism is hostility to or prejudice against Jewish people.
- Antisemitism is a long arching concern. While the Holocaust was a stark example of it, there was antisemitism before the Holocaust, and it continues to this day in the United States and around the world.
- Who has witnessed or experienced antisemitism?
  - *Allow for members to respond*
- [What is Antisemitism](#)
- [Antisemitism Around the World](#)
- [How to Combat Antisemitism](#)

## TED TALKS

### FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- *Below are insightful talks that offer fresh, thoughtful perspectives on Jewish identity and experiences. To further your education we encourage you to select one of the many TED Talks that are available that address various topics about Jewish Heritage Month. Below are a few to consider watching as a chapter.*
- Eitan Chitayat: In response to terrorist attack in Paris, France, a profound yet simple reminder that we should all be able to celebrate the truth and beauty of our identity – without fear, without shame, and without apology. (16.5 min) [I am that Jew](#)
- Jane Parven: With her teenage Jewish identity as her lens, Jane looks for ways to combat hate wherever it arises and to overcome the idea of being “too small to make a difference”. (7.5 min) [I Love Being Jewish](#)
- Jackie Tabick: First ordained woman rabbi in the UK. (15.5 min) [The Balancing Act of Compassion](#)

## CONCLUSION

### FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- Jewish Heritage Month is a time for us to consider and celebrate our organization’s (and maybe our own) Jewish identity.
- This Jewish Heritage Month, as we reflect on the challenges and achievements of the Jewish people, let us recommit to the fight against prejudices.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- *Utilizing the activities lists below - choose a few different activities to do as a chapter. You can break the chapter into smaller groups or do the activities as a whole. These activities are intended to give you some ideas to help the chapter celebrate and appreciate Jewish Heritage Month.*
  - Current Antisemitism in the United States and around the world
    - [Antisemitism Today — United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
    - [Antisemitism Around the World](#)
    - [Address Antisemitism - Overview](#)
  - Discuss why Jews in the United States have historically been involved in Civil Rights actions. What historical events are you aware of? Why do you think it is?
    - [Current religious actions for Civil Rights](#)
  - [Debate as a chapter! 4th of July and Passover](#) (resources and questions included)
  - Screen the movie [Making Trouble](#) (could be chapter or campus wide event). It is Jewish female comedians talking about their lives.
  - Invite a Holocaust survivor or community elder to talk about their experiences to your chapter or campus.



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- Here is [a list of recently deceased Jewish women](#) who have made a difference in their community. Is there someone who is new to you? Someone local?
  - [A list of activities to potentially do](#)
  - Bake a challah (or family recipes) together as a chapter, better yet: Create a recipe book of recipes from families of your chapter.
  - Read the [President's Proclamation on Jewish Heritage Month \(2021\)](#) to the chapter.
  - Listen to a podcast:
    - [Mehnaz Afridi Assistant Professor and Director, Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center on the importance about learning about other faith and cultures \(8 min\)](#)
    - [Danah Boyd on hate speech on social media and how to combat it](#)
    - [David Draiman frontman from band Disturbed about using lyrics to address holocaust denial and antisemitism \(7 min\)](#)
    - [From author of Autobiography of a Recovering Skinhead \(10 min\)](#)
    - [Helen Jones talks about meeting with the daughter of the Nazi she was forced to work for \(7 min\)](#)
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