

## Jewish Orange County Timeline

**October 5, 1857:** The *Los Angeles Vineyard Society* is formed by a group of German immigrants interested in the business of wine making. The Society purchases land and establishes a town in Southern California. They name it **Anaheim**, a combination of “Ana” for the Santa Ana River and the German word “heim” for home.

**1858: Benjamin Dreyfus**, a Bavarian Jew, opens a store in Anaheim in anticipation of the new community. He is the first Jew to arrive in what will eventually become Orange County.

**Early 1860s: Morris L. Goodman**, the 1<sup>st</sup> Jewish Councilman in Los Angeles (in 1850) settles in Anaheim.

**1864:** Dreyfus makes **kosher wine** for San Francisco and the East coast market, a first for California.

**1872:** Many Jewish names are recorded in the first Los Angeles City and County Directory, under the “Anaheim Precinct.” Examples include **Philip and Gustav Davis** (originally **Chorinsky**), merchants and private bankers; **Benjamin Dreyfus**, wine maker; **Solomon Goldstein**, brewery owner; **Morris L. Goodman**, dry goods store owner and **Ernest Stein**, laborer.

**1874: Morris Mendelson**, a tailor, conducts High Holy Day services in the home of a **Mr. B. Cohen**, who operates an Anaheim meat market.

**1876: B. Dreyfus & Company** is the largest winery in the state of California. Dreyfus is known as the “king of Anaheim winemakers” and manages the Anaheim Wine Growers Association.

**March 5, 1877:** The **first circumcision** in Orange County takes place with the son of **Louis Wartenberg**, Anaheim’s first Jewish town marshal. Rabbi Edelman from Los Angeles oversees the ceremony.

**1878:** The **Anaheim Hebrew Cemetery Association** is formed by five men, including **Morris Mendelson**.

**1880’s: Hippolyte Cahen**, a Jewish immigrant from Algiers, becomes a successful general store owner in Anaheim and builds a beautiful home for his family in Santa Ana. The home has since been relocated to Anaheim and restored to its original grandeur.

**1881-1883: Benjamin Dreyfus** is the first Jewish mayor of Anaheim.

**August 1, 1889: Orange County** is officially formed, separating it from Los Angeles County.

**1909: Gertrude Asher** is the Queen of the *Santa Ana Products Carnival*, an early version of the Orange County Fair.

**1913: Morris Nasatir** attempts to form a congregation in his home on Orange Street in Santa Ana. His son's Bar Mitzvah, as well as Shabbat services, are conducted there. By 1914 he acquires a Torah and hires a cantor for the High Holidays.

**1920s – 1930s:** Orange County Jewish life consists mostly of merchants in Santa Ana, with 15-20 Jewish families residing there. Well known pioneer names include **Sam Hurwitz, Allen and Sandy Fainberg, Bernie and Bluma Glasser, Richard and Estelle Blake,** and **Levi Gilmacher.**

**1943:** The first synagogue in Orange County, Reform **Temple Beth Sholom,** is established in Santa Ana. In **1945** it acquires its own building on Bush Street, making it the first Jewish institution in Orange County to have its own premises.

**1950s – 1960s: B'nai Brith Women of Orange County** create the **Dolls for Democracy** program, visiting schools throughout Orange County to teach students that all people, regardless of religion, color or ethnicity, are vital to our democratic way of life.

**July 6, 1965: Jewish Federation of Orange County** is officially incorporated to provide needed communal services.

**1967:** Federation helps to form **Hillel** at Cal State Fullerton and UC Irvine, providing programs for Jewish university students.

**1969: Hebrew Academy** opens in Huntington Beach.

**1970:** The First **Federation Women's Division** is formed, with a fundraising goal of \$25,000.

**1971:** Federation hires its first **Executive Director** and opens its first office in North Tustin; up until this time it had been run by volunteers.

**1975:** Federation creates the **Orange County Tay-Sachs Screening Program.**

**1977:** The **South Coast Jewish Community Center** opens in Laguna Beach.

**1981:** Federation brings together the **Jewish Community Center (JCC), Jewish Family Service (JFS),** and the **B'nai Brith Youth Organization** at the **Garden Grove Jewish Community Center.** The **Senior Center** soon follows.

**1987: The Jewish Studies Institute** (later to become **Tarbut V'Torah**) opens.

**1987:** The **Baker Street Jewish Community Center,** a merging of the Laguna Beach and Garden Grove JCCs, opens in Costa Mesa. **Allen Fainberg** and **Arnold Feurstein** generously donate the land and the building.

**1987: Morasha Jewish Day School** opens.

**June 1990: Heritage Pointe,** a luxurious retirement residence, opens in Mission Viejo to meet the needs of Orange County's Jewish senior citizens.

**1991:** Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School is founded by Holocaust survivor **Irving Gelman**.

**2001:** The **Orange County Jewish Community Scholar Program** is founded by **Arie Katz**. Highly successful, it continues to bring some of the best Jewish minds to Orange County on an ongoing annual basis.

**2004:** The **Samueli Jewish Campus**, including the **Tarbut V'Torah middle and Upper School** and the **Merage Jewish Community Center**, opens. The Center includes offices for most of Orange County's major Jewish organizations.

**TODAY:** **Orange County** is one of our nation's leading Jewish communities and continues to grow at a rapid rate. It is estimated that anywhere from 75,000 to over 100,000 Jews make Orange County their home. **Jewish Federation of Orange County** is the umbrella organization of this vibrant community. It raises the funds needed to supplement the operating expenses of the Jewish agencies of Orange County and of national and overseas communities and Israel as well.