



## American Jewish History Lecturers



**Rabbi Bob Mark will be leading several lectures on American Jewish History. The first series was held in Feb. and March 2010, future dates are to be determined after Passover.**

**Admission is free, come and bring a friend. at New Milford Jewish Center, 435 River Road, New Milford, NJ 07646. [www.bethtikvah.net](http://www.bethtikvah.net) (201) 261-4847 [office@bethtikvah.net](mailto:office@bethtikvah.net)**

### American Jewish History lecturers extended

Responding to a groundswell of popular demand Rabbi Bob Mark will be extended his most interesting series of lectures on American Jewish History. After completing the first three lectures the CBT audience asked for more of the history and stories of the Jewish women and men who helped shape the future of America, Canada and the Caribbean from 1492 to the present day.

In 1654, some twenty-three Spanish and Portuguese Jews arrived in New Amsterdam (later to become New York City) as refugees from the Inquisition in Brazil, and found two other Jews already working there. The Jewish Mogen David, the Jewish symbol composed of two overlaid equilateral triangles that form a six-pointed star, is found today on all American dollar bills (above the American Eagle) because of the American Revolution patriots Haym Solomon and Abraham Cohen and the support they provided to the young American government.

**Come join with us at future American Jewish History lecture dates, to be determined after Passover. Admission is free, come and bring a friend.**

### An American Jewish History timeline.

1492 when Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain, he was accompanied by Luis de Torres, an interpreter, who was Jewish.

1654 the ship *Ste. Catherine* landed refugee Jews from Recife, Brazil to New Amsterdam (today known as New York City). Twenty-three Jews, mostly of Spanish and Portuguese origin, formed Congregation Shearith Israel, The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in the City of New York, the first Jewish congregation to be established in North America.

1670 John Locke's *Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina* extends religious rights to Jews.

1678 Jews in Rhode Island purchase land for a Jewish cemetery.

1730 a group of Jews build a synagogue in Lower Manhattan, the congregation is still active today.

1776 a Jew Francis Salvador dies fighting as the American Revolutionary War begins.

1789 George Washington was inaugurated as President and Gershom Mendes Seixas, the leader of New York's Jewish congregation, is invited to Washington's inaugural.

1790 President George Washington replies to a letter of congratulations from the Jews of Philadelphia, New York, Charleston, and Richmond. The letter is still on display today in Rhode Island.

1849 High Holiday services are held in a tent in San Francisco, California.

1867 the First rabbinical school in America, Maimonides College, is founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1877 Joseph Seligman is barred as a Jew from a Saratoga, New York hotel.

1893 the National Council of Jewish Women is founded in Chicago, Illinois.

1903 Oscar Straus is appointed Secretary of Labor and Commerce, the first Jew to hold a Cabinet position.

1907 Physicist Albert A. Michelson is the first American Jew to win the Nobel Prize.

1916 Louis D. Brandeis is the first Jew appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

1948 Brandeis University is founded as first nonsectarian, Jewish-sponsored, institution of higher education.

1957 United States attains world's largest Jewish population.

1978 Yiddish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer receives Nobel Prize.

2010 An American Jew ...