

## **Jewish History Featured on NET Television**

LINCOLN, Neb. (Aug. 19, 2009) -- Programs exploring American and worldwide Jewish history will be featured on NET Television during September.

“The Jewish Americans,” a three-part documentary series examining the struggle of a tiny minority to make its way into the American mainstream, airs at 10:30 p.m. CT over three Sunday evenings (Sept. 6, 13 and 20) on NET1 and NET-HD.

While the story of Jewish life in America is emblematic of the American immigrant story, it is also a unique story of ongoing discrimination and stereotyping coupled with some of the most remarkable accomplishments in American history, the arts, commerce, science and academia.

Beginning with the first Jews to arrive in New Amsterdam in the 17th century, the series offers a revealing portrait of a people who epitomize the immigrant experience. Even as they have faced bigotry and rejection, Jews have embraced American culture while keeping alive their traditions and heritage.

“Throughout the film there is a recurring theme,” filmmaker David Grubin said. “With each wave of Jewish immigration, Jews expressed an immense desire to become American while retaining their own identity. Out of this struggle emerged not just a Jewish-American culture, but also the integration of Jewish culture into the larger American landscape.”

“The Jewish Americans” goes on to tell the stories of Jews who have participated in major milestones and cultural phases of U.S. history. The series also examines the separation of church and state and how that opened up the door for Jewish immigrants to establish a home in which they were on equal footing with their neighbors and from which they would not have to fear being driven.

From slavery to the loss of their homeland, from exile to anti-Semitism, from pogroms to near annihilation in the Holocaust, how did the Jews endure when so many other communities have vanished?

The hour-long special “The Jewish People: A Story of Survival” airs Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 11 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD.

While other programs have explored Jewish religion or Jewish culture, this original production is the first Jewish film organized around the central themes of survival and the achievement of a people.

Moving chronologically, “The Jewish People: A Story of Survival” offers a sweeping overview of four millennia and the numerous civilizations -- Babylonian, Roman, Muslim, Spanish, Soviet and other -- that have ruled over the Jewish people. The

program utilizes historical photographs, documents and interviews about the Jewish culture with notable luminaries.

NET1 and NET-HD are part of NET Television. NET Television is a service of NET. For a complete program schedule, visit NET's Web site ([netNebraska.org/television](http://netNebraska.org/television)).

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**NET Television:**

**NET1** is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.