



Jewish Trailblazers from the Bay Area





First Jewish Congresswoman: Florence Prag Kahn

Florence Kahn (born **Prag**; November 9, 1866 – November 16, 1948) was an American teacher and politician who in 1925 became the first Jewish woman to serve in the United States Congress. She was only the fifth woman to serve in Congress, and the second from California, after fellow San Franciscan Mae Nolan. Like Nolan, she took the seat in the House of Representatives left vacant by the death of her husband, Julius Kahn. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, Hadassah and the Council of Jewish Women. She was a Reform Jew, and belonged to Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco.



Levi Strauss

Levi Strauss (born **Löb Strauß**, February 26, 1829 – September 26, 1902) was a German-born American businessman who founded the first company to manufacture blue jeans. His firm of Levi Strauss & Co. began in 1853 in San Francisco, California. Levi Strauss, a member of the Reform branch of Judaism, helped establish Congregation Emanu-El, the first Jewish synagogue in the city of San Francisco. He also gave money to several charities, including special funds for orphans. The Levi Strauss Foundation started with an 1897 donation to the University of California, Berkeley, that provided the funds for 28 scholarships.



Adolph Sutro

Adolph Heinrich Joseph Sutro (April 29, 1830 – August 8, 1898) was a German-American engineer, politician and philanthropist who served as the 24th mayor of San Francisco from 1895 until 1897. Born a German Jew, he moved to Virginia City, Nevada and made a fortune at the Comstock Lode. Several places in San Francisco bear his name in remembrance of his life and contributions to the city. In 1894, he built the Sutro Baths, the largest indoor public saltwater swimming pool complex in the world, located in the Lands End area in San Francisco. In 1896, he built the new Cliff House, a seven-story Victorian Chateau, called “The Gingerbread Palace, below his estate on the bluffs of Sutro Heights.



President and CEO SF Giants Larry Baer

Laurence Monroe Baer is an American businessman. He is best known as the president and chief executive officer of the San Francisco Giants of Major League Baseball. Born to a Jewish family, Baer attended Lowell High School in San Francisco and the University of California, Berkeley. In 1994, Baer established the first benefit by a professional sports team to fight AIDS. In 1995, Baer received the Sports Torch of Learning Award from the Scopus Society of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. In 2001, the Anti-Defamation League awarded him the Torch of Liberty Award. In 2014, Baer received an "Excellence in Achievement" award from UC Berkeley and a Civic Leadership Award from the American Jewish Committee San Francisco. He is the Chairman and CEO of the Giants Development Services, which oversees the construction of Mission Rock, a 25-acre mixed-use neighborhood located near AT&T Park.



Mayor of San Francisco and CA Senator: Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Emiel Feinstein (born **Goldman**; June 22, 1933 – September 29, 2023) was an American politician who served as a United States senator from California from 1992 until her death in 2023. A member of the Democratic Party, she served as mayor of San Francisco from 1978 to 1988. Her paternal grandparents were Jewish immigrants from Poland. In 1978, she became the first women mayor of San Francisco after the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and City Supervisor Harvey Milk.

As a senator, Feinstein authored the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, was the first woman to chair the Senate Rules Committee and the Senate Intelligence Committee, and was the first woman to preside over a U.S. presidential inauguration. She chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee from 2009 to 2015 and was the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 2017 to 2021.

It was announced on January 16, 2024, that the San Francisco International Airport's International Terminal would be named in honor of Feinstein.



California Representative and US Senator Barbara Boxer

Barbara Boxer (born November 11, 1940) in New York City to Sophie and Ira Levy, a Jewish couple. She is an American politician, lobbyist and former reporter who served in the United States Senate, representing California from 1993 to 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, she previously served as the U.S. representative for California's 6th congressional district from 1983 until 1993. She became a US Senator in January 1993 through 2016, when she did not seek re-election.

A champion of quality public education, Senator Boxer wrote landmark legislation establishing the first-ever federal funding for afterschool programs. Her law now covers 1.6 million children

A national leader on environmental protection, Senator Boxer is the first woman to chair the U.S. Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW).



The Gap Founders: Donald and Doris Fisher

Donald George Fisher (September 3, 1928 – September 27, 2009) and **Doris Fisher** (August 23, 1931) were American billionaire businesspeople and philanthropists. They co-founded The Gap Inc. clothing stores. Donald Fisher was born in San Francisco, California to a Jewish family, the eldest of three sons of Aileen Fisher (née Emanuel) and Sydney Fisher. Doris Fisher was born in San Francisco to Harvard lawyer and state legislator B. Joseph Feigenbaum and Dorothy Bamberger, both Jewish. In 1972, the Fishers launched the Gap label, becoming the first chain in retail history to use its store name as the brand name. They went on to purchase Banana Republic, a small, two-store mail-order catalogue business; and also founded Old Navy which reached \$1 billion in sales in four years. Donald Fisher was a founding Board Member of the Presidio Trust and was a long-time member of Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco. In 2018, Doris was named as one of the 100 Most Powerful Women by *Forbes Magazine*. She has served as a trustee of Stanford University, her alma mater.



Creator of I. Magnin store: Mary Ann Cohen Magnin

Mary Ann Cohen, the daughter of a rabbi, was born in Scheveningen, Holland, in 1850. Although the 'I' in *I. Magnin* comes from her husband, Isaac, the credit for the creation of the store goes to Mary Cohen Magnin. The Dutch entrepreneur opened a store in Oakland, selling baby clothes and lingerie, before moving the business to San Francisco, in 1876, and renaming it *I. Magnin*. The store now included bridal, and the latest fashion from Paris. It grew from there, becoming a phenomenon. New stores were opened, and *I. Magnin* was bought by Bullocks in 1944, and then Macy's in 1964. *I. Magnin* stores closed in 1994, but Macy's is now using the name as one of its in-house labels.



Emperor Norton

Probably the most eccentric person on this list, Joshua Abraham Norton holds a special place in the heart of San Franciscans. Joshua Abraham Norton was born to Jewish parents, John and Sarah Norton, in the Kentish town of Deptford, England, which now is part of London. In 1859, the failed businessman reinvented himself as Norton I, Emperor of the United States, and Protector of Mexico. And, as San Franciscans are wont to do, we went along with it. Money printed with his face on it was accepted, he was treated like the royalty he acted and dressed like, and after he died, 30,000 city citizens lined the streets for his funeral. To this day, every year, people celebrate Emperor Norton's birthday.



Facebook and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg

Mark Zuckerberg (born May 14, 1984) in New York to Karen and Edward Zuckerberg and was raised in a Reform Jewish household. He is an American businessman and philanthropist. He co-founded the social media service Facebook, along with his Harvard roommates in 2004, and its parent company Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook, Inc.), of which he is chairman, chief executive officer and controlling shareholder.

Time named Zuckerberg one of the most influential people in the world in 2008, 2011, 2016 and 2019, and nominated him as a finalist several other times. He was named the *Time* Person of the Year in 2010, the same year when Facebook eclipsed more than half a billion users. In December 2016, Zuckerberg was ranked tenth on the Forbes list of the World's Most Powerful People. In the *Forbes* 400 list of wealthiest Americans in 2023, he was ranked eighth with a personal wealth of \$106 billion. As of April 2024, Zuckerberg's net worth was estimated at \$155 billion by *Forbes*, making him the fourth richest person in the world. A film depicting Zuckerberg's early career, legal troubles and initial success with Facebook, *The Social Network*, was released in 2010 and won multiple Academy Awards.



Political Activist and Economist Daniel Ellsberg

Daniel Ellsberg, (April 7, 1931 – June 16, 2023) a military analyst who after experiencing a sobbing antiwar epiphany on a bathroom floor made the momentous decision in 1971 to disclose a secret history of American lies and deceit in Vietnam, what came to be known as the Pentagon Papers. The disclosure of the Pentagon Papers — 7,000 government pages of damning revelations about deceptions by successive presidents who exceeded their authority, bypassed Congress and misled the American people. It led to illegal countermeasures by the White House to discredit Mr. Ellsberg, halt leaks of government information and attack perceived political enemies, forming a constellation of crimes known as the Watergate scandal that led to the disgrace and resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

Ellsberg died at his home in Kensington, California, on June 16, 2023, at the age of 92.



Jewish Film Festival Founder Janis Plotkin

Janis Plotkin was part of the founding of the groundbreaking San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, the first and largest film festival of its kind. After twenty-one years at the SFJFF she resigned to pursue other interests in film. For fifteen years she was Senior Film Programmer at the Mill Valley Film Festival. In 2015 Plotkin produced her first documentary: *Plastic Man: The Artful Life of Jerry Ross Barrish* (plasticmanbarrish.com). Currently she is Program Director at the Berkeley FILM Foundation, which provides support for filmmakers living or working in the East Shore of the San Francisco Bay Area.



Movie Actor: James Franco

James Edward Franco (born April 19, 1978) is an American actor and filmmaker. Born in Palo Alto, his father was of Portuguese and Swedish ancestry, while his mother was of Russian Jews. He has starred in numerous films, including including Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man* trilogy (2002-2007), *Milk* (2008), *Eat Pray Love* (2010), *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* (2011), *Spring Breakers* (2012), and *Oz the Great and Powerful* (2013). He is known for his collaborations with fellow actor Seth Rogen, having appeared in eight films and one television series with him, examples being *Pineapple Express* (2008), *This Is the End* (2013), *Sausage Party* (2016), and *The Disaster Artist* (2017), for which he won a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor. For his role in *127 Hours* (2010), he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor. In 2015, he had an official bar mitzvah ceremony, presided over by a rabbi.



Glee Actress: Dianna Agron

Dianna Elise Agron was born in Savannah, Georgia to Mary and Ronald Agron and grew up in a middle-class family in Savannah before moving to Texas and, later, San Francisco, California, because her father was a general manager for Hyatt. Dianna and her brother Jason were raised Jewish and she graduated from Burlingame High School with honors.

In 2009, she took the role of the antagonistic but sympathetic head cheerleader Quinn Fabray on the Fox musical comedy-drama series *Glee*. For her role in the series, she won a SAG Award and, as part of the cast, was nominated for the Brit Award for Best International Breakthrough Act, among other accolades.

After her breakthrough success in *Glee*, Agron began working more in film, first starring in the popular young adult adaptation *I Am Number Four* (2011) as Sarah Hart before taking on films aimed at more diverse audiences, including the 2013 mob-comedy *The Family* and 2015's *Bare*. She has also directed several short films and music videos and, in 2017, began performing as a singer at the Café Carlyle in New York City, while continuing to star in films including *Novitiate* and *Hollow in the Land* in 2017, *Shiva Baby* in 2020, and *As They Made Us* in 2022. She acted in and directed part of the 2019 anthology feature film *Berlin, I Love You*.



Movie Actress: Alicia Silverstone

Alicia Silverstone, born October 4, 1976 in San Francisco, is an American actress. Her father was born to a Jewish family and her mother converted to Conservative Judaism before marriage. Silverstone had a Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

She made her film debut in the thriller *The Crush* (1993), earning the 1994 MTV Movie Award for Best Breakthrough Performance, and gained further prominence as a teen idol when she appeared in the music videos for Aerosmith's songs "Cryin'", "Amazing" and "Crazy". She went on to star as Cher Horowitz in the teen comedy film *Clueless* (1995), which earned her a multi-million dollar deal with Columbia Pictures. In 1997, she starred in the superhero film *Batman & Robin*, playing Batgirl.



Actor and Comedian: Andy Samberg

Andy Samberg (born **David A. J. Samberg**, August 18, 1978, in Berkeley, CA) is an American actor and comedian. Samberg was raised in a Jewish family, but considers himself "not particularly religious". Samberg was also a cast member and writer for the series *Saturday Night Live* from 2005 to 2012.

Samberg's starring film roles include *Hot Rod* (2007), the *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* film series (2009–2013), *That's My Boy* (2012), *Celeste and Jesse Forever* (2012), the *Hotel Transylvania* film series (2012-2022), *Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping* (2016), and *Palm Springs* (2020). From 2013 to 2021, he starred as Jake Peralta in the Fox, and later NBC, police sitcom *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* which he also produced. For his work on the show, he was awarded a Golden Globe Award for Best Actor – Television Series Musical or Comedy in 2013.



Actor Eric Dane

Eric William Dane (born November 9, 1972, in San Francisco) is an American actor. He was raised in their mother's Jewish faith and had a bar mitzvah ceremony. Dane starred in the movies, *Zoe, Duncan, Jack & Jane*, *Sol Good*, *Feast*, *X-Men: The Last Stand*, *Open Water 2*, and *Valentine's Day*. He is known for his tv role as Dr. Mark Sloan in *Grey's Anatomy*. In October 2012, he produced and starred in the Michael Bay series *The Last Ship*.

A decorative background on the left side of the slide. It features a textured white surface with several gold-colored geometric shapes. There are four large triangles pointing towards the center, and a central six-pointed star (hexagram) formed by two overlapping triangles. The gold has a metallic, shimmering appearance.

References

- https://www.imdb.com/list/ls005122386/?sort=list_order,asc&mode=detail&page=1