

HORNS JESUS PENNIES

YOUR ANTISEMITISM STORIES

We asked you to share your experiences with antisemitism, and received over 1,000 poignant responses. If that wasn't enough to keep us up at night, we quickly realized that there were consistent threads of hate running through your stories, so we went ahead and grouped them into categories. No, this isn't easy reading, but read these unedited stories anyway. And please share them with anyone who says that antisemitism isn't real and dangerous. Sharing our stories is just a start. The real work begins now. We're going to keep being loud and proud in the fight against Jewish hate at JewBelong, and we hope you will too! We must call out antisemitism where we can and implore the rest of humanity to follow suit.

Love,
team jewbelong

CATEGORIES

01 Where are your horns?

02 Dirty Jew

03 You killed Jesus?

04 Cheap

05 Swastikas

06 Israel/Palestine

07 ... And more

WHERE ARE YOUR HORNS?

My tutor cornered me one day when I was at her house- maybe 8 years old- saying she was afraid I was going to hell and that I needed to accept Jesus as my savior in order to go to heaven. Then I visited a friend in middle school in North Carolina whose classmate asked me how I hid my horns.

LEAHCHIQUITA

My first grade teacher in Mississippi checked my head for horns. She thought we wore hats to hide our horns.

ALAN_T504

9th grade at school. Someone said "oh you are Jewish, where are your horns? I bet you have a big house."

ASTATMAMA

I've been asked where I hide my hooves and horns when I'm the first Jewish person they met (as far as they knew) Oh and some distant non-Jewish relatives told me and my sister we "couldn't look at traffic" (they had a view of the freeway from their house) because car lights are white and red and that's the color of candy canes and that's only for Christians.

AMANDALORRAINE14

3rd grade moved from the Bronx to Staten Island. One of my first days in class the little girl sitting next to me asked where my horns were. I had no idea what she was talking about.

RWL.MAPLE

5/6 years old. One of two or three Jews in public school in KC. I got asked where my horns were and told to pick up a penny.

HADASBECKER

DIRTY JEW

Walking home from elementary school approx 9 years old when a kid on a bicycle called me a "dirty jew."

DANCE2THEBEATS

I was about 8 riding on the school bus when one of the boys yelled at me that I was a dirty Jew that killed Christ.

RONIBROWN831

In 2nd grade when a girl who picked on me constantly pushed me up to a corner and told me allah would come and kill me for being a dirty Jew. I told her that's sad that her god is so full of hate.

TACOSAURUS2021

8 years old. I was asking why we couldn't put our name on the apartment door. Middle school..got called a dirty Jew.

MARYA.KATHARINA

I was in junior high school and I was confronting a kid who was bullying my Vietnamese friend and he called me a "dirty Jew" and spat in my face. Oh, someone shot at our Temple but I don't remember exactly when.

MSWENDYKNITS

In elementary school, "friends" called me a dirty Jew.

MELISSAWASSLIN

In kindergarten I was called a dirty Jew by another 5 year old. I attacked her when she threw mud in my hair. She was transferred out of the county and I was suspended.

VERNALTWIGLN

10th grade. "Here comes the dirty Jew" was spewed as I sat down at a table in the cafeteria at lunch.

ANGELA.LA.LA.LA.LA

1st grade. My classmate John Zimmerman called me a dirty Jew. Yes, I still remember his name. No, he wasn't Jewish. Yes, it left an ugly memory.

PINKLUNALAURA

Little Johnny knocked on our door for Halloween. He wore jeans and a white tee shirt with a blue Mogen David painted on it as well as applied dirt and stains. My mother asked him what his costume was supposed to be. "I'm a dirty Jew!" Ours was one of only 3 Jewish households in the neighborhood. Mom grabbed him by his hair and dragged him home down the hill (I followed because up 'til now she'd only ever grabbed my sister and I by the hair, so this was amazing). She banged on the door with her foot and when his mom answered, an entire can of whoop ass was released, ending with, "Kids learn this crap from their parents!"

DEBRAKWEBER

YOU KILLED JESUS

Oh, also at a very young age, other children would ask me why I killed Jesus. I, ME. I was stunned. Who was this Jesus? I was a CHILD & could barely kill a fly without feeling bad about it!!

NAOMISDTR18

Elementary school when people said I killed Jesus.

LUCYVLEVINE

I grew up in the 1970's in Kansas City in an Irish catholic neighborhood and can remember being called a Jesus killer as early as 6.

LAURABETHSOLOMON

First grade, at lunch, we had assigned seats...(Northern Virginia, 1979). A kid named Charity (!) told me, "I told my mom that you didn't believe in Jesus and she said if she had a gun, she'd shoot you." My mom had my seat changed, but there were plenty more incidents.

YMSPINNER

Much like in Florida, prayer was enforced into the school system and I was forced to pray to Jesus.

GOGIRLYOGA

4th grade. A boy in my class came up to me and told me I killed Jesus. My neighbor tried to "save" me and get the Jewish out of me.

DWEXLER40

Neighbor told me my soul was going to spend eternity in limbo because I hadn't accepted Jesus as my savior.

RACHMATTMOM

I was eight years old at summer camp. A girl who happens to be the daughter of a famous billionaire told me that she wasn't supposed to be friends with Jewish people because they're k*kes who killed Jesus.

BERNIEGABRIELLE707

I think I was around 10. My friend's grandfather said, "You know the Jews killed Jesus, right?"

DEBGRUBERWILKINSON

6th grade. Told it was my people's fault that Jesus was crucified. "We" stood on the sidelines and spit at him on the way to crucifixion. Apparently this is what was portrayed during Passion of the Christ. So, that was fun. Same year a kid felt the need to tell me a Holocaust "joke."

RUNNINGRUCKINGNURSING

I was 8. Accused of killing Christ! Didn't know who that was!

SNLCSA63

There was the you're going to hell for killing Jesus stuff early on but I think the first dramatic one was going up against the class bully who said the Jews killed Kennedy. Got the whole class except for one black friend of mine & her buddy to stand up with her against me. I mention color/ethnicity because my white "friends" never backed me up. Even then I didn't consider myself white but Other. Or maybe it was second grade when a black Muslim friend found out she couldn't have me over to her house because she told her parents I was white. "That's ok," I said, "I'm not white, I'm Jewish!" Oops. She wasn't allowed to even speak to me at school after that except to tell me her parents said Jews are the devil. My black Christian friends didn't have the same problem with me. (But the white ones did).

CHANA FEINSTEIN

I guess I am pretty lucky that I didn't experience it until high school. I grew up in a predominantly Jewish area. A boy came up to me after class and said "I hate Jews." I remember going to temple as a kid during the high holidays and asking my parents why there were police surrounding the area and they had to explain antisemitism to me. After reading all these comments I understand why my mom would say that she likes to live somewhere where there were lots of other Jews. There was also a horrible girl at work that told me I killed Jesus. Looking back I wish I would have gone to HR.

NIKKI CH199

In the 3rd grade, I was the only Jew in our class. About a month in, a kid began to call me the Jesus Killer. It slowly spread and most of the kids in the class called me that for a whole year. My mom thought it would make it go away if I explained it was the Roman's. Then the first kid called me the Lying Jesus Killer. You would think that would be the worst part, but what stung the most is that my best friend at the time was the 2nd kid to call me that. I still know her and she has no recollection of this. Unfortunately, I don't have the same luxury.

FASTJGIRL

In kindergarten a little Haitian girl asked me if I believe in Jesus. She probably had no idea what she was saying, because she didn't really hold it against me when I said no. In the fifth grade we were working on a group project and a classmate, a Hispanic girl, told me that she's not sure her father would let me come over because I'm Jewish. The part was that she was still friendly with me, so I'm not sure if she understood what it meant or if she was parroting her racist father. So funny enough both instances of racism happened with non-white children. I just completely debunked systemic racism.

AVIVAB613

Middle school - went to see a movie with friends. Passion of the Christ just finished, and a bunch of people came out, someone saw my Magen David necklace and screamed in my face that I was a Jesus-killer.

DYLLIE_GIRLIE

I was called a christ killer at age 6.

MEDITERRANEANCHOCOLATEDOLPHINS

4th grade. Only Jew in the class. Isolated, shunned and left out of games and parties. Told I killed Christ.

MMROTHENBERG

CHEAP

About 6 or 7. Someone threw pennies at me from a car, when I left Sunday School. Kids threw them at me in the school lunchroom too, in public school.

JANISIGM

I was 5. The kids on my street threw pennies at my sister and me and said "only Jews pick up pennies." This was 1975. We had just moved onto the street that week and into our new house. We were the only Jewish family.

JEGUSS

Kids threw pennies at me at school saying I would pick them up because I was Jewish. I told my parents who told the school who dismissed it as not a big deal and I was told that it was OK for them to do it because it was a joke.

MELMAJO

Kids used to throw down pennies to see if us Jewish kids would pick them up.

LIZOMUZ

Well a kid in.. I think 4 or 5 grade showed me swastikas... and my mom saw me drawing one and let me in on the whole "your family is Jewish, were assimilated and not religious but don't think we wouldn't have been killed too!" But I didn't truly face antisemitism until 13 when I was told no Jews allowed at a lunch table... or how they threw pennies at me.

YAAKOV267

A boy in middle school threw pennies on the ground and asked if I was going to pick them up.

JESUS.SYDSHAP102

Freshman in HS. A bunch of boys in a pizza place threw pennies at us and asked if we were going to pick them up. I didn't even know what it meant!

SEHORAPALABRA

I was about 12 when other boys at my school would drop pennies on the ground to see if I would pick them up. If I didn't, they would suggest I should cause, know, that's what Jews do. One day a boy did this then called me a yid so we had a fight and I tore my nail off trying to defend myself.

TONYLEEBRUCE

SWASTIKAS

5th grade... a kid in my class drew swastikas on my notebook. His only punishment was 5 minutes of recess time lost.

RAEHROSENBERG1993

When a neighbour drew a swastika on my door. I was 11.

SHARONZIMMRM

6 years old. A kid drew a swastika in his notebook at school and then showed it to me.

SHARONAPT

I went to a public elementary school called Brock Corydon (Winnipeg, Canada), it just so happened to offer a Hebrew bilingual program. The school was vandalized countless times while I was a student, as well as long after (I lived next door to the school). The graffiti was always swastikas, kike slurs, and kill/gas the jews. My Holocaust education started in grade 2, and I'll never forget the first image I saw of liberated jews at a concentration camp. Grade 2 was also the year I remember first encountering antisemitic graffiti on my school. I was also in elementary school when my synagogue's security measures during the high holidays tightened up. I can't remember how old I was, but the change was drastic enough that I remembered asking my dad why we had to enter through a specific door now. The answer I got was that "security had to change because some people want to cause us harm simply because we are Jewish."

THECANADIANBACONGIRL

I was a teenager. The manager of the office I worked in found out I was Jewish. The next week I had a swastika painted on my parking spot. He tried to blame it on my friends. Of course this makes zero sense - why would a Jewish girl have Nazi friends. He tried to fire me. When they figured out he did it they didn't have enough proof to fire him but I was quietly moved to a new office. He never had any formal reprimand.

SDSEATTLE

I was 9. A boy carved swastikas into my desk at school. And I knew what it meant of course and started crying in fear and when I told the teacher she pulled me aside and gave me the normal "he is picking on you bc he likes you" and "boys will be boys" but with a *little spice* essentially telling me I was overreacting bc nazis don't exist and 9 year old boys don't know what it means. And I need to not be so sensitive about it. She talked me into not telling my mom. And I sat with this memory until a few years ago. I think the big fugged up part aside from all of it, she was friends with the Jewish half of my family.

GOODNEUTRALTRASH

My seventh grade teacher made me sit in a chair with a swastika drawn on it because there were "no other chairs." The public shame and fear I felt sticks with me today.

STRCAR29

I really only remember 2nd grade, a kid drew swastikas in class, I had no idea what it was at the time. In the fourth grade a kid wore an iron cross on the field trip to ice skating. There are many many more experiences between the two grades to know. But this was the most I remember.

POLUR.POP

First I recall was 7th grade. A few kids liked to throw change in front of me to see if I'd pick it up. In high school someone keyed a swastika on one side of my car and "Jew" on the other. The principal and vice principal (both Jewish) insisted we keep it quiet, so no effort was made to figure out who did it.

DRY3OLIVES

13, my brother made a beautiful art project for class in Arizona and his classmate drew a swastika in the tiny Jewish star. When I was 17, I was with one of my best friends in Atascadero (central CA coast) and her friend in the front seat started talking shit about Jews. I didn't know what to do. Thankfully he was just ignorant and not hateful and my friend punched his shoulder and said hey watch it- Jenny's jewish. When I was 22, I was getting waxed by an esthetician who I had gotten to know and had nice rapport with. She mentioned how a certain area in LA was great 'except for all those religious Jews there.' An awkward space to remind her not to be bigoted. Aside from the numerous death threats online for supporting Israel, I've now also had the pleasure of experiencing some of my grad school classmates turn on me, ignore my requests to speak or messages that pleaded with them to consider the consequences of posting or liking anti Israel sentiments for Jews around the world including myself. The silence and animosity was extremely disappointing and maddening. My dad has been told not to 'Jew' someone down when asking about pricing options. We are exposed constantly to micro aggressions about the positive and negative stereotypes about Jews and the fact that I have felt some weird need to justify my own identity as a proud Jew and Israeli (mother's side) is sickening. It's 2021 and we still have mountains to climb. Thankful to be Jewish and proud of Israel for all the beautiful and challenging aspects.

JENBOMBS

I'm not Jewish, however when I was young I used to walk right by the sweetest couple on my way to school. They never decorated but would give out the best candy at Halloween. They would always offer me lemonade on hot days and just chat about their beautiful garden. The next year someone started painting swastikas and the words Jews suck on the cars and walls around their home. Then their garden was torn to shreds. I remember walking home that day to see the lady crying. I stopped and gave her a hug. Yet I was so stuck in homework mode that I did not stay very long. They moved that weekend. I truly regret never asking their names, never staying longer than a few minutes.

BEVERLY.ANNA.ELLIS

Not me, but I knew some girls who left dog sh*t and painted swastikas on another classmate's lawn. They were 12 and were driven there by one of their grandmothers. Sick.

AMANDALORRAINE14

I was about 10 years old. On Rosh Hashanah we came home from celebrating at my grandparents house to find that some teenage neighbors had vandalized our front door. They sprayed soda all over the front door and left a note that read "Mazel tov you schmuck" with a swastika.

IZZORSEL

Grade school. It was arsoned and graffitied with swastikas.

JNICKYY

8th grade. Swastika carved into my locker.

LADYJOZ78

Elementary school (all Jewish), we arrived at a building with smashed glass doors, partially burned roof, and graffiti with swastikas. A few of us spent the rest of our time petrified of kids at the Catholic schools. I wasn't even ten years old.

AUNTIE_MERILN

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

On social media: was discussing (debating) the recent escalation from Hamas and a palestinian woman from San Jose CA said she'd kill me and all Jews. No one on the discussion thread called her out. Not. One. Person.

ELLYNBERNER

I was showered with “Free Palestine” DMs from my classmates who also demanded that I picked a side. Once I told them what “side” I have always been on, I began receiving death wishes and threats. Thank God this was my last year with those individuals.

IVYGROSSMAN

This is minor, but the most recent injustice: As an avid user of Twitter for 13 years my account was banned permanently last month after I spoke out about antisemitism and battled misinformation regarding Israel and I got death threats for days. Twitter refused to overturn the ban. It wouldn't have happened if I wasn't Jewish and none of the people wishing death upon me had their accounts banned.

PENSTONE

I saw graffiti on public property that said “Boycott ZioNazi Apartheid.” [Approx 95% of the world's Jews are Zionists, and my city has one of the largest Jewish populations in North America]. I took a photo & reported it to 2 Jewish organizations thru their online forms (I figured they'd contact the police/transit if warranted). I never heard back from either organization by email or phone, nor did I revisit the site to check its status. Graffiti of swastikas alone sometimes gets mainstream publicity. Usage of the word “Jews” in graffiti usually leads to no mainstream publicity (e.g. “Jews did COVID” graffiti in my city was ignored). The mention of Zionism or Israel in graffiti is treated as a free pass for mainstream media (& most social media) to ignore it.

LITTLEWITCH7

That time where almost none of my non-Jewish friends have said a thing to me despite my constantly posting about Israel and anti-semitism and almost all of them doing so even though they know I am a grandchild of Holocaust survivors and have an Israeli mom. That time hurt. Still does.

DEBORAHDELL

I think I was in 4th Grade. An Israeli Basketball team came to town and played against my state's team. I sat in a box for the game and during the match a bunch of people held up Antisemitic posters. Suddenly, about halfway through, a banner was unfurled in front of the box I was in from above with Antisemitic remarks and swastikas. A synagogue member below us jumped up and yanked the banner down though which was awesome.

MARCBOY99

I was young, and a friend came over in a Mercedes. She was bragging about the superior German manufacturing. My father asked if she knew that most of the parts were made in Israel...she said “if I even suspected that, I would blow the car up!” We never had contact with her again.

BUBBIEWHALE117

This week a college friend who considers herself to be progressive refused to listen to me explain facts about Zionism and Israel. She called me a demagogue and said I was too biased. I was floored. I have known her for decades and had just helped this woman get a job. And she refused to engage about Israel. If a supposedly close friend who considers herself to be an ally to other minority groups will not even listen....maddening and chilling.

DANALYSNYC

... AND MORE

Playing soccer 7 years old. A player from another team slurred at my Star of David (I got a red card that game for obvious reasons. And still feeling super proud).

WILLWOLFFT

When someone said that a guy was being jewy and i had to ask my mom what that meant 8 years old.

EMK_MELLO

When I met my cousins. They had been in camp in France.

MARISEHAUSNER

I know that when I was a little girl, I was terrified of telling that I'm Jewish

DIANA_JAMANIT

The one I can remember the most was in first grade. We were having one of those storytelling moments when the teachers read to the students and they got a Jewish children's book about this Grandad that makes things for his grandson with the same piece of cloth until the boy loses it, a lovely story... anyway when my teacher read the title out loud she smiled and said "It's a Jewish book written by a Jew, just like Tomas!" and I really loved that but immediately after that, one of the kids turned around, looked at me straight in the eyes and said "Jews are so stupid"... he was a 6 year old! It still impresses me to this day the fact that his parents or family were probably antisemites and taught him that... as I grew older many more things like this happened.

ZORRITOMMY

I was in fourth grade and my friend's grandmother, who was also her guardian, told my friend to tell me I wasn't allowed to swim in their pool because I was Jewish.

COURTDOESART

When I was about 5 years old, I remember my dad trying to explain to me why I wasn't allowed to go to my friend's birthday party. Jews were not allowed at the country club the party was being held at.

THELIFE OF ALAN

I had a boyfriend break up with me (in high school) because I was Jewish and wouldn't go to Heaven.

EHDACH

I grew up fairly sheltered in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood, the outer edge of Philly. The "great" Northeast. Wasn't until I was about 23. Working in the group health claims department of Aetna. They were decorating for Christmas. Back then you sat in long rows of metal desks. I was at the front. Supervisor at the back. I put a Chanukah Banner across the front of my desk. Scattered a few wooden dreidels. Not much. The girl in the front of the next row happened to be an ex-nun; went stomping back to my supervisor loudly asking "Can't you control HER?" I walked back before I could be sent for, looked at Joan and said aren't you decorating for your holiday? Well, this is mine. She was stunned. I went back to work. There was another incident with her a month or so later, not outwardly anti-Semitic but I got no support. First and only time I ever just quit and walked off a job. I am 71 now. It left its mark on me. I taught my four children what to expect as I was not.

JUDY143M

Not the first, but the last time was at a holiday work party where someone asked why (most) Jews don't have Christmas trees. After I responded, a co-worker then asked if I were to ever have one, would I hang dollar bills as ornaments.

AROOMWITHADREW

10yo and a car drives by and asks if I'm Jewish. When I answered yes they threw a bottle at me.

FENSTAGRAM

7 when I overheard my dad talking to our neighbor who said someone "jewed him down" on a car sale and my dad never spoke to him again.

BABOSHKA1027

Somewhere between 6 and 10.

BRENT RANSENBERG

That I remember, in 7th grade, a boy I didn't know (who apparently knew me) came up to me and started asking me if I was Jewish. I didn't know what to say and he just started laughing at me and saying "yea, you're Jewish aren't you". I didn't even know what to do so I slapped him.

THEAMYALBERTSON

When I was 5, my family had just moved to California and I was attacked by adults on the playground of my kindergarten. They threw rocks and sticks and dirt at me and called me names. The whole school system had been alerted that we were Jewish because school started on Rosh Hashanah and my father had gone to the school board to ask about it.

MOMDEB

I forget the exact age but I was in elementary school, they were making fun of my nose and someone called me a Jew nose.

TOFU_AND_LATKES

In 4th grade, the teachers and kids at my school wouldn't let me play with them because I was Jewish.

SARAHZEITLIN

About 7-8 years old in gymnastics class.

FAYESPHOTO

Second grade/ 8 years old — a classmate told my sister and I he could burn our house down because we were Jewish. And in elementary school, I was told so many times I was going to hell for being Jewish.

AHAVA9

Not the first but most prevalent in my mind, in middle school a bunch of kids in the cafeteria stood up and did n*zi salutes. It was scary as one of the only Jewish kids in my school and I felt alienated and unwelcome.

IGIVEMAIL333

I was 6 or 7. Someone in our class was having a birthday party and the parents had given the child written invitations to hand out in home-room. Everyone got one except for the 5 of us that were Jewish. When it was our birthdays, mom wrote invites to everyone, but most of the time all of the Jews and only a few others would come. They would call and say they had another function to go to.

GREGFRANKEL915

In the mid-90s an older German woman who lived in town walked up to my six year old brother and pushed him onto the concrete. He got a concussion and a busted lip

CRYSTAL_WITH_A_SEA

35 years old playing a game with other adults the theme was bat mitzvah...the person started complaining why there had to be a Jew card complaining a ton. So uncomfortable as he had no idea we were Jewish.

BACK_TO_SHALOM

2nd grade and this kid kept announcing it smelled like garbage and then looked at me and said, "never mind it's just Jew."

OSHENOPUGS

When I was in 6th grade and someone came up to me and said Hitler was right :(

JETGIRL0623

I think I was in 7th grade..a "friend" basically hijacked the Holocaust from "us jews" randomly while looking at a painting of Christ in her grandparents' house one afternoon after school... It was creepy.

COLORFULDOCS

My friends asked me about Palestine during dinner when they saw my siddur at my place and then blocked me on facebook for "being a murderer". That was my first experience.

LEENAGELER

You mean besides the constant mocking of my name when I first moved to the US? Elementary school, I had a teacher who gave us Xmas trees to color and myself and another Jewish boy asked for Hanukkah sheets or something else and she snapped that she didn't have any and that we can deal with what she gave since we're the only two with a problem. That very same teacher went on to accuse us of cheating because we got the same score on a test once. We don't even sit next to each other.

EFFIEKINS34

I hear other forms of AS, born of ignorance.

HAPPYHOUNDMASSAGE

I was around ten. I was riding down an escalator at a Toronto mall with my mom. Two ladies in hijabs looked at us in derision, and one whispered to the other, "Yahud."

EMMAW2582

Idk for sure but when I was in elementary school it happened at least a couple times. See, I'm Jewish on my dad's side but they left their culture and all and left me too. He preferred beautiful blond children. So I was alone but still told I was hereditarily Jewish and I had the Jewish soul though I wasn't taught much of anything. Sadly I missed out on alot. Anyways, I promise this information is important. My nephew (we're the same age, son of a half sibling with a different dad) made a horrible joke. I still remember thinking he couldn't know what he was saying but he had heard it somewhere... It wasn't the first nor the last. I feared my own family. At school I heard things too. A comment hissed behind me as I stepped off the bus, a group joking in the halls. When I said something people were always shocked they "didn't know", and I didn't know what to say. I feel bad now about how I tried to explain that I'm only "1/4 through blood, I'm not really practicing..." That backpedaling after my mouth spoke before my anxiety could. Not anymore, I am practicing, I am Jewish, wholly Jewish no matter my messy origins. I got picked on alot in general, most of the time I didn't get an explanation, like idk who or why i had to cut gum outta my hair. I tried really hard to be normal like everyone wanted but I'm doing alot better being me and gaining confidence with time. That was long ^^; thanks for letting me vent.

KRYSAS_ART

I was about 8 when I heard a Hitler "joke" about how "no one cares about the Jews," laughter erupted out of everyone except me and one other Jewish classmate.

TOTALLYPUCKED

Maybe six. A catholic friend told me that I was going to go to hell.

MARAEP

I can't remember my first, but I remember the most hurtful. We talked about the Holocaust in class, and I was the only Jew in the whole school. The next day there was a bag on my desk of cigarette ashes with a note that said "Welcome to the family reunion".

IMLIKEHEYWHATSUPSHALOM

I was either in 5th or 6th grade and I think we were learning about the Holocaust at the time. On the bus ride home this kid (whose name I remember to this day because of this incident) was talking about how Hitler was his hero and looked at me and did the Nazi salute. Other than that, the "Jew jokes" flowed and I never said anything to friends or acquaintances till I got older.

ELLE_LIT

I was 7 or 8. I was in music class and a boy in my class came up to me and told me I was a weird looking Jew. I didn't really understand what he meant, but I'm sure he didn't either.

GENX.VEGAN

I don't remember how old I was, but somebody carved "f*** jews" on my building's elevator door. It's still there, I have to see it every day.

FRA_PARAVANS

Had a boss say don't Jew me down.

CHILENA2000

I'm on the road to conversion at the moment, but I first witnessed anti-Semitism when I was hanging out with a Jewish classmate at lunch in junior high and some jerk yelled "Don't the n***** and the k*** make a perfect couple?" I told him to jump off a bridge.

JASMYNELLIOT

I'm not sure if this is antisemitic, but at my public high school, the choir teacher had us perform a religious song about Christ, repenting, being baptized & born again. He knew there were Jewish students in the choir. It was weird.

LITTLEWITCH7

6th grade in Philadelphia suburbs. At a birthday party in a girl's front yard. Had to go to the bathroom and asked her where it was. She directed me and added, "Don't take too long. My mother doesn't like Jews in the house."

TENNENJANE

I was in 5th grade at the time. This boy in my neighborhood found out that I was Jewish and started following me home every day from school. He would find rocks, trash or change to throw at me every day while shouting slurs and hateful comments at me.

MADELEINELIZABETH217

Kids at my middle school would say "that's so Jewish" whenever they thought someone was weird or stupid.

FRAMEANDFORK

Hmm a couple of things stand out. 1) I sat down next to someone and they said ewww who wants to sit next to a Jew? (I think that was 3rd grade) 2) I was called a Jew bagel and one kid held my hands back while the other kicked me in the stomach. Also elementary school. By 6th grade we moved to a "Jewish neighborhood" and I only remember being told by some people "you don't look or sound Jewish" I actually thought that was a compliment.

MELISSAKOCH1

12 years old, someone came to me in the school hallway, someone came up to me and said the Holocaust was the Jews' fault.

AVIBARR

When I was younger my family and I belonged to our local temple on Long Island NY, I'm lucky that where we live we have quite a bigger Jewish population here in NY/Long Island. My temple had a fire and luckily the Torah's were saved and nothing important was ruined...but supposedly it was ARSON and someone purposely wanted to burn down our temple. And there are several temples all across Long Island, so this was very upsetting and shocking to say the least, that someone would have so much hate against Jews that they wanted to burn my temple down.

ALICIAPAIGEL

Getting eggs thrown at our elementary school bus on Halloween night along with slurs being shouted.

QUEEND.STEELE

10ish, the KKK would threaten to come to our Jewish community on Halloween so we didn't go.

ASR_1818

At 39. By other Jews. Because I decided to accept Yeshua as the Messiah.

THEWELLINGKIC

I was called a Heeb and a Kike in the playground in 3rd grade in suburban New Jersey. Then in 6th grade I was told "no Jews allowed at the water fountain."

DANALSNYC

I was told that it's too bad Hitler didn't finish the job and that I deserved to burn in the incinerator with the rest of them. Age 10.

INSPIRERESILIENCY

I was 16 living in Brussels. A girl in my class had a cocktail party at her house and invited the whole grade except for me. She was horrible in general telling people her father had married her mother who was "a peasant."

RSDFINEART

Don't recall the FIRST time, but clearly recall being with a coworker who was having a telephone conversation with someone and made the statement "She tried to Jew me down." ... ignorant S.O.B. !

BERKSHIRESBUM

7 years old. New to the neighbourhood. Beat up for being Jewish. Still don't know how they knew.

SANDYDALEWK

At my first "real" job, age 16; I was a cashier in a department store. A co-worker, a girl, said a customer tried to "Jew" her down. I was stunned. It was 1972. NYC. Hadn't this ended between 1945 & 1948?

PAMMA1227

When I was in elementary school, we lived in a neighborhood in Maryland where we were one of only two Jewish families. I felt like an alien from space when people found out I was Jewish. When I was about 10, a girl I was friends with found out and told me she couldn't be friends with me anymore because a "Jewish devil woman" stole her father away from her family. She never spoke to me again. Thank goodness we moved to S. Florida where I was one of many.

ELISERAYNORHANNON

Wore my Star of David necklace to school when I was 13 and got called a "f*cking k*ke" by a classmate.

QUIRKYJEW_OTAKU

Earliest I remember was in middle school, but I probably experienced it before that. Keep in mind that I generally don't wear anything that identifies me as Jewish (I live in the south). These kids kept walking up to me and harassing me with h*l*caust jokes. I was terrified. It felt like they sniffed me out as being Jewish, and that scared me so much, especially because they were using it to hurt me.

CRABSONBIKES

I was in elementary school when my dad sat me down and told me that I shouldn't advertise that I'm Jewish because people would discriminate against me. When I was 19 I had a guy tell me that he thought people called me "the Jew" behind my back because I looked Jewish, not because I was actually Jewish.

LFZEM

Middle school.... Bc of my nose and curly hair.....but also got into fights protecting my younger brother around the same time, bc he was getting teased pretty bad.

JPFRIENDER

Venezuela... When the socialist were protesting against Israel, I happened to be passing by and they were trying to attack me for wearing a kippah. Socialists and liberals are promoters of antisemitism.

YSSASJAR

I was visiting Atlanta, on the Marta and an insane woman called me out on the crowded train as being Jewish because of my looks. It was Frightening, and no one protected me.

COOKINGWITHACS

I had a girl in my Girl Scout troop (elementary school) tell me that her parents said she couldn't be friends with me because I was Jewish.

ME.MADBECKER1

Just remembered being picked on at the bus stop in elementary school and told that "all Jews have beards, even the women."

MSWENDYKNITS

In high school I shaved my head for wrestling and the kids called me "the boy in the striped pajamas."

SHUA_SMITH

In 4th grade there was a standardized test on a high holiday, my twin and I missed it for services. We were later notified that we had to make up the test 6 months later. You would think that a state required test wouldn't be scheduled on a holiday. I know it's not super bad, but it's the first time experiencing it. Unfortunately there are many more personal and hurtful stories.

OAK_OWL

4th grade, central PA. A neighbor refused to let their daughter play with me because we performed sacrifices in our basement. Then the school failed me for the Fall semester because the Jewish High Holy days were unexcused absences. 1968.

CIN_IN_SC

3rd or 4th grade telling me I should've died in the holocaust

HANAMIDALA

About 11 yrs old. I made a new friend at school and it was the first time I went to his house. When his father saw that I had a necklace with a Star of David on it he called me a stinking Jew and told me to get out of his house.

KWIKKILL

The one I remember the most, I was 18yrs old, my employer would rub the medal of some saint on my back to try to convert me. My Aunt passed away, I asked for the week off for shiva and he told me not to come back. A blessing in disguise.

PAMWILSON029

I think I was around 8 or 9. I grew up in Phoenix and my family was taking a trip to Prescott, about 2 hours away. When we got to Prescott as we were driving to the cabin, we passed a white van covered in signs saying the following: "Jews kill children" "Jews are satan" "Jews will kill your family," and so on and so forth. I didn't sleep that night at all, convinced and paranoid that we weren't safe.

TATAS.4.TOFU

I was 15 or 16. I was playing tennis in the Maccabi Games that year in New York. Prior to arriving we were told that we would be under 24 hour SWAT surveillance because a large group of Jewish teen athletes and their families were seen as a target for Anti Semitic groups.

THESHIPPY_TURTLE

Boys in the neighborhood threw rocks at myself and my friend and hit my friend in the head.

AVIJOS7

About 5. The neighbors down the street thought it would be hilarious to teach me to say Heil Hitler and give a Nazi salute. I'll never forget how enraged my mother was when I came home and performed it for her.

BRS4438

I was 12. A boy in my math class called me a Kike. I knew it was a bad name, I ran out of the room crying.

CYNTHIAVEGAS1

I was 6 years old. A neighbor came up and said he couldn't believe that I was Jewish because Jews were bad people and I was nice.

GOLDENCHILD949

7th grade, my friends and I were told we were going to hell by our classmates who we'd been friends with since 1st grade. We joked and said hell would be similar to Boca Raton!

CARLYWGOLDMAN

At a very young age...and I'm not even Jewish, but some of my relatives are. Unfortunately, I also experienced some racist comments from Jews towards gentiles, and it was likely painful.

NOV4_SIN_M4TM0R

Pre-school. I think I was 4 or 5 in Russia. My teacher told me that Jews were evil. Come to find out; I'm Jewish.

ANY4KA

Definitely the internet has brought it out in my life. It's a lot easier to be a bully behind a screen.

SDUCONN

Elementary school age. I went to a summer camp at the local community college (here in NY). A girl there became my BFF. We "planned" her bday party together (colors & pony theme) and when she came in to give everyone invitations, everyone got invited but me. I asked her where mine was and she said - "My parents said you can't come cuz you're Jewish." I believe that's where my Jewish pride was founded.

CONTACTHIGHNESS

JHS. I asked my mom why someone called me a kite and she explained that the person said k*ke and I will never forget that moment.

BABIB52

I was 10, I was being bullied in my class by a girl who was mad because I had a crush on her boyfriend. Although that wasn't the problem of why she bullied me. Her and her friends would tell me anti-Semitic things, whisper about me, question my Judaism, and tell me I was just white. I can't remember all of the things they used to say but I remember that it stuck with me... I also remember being told that I was skipping school for fun during high holidays, and getting weird looks for wearing a Star of David to the point where I don't wear it anymore in public. I remember getting those weird looks during Holocaust discussions, and when learning about early Judaism getting asked for the test answers bc they didn't want to study.

ANOUK.SOFIAAA

As a 7th grader I learned about it in literature, and later in history classes in high school. Also in a college class about different religions and lifestyles. As an adult (and teacher myself) I had to deal with students harassing Jewish students. I dealt with it via literature and guest speakers with the help of the administration and guidance department.

JMGCURLEY

When I was in elementary school, a kid pushed me down into the urinal during a bathroom break. My friend turned to the kid and asked "why did you do that?!" And the kid who pushed me down into the urinal responded: "because Jews don't fight back."

ORIGINALBRODY770

JHS. I asked my mom why someone called me a kite and she explained that the person said k*ke and I will never forget that moment.

BABIB52

I was VERY young, I can't remember how old. The boy down the street kept asking me why I didn't believe in G-d. I know I was younger than 7, because we moved when I was 7. I was completely confused by this question & did not have any answer for him, other than to say, But, I do believe in G-d!

NAOMISDTR18

The earliest I remember is Jr. High, and I can't even calculate how many I've experienced since.

CIRENAAMDEIR

I got fired from a job because I requested Yom Kippur off and the owner didn't want to give it to me. I'm an esthetician and worked in a day spa. Not having me work would have affected the owners ability to accommodate a huge spa party that was already booked on Yom Kippur. "If my employer asked me to work on Christmas, I would have done it. Did you even celebrate this last year?" I told her she couldn't discriminate against me bcs of religion and she was like "what, are you threatening to sue me?" She fired me the next day. I didn't sue; I also believe in karma.

THEJESSICAROM

High school history class year 11 .. the topic was about the holocaust and everyone looked at me when a stereotype was mentioned (the frizzy hair and heavy eyes) also it was " you look so Jewish/ you don't look Jewish " comments at that same time.

JANEYELIZZY

When I was in sixth grade all the kids used to pick on me by saying "Jewish you were Christian" when any Christian holidays came around.

BOULDER_ZACH

I was around 9, in Hebrew School, told by other kids that I wasn't actually Jewish because my mom wasn't Jewish and that my hebrew name was made up.

EXTRAVAGANTJOKE

I was six or seven when we were coming out of synagogue- someone had slashed our car tires and I asked my grandfather why? He tried to explain it to me.

EMENDLOW

I would like to speak of my grandfather's experience as mine is tied to his.

My grandfather lived with his parents, brother and two sisters in Poland before the war. I don't know what growing up was like for him but I know he and his sisters fought against the Germans and were rounded up because of it. While being locked up my grandfather was put to work in the kitchen and I remember being told how one day he was peeling potatoes and looked up in time to see his entire family being marched off to the gas chambers. All he could do was quickly wave and continue his job. Grandad was not murdered because he spoke Polish, German and English which made him valuable. That night he escaped by slinging himself under a coal cart and gripping the axles. Being fixed axles they turned along with the wheels so I remember vividly these long scars running up his calves and the inside of his arms. I remember his number too.

Grandad was never a Jew as far as I knew. I knew he was locked up in the war for fighting the Germans but even to ask him, my grandfather was Polish. That was his price he paid. He totally lost who he was. By the time I came along I met this cool old guy who spoke kinda funny but had all the time in the world for me. He taught me about pickled sheep tongue and a whole list of traditional Polish dishes. Never anything about our past though.

That was the cost though. First to him but also to us. Grandad is gone now. Mom has two death certificates for him on her wall in the office. One from the day he escaped Auschwitz and the other from when he actually died.

I'm in my 40s now and it's taken that long to put things together. I googled his last name after watching something on the camps and after asking all my family found a single cousin who had also figured it out but she was sworn to secrecy and has not even told her children.

I'm in my 40s and are now trying to learn the Shema. Trying to learn the law. Trying to learn who I am and who my people are because I have a 2 year old son who needs to know.

This is the price of antisemitism and it takes generations to heal.

My heart breaks, I don't know who to talk to or where to turn. I have questions but no one to ask. I am blind and am trying to find my way for the ones who come behind me.

This is the price of antisemitism.

ANDREW CROWHURST

jewbelong.org

For when you feel you don't