

WHEREAS, for centuries, Jewish refugees fleeing economic hardship, oppression, discrimination, pogroms, expulsions, and a Holocaust traveled to the United States of America in search of sanctuary. Early on, they fought for religious freedom, helping define one of the bedrock principles upon which America was built. Union soldiers celebrated Passover in the midst of the Civil War. Jewish suffragists fought to expand freedom and justice. Jewish faith leaders linked arms with giants of the Civil Rights Movement to demand equal rights for all. A Jewish woman composed The New Colossus poem that is enshrined at the base of the Statue of Liberty. Jewish activists formed the backbone of the early Labor movement;

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans constitute approximately 2.4% of the overall U.S. population and enrich every part of American life as educators and entrepreneurs, athletes and artists, scientists and entertainers, public officials and activists, labor and community leaders, diplomats and military service members, public health heroes, and more;

WHEREAS, locally Santa Clara County is home to the oldest synagogue between San Francisco and Los Angeles, in addition to nearly a dozen other places or communities of worship, representing Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, New Age and other denominations of Judaism. Jewish clergy are active participants in the Interfaith Community as well as other civic and leadership groups;

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2006, the Federal Government proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, stating, "[as] a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens," and, since then, proclamations in support of Jewish American Heritage Month have been made by Presidents of the United States annually;

WHEREAS, in recent years, although Jewish Americans have increasingly experienced antisemitism they continue to demonstrate resilience with the support of other communities, together challenging hatred not only against themselves but against others experiencing persecution based on their race, ethnicity, nationality, religious beliefs, abilities, gender identity, or sexual orientation, and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans contribute and provide value in all facets of civic life and the Jewish American community contributes to the success of our country and adds to the uniqueness and diversity of Santa Clara County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby proclaim May 2024 as

Jewish American Heritage Month

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara, State of California on this 7th Day of May, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, by unanimous vote.

Sylvia Arenas
Supervisor, District One

Otto Lee
Supervisor, District Three

Attest: Curtis Boone
Acting Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Susan Ellenberg
President, Board of Supervisors

Approved as to form and legality:

Tony LoPresti
County Counsel

Cindy Chavez
Supervisor, District Two

S. Joseph Simitian
Supervisor, District Five