



RESOLUTION #23-11
IN RECOGNITION OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, May is Jewish American Heritage Month, a month that provides an opportunity for all people to appreciate the achievements and contributions of Jewish Americans throughout history, and

WHEREAS, in 1980 President Jimmy Carter adopted a proclamation annually recognizing Jewish American Heritage Week, and in April 2006, President George W. Bush adopted a proclamation that May would be recognized as Jewish American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans often face unspeakable discrimination and adversity, yet for hundreds of years they have fought heroically in battle, pursued peace, and always persevered; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have played a significant role in contributing to our Nation, our communities, and our schools in the fields of arts, business, education, entertainment, finance, government, law, medicine, politics, science, military service, and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, Jews arrived on American soil back in 1654 in New Amsterdam, searching for better opportunities and lifestyles, and finding in America their new home base where they could openly practice their faith and lead their lives freely without the fear of persecution; and

WHEREAS, the more than 350-year history has given us names like Albert Einstein and Ruth Bader Ginsberg - both of whom fought through hard times to emerge victorious, Einstein having faced ridicule and bullying growing up with many teachers giving up on him and Ginsburg having faced sexism at her workplace; and

WHEREAS, Jewish people participated in the Civil Rights Movement by showing up at voter registrations, rallies, sit-ins, and more; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1942, the SS Drottningholm departed from Europe carrying hundreds of desperate Jewish refugees, en route to New York City from Sweden, the ship and its passengers were denied entry and turned back; and

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Santa Cruz County Board of Education
April 20, 2023

WHEREAS, this month, we not only celebrate their heritage and express our appreciation for those contributions, but reaffirm our commitment to combating racism and discrimination against Jewish Americans; and

WHEREAS, this month the Santa Cruz County Office of Education encourages staff, students, and community members to remember, celebrate, and educate future generations about Jewish Americans and the importance of their role in communities across our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education proudly proclaims the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize and support Jewish American Heritage Month in May by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians, and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support school districts in their effort to commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of Jewish American students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this day, the 20th day, of April, 2023 by the following vote:

Ayes:	Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Van Allen
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Acosta, Alto, Sanchez



Bruce Van Allen
Board President



Dr. Faris Sabbah
County Superintendent of Schools
Secretary, Santa Cruz County Board of Education