



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBAH - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org

Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustee: Vicente Guillen Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #26-19
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 have faced persistent discrimination and adversity, yet have continually demonstrated resilience, strength, and perseverance in the face of these challenges; 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 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 includes 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

WHEREAS, antisemitism damages society at large, by promoting attitudes that cause social conflict; by leading children to accept demonization and stereotyping of religious, ethnic, and cultural groups; and by addressing real national and community issues with false narratives that distract and worsen conditions rather than improving them; and

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;

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for many Jewish Americans and others;

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

BE IT FURTHER 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 16th day of April 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Van Allen, Williams
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Roth, Sanchez



Rachel Williams, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



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