PROCLAMATION
Jewish American Heritage Month
May 2023

WHEREAS, for thousands of years, members of Jewish communities have sustained their strong identity and rich traditions while persevering through persecution, enslavement, forced segregation, and the horrors of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, since the first Dutch Jew set foot in New Amsterdam in 1654, Jews have been contributing to the culture and history of the United States of America while achieving great success, strengthening the country, and helping shape America through a deep commitment to faith, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, in his second year in office, President George Washington wrote a letter to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, one of the first Jewish houses of worship in the United States of America, reaffirming the nation's commitment to religious freedom and noting that the government of the United States would give "to bigotry no sanction [and] to persecution no assistance" as he also emphasized that all Americans are entitled to "liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship"; and

WHEREAS, it was such a belief that drew generations of Jewish immigrants to the United States of America to rebuild their lives, whether that included Jewish families fleeing pogroms or persecution in Europe during the last century, Holocaust survivors, or Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain; and

WHEREAS, this history has led many Jewish Americans to find common cause with the Civil Rights Movement, and Jewish Americans have continued their strong support for liberty and human dignity thus, uniting to end discrimination in voting, employment, and public accommodation while also supporting equity for women, farmworkers, the disabled, and LGBTQ Americans; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans, including those in Alameda, continue to contribute to the nation's progress as scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, members of the Armed Forces, public servants, private citizens, leaders, parents, and citizens in all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda Unified School District has acknowledged and recognized the urgent need to educate students in the community on Jewish history and culture, and in 2017 AUSD established the Jewish Education Round Table to foster understanding and respect; and

WHEREAS, anyone interested in learning more about the heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans as well as other resources should visit www.JewishHeritageMonth.gov and the AUSD Jewish Education Round Table at AlamedaJERT.org;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that Jewish American Heritage Month is the time when the rich history of Jewish Americans is celebrated and their contributions to this nation are honored, and thus the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education hereby recognizes May as Jewish American Heritage Month and encourages all Alameda families, students, and staff to acknowledge and honor Jewish Americans for their notable accomplishments and outstanding service to the community of Alameda, the State of California, and the nation writ large.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following votes this 25th day of April, 2023.

AYES:_____MEMBERS:_____

NOES:_____MEMBERS:_____

ABSENT:_____MEMBERS:_____

_____
Heather Little, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:
By: _____
Pasquale Scuderi, Secretary
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California