

April 15, 2025

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – April 15, 2025

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

I. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 61 to Recognize May as Jewish American Heritage Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 61 as part of the regular County Board meeting on April 15, 2025; and further asks that the County Board declare May as Jewish American Heritage Month and encourage all education communities to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

The Board Resolution No. 61 is shown on the following page.

**Next Steps:**

- Promote educational opportunities related to Jewish American history and contributions to American society, including through ethnic studies implementation.
- Continue to demonstrate honor and respect for Jewish Americans and all groups that make up the rich tapestry of our schools and communities.
- Elevate the impact of anti-Jewish hate by building an understanding of Jewish identity and history.
- Take steps to proactively combat rising anti-Jewish hate and antisemitism by disseminating curated [resources and information](#) with local educational agencies, school leaders and teachers for classroom learning.
- Continue our efforts to uplift and celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion by organizing and facilitating learning opportunities during the month of May and throughout the year to raise awareness, for example:
  - A **Museum of Tolerance** event organized by Equity and Social Justice Team on Friday, May 9, 2025. More information to come.
  - Southern California Social Science Association (SCSSA) at **Holocaust Museum LA**, on Saturday, May 10, 2025, 10:30 am to 1 pm. Cost: \$15 Register [here](#)
  - Jewish American Heritage Group **Lunch and Learn** “*Understanding Jewish Identity*,” Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in ECW 365, 11 am to 1 pm.

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

NO. 61: 2024-25

### **Recognize May as Jewish American Heritage Month**

- WHEREAS,** Jewish American Heritage Month is observed in May each year to honor the contributions of Jewish Americans to the United States and to raise awareness of the rich heritage of the Jewish people; and
- WHEREAS,** there are an estimated 7.5 million Jewish Americans, with California being home to the second largest Jewish population in the United States;
- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans represent a vibrant, diverse and multifaceted community with a rich heritage encompassing ancestry, culture and traditions, as well as a range of religious practices and cultural traditions; and
- WHEREAS,** the diversity within the Jewish American community enriches the United States, California and Los Angeles County and adds to the vibrant tapestry of American life; and
- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans have played a pivotal role in the history of the United States, contributing significantly in fields, such as science, arts, literature, law, business, entertainment, government and military service; and
- WHEREAS,** Jewish American heritage is part of the broader story of immigration, struggle, resilience and respect for tradition that has been a cornerstone of the American experience; and
- WHEREAS,** the stories and accomplishments of Jewish Americans are essential to the narrative of our Nation and provide rich examples of commitment to faith, dedication to community and contributions to national progress; and
- WHEREAS,** it is essential to honor and educate around the history, struggles and achievements of Jewish Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** On January 27, 2025, we commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day (liberation of Auschwitz), and on April 24, 2025, we will pause for Holocaust Remembrance Day, or Yom Hashoah in Hebrew, and remembered the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazi regime and its allies during the Holocaust from 1943-1945.
- WHEREAS,** bias and discrimination, including anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish hate, negatively impact the wellbeing and sense of belonging for the Jewish community, diverse communities and our society as a whole;

**WHEREAS,** the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports that anti-Semitic incidents in Los Angeles increased by 198 percent from 2022 to 2023; and anti-Jewish hate crimes increased by 63 percent since 2023 and over 10,000 antisemitic incidents, following the October 7th attack on Israel; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2023 “No More Silence,” Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations report, reflected that 83 percent of religiously motivated hate crimes targeted the Jewish community; anti-Jewish hate crimes nearly doubled and rose 91% from 127 to 242 and set the record for the highest number of reported anti-Jewish crimes in 2023; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE stands firmly and unwaveringly against antisemitism and any form of anti-Jewish hate; and

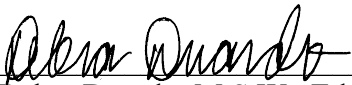
**WHEREAS,** learning factual information about Jewish history, culture and identity alleviates misinformation and is essential to combatting antisemitism and all forms of hate; and

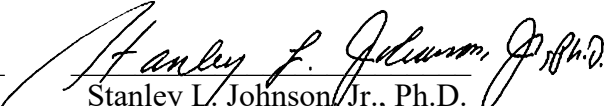
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognizes May as Jewish American Heritage Month and encourages all schools and community members to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to our nation’s history and culture with appropriate programs and activities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that LACOE encourages educational leaders to observe this month with appropriate instructional activities, including teaching students about the contributions of Jewish Americans, understanding their historical challenges and celebrating their achievements; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that LACOE supports schools in organizing and endorsing activities that honor and celebrate Jewish American heritage, thereby promoting diversity and cultural understanding in our schools and community.

**ADOPTED** this 15th day of April 2025, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

  
Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.  
Superintendent

  
Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.  
Board President