

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

May 13, 2025

Proclaiming May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month

The Los Angeles Jewish community has played a central role in shaping Los Angeles County’s cultural, civic, and social landscape. From impacting the establishment of Hollywood studios to building robust philanthropic and social service organizations to advancing educational and community activism initiatives, Jewish Americans have made significant contributions to various fields, including arts and culture, science and medicine, politics, education, and business. The history of Jewish life in Los Angeles spans more than 160 years, originating with a modest group of eight merchants. As of the 2021 *Study of Jewish Los Angeles*, commissioned by The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles County now holds the distinction of having the largest Jewish population of any single county in the United States.

Tragically, the recent wildfires have caused widespread devastation throughout Los Angeles County, including significant damage to Jewish schools, synagogues, institutions, and families. In Pasadena, the synagogue housing the B’nai Simcha Jewish Community Preschool was destroyed in the Eaton Fire. In Pacific Palisades, while Kehillat

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Solis	_____
Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____

Israel and the Palisades Jewish Early Childhood Center remained structurally intact, both programs were displaced due to fire-related impacts. In the face of these challenges, the Jewish principle of Tikkun Olam—which means “repairing the world”—provides a guiding moral and spiritual framework for our collective recovery. Rooted in justice, compassion, and communal responsibility, Tikkun Olam has been vividly embodied by the Jewish community in the aftermath of the fires. Community members mobilized to provide critical support, including mental health services, meals, shelter, and safe gathering spaces for those displaced. As we continue to confront local and global challenges, the importance of Tikkun Olam is more relevant than ever.

Each May, communities across the country observe Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM), a time to honor the rich contributions and enduring legacy of Jewish Americans. Established in 2006, JAHM commemorates over 350 years of Jewish life in the United States and celebrates the community’s resilience, achievements, and cultural heritage. Some LA County departments have proudly joined this national celebration. The Los Angeles County Board of Education encourages schools and community members to participate in honoring Jewish American contributions. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Library actively supports JAHM through dedicated programs and educational resources that highlight the history and culture of Jewish Americans.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month.

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