

P R O C L A M A T I O N

NATIONAL JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

MAY, 2024

WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate Jewish Americans and encourage all to learn more about Jewish heritage in the United States;

WHEREAS, the Jewish American story is an essential chapter of the United States narrative that has greatly contributed to the religious, cultural, political, economic, and intellectual advancement of all people by joining together with all faiths to reject ignorance and intolerance, teach empathy and compassion, and root out hatred wherever it exists; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate the rich heritage of the Jewish American community in Oak Park and the nation, we recognize that American Jews have joined with all faiths to work for Tikkun Olam, repair of the world, remembering the lessons of the Holocaust, and leading movements for civil rights and social justice; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that Jewish communities continue to be challenged by bigotry, hostility and discrimination and that our country's commitment to religious freedom obligates us to root out prejudice and combat anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park remains committed to supporting its Jewish American population and to condemning all acts of anti-Semitism. As discrimination and all acts of hate has no home here in Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, the month of May is a time for Oak Parkers to learn more about the heritage and accomplishments of Jewish Americans through educational programming, activities, and ceremonies. This local commitment to education is recognized throughout the community as Oak Park River Forest High School leads the way in the creation of a class called "Holocaust Studies." Taught by Michael Soffer, this class is an important reminder of the needed acts we must take to combat hate by never forgetting our shared history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, Village President of the Village of Oak Park, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH in the Village of Oak Park and call upon all citizens, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in the Village of Oak Park to support efforts that continue to recognize the plight of Jewish Americans, and ensure Oak Park will always be a place of refuge.

DATED this 7th day of May, 2024.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST:

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk