



Proclamation Celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month

- WHEREAS,** Jewish American Heritage Month, recognized in May, is a time for celebrating the history, contributions, and cultures of the diverse population of Jewish Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** the first Jewish family to settle in Albemarle County arrived in 1757 and the Jewish community have played an important role in shaping, advancing, and enriching the fabric of Albemarle County ever since; and
- WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans, due to their own long history of persecution, have often found common cause with movements working to expand civil rights, liberty, and human dignity for all, including the Civil Rights Movement, as well as movements in support of women's rights, the rights of farmworkers, the disabled, and LGBTQIA Americans, and others; and
- WHEREAS,** the early history of Jewish Americans in Albemarle County sheds light on the community's commitment to tolerance and racial equality through the example of the long-term common law marriage of David Isaacs, a Jewish businessman, and Nancy West, a "mulatto" woman and a skilled businesswoman, during the 18th century; and
- WHEREAS,** the Jewish American experience has always been held together by the forces of hope, resilience, and striving for a better tomorrow.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, honor and celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month and renew our dedication to the work of building a fully inclusive tomorrow -- one where a great diversity of origins is not only accepted, but also celebrated -- here at home and around the world.

Signed this 5th day of May 2021.

Ned Gallaway, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors