



Susan Wengraf
Vice Mayor and Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 26, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf (Author), Mayor Arreguin (Co-Sponsor),
Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Taplin (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Proclamation in Honor of City of Berkeley Holocaust Remembrance Day

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Holocaust Remembrance Day Proclamation for the City of Berkeley's 21ST Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day. The program will take place virtually on Sunday, May 5th, 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An allocation of \$6,000 dollars was approved in the 2023-2024 budget for this event.

BACKGROUND

For the past twenty-one years, The City of Berkeley has sponsored the Holocaust Remembrance Day program to honor survivors, and to remember those who were murdered, those who resisted, and those who rescued victims of the Holocaust. As Estelle Laughlin, a Holocaust Survivor, states in US Holocaust Memorial Museum's video, *Why We Remember the Holocaust*, "Memory is what shapes us. Memory is what teaches us. We must understand that's where redemption is."

Margit Meissner, a Holocaust Survivor in the *Why We Remember the Holocaust* video, reminds us of the context for the Holocaust. "A strong man came to power in Germany whose ideas were that Germany has to create a national community, which would include only the Aryan race, which he considered superior, and all the people who did not belong to the Aryan race could be eliminated."

More than 11 million people were targeted for extermination by the Nazis, including 6 million Jews, Roma, Poles, people with physical disabilities, homosexuals, communists, socialists and dissenting clergy.

in January 2024 the Anti-Defamation League reported skyrocketing antisemitic incidents in the U.S., having recorded a total of 3,291 antisemitic incidents in the prior three months, a 361-percent increase compared to the same period one year prior.

Proclamation in Honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2024

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Holocaust Remembrance Day reminds us of the extreme dangers of letting hate go unchecked. The 2024 Program will honor Kitty Klaidman, a distinguished artist and Holocaust Survivor, who will speak about her experiences in the Holocaust. The program will also feature musical performances by Rebecca Rust on Cello and Friedrich Edelmann on Bassoon, and a unique candle lighting ceremony by survivors and family members.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No direct impact

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Wengraf

Council District 6

510-981-7160

Attachments:

1: Proclamation

BERKELEY'S 21ST ANNUAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Whereas, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic genocide of more than six million European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

Whereas, the Holocaust was a crime of shocking inhumanity, targeting for persecution and death, six million Jews and also Roma and Sinti people, those with mental illness and physical disabilities, homosexuals, Slavs, Poles, and members of anti-Nazi networks from throughout Europe; and

Whereas, Holocaust Remembrance Day reminds us of the importance of remembering: "Memory is what shapes us. Memory is what teaches us. We must understand that's where redemption is, Holocaust Survivor, Estelle Laughlin noted; and

Whereas, false information on the Holocaust continues to deny and trivialize the truth of what took place during the Nazi regime and, for the benefit of past, present and future generations, we must never forget the appalling crimes of the Holocaust; and

Whereas, in January 2024 the Anti-Defamation League reported skyrocketing antisemitic incidents in the U.S., having recorded a total of 3,291 antisemitic incidents in the prior three months, a 361-percent increase compared to the same period one year prior; and

Whereas, the purpose of Berkeley's Holocaust Remembrance Day is to join together as a community to remember the Holocaust, to honor survivors who chose to rebuild their lives in Berkeley and the Bay Area, and to reflect on the need to respect all people.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguín, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2024 as

Holocaust Remembrance Day

In the City of Berkeley, in memory of those who perished and in honor of the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the City of Berkeley is committed to never forgetting the events of the Holocaust and to working actively to combat antisemitism, racism, bigotry, and hatred in all forms, and to the promotion of human rights and dignity for all.

