



City of Ellensburg

PROCLAMATION

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Whereas, in February 2006, Congress issued House Concurrent Resolution 315 to urge the President to issue a proclamation each year to observe American Jewish History Month with appropriate celebrations and activities; and President George W. Bush issued the first Presidential Proclamation designating May 2006 as Jewish American Heritage Month; and

Whereas, in 1654, the first Jewish Americans arrived in New Amsterdam, fleeing oppression from other areas of the world and looking for the possibility of a freer future; and

Whereas, we acknowledge that anti-Semitism is a real issue facing our Jewish American neighbors; we remember the lessons of the Holocaust and recognize the need to root out prejudice and combat anti-Semitism in this country; and

Whereas, we recognize Jewish Americans who contributed to our local community, such as:

Henry and Selig Samuel Kleinberg, who came to Ellensburg in 1885, established their clothing store in the first Kleinberg building, and re-established their store after the Great Fire of 1889 by building the three-story Kleinberg Building on Pearl Street. The third floor of the building was used as a Jewish meeting hall. They also became Ellensburg land brokers and hay merchants and were the first to ship Kittitas Valley hay to the Puget Sound area. Henry and Amelia Kleinberg purchased and donated a strip of land near the Northern Pacific Railroad to the city in 1910 to become a public park, now known as Kleinberg Park; and

Samuel Kreidel, who owned a general merchandise store, built the Kreidel Building on the corner of Third and Pearl after the Great Fire, was elected mayor of Ellensburg first in 1915 and then served several terms as a City Council member; and

Betty Jean (Gottlieb) Allen, who worked alongside her husband to open "Allen's Ice Cream," Ellensburg's first in-and-out, roller skate, curbside business that served local families and students from 1946-1962; and

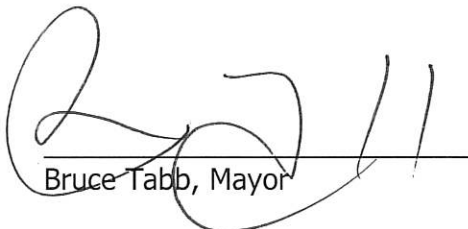
Martin Kaatz, who taught geography at Central Washington University over four decades, served on the Ellensburg Downtown Task Force from 1980 to 2010, and whose insight helped shape land use planning in Ellensburg and the region; and

Whereas, the City of Ellensburg recognizes and honors the Jewish Americans residing herein who contribute to the strength and vibrancy of our community.

Now, Therefore, the City Council of the City of Ellensburg does hereby proclaim May 2021 as Jewish American Heritage Month in Ellensburg and encourages all citizens to join in this observance by building bridges of understanding and friendship with our Jewish American neighbors.

Signed this 3rd day of May, 2021.

Attest: 
City Clerk


Bruce Tabb, Mayor