

Belmont Human Rights Commission Statement for the Jewish American Heritage Month

As we celebrate the Jewish Heritage Month, the Belmont Human Rights Commission honors Jewish Americans who have played and continue to play indispensable roles in the history of the United States through their leadership and achievements. We also remember and condemn the heinous crimes committed against Jewish people everywhere.

Many generations of Jewish people came to the U.S. fleeing oppression, discrimination and persecution. Yet, in recent years, there has been an alarming rise in antisemitic violence and injustice against the Jewish community. We have not forgotten that in 2018, eleven worshippers were massacred at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh by a white supremacist. Just last year, Rabbi Shlomo Noginsky was stabbed several times in Brighton right outside of a Jewish day school.

The Holocaust is one of the best-documented mass atrocities in human history, yet there are still those who deny or distort it. Such denial and distortion amount to antisemitism and hate. We must all stand up for the truth of history, and highlight the Holocaust's painful lessons. We honor all Jewish lives lost to genocide, mass atrocities, and crimes of hate.

In order to celebrate the vibrant American Jewish experience, the National Museum of American Jewish History features a month-long series of events. You may access more information online here: <https://nmajh.org/jewish-american-heritage-month/> Additionally, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. serves as a resource for keeping the Holocaust memory alive. Go to: www.jewishheritagemonth.gov.

The Belmont Human Rights Commission is dedicated to fighting discrimination in all forms and increasing visibility and awareness of issues regarding diversity and discrimination in our community. If you have experienced discrimination in Belmont, please contact us at belmont.hrc@gmail.com or call 617-993-2795.