2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 33


Relating to: proclaiming May 2021 as Jewish American Heritage Month.

Whereas, since 2006, Jewish American Heritage Month has been observed nationwide every May to recognize the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to our nation’s civic, social, economic, and cultural life; and

Whereas, the 2021 theme of Jewish American Heritage Month highlights historical moments in which American Jewish communities demonstrated remarkable resilience and care for communities outside of their own, and also how diverse communities stood up for Jews in the face of anti-Semitism by showcasing contemporary stories of communities transcending differences to come together in mutual support and solidarity; and

Whereas, it is estimated that over 330,000 persecuted Jews from Germany, Russia, Poland, and several other countries found refuge in the United States between 1933 and 1952; and
Whereas, many Jewish American survivors of the Holocaust have dedicated
their lives to fighting for civil rights and educating future generations about the
dangers of bigotry and anti-Semitism and the resilience of the human spirit; and

Whereas, it is estimated that over 30,000 Jews live in Wisconsin today,
worshiping at over 30 active synagogues; and

Whereas, the UW-Madison branch of Hillel began in 1924 and is the
second-oldest in the nation; and

Whereas, several renowned Jewish Americans have resided in Wisconsin,
including author Edna Ferber, U.S. Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold, actors
Gene Wilder and Charlotte Rae, magician Harry Houdini, and Israeli Prime
Minister Golda Meir; and

Whereas, the Jewish tenet tikkun olam, translated from Hebrew as "repair of
the world," is a call to Jews to pursue justice and righteousness for all of humanity;
and

Whereas, the Jewish experience in America has consistently reminded us that
liberty and opportunity ultimately triumph over prejudice and hate; now, therefore,
be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin
Legislature proclaims May 2021 as Jewish American History Month and joins all
Wisconsinites in thanking our fellow Jewish American citizens for shaping our
country’s character, strengthening our promise of religious freedom, and teaching us
the virtues of justice, hope, and perseverance.

(END)