

Town of Fairfield, Connecticut

Proclamation

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD 37th ANNUAL HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

APRIL 27, 2022

FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL, FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

- WHEREAS:** The Holocaust was the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims – six million were murdered, including 1.5 million Jewish children - but Gypsies, people with disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny; and
- WHEREAS:** The history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and
- WHEREAS:** We, the people of the Town of Fairfield, along with others, should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and
- WHEREAS:** We, the people of the Town of Fairfield, along with others, should actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society; and
- WHEREAS:** The Days of Remembrance have been set aside to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all peoples.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRENDA L. KUPCHICK, First Selectwoman of the Town of Fairfield, hereby proclaim April 27, 2022 as a special Day of Remembrance in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, including the 1.5 million children who were murdered simply because they were Jewish, and in tribute to those who help us never to forget, including our speaker at the 2022 Holocaust Commemoration, **Dr. Leon Chameides**, who will share with us his experience during World War II as a hidden child, and of the righteous gentiles who saved his life and that of his brother.

Dr. Chameides’ willingness for more than 50 years to share his story and to deliver his message against hate to hundreds of people, especially young students, helps us to always remember the atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust, and how there were some brave and courageous people who risked their own lives to save others. It inspires us to work towards a more hopeful and tolerant future in which hatred, bigotry and discrimination will forever be eliminated. We thank Dr. Chameides for joining us here at our 37th Annual Holocaust Commemoration and for once again reminding us that “We Must Never Forget.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Fairfield to be affixed this 27th day of April, 2022.

Brenda L. Kupchick
First Selectwoman