

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Celebrating Rockland’s Rich Diversity During Asian American, Pacific Islander, Arab & Jewish Heritage Months

New City, NY (May 25, 2022) - Rockland County Legislators Toney Earl and Aron Wieder celebrated Asian American, Pacific Islander, Arab and Jewish Heritage Months along with Spring Valley Mayor Alan Simon, Deputy Mayor Joseph Gross, Trustees Yisroel Eisenbach and Asher Grossman, and Chestnut Ridge Deputy Mayor Grant Valentine.

“Rockland County’s greatest strength has always been its tremendous diversity,” Legislator Earl said. “Today, we celebrate that diversity by recognizing the many contributions of members of the Asian American, Pacific Islander, Arab and Jewish communities in Spring Valley and throughout Rockland County,” Legislator Earl said.

Legislators Earl and Wieder, who represent different parts of Spring Valley, presented Proclamations formally recognizing each month and acknowledging the many contributions made by each community.

“Celebrations like this help to bring us together as human beings and as a community, and that is something sorely needed these days,” Legislator Wieder said. “It is an honor to represent the residents of Spring Valley and all of the positive contributions that each person makes to the community as a whole.”

Mayor Simon also addressed the gathering, which was held outside Spring Valley Village Hall Tuesday.

“We all depend upon each other, and we should treat each other well,” Mayor Simon said. “The lesson of the day is that wherever we come from, we are all in the same country now, and we have an obligation to treat each other with kindness and goodwill.”

Also participating were Mark Sanchez of the Filipino Association of Rockland, Hasna Shabdeen, a pharmacist technician originally from Sri Lanka, and Rabbi Yisroel Kahan, a member of the Rockland County Human Rights Commission, who offered the closing remarks. Each spoke about the diversity of Spring Valley and the importance of the unification of cultures.

The event included the “Star Spangled Banner,” performed by Rushama Sara Jean Claude, and an opening prayer, offered by Pastor Nathaniel Demosthene of the First Timothy Christian Church.

There was a performance by the Natyamudra School of Dance and demonstrations by the Nomad Kali Martial Arts & Combat Fitness School.

Cantor Barry Kanarek offered a brief history of the song “Hava Nagila” and asked everyone to join in singing together.

PF Chang’s of Nanuet and Kosher Castle of Monsey provided food, and Finkelstein Memorial Library offered a display of books highlighting the different cultures.

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