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Broadway's Lights Shined Brighter as New Yorkers Celebrate Jewish Pride and Tradition

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There is absolutely nothing like New York City at night. Even now, 36 years after moving to the tri-state area, Manhattan's skyline, the lights emanating from office and apartment buildings, and the marquis in Times Square bring the brightest smile to my face. That smile was even more brilliant on the second day of Hanukkah when I gathered with scores of New Yorkers in the heart of the city to celebrate Jewish pride, light the Menorah and dispel the darkness of antisemitism with the light of unity, advocacy, education, and pride.

One in four Jews in the United States experiences antisemitism, and these instances of hate have become far too commonplace in our city and our communities. This sentiment was echoed at the "Shine A Light on Antisemitism: Dispel the Darkness" Hanukkah menorah lighting event by speakers like Gov. Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, NYC City Council Chair of High Education Eric Dinowitz, Singer Montana Tucker, a granddaughter of Holocaust Survivors, who told the crowd "...it can take one person to destroy the world and



Scores of New Yorkers gathered in the heart of Broadway's Times Square to celebrate the second day of Hanukkah and Jewish Pride.

Photo Credit: Kingsborough Community College

it can take one person to change it." As CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez shared with the crowd, this change must begin with education. I believe that our schools must be places where this work begins, and institutions of higher education must be spaces where this work is sustained in meaningful ways.

From my own and fellow senior administrators' educational sojourns to Israel in 2019 and earlier this year; to the Holocaust Memorial Center of Kingsborough Com-

munity College (KCC) and Manhattan Beach and its programming that preserves the important history of the Holocaust and promotes the lessons we must learn from it; to programming by the KCC Student Union and Intercultural Center, Kingsborough is committed to fighting antisemitism and preparing students to build bridges of understanding and respect for our Jewish brothers and sisters. In building these bridges, we will come to know "what unites us is far greater than

what divides us."

And on this night in Times Square, as I waited with the crowd for the menorah lighting, I discovered a new "what," or should I say, "who." I love music, but I had never heard of Nissim Black or the Moshav Band, but I was grooving and moving along with everyone else. And this is my hope as we enter a new year. May we open ourselves to experiencing the beauty of diversity and may we move together as one, with our Jewish brothers and sis-

ters in a singular mission to replace the darkness of antisemitism with the light of love.

Dr. Claudia V. Schrader is president of Kingsborough Community College (KCC), a 72-acre academic oasis in beautiful Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn that offers students over 50 academic programs, 100 percent online degrees and affordable two-year degrees for their future. For more information about Kingsborough, visit the website at www.Kingsborough.edu.

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