

## 2015-J2060

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Nava Silton Brandwein upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Academy Award by the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Nava Silton Brandwein upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Academy Award by the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District to be celebrated at a dinner on Thursday, May 28, 2015, at Congregation Agudat Achim, Niskayuna, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award is bestowed upon individuals who exemplify the mission of the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District through intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and love of learning while celebrating the richness of their Jewish traditions; and

WHEREAS, Nava Silton Brandwein has shown brightly in her respective field, while maintaining a sense of community, service, and integrity, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Jewish foundation instilled in her by the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy; and

WHEREAS, A 1995 graduate of the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District, Nava Silton Brandwein earned her bachelor's degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and then went on to obtain both her master's degree and Ph.D. from Fordham University, New York City; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating, Nava Silton Brandwein taught undergraduate

and graduate psychology courses at numerous academic institutions, such as Cornell University, Fordham University and Hunter College, New York City; today, she holds the position of full-time Assistant Professor of Psychology at Marymount Manhattan College, New York City; and WHEREAS, In addition, Nava Silton Brandwein holds the title of Developmental Psychologist, focusing on children on the autism spectrum, as well as areas surrounding dating, marriage, and parenting; she also serves as a consultant for the Autism Seaver Center at Mount Sinai Hospital, for the Children's Television Workshop, and most recently for Netflix; and

WHEREAS, An oft-published author, Nava Silton Brandwein's articles have focused on religion, health and accommodating individuals with disabilities in the school and at home; her first edited book, INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH AUTISM was released in March of 2014; and

WHEREAS, In May of 2015, she released her second book, RECENT ADVANCES IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, and in the Spring of 2016, she will issue her third book, EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF CREATIVITY IN BUSINESS, MEDIA, AND THE ARTS; and

WHEREAS, When Nava Silton Brandwein is not writing or teaching, she is working on her television show and comic books series REALABILITIES, and is in the process of pitching her new series ADD & UNO, to several television networks; in addition, she is a frequent guest of Fox 5 News and NBC News, and has appeared several times on GOOD DAY NEW YORK and the THOM HARTMANN SHOW; and

WHEREAS, Nava Silton Brandwein has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to her community, Nava Silton Brandwein serves as a weekly Coach for Special Olympics Gymnastics, helps lead Jewish Learning

and Bikur Cholim Programs, and chairs a variety of fundraising initiatives on Manhattan's Upper West Side; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her community service, a period of constructive involvement, Nava Silton Brandwein has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, Dr. Ariel Brandwein, and their two children, Judah and Jonah, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Nava Silton Brandwein has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Nava Silton Brandwein upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2015 Academy Award by the Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy of the Capital District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nava Silton Brandwein.