

## 2015-J5397

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Cantor Lisa Hest upon the occasion of her retirement after 26 years of distinguished service to Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, New York

WHEREAS, The spiritual guidance and nurturing of the citizens of the State of New York is of great importance to the vitality and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Cantor Lisa Hest upon the occasion of her retirement after 26 years of distinguished service to Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, New York, to be celebrated at a Special Erev Shabbat Service on Friday, June 3, 2016, and at a Farewell Concert and Celebration on Saturday, June 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Bronx, and raised in Queens, Lisa Hest spent her earliest years singing to anyone who would listen, especially her family; she was greatly influenced by the musical women in her family, and her own parents introduced her to all kinds of music; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Hest started singing in choruses in grade school, and to this day, choral music is her favorite kind of singing; she attended the High School of Music and Art, a transformative experience that opened her mind to all kinds of people and ideas as well as introducing her to opera, Art Song and the great choral works, which she was privileged to perform with orchestras at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Lisa Hest attended Queens College, where she learned her craft from well-known composers and professors; in addi-

tion, she went to concerts all over the city and continued voice lessons with her renowned teacher, Anna Hamlin; and

WHEREAS, It was at Queens College that her interest in Judaism was rekindled; she traveled to Israel for the first time after the Six Day War, and subsequently, decided to study Hebrew along with her music classes; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Queens College, Lisa Hest continued to perform with semi-professional as well as professional choral groups, local opera companies and the Jewish singing groups Zamir and Selah; she sang in the synagogue choirs of Park Avenue Synagogue and Rodef Shalom, and performed with a small ensemble at the 92nd Street Y during one of Elie Wiesel's lectures and at the Jewish Museum; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Hest's sons, Danny and Ari were young children during this time and she loved to make up children's songs which taught them about movement, rhythm, colors and ideas; thus, she studied Dalcroze Eurythmics to enrich her teaching and soon became the local neighborhood Music Lady, bringing her guitar and instruments to schools, birthday parties and local events; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Lisa Hest furthered her education by obtaining her master's degree from the School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College; during this period, she was the recipient of numerous awards and toured Israel several times with Cantorial ensembles; and

WHEREAS, As the local student Cantor in Riverdale, New York, she prepared both her sons and officiated at their Bar Mitzvahs, and proudly blessed her boys with their respective wives under the chuppah; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Hest then found her way to Temple Beth-El, which was such a perfect match for her particular talents; as Cantor, she enjoyed

singing for the congregation, conducting and preparing the choir, and directing musicals for children and Purimshpiels; and

WHEREAS, Throughout 26 years of remarkable service, Lisa Hest will always remember the many wonderful programs of Yiddish, Ladino, Israeli,

and Jewish Broadway; the talent and devotion of her fellow congregants; High Holy Days with the best choir imaginable; and the talent of Tom Williams; as well as the many beautiful musical memories she made with people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Spiritual guidance and nurturing are of great import to the vitality and well-being of all people and every community of this great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Instrumental in that deliverance are those men and women of religious commitment who accept the responsibility of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human understanding; and

WHEREAS, Singular in distinction is Lisa Hest, whose service to her church and her people, and her involvement in her community mirror a commitment of compelling dimension; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Cantor Lisa Hest upon the occasion of her retirement after 26 years of distinguished service to Temple Beth-El of Great Neck, New York; and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Cantor Lisa Hest.