

2021-K956

Assembly Resolution No. 956

BY: M. of A. Woerner

HONORING Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein upon the occasion of their retirement from Temple Sinai after 36 years of joint leadership

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors, and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, family, and community; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein upon the occasion of their retirement from Temple Sinai, following 36 years of joint leadership; and

WHEREAS, Since 1986, Linda Motzkin and Jonathan Rubenstein have served as co-Rabbis at Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs, New York, where they moved shortly after they were ordained and where they raised their three children, Ruhi Sophia, Ari Shalom and Shira Bracha; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein were the first rabbinic couple to share the sole rabbinic position in a synagogue; and

WHEREAS, Temple Sinai, Saratoga's first Reform synagogue established

in the early 1960s as a study group composed of 12 families, has grown under the leadership of Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein to include 175 families and individual members representing a diversity of lifestyles, professions and religious observances; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein have, through their dedication and creativity, expanded Temple Sinai's programs and activities, including religious education, youth programs, Hebrew language instruction, and many other committees and clubs which offer an array of opportunities for the community; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein have encouraged the religious education of hundreds of children and young adults, fostering lifelong learning of the Torah and Hebrew traditions, as well as inspiring Temple Sinai's young members to donate their time and energies to such charities as Shelters of Saratoga, the Franklin Community Center, and local hospices; and

WHEREAS, Committed to helping those in need, Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein leads Temple Sinai's Bread and Torah project, a non-profit bakery operated from the synagogue's kitchen which helps those less fortunate, provides training and employment to individuals with

disabilities and distributes challah weekly to nursing home residents; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Linda Motzkin is among a handful of female scribes around the world and has initiated a Community Torah Project, a long-term undertaking designed to involve a wide range of participants in various steps in the hands-on process of making a Torah scroll, from the processing of deerskins into parchment panels to the proofreading of the completed text; and

WHEREAS, In addition to their duties at Temple Sinai, Rabbi Linda Motzkin has served as the High Holy Day Chaplain at Skidmore College, and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein has served as Pastoral Care Director at Four Winds-Saratoga, a private psychiatric hospital; and

WHEREAS, It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, that future generations may know and appreciate their admirable characters, their many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which they are held; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein upon the occasion of their retirement from Temple Sinai after 36 years of joint leadership; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rabbi Linda Motzkin and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein.