



Strategic Visioning Update December 2025 / Kislev 5786

Dear Friends,

As the light and warmth of the Hanukkah candles are upon us, we write to share an update on Temple Beth-El's Strategic Visioning process and the sale/leaseback of our building. (Previous updates can be found on our [Visioning Resource Page](#).)

Since our last communication, attorneys for TBE and Yeshivat Kol Yaakov have been diligently drafting the legal agreements needed to implement **the sale of our building and the leaseback of the space we will continue to occupy**. This important work to secure TBE's future is proceeding **steadily and thoughtfully**.

As is often the case in a process involving multiple parties, careful legal review, coordination of schedules and logistical considerations are taking significant time. We want to reassure you that this reflects the complexity of the process—not any problem or concern. We have now reached a significant stage; and based on the remaining steps required, our updated goal is to present the agreement to the congregation in early 2026. While the legal process continues, **the broader work of shaping our future is moving forward with energy and purpose**.

Over the past several months, we have focused on helping every member of our community understand both the rationale for and the process of our Strategic Visioning and the building sale/leaseback. A refreshed Visioning web page, expanded FAQs and a dedicated email address have further strengthened transparency and connection across the congregation.

To advance this work, TBE's board has established the following **Visioning Subcommittees**:

- New Space Design and Aesthetics
- Ritualizing Change
- Membership and Financial Sustainability
- High Holidays Planning
- Archive, Arts and Judaica

At the same time, our programmatic expansion continues on every front. Enrollment in adult education courses and attendance at cultural arts events have already surpassed previous records, and the momentum continues to build. We are especially excited about

the diverse slate of programs planned for the new year, including:

- **Tuesday Night Symposium with Rabbi Stoller: The Thought and Works of Maimonides**, beginning January 6.
- **Let's Talk About Israel speaker series** with Rabbi David Ingber (January 11), Rachel Korazim (February 8) and IDF soldier Sam Fried (February 11), offering a range of perspectives on current events in Israel and on Jewish peoplehood, identity and the role of the State of Israel today.
- **Comedy Night (January 31)**, produced in partnership with Temple Israel of Great Neck, featuring Adam Muller, Ariel Elias and Wali Collins, with Great Neck's own Stan Levine returning as master of ceremonies.
- **Music to Warm the Soul: Michelle Citrin in Concert (February 26)** presented by the Susan Stumer Cultural Arts Center, featuring original music that blends story, spirituality and song.

Looking ahead, we can see our strong tomorrow taking shape all around us—in vibrant learning, creative worship and renewed community connection. The foundation of our future is being built thoughtfully and deliberately, one step at a time.

We will continue to share regular updates. If you have questions or would like to be in touch, please contact Stu Botwinick, and we will gladly follow up.

B'shalom,
Jordana Levine, President
Rabbi A. Brian Stoller
Stuart Botwinick, Executive Director

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