



TEMPLE  
BETH-EL  
OF GREAT NECK

April 22, 2026

Temple Beth-El, *yasher koach*.

*Yasher koach* is the Hebrew phrase we use to mark a meaningful accomplishment—often translated as “well done,” but more literally meaning “there is strength” or “there is power.”

Last night, you—the membership of Temple Beth-El—demonstrated that power.

By approving the sale of our building and an agreement to lease back the space we need, we made a significant and consequential decision. It is one that carries real emotion. There is sadness in it. But more than anything, it is a vote of confidence in our future—and in our ability to shape that future together.

This moment is a true milestone, the result of more than three years of thoughtful and deliberate work. It was an essential step forward. At the same time, it marks the beginning of our next phase.

In the months ahead, we will work with the New York State Attorney General to complete the approval process, and we will prepare, as a community, for the transition to come. To support that work, several Visioning subcommittees are focused on key aspects of the transition: New Space Design and Aesthetics; Ritualizing Change; Membership and Financial Sustainability; High Holidays Planning; and Archive, Art and Judaica.

Throughout this process, one thing remains constant: Temple Beth-El is a vibrant, engaged, and growing community. Our worship, our learning, along with our commitment to one another and to our values continue—strong as ever.

Our deepest thanks go to those who helped bring us to this day, the members of our Visioning Leadership Team: Frank Abrams, Ron Epstein, Gary Kesner, Nina Koppelman, Terri Levin, Barbara Podwall, and Michael Sanders. Our appreciation extends to our attorneys, Joe Brasile and Steve Polivey, our communications consultant Mark Pelavin and our strategic planning consultant, John Lund.

We are grateful for the trust you have placed in the congregation’s leadership, and we look forward to writing this next chapter together. We will continue to keep you informed and invite your questions and engagement along the way.

***Chazak, Chazak, v’Nitchazek - Be Strong, Be Strong and may we be strengthened,***

Gary Slobin, Chair, Building Sale/Leaseback Committee

Jordana Levine, President

Rabbi A. Brian Stoller

Stuart Botwinick, Executive Director