

**SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION  
THANKING RABBI JOSHUA HAMMERMAN  
FOR HIS 37 YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO TEMPLE BETH EL AND THE CITY OF STAMFORD**

**WHEREAS**, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman came to Temple Beth El as its assistant Rabbi in 1987 and became Senior Rabbi in 1992; and will be transitioning to Emeritus status on July 1, 2024 to become Rabbi Emeritus; and

**WHEREAS**, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman has been a champion of inclusiveness and innovation in synagogue life at Temple Beth El, and has focused his efforts on creating a community based on warmth, love and mutual respect; and

**WHEREAS**, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman graduated magna cum laude from Brown University, where he received the prestigious Bishop McVickar Prize in Religious Studies two times, received a master's degree in journalism from NYU, and was then ordained as a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1983; and

**WHEREAS**, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman moved to Stamford in 1987 with his wife, Dr. Mara Hammerman, where they raised their two children; and

**WHEREAS**, in praising Rabbi Hammerman's book "Mensch-Marks: Life Lessons of a Human Rabbi," Senator Richard Blumenthal, a long time member of Temple Beth El, wrote, "These words speak to the truth and force of love—the caring and compassion of a mensch through action not mere words. Rabbi Hammerman's wit and wisdom are no surprise to me; he is my rabbi. But the full tableau of his personal experiences and insights is extraordinary;" and

**WHEREAS**, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman has been active in the wider Stamford community, serving as president of the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut and the Stamford Board of Rabbis, a chaplain for the Stamford Police, and a member of the pastoral advisory committee of Stamford Health Systems; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to his leadership of Temple Beth El, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman is an award-winning journalist, author, and blogger, with his writings being recognized with the Simon Rockower Award from the American Jewish Press Association in 2009, an award from the Religion News Association for excellence in commentary, for articles written for the *Washington Post*, *New York Jewish Week*, and *JTA* in 2018; and first prize for excellence in commentary from the Religion News Association in 2019.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives congratulates Rabbi Joshua Hammerman on his transition to Emeritus status and thanks him for his 37 years of service to Temple Beth El and the larger Stamford community.

*Approved by the 31<sup>st</sup> Board of Representatives  
This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2024*

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Jeff Curtis, President

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Megan Cottrell, Clerk