

## Office of the Mayor



# Proclamation

### Congregation Beth Chaim - 50th Anniversary

**WHEREAS,** in the spring of 1971, two dozen families met at the Hightstown Fire House to discuss the possibility of forming a Reform Jewish Congregation in the Windsors. The result of that meeting was the formation of Congregation Beth Chaim in early 1972, with an initial membership of fifty-one families. A religious school was formed for grades K to 3, which met at different Congregant's homes every Sunday morning. Friday Shabbat services were conducted every other Friday evening at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Windsor. The dream of a small group of visionaries was becoming a reality; and

**WHEREAS,** by 1973, the Temple was sufficiently established to allow its affiliation with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and its members adopted a Constitution that enveloped the highest ideals of an open and dynamic Reform House of Worship; and

**WHEREAS,** by 1977, the Temple finally had a permanent home on Village Road in West Windsor, and our school facilities were moved to the Dutch Neck School. The permanence and success of the Congregation was sealed when Rabbi Eric Wisnia was hired to serve as our Rabbi. Through Rabbi Wisnia's special brand of compassion, warmth and good humor, the membership of Beth Chaim grew rapidly. In fact, by 1980, plans began for a new addition to the building; and

**WHEREAS,** for the next ten years, the Congregation grew both in numbers and in involvement to Jewish ideals. Committees were formed to help Ethiopian Jews, Soviet twinning, outreach programming, scholar-in-residence weekends, Shomrei Tarbut culture programs, college outreach, social action, interfaith activities including an annual Thanksgiving worship service, and a whole gamut of other programs for both congregants and for the community; and

**WHEREAS,** in 2019, Rabbi Wisnia retired as Senior Rabbi after 42 years of service. Rabbi Brian Beal became the interim Senior Rabbi. July 1, 2020, Rabbi Adena Blum officially becomes the Senior Rabbi. After a year of delay because of COVID-19, Rabbi Adena Blum is officially installed as Senior Rabbi on April 23, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** no matter how large the Temple becomes, either in physical size or in number of members, its Board of Directors is dedicated to always practicing those concepts defined in the mission statement: To provide an environment for the learning of Torah; to satisfy the religious, cultural, educational and social needs of the local Jewish community; and to present an understanding of Jewish values to the Community-at-large.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHEN DALINA,** Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim **May 2022, as Congregation Beth Haim's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Month** in Monroe Township.

Dated: May 1, 2022

  
STEPHEN DALINA, MAYOR