

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Elohim of Brooklyn, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of New York State and our nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Elohim of Brooklyn, New York, to be celebrated with a 150th Anniversary Gala to be held at Stage 6 at Steiner Studios in Brooklyn on Saturday, April 27, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its 150-year history, Congregation Beth Elohim (CBE) has been among Brooklyn's largest and most influential Jewish congregations; as the congregation evolved in the mid-19th century, its members blended their German roots with their American identity, growing and adapting their practice of Judaism and communal culture to the American context; and

WHEREAS, Such were the challenges which shaped the congregation from its 1861 founding in downtown Brooklyn, through its relocation to Park Slope in 1909, to the challenges of constructing a second building, the Temple House, in 1929; and

WHEREAS, By the turn of the century, Congregation Beth Elohim had become one of the leading synagogues in Brooklyn, distinguished by its leaders, membership and programs; and

WHEREAS, Pioneering modern Jewish education, Congregation Beth Elohim's leadership was also at the forefront of improving interfaith relations, among other achievements; and

WHEREAS, Through the 20th century to the present, the story of Congregation Beth Elohim exemplifies how immigrant Jews and their descendants remained grounded in their traditions while becoming an integral component of the wider community; and

WHEREAS, Congregation Beth Elohim stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Congregation Beth Elohim of Brooklyn, New York, to be celebrated with a 150th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 27, 2013; fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Congregation Beth Elohim of Brooklyn, New York.