



January 25, 2025

Hello Dear Friends and Deeply Valued Supporters,

On Sunday March 9th the Highland Park Conservative Temple-Congregation Anshe Emeth will hold their Gala 2025 Dinner, where I will serve as their Guest of Honor. I am deeply touched by this tribute from the temple and I hope you will consider joining me at this event or contributing to it.

In their event invitation, the leaders of the temple state that I have been “a true friend of the Jewish community,” and have always been responsive to their needs. They cite my condemnations of the frightening rise of antisemitism in our state, my outreach to synagogues on October 7th, and my attendance at community vigils in support of the State of Israel. I am proud to support the Jewish community at this difficult time and heartened by the gratitude from the leaders of the temple.

My ties with the Highland Park Conservative Temple-Congregation Anshe Emeth are hardly one sided but, rather, a rich and deep relationship. I often remark that Rabbi Eliot Malomet, the spiritual leader of the temple, is ‘my rabbi’ and I have benefited from his counsel, his wisdom, and his warm support for many years. Rabbi Malomet offered the closing benediction at the Borough Council meeting in January 2023 where I was formally sworn in for my full term as Mayor and, as usual, he spoke quite eloquently and very movingly.

Rabbi Malomet is an active participant in my Area Faith Leaders Advisory Group and he frequently gives me thoughtful input that helps shape my policies. He is a true friend and I cannot overstate how much I value his support.

In addition, I count many members of the temple among the most active members of our community, both in civic affairs and in a variety of vital causes. To name a few, I am grateful for the dedicated service of our Councilman Matt Hale, Universal Access Commission co-chair Marlene Tarshish, HP Environmental Commission leader Michael Rosenberg, community activist Natalie Aloyets Artel, and especially, my mentor and our former Mayor, Gayle Brill Mittler. It does not surprise me that when a new leader with roots in the Jewish community steps up in the Borough, he or she often cites the Highland Park Conservative Temple-Congregation Anshe Emeth as their house of worship.

The Highland Park Conservative Temple-Congregation Anshe Emeth is also the source of a great deal of community service and human kindness in our community - what they will call Chesed (Good Works) and Tzedaka (Charity), but I will term as the best examples of Godly behavior in human society. They take good care of their own and they take good care of others in town too. The temple is an engine of good deeds in Highland Park.

For all these reasons, I am proud to accept this honor from the Highland Park Conservative Temple -Congregation Anshe Emeth. I hope you can join me on Sunday March 9th, either by attending the dinner or supporting this remarkable institution.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

*Elsie Foster
Elsie Foster, Mayor
Borough of Highland Park*