

TEMPLE TALK

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Temple Beth Israel

Tammuz—Av 5775

Rabbi's Reflections:

How to Address the Accuser

By: Rabbi David Finkelstein

In his brilliant and hilarious skit "The Devil Toby Welcomes You to Hell," Rowan Atkinson – better known as the actor and writer behind Mr. Bean - plays the Devil. Wearing plastic horns and a purple smoking jacket, Mr. Atkinson introduces himself to the recently departed, explaining that "we try to keep things informal here, as well as infernal." A lost soul asks him whether he can use the restroom. Mr. Atkinson responds, "No, I'm afraid we don't have any toilets. If you'd read your Bible, you might have seen that it was damnation 'without relief.'"

Satan and the Devil are said by some to be one and the same, but the Satan of Jewish literature is vastly different from the character portrayed by Mr. Atkinson. In the *Tanakh*, Satan is a very minor character. Only two books in the Hebrew Bible mention Satan: the Book of Job and the Book of Zechariah. On June 6, 2015, we read about Satan in the haftarah for Parashat Beha'alotkha – a haftarah which comes from Zechariah and includes a vision of the heavenly courtroom. Joshua the High Priest is on trial. Is he fit to be the High Priest in the second temple when the Babylonian exile ends? God is the Judge, an angel defends Joshua, and Satan is the prosecutor. But in Hebrew, it isn't necessary to call Satan "the prosecutor," because that is what *Satan* means in Hebrew: it means "the accuser" or "the adversary." In Zechariah, the angel of God says, speaking directly to *haSatan*, "May God rebuke you, O Accuser; may the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!" (Zechariah 3:2). Here the angel recognizes that only God can rebuke the Accuser. Courtrooms follow very strict codes of behavior, and the heavenly courtroom is certainly no exception.

Is this heavenly courtroom real? Perhaps we are to understand it as a courtroom within all of our hearts. Certainly, we all have a voice within us which accuses us, a voice that finds fault and that prides itself on its ability to crush our spirit. I know that I have felt, at times, that I am

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Office Hours

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9:00am - 12:00pm

The next bulletin will be for August. If you have an article that you would like to submit please get it in to the Temple office before July 15.

Mark's Remarks:

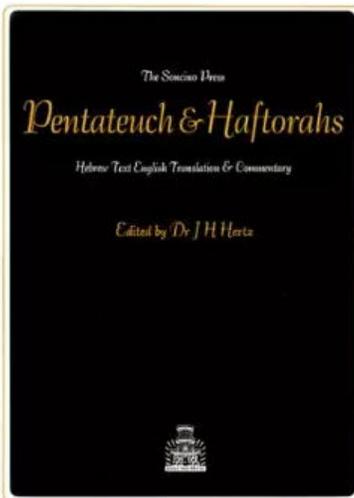
Once in a Generation – New Chumashim for Temple Beth Israel

By: MARK FRYDENBERG

The Ritual Committee received a request earlier in the year from some members of Temple Beth Israel, asking us to consider replacing some of our Hertz chumashim with a more modern edition. They said:

"We think that the Torah reading part of the Shabbat morning [service] should be a meaningful opportunity for learning... to do this, we must be given a translation and commentary that engages our attention, and offers, in an interesting way, a picture of what Judaism really means for us, rather than one that presents... what it means to our Orthodox brothers and sisters."

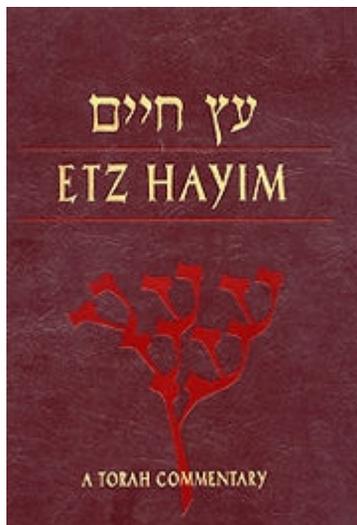
The chumashim that we currently use were edited by Rabbi Joseph Hertz, a Hungarian born rabbi and Bible scholar who lived from 1872 to 1946. He is perhaps best known for his commentary on the Torah, written from 1929 to 1936, and published in 1937 as the one volume *Pentateuch and Haftorahs* that bears his name.



The familiar large, blue volumes have been used in synagogues around the world ever since. Rabbi Hertz's commentary was found in Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform synagogues for most of the 20th Century. In the later part of the last century, however, representatives from each of those movements of Judaism published their own commentaries on the Torah, with interpretations based on the beliefs and values of their own movements. As the Chief Rabbi of England, Rabbi Hertz's commentaries reflected the British orthodox world before the Holocaust, before the creation of the State of Israel. This was a Jewish world very different from the one we live in today, regardless of our Jewish affiliation.

In 1974, the Reform movement published *The Torah: A Modern Commentary*, edited by Reform Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, who died in 2012 at the age of 99. At the time, it was described as "the first liberal Torah commentary ever produced." It featured commentary and gleanings from a variety of sources, Jewish and non-Jewish, Shakespeare, and the Koran.

The Orthodox community responded with the publication of the *ArtScroll Stone Chumash* edited by Rabbi Nosson Scherman in 1993, which draws on biblical sources, rabbinic commentators, and contemporary insights.



In 2001, the Conservative movement published *Etz Hayim: A Torah Commentary*, in cooperation with the Rabbinical Assembly, and the Jewish Publication Society. "Each generation needs to bring forth its own interpreters," said senior editor Rabbi David L. Lieber when the book was published. "This volume addresses the new concerns and contemporary sensibilities of our community." The book contains commentaries by rabbis and lay people, men and women, from the perspectives of Conservative Judaism. Explanations from Chaim Potok explain the basic meaning of the text, while commentaries edited by Rabbi Harold Kushner include insights from both traditional and contemporary sources.

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Mark's Remarks:

Once in a Generation – New Chumashim for Temple Beth Israel

By: MARK FRYDENBERG

(Continued from page 2)

The Ritual Committee has elected to purchase of 50 copies of Etz Hayim: A Torah Commentary. We have had a few of these large, red volumes around the synagogue for a while. With some congregants reading their own copies, and many of our Hertz Chumashim in need of repair or replacement, this is a good time to make the change.

Etz Hayim uses the Jewish Publication Society's modern English translation, so gone are the "thee's" and the "thou's" that made the Hertz translation difficult for contemporary readers. Its Hebrew typeface set to a slightly larger font, and the Haftarat are often formatted as poetry.

We hope that this will be a welcome change at our services and Torah study classes. For those who like the Hertz chumash, it still will be available on Shabbat mornings, though our goal is to have enough copies of Etz Hayim for everyone in attendance.

On behalf of the Ritual Committee, I invite you to be part of this once in a generation opportunity by purchasing a copy of *Etz Hayim: A Torah Commentary*, to donate to Temple Beth Israel. A printed bookplate in the front cover of each book will recognize donors, and the friends, relatives, or life milestones to commemorate with this donation.

We are looking to purchase at least 50 copies, and start using them when we begin reading the Torah reading cycle again at Simchat Torah in the fall. The cost of one copy of the Etz Hayim chumash is \$50. If you are unable to contribute \$60, please make a smaller donation (\$36 or \$18 is recommended) to include your name on a bookplate with other donors. It would be great to have all of Shabbat morning "regulars" and other generous members and friends contribute to this campaign. Thanks in advance for your generous support.

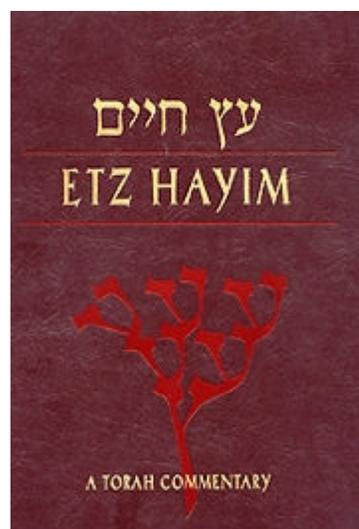
NAME _____

Phone Number _____

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ETZ HAYIM: A TORAH COMMENTARY to Temple Beth Israel.

_____ copies at \$50 each is \$_____ OR

\$_____ donation for a shared bookplate (amount less than \$60)



For each book, please list the donor's name, in honor / memory of, and the person or occasion being commemorated.



**Class A Affiliate of the
Boston Red Sox**

Take Me Out To The...

Living in New York for almost half his life, Lester Macklin rooted for the New York Mets after the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to LA. He switched allegiance to the Boston Red Sox after moving to Massachusetts. He NEVER liked the Yankees!

The Temple Beth Israel Program Committee is planning a trip to LaLecheur Park in Lowell in the afternoon of August 23rd to watch Lowell's Spinners (Red Sox class A affiliate) take on Staten Island (Yankees class A affiliate). This is baseball with the young players who aspire to play in the major leagues.

Maybe August 23rd sounds a long way off, but in reality, we need numbers NOW! Our hope is to amass enough fans so as to fill a bus for transportation to the game.

This will be a fun afternoon so bring the kids and your neighbors as well. This event is open to the public until the bus is filled.

Tear Off and Mail to the Temple: 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA 02453

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of Tickets: _____ * \$25.00 = _____ (amount enclosed)

This price includes the cost of the bus (if we have at least 30 people attend) which will leave Temple Beth Israel at 1:45pm sharp.

TBI Festivals!

Summer 2015

*Harvest Vegetables and Eat 'Em
Schmooze, Listen to Live Music
Learn Torah from the Garden*

Sunday, June 28

11am-12:30pm

Spirituality

Sunday, August 09

11am-12:30pm

Sustainability

Temple Beth Israel

25 Harvard St.

Waltham

Sunday, July 19

11am-12:30pm

Food Security

Sunday, August 30

11am-12:30pm

Sabbatical



for more info, email rabbidavid@tbiwaltham.org

MORE FEASTIVALS COMING IN THE FALL!

Rabbi's Reflections: How to Address the Accuser

(Continued from page 1)

on trial in my own heart. My question is this: how should we address *haSatan*, the accusing voice within us? What can we do to quiet this hurtful voice? In Zechariah's vision, the angel of God elicits God's help in a way appropriate for a courtroom, as if to say, 'Objection, Your Honor! Leading the witness!' The angel appeals to the Judge – God - asking God for help to keep the Accuser in his place, to make sure that he abides by the code of courtroom behavior so that there may be a fair trial. In other words, the haftarah indicates that even an angel needs to call on God's help to keep the Accuser in his place.

A Talmudic story offers a slightly different answer. There once was a man named Flimo who every day used to say, "An arrow in your eye, O Satan!" So Satan disguised himself as a poor beggar and appeared at Flimo's gate on the evening before Yom Kippur. Inside, Flimo was hosting a *se'udat mafseket* – the last meal before the fast. The beggar knocked and Flimo answered. "O gracious host, why are some inside and others outside on an evening such as this?" Flimo let the beggar inside. "O gracious host, why are some seated while others are standing on an evening such as this?" Flimo offered the beggar a chair. "O gracious host, why are some drinking wine while others have none on an evening such as this?" Flimo offered him a cup and immediately the beggar used it as a spittoon. His manners were atrocious. The beggar's face was covered with boils and he was popping them at the table. Flimo became irate. "Behave!" he yelled. Immediately, the beggar dropped dead. News got out that Flimo had killed a poor beggar on the evening before Yom Kippur. Everywhere he went, people stared at him in disgust. Flimo fled to the only private place he knew: the outhouse. There, the beggar appeared to him and revealed his true identity. There in the outhouse, on his knees before the Satan, Flimo cried, "What have I done to deserve this punishment?" And the Satan replied: "You should never say, 'An arrow in your eye, O Satan!' Instead say 'May the Compassionate One rebuke the Satan'" (B. Talmud *Kiddushin* 81a-b).

This last sentence is almost exactly what the angel of God says to God in our haftarah from Zechariah. There are two differences. First, the angel addresses the Satan directly, while the last line of the Flimo story contains no direct address. Second, in the Flimo story, God is called "The Compassionate One," but in Zechariah "Hashem." What might these differences mean?

The haftarah tells us how an angel addresses the Satan: directly, while at the same time appealing for God's help. The Flimo story tells us how a human being ought to address the Satan: politely, indirectly, or not at all. In fact, better just to pray for God to speak to the Satan. And the amazing thing here is that it is the Satan himself who tells us how we should speak to him. The rabbis who recorded this tale put the relevant advice into the mouth of the Accuser! The accusing voice (Satan) will not respond well to insults or threats. In fact, if we insult him, he might make our lives a living hell and ruin our holiest day of the year. The Satan says, 'If you want to convey a message to me, then ask God to speak with me compassionately. I listen to no one but God, and I only listen to God when God speaks to me gently.'

In practical terms, when we are troubled by a voice within us that tries to crush our spirit, we should pray that God will rebuke the accuser, compassionately. We must bestow dignity upon this accusing voice. Never belittle it, and never attack it. It is, after all, a part of our selves. Flimo makes the

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mistake of being informal with the infernal Accuser. Later in our haftarah, Zechariah channels God's voice again: "Not by might and not by power, but by My spirit alone, said the Lord of Hosts." The Accuser shall not be quieted by human might or power. The Accuser is so prickly that only the compassionate spirit of God can move him. Do not address the Accuser, say the Talmudic editors of the Flimo story. Instead address God, the Compassionate One. "Place your hope in God. Be strong and of good courage, and place your hope in God" (Psalm 27).

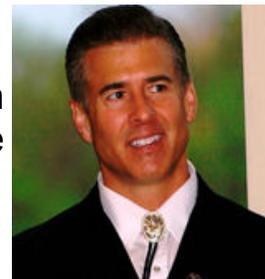
Rabbi Finkelstein

Contact Rabbi David at rabbidavid@tbiwaltham.org or 781-786-8679

Sisterhood News

Did you know that Temple Beth Israel has a Sisterhood? The Sisterhood is open to all female members of Temple Beth Israel. Dues are \$10/year or \$150 for a lifetime membership.

Save the Date: The Sisterhood will be holding a breakfast on Sunday October 18th at 10am, featuring Trooper Dan as the entertainer.



Contact Nessie Baron 781-899-3866 or the Temple Office to join.

Do you like to cook?

Can you help with food shopping?



We're looking for a few volunteers who can help with food shopping or meal preparation for Shabbat lunches and dinners once or twice a month. **Please call Marge Marion at**

[508-561-2338](tel:508-561-2338) if interested.

Save the Date

On Saturday August 22, we will be holding a new member Shabbat Service. We hope to see you here!





July Yahrzeits



Plaque Loc.	Name	Date	Plaque Loc.	Name	Date
2-3	Philip Merowitz	1-Jul Tammuz 14	2-1	Joseph Bloomthal	21-Jul Av 05
3-1	Annie Margolis	1-Jul Tammuz 14	3-1	Sarah Pearl Becker	21-Jul Av 05
3-3	Aaron Mendelsohn	1-Jul Tammuz 14		Roberta Lederman	22-Jul Av 06
	Louise Goldman	1-Jul Tammuz 14	3-3	Abraham Isaac Pedell	22-Jul Av 06
	David Koocher	1-Jul Tammuz 14	1-4	Aaron Sheer	23-Jul Av 07
	Benjamin Cohen	1-Jul Tammuz 14	2-3	Etta Meyerovitz	24-Jul Av 08
	David Freedman	2-Jul Tammuz 15	4-2	Joseph Kaplan	24-Jul Av 08
3-4	Harry Smith	3-Jul Tammuz 15	4-3	Benjamin Lawrence Lerman	24-Jul Av 08
5-4	Irving Altman	4-Jul Tammuz 16	3-4	Chaya Zacharewich	25-Jul Av 09
1-4	Moishe Simon	4-Jul Tammuz 16	3-3	Rachel Leah Ingber	25-Jul Av 09
3-2	Philip Fischer	5-Jul Tammuz 17	6-1	Paul Lewis Ginsburg	25-Jul Av 09
	Louis Goldstein	5-Jul Tammuz 17		Hyman Brown	25-Jul Av 09
5-2	Hannah Canter	6-Jul Tammuz 18		Ida Kaitz	26-Jul Av 10
3-3	Dora Levine	6-Jul Tammuz 18	2-1	Bernard Bloomenthal	27-Jul Av 11
3-1	Bessie Levine Hauser	7-Jul Tammuz 19	2-3	Paul Onigman	27-Jul Av 11
6-4	Beatrice Bloom	7-Jul Tammuz 19		Evelyn Forbes	28-Jul Av 12
3-4	Harry J. Rosenfeld	8-Jul Tammuz 20	6-3	Howard Paul Mermelstein	28-Jul Av 12
4-4	Marc David Marion	8-Jul Tammuz 20	4-3	Coleman Wexler	30-Jul Av 14
1-1	David Bronfman	8-Jul Tammuz 20	4-3	Ellen Leavy	31-Jul Av 15
4-3	Morris Canter	9-Jul Tammuz 21		Father	1-Aug Av 16
1-2	Bessie Gordon	10-Jul Tammuz 22	1-1	Dina Ella Backer	2-Aug Av 17
3-4	Max Sulkin	11-Jul Tammuz 23		Karl Meiselman	2-Aug Av 17
5-3	Ruth Milesky	12-Jul Tammuz 23	2-4	Fannie Zelinetsky	2-Aug Av 17
4-2	Rebecca Wolk	13-Jul Tammuz 24	5-3	Nathan Ullian	3-Aug Av 18
4-1	Mason Griff	13-Jul Tammuz 24	2-4	Samuel Tatelman	3-Aug Av 18
	Irma Orovitz	13-Jul Tammuz 24	3-1	Sadye Canter	4-Aug Av 19
5-2	Charlotte Pearl Shlager	15-Jul Tammuz 26		Mulcan bat Yosef	4-Aug Av 19
5-1	Bella Larks	16-Jul Tammuz 27	3-3	Molly Sheer	4-Aug Av 19
4-1	Abraham Caplan	18-Jul Tammuz 29	5-3	Harold Bloom	4-Aug Av 19
2-1	Esther Canter	18-Jul Tammuz 29	1-4	Hannah Mollie Sheer	4-Aug Av 19
6-3	Andrew Wolf Decker	18-Jul Tammuz 29		Adele Ullian	5-Aug Av 20
5-3	Gladys Milesky	17-Jul Av 01		Hyman Kulin	5-Aug Av 20
6-3	Sylvia Levin	18-Jul Av 02	1-1	Samuel Blackstone	6-Aug Av 21
3-2	Fannie Weiner	18-Jul Av 02		Nadia Shirazi	6-Aug Av 21
3-3	Maurice Tushin	19-Jul Av 03	2-3	Moses Nochemsohn	7-Aug Av 22
3-4	Benjamin Sheer	20-Jul Av 04	1-3	Israel Pill	7-Aug Av 22
6-4	Sylvia Seidman	20-Jul Av 04	5-3	Anna Esther Katz	7-Aug Av 22
4-3	Mary Simon	20-Jul Av 04	2-2	Walter Kaplan	10-Aug Av 25
5-2	Samuel Elkins	20-Jul Av 04	3-3	William Michaelson	11-Aug Av 26
			6-3	Harris Greene	11-Aug Av 26

Thank You

Thanks to those who read Torah, Haftarah, or gave a D'var Torah in May:

Yosi Weintraub	Alan Levine
Rabbi David Finkelstein	Rabbi Sara Meirowitz
Genevieve Fosa	Mark Frydenberg
Bruce Trager	Merrill Griff
Yaron Shragai	Noah Ben Aaron
Susan Holbert	Caroline Nudelman

Please contact mark@tbiwaltham.org to volunteer to read from the Torah or chant a Haftarah, or susan@theindexpros.com if you would like to give a d'var torah in the coming months.

Donations to our Community Garden Projects

Haink Cheng Tu
Rabbis David Finkelstein and Sara Meirowitz
Erika Cohen

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please send it to the Temple Office along with a brief note of who you would like to be remembered.

Please call if you will be attending a weekday morning minyan to say Kaddish so we can help you ensure that 10 people are present.

Donations

Lester and Ellen Macklin, in memory Phoebe Altman.

Lisa Crowley, in memory of Caryl Goldstein.

Alex Lelchhook, in memory of Morris Hollender.

Edith Hollender, in honor of Cantor Elaine Shapiro.

Hella Hakerem, in memory of Lillian Schector.

Yellow Candle Project

Robert Kaitz

Taubman Family

Diana Korzenik

Saturday Kiddush Sponsors

July 4—Sue and Larry Goodman

July 11—Sisterhood

July 25—Alec Simon - in honor of his birthday

**To sponsor a Kiddush lunch,
please contact the temple office.**

Sponsor a Kiddush Lunch

The cost to provide our Kiddush lunch for our usual attendance of 30 to 40 people is about \$150. To ensure that we can continue providing Shabbat lunches into the future, we are asking members, and friends of Temple Beth Israel to sponsor a Shabbat lunch once or twice this year (between now and August 2015). It is a great way celebrate a birthday, wedding or Bar/Bat Mitzvah anniversary, or other milestone with your TBI family. You might also sponsor lunch in memory of a loved one, or just because

To sponsor a lunch, please contribute \$150 to the Shabbat Kiddush fund or, if that amount is prohibitive, please consider co-sponsoring a lunch with another congregant by making a smaller contribution (\$36, \$54, \$72, or any amount you can afford).

We will thank all lunch sponsors at announcements at the end of services, and list names of sponsors in the Temple newsletter. Please send your check to the office along with the date of the lunch you would like to sponsor or co-sponsor, and if there is a special occasion. We will contact you to find out your favorite Kiddush lunch foods to put on the menu.

July 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3 8:06pm	4 Balak
5	6	7	8	9	10 8:03pm Friday Night Service and Potluck @ Dina and Brad Baker's home 6:30pm	11 Pinchas
12 Unveiling for Ben Cohen Beth Israel Memorial Park Time TBD	13	14	15	16	17 7:59pm	18 Matot-Masei
19	20	21	22	23	24 7:54pm	25 Devarim Shabbat Chazon Erev Tisha B'Av
26 Tisha B'Av	27	28	29	30	31 7:46pm	

If not specified, Minyan - Monday and Thursday is at 7:00am and on Saturday at 9:00am



Shabbat Service and Dinner Friday, July 10th, 6:30pm



July's Shabbat service will be followed by a pot luck dinner at the home of Brad and Dina Baker, 97 Hamilton Road, in Waltham, on Friday July 10 starting at 6:30 pm. There is no cost to attend, but please bring a dairy, vegetarian, or pareve appetizer, main or side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Homemade and store-bought items are welcome. We will provide the beverages, challah, wine, and grape juice.

One table at our pot luck dinner will be for store-bought food that carries a hechsher, or kosher certification, and food prepared at home in a kosher kitchen. Another will be for vegetarian food that does not have such a label. Please place the items you bring in the appropriate table when you arrive. This will allow everyone to share a meal together. Please RSVP to the temple office if you are coming.

Thursday Classes with Rabbi Finkelstein

There will be no classes during the Summer months.

Election of Officers

This is an election year at Temple Beth Israel. **The date of our General Temple Meeting will be announced next month.**

As per our current By-Laws regarding the election of officers, the President will appoint a committee to recommend a slate of officers. The term is 2 years.

Members whose names are not on the slate presented by the Nominating Committee and who wish to run for office may place themselves on the ballot by contacting the Temple office in writing at least forty-five days prior to the election meeting.

Nominations from the floor may not be made or accepted at the annual election meeting.

Beth Israel Cemetery

The cost for a single grave is \$2,200 for Temple members.

Non-members are charged an additional \$400 to become members of the Temple. The total for non-members is \$2,600 per grave.

Two graves together are considered a lot. For members a lot costs \$4,400 and for non-members it costs \$5,200

Please contact **Jay Trilling** of Menorah Cemetery Management Corporation, at (857)636-9440 for further information.

Jim Baron
Cemetery Chairman

stamp

25 Harvard Street
Waltham, MA 02454-0182

Phone: 781-894-5146

E-mail: office@tbiwaltham.org

Website: www.tbiwaltham.org

July 2015

Donate on the web
at
www.tbiwaltham.org

- General Fund
- High Holiday Donation
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Carl and Caryl Goldstein Siddur—Memorial Fund
- Morris Hollender Torah Reading Fund
- Children's Services and Programming
- Other, please specify: _____

Temple Beth Israel Donation Form

For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to:

Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA 02454-0182

I have chosen the fund indicated at the right:

(Please use a separate form for each fund. **Minimum donation: \$10**)

Attached is my check in the amount of: \$ _____

The donation is being made

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

Other _____

This donation is made by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____