



Temple Beth Israel

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July 10, 2018

Welcome to Temple Beth Israel!

During the past three years, we have held several community conversations about the future of Temple Beth Israel. As a result, we have created a shared vision for Temple Beth Israel, identifying our strengths, and acknowledging areas where we can improve. Many members felt updating the appearance of the sanctuary and social hall was crucial to create a more inviting, flexible space for prayer and social gathering.

In recent months we have begun to make well-needed building repairs and renovations that will result in a welcoming space that reflects the needs and informality of our congregation today. The windows have been cleaned, the ceiling has been painted, and we will be installing new carpeting and flexible seating in the sanctuary later this summer. We welcome your continued involvement in building for the future of Temple Beth Israel.

Please note that due to the sanctuary renovations, **we will not be assigning seats for High Holy Day services. Our seats will be flexible, and we hope you will be too!**

Membership and High Holy Day Pledge

Once again, the Board of Directors has set the 2018-2019 membership rates based on a **sustaining membership model**. We calculate this sustaining amount by subtracting from our total annual operating budget the amount of income available from sources other than membership and High Holy Day pledges, and then dividing the difference by the expected number of members.

We are pleased to be able to keep the sustaining amount for 2018-2019 the same as last year. The sustaining membership amount is a combination of a required membership contribution and a voluntary High Holy Day Pledge.

■ **Rabbi**
David Finkelstein

■ **Cantor**
Ellen Band

■ **President**
Mark Frydenberg

■ **Vice President**
Lester Macklin

■ **Secretary**
Susan G. Baron

■ **Treasurer**
George Isaac

■ **Membership Secretary**
Ellen Macklin

■ **Board of Directors**

Dina Baker

James Baron

Nessie Baron

Ed Brown

Julie Gagnon

Merrill Griff

Howard Trachtman

Bruce Trager

Phyllis Werlin

Please save the date for our annual congregational membership meeting, on Sunday August 26.
Please attend morning minyan at 9 A.M., and the congregational meeting will follow at 10 am.

- For an **Individual Membership**, the sustaining amount is **\$575** for membership + a voluntary **\$200** High Holy Day Pledge.
- For a **Family Membership**, the sustaining amount is **\$1150** for membership + a voluntary **\$400** High Holy Day Pledge.

We welcome all members to give at a level in which they are comfortable and ensure the congregation will meet its budgeted expenses. While we recognize that most members will be able to meet this membership level, we also know that no one formula is right for every person or family. Therefore, we allow for both those who can give more, and those whose situation requires them to give as much as they are able at this time. If you would like guidance regarding a reduced membership contribution, please contact Rabbi David Finkelstein in confidence at 781-786-8679 during business hours.

We trust you will select an amount that reflects the value you receive from being a member of Temple Beth Israel. Please be thoughtful about your financial ability to contribute and, if you are able, to consider pledging at a higher level so that our Temple can remain open to those who could not otherwise afford to be part of our community. If you give an amount different from the sustaining amount, please indicate on the membership form. If this amount is lower than the sustaining amount, you have our complete confidence; if it is higher, you have our sincere appreciation.

Please indicate the amount of your High Holy Day Pledge on the membership form. You may pay it now if you wish, or we will send you a reminder after Yom Kippur.

Please complete the membership form and return it to the Temple Office with your check before August 20. You can also download a copy of this form from www.tbiwaltham.org, fill it out, and return it in person, by mail or email. The form is required to process your membership, even if you have been a member for several years. If you pay online, a 3% convenience fee applies.

If you need to arrange a payment plan, please call Andrea Baron in the Temple office at 781-894-5146 between 9:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. any weekday. For any other membership questions please email Membership Secretary Ellen Macklin at elles123@aol.com.

Please Support Synagogue Renovations

Renovating our sanctuary happens once every 60 years! **Please be as generous as you can in making an additional pledge, toward the synagogue renovations now that you can fulfill at any time during the next two years.** We will list all donors and supporters. For information about naming opportunities, please contact Mark Frydenberg or the Temple office. You also can encourage others to support Temple Beth Israel through our GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/tbi-synagogue-renovations>.

Sincerely,

Mark Frydenberg, President

Ellen Macklin, Secretary