



Temple Beth Israel

Community | Tradition | Inclusion

August 14, 2023

Dear Temple Beth Israel Member,

Thank you for being a part of our family during the past year, and for staying with us as we navigated our way through “the new normal” of the Covid era, holding in-person services and programs while simultaneously continuing in virtual space to be as inclusive as possible. Working through the ongoing impact of the pandemic as a congregation has continued to teach us the deep value of relationships. Thank you for being part of this engaging community.

This year has brought considerable change, as we said goodbye to Rabbi David Finkelstein and prepare to welcome Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell this month. During this time of transition, we hope you will reaffirm your commitment to Temple Beth Israel for the coming year by renewing your membership. Your continued involvement forms the heart and soul of TBI.

The Board of Directors has increased the recommended sustaining membership contribution this year. These amounts have not changed at all in 4 years, and they represent the maximum of the sliding scale we used for dues 10 years ago. In the meantime, our costs for everything from heat and utilities to building maintenance, food and supplies have increased substantially. Sustaining membership contributions cover less than 30% of our budget. Our endowment has enabled us to continue, but we need to address the deficit in order to be fiscally responsible and ensure the Temple’s future. This increase, while significant, will not solve our fiscal problems. But it’s a very good start.

The recommended sustaining membership amount is:

\$1,000 for an individual

\$2,000 for a family (2 or more)

As always, finances should not deter you from membership. Our sustaining membership model means that **every congregant pays what they can afford, no questions asked**. To make this possible, we establish a recommended sustaining amount to serve as the target and we ask you to consider paying above that if you can to help subsidize those who cannot.

Membership does not automatically renew from year to year. Please affirm your membership in Temple Beth Israel by completing the membership form.

We have attached one to this letter or you can find the form online by visiting our website at <http://tbiwaltham.org/>. In the menu, hover over <Engaging> then select <Become a Member> from the drop-down list. Scroll down the page to download a form or use the online form. Please contact Andrea Baron in the office if you have any questions at 781-894-5146 or office@tbiwaltham.org.

We ask that you complete the form in full, even if you have been a member for many years. You may pay online at the membership page, but we encourage you to pay by check to avoid the additional 3% convenience fee that a credit card payment entails. **Please complete the form and payment no later than September 8.**



Please be as generous as you can to help sustain our sacred community. We value your membership regardless of what you can pay.

You are welcome to pay your sustaining membership contribution up front, later in the year, or in installments. If you would like to arrange a payment plan, please contact Andrea in the Temple office at 781-894-5146 or by email at andrea@tbiwaltham.org.

If you have questions about membership, please contact Edie Rosenberg, Membership Director, at edsrosenberg@gmail.com or 617-232-1838.

We plan to gather in person for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with online access as well. We will soon announce details about High Holy Day services. NOTE: if you would like Childcare and/or Youth Services for the High Holy Days, please contact Andrea in the Temple office so that we will be able to make appropriate arrangements.

Until then, we wish you a relaxing and healthy rest of summer and hope that you will join us on Shabbat mornings at 9:30 am, in person or virtually, and on Friday nights at 5:30 online – with an in-person option the first Friday of the month, and on Thursdays at 8:00 am online for morning minyan. Check our website or newsletter for links to all services, classes, and other events. We would love to see you!

We look forward to being in community with you soon,

Linda Ungerleider
President

Edie Rosenberg
Membership Director

SAVE THE DATE: OPEN HOUSE FOR ALL CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

We will welcome all new members, prospective members, past and current members and guests on **Sunday, August 27**, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Please invite people whom you know who might be interested in learning about TBI. And please plan to attend yourself so that our guests can meet current members. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet Rabbi Ben Chaidell. It's also an opportunity to learn more about ways to get more involved in TBI activities. We will have light refreshments and activities for kids.