



August 14, 2024

Dear Temple Beth Israel Member,

As another year begins, we are grateful for the vibrant, supportive, and inclusive community that we have built together at Temple Beth Israel, and we thank you for being part of it.

This past year we welcomed Rabbi Ben Chaidell as our first full-time rabbi in more than 30 years. His enthusiasm has been transformative and inspiring. Under his leadership we have initiated new programs including our first second-night Passover seder in five years, monthly Sunday morning learning with the rabbi, and increased participation at services. At our monthly Shabbat afternoon "Portraits" program, members share their Jewish life stories, and once a month we read classic Yiddish stories together. These and other member-led programs have strengthened our community and our commitment to our shared heritage and to each other.

During the coming year, TBI has several activities in the works: Watch for a special Tisch and concert in the spring with Hankus Netsky featuring the musical traditions of Morris Hollender (z"l) in honor of what would have been his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; our winter warming center returns as a way for TBI to support the unhoused in our community; Rabbi Ben continues to teach his Torah study and Hot Topics classes; members are offering courses on synagogue skills such as Torah and Haftarah reading and Hebrew literacy; and our NextGen group for members in their 20s/30s offers social connections and increased participation at TBI.

TBI is proud of our commitment to Community | Tradition | Inclusion. Here's some of what we offer in each of these areas:

### Community

Shabbat kiddush lunch every week, monthly  
Shabbat dinners or onegs  
Serve greater Waltham through our warming center  
Social Justice and community volunteering opportunities  
Rosh Chodesh Group  
NextGen Social group  
Social and cultural activities and field trips

### Tradition

Inspirational weekday, Shabbat, and Holiday services led by Rabbi Ben and TBI members  
Opportunities for learning and study  
Holiday celebrations including dinner in the Sukkah, Chanukah candle lighting at City Hall, Purim megillah reading and slide show  
Burial at Temple Beth Israel Memorial Park

### Inclusion

Services available online and in person  
Inclusion committee facilitating full participation of people of all abilities in synagogue life, and promoting sensitivity to diverse populations  
Personalized Bar Mitzvah/ Bat Mitzvah ceremonies

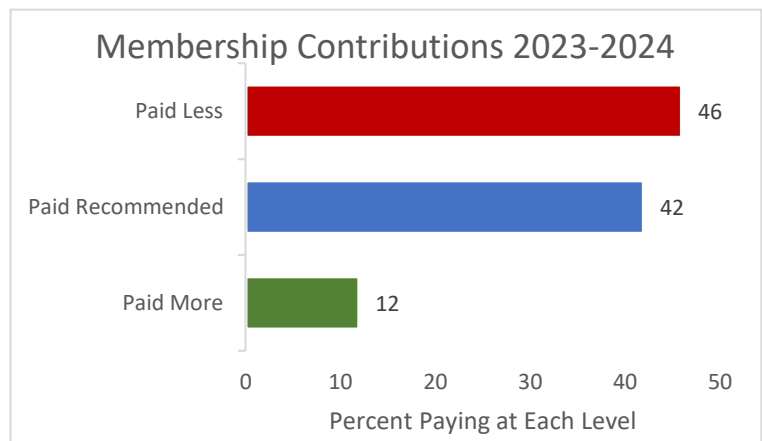
Your membership support allows TBI to provide:

- Rabbinical support through prayer, learning, pastoral care and counseling
- Meaningful high holy day services led by Rabbi Ben Chaidell and Cantor Ellen Band with no extra seat charge for members
- Life cycle events such as brit/namings, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding and funeral services at the synagogue
- Staff support, ongoing maintenance, improvement, and security at our building

Our sustaining membership model asks that you reaffirm your connection to Temple Beth Israel for the coming year by making an annual membership contribution that helps sustain TBI while staying within your financial ability. **For the 2024-2025 year, the Board of Directors recommends sustaining membership contributions of at least \$1,000 per individual and \$2,000 for a family** (one or more adults and any children under the age 25). Please support TBI by giving at an amount both meaningful and in accordance with your circumstances, and that reflects the value you place on your TBI membership.

For this model to work, however, most members need to pay at least the suggested amount, and several members must exceed that amount in their membership contributions to make up for those who cannot meet it.

*In the past year, we have fallen far short of this goal. While many of our members paid the targeted amount, and a few exceeded it with additional membership contributions totaling \$7,050, most did not. We would have met our goal of \$115,000 for membership income if everyone paid the recommended amount. Instead, we had a shortfall of \$26,494, collecting only \$88,506. This year, we are counting on you to help keep TBI sustainable. We need to do better.*



The cost of salaries, utilities, building maintenance, food and supplies have increased substantially in recent years. To be completely transparent, the word **sustaining** is a bit of a misnomer. "Sustaining" membership contributions cover less than 30% of our budget. Our endowment has enabled us to continue, but we need to address the deficit to be fiscally responsible and ensure the Temple's future. Our bylaws specify that we may spend no more than 5% of the current principal in any one year without special Board approval. Last year, the Board had to approve additional spending of principal consistently just to keep the lights on. This is not sustainable.

So... please be as generous as you can when you renew your membership. We value your membership and your participation; both will ensure that TBI remains vibrant well into the future.

Membership does not automatically renew from year to year. You must affirm your membership at Temple Beth Israel by completing a membership form and [submitting it online](#) or completing a printed copy (enclosed) and sending it in with your payment. Forms and more information are also available on the [Become a Member](#) page of our website at [www.tbiwaltham.org](http://www.tbiwaltham.org). We encourage you to pay by check to avoid the additional 3% convenience fee that an online credit card payment entails. Please complete the form and payment no later than September 6.

For questions about making payments or setting up a payment plan, please contact Andrea in the Temple office at 781-894-5146 or [andrea@tbiwaltham.org](mailto:andrea@tbiwaltham.org).

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

We wish you a relaxing and healthy rest of the summer. We hope that you will join us at these upcoming events:

- Thursday morning, Shabbat evening, and Shabbat morning services (see the website, bulletin, or e-blast for schedule)
- Monday, August 19: Ice Cream Social at Pizzi's Farms (7 pm)
- Sunday, August 25: Minyan, Breakfast, and Learning with Rabbi Ben (9 am)
- Friday, September 6: Friday night service and dinner (6:30 pm)
- Sunday, September 8: Membership Open House (11:00 am)
- Sunday, September 22: Exploring TBI's Future (TBD)

and of course, on the High Holy Days. 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*

Linda Ungerleider  
President

*Edie*

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, September 8 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Please invite people whom you know who might be interested in learning about TBI. Plan to attend yourself so that our guests can meet current members. You can also learn about ways to get more involved in TBI activities.





WELCOME TO YOUR  
SYNAGOGUE  
COMMUNITY

TEMPLE  
BETH ISRAEL  
MEMBERSHIP  
OPEN  
HOUSE



Temple Beth Israel  
Community | Tradition | Inclusion

### We offer:

- Shabbat morning services with Kiddush lunch
- Weekly Shabbat evening services online, monthly in person with an “oneg” before or dinner after
- Online Thursday morning minyan
- Monthly Sunday morning service, breakfast, and Hot Topics with Rabbi Ben
- Social Justice, Cultural, and Social Events
- Member-led educational programs
- Rosh Chodesh Group
- NextGen community for those in their 20s / 30s



**Sunday, September 8**  
**11:00 am - 1 pm**  
**25 Harvard Street**  
**Waltham, MA**

### Open House Activities:

Learn with Rabbi Ben Chaidell  
Meet TBI Board Members  
Shmooze with TBI members  
Get info about TBI programs  
Enjoy light refreshments  
Activities for kids

### For More Information:

Edie Rosenberg, Membership Director  
eds Rosenberg@gmail.com | 617-232-1838  
Andrea Baron, Exec. Director  
andrea@tbialtham.org | 781-894-5146

Or online at [tbialtham.org](http://tbialtham.org)

Temple Beth Israel is an egalitarian, traditional synagogue welcoming and including all who seek to enrich their Jewish lives. We are a community that celebrates Shabbat, holidays, and life's daily happenings together; we embrace learning, social, and spiritual growth, and offer a meaningful Jewish presence in the Waltham community.

Accessibility: Off-street parking; ramp at front entrance; lift from lobby to main level; ADA compliant rest room.