



Temple Beth Israel

Community | Tradition | Inclusion

Rabbi

David Finkelstein

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Dina Baker, Vice President

Susan Baron, Secretary

George Isaac, Treasurer

Ramila Maystrovsky, Membership

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Zachary Roe

Howard Trachtman

Bruce Trager

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Phyllis Werlin

Office Manager

Andrea Baron

July 5, 2019

Dear Temple Beth Israel Member,

Thank you for being part of Temple Beth Israel during the past year. You've noticed that we've made major accomplishments in our building as well the social, religious, and cultural services we bring to the community. We do this because of you, and we do it for you.

Your membership and participation enabled us to accomplish so much during the past year:

- We completed our sanctuary renovations, creating a contemporary, welcoming prayer and meeting space.
- We made substantial upgrades to our security and fire alarm systems to ensure the safety of our membership.
- Our Friday night service each month, without dinner, has seen an increasing following of younger participants in their 20s and 30s who enjoy singing and praying together in a multigenerational community.
- We established the Social Justice committee as a standing committee of the Board of Directors. The Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project welcomed Temple Beth Israel as a partner. These acknowledge our dedication to inclusion and social justice in the synagogue and the community.

We could not have done it without your involvement and financial support. We look forward to carrying this momentum into the coming year:

- As a new partner in the Ruderman Synagogue Inclusion Project, we will receive a grant which we will use to further accessibility and inclusion in our building.
- We look forward to more opportunities to learn and sing together at concerts, song sessions, and study sessions with Rabbi David.
- We hope to continue the involvement of recent Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and their families through special programming.

The Board of Directors has set retaining, increasing, and engaging membership as a goal for the coming year. We invite you to participate in ways that speak to you, whether through prayer, learning, music, social justice, or social or cultural events.

The Board of Directors has set the 2019-2020 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.

For an individual, the sustaining amount is \$600 for membership.

For a family, the sustaining amount is \$1200 for membership.

In addition to your recommended membership amount, we request that you consider giving an optional additional pledge now or at the High Holy Days, to be paid during the year. A voluntary High Holy Day pledge of \$200 per person or \$400 per family will help us meet our budgeted operating expenses, though any amount you can give is appreciated and welcomed.

While we anticipate that most members will be able to meet this membership level, we 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 to determine your reduced membership contribution, please contact Rabbi David Finkelstein in confidence at 781-786-8679 during business hours.

We believe that Temple Beth Israel is worthy of your investment, and we ask that you be as generous as you can with a contribution that reflects the value you receive as a member of our community. If you are able, please 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 lower than the sustaining amount, you have our complete confidence; whatever or however you give, you have our sincere appreciation.

Please complete the membership form, even if you have been a member for several years. You also can download the membership form from our website at <http://tbiwaltham.org/> (click on *Engage* then *Become a Member*). Fill it out, and return it in person, by US mail or email. If you pay online, an additional 3% convenience fee applies. Please return it to the Temple Office with your payment before August 30.

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 Ramila Maystrovsky at ramilamay@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Mark Frydenberg,
President



Ramila Maystrovsky,
Membership Secretary

SAVE THE DATE: OPEN HOUSE SHABBAT FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

We will welcome prospective members as our guests on **Friday, August 23**, at services beginning at 6:30 pm, and dinner following, and **Saturday, August 24**, at services beginning at 9 am with lunch following around noon. Please invite people who you know who might be interested in learning about TBI to come with you, and contact the Temple office with the names of your guests so we can prepare ample food. Please plan to attend yourself so our guests can meet current members.