

**Rabbi**

David Finkelstein

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Mark Frydenberg, President  
Dina Baker, Vice President  
Susan Baron, Secretary  
George Isaac, Treasurer  
Jessica Benjamin, Membership

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Catherine Cantrell  
Julie Gagnon  
Merrill Griff  
Ben Nudelman  
Howard Trachtman  
Devin Shmueli  
Bruce Trager  
Linda Ungerlieder  
Phyllis Werlin

**Office Manager**

Andrea Baron

August 18, 2020

Dear Temple Beth Israel Member:

Thank you for being a member of Temple Beth Israel during the past year, and for staying with us during these difficult times. We are so glad that you are part of the Temple Beth Israel community. Whether you joined us in person earlier in the year or online on Zoom for our various services or activities since March, we are glad to have you.

Community is so important – especially now – and Temple Beth Israel is here for you. Our newly expanded Chesed (Caring) Committee has been checking in with many of our members, especially those who may not have Internet access. Our Friday night Shabbat Shalom calls give members the opportunity to share the good things that happened during the week. We also gather on Zoom for services on Shabbat mornings, and more recently, on Thursday mornings to support members saying Kaddish. Learning sessions with Rabbi David, social events, and even a virtual progressive Shabbat dinner have offered additional opportunities for members to stay connected with the Temple Beth Israel community online.

Even though we are not currently occupying our building with activities, much is still happening at 25 Harvard Street. Work is beginning to renovate the restroom in the family room at the back of the social hall, to make it handicap accessible. Our gardens are blooming with flowers and produce for our Food Access programs. Andrea Baron is managing our daily operations, and Marilyn Racette has been keeping an eye on the building systems and cataloging our library. Rabbi Finkelstein and Cantor Band have been planning our High Holy Day services as we make the transition online.

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we ask you to reaffirm your commitment to Temple Beth Israel for the coming year. Your continued involvement means a lot to us. We understand that these are unusual times with some of our members facing financial hardship. The Board of Directors has kept the recommended membership amounts the same as last year, based on a sustaining membership model. For an individual, the sustaining amount is \$600. For a family, the sustaining amount is \$1200. In addition to your

recommended membership amount, we request that you consider giving a High Holy Day pledge, or a pledge to pay during the year. A voluntary pledge of \$200 per person or \$400 per family will help us meet our budgeted operating expenses, though we appreciate any amount you can give.

If you are experiencing a financial hardship, especially this year, please do not let that deter you from becoming a member or renewing your membership with Temple Beth Israel. We want you to be part of our community. Please give, as you are able. For guidance to determine a reduced membership contribution, please contact Rabbi David Finkelstein in confidence at 781 786 8679 during business hours. If you are among those fortunate to be able to contribute above the requested amount, we greatly appreciate your extra donation. Your generosity will defray expenses so that the synagogue can continue to operate to its fullest capacity even during the current crisis.

Please complete and return the membership form to confirm your membership with Temple Beth Israel. **You can find the form by visiting our website at <http://tbiwaltham.org/> and click on *Engage then Become a Member*.** If you need a printed copy, please contact the Temple Office. Please complete it even if you have been a member for several years. We encourage you to pay by check. If you pay with a credit card, an additional 3% convenience fee applies. Please return your payment before September 8. To arrange a payment plan, please call Andrea Baron in the Temple office at 781 894 5146 between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm during the week. For any other membership questions, please contact Jessica Benjamin, Membership Director, at [jlmedia@gmail.com](mailto:jlmedia@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at our virtual open house (see below), at services online during the High Holy Days, and back on Harvard Street when it is safe for us to return.

Sincerely,



Mark Frydenberg  
President



Jessica Benjamin  
Membership Director

**SAVE THE DATE: MEMBERSHIP VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE! Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

Drop in on Zoom between 10 am and 12:00 pm to meet and talk with current and prospective members of TBI. Join Rabbi David Finkelstein and members of the TBI Board of Directors for short discussions on *Practicing Judaism during the Pandemic*, and *How will Jewish Practice Change when Things Get Back to Normal?* Learn about Chesed, Social Justice, Religious Practice, and Inclusion at TBI. Win prizes at the raffle at the end of each hour. You must sign up beforehand to receive the Zoom link. To sign up, visit the *Become a Member* page of the TBI website. Feel free to invite guests who may be interested in learning about Temple Beth Israel to join you.