

2020 - 2021 Membership Dues July 2020



Dear Temple Beth-El Family:

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

It has been several months since Temple Beth-El had to shutter its doors in order to help our community contain the spread of Covid-19. Many of us have experienced anxiety and fear, as well as loneliness and isolation as a consequence of this pandemic. Connecting with others, which is such a basic human need, has been challenging. We have all had to adapt and find new ways to connect with friends and family, and carry out our daily activities. As I write this letter, Temple Beth-El has not yet resumed in-person religious services. However, our Re-Opening Committee has been working diligently to create guidelines for re-opening, keeping the health and safety of our congregants at the forefront of any decisions that are made. In the meantime, Temple Beth-El continues to provide the support and services that our community needs and deserves.

Our clergy continue to provide pastoral care, organize and facilitate life cycle events including virtual shiva services and virtual b'nai mitzvah. We continue to hold daily morning minyan and Shabbat services virtually on Zoom to provide continuity, to raise spirits, and to create a supportive space to connect and pray together.

Thanks to our Education Director and teachers, we were quickly able to transition our youth education programs – Ivrit, Religious School, and Gesher to a virtual platform.

In place of Mitzvah Day this year, we instituted "Mitzvah Now." This initiative has successfully matched a number of our younger members with at-risk congregants in order to help with errands and essential shopping.

We are currently in the process of purchasing equipment to live stream our High Holiday Services. Live streaming will allow our vulnerable congregants and those who choose to not come to synagogue at this uncertain time to stay in the safety of their homes.

There is a Jewish proverb that says, "A little bit of light pushes away a lot of darkness." Our congregation has shown that there is light during these sometimes dark and troubling times. We stand resilient, strong, and determined to rise above the challenges presented by this worldwide pandemic. In order to support our collective mission of helping Temple Beth-El be a vehicle for creating the light through the darkness, your continued commitment and membership to Temple Beth-El is paramount. Please note that this there is 0% increase in our dues this year.

We understand that some people are experiencing financial challenges during these times; so we are asking those who are blessed with the ability to give a bit more to please join our Mitzvah Circle. Joining our Mitzvah Circle will allow struggling individuals and families to continue their membership.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE MITZVAH CIRCLE

Mitzvah Circle members voluntarily add a 30% premium to their base dues. Your generosity in subscribing at this level helps us assist those unable to afford TBE's regular membership rates.

As in the past, we offer two discount options. (See table on reverse side for details.)

The enclosed statement was prepared by our Director of Operations & Programs, Susan Canning, and is based on actual dollar amounts established for your particular dues category, as well as school fees for members with school-age children. We offer monthly or quarterly options, and automatic payment via credit card if needed. Please [contact Susan](#) to arrange a payment plan or with any questions.

Thank you for your support of Temple Beth-El and your prompt response to this notice

Donna Gordon

Donna Gordon, Temple Beth-El Board President

2020 - 2021 Membership Dues*

1. Discount for Early Payment (see table below)

- Pay your annual dues and associated fees IN FULL before the end of August, and save 2 - 2½% (see table). Simple. The synagogue gets prompt working capital; you get a discount.

2. Discount for Cash (see table below)

- Pay your annual dues and associated fees IN FULL before the end of December by CASH, CHECK, or tradable SECURITIES, rather than by credit card, and save (2 - 2½%). TBE avoids transaction fees, you benefit!

The above discounts may be combined! Pay TBE dues in full by **August 31** using cash, check, or securities, and claim both discounts.

Optional Discounts and Mitzvah Circle

Amount listed on the enclosed statement as "DUES 2020-21"	Amount to subtract for EITHER qualifying discount	Amount to subtract for BOTH qualifying discounts	Please consider adding a <u>MITZVAH CIRCLE</u> contribution
From \$100 to \$229	\$3	\$6	\$60
From \$230 to \$349	\$6	\$12	\$90
From \$350 to \$499	\$9	\$18	\$120
From \$500 to \$749	\$16	\$32	\$210
From \$750 to \$899	\$18	\$36	\$250
From \$900 to \$959	\$21	\$42	\$280
From \$960 to \$1199	\$22	\$44	\$300
From \$1200 to \$1299	\$28	\$56	\$368
From \$1300 to \$1399	\$30	\$60	\$410
From \$1400 to \$1749	\$31	\$62	\$450
From \$1750 to \$1900	\$42	\$84	\$550

* If your current financial situation makes it difficult or impossible for you to pay your dues, Temple Beth-El is ready to assist. To confidentially request a form, email info@tbeny.org with your request. It will also be available on the synagogue website under "membership." Mail the completed form to "Dues Assistance" c/o Temple Beth-El. Additionally, forms may always be obtained from the Temple Beth-El office.