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Communications Coordinator

Karol Tran

Program Coordinator

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Dear Prospective Member,

Thanks so much for expressing interest in Temple Beth El. It is truly a special community and we hope these materials provide you any information you are looking for about it. If you have any questions about membership, please contact our Executive Director, Bonni Pomush at 949-362-3999 extension 213 or email her at bpomush@tbesoc.org.

While our clergy, administrative and teaching staff have had to make adjustments to address safety concerns brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, they continue to dedicate themselves and resources to creating virtual programming that touches the hearts and minds of members of all ages. Our broad range of activities, programs, and services creates many avenues for each of us to become engaged in our synagogue life and to develop strong relationships with others in our Temple Beth El community. Our volunteer driven committees and auxiliaries have continued meeting virtually to create alternative programming to keep our community connected. We look forward to sharing this special community with you!

A secure future for Temple Beth El depends upon the dedication and investment of all our members in our community. In all the ways you choose to take part in our community – participating in prayer and study, volunteering in social action programs, attending High Holy Day services, celebrating *simchas* – your generous financial support is a key ingredient in our recipe for success.

Annual contributions are a gift that we each make to help keep the doors open and programming running. Each year, we ask you to determine your annual, tax-deductible contribution to our Temple community, based on your ability to assume a fair-share of our operating budget. While no one will be denied membership based on finances, we hope that you will make giving tzedakah to Temple Beth El a priority.

Our community is a bit different from others in respect to the financial aspects of membership. Our Board (with the help of a hard-working task force) created a membership structure that includes the following:

1. AVERAGE COST STRUCTURE

For our most recent fiscal year, the cost to operate our synagogue averaged \$4,500 per member family. (This includes a \$180 security assessment.) We hope you take this information into consideration when determining how much you contribute to maintaining our community. **To be clear, your membership contribution can be ANY amount. It is 100% up to YOU to determine.** We also know that money isn't the only resource available, and

The Samuelli Center for Progressive Judaism

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Jodi Halbreich

Vice President Judaism in Action

Evan Wohl

Vice President Membership

Lainey Mitzman

Vice President Education

Dayna Herz

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Merritt Weiss

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we greatly appreciate gifts of time and talents to supplement your annual giving. Anything you can do to help will contribute to reducing our operating costs and thus lower the average cost per member family.

2. PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP

Members are an integral part of our temple family; therefore, instead of asking "Do you wish to continue to be a member?" each year, we will only ask you annually to reevaluate your financial investment in our community. You will remain a member unless you advise us otherwise.

3. SUSTAINER SOCIETY

We created a Sustainer Society to celebrate and acknowledge those who contribute annually at or above the average cost per member family (this year \$4,500). We are incredibly grateful to those of you who are able to contribute at this level, and we show our appreciation with benefits such as BE Sisters and Men's Club membership, invitations to private events, and special recognition during the year.

We hope that those of you who have the financial capability to do so will (1) support the temple at the Sustainer Level or higher, and (2) designate additional amounts to our *People Helping People* campaign to help sponsor membership for families who cannot afford to contribute their full "Fair Share". With your financial support, we will continue to thrive as the Jewish hub in South Orange County – now and for generations to come.

L'shalom,

Amy Packer
President

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