

# *Temple Beth El*

## *Riverside, California*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Riverside Temple Beth El, we are delighted that you are interested in membership at our Synagogue. We are proud of the quality of our spiritual, educational and social life here. We are a diverse community serving the breadth of Jews in the Riverside area, welcoming interfaith and GLBT families. Please join us for Friday night Shabbat Services, or any of our Shabbat, Festival, Social or Education programs, and “try us on for size.” We expect you will find many interesting ways to connect at TBE. Please visit our website at [www.tberiv.org](http://www.tberiv.org) or call (951) 684-4511 for an updated listing of services times and other activities.

We have activities and educational programs for varied interests and ages. New members are encouraged to become active as participants and volunteers. Volunteering will give you a wonderful way to meet other members and quickly make friends in our community.

We will be happy to answer any questions about membership you may have, and look forward to speaking with you personally. Feel free to contact any of the following people with any questions or concerns you may have:

Rabbi Suzanne Singer, Rabbi and Educator – (951) 684-4511 or [rabbisinger@tberiv.org](mailto:rabbisinger@tberiv.org)  
Elise Haton, Administrator – (951) 684-4511 x1 or [admin@tberiv.org](mailto:admin@tberiv.org)

If you wish, feel free to call the office to set up an appointment with the Rabbi. Many questions may be answered by your review of the following pages, which also provide information about membership dues. We have also enclosed a copy of *Chai Lights*, our monthly Temple bulletin.

We are sure you will find Temple Beth El to be a welcoming, enriching and supportive Jewish community, which will be further enriched by your participation and support.

Shalom,

Rabbi Suzanne Singer

Rusty Russell- Temple President

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**RIVERSIDE TEMPLE BETH EL—Your Central Address for Riverside Jewish Life**  
2675 Central Ave • Riverside, CA 92506  
Phone: (951) 684-4511 • Fax: (951) 684-8437 • E-mail: [admin@tberiv.org](mailto:admin@tberiv.org)  
Website: <http://tberiv.org>

# Temple Beth El

Riverside, California

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Adults** – Please note that at least one adult member of your household must be Jewish in order to apply for membership.

	<i>Adult A</i>	<i>Adult B</i>
	[ ] Mr. [ ] Mrs. [ ] Ms. [ ] Miss [ ] Dr. _____ Other	[ ] Mr. [ ] Mrs. [ ] Ms. [ ] Miss [ ] Dr. _____ Other
Last Name		
First Name		
Hebrew Name (in English)		
Are you:	[ ] Jewish [ ] Not Jewish	[ ] Jewish [ ] Not Jewish
<b>Birthdate</b>		
Is the other adult your spouse/ domestic partner?	[ ] Yes [ ] No	[ ] Yes [ ] No
Home Address		
City/State/Zip		
Home Phone		
Cell Phone (Is it OK to publish it?) Yes ( ) No ( )		
E-mail address		
Occupation		
Business Name		
Business Address		
City/State/Zip		
Business Phone		
How did you hear about us?		

**Children** – Please complete as it applies to each of your children residing with you. If you have more than four children, please photocopy this page.

	<i>Child 1</i>	<i>Child 2</i>	<i>Child 3</i>	<i>Child 4</i>
Last Name				
First Name				
Hebrew Name (in English)				
Birthdate				
Sex	[ ] Male [ ] Female			
Grade in school				
College Student	[ ] Yes [ ] No			

**Yahrzeit Information** – Please list names and dates of loved ones for whom you wish Yahrzeit (remembrance) notices sent.

<i>Name of deceased</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Secular date or</i>	<i>Hebrew date</i>

**Please contact me with information about–**

<u>Programs/Activities</u>	<u>Adult A</u>	<u>Adult B</u>	<u>Opportunities for Service</u>	<u>Adult A</u>	<u>Adult B</u>
Adult B'nai Mitzvah			Open Arms Committee		
Sr.Chavurah/Social Groups			Marketing and Communication		
Choir			Religious Practices		
Sisterhood			Religious Education		
Adult Education			Gift Shop Volunteer		
Torah Study			Social Action		
Shabbat Services			Adult Education		
Tot Shabbat			Fund Development		
Social Events			Buildings and Grounds		
			Office Support		
			Youth Group		

**My family would like specific assistance with the following:**

Conversion	
Items specific to interfaith families	
Weddings	
Baby Namings	
Grief Counseling	
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	

**I (we) have skills/talents that I (we) would like to share with the congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CONGREGANT \_\_\_\_\_

**2019 Pledge/Dues/Payment & Signature** - Please complete each section

**1. Your Dues Pledge & Maintenance Facility Fee Arrangements:**

1. I/We will pay membership dues:  Annually  Semi-annually  Quarterly  Monthly  
 (Payments are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of those months appropriate for your payment schedule)

I understand that in the absence of a new pledge form, Temple Beth El will increase my annual dues pledge by the Riverside County Cost of Living Index for that year. – Please initial \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Annual Dues Pledge:**

a. 2019 Dues Pledge..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Additional increase for Rabbi Tamid Fund **(Optional)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Facility fee (\$18/month)..... \$ 216 \_\_\_\_\_

**Arza – to support Israel (must be a separate payment) (Optional)** \$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ **(may not be on payments)**

*Please sponsor a religious School snack (Optional)* \$ 65 \_\_\_\_\_ **(may not be on payments)**

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Help us save mailing costs by providing your email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Payment method**

Check or money order (preferred)  
 Visa or MasterCard – Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ C.V.V. #\* \_\_\_\_\_

Billing address \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give permission to Temple Beth El to charge my credit card for the amount of the *Total due* listed above; and to charge my card for any other Membership payments due this year based upon my choice of payment schedule above.

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Signatures**

Adult A Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult B Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Minimum dues:** \$1,200 per family  
 \$800 per single member  
 \$600 per single retiree \$800 partners/couple retirees

**Annual 2% Fair Share Dues Chart**

Household Income	Fair-Share Dues	Household Income	Fair-Share Dues
0-\$60,000	\$1,200 or minimum	\$120,000-\$140,000	\$2,400-\$2,800
\$60,000-\$80,000	\$1,200-\$1,600	\$140,000-\$160,000	\$2,800-\$3,200
\$80,000-\$100,000	\$1,600-\$2,000	\$160,000-\$180,000	\$3,200-\$3,600
\$100,000-\$120,000	\$2,000-\$2,400	\$180,000-\$200,000	\$3,600-\$4,000
		Over \$200,000	2% of Gross Income

# Explaining the Dues Structure for Membership in Temple Beth El<sup>1</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

Every Jew has a stake in maintaining the synagogue as a place in which Judaism is fostered and maintained. The members of a synagogue are people who, of their own free will, have joined together to maintain a Jewish institution as a house of worship, a house of learning, and a house of assembly. The synagogue has become the social as well as the religious meeting place for Jews in America. It has taken the place of the shtetl, the neighborhood, as the place in which community is created.

A synagogue is much more than a membership organization: It is a congregational home. As a member of Temple Beth El you are not strictly paying dues per se, but are making an annual commitment to support the mission, vision, and goals of the congregation. As a member, you are encouraged to contribute according to your financial ability. That is the essence of *tzedakah*—justice and righteousness—as our tradition teaches it.

Members must support the synagogue so that there is a place in which they can celebrate *simchahs* and all their life-cycle events and from which they can receive support when it is needed. Without your members' steadfast support, the synagogue will not be there for its members when they need it.

It is important not view synagogue membership as a fee for services rendered but rather as a means of supporting a community. Consider that the synagogue is not different from your extended family and that just as you do not participate in every get-together that your extended family has, so you may not necessarily participate in every event held at the temple. This innate commitment that impels support of family requires a similar commitment to the temple family.

We contribute to our community even if we do not choose or use its programs. As good citizens, we accept this obligation. By insuring the future of our congregation through adequate financial support, we are doing our utmost to protect our Jewish future and that of our children, as well as of generations to come. Those who came before us preserved our Jewish heritage for us. Our obligation is to do the same for our children.

Membership dues cover only a fraction of our annual operating costs. Temple Beth El prides itself on providing an outstanding religious community for its membership. These member dues are used to support the activities and programs of Temple Beth El that are crucial to our mission, but are not self-sustaining financially. Every family or single individual is asked to make a pledge when they become a part of Temple Beth El.

## FAIR SHARE SUPPORT SYSTEM

Temple Beth El uses the Fair Share Support system for assessment of membership dues, with a minimum payment of \$100 per month plus the \$18 monthly facility fee. Fair Share is based on the following biblical concept:

*EVERY MAN SHALL GIVE AS HE IS ABLE ACCORDING TO THE BLESSING OF  
ADONAI, THY GOD, WHICH ADONAI HAS GIVEN THEE.  
DEUTERONOMY 16:17*

A Fair Share Support System recognizes the traditional Jewish belief that financial support of our religious institutions, based on ability to contribute, is a moral obligation incumbent upon all, regardless of personal use. TBE recognizes that families have individual circumstances that make the \$100 per month or 2% dues amount difficult. No one will be denied membership based on financial concerns. If the minimum or 2% fee is

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<sup>1</sup> Much of the text from this document was adapted from *Give As God Has Blessed You: Rethinking Dues*, 2004 Union for Reform Judaism.

unaffordable please contact the finance chair, who will arrange an acceptable dues amount. This discussion will remain completely confidential.

At Temple Beth El, Fair Share dues are self-assessed. That is, congregants assess an appropriate contribution as *2% of the member's family gross income*. We accept a congregant's own selection of the appropriate dues level assessment as many members will want and will be able to assess themselves on a much higher basis.

Following is a Dues Schedule to use as a guideline to help you assess your Fair Share dues. Of course you may always pledge more:

<b>Income Level</b>	<b>Standard Dues</b>	<b>Income Level</b>	<b>Standard Dues</b>	<b>Income Level</b>	<b>Standard Dues</b>
\$60,000	\$1,200	\$100,000	\$2,000	\$250,000	\$5,000
\$65,000	\$1,300	\$125,000	\$2,500	\$300,000	\$6,000
\$70,000	\$1,400	\$150,000	\$3,000	\$350,000	\$7,000
\$80,000	\$1,600	\$175,000	\$3,500	\$400,000	\$8,000
\$90,000	\$1,800	\$200,000	\$4,000	\$500,000	\$10,000

### **FINANCIAL HARDSHIP**

Potential members will never be turned away if they are unable to pledge the standard dues level as the result of financial hardship. If such is your case, simply explain your situation to the Membership Chairman and an accommodation will likely be made on your behalf.

### **FACILITY FEE**

The dues that Temple Beth El receives from members help meet current operating expenses, such as the costs of clergy and other staff, but they cover only the most basic forms of maintenance, such as pruning and minor plumbing repairs. All significant maintenance needs are paid for out of the Capital Improvement Fund. In the past, each new family joining Temple Beth El was required to make a pledge to the building Fund in addition to their dues. Many current members made contributions through such pledges. This practice was later discontinued, at a time when the mortgage had been paid off, and the Capital Improvement Fund appeared to be amply funded. Our Temple building is now over 40 years old, and like all facilities of its age, has increasing maintenance needs. In recent years, the Capital Improvement Fund has been greatly depleted by the need to replace air conditioners, resurface the parking lot, etc. To replenish this fund, and keep up with the ongoing maintenance needs of TBE, all member households of Temple Beth El are asked to pay a Facility Fee of \$18 per month. As the balance in this fund is restored, the Temple will be able to budget many forms of maintenance that are currently being deferred, as well as address emergencies that arise.