



TBE Membership Renewal

Chaverim,

At this time last year, many of us at TBE were filled with uncertainty about what the impact of the pandemic would be - on the lives of our members, and thereby the life of our community as a whole.

As we begin this new fiscal year and look toward the start of 5782 in just two short months (Yes! The holidays are early this year!), we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the participation and steadfast financial support of our members throughout this challenging year - we simply could not have done it without you. Thank you for your continued support and participation!

Remember that we have an open dues policy. If your current dues contribution has become burdensome, we encourage you to lower it. Or, if you are able to consider a modest increase, it would go a long way toward helping us meet our financial obligations. Since we last assessed the cost of membership in 2017, our operating expenses have increased at a rate of 15%, and we have undertaken a comprehensive plan to implement critical capital repairs throughout our building. To mitigate the impact of these growing expenses on our members, we have worked to diversify and grow income sources that do not rely solely on voluntary contributions. We estimate that with the support of these additional revenue streams, the cost of membership has increased approximately 6% over the past four years. We provide these numbers simply as a point of reference, and encourage you to choose any dues amount that feels appropriate and meaningful to you.

Thank you, and we hope to see you August 18th for a celebration in honor of you, our members, in our beautiful courtyard! (details below)

L'Shalom,

Jonathan Gelchinsky, President
Rabbi Carolyn Braun
Kate Shalvoy, Executive Director

[Membership Update Form](#)

If you do not wish to make any changes, there is no need to complete the Membership Update form.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting this week. Though this past year was much different than any other year we've had, TBE has made tremendous progress on advancing strategic initiatives to make our community more inclusive, our building more sustainable, and to help increasingly more people find a sense of meaning and connection in Jewish life. If you weren't able to make it and would like to scroll through the recording, you can find that [here](#).

New Website

Kate and Zoe are thrilled to present TBE's new website! You can find it in the same place, www.tbemaine.org, with easy access to all of the features you'll need: [donation/payment form](#), [event registration](#), [KBE registration](#), and more! We still have more exciting additions that we plan to introduce, including a member portal and other great resources, so stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!



[Visit Our New Website](#)

Re-Opening Update

The time has come! TBE's much awaited re-opening is here! Here are some key takeaways from the meeting:

- *Office:* The office will be open and answering phones Tuesday-Thursday from 9am-2pm. Outside of those times, we will still be reachable by email.
- *Kabbalat Shabbat:* Weekly Friday night services have been outdoors. We will be transitioning to having a mix of indoors/outdoors services, so make sure to check the confirmation email for the exact location of the service.
- *Shabbat Morning Services:* Services have continued to be on Zoom Saturday mornings. We are hoping to start indoor, Shabbat morning services starting mid-August once our large sanctuary renovation is complete.
- *Masks:* Masks outdoors are optional, unless you are sitting next to each other and singing (such as during Kabbalat Shabbat). Masks are required at all times when you are inside the building.
- *High Holidays:* As of right now, we are planning on having the High Holidays similar to services pre-pandemic, with the exception that everyone will be required to be masked indoors. Additionally, kids' services will be held outdoors under a tent.

A New Normal: Weekly Services Will Return to the Large Sanctuary in August

Over the last year, many of us had an opportunity to consider whether the status quo was really best serving us. This was indeed the case when thinking about our prayer spaces at TBE. So, when Rabbi Braun raised the idea of returning to the large sanctuary for regular Shabbat services, the idea quickly gained momentum. Aside from the fondness many of us feel for the large sanctuary, it was clear that having services, handicap restrooms, and Kiddush in the lower lobby would be a great solution to the accessibility issues we faced when praying in the small chapel. Additionally, being in the large sanctuary gives us plenty of space for social distancing.

To adapt the space for this new use, renovations are now under way to replace the flooring and chairs, so that we can configure chairs in ways that feel appropriate for any kind of minyan, whether large or small. This project is scheduled to be completed in early August, and we look forward to making an announcement soon to let you know the date we plan to return to in-person services in the sanctuary!

Save the Date - Courtyard Cookout

Join us on **Wednesday, August 18 at 5:30pm** for an opportunity to eat delicious food, listen to live music, and enjoy our beautiful new courtyard together!

TBE Budget

TBE is set to finish the 2021 fiscal year with a \$70,000 surplus, due to Sherri and Josh Filler's efforts to create a conservative budget, obtain a PPP loan to help cushion us through the uncertain year, and generosity of TBE's membership. Because of your dedication and willingness to support us through this unprecedented year, the Board was able to pass a balanced budget for the 2022 fiscal year. *Todah rabah!* Thank you so much!

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