

SACRED GIFTS INITIATIVE

In years past, Temple Beth El has approached the annual membership campaign using the one-size-fits-all dues model employed by most Reform synagogues. We now realize that, in reality, this one size fits almost no one, and it fails to reflect our sacred teachings that to be part of a Jewish community is to be in a covenantal relationship with the synagogue and each other. After much consideration and study, we present to you our sacred gifts initiative.

“All those of age shall appear before Adonai your God in the place of God’s choosing three times a year: on the Festival of Passover, on the Festival of Shavuot, and on the Festival of Sukkot; and no one shall appear before Adonai empty-handed. All persons shall give as they are able, according to the blessing that Adonai your God has given you.” [Deuteronomy 16:16–17]

Temple Beth El is the community you can count on any day and at any time

- to respond to your needs as you face life’s many challenges
- to welcome and educate your children
- to nurture friendships
- to help you find your own higher purpose and lift you up to become your best self.



“Surely God is in this place” are the words inscribed above our Ark. And in this place, we come to learn, to pray, and to find community. In this place, we are lifted up by our Temple family in times of joy and celebration, and we are embraced by our Temple family in times of hardship and sorrow. In this place we find ourselves inspired and strengthened, sheltered and comforted, challenged and nurtured. “And Jacob said, ‘Surely God is in this place!’ And he called the place Beth El.”

Temple Beth El is the community you can count on any day and at any time — to respond to your needs as you face life’s many challenges, to welcome and educate your children, to nurture friendships, to help you find your own higher purpose and lift you up to become your best self.

And you, the members of our Temple family, are the ones Temple Beth El counts on every day to sustain our community, and insure a bright future for our children and the generations to come.

Consider the question: What are the many ways in which Temple Beth El has been a blessing in my life? *“All persons shall give as they are able, according to the blessing that Adonai your God has given you.”* What is the gift that fittingly reflects God’s blessings upon me? How does Temple Beth El sustain my family and me in times of need and crisis throughout our lives? How does my giving insure and inspire the Jewish future of our congregation’s children? These are the questions we hope you will ask yourself as you contemplate your sacred gift — your annual commitment — to Temple Beth El for the coming year.

This new model is firmly rooted in Jewish values. Three times a year, our ancestors acknowledged God’s blessings by making offerings.

You, our members, are the ones Temple Beth El counts on every day

- to sustain our community for today and the future
- to ensure a bright future for our children and the generations to come
- to bless us as God has blessed you
- to lift up our community and all the members of our Temple family with your Sacred Gifts of time and money

In conjunction with our sacred gifts initiative, our new budget model will be realistic, proactive, and transparent — and you, our congregants, will be part of this process every step of the way. Immediately following the completion of the primary pledge campaign in the fall, the Board will consider possible budget adjustments while actively seeking to close any gap during the last months of the calendar year. If action is necessary, it will come halfway through our fiscal year so that we can responsibly avoid any shortfall.

Look for a letter and pledge card in the mail soon. You will not receive the large dues packet of past years; other necessary information will be sent later. Instead, we will ask you to thoughtfully consider your sacred gift, reflecting how you will share your blessings with our community.