

Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester

**Fair Share Pledge Plan
2011-2012**

**“Every person shall give as they are able according to the blessings Adonai, your God,
has bestowed upon you.”**

Deuteronomy 16:17

Temple Beth El is a Fair Share Congregation

L'dor Vador, “from generation to generation.” The Talmud teaches that the members of each generation assume responsibility for transmitting their values, beliefs and knowledge to the next generation. In this spirit, we have joined together as a community to create a *Bet Tefilah* - house of worship, a *Bet Midrash* - house of learning, and a *Bet K'nesset* - house of assembly.

Temple Beth El is a Fair Share congregation. It is built on the premise that we will each contribute to the support of the temple community with our time and money at a level that is commensurate with our means. Importantly, we must make support of the temple one of our key priorities and then be honest with ourselves in determining our level of participation.

For most families today the house of worship has replaced the home as the primary place for learning about Judaism and passing on the values and traditions of our faith.

Upon joining our congregational community we each accept a financial obligation which helps to fund our ability to pass on our Jewish values. Please give as generously as you can. All pledges are completely tax deductible and you will be provided with necessary IRS documentation annually.

How does the Fair Share Plan Work?

At Temple Beth El we receive the benefits of having a Senior Rabbi, an Associate Rabbi, a Cantor, an Assistant Cantor, a Director of Education, a Nursery School Director, an Executive Director, full Religious and Nursery School programs, administrative and maintenance staff, and an exciting and expanding selection of programs that enhance our Jewish life.

Our clergy and facilities are available 52 weeks a year to our members and our programs are open to all members who choose to take advantage of them. Whether you partake of the temple's benefits once a year or regularly, we provide our services year round and it takes money to run a synagogue.

Since our founding more than 50 years ago, our way of meeting the temple's financial needs as equitably as possible has been through the “Fair Share” pledging program. Rather than charging a flat dues amount to each membership unit and running a High Holy Day appeal, we request that each member make an annual self-assessment and financial pledge based on the member's total family income from all sources.

While your income is an important guide to determine the amount of your pledge, it is the commitment you find in your heart to support a Reform Jewish community that should be the yardstick for your pledge. All members, therefore, are treated the same regardless of age, marital status, years of membership, etc.

Honors

These honorary categories were created to provide you the opportunity to give beyond the \$2,880 standard member level when your financial circumstances support it. Your contributions of \$3,600 and above will be recognized publicly unless you specify otherwise. Please give generously.

Pledges	Category
\$3,600	Sustaining
\$4,200	Leadership
\$5,900	Patron
\$8,700	Pillar
\$14,000	Simcha
\$18,000	Chai

Members unable to pay the minimum standard (based upon income or extraordinary circumstances) are urged to pledge whatever they can and must send in a special consideration form (obtained on our website or via the temple's bookkeeper), explaining their circumstances, along with their membership application form, addressed to President Harry Cohen, marked "confidential," at the temple. All requests for special consideration are treated with the strictest confidentiality and are discreetly reviewed by the Dues Committee. Your submission will be answered promptly. Requests for special consideration must be renewed annually.

Temple Beth El's Mission Statement Your Home 365 Days A Year

For 2000 years the synagogue has been a center of learning and prayer – the soul of Jewish communities everywhere. Previous generations preserved our Jewish heritage for us. It is now our responsibility to do the same for our children, grandchildren, and congregational family.

Our Vision

Temple Beth El is a Reform Jewish congregation which constantly renews itself as a Sacred Community, a *Kehilah Kedoshah*, by embracing these eternal values:

Worship, Avodah:

At home and in our synagogue, worship and prayer offer connection to God. Jewish ritual, a source of spiritual uplift for individuals and for the congregation as a whole, sanctifies life's joys and comforts us during life's sorrows.

Torah Study, Talmud Torah:

Torah is the foundation of our tradition, and its teachings provide content and context for all that we do as individuals and as a congregation. Through study of our sacred texts, we discover how to fashion lives of Jewish meaning in an ever-changing world. We value formal and informal lifelong learning, at home and in our synagogue.

Social Justice, Tzedek:

Our congregation pursues social justice, striving toward *tikkun olam*, repair of the world, through deeds of righteousness and loving-kindness. We provide opportunities for our members to act on our Jewish values, inspiring engagement in social action and social advocacy.

Community, Kehilah:

We strive always to be a warm, welcoming, inclusive and responsive community, offering comfort, joy, friendship and support to our members. Equally important is our strong commitment to the larger community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, locally, nationally, in Israel and around the world.

Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish future by nurturing the next generation. We share a commitment to Reform Judaism and furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs.