



## MAY WE BE STRENGTHENED

## **August 2020 Board Meeting In Brief**

Temple Beth El's Board of Directors met on Tuesday, August 18. Many updates were given: Dave Carney, our Facilities Manager, presented on all of the work that is happening at the building; Rabbi Braun spoke about the High Holiday planning process; Josh Filler presented on the budget; Kate went over the the Annual Appeal, Life + Legacy program, and status of the rebranding effort; and each board member presented a short summary about their initiative. Additionally, they began a discussion about racial justice/inclusion with the intention of continuing the discussion in a dedicated meeting.

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## **Annual Dues Update**

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the TBE community at large for bearing with us, and each other, through these crazy times. Coming in to this new fiscal year, we really did not know what to expect. Would members start leaving in droves? Could we still rely on vital dues income to fund TBE's infrastructure? Will this year begin to erode everything we have built over the past 70+ years?

It is with great relief that early indicators show that our worst fears will not be realized. Those who needed to have reduced their dues, and we are relieved to know they received our message that their continued membership is far more important than the amount of their financial contribution. An equal number of members have actually raised their dues, and in larger amounts than those who have reduced. Overall, dues income is on par or ahead of where it normally is at this point in the year. Not only have we not lost any members, we have welcomed 6 new members in the last couple of months and anticipate that number will go up in the coming weeks. And, the engagement level of our members is soaring as so many of us work together to tackle the challenges and opportunities that are facing us today.

Thank you so much for all that you are doing to keep our community together.

Shabbat shalom!

## **Building Operations Update**

TBE staff continue to work primarily from home. When the need arises to work from the building, all who enter are required to wear masks indoors unless in a room alone with the door closed. Our friends at the Levey Day School are planning to resume in-person classes September 3rd, however KBE will be conducted remotely once outdoor programs are no longer feasible. Currently, TBE has no plans to conduct any in-person, indoor programs for the foreseeable future. However, we are hard at work planning a range of

programs and services that will be offered via some combination of Zoom and outdoor events during the holidays and beyond. We continually evaluate the science and risk factors that guide our decisions, and will promptly keep you informed of any changes.

You are welcome to contact us by leaving a message at 207-774-2649 or by email.

Temple Beth El | 400 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME 04103

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