Suggested Membership Contribution Information
Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, New York

We are so pleased that you are considering joining Temple Beth Zion! We hope to share many joyous occasions, educational and cultural opportunities, and, of course, celebrating Shabbat, Festivals and High Holy Days with you. Above all, we want your association with TBZ to be filled with happiness and blessings.

Your question, naturally, is "What does it cost to join TBZ?" Let's start here: at Temple Beth Zion,

Everyone who wants to be a member *is* a member, regardless of financial circumstances.

Sustaining our congregational home means that, as a community, each member makes a fair and equitable annual commitment, so that support is reasonably distributed among us all. As Torah instructs, we ask each to give ***according to ability***. This means:

- To the extent they are able, we ask all households (of whatever size) where all adults are over the age of 35 to contribute at our "Sustaining" level, $2,136 annually beginning July 1, 2014 when our new fiscal year begins. As you'd expect, only a certain percentage of our households are able to contribute at this level.
- Young adult members and those who are members of other synagogues (dual members) are asked for contributions at significantly reduced levels. Please see the chart below.
- For members unable to contribute at the Sustaining, Young adult or Dual level, we ask for a contribution equal to 1.5% of household gross income (all earnings whether or not taxable).
- For members unable to contribute at the 1.5% level, we are happy to find a reasonable contribution level that is fair to them and to the other members of the synagogue. We have ***always*** been able to reach reasonable accommodations.

Please be assured that all contribution discussions are completely confidential. We don't ask for tax returns or other supporting information - we deal in good faith.

To seek other answers to your membership questions, or to establish a level of contribution, please call our Executive director, Mark Criden at (716) 836-6565. You may also use the form electronic form on the membership page to indicate that you would like Mark to contact you.

Thank you for understanding our desire to make each member's support for our community as equitable as possible.

Guide for Suggested Support						
Regular Membership				**Young Adult and Dual Member**		
Household Gross Income	**Annual Support Levels at 1 ½%**	**Monthly**			**Annual**	**Monthly**
$20,000	$300	$25		Young Adult - to age 26	$264	$22
$30,400	$456	$38		Young Adult - age 27-29	$468	$39
$40,000	$600	$50		Young Adult - age 30-31	$888	$74
$50,400	$756	$63		Young Adult - age 32	$1,200	$100
$60,000	$900	$75		Young Adult - age 33	$1,536	$128
$70,400	$1,056	$88		Young Adult - age 34	$1,848	$154
$80,000	$1,200	$100				
$90,400	$1,356	$113		Dual	$1,392	$116
$100,000	$1,500	$125				
$125,600	$1,884	$157				
$142,400	$2,136	$178		Sustaining	$2,136	$178

Here are other important factors to note:

- ✓ ***All discussions of membership contributions are completely confidential***
- ✓ ***We don't ask for tax returns or other supporting information - we deal in good faith.***
- ✓ We ask all new members to make a building fund commitment of $100/year for ten years.
- ✓ Tuition for Religious School or Play And Learn School is in addition to membership contributions.
- ✓ You may contribute monthly or quarterly, in cash, check, or credit card at no additional charge.
- ✓ Membership contributions are established regardless of personal use. Just as we don't attend every family gathering, we don't necessarily participate in everything TBZ offers. But the same kind of innate commitment to one's family is what we ask of each member of our community.
- ✓ We do have Premium Dues Levels available for those wishing to contribute at a higher level than sustaining dues.