

Think about when you joined Temple Beth-El.

Maybe you were searching for a place to worship, to focus on spiritual growth or volunteering

To create a Jewish network of new friends ***or to be where your friends are***

Perhaps you wanted to do your part in supporting and celebrating Jewish life here in San Antonio

Maybe your reason for joining Temple was to ensure your child was part of the next generation of Jewish learners - and leaders

For some, you may have been seeking compassionate support during life's more tender or challenging times

Maybe, like me, you were born into being a member - before starting a family of your own.

Each person or family arrived to Temple with their own unique reasons for joining.

Everyone in this sacred space - and streaming at home, **we all share something powerful: *we've made the choice to be here.***

There are **SO MANY** reasons for belonging to Temple. Some reasons are shared - the same as the congregants sitting near you, and some are deeply personal, and those reasons are **yours**.

There is something I know to be true, that we can all take pride in:...

There are no gimmicks when it comes to being a member of Temple - **just *genuine and intentional* belonging.**

Now, think about when you arrived at Temple today.

Just like when you joined as a member, we all have our reasons for being here **today** - at **THIS** service.

Some reasons are shared - the same as our fellow congregants, and some reasons are truly unique to us.

This day of worship - **together, THIS** is the **genuine and intentional** belonging I mentioned a moment ago.

Your **support** of Temple Beth-El is also **just as genuine and intentional**.

And your financial support - while as unique as your reason for choosing to be here today - is also **shared**.

That is the way a congregation works.

That is the way a congregation thrives.

It - takes - **ALL** of us.

We're deeply grateful to those who have already contributed to the "We Are Temple Beth-El" campaign.

If you have not yet increased your commitment or given a gift, you have the opportunity to do both.

Much like belonging to Temple, **and being here today** - it is a choice YOU can make. No gimmicks, no catch, no automatic pledge increase - just **everyone** doing what they can.

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It - takes - **ALL** of us.

Inside your program, you'll find a QR Code linking to our website. There, you can make a gift, payable in installments if you wish, or pledge to increase your annual commitment. You may choose to begin your increased support with the next fiscal year or start today. It's simple, flexible, and deeply appreciated. You can also feel free to mention to any staff or board member that you'd like to be contacted to discuss your support.

As we welcome 5786, we recognize being part of this community gives us strength and courage - but neither happen without intention.

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That is the way a congregation thrives.

Help our congregation flourish.