

With unanimous approval by all those who attended the congregational meeting, we have adopted a new membership model to better align TBI's finances with our values and provide more transparency. This new financing model has been adopted by many Reconstructionist and other synagogues throughout the United States in response to changing social and financial realities. The new financing model will go into effect for our new fiscal year, which begins July 2019. At that time, each member household will be asked to determine for itself the annual membership contribution it will make, based on the member household's circumstances and TBI's needs. No one is telling you how much you "should" contribute, but you must contribute to be a member.

To help members determine their contribution, TBI will provide members with projected expenses for the upcoming year and the "sustaining amount." The sustaining amount is the average amount that, if every member household contributed, would fully fund TBI operations for the year. Based on broad calculations using 2018 membership numbers and TBI financial needs, the sustaining amount will likely fall into the general ballpark of the current annual membership dues and building assessment. TBI will also continue to recommend a guideline of 1.5% to 3% of a member's gross income for those who would prefer to calculate their commitment that way.

We hope every household will stretch and make a meaningful contribution, and that households with the means will continue to contribute above the sustaining amount to help offset the contributions that are lower. Fundraising such as Circles of Giving and the auction will continue. You can expect to hear more about the new financing model in the spring as we approach the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Many believe that the new model could help attract new members, and while that outcome was not the basis for the change, TBI will be reaching out to the unaffiliated in the months to come. If you know of non-members who might be interested in this change, please tell them about it!

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Steckel at tbitreasurer@tbieugene.org.