



## New Member Dues Information 2016-2017

Welcome to West Suburban Temple Har Zion! Contributions and participation in our congregation take many forms – time, energy, creativity, as well as financial contributions. This letter addresses the financial component.

WSTHZ has a “set your own dues” structure. The Board of Directors approved this dues structure because it simplified the dues process, facilitated increased communications with members on financial matters, and promoted adherence to fundamental Jewish principles of fairness and responsible community membership.

Our guidance to our members to set their dues is simple. While many households contribute more, the **average dues must reach \$3400 per year** to meet the synagogue’s budget. We also suggest a **minimum of \$1700 per year**. These are guidelines and you will be best able to determine what you can do.

There is a tradition at West Suburban Temple that new members contribute 50% of the usual dues in their first year, while they are getting settled in the congregation. Once you have determined the right dues level for your household, **you may wish to start at 50% of that level in the first year.**

Members’ yearly dues only meet about 50% of the congregational expenses. We depend on your generous contributions during the Yom Kippur appeal and throughout the year to keep the doors open and sustain our outstanding clergy, professional and support staff, worship services and numerous programs for all members of the family. Please also note that religious school tuition is billed separately; let us know if you would like information on tuition.

Please keep in mind that we depend on those who have the financial means to do so to pull their share and a little more. **Please be generous with your dues.**

**No matter what dues level you select, we are delighted to welcome you as a new member.**