

## **BI Minyan FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)**

### ***What is the daily minyan schedule?***

Mornings: Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m.; Friday/Sunday 8:15 a.m.

Evenings: Sunday – Thursday 7:00 p.m.

### ***How long do daily minyan services last?***

Mornings: Sunday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday ~45 minutes; Monday/Thursday ~55-60 minutes

Evening: Winter (roughly end of DST through Passover) 20 minutes; otherwise 35 minutes

### ***Daily minyan!? You want me to come every day!?!?!?***

No, no, no!!! Of course you *can* come every day if you want, but we use the term “daily minyan” to distinguish those services from Shabbat or Holiday services. If you could be a “Tuesday morning” person or a “Wednesday evening” person only, that would be wonderful!

### ***I can't read Hebrew too well; can I still help if I come?***

Absolutely! If you are a Jewish adult (by either birth or conversion) you count regardless of your Hebrew literacy. In fact, attending minyan is a great way to become more fluent and familiar with both the language and the customs of the synagogue. The small group is also conducive to feeling a lot more connected and comfortable.

### ***What's the big deal about getting 10 people . . . why 10?***

There are 3 major explanations:

1. My favorite: “It's tradition . . . don't ask!”
2. In the Torah book of *Bemidbar* (Numbers) chapter 14, the 10 evil spies, who said the land of Israel was peopled by giants and we shouldn't enter, are referred to as an *edah*, a community. While we prefer not to think of ourselves as evil, that term is the first place where the number of individuals in a community is defined.
3. In the Torah book of *Bereshit* (Genesis), chapter 18, Abraham argued with God about destroying the city of Sodom: “If 50 righteous are found in the city would you still destroy it?”. God agrees not to destroy for the sake of the 50. Abraham continues to plead for fewer and

fewer righteous people to save the city. When he gets to 10, he stops.

***Do I need tefillin and know how to put them on for morning minyan?***

Not at all. There *are* tefillin available in the chapel if you want to use them, but tefillin are not required. Here's another way that morning minyan can be instructive in a non-threatening atmosphere—if you want to learn how to put on tefillin, someone would be more than happy to teach you. If you mostly attend services on Shabbat where tefillin aren't worn, you'll never learn how.

***I don't really consider myself religious enough or knowledgeable enough to come to more services.***

***Isn't daily minyan only for "hard core" Jews?***

I used to think the same thing: "Wow that guy must be really religious . . . he goes to so many services!" Attending any service is about connecting with your community, and that goes double (at least) for daily minyan. With a much smaller group, each person is so much more important and valued. It has nothing to do with how religious you are; it's a reflection of how connected you personally want to be to your synagogue community.

***I came once and there were already 12 peopl. I felt like I wasn't needed after all?***

While you may not have been needed to "make the minyan" that one time, chances are that at least two of the people who were there that time weren't there the next (or last) time. Everybody does breathe a sigh of relief when the 10<sup>th</sup> person walks in (and trust me, if it's you, it makes you feel really, really good), but it's a real shot in the arm when the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, etc. person walks in. It feels like a crowd! More people to sing, more people to learn from, more people to shmooze with before and/or after . . . more fun.

***Can I change which minyan I go to, or just stop if I don't like it?***

Absolutely. Just let the minyan captain know. Minyan is not intended to be an unwelcome obligation.

--Victor Saffrin, BI Ritual Committee Chair

# Daily Minyan Volunteer Form

Name:	
Home Phone:	
Cell Phone:	

Check (x) all applicable boxes:

I am available to regularly attend the following daily minyan(s):						
Day	AM	PM	Months			
Sunday			January		July	
Monday			February		August	
Tuesday			March		September	
Wednesday			April		October	
Thursday			May		November	
Friday			June		December	

I am available to be called for minyan if needed, via:

Phone						
Smartphone App (WhatsApp)						
Day	AM	PM	Months			
Sunday			January		July	
Monday			February		August	
Tuesday			March		September	
Wednesday			April		October	
Thursday			May		November	
Friday			June		December	

Send the completed form to:

Congregation Beth Israel  
 Att: Ritual Committee  
 15 Jamesbury Dr.  
 Worcester, MA 01609

**and THANK YOU!!!**