

Congregation Beth Aaron



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Rabbi Laurence E. Rothwachs

Adar I 5771

Dear Fellow Member,

This letter will update you on the progress of the Expansion/Renovation project and explain why and how your input and assistance in the next few weeks can help ensure the success of the effort.

Update:

- ✓ The exterior shell of the expanded facility is in place and is being weatherproofed.
- ✓ The installation of the façade will begin and the new roof will be completed as soon as the weather permits.
- ✓ The framing of the interior spaces on all three levels is progressing nicely.
- ✓ Installation of the new and expanded basement bathrooms is well underway and should be completed by February 25th.
- ✓ Installation of the new mechanical systems (heating, alarm, electricity, plumbing, etc.) is well underway.
- ✓ The process of joining the expanded footprint to our existing facility is well advanced, as you can tell from the cement blocks and the plywood covering large areas of the north wall of the existing facility, the open areas in the ceilings, and the plastic sheeting in the basement.
- ✓ The concrete blocks that have (temporarily) replaced two of the “*shevet*” windows on the west side of the main sanctuary mark the exterior wall of the elevator shaft.
- ✓ Construction will likely begin on the existing main floor shortly after Shabbat Parashat Vayakhel (February 26) - assuming no material weather-related delays. The last Shabbat morning *minyán* to take place in the current Bet Medrash will therefore likely take place that Shabbat.

In short, we are ba”h on or ahead of schedule for a late spring completion.

Why your help is especially needed now:

‘Sweat equity.’ We will need the help of many of our fellow members over the next several weeks to move *seforim* and other items from the main floor Beit Medrash / Multi-purpose Room prior to the dismantling of that room. We will let you know the specifics shortly.

‘Cash equity.’ To date, the entire Expansion/Renovation has been financed with your contributions, principally building fund payments and payment of pledges. We are at the point where we will begin drawing down on the mortgage to finance the completion of the project. *Any building fund payments or payments of pledges you make now will reduce the amount we need to borrow and will therefore save our kehilla meaningful financing costs.*

To make a pledge, please contact any of the committee members or email us at expansion@bethaaron.org. For a list of dedication opportunities, please click on <http://www.bethaaron.org/expansion/> or see the back of this page.

We look forward to updating you as the project progresses and to your feedback and questions.

Sincerely,

The Expansion/Renovation Committee -

Marc Benjamin, Bonnie Eizikovitz, Larry Feder, Rivka Fink, Allen Friedman, Steven Gellerstein, Arthur Herzfeld, Larry Kahn, Mark Karasick, Louis Karp, Moshe Kinderlehrer, Abe Leidner, Garren Macklin, Rachelle Mandelbaum, Tamar Metzger, Ronnie Schwartz, Kalman Seidenfeld, Larry Shafier, Joy Sperber, Rinaldo Toporovsky