

Building Our Future

Iyar 5769

May 2009

Dear Fellow Members,

We are writing to share some good news related to our fundraising progress on the Expansion / Renovation Project and to ask for your participation and input.

Kol hatchalot kashot – we are told that all beginnings are difficult. Fortunately, the enthusiastic ‘pre-official-launch’ response to the Expansion/Renovation Project campaign suggests that there are exceptions to this rule. The outpouring of pledges and contributions has exceeded our expectations, reflecting the eagerness of our membership to participate in this long-needed project.

We are asking you to help continue this wonderful momentum. The following are the ways in which we hope you can help:

Discretionary contributions. The enthusiasm of the response to date has caused us to rethink our target for discretionary contributions, and to increase it to \$1.75 million. Achieving this target would meaningfully lighten the debt service burden that would otherwise have to be borne in future years.

Please join us in this effort and take the opportunity to dedicate part of our *mikdash me'at* in memory or in honor of a loved one. A list of dedication opportunities is attached to this email. The list can also be viewed – and dedications can be made – at <http://www.bethaaron.org/expansion/>. If you have any questions, or if there is something that you wish to dedicate that is not on the attached list, please don't hesitate to contact your fellow members whose names appear at the bottom of the dedication opportunities page.

Building fund commitment. You probably noticed that your most recent statement from the shul office included the \$375 portion of the building fund that was reinstated by the vote in January. This payment is due by June 30, 2009. Additionally, the statement that you will receive this summer will include the amounts related to the Building Fund increase that was approved in the January 2009 vote. **We plan to publicly acknowledge our gratitude to those members who pay their building fund obligation in full by January 31, 2010 and we encourage as many of you as possible to join this group.** Realizing that this will not be achievable for many members, we request that members minimally commit to paying \$700 annually towards the building fund.

Special arrangements. The Financial Arrangements Committee (Mark Rosalimsky mark.rosalimsky@gmail.com, principal contact) stands ready to make special financial arrangements as necessary. As always, complete respect, confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Time commitment. The project has required a huge commitment of volunteer time on the part of many and will require even more to see it through to conclusion. If you can help out, please contact any one of us – we would be delighted to have you join the effort!

This is a unique moment in the history of our *kehilla*: years from now, when the current challenging environment is long gone, the next generation will, G-d willing, admire the challenge we rose to, knowing that we took the necessary actions to ensure that our congregation will thrive – not merely survive.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Schwartz, President *The Expansion/Renovation Committee* –
Marc Benjamin, Bonnie Eizikovitz, Larry Feder, Rivka Fink, Allen Friedman,
Arthur Herzfeld, Larry Kahn, Mark Karasick, Louis Karp, Rachelle
Mandelbaum, Tamar Metzger, Ronnie Schwartz, Kalman Seidenfeld, Larry
Shafier, Joy Sperber, Rinaldo Toporovsky