

## Shaping Our Future

Sivan 5769

June 2009

Dear Fellow Members,

We are writing to give you a progress report on the Expansion/Renovation project.

***Firms retained; construction plans.*** After interviewing many capable architectural and project management firms, we have engaged Elkin Sobolta & Associates (ESA) as the shul's architectural firm and McDonough Bolyard Peck (MBP) as our project management firm. Each of the two impressed us with their many years of experience in the field and their sensitivity to our needs. As many of you know, ESA was the architect for the current shul building and we have developed an excellent working relationship with them over many years.

The Building and Design Subcommittees of the Expansion/Renovation Committee have had numerous meetings both on their own and with our outside professionals and each subcommittee is on pace to meet the schedule outlined below. The chairpersons and members of these two committees, as well as those of the Fundraising and Finance Subcommittees, are listed below; we encourage you to contact them with any questions or comments.

ESA, working with MBP and the Building and Design Subcommittees, is finalizing the construction drawings so that they can be sent out for bids by late summer. If everything goes according to plan, we will, G-d willing, start construction shortly after the fall Yomim Tovim.

***Fundraising.*** Thanks to the continuing enthusiastic response from many of you, the fundraising effort continues to exceed our expectations, reflecting the eagerness of our membership to participate in this long-needed project. As of the writing of this letter, between cash on hand and pledges, we have \$1,065,600 committed to the project, representing 95% of our original goal of \$1.1 million and good progress toward our revised goal of \$1.75 million.

We encourage all those who are in a position to do so to 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. 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 a member of the Fundraising Committee.

***Time commitment.*** As you can see from the list below, more and more of our members have stepped forward to volunteer their time to the effort. If you can help out, please contact any one of us – we would be delighted to have you on board!

***Building fund amounts on your statement.*** In response to questions from a number of members, we thought it would be useful to describe in greater detail the “mandatory” building fund commitments.

You probably noticed that your most recent statements from the shul office included a \$375 item marked “building fund.” The \$375 is a portion of the \$750 building fund increase (from \$2000 to \$2750) approved by the membership in 2001. The obligation to pay this amount, which was previously suspended by the shul's board, was reinstated at the time of the January '09 membership vote to move ahead with the Expansion/Renovation project. It is due by June 30 2009.

You will also notice, on the statement you will receive shortly, a separate \$4,250 increase to your building fund obligations. This is the increase to the building fund that was approved by the membership in January. Absent arrangements with the Financial Arrangements Committee, this

amount is payable at a rate of no less than \$700 per year for six years starting with the coming fiscal year (beginning on 7/1/09). We are encouraging those who can pay more quickly to do so.

As we previously noted, 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.

**Special arrangements.** The Financial Arrangements Committee ([FAC@bethaaron.org](mailto:FAC@bethaaron.org)) stands ready to make special financial arrangements as necessary. As always, complete respect, confidentiality and discretion are assured.

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

Sincerely,

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

<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Co-chairs</u>	<u>Members</u>
Building structure	Joy Sperber, Rinaldo Toporovsky	Larry Feder, Allen Friedman, Larry Kahn, Abie Leidner, Ronnie Schwartz
Fundraising	Larry Kahn, Rachelle Mandelbaum	Bonnie Eizikovitz, Allen Friedman, Arthur Herzfeld, Mark Karasick, Larry Shafier
Design/finishes	Bonnie Eizikovitz, Tamar Metzger	Rivka Fink, Rachelle Mandelbaum, Joy Sperber
Mortgage/cash flow	Marc Benjamin, Louis Karp	Allen Friedman, Steven Gellerstein, Larry Kahn