



Congregation Beth Aaron

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Rabbi Laurence E. Rothwachs

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Dear Fellow Members

After many months of hard work by numerous fellow Beth Aaron members and outside professionals, the Expansion Committee was able to assemble the plans, specifications and studies necessary to obtain bids from general contractors to undertake the expansion and renovation of our *Beit Kneset*. Contractors who are experienced in renovations and expansions of houses of worship, who have dealt with projects similar to ours in size, and who were highly recommended were invited to bid on our project. Together with our outside professionals, the Expansion Committee, with the unanimous support and approval of the Board of Directors, intend to award the contract to Visbeen Construction. Among the many reasons Visbeen was chosen is the fact that Visbeen has a well earned reputation of completing their projects on time and within budget.

The overall cost of the expansion including hard costs (actual construction) and soft costs (architect, plans, permits, studies etc) is well within the parameters allotted by the membership.

As presented to the membership and with the Board of Directors unanimous support and approval, a mortgage application has been submitted to assist with the construction costs. Columbia Savings Bank has the most offered favorable terms and conditions of the many potential lenders interviewed and is in line with the Expansion Committees projections. Even though we anticipate not having any issues being approved, no part of the construction will commence until we are confident that the financing will be forthcoming.

The first visible step in the project will be the demolition of the house on 958 Queen Anne Road. This is expected to take place *iy'H* during the spring. By then we should also obtain the proper permits to begin the construction. Once the permits are received, it is anticipated that the project should be completed within 9 months.

One of the major concerns of the Expansion Committee has been the use of our *Beit Kneset* during construction. Our contractor, Visbeen, has met with the Building Department and assures us that the building will be functional and safe during the renovation and expansion.

We owe a debt of appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Expansion Committee and all of the sub-committees for their commitment of time, resources and great enthusiasm that they have put into this project. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you are willing and able to assist in any way as the process proceeds.

Best wishes for a *chag kasher v'sameiach*.

Ronnie Schwartz, President

The Expansion/Renovation Committee –

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