

SANCTUARY REDESIGN UPDATE

The Sanctuary Redesign Committee has good news and bad news. Costs are skyrocketing. The good news is that, within the target budget of \$1.25 million, it is still possible to make BEKI's sanctuary a more inclusive, spiritually intimate, and fully egalitarian worship space. The bad news is that, to rephrase B.B. King, the frill is gone.

The full conceptual design, as presented to the congregation in the spring, is now out of reach. The committee is revising the scope to achieve the congregation's top priorities: accessibility, more light, a flexible seating arrangement, better acoustics, improved climate control and air quality, and an environment conducive to BEKI's style of member-led communal prayer.

We hope that the revised project will still include a fully accessible bimah and ark; movable chairs; better light; HVAC improvements; and a new movable wall to replace the tattered folding wall between the sanctuary and the social hall.

What the revised project will *not* include are many of the proposed beautification elements, such as the large new

windows and the stone and wood covering for the cinder block walls.

Construction costs have risen roughly 40 percent since we started on the redesign plans. Estimates from a half-dozen highly regarded construction firms were all much too high for our anticipated budget. With our architect, our team is working hard to preserve the most important aspects of the redesign. The Fundraising Committee is pleased to report that congregants have already pledged or donated just over \$600,000 toward the overall fundraising goal of \$1.25 million. To everyone who has made a donation or pledge, thank you for your generosity!

The Fundraising Committee is continuing its efforts to raise funds through grants as well as additional donations. The BEKI Board will also consider appropriate borrowing to help reach our goal. The Sanctuary Redesign Committee will continue to update the congregation as plans move forward. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact us at sanctuaryredesign@beki.org.

Annual Appeal Reminder

BY MURRAY AKRESH, CHAIR OF INCOME DEVELOPMENT

Since our dues do not cover all of BEKI's expenses, the Annual Appeal is the request for the donations needed to fund BEKI's operating budget. Simply put, BEKI needs your generous donations more than ever.

Thanks to all of you who have already made pledges or sent in donations. For those who haven't done so yet, please complete and return the 2022 Annual Appeal Pledge Card that was emailed to you in the first days of November.

You may also make your pledge by emailing Peggy at office@beki.org. Remember, you can make your contributions by credit card on the BEKI [website](http://www.beki.org) or in increments over time, if desired.

For BEKI members over age 70½, there may be significant tax advantages to making your donations from your Individual Retirement Account, especially if you are subject to Required Minimum Distributions.

Please consider increasing the amount you donated last year. If you could not donate last year but now have the funds, please consider making a donation this year. We strive to have all BEKI members contribute toward our vibrant community.

Thank you for your generosity and support of BEKI.



Mazal Tov to Susan and Alan Dardik on the engagement of their son Ian to Julie Stomel