

January 21, 2022

Dear congregants and friends,

I wanted to share with you some exciting news regarding the sanctuary redesign fundraising efforts. Yesterday, I was contacted by Doug Goodwin, a trustee of the Goodwin-Levine Foundation. He wanted me to know that the Goodwin and Levine families would like to pledge a gift to BEKI for the sanctuary redesign.

The original sanctuary was sponsored by the four Goodwin brothers — Louis, Samuel, Robert, and Paul (Pat) — in memory and honor of their parents. The late Pat Goodwin — father of our current BEKI member Richard Goodwin — served as the building committee chair for our building, and in some ways our sanctuary is the “House that Pat Built.”

The family pledged a \$50,000 gift, which is the largest gift it has ever given to any single institution. The pledge honors all four brothers and their descendants: Goodwin descendants of Louis, Samuel, Robert and Paul (all former BEKI congregation members) and Levine descendants of Morris Levine. Doug wanted us to know that this gift is in recognition of their commitment to BEKI and in support of its continued legacy.

This week we also received a donation for the sanctuary redesign from a family who moved away from the area. In their note they wrote, “The president’s email was so moving, we wanted to contribute even though we don’t live in CT anymore.” May we receive many more such heartwarming messages accompanied by generous donations!

In other news, related and no less exciting, I want you to know that a Sanctuary Redesign Fundraising Committee has been formed. The committee’s mission is to develop a comprehensive plan and raise the necessary funds for this project. The fundraising plan will take into account any and all available sources of funding and will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. We expect that actual fundraising will begin sometime in March, coinciding with when we expect the conceptual design to be completed and presented to the congregation. Committee members include:

- Murray Akresh - makresh@aol.com

- John Weiser - johnw@bwbsolutions.com
- Mark Oppenheimer - mark.e.oppenheimer@gmail.com
- Jessey Palumbo - gpalumbo@gmail.com
- John Wareck - john@wareck.com

Rabbi Woodward and I will also be actively involved in the fundraising efforts as we are both super excited about this project. Please reach out to a committee member or to me if you would like to begin any preliminary discussions about Sanctuary Redesign pledges, or contact the office to make a donation.

Please remember that I am always available, and you may contact me anytime with any issue that needs my attention at President@beki.org.

Yaron Lew
President