Dear BEKI friends,

In this week’s Torah portion, Vayakhel, skilled artists and artisans begin constructing the mishkan, the Israelites’ sanctuary, according to God’s detailed instructions.

Here at BEKI, we don’t have a divinely commanded blueprint for our sanctuary redesign. We do have plenty of human effort, which is moving us toward plans for a worship space that reflects and strengthens our BEKI values.

Since our last update, the redesign committee has:

- Determined the basic room layout, which will be incorporated into the design when it is ready to be shared with everyone
- Begun the search process for a construction firm, so that we can get early input on cost estimates and technical feasibility
- Made progress on defining the necessary upgrades for the sanctuary’s heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

Meanwhile, the architect is preparing a 3D model and drawings of a proposed conceptual design. We expect those drawings to be ready for the congregation in late March.

As a reminder, there is now a section of the BEKI website devoted to the sanctuary redesign project, containing answers to frequently asked questions as well as results from the November 2021 congregational survey, and copies of previous project updates.

Based on input from the congregation and synagogue President Yaron Lew, the redesign committee continues to focus on our key goals:

- A warm, inviting sanctuary that reflects our inclusive, egalitarian values
- Accessibility of the bimah and ark
- Improved climate control and air quality
- Better acoustics
- Seating that is comfortable, accessible, and conducive to participatory communal services, and allows easier egress in case of emergency
- Better natural light
As always, the redesign committee is available for questions and suggestions: sanctuaryredesign@beki.org.

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John Weiser, co-chair
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Lynn Brotman
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