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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