

## Sanctuary Redesign Update: Website; Engineering; Sketches Soon

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From: Peggy Hackett (office@beki.org)

To: bekinews@beki.org

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Dear BEKI friends,

As we dig into — and out of — snowstorms, BEKI is also digging into a major project: redesigning our sanctuary as an inclusive, accessible, vibrant, communally focused worship space.

President Yaron Lew has been keeping you posted on fundraising efforts. We, the redesign committee, have some updates as well.

- First, we have set up a [section of the BEKI website](#) devoted to the sanctuary redesign project. It's designed to be a one-stop resource for project information. You'll find messages from [Yaron](#) and [Rabbi Eric](#), sanctuary [photos](#) past and present, and answers to [frequently asked questions](#) — such as the project's scope, timeline, and budget. The website also includes results from the November 2021 congregational [survey](#), and copies of [previous project updates](#) from the redesign committee. As we move forward, we will post architectural drawings and other information.
- With our architect, Michael Goldblum, the committee is exploring fundamental questions about the room layout. These questions include what to do with the bimah and the placement of seats, ark, and reader's table. In February, look for **sketches of possible room layouts**, by email and on the website.
- The architect has brought on an **engineering firm** to evaluate the HVAC needs in the sanctuary and recommend solutions. Improvements will include allowing fresh air into the sanctuary, as well as quieter, more efficient heating and cooling, and better air quality.

Based on input from Yaron and the congregational survey in November, the redesign committee continues to focus on our key goals for the sanctuary:

- A warm, inviting, and inclusive environment
- Accessibility of the bimah and ark
- Improved climate control and air quality
- Better acoustics

- Seating that is comfortable, accessible, conducive to participatory communal services, and allows easier egress in case of emergency
- Better natural light

As always, we are available for questions and suggestions: [sanctuaryredesign@beki.org](mailto:sanctuaryredesign@beki.org).

Carole Bass, co-chair

Rick Saltz, co-chair

Eric Dunsker, House Committee chair and Board liaison

Lynn Brotman

Jonathan Gordon

Howard Gralla

Marga Hirsch

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