

Transformation is Here

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We embarked upon Phase One of the New Emanuel Campaign, transforming the sanctuary and social hall, with the goal of completing the construction in between the span of two High Holy Days. Yet as we approach Rosh Hashana 5772, I have noticed a certain amount of skepticism and disbelief that this project will be completed on time. I prefer to define this reaction as amazement... amazement that after all these years of talking and planning we are about to dedicate our beautiful new Corwin Family Sanctuary and Greer Social Hall.

This project began with the clergy's unique vision of bringing flexibility into our permanent prayer space. And what started with a singular focus of leveling the sanctuary floor has turned into so much more. Natural light now fills our sanctuary from the new Olshansky Oculus. The new 'starry' night sky ceiling, inspired by the biblical Tabernacle, offers serenity in a hectic world. The new bimah, with its sloped walkways extending into the congregation on both edges of the Corwin Sanctuary, conveys a feeling of intimacy previously unknown in this space. And this is all before the stunning carpet is installed, the protective covering is lifted from the Jerusalem limestone flooring, and the much-discussed sanctuary chairs are set in place.

In the Greer Social Hall, symmetry has been returned to the room with the removal of the kitchen extension on the far end of the room and the dropped ceiling at the entrance. Standing on the bimah, with the wall up, the majesty of these combined spaces is marvelous; so too was the discovery of four additional floor-to-ceiling vertical windows streaming light into the room. Well-appointed finishes round out this space to create what will certainly be a desirable event venue with a Beverly Hills address.

On **September 24** (please save the date) we will open the doors to our congregation as we celebrate the completion of Phase One, the transformation of our sacred spaces. This is Slichot, the evening we prepare for the coming High Holy Days by changing the Torah mantles. We will also mark this occasion by recognizing the many congregational families who, through their generosity, have made this project possible. And we will extend our deep gratitude to the Sokoloff Family, the Corwin Family, and the Greer Family, whose leadership gifts have propelled this project forward at critical junctures along the way.

It is not too late to be a part of this amazing effort. We have raised more than 80% of our funds from 20% of the congregation, and we need your help to close out our Phase I goal of \$10 million. Please consider how your family can participate in a meaningful way in the New Emanuel Campaign and help ensure a strong future for Temple Emanuel's next generation.

Finally, this project would not have been possible without the steadfast leadership of a core group. Sue Brucker took on the role of Campaign Chair well before she assumed Presidency of the Temple's Board, and even with that responsibility she continued to be a passionate advocate for this project as well as an active volunteer. Scott Stone, the Chair of the Building Committee, has offered great wisdom and focus in managing the architectural components from the initial design development to construction management. His attention to detail is unbelievable; as is his ability to reach decisions, make progress, and bring the project in within budget as well as on time. Scott Shlechter has offered his sound fiscal planning skills, as well as recruiting Brian Weinberg to help us with financial modeling. In addition, Scott picked up the presidential gavel from Sue, and, along with co-president Elisa Newman White, has continued to ensure that the Board of Directors is a full partner in this endeavor. Marcie Zelikow has brought her immense development acumen, to ensure that the Campaign's successes not overshadow the synagogue's annual fundraising goals (what's the point of creating a beautiful building if there is nothing to put in it). To these exceptional volunteers, who have given generously of their time and spirit for more than four years, I say thank you.

As well, thank you to members of our Art Committee, Building Committee, Chair Committee, Design Committee, and Major Gifts Committee: Nicole Sassaman Abrams, John Adler, Radell Simon Brown & Sydney Brown, Nan & Bruce Cole, Toni & Bruce Corwin, Rita Eichenstein, Steve Factor, Murray Fischer, Bill Gerber, Elyse Grinstein, Stefanie & John Griswold, Barbara Coyne & Jeff Hendel, Craig Karlan, Michelle & Alan Kaye, Lauren King, Mark Kuperstock, Jane Nathanson, Terri Smooke, John Stone, Ruth Weisberg, Marilyn Weiss.

For more information on this project, or on naming opportunities including 'Endowing a Chair', please contact me at 310.288.3742 x508 or tova@tebh.org.



Sanctuary under construction