

Pardon Our Schmutz

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The sign outside Temple Emanuel's Clark Drive building says: "Pardon Our Schmutz, as we transform our Sanctuary and Social Hall." Behind this sign there is a lot happening I wish to share with you.

The sanctuary has been filled with scaffolding to allow the construction team to install the new central skylight as well as lighting, HVAC, and audio systems into the ceiling. The social hall, in contrast, has been stripped bare and is a sight to behold. The kitchen has been returned to its original size, revealing four previously covered vertical windows along the far wall which match those in the sanctuary. The symmetry of the room is simply breathtaking, as is the expansive feeling.

In mid-April the scaffolding in the sanctuary will be moved over to the social hall to allow for work on the ceiling in that space. At that time, the construction team will commence

leveling the floor in the sanctuary and renovating the bimah and the ark.

Another exciting development is the continued conversation about the sanctuary chairs. At the congregational meeting back in June, two chairs were presented and the congregation was asked to vote on which one they preferred. While 'Chair A' was the clear winner, some congregants voiced concerns about the height of the back and the fabric choice. We decided to rethink the chair.

A Chair Committee of a dozen congregants was convened. They were asked to review 25 sample chairs and chose their top three to be considered as a base model. After narrowing the choices down we addressed several issues including higher arms, additional lumbar support, and the allowance of an 'M&M' gap - a gap in the back of the chair for small objects to pass through to the floor rather than collect in the crevice.

Following this meeting, a new and improved sample chair was produced. This new sample included all the modifications listed above as well as stiffer foam on the seat and a divided book rack underneath. For the fabric, a durable, woven-textured fabric in warm earthy tones was selected.

The Chair Committee is now exploring two options: purchasing this sample chair locally or sourcing a similar chair overseas with the help of one of our congregants who has oversees production connections. We will consider quality management, production time, and cost comparisons as we explore these two options.

In the meantime, please Pardon Our Schmutz!



Rendering of the social hall revealing previously covered vertical windows that match those in the sanctuary.