



Presidential Matters

By Stephen Aronowitz

Big things - as in construction - are set to take place at your synagogue! The Board of the Trustees at its January meeting approved two major projects – upgrade of the kitchen and modification of our sanctuary.

The Board's approval of the kitchen project was based primarily on a fund raising effort that coincided with last year's banquet. Coordinating the effort has been handled by Stan Wirtheim and Marc Figelman.

"It's been over 60 years since we have made significant changes in the kitchen," explained the versatile Mr. Wirtheim whose devotion to a variety of improvement projects is unmatched. "The fundraising drive brought in significant funds and we are going to add new counters," Wirtheim continued. "Also in our plans is to install a convection oven while also upgrading sinks and installing a fire suppression system that meets all city and state codes."

Spearheading the much-needed improvements in the sanctuary is Marc Figelman. A licensed and well-regarded architect, Marc reviewed the goals of the project: "The main feature of the interior renovation includes the introduction of a new Torah Readers' table. The Table will be located on the main floor of the sanctuary and will provide an opportunity for all members and guests, regardless of any physical challenges, to be called to the Torah to receive an Aliyah. The project, approved by the Ritual Committee, Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron, will include minor modifications to pew seats as well as replacing the carpeting throughout the sanctuary and lobby. Addressing the needs of all congregants is essential."

The recent decision of the Board is a clear indication of their desire to recognize the needs of all congregants. Additional upgrades to the lobby are also being considered, including painting and improvements to the existing lighting. Funds for the security improvements are pursuant to the consolidation agreement.