

Dear Temple Member;

As co-chairs of the Building Renewal and Implementation Committee (BRIC), we are pleased to bring you a Rosh Hashanah update of our committee's progress in our task of renewing Temple Israel's physical space.

For our new members of Temple Israel, we hope you will take some time to visit the Temple website, www.templeisraelottawa.ca and browse through the BRIC presentations, representative of the important work our committee has undertaken for the past 2 years. As we all know, it takes a great deal of steadfast commitment to prepare the best recommendation for our Temple family. We recognize that it takes time, and lots of it, to do the work necessary for a comprehensive and responsible recommendation, and we thank all of you for your patience, comments and questions. All are valued, and lead our committee to ensure that we keep BRIC's vision at the centre of our work. We would like to thank our committee members, along with so many other Temple members who have donated their professional time, skill and enthusiasm to the renewal of Temple Israel. We are so fortunate to know we can call upon our community for support and assistance, and we thank you all for your help.

Last year we brought news that we had examined the physical space needs of our congregation and had hired a consultant to help guide us in our work. Since then we have made significant progress on several fronts.

A very favourable conditional offer from the Hellenic Community, for the purchase of our current property on Prince of Wales Drive has been received by the Temple Board of Directors. Our sincere thanks for the excellent work go to Brian Gold.

We have approached several persons and families both in our Temple community and in the Ottawa Jewish Community at large about their support of our vision to relocate on the Jewish Community campus and about the possibility of financial support.

Our vision seems to ring true with a majority of the persons interviewed, and we have already approximately 1.7 million dollars in support of the project. Positive financial support was also indicated from several other families and individuals both within the Temple community, and in the Ottawa Jewish community at large. We would be pleased to meet with you about financial support for the Renewal of Temple Israel, and you can contact us at any time for more information.

We have met with the owners of our preferred site, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, on several occasions in both formal and informal settings. We are moving forward, however slowly and cautiously, toward a partnership of services on the campus.

This is very complex and intricate work. It requires careful examination at each and every step along the way. Foremost in our deliberations is the mandate to maintain Temple Israel's independence as a progressive liberal home for our sacred congregation.

Despite the identification of a preferred site, we are actively investigating alternate sites in the event that our vision cannot be realized on the Campus. Again our appreciation is extended to Brian for his expertise in these negotiations.

We look forward to completing the tasks before the year-end and presenting the complete project to you early in 2012.

We realize the process has been longer than the 3-month project expected at the outset. But, we have the choice of having it done on time or having it done perfectly. We have chosen perfection.

Shana Tova,

Debra Viner and Paul Lyons

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