



**The CBY Construction Connection**  
**(Issue 2 -- Dec 5, 2008)**

**The Journey Has Started**  
**A Periodic Update for CBY Members**

To Members of Congregation Beth Yam:

Our journey to the expanded synagogue is on the way. We had the official ground breaking on Thursday Nov 20 – the same day we received our permit from the Town of Hilton Head to begin clearing trees.

The ground breaking was a joyous event. In addition to many CBY members, we were fortunate that David Strauss, President of the Southeast Region of URJ and Reverend Mark Brinkman from our good neighbor All Saints Episcopal Church were able to join us, as were our elected representatives to the South Carolina legislature and the Beaufort County Council and the Hilton Head Town Manager.

On Friday Nov 21, the earthmovers were in and working to clear the area where we will pour new foundations; they were complete by Tuesday Nov. 25. During the week of Dec 1, we brought in fill dirt and performed rough grading. By the time you read this, we should have or be very close to getting our building permit from the Town of Hilton Head.

- The first 3 weeks after receiving a building permit, the contractor will form the foundation and pour the concrete for all of the new slabs;
- After the slabs are poured, we will start demolition and begin erecting the steel followed by the wood framing, setting windows and exterior doors, and installing the new roof. This will take approximately 6-8 weeks.

We have asked some congregants the question “What will the new, expanded synagogue mean to you and your family?” Here is what they are saying:

- **Paula Rudman** – “The Synagogue is my **spiritual** home. When I enter it, I have many of the same feelings I have when I enter the home I live in of pride, warmth, safety, and peace. The expansion will enhance all of these feelings plus increase those of religious education, community, and socialization.”
- **Carol and Marty Katz** – We are Jews of the Diaspora who have been living in so many different places. This has been the way of our Synagogue. We have events, school, and even our High Holy Day services at different places. Having a new, expanded Synagogue will mean that my entire extended family will have a home where we can work, play, study, and have our children grow together. We have come home.
- **Sharon and Steve Burstein** – High Holidays at “home” and not away will be very special. Enlarged facility will give a feeling of growth and may indeed lead to growth of the congregation. Brand new is always a treat.
- **Valerie Mayer** – It will be more meaningful for the High Holidays to be celebrated in our Synagogue.
- **Richard and Anne Feldman** – As parents of two children in the religious Sunday School and my oldest son less than a year away from his Bar Mitzvah, the expansion touches on the core of our Jewish educational values. By having the school connected to the Synagogue, my children and others in the congregation will have a connection to the Synagogue directly. Education is the key to Judaism and the building will allow that relationship to build and grow as the community grows. It also will be a familiar, comfortable place to be, a home base for families to gather. It will be about friendship, community, and religious beliefs. I’d like to see more families be a part of our community.

- **Jean & Dan Caplan** – It will make possible our expanding congregation to all worship together as well as give Congregation Beth Yam more visibility in the community.
- **Sheryl Keating** – Having a new and expanded synagogue means that we will all be able to pray together on the High Holidays in our own house of worship. It has been wonderful that the Church has been generous enough to allow us to use theirs, but it will be wonderful to be back in our own home. Especially when thinking back to having the High Holidays in the Presbyterian Church many years ago. The other wonderful thing will be having religious school in our OWN classrooms for the first time ever. My children have never experienced this and I am looking forward to them being able to learn Judaism and Hebrew in classrooms designed and designated for them alone.
- **Alys and Ron Blumberg** – The thrill of the ground breaking and knowing that very shortly we will have a home where we can worship together for all the holidays means a lot to me. It also means that the Jewish community is growing in the area and this will be the place to meet and play as well as pray.

Please send your response to this question to Jack Resnick at [president@bethyam.org](mailto:president@bethyam.org) and we will include it in future issues of *The Construction Connection* as space permits.

We are also busy on other fronts.

- The Construction Steering Committee (CSC) and our contractor continue to refine our cost estimates as we “lock in” subcontractor and supplier costs. As previously reported, the CSC reviews all potential subcontractor and supplier costs and determines which vendors to use, considering factors such as cost, availability, quality, reputation, cooperative proposals, financial stability, and our responsibility to do business following the highest standards of Jewish ethics. In fact, our search for the most appropriate subcontractors goes beyond the Low Country area, as for example, the artist who will prepare the ark doors resides in New York. Overall, the CSC’s approach to contracting and sub-contracting has resulted in savings of over \$250,000 to the congregation. All CSC decisions are made with the best interest of the congregation in mind.
- We are continuing to review recommended furnishings and color schemes. We plan to display the recommendations, together with alternatives, sometime in February or March.
- The finance subgroup of the CSC has been talking with local banks about a short-term construction loan to provide funds until all pledges have been paid. The banks are very willing to loan us the funds based on CBY’s strong financial profile. We know that the economy is difficult right now (how’s that for an understatement?), but if you can accelerate the timing of your payment it will reduce the amount we will have to borrow and thus leave more money for the Synagogue.
- We will have to move planned activities during the construction period to other locations. Full information will appear in the *Tidings* and the *Small Tidings*. Until further notice, Friday night services will be at the Synagogue. Some previews of upcoming locations:
  - Night of 100 Menorahs on Dec. 26 will be at All Saints Episcopal Church
  - Movie night on January 8, 2009 will be at the Cypress on Hilton Head Plantation
  - Sisterhood Sweetheart Luncheon will be at All Saints Episcopal Church

Even though we are just starting the construction, we are also looking ahead to completion and the type of dedication events we should plan. Our initial thoughts are for a grand opening weekend celebration with a dinner gala for CBY members and a fund raising event for the entire HHI-Bluffton community with an outside entertainer. These are only preliminary thoughts. ***We are soliciting input and ideas from the congregation for grand opening events.*** Please mention your ideas for facility opening and/or dedication events to Ted David ([info@bethyam.org](mailto:info@bethyam.org)). Let us know if you would be interested in working on grand opening events

If you have any questions or need more information please ask any member of the CSC. We are on the way to an expanded Synagogue that will enable CBY to serve the needs of Jewish families of the Low Country. It is going to be a great journey to a great destination.

Construction Steering Committee