

Michael Cape, Chair



As Chair of the Shaar Family Capital Campaign, I am pleased to report to you on our progress to date.

Our beautiful building is of both considerable size and age – almost 100 years old – and is in need of significant and costly infrastructure work. But this campaign is more than a bricks and mortar affair; it is a fundamental undertaking to sustain our vibrant Jewish life in Montreal.

Last fall, we hosted the magnificent Kristallnacht concert in our Main Sanctuary. The concert paid homage to the majestic synagogues that perished in Germany. As I watched the incredibly moving video, it brought into focus how much the Shaar is the central focus of our Jewish community life here in Montreal, and how magnificent and eternal our synagogue truly is. It is incumbent upon us to turn over our building to the next generation in the beautiful and sound condition in which it was given to us.

With that in mind, our campaign committee has been hard at work for over a year now. I must mention each member by name, for their service has been truly exemplary. The committee is made up of David Abrams, Mark Caplan, Marvin Corber, Stephen Gross, Raphael Kertesz, Joseph Paperman, Barry Pascal, Alice Raby, Michael Stern and Edward Wiltzer. Rabbi Adam Scheier and Cantor Gideon Zelsermyer are also full participants. Marian Levy, our marketing and communications expert, Janis Levine, our fundraising consultant, and Penni Kolb, our Executive Director, complete the team. I can't thank them enough. Carly Gips, Penni's

so competent Executive Assistant, beautifully coordinates all our work and I don't know what we would do without her.

An extra special thank you must go to Rabbi Adam Scheier and to Marvin Corber, who have been over the top working so diligently to raise funds.

We have started by addressing who we hoped would be our major donors. I am delighted to report to you that we have been so warmly received, above and beyond anything we might have realistically hoped for. We are just getting started and have already raised \$4 million. The love and generosity towards the Shaar that has been expressed by a small number of donors is truly outstanding.

But we are just getting started and there is a long road ahead. Reaching our target of \$8.5 million will be a daunting task, a task requiring a lot of hard work from a lot of very committed congregants.

To help shed light on the reasons for launching the Shaar Family Capital Campaign, we developed two beautiful videos. They highlight the work that needs to be done on our building, and what the Shaar means to many of our members. You can view these videos on our website, shaarhashomayim.org.

We are hoping that by the time this campaign is complete, we will have successfully reached our target goal. This can be achieved only if we have the full participation of our membership. Taking care of our building is a collective responsibility. We are counting on all our members to be a part of the Shaar Family Capital Campaign.

Bruce Vineberg, Chair



As Chair of the House committee, I am pleased to give you an update on the renovations being done at the Shaar. There are several areas of our aging building that need major repairs or upgrades. The Shaar Family Capital Campaign, chaired by Michael Cape, is underway to raise funds for these and other important projects. The campaign is

off to a good start thanks to the generosity of many donors.

I am happy to report that the renovations are progressing nicely. Keeping our building in good, safe condition is a top priority. This winter, we have upgraded our fire alarm equipment to a state-of-the-art system. We installed new fire panels, which can detect with great precision the location of a possible fire, new smoke detectors, pull stations, fire bells and strobe lights (where bells may not have been heard). We plan to make additional improvements to our security system by installing new video surveillance cameras and monitors and improved outside lighting.

In a vast building like ours, energy consumption is significant and costly. We mitigated this issue by carrying out a major LED (lighting) replacement project. Throughout the building, we replaced the incandescent light bulbs with LEDs and we did the same with the recessed lighting fixtures in the Main Sanctuary. This change has significantly reduced our energy consumption and labour costs while maintaining the ambiance of each area.

An extensive study on the envelope (exterior) of our building identified several problems. Water infiltration has caused severe

damage to the masonry, windows and walls of the Main Sanctuary. We applied for a heritage restoration grant from the Minister of Culture to repair these problems – as the Main Sanctuary is an official heritage site. The Shaar is pleased to report that our application was accepted and we will receive partial funding for this project. The same study also revealed deficiencies in the precast panels (exterior facade) on the sections of the building that were constructed in 1967. These issues were further inspected and repaired.

We have 36 roofs and original copper domes, all in varying stages of disrepair, some with leaks. We redid the roof over Lande Hall as part of our ongoing roof replacement schedule, and the next phase of roofing work will begin this spring.

Also in the spring, we will install a new chiller and control system. Our current chiller no longer conforms to environmental standards. Moreover, it can only be used in warm weather. The new chiller will be in compliance with all governmental and environmental regulations and will be functional 12 months a year. The new electronic controls will accurately – and centrally – monitor all thermostats, minimizing the human element in regulating the temperatures. The new system will significantly improve comfort and climate control throughout the building.

I would like to thank my fellow House Committee members for their hard work and dedication towards strengthening the Shaar.

We will continue to keep you posted on our progress to date.