



GREETINGS AGAIN FROM THE CONSTRUCTION SITE!

Summer greetings from the construction site! A lot has happened in the past two months. The steel has been erected creating the skeletal backbone. Infill wood framing has begun to shape each room on the lower floor. This is the most exciting time on any construction site – I encourage everyone to pass by and take a look at our new home being created!

Given the rich traditions of our heritage, some of the most important spaces being constructed are those involving food. In a recent article about eating habits and behavior, Time Magazine noted: *“Interaction over food is the single most important feature of socializing. The food becomes the carriage that conveys feelings back and forth. . . . When families leave their home countries and settle elsewhere, the cultural feathering they bring with them – language, dress, music – is often shed within a generation. But foods linger. The last part of a culture that gets lost are the food ways. We find comfort in our cuisines.”* Since the enjoyment of dining together is an integral part of our Beth El communal life, much attention has been given to the layout, location and design of the kitchen areas in the new facility. There will be three separate kitchen areas in our new synagogue:

- The Main Kitchen (next to the Social Hall) will be used for all events in the Sanctuary and Social Hall as well as the adjoining outdoor terrace spaces and informal Gallery. This kitchen, which will have modern amenities and a view outdoors, will be used to prepare our monthly homeless meal and also can be used for cooking classes.
 - The School Kitchen (downstairs next to the Nursery School) will be a well-proportioned small kitchen equipped with a roll-up pass through door for serving snacks and for pizza before Religious School.
 - The Youth Lounge Kitchenette (in the lounge space below the Chapel) will be used for snacks for youth programs and for Kee Tov activities during the summer.
- Many volunteers from different user groups have worked hard to select kitchen equipment, cabinet layout and counters. Special thanks go to Ruth Spear, Adele Amodeo, Michael Fajans, Robinn Magid and Maggie Sontag for their efforts to design these kitchen spaces while balancing issues of budget, long term maintenance and daily functionality. Next month we’ll discuss various aspects of the wood framing being utilized to construct our new home. As you pass the site in the coming weeks, you’ll see a lot of wood products being cut and framed into place!

Alex Bergtraun