

Space Improvement Vision and Prioritized List of Improvements

September 2015

I. VISION

Society Hill Synagogue helps you become the Jewish person you seek to be.

We shall improve our building and facilities spaces to enrich this experience for the children, parents, singles, couples, and seniors who make up our community and position SHS for a sustainable future of growth.

SHS will provide more welcoming, functional, and beautiful spaces to serve our values of **Jewish Observance, Lifelong Learning and a Connected, Caring Kehilah** קהילה that nourishes our souls and the soul of our Shul.

II. PRIORITIZED LIST OF IMPROVEMENTS

The following list of Improvements reflects the values we cherish as a Congregation:

A. Jewish Observance

Venue that welcomes you as you are and as the Jewish person you seek to be.

Venue that responds to your needs as a child, student, family, nursing mother, young adult, adult, and senior citizen.

1. *Implement a Sacred Space Strategy for more flexibility and intimacy*

Focuses on how to improve spaces for Jewish observance and a more connected community.

- a. Purchase a lectern for floor level convening of services
- b. Remove first few rows of pews and purchase comfortable and durable chairs to be arranged in a semi-circle along with a curtain to promote more intimate services when the entire sanctuary is not needed
- c. Invest in dedicated area and toys for toddlers and parents while attending services
- d. Invest in a space that serves as Beit Midrash, Lounge and Salon for smaller services, adult education and social events in more intimate setting

B. Lifelong Learning

Expanded and improved Playschool options which responds to needs and demands of parents and their kids.

Venue for a unified Sunday and Hebrew programs that works for kids and parents.

Dedicated space for adult education that is comfortable to promote deep learning.

1. ***Build an Education Hub at 430 Spruce***
 - a. Provide a full day Playschool
 - b. Explore feasibility of offering certified Pre-K program
 - c. Renovate 430 Spruce to consolidate Playschool and Sunday and Hebrew School classrooms
 - d. Invest in security cameras and communication system to promote safety
2. ***Improve Outdoor Space in back of 430 Spruce***
 - a. Make 430 Spruce an “Education Annex” rather than attachment to 418 Spruce. Improve the outdoor space between buildings with a new door from Social Hall to rear of 430 Spruce, awning, permeable pavers, and landscaping plan.
 - b. Facilitates more secure play area for kids; Kiddush and Simchas outside, a more grand Sukkah
3. ***Invest in a Salon / Lounge / Beit Midrash that is furnished and decorated for adult centered religious observance, education and programming.***

C. Caring and Connected Community

Create more welcoming spaces to celebrate, learn, connect, mourn, and honor those we love.

1. Implement a Welcoming & Accessibility Strategy:

This focuses on quality of the experience for how members and guests get from the street entrances to the Sanctuary, our Social Hall, and Classrooms. Proposed improvements include:

- a. Repair front doors so we can open them more often
 - b. Improved signage so we know where to go
 - c. Improved lighting so we can see
 - d. Improved lift, stairs and ramps so we can go up and down with safety and dignity
 - e. Improved bathrooms so we can “go” with dignity.
 - f. Improved audio-visual system so we can hear.
 - g. New comfortable chairs and benches in lobby so we can rest, reflect, and socialize.
 - h. Addition of a coatroom.
 - i. Displays for Art
2. ***Renovate Social Hall for Simchas, adult-focused events and occasional school events***
 3. ***Invest in Improvements to Kitchen to handle larger events and welcome caterers as well provide a better venue for teaching our members the Joys of Jewish Cooking.***
 4. ***Build an Office and Storage Hub in rear of 418 Spruce.***