

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: FINAL - **Society Hill Synagogue Space Survey**

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter Responses: 145

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As a member of SHS, what are the reasons for your continued membership? (Please check all that apply.) - Other responses

Answer
family friendly programming
Community
Love your rabbis
Music
Memorial plaque, warm feeling of belonging
Being part of this community; relationships
social action
support of Jewish community
Rabbi Avi and Cantor Bob
habit
the sense of community
social action
long history here; it's our home
My community
Clergy and community
The friendliness of the Rabbi and the congregation
current family connection
Re religious services, only some
Spouse
Rabbi

Please rate the importance you place on SHS's physical space with regard to your decision to become a member/renew your membership or to enroll/re-enroll your child in one of our schools? - Comments

Answer
Have a connection to the physical space because it is familiar to me and my children
I attend services. I do not have a child in school and I am not interested in ancillary programs
One factor in our joining was the overall feeling we had at SHS. Although other factors were more important, the physical space, and how we felt in it were factors.
I think the sanctuary is great, but the other spaces need work/touch-up/etc.

	<p>Sanctuary is so different from my last synagogue, but its beauty grows on me more each year. Just too cold in the winter.</p> <p>Social hall lacks beauty and charm, and gives me pause when I invite guests. I couldn't consider having a "function" there as it is now, although I was amazed in past years how it was transformed for some festive congregational events.</p> <p>We need a coat room.</p> <p>Ladies rest room is insufficient both in plumbing and space.</p> <p>Locked doors are understandable, but not welcoming.</p>
	<p>We have been members for over 30 years although I enjoyed it more in the past when one knew that every Saturday there would be Services that one could attend. Now every Saturday is apparently aimed at a specific group and I find myself skipping one or two weeks per month and the synagogue is losing its relevance to me.</p> <p>It is OK to offer alternatives, but by making the alternatives in place of Services I believe some members dropped SHS to join a stable synagogue.</p>
	<p>It was more about feeling welcomed that the space, however, the social hall felt comfortable not high end and the sanctuary was simple and beautiful.</p> <p>Aside from space, the Rabbi and the neighborhood location were big factors in my decision.</p>
	<p>With the decrease in membership over the years, I would like resources directed to religious activities and programming for children and adults. We should expect this to continue (i.e. decrease) because of demographics of fewer Jews wanting to affiliate, more center city Jews' being assimilated than in suburbs and relatively recent competition from Keshet Israel etc. which are less costly.</p>
	<p>Philadelphia is a large historical city. Space available for competitive rent everywhere.</p> <p>I do not want to turn into RS (Rodeph Shalom). All ornament but an empty country club soul environment.</p>
	<p>The sanctuary is very beautiful and sacred space. I am drawn to be there.</p> <p>The downstairs space where we gather after services, for kiddish, meals and sometime classes is ok but the florescent lighting is a strain</p>
	<p>I believe it is important to maintain the present space to the highest standards before taking on new obligations.</p>
	<p>my preferred response would be someplace between somewhat important and not at all important</p>
	<p>Our sanctuary has been beautifully restored. I would love if our other facilities were modernized and optimized for greater program flexibility.</p>
	<p>There are some things that could be improved in the physical plant, but the outstanding ambiance of the sanctuary overrides a lot of other things.</p>
	<p>We are fully committed to membership, regardless of the physical space. We need space that works better for our present membership and to help us grow and intensify our community involvement.</p>
	<p>Sanctuary is beautiful and inspiring but not a reason to become a member. Physical space has limited some potential synagogue activities but not of primary importance. A congregation is not a building.</p>
	<p>Physical space is somewhat important.</p>
	<p>When we joined, we were attracted to the "feel" of the Synagogue, but it was not a major component for us. We overlooked (and continue to overlook) some of the more "worn" aspects of the building in our decision making</p>
	<p>It was more the location of SHS in relation to our home and the congregation's approach to religious observance and sense of welcoming.</p> <p>The sanctuary has understated beauty. The other parts of SHS are fair.</p>
	<p>It was only important that the congregation had a physical space (ie - not meeting in a hotel or school).</p>

	As new residents of Philadelphia and join the SHS, really helped us to feel at home! Thank you.
	We joined notwithstanding the state of the facilities, but it would make it more attractive to stay if the facilities were improved
	I really do not feel qualified to respond.
	It has always been very important to me that we occupy a facility of historic significance, and although it is important to me that we improve our facilities in order to better serve our diverse constituents, it is not SO important that I would cease to be a member if we were unable to do so.
	Sanctuary is a plus. Could be more decorative? Downstairs foyer not welcoming. Restrooms need upgrade. Signage absent, where did it go?
	We've lived with the existing conditions for many years, and our needs won't be affected directly by the proposed changes. However, we acknowledge the importance of being able to attract new younger members, and for them better facilities are needed.
	joined way back in the days of the murals. glad we can afford a bit more upkeep now. grand space would be nice, but it is the people who are more important.
	Beauty of sanctuary drew us immediately
	The sanctuary is beautiful. The education space is OK.
	Convenient walking distance location has been a key draw.
	The sanctuary is beautiful but I don't find the space problems to hinder my experience at SHS. I do think we could do some simple upgrades, but I realize and support the community moving forward with the capital project fully rework the building next door.
	The historic nature of the space ultimately is not that important. It is something to talk about but isn't what makes the community special.
How important was the condition of the Synagogue's space and facilities in your decision to cancel your membership? For non-members, how important was the building's condition and space in your decision not to join SHS? - Comments	
	Answer
	Given the size of the social hall and the lack of decor, we obviously were not as concerned about the facility as we were about other factors of the synagogue.
	not enough space to effectively run school
How important was the condition of the Playschool's physical space in your decision to enroll your child(ren)? - Comments	
	Answer
	[No Responses]
If you chose another preschool to attend over the SHS Playschool, how important were the following factors in your decision? - Comments	
	Answer
	And after care for working parents.
	Didn't really know about it at the time. This question should have had a choice of N/A
	Hours didn't work at the time.
	Convenience to work and quality of program were also important.
	Needed full time child care
	I should have checked not applicable as there was no playschool when my children were pre-school age.
	my kids are big now, but the SHS space was not a consideration in our choosing not to use the playschool.

	My son did not attend the preschool.
	Schedule. Our work schedule did not allow us to consider the Playschool
	Hours are too limited at the playschool
	I needed full-time care
	I have completed the question above as it is required, although this question is not applicable to my situation. If the question were re-worded to read "If you WERE TO CHOOSE another preschool, ... both physical space and proximity would be very important.
	don't have small children
	Playschool hours did not match with our work schedules. This was the biggest deciding factor.
	Main considerations in my choice of preschool: - Hours of operation - proximity to my job - ages of accepted children - diversity of population - quality of early childhood program
	Cost was the overwhelming reason. SHS playschool is not affordable for families at or even somewhat above median income.
I typically visit SHS for the following reasons. (Check all that apply.) - Other responses	
	Answer
	Holiday gathering
	Committee meetings
	Kiddush or Oneg
	To attend a meeting
	Attend meetings and celebrations
	lectures
	study with cantor, meet with rabbi
	Programs
	Activities
	Meetings
	social action meeting
	Used to have children in play school, Hebrew school and hebrew high
	attend a meeting or function
	Certain family and cultural events
	To attend meetings
	to attend an event
	to share a meal after attending services
	events
	TGIF when we can attend
	Committee meetings
During a typical visit, how likely are you or your family members to use the following spaces? - Comments	

Answer
My mother needs the elevator
I am in the Beit Midrash primarily for classes.
I frequently attend services; occasional classes; meetings in the social hall, Beit Midrash and 1st floor play school room; and conduct business in the front office and Education Office. I have only been in the outdoor space one time for Sukkot.
bathroom-women's, which is inadequate to our needs
We do not currently use the elevator. An improved elevator should, however, be a priority in any building plan.
When we are with people who need the lift, it needs to work. I could use more comfortable seating in the sanctuary. The pews have become very hard on my back.
The lobbies need to serve purposes other than movement - including a place to rest, schmooze.
Do not know what is included in "outdoor spaces"
It is not an elevator. It is a pre-historic lifting device that is a travesty.
Social hall fine. Classrooms need upgrade. Lobbies could be made to be as welcoming as possible. AC in sanctuary often too cool.
Elevator is great with our elderly parents
Not sure what outdoor spaces you mean.
I'd like to see a family room for nursing babes. It has been awkward over the years not to have a comfortable private quiet space to support attachment parenting! Thank goodness the meal support & Shabbat community has improved tremendously.
On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being least and 5 being most, please rate your and your family's level of satisfaction with each of the following spaces: -
Comments
Answer
The benches need new cushions! They have grown to be pretty uncomfortable. If there were a category for n/a or neutral i would have chosen that where I selected "1
I have enjoyed the art exhibits in the lobby although the space is inadequate, poorly lit and often cluttered and not conducive to art.
The sanctuary is physically pleasant, preserving its historical character. The pews can be a bit hard to sit on for extended periods. The social hall is not very pleasant. The Beit Midrash is small and seems inadequate for the uses to which it is put. The stairways are steep and difficult for some people. The lobbies are little more than a space to pass through.
Aside from the sanctuary, the other spaces are sparse, poorly decorated, not very useful for events.
I don't often use (or know about) outdoor spaces outside of Lawrence Ct. I have never used the elevator and I don't think about the stairways.
The Sanctuary needs some repairs to window panes, pews, balcony seating and water leaks. The stairwell to the Sanctuary can be dangerous. The lift is not the most respectful way for folks, it requires assistance and is noisy. We no longer access our library due to the location in the balcony. The Beit Medresh for classes or meetings is limited in space due to the double use for the Preschool. Front Lobby is not comfortable/welcoming. We have inadequate outdoor space. Bathrooms/not accessible.
i didn't know there was an elevator.
One improvement that would not be terribly expensive is better lighting in the lobby . It would be much more welcoming with brighter light.
The stairs are dangerous, especially when children are running up and down. I have been nearly knocked down several times.
I think that more classroom space is needed. The lobbies as classrooms are not optimum.

	The folding chairs are uncomfortable. I take two plus hour classes, and the chairs should be comfortable and inviting. I am petite and can't imagine how uncomfortable they are for larger people or those with back issues.
	acoustics in sanctuary could be better
	Lobby could be improved wth chairs, small tables, and art work.
	I wish the elevator was quieter.
	The lift and bathrooms are outdated and undignified. The stairs from the lobby to the Sanctuary are a violation of the American With Disabilities Act and darn scary to maneuver even for some one without disabilities.
	Sanctuary is sometimes cold and seats are uncomfortable. Needs renovations. Stairway between social hall and sanctuary is precarious.
	Sanctuary benches and cushions somewhat in need of attention; Social Hall well below standard, as is the elevator.
	Lobby to be more welcoming. Social hall to be decorated for TGIS to appear less play school and more adult festive.
	Again, not sure what outdoor spaces you mean.
	I like that the sanctuary is not flashy. When I was married at SHS my mother couldn't understand why all the bulbs in the main chandelier weren't working & it was strange to try & use the bathroom - so small! - in a wedding gown & my wedding party sat on folding chairs in the social hall while we were talking. It's not a great space for presentation but this works for me spiritually with values but not for socializing or support for small children. It's ugly & small & multipurpose.
	Since I do not use many parts of the building I am answering a question without any knowledge. An example, I have never been in the elevator.
	The main lobby could use a real design makeover with more attractive lighting and perhaps a paint change. Perhaps the main downstairs lobby wall could be painted 1/2 dark gray [upper half] and 1/2 white [lower half]? I just think that when one stands at the doorway and looks down the hall toward the jacket rack, visually, the left side -- the big wall -- does nothing to invite the eye and warm the heart.
	I don't know if it is a space or human consideration; it would enhance services is loud disruptive children did not remain in the sanctuary.
	It seems like lobby areas could be more comfortable for people to congregate and relax.
Which space(s) would you like to see improved? (Check all that apply.) - Other responses	
	Answer
	bathrooms
	Elevator
	Rrest room(s); coat room
	elevator; restrooms; balcony/roof
	They are just fine
	Ladies Room
	elevator and bathrooms
	Cantors office
	bathrooms
	Lift possibly?
	Quieter elevator
	bathrooms
	Elevator, Lobby, Bathrooms
	the copy room

	Lift
	bathrooms
	Elevator, toilet facilities
	Restrooms
Which space(s) would you like to see improved? (Check all that apply.) - Comments	
	Answer
	The classroom space for Marjorie's monthly shabbat class is somewhat cramped when the social hall is unavailable.
	I really don't like this space. It always feels like a basement. I think the social hall needs to be relocated.
	Obviously, all improvements require expenditures. I would Place the social hall as the highest priority, as it is so central to the life of the congregation. The sanctuary seems most adequate in its present state, of all the spaces listed.
	It would be great to be able to hold events in the social hall. Classrooms for Hebrew school would be great, and might take some of the strain off the social hall.
	The social hall has limited capacity for large gatherings. For smaller meetings/classes, perhaps we could have a folding door to accommodate concurrent activities. Classroom space is limited and not dedicated. We need functional outdoor space both for student and adult uses. Front lobby is too small for seating. My only suggestion for the front stairs is to extend the railing to the point of entry to the upper lobby.
	It would be nice if there were actual classrooms - there are really only two classroom to speak of.
	the sanctuary is wonderful in its simplicity and with the light coming through its windows. the lobby is not terribly welcoming and the classrooms feel 50 years old. the spirit of the congregation brightens the social hall, but it could use some help.
	It's fine. Increase membership before increase size of building.
	I would like the social hall to be attractive enough that we could have Bar Mitzvah and Wedding celebrations there. It would have to be completely redecorated including a small dance floor or all wood flooring, wallpaper, window treatments and maybe some kind of sound system. Obviously, the classroom space needs to be expanded by renovation and use of the other building. Also, it would be more respectful if the cantor's office at least had more attractive lighting, wall and window treatment
	better, larger bathrooms AND A LIBRARY
	The lower lobby could be more inviting.
	I am fine taking classes in small rooms like the Beit Medresh or in the social hall. It's the people that make the classes. I do think more comfortable chairs are very important and have said so in the past.
	Put pads on the wooden pews
	could be freshened up
	Maybe rethink the art in stairwells and make more effort to keep lobbies brighter. I do like the flowers on the table in the lower lobby and notices there as well.
	We need effective adult classroom space. I am very interested replacing the pews with a flexible seating arrangement. It would open possibilities for different styles of services, other events. We could even consider a way to expand the bimah for performances. The sound system must be updated. The present system was designed only for voice support, and does not work for music amplification, or really for people who are not trained to project.

	See above comment. I don't know if the heating system is a problem but the sanctuary is often very cold. I would also like to have a multi-media system in the social hall (audio, computer projection, films).
	The social hall jumps out as the most problematic space in the synagogue because it is so big, serves so many purposes, and yet is out of keeping with the otherwise classy feel of the rest of the building
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install an elevator that meets code 2. Move Administration and clergy to 430 Spruce 3. Create Lobby and Lounge for adult focused activities 4. Consolidate and modernize men and women restrooms on one side of 418 Spruce 5. Build classrooms for Hebrew School in 418 Spruce Street
	It would be nice to have the social hall be an attractive lifecycle reception area
	I think a more modern Sanctuary, Bimah presence in the middle and more movable seating, even with the ark still up front would create a more welcoming environment.
	smells moldy in the classrooms social hall is dingy
	Social hall could really use to be less grim. Beit Midrash is good, but seems like we need another.
	I thought there was to be improvement via next door & the social hall could be improved if Playschool & Hebrew school focus shifted some to next door & outdoor. For example, storing toys, books, supplies. It's not been great having AA meetings where 2- year olds play.
	Rank order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social hall 2. Lobbies 3. Sanctuary 4. outdoor space
	A larger coat rack area would be a benefit during cold / inclement weather.
If we could expand a particular space in our building, which space would you most like to see expanded? (Check all that apply.) - Other responses	
	Answer
	Cloak room; rest room
	restrooms; main office
	Ladies Room
	bathrooms
	Bathrooms
	Exhibition space
If we could expand a particular space in our building, which space would you most like to see expanded? (Check all that apply.) - Comments	
	Answer
	I would like to see the social hall offer a place to sit, relax and be social.
	I think the sizes are fine. Tuning up the spaces is what we need to do.
	Front lobby only
	The social hall is outdated, unattractive and not a viable space for a bar or bat mitzvah reception. It would be nice if we had enough space to have Hebrew School and Sunday School classes held at the same time.

	i did not include the classrooms because I simply don't know if overcrowding is a problem. if it is, then we should expand them. the lobby, such as it is, does not put our best face forward. would be nice to improve the social hall, but it does not seem a pressing problem to me.
	A little stage area for school to start putting on little Toranic plays for holidays and fundraising. Nice outdoor sukkot tent we can eat under on friday nights like Mikveh Israel.
	This is a comment regarding renting the social hall. The fact that there is no flooring suitable for dancing makes it difficult to hold celebrations there. Also, as I mentioned earlier, complete redecoration would be required.
	We need more spaces for children's' classes, adult education programs, and small group activities and meetings.
	If, as in the 2007 plan, we have more classroom space, then we can make more "adult" use of the Social Hall without physical expansion.
	If there were enough classroom space, then the social hall could be decorated for social functions.
	The Sanctuary could be smaller frankly, so as to feel more intimate - but the social hall should be expanded to be useable as a true social hall while continuing its other multiple purposes
	1. Divide 1st Floor of 418 Spruce between Play School and Sunday School space 2. Create a Lounge / Salon space for adults closer to Spruce Street 3. Cut an entrance on west side of social hall for access to combined outdoor space of 418 and 430 Spruce St. Landscape and build an awning
	Space to show art work, display history of SHS, performance/film space. Create a library space.
	Education is the heart of the community in my opinion.
	What ever areas the powers that be in their collective deem appropriate to continue to improve the use and health oh SHS
If you would not consider hosting an event in the Social Hall, what improvements could we make to that physical space to change your mind? - Responses	
	Answer
	new carpeting, new furniture, walls are uninteresting, lighting is too office-like--all in all not conducive to an event space.
	I don't foresee having a need to rent a space for an event.
	Less children's toys and decorations. The posts in the middle. The ceilings feel low
	Reduce use of social hall as classroom space
	Somehow, make it feel warmer (not temperature) : carpeting something on the windows, lighting. It's a feeling.... and the smell as you walk in. It's so hard to describe in words. Visit a place you enjoy being in and try to define why you enjoy being there. Usually, the content of the event makes me forget all the negatives and I go home happy.
	None. The Space was perfectly fine when we had the luncheon there after our child was called to the bimah to read Torah. We simply have no need for such a space at this time.
	I would like to see another option that is not a basement.
	I do not have need to use the Social Hall. If i did I would consider it.
	Redecorate it.
	Not fond of ceiling, or supporting columns. Space is very drab.
	I don't generally host large events.
	i do not live in Society Hill, so my problem with the space is more in the lack of parking for guests.
	I have no events!

	As of today, I have no plans on hosting an event.
	A paint job and prettier covers for the piping/support beams.
	Stage.
	Walled mirror for dance instruction income for synagogue and also great for holidays and weddings.
	I probably wouldn't host an event anywhere, but I doubt that the the Social Hall could be made very attractive even if renovated because of its basic layout and structure (not much natural light; supporting columns breaking up the space).
	I've already stated my recommendations in earlier sections
	better bathrooms, better decoration in Social Hall
	looks like a basement and school. difficult to make transition to space that looks elevated for a special event.
	It's bland. Maybe upgrade the flooring
	I just seems to enclosed. Maybe easy access and visibility to an outdoor space
	I would be more likely to consider using the social hall if it were less of a multi-purpose room.
	remove the toys and playschool items. Redecorate. If possible, remove the poles. Better lighting, chairs (and place to store them.)
	We have already used the Social Hall for family events. It needs a floor that would permit dancing - perhaps with a covering for a portion of the carpet.
	Fewer columns would also be helpful, though I know they hold the sanctuary up.
	I would consider hosting an event in the Social Hall if the classroom items could be removed.
	Decorating the Social Hall in a way that does not make it look like a preschool classroom. Walls, lighting, decor, flooring, etc.
	The social hall is more like an elementary school cafeteria with art work on the walls. I would not consider it for a formal event.
	Furniture, flooring, walls.
	The usefulness and attractiveness of the social hall.
	it isn't the space perse, i have no events to host
	Curtains, lighting, toilet improvement. SHS should be able to tell prospective renters what can be done to accommodate them.
	lighting and decor
	Removal of school decorations
	It needs to feel warmer, less institutional. It is not a pleasant space to be in right now.
	updated
	I don't host events
	..
Please elaborate on your answer: - Responses	
	Answer
	Bathrooms difficult for wheelchairs
	Elevator is loud
	Mother in law relies on relatively noisy, slow elevator to get to the sanctuary
	Basically satisfied and would like to see some upgrades as we can afford the improvements.
	There is no back elevator to afford access to the Beit Midrash.
	The lift is not inviting so my mother, although rarely attends service, will take the more challenging stair route.

	Only the front entrance is accessible for someone disabled. The lift to the sanctuary is slow and awkward
	Many often-used areas of the building are on different levels (Sanctuary, Beit Midrash)
	Can't get to the beit midrash with a wheelchair and the bathrooms are unmanageable.
	Toilets, stairs.
	better acoustics in the sanctuary would help the hearing impaired
	There could be better railings on both sides of the stairwell to the sanctuary and a quieter elevator
	My dad is 80 years old and wobbly. Going from the sanctuary to the men's room is a perilous trek.
	The lift is very slow and very loud, so that people avoid using it if possible. Several spaces require use of stairs to access.
	There is ground floor access without stairs and the lift, while slow, serves its purpose. My mother in law, while recovering from back surgery, was pleased that she was able to get into the main sanctuary without difficulty.
	i have problems with stairs; i can use them and do so but i'm slow
	there needs to be enough space for hebrew school and Sunday school to occur at the same time. We lose families to other congregations that have less of a time commitment for this reason (i.e. all kids go from 9-12)
	I periodically have some orthopedic issues.
	Handrails in bathroom stalls would be helpful for family member.
Of the spaces in our building that you find to be the least satisfactory, please specify the issues that concern you most about the condition and/or functionality of the space? - Responses	
Answer	
	The stairs are steep but that's not something you can do much about. The entrance area downstairs is unattractive and looks institutional. The Social Hall is dowdy. Bathrooms are ok but very small, especially ladies room
	I wish the Sanctuary could be cleaned up and the "dings" in the wood could be replaced. (I also wish the siddurim and chumashim could be put in holders at the pews and that the Ark faced east, but I realize these things aren't going to happen.) I wish the preschool paraphernalia could be separated from the space where we have kiddush following services. I wish we could have separate class space for adult ed/committee meetings and for children's education. None of this, however, affects my deep affection for this congregation, and all of it is of minimal importance in the grand scheme of things. The content and quality of the spiritual and educational events that take place in the building are infinitely more important to me than the building itself.
	Outdoor space is cramped and uninviting. Community space (see above)
	The social hall is small and feels rundown. The ceilings are low giving it an even smaller feel.
	The social hall is not large enough; the school does not have separate classrooms; the lobby is not large enough to pick up kids from hebrew school.
	bathroom for girls/women..... just go in and you might understand. The toilets do not always function. Need I go on. I love the synagogue but since you asked - yes, it could be made a place with a warmer atmosphere. Look around at other synagogues in center city..... pay attention to what you see there. In our synagogue, for example: clean chairs to sit on when you enter downstairs.
	Stairway steep and difficult to maneuver for Young children and some adults.

	The lobby outside the main sanctuary is a mess; the social hall needs work, at least a freshening up. The elevator is small and noisy.
	The Social Hall. It has too many functions, basement lighting, and does not have a nice place to sit, read or socialize.
	The elevator is noisy and often disturbing to worship. There is little privacy for Hebrew School activity. The seating for adult ed classes is not comfortable and the meeting space is not inviting to learning. The main lobby is not attractive or welcoming.
	Class room space. Need to be individual rooms.
	I think the Social Hall is, undertandably, very small. It is drab and I never like spaces with drop ceilings.
	The Social Hall is too small for many functions. It is not a physically pleasant space in which to have a meal, or to take part in other functions. The lighting needs upgrading. The combination of the steep stairways and small lobbies makes for awkward circulation into and out of the sanctuary and social hall. Sanctuary pews could be enhanced with cushions. The Beit Midrash is small, has heating issues, and seems quite inadequate for holding a typical class, such as those given by Rabbi Berman.
	Social Hall. Something needs to be done to make the poles more integrated and less threatening, especially when kids are running,
	The social hall is, at best, the unifying place where schools (play- & Hebrew) and onegs happen. But, most other synagogues have a separate place that can be set up nicely for meetings and events, without waiting until the school is dismissed, or having to deal with the mess from the play school all over the walls and floors. We could also possibly offer the social hall to the community to rent if we had a nicer dedicated space to use for meetings and events, thereby making an income.
	Rest room (plumbing) and capacity Social hall - lack of charm or graciousness, multiple usages much in evidence Sanctuary heating
	The stairs as I get older they are getting more difficult to climb.
	The Beit Midrash is very small and is typically filled to overflowing (at least as far as chairs) when Rabbi Marjorie holds sessions there.
	Sanctuary: Due to size, large gatherings create long lines for food and at times inadequate seating. Outdoor space: We cannot easily access the space we have which is sorely inadequate both for the play school and for congregants to enjoy. Outdoor space would also benefit the Hebrew school students and provide an option for children during communal social gatherings.
	The social hall and the lack of classroom space.
	the lobby on the street level is not really a lobby -- more like a hallway leading to another hallways, plus a little more space. i'm not sure how you would create a larger space there, but if I was looking for a new synagogue that space would not entice me. i've seen the social hall redecorated for events, including a wedding, and look wonderful. but its physical constraints limit what can be done day in and day out.
	Everything is multi purpose. Would like to see separate spaces for adult and youth activities. Also, more space to hang out. A comfortable lobby or lounge.
	The elevator is very noisy and that sometime is a problem. We do not have a bathroom that is easy for handicapped people to use.
	I wold like to see expanded classroom space and improved/expanded social hall space.

	I find the social hall to be ok for general use, but for special occasions it is lacking in atmosphere!
	Also, when my child used the space for playschool, it always seemed a bit chaotic.
	Lobby basically doesnt exist. We could use a nice set of chairs and a lamp. Pick ups. Drop offs. Meet ups. Etc
	The Social Hall is not a very attractive space, and unfortunately the problems are structural. While the Sanctuary is beautiful and open, with abundant natural light, the Social Hall is the opposite--relatively low ceilings, large supporting pillars, and little natural light.
	Once again, I'd rate the social hall as least attractive and have given my reasons earlier in this survey.
	Social hall- All kid focused Stairwells to sanctuary- too narrow and steep
	in the Sanctuary, I have had skirts ruined by rough edges on the pews and I mean more than one skirt. Also stockings pulled.
	The social hall is somewhat worn looking -- particularly the carpet. There is probably no good way to fix that, though, given the use that it gets, and particularly in light of the type of use that it gets. It's also a shame that it has the poles, though I assume there is no good, cost-effective way to eliminate them.
	elevator needs to be replaced. I don't know how you fix the accessibility issues with the bathrooms.
	It's really challenging to have Sunday school split into 2 sessions for younger and older children. We need adequate space so we can have all children in Sunday School from 9-11 am, or other designated time.
	Social hall needs to be updated as well as bathrooms.
	I think that there needs to be dedicated classroom space. Having all of the instruction in the social hall makes teaching difficult.
	The social hall is useful but not very attractive. There should be dedicated space for various school activities
	Office Space Bathrooms
	social hall: too much "stuff." If playschool is to continue, it should be housed elsewhere. A library/vmeeting room would be a good addition for adult education and Hebrew School.
	Lift perhaps. I do occasionally hear visitors and congregants alike comment on it's speed, and sometimes sound.
	Social hall needs to be modernized new ceiling
	The need to use the Social Hall for multiple disparate functions makes it less than ideal for any of the individual functions. Better classroom space would allow modernizing the Social Hall/kitchen thus making them more attractive for social functions.
	Spoke a bit about this in last entry. I make a lot of allowances for the age of the building and the financial constraints. That said, better lighting in the lower lobby would be an improvement. I wish there could be a more active place for artwork there, but I have to admit I'm not volunteering. What to do?
	Ladies' room is too small. (Toilets are better now.)
	The need to use the Social Hall for classrooms, and especially the use of the Beit Midrash as a classroom, eliminated its original purpose as a smaller worship space. We need an attractive worship space that could work for alternative or smaller worshipping groups. The sanctuary is a magnificent space for worship, meeting, arts. In the long run, I would like to see it equipped for all that. And, if the pews were removed, imagine the dancing that could occur there - much better than anything in the social hall.

	The lobby appears rather barren...not welcoming. Would be wonderful to have separate coat room and some furniture with access to a coffee pot. In addition, If we can make the space, I think it would be very beneficial to have a library.
	The lack of classroom space. The appearance of the social hall. Replacement of the pillows on the benches in the sanctuary with something more comfortable.
	The need for more cleanliness in the entire building.
	1. Lift is awful, loud and demeaning 2. Bathrooms are ancient and do not comply with ADA 3. Lighting is dark and cold 4. Social hall is drab 5. Kitchen is under-utilized 6. Need to have a unified 9 to 11 am Sunday and Hebrew School class schedule
	Social Hall requires significant decoration to look nice for a party or reception. Lobbies lack comfortable seating.
	the basement
	Poor lighting, overall decor is totally focused on playschool / religious school. Some thought could be undertaken to make a design that appeals to all generations.
	The social hall is definitely the space we always found the least satisfactory. As we get ready to plan a Bat Mitzvah and debate having a luncheon in a playschool art room, that's just become even more apparent. While moving the playschool to another space would be ideal, I personally believe implementing some design changes including closets, wall boards, lighting, etc could make for a more welcoming while still useful space. From what we've seen, the Hebrew School does not appear to be as heavy a user of the social hall space. While it's clearly in the room, their usage is transformable while the playschool use leaves a more permanent impression. This set of priorities always struck me as odd.
	The carpet and walls are industrial/unfinished looking
	Teaching is very difficult in the social hall its Very noisy and my students are always distracted. I feel like they are never being instructed the way they deserve to be
	The front lobby is not terribly attractive and it the first space one enters. I think a creative architect/designer could gussy it up.
	The social hall looks and feels like a cafeteria in an underfunded and unloved elementary school. It would be nice to have a ladies' room that wasn't shared with the pre-school. Or at least have space for both.
	The classroom we use for Rabbi Berman's class is generally too small and it could use more space & seating.
	It would be nice to have a more usable adult education space, with enough room for 15-30, but where the space is contained. (The Beit Midrash is too small, and the social hall is too big...)
	I think it's less than ideal to have so many Hebrew School classes on one room. It has been made to work but I think it may distracting to the students and may impede their learning.
	I have no further response at this time.
	The lobby is not welcoming enough. The restrooms may be a turnoff to some.. The elevator needs an upgrade. Signage outside and in. A small(?) piano in sanctuary. Please see above comments
	Social Hall does look like a playschool room but I'm not sure that spending lots of \$ would bring in enough income from rentals to make it worthwhile. It might be possible to rent some of social hall space for local arts performing companies to rent.
	social hall not large enough. easy storage space for playschool items would help in some cases.

	lobby dark and dingy...not welcoming classroom air moldy
	Social hall needs to be beautified
	We seem to need additional separated classrooms/study spaces. Social hall needs some real aesthetic improvements.
	The wide open space for the middle year of Playschool/Preschool was a major turn off. The 2-year old class & PreK classes have a dedicated classroom. Crucial! That middle year Ms. Gloria's year becomes ill defined & why we switched schools despite appealing programming & staff & location. Our children's Sunday school & Hebrew school experience has also been affected by no dedicated classrooms. I believe focus & respectful behavior have been elusive in part due to big blob space. Also I see a relationship between congregant children growing up playing in the social hall with Playschool riding bikes etc. & children running in circles during services meals. The school was so important to our family & other neighbors but the overlap has been frustrating for adult & family socializing.
	downstairs lobby is dark and needs updating
	the social hall is hard to use for things like bar mitzvahs, brunches, family simchas in general because of the way it looks and because of the artwork from kids all over the walls
	Classroom space and a better social hall
	classroom space needs to be expanded so kids can have less distractions. Social hall does not accommodate large events.
	SHS needs more Classrooms!!!
	The upper level of the sanctuary seems to be wasted space. Wondering if there's a way to level the floor up there & use it as classrooms or offices.
	Size of the social hall is limiting for larger congregational or family celebrations
	I think that as we move forward with a new capital campaign to support our efforts next door, we ask ourselves -- since we are going through with this, what can we do to make these spaces truly inviting and without spending tons of money. If adults want a place to socialize, let's be sure to invest in a fridge, a sink, and maybe a small kitchen operation for tea, coffee, and lunches? If folks want to sit and talk, let's make sure we invest in some nice couches, chairs, floor lighting, and some bookcases -- things that can be done without enormous cost. I think next door can be a terrific opportunity -- but we need to blend our ideas of the future of the synagogue as a jewel, as a great community with these new spaces and avoid humdrum design.
	The woman's lavatory. While I appreciate that it is shared space with the playschool, it is cramped and the hanging toddler toilet seats are unsavory. It would be an asset to expand this space to have additional stalls, particularly one that is wheelchair accessible. The issue of disability is most pronounced in the woman's lavatory. (I have no knowledge of the men's). The changing table occupies maneuverability space. This would be a major consideration in renting the space to host an event.