

## Eugene Temple Beth Israel Capital Campaign in Full Swing

Judaism is alive and vibrant all around Oregon! This is no more evident than in Eugene. Temple Beth Israel is in its first year of a three year capital campaign to raise \$4,000,000 to build a synagogue center for Jewish life. This ambitious community project will produce a new structure that will house a sanctuary, chapel, social hall, library, religious school, preschool, gift shop, community offices, conference room, teen lounge and administrative offices.

The goal is to have Temple Beth Israel be an inter-generational gathering place taking on the 21st century mitzvot of Tikkun Olam; combining social action and spirituality within a meaningful community setting for transmitting Jewish culture. In this project, Temple Beth Israel is seeking to meet the new challenges facing synagogue transformation. "We're taking the historical Jewish traditional imperative and translating it into a renewed vision to say we're not just a synagogue but a center for Jewish Life," says steering committee member Sharon Ungerleider. "This is the vision for the future: To create a physical

environment that inspires and motivates the best in each of us; that honors the founders and gives the best we can to our children, our parents and ourselves."

So far, the capital campaign has been very successful. Fifty five percent of the congregation has participated and as of February 2, 2000, \$2,209,000 has been raised through pledges and donations. This total includes 27 gifts from extended families and friends outside of the community.

Special opportunities are available for living tributes and memorials. Many generous donors have already taken advantage of opportunities to honor the memory of family or friends. Tributes already selected include the library, main courtyard, chapel garden, classrooms, school and administrative offices, teen lounge, gift shop, preschool, coffee shop, and numerous benches and stained glass windows. To date, 41 naming opportunities have been satisfied, but many other opportunities are still available. They include the social hall, religious school and classrooms,

kitchen, Rabbi's office, and community office.

The new structure, designed by Gerald McDonnell & Associates with James Cutler, a Design Consultant from Seattle, will be approximately 21,000 square feet and will be centrally located ten blocks from campus at 29th and University Streets in southeast Eugene. It will replace the current facility that was originally designed for 75 families. The congregation, founded in 1935 by a small group of visionary families, today exceeds 375 member families with 211 students in the religious school. The Jewish community of Eugene is estimated to number more than 4,000 people.

If you would like to find out more about this exciting step in the Eugene Jewish community, please contact Sheldon Rubin, Temple Beth Israel President at 541-484-0763 or Sharon Ungerleider, Capital Campaign Steering Committee member at 541-746-0885.

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