

Building and Grounds Wrap-Up

So the school year is mostly history and I'm wrapping up my first year as Building and Grounds Chair so I thought this would be a good time to see what we've accomplished, B&G-wise.



I can't thank the volunteers who've helped during my first year enough. Together we've accomplished so much. In only 4 scheduled work days plus some special events we cut back overgrowth all around the building. We opened much needed parking in the gravel lot. We took down and cleaned up after 17 ash trees were found to be suffering from ash decline. We pulled down ivy from the Play and Learn wall and patched the cracks in it. We trimmed back bushes and shrubs all over and cut back from the bottom of Gay Way to behind the building. We mulched and weeded. Then we weeded, and weeded and weeded some more. We even planted a new mail box.

Inside was just as remarkable. Holes have been patched, scrap marks in the wood repaired, areas in the basement cleaned of debris that took 20 plus years to accumulate. We hung signs, installed energy efficient light switches and GFCI outlets for safety. We put down anti-skid strips and repaired railings in staircases. We painted in several places. We even caulked the Rabbi's windows to keep out the cold

drafts (just in time for spring, *c'est la vie*). We cleaned out and disposed of debris from the basement to the attic. We fixed broken windows and hung new room numbers on the classrooms. We installed a new facet in the kitchen and even varnished the kitchen door. We laid a new rug in the vestibule. We removed an old stove. We even patched holes in the attic after evicting Rocky Raccoon.

The 17 ash trees were only a part of the overall tree management plan we executed. We took a total of 26 trees out from around the grounds. Most of these were either diseased or at risk of dropping branches or falling onto parking areas. This was in addition to cleaning up 2 more trees that actually did fall into the parking lot during the ice storm along with numerous branches.

All in all it has been a very productive year. So thank you to Jeff Alper, Ami Amada, Nancy Boxer, Jay Cohen, Jeff Chebot, Rich Friefelder, Mark Glicksman, Gerri Goldman, Gary Handwerk, Guy Homer, Shelly Homer, Jeff Jarvis, Steve Leberstien, Harris Mann, Bernie Miller-Hymowitz, Mike Oswald, Manny Ringel, Ken Rosenberg, Vivian Schirn, Jon Shapiro, Brian Smithman, Jill Snell, Sharon Starr, Steve Starr, Pat Steinberg, Janice Trope-Endter, Barbara Weisman, Dan Weisman, Len Zangwell and Babette Zemel. You folks all made the work days a success.

And in addition to the work days, we had a few other accomplishments this year.

- We added an intercom system to the main and solarium doors so that office personnel know who is at the doors and can leave them safely locked during the week.
- We also got a flue liner installed in the boiler chimney and had damaged grout at the top of the chimney repaired. We also had the branches hanging over the back of the building cut back to avoid further damage to the building and to expose the ground below to some sunlight.
- We got pachysandra planted behind the building where grass would never grow.
- We've developed a central file of building and grounds matters in the office so that information is available to anybody.
- We developed a procedure for requiring insurance verification from all contractors who do business with us.

- We cataloged and established a maintenance plan for all heating and air conditioning equipment in the building.

- And most notably, we hung 2 art quilts in the sanctuary in memory of Alan Trope-Endter.

So where do we go from here?

I have requested 4 dates for work days next year. They will be announced once the calendar meeting approves them. There are still a great many jobs to be done in making Or Hadash a home that we are all proud of. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone.