



An Appeal to the Yael Community Regarding Making the Shul Accessible

Making our shul accessible and comfortable for members with disabilities is an issue that has occupied the board and the community assembly for the past two years. This matter is crucial and obligates us as a community – both because many of our community members have passed the ages of seventy, eighty, and ninety, and because the increasing number of young disabled people in Israel, due to our current reality, requires every community to provide them with convenient and respectful access and entry to the synagogue. **See Rav Vilk's remarks on the importance of this matter [here](#).**

An accessibility plan was presented at the recent general community meeting. It includes building two ramps – one from the street to the shul courtyard, replacing the existing unacceptably steep ramp, and the second at the entrance from the courtyard to the women's section, through which men will also enter via the women's section into the men's section. Additionally, the kitchenette and restroom structure will undergo modifications to include an accessible restroom.

Since the meeting, and following an examination with an additional architect and re-consultation with the accessibility consultant, we found a way to run the ramp from the street to the courtyard straight along the wall of the Beit Midrash, instead of curving around the tree and taking up a corner of the courtyard – thus only taking a total of about 5 square meters from the courtyard. The plan was presented to the design committee, which commented on and upgraded several important aspects, and will continue to guide the design elements during execution.

Currently, the board members are working closely with Steven Drucker, who has volunteered his time for this cause, on detailed proposals reflecting the minor modifications made to the plan, as well as setting schedules for working with contractors. We intend to complete as much of the work as possible before the upcoming *Yamim Nora'im*, and in any event will complete the entire project immediately following the holidays.

At the aforementioned community meeting, approval was granted to budget 300,000 NIS for the project, with the understanding that the board has secured a 100,000 NIS contribution from the Municipality, while the remaining funds will be raised through **the contributions of all community members**, as well as using surplus funds in the community treasury, and by securing additional donations from generous donors. **It was decided that the contribution of all community members would be in the amount of 1,200 NIS for family members, and 600 NIS for individual members, payable in up to three monthly instalments.**

Anyone whose "heart moves them" to donate a larger sum to enable a high-quality and rapid execution of the project shall be blessed!

To donate the requested sum of 600 / 1,200 NIS by credit card – click [here](#).

To make a **larger donation than the requested sum, by credit card – click [here](#).**

All donations to the synagogue are recognized for tax deduction purposes under Section 46.

We wish to emphasize that we were delayed over these past two years due to the waves of war that struck us, but we fully intend to stick to a schedule where most of the work will be completed before the *Yamim Nora'im*. However, we cannot begin the work until the bulk of the required funds is secured. Your timely response will make that possible.

Thank you!

The Yael Va'ad