

★ Inside & online

LOCAL NEWS

A new sisterhood

Seven St. Louis area women spiritual leaders gather for a "historic" panel discussion attended by nearly 500 people last week. — Page 3

FEATURES



Beet it

Take the chill out of winter with a bowl of hearty borscht. — Page 12



ONLINE

Video interview with Hebrew Union College Dean

Publisher/CEO Larry Levin and Editor Emeritus Bob Cohn talk with visiting HUC-Cincinnati Dean, Rabbi Jonathan Cohen. stljewishlight.com/multimedia

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★ Candlelighting

Shabbat starts
 Friday, Jan. 23, 4:55 p.m.
Shabbat ends
 Saturday, Jan. 24, 5:56 p.m.



Covenant Place is beginning construction for the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Building, which will replace the Covenant I building.

Covenant: New building construction beginning

BY DAVID BAUGHER
 SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH LIGHT

Covenant Place, having met its first fundraising goal, is beginning construction on a facility that will replace its Covenant I building by the spring of 2016.

"The trucks are out," Executive Director Joan Denison said. "We'll see construction getting underway immediately."

The project represents only the

first phase of a larger effort that would replace all three of the apartment buildings for older adults over the next several years using a combination of existing real estate and land recently acquired from the Jewish Community Center.

Covenant I will be replaced by the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Building, a 101-unit building that will be completed before Covenant I is demolished. This

will ensure that residents will be relocated only once — directly to their new apartments.

The organization has closed on the \$4.4 million in private fundraising it sought for the Weinberg Building, which is expected to cost about \$20 million, assembled from a combination of tax credits, fundraising and loans. Though work on the new site will begin immediately, official groundbreaking is

planned for next month.

Denison said work will start with \$84,000 in public improvements, which will benefit the entire Millstone Campus. This includes new storm sewer lines and a new campus entry off Schuetz Road near Lindbergh Boulevard.

"This is another way for people to come in and out," Denison

See **COVENANT PLACE**, page 5

Prosecutor in AMIA Jewish center bombing case shot dead in Buenos Aires

BY URIEL HEILMAN
 JTA

The mysterious death of Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman seems ripped straight out of a crime thriller.

Nisman — the indefatigable prosecutor collecting evidence of culpability in the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish center in Buenos Aires, which killed 85 people — was found dead in his apartment just hours before he was to present evidence to Argentina's congress that he said implicated his country's president and foreign minister in a nefarious cover-up scheme.

The charge? That the two agreed to whitewash Tehran's role in the AMIA bombing in

exchange for oil shipments to energy-hungry Argentina.

Nisman's body was discovered late Sunday in his 13th-floor apartment with a single gunshot wound to the head.

Officials connected to the president, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, quickly said evidence pointed to suicide, noting that a .22-caliber pistol and spent cartridge were found near Nisman's body.

But the suicide theory was dismissed out of hand on the streets of Buenos Aires and among people around the world familiar with Nisman and his work investigating the AMIA attack. Instead, they said Nisman, 51,

See **NISMAN**, page 22



Demonstrators Jan. 19 at the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires protesting the death of federal prosecutor Alberto Nisman. The banner at left reads "I am Nisman. I am the republic." Photo: Movimiento Argentino de Fotógrafxs Independientes Autoconvocadxs Facebook page

Save the Date!

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COVENANT PLACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said. "It also gives a very direct access for EMS and fire to literally come across the street and into the campus if they need to."

The new tract will be regraded, part of a \$100,000 site preparation, to match the grade of the existing complex.

Denison said the institution is already raising money for a second phase, which would replace the Covenant II building. The third phase, which would eventually replace the CHAI Building, the third structure in the complex, is still being planned, but Covenant Place is still focusing on fundraising for the second phase.

"Let me be clear that our goal is to do the CHAI Building," Denison said. "It just has a big fundraising need and so we want to make sure we have the funds in place before we move forward with it."

Denison said that the Covenant Place buildings have ongoing maintenance issues and that it wouldn't make economic sense to renovate them. In addition, the outdated structures do not meet the needs of an increasingly elderly population.

"These buildings were built over 40 years ago," she said. "Though it is hard to think about it at this time, no one imagined people were going to live into their 90s and 100s."

That means both an increased demand for senior housing and a bigger need for units that can more easily accommodate assisted mobility devices. Denison said that units in the new building will feature universal design, which means that apartments and amenities can be used by a continuum of people of any age, including elderly residents with disabilities and mobility problems.

Bathrooms in the Weinberg Building will be large enough to handle scooters and walkers. Other amenities will include energy-efficient appliances, laundry facilities on every floor and Wi-Fi for common areas. All of the apartments will be one-bedroom, eliminating Covenant I's often vacant efficiency units.

Covenant Place will also maintain more than \$3 million in contracts with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for rent subsidies. Originally scheduled to run through 2019, the HUD contracts have been extended an additional 20 years.

Kristi Meyers Gallup, director of development at Covenant, called those dollars a "gift to the community" that help to take care of the area's elderly and highlight the importance of the complex.

"We have a high percentage of Jewish people at Covenant Place," she said. "If the buildings fell apart, what would our community do with them? Where would the dollars come from? It's wise for the whole community to invest in these properties."

Covenant also identified two lead donors to the project to date - Helene Mirowitz and the Albert & Ruth Kopolow Fund, which is managed by the Jewish Federation.

"Covenant Place is very important to the St. Louis Jewish community, benefiting the hundreds of residents who live there and many more who participate in the programs and services that are offered," Mirowitz said in a statement released through Covenant Place. "Both my mother and my late husband Carl's mother lived at Covenant Place. I am happy to be able to make a gift that ensures this community will be there for others for many years to come."

Denison said Covenant is trying to meet the needs of an aging population.

"For many families, it is just not affordable to be in an assisted environment," Denison said. "To live in a supportive environment where you have social service providers and you have some food support and programming support really enables people to stay in more of an independent environment without the need to move



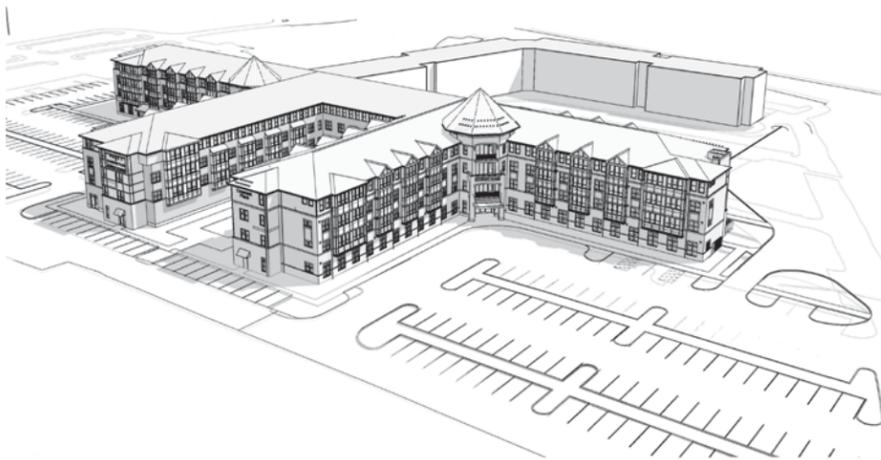
Joan Denison

Groundbreaking ceremony

Covenant Place Phase I groundbreaking is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17. For more information, call 314-432-1610, ext. 1116.



Kristi Meyers Gallup



LEFT: An artist's rendering of Covenant Place's three-phase construction plan, including detailed drawings of the buildings that would be constructed in the first and second phases.

She said the community has also responded positively to the need for funds, especially those who have had personal experiences with the complex.

"I was at the grocery the other day and ran into someone who came over to tell me how important Covenant was to his mother and how she'd become so

isolated before moving into Covenant," Denison said. "He said, 'Within two weeks, she had new friends. She had things she was doing. She was so busy, and here she had been so isolated in her home.'

"That's a story we've heard over and over again."

to a nursing care environment."

Denison said residents seem excited about the move. A relocation firm had been hired to help smooth the transition. Management will help residents by packing, moving and unpacking their belongings for them.



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Catch up on our previous coverage

Read about the three-phase construction plans Covenant Place set forth, and learn more about the complex financing matrix funding the \$20 million first phase of construction.

stljewishlight.com/covenant



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