

## Crew rising to occasion as landmark synagogue tops out

Construction of one of the first new synagogues to be built in New York City in nearly two decades reached a major milestone last week.

Elected officials joined synagogue members, general contractor Mc Gowan Builders, Inc., owner's rep Winston Consultants, Inc., and architect CetraRuddy for a topping-out event at the construction site of the new Lincoln Square Synagogue on Amsterdam Avenue at 69th Street in Manhattan.

The Lincoln Square Synagogue is one of the first two new synagogues to be built in New York City in nearly 20 years, both of which are currently under construction by McGowan Builders.

Lincoln Square Synagogue's president Ruvan Cohen, vice president Scott Liebman, and Rabbi Shaul Robinson; Winston Consultants president Herbert Weinstein, P.E.; McGowan Builders' vice president Douglas G. DePhillips and project manager Ernie Bellos, and CetraRuddy's principals John Cetra, Nancy J. Ruddy, and Jeffery I. Rosenberg, and associate principal Theresa Genovese led the ceremonies — a custom celebrating the placement of the last beam atop a superstructure.

Opening the event, Liebman said: "Achieving this milestone wouldn't be possible without the dedication, hard

work, creativity, and expertise of Mc Gowan Builders, Winston Consultants, CetraRuddy, and GACE Consulting Engineers. This will be a magnificent building."

DePhillips said, "Upon completion in late 2010, the new synagogue will become one of the most architecturally prominent structures in New York City. I would like to thank the entire design, engineering and construction team and especially the steel erectors and laborers for their enthusiasm, skill and commitment."

Herb Weinstein commented on the challenges of constructing a large, new structure located near one of the busiest intersections in Manhattan.

He said, "The construction team has addressed numerous logistical and planning challenges. These included complex permitting procedures with multiple city agencies, planning of material deliveries, street closures, coordinating with neighbors, and erection of an elaborate steel structure."

The new, three-story, 50,000 s/f, ground-up structure will house a sanctuary space for 450 congregants on the first floor, as well as a Beit Midrash that serves as the primary place for learning. Additionally, the synagogue will feature educational facilities, administrative offices, a large



ballroom for congregational events, and outdoor activity areas for holiday uses.

In addition to Winston Consultants, CetraRuddy, and Mc Gowan Builders, the project team includes structural engineer GACE Consulting Engineers, MEP engineer AMA Consulting Engineers, curtain wall consultant Gilsanz, Murray, Steficek, LLP, and steel fabricator/erector Barone Steel Fabricators.

Construction of the new synagogue encompasses erection of the steel structure, base building work, and all

interior finishes and systems. The structural system includes massive long-span transfer beams with depths of up to 36 inches, which support columns above the lower level ballroom.

