

Presidential Matters

by Steve Aronowitz



One reason I am particularly excited about becoming co-president of the anticipated beginning of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor is the opportunity to work with so many temple members who share my optimism for our future. It is one thing to voice commitment; it is entirely another to act upon ones beliefs. Sometimes, it is through difficult experiences that we best demonstrate our resolve.

The devastation of Super Storm Sandy and the subsequent nor'easter presented harrowing results to millions of people close to our homes. Many of us may still be cleaning up several weeks following the storms. In almost every case, the damage in our area was far less than what occurred within 20 miles of us. In fact, without power for 10 days we were literally "in the dark" for an extended period and were unaware of the devastation in the South Shore and Brooklyn communities.

Members of both congregations – Oakland Jewish Center and Little Neck Jewish Center – came together to assist our neighbors by contributing what amounted to a full busload of supplies, including cleaning supplies, warm hats, gloves, and scarves. In cooperation with the Samuel Field Y, these necessary goods have been delivered to the Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula for distribution throughout the Rockaway community. Associated with our collaborative effort, the Y also delivered hundreds of dollars worth of supplies to the residents of Breezy Point. The collection of goods was matched with donations totaling \$1000, given to the Disaster Relief Fund of the United Synagogue. 100% of those funds go directly to the aid of those in need without any administrative costs attached.

Two Houses of Worship, each with its distinct history, will soon come together officially; even in the face of some harsh weather events, there certainly is reason for optimism. The words are frayed from overuse, but particularly during the recent Thanksgiving holiday, we have much to be thankful for. Better yet, our members have risen to the occasion, pausing and giving to those in need. This time, those who require our help are just a 30-minute drive away.

I hope you will join Rabbi Yaffe and students of our Religious School at the Bayside Hills Holiday Festival, Sunday, December 9, at 5 p.m., at Bell Blvd. and 53rd Avenue. Members of the Oakland Jewish Center have participated at this annual menorah lighting ceremony for several years.