



## **Presidential Matters**

**by Steve Aronowitz**

One of the highlight events on our calendar is always the Annual Dinner Dance. This year was no exception. Over 120 guests attended the gala event, held on November 16, at Temple Beth-El in Great Neck. It's a great tribute to our consolidated synagogue that in such a short time, we really do have things to feel good about together.

The celebration weekend began with a Shabbat welcome to nine new families. At a time when membership numbers are declining throughout Jewish centers in northeast Queens, Marjorie Goldstein and her resourceful committee introduced new families who expressed delight in becoming part of our temple. Why not? Scan this newsletter and you will understand why Congregation L'Dor V'Dor - Oakland Little Neck Jewish Center is really the place to be.

Last week's dinner, also the temple's main fundraising event, honored four individuals – Lisa Tamari, Judy Vladimir, Chuck Wayne, and Joan Kase – each of whom has earned the respect of all of us for their commitment to the shul.

Of course, if we are discussing commitment, Lois and Stan Wirtheim also belong at the top of any list recognizing valuable members. I can't think of a program that doesn't have their names attached as chief organizers. Sunday night's dinner was no exception and you can add the dinner committee members who ensured that the evening would come off flawlessly.

As at every temple, we hope to encourage more individuals to take on leadership roles. As the co-president, Bob Stern, wrote in last month's newsletter, we were invited to participate in the USCJ leadership development program, Sulam for Current Synagogue Leaders. A thank you is extended to long time temple member Bruce Kauffman who will serve as a facilitator. Bob and I will "champion" the program, promoting participation, starting at the Board of Trustees level. Like any initiative, success is determined by the number of individuals who recognize its value and step forward to participate.

We have had more activities going on at the temple than I can ever recall. In addition to news about our Shabbat Services and Sunday Minyan, this edition of Temple Talk includes news about Adult Education Classes, A Planned Congregational Trip to Israel, A Shabbat/Chanukah Dinner, A Jewish and Single Magical Shabbat, A Chanukah Party, Sisterhood Book Review and Shabbat Afternoon service, USY for our Teens, Leadership Development for our Board, A Community Committee to Curb Gun Violence and the installation of our Rabbi as the Corresponding Secretary for the Rabbinical Assembly of Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens. No wonder nine families made the decision to join Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. Turns out it was an easy decision. There truly is something for everyone at our synagogue.