

## Presidential Matters

By Steve Aronowitz



It began slowly, gained momentum, and then lost its energy and came to a halt for several months. Just as frustration grew to a high point, with the stroke of a pen, the Order of Consolidation was signed, and a new Jewish Center was born. That historic event (for us) ended months of waiting and waiting, setting us up for wonderful days to come, year after year, as The Oakland and Little Neck Jewish Centers officially became Congregation L'Dor V'Dor.

Regardless of the name and in what seemed like a never-ending state of transition, the doors remained open, services have been conducted with unmatched engagement and large numbers have been participating in a wide range of activities. OLNJC is the place to be! Parking spaces have been at a premium!

On January 13 we had the first congregational meeting of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. Prior to the meeting, Rabbi Yaffe delivered an inspiring D'Var Torah and spoke in detail about the exciting Multigenerational Shabbat fueled by the energy of our Youth that has been scheduled for the third week in March. The primary purposes of this congregational meeting were the ratification of a new Constitution that will serve as the foundation for the governance of the congregation and the ratification of a new three-year contract for Cantor Shron. That decision was vital as the Cantor has brought an energy and passion received favorably by all members. The Rabbi-Cantor team has rapidly built a reputation of creating joyful opportunities for every member, regardless of age, to play a role in the growth of L'Dor V'Dor. The Constitution and the Cantor's Contract were approved. Other business of the meeting included accepting the proposed Congregation L'Dor V'Dor logo designed by Neal Yaffe, to be used on Temple letterhead and other communications. There was a proposal to have Board Members commit to attend at least two Shabbat Mincha/Maariv services over the next 6 months. George Klein of the Ritual Committee is sending out a sign-up sheet.

Thank you to the members of the Consolidation Committee for their endless efforts: Bob Stern, Dawn Singer, Marty Ackerman, Martin Jahre, Chuck Wayne, Jerry Schwartz, Jeff Bass, Howard Litvak, Irwin Wolf and Marjorie Goldstein.

Thank you to Donald Schoenholt, Daniel Budne and Ken Guttenplan who prepared the new Constitution that was ratified at the meeting of the congregation.

On the business end, a special committee will be established to make recommendations for secure investments for the resources brought along as part of the consolidation. A second committee has been appointed by the co-presidents to negotiate the sale of the parking lot, adjacent to OJC, with prospective buyers. The parking lot was not part of the sale of the building. Any sale must be approved by the general membership. We will be following the court approved Plan of Consolidation concerning the display of plaques; the first phase of that enormous project will be to assemble volunteers to work on the placement of plaques.

Perhaps, most importantly, is the question: how do we build upon what we have? As always, I am excited about our future. We have worked hard to put us in this position. Our successes have not happened by accident; that is why your help is necessary to secure the foundation. I encourage you to be involved and participate in all that our synagogue has to offer. There is indeed something for everyone at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor.