

PRESIDENTIAL MATTERS

By Steve Aronowitz



With 2012 just days away, now is a great time to reflect on 2011 and project to what is ahead in the New Year. Engaging activities, most of which attracted large numbers of congregants and their guests, highlighted the past year. Of course, holiday and weekly Shabbat services continued to be inspiring and are the heart of any synagogue's success. How about a packed house for Simchat Torah services? As Cantor Shron wrote in a recent Temple Talk article, "Jewish life is alive and well at Little Neck Jewish Center."

But, there was more...much more. "Friday Night Live" quickly became a hit, "Shabbat in the Park" (or scenic backyards, thank you) services were well attended, and the popular "Lunch and Learn" programs with Rabbi Yaffe provided an opportunity to explore the weekly Torah portion.

The recent Chanukah party sponsored by our Sisterhood and Men's Club is a great example of how these groups enhance the life of our congregation on a regular basis. We are grateful to our Sisterhood and Men's Club for providing our members with valuable presentations, trips and activities.

If you think 2011 was a good year for LNJC, well, you're right – but I predict you haven't seen anything yet! Just look at what's happening the first month of 2012! A Friday night to welcome our College Students, Shabbat Evening Services led by the students in our Dalet and Hay classes, A Traditional Shabbat Dinner, A Simcha Singles Shabbat Service and Program, Birthday and Anniversary Shabbat, Lunch and Learn, Tot Havdalah, Junior Congregation, Sisterhood Shabbat, Book Club and Adult Education, Rabbi Yaffe's Wednesday morning class, Cantor Shron's Torah Reading Class, two Bar Mitzvahs, a Community Martin Luther King Service, USY and Kadima programs, Religious School, Hebrew High and the formation of a new Israel Advocacy Committee. And, looking ahead, a great social evening with our Progressive Dinner in February. Indeed, there truly is something for everyone here at LNJC.

I want to briefly update you on our consolidation talks with Oakland Jewish Center. Representatives of both synagogues have been meeting informally for the past months and in mid-November we hosted Oakland for weekend services. The services gave our guests the opportunity to get a feel for the way our services are conducted. The Oakland membership recently voted to begin formal negotiations with Little Neck, the goal for the two storied Jewish Centers to – together – build for the future.

So, again quoting Cantor Shron, "A synagogue can have the most vibrant, the most dynamic, the most charismatic Rabbi and Cantor – but it's the community who make LNJC such a special place!"

On behalf of Julie and Jordan, and the entire Board of Trustees, I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year. And as always, if you have any questions or concerns related to the functioning of our shul, please feel free to contact me.