

Presidential Matters

by Bob Stern



Here we are in the month of January. The festive Hanukkah celebration is long over. The Hanukkah parties are but a memory as we face the harsh winter months ahead.

The lights remain on, bright as ever, at L'Dor V'Dor. We have activities scheduled at a pace that will astound even the most jaded among us. See this and future issues of Temple Talk, and read your emails, for more details.

As has been mentioned so many times before, these events and activities do not magically happen. They are the result of hard work by your temple leaders and your fellow congregants. The list of names is a familiar one as it seems it's the same people who always come forward to get the job done. This temple relies on the good nature, talents, and willingness of a handful of dedicated, caring people for virtually all of its activities, functions, and operations.

While we are fortunate to have this cadre of people upon whom we can depend, it's not fair to them that they carry the load time and time again. At a recent Board meeting, a comment was made that we don't adhere to the 80/20 rule whereby 80% of the work is accomplished by 20% of the membership. We might not even be 90/10 – we may be 95/5!

Well, we are taking two paths to try to remedy this situation. The first is a new USCJ program entitled Sulam for Current Leaders. This program has multiple goals but two that are important to us are: 1) the change to better procedures and practices for the Board to make it more effective and efficient; and 2) to promote new leadership. An Executive Board Kick-Off Session was held on December 14 with very positive feedback from the 15 participants.

The second has to do with the Board membership and the Nominating Committee process. As our Plan of Consolidation and Constitution require the shrinking of the Board from its current 57 down to 36, a new approach will be taken this year. Each member of the congregation will be asked to complete a short survey to ascertain if they are interested in a seat on the Board. They will also be asked to describe what skills, talents and abilities that would bring to the Board. Ideally we want people serving on the Board who are there to make a difference, to help improve the operations and programming, to participate in temple activities and to be ready and able to assume higher office within the temple leadership. Please watch for the mailing and read Temple Talk for more details, probably in February.

Some may think our goals are too high. I refuse to accept that argument. I have confidence in our congregation and I think that we will achieve at least some of our goals. Only you can prove the naysayers wrong and prove me right.

Steve and I have a passion for this synagogue and the incredible mix of members that make up the congregation. There can be no other explanation for why we do what we do and for so long. We know a great many of you share our passion. We challenge you to demonstrate that passion, that love for Congregation L'Dor V'Dor.

L'Shalom,

Bob Stern