

## **PRESIDENTIAL MATTERS**

*by Steve Aronowitz*



A project that started over one year ago reached a most favorable conclusion on June 11 when voters at Little Neck Jewish Center and Oakland Jewish Center approved a consolidation of the two synagogues. The vote, nearly unanimous at LNJC, and well above the 2/3 minimum requirement at OJC, enables the newly formed Congregation L'Dor V'Dor to begin work towards a bright future.

In accordance with NY State law, the consolidation plan has been submitted to the state's Supreme Court for its approval. The legal process is estimated to take several weeks so it is virtually assured that we will be officially together for the High Holidays. The two synagogues will come together on the Shabbat weekend of August 17-18, beginning what promises to be a wonderful partnership. Oakland's last services at their historic synagogue will be August 11<sup>th</sup>.

For Little Neck members, it is the end of a long winter's night in searching for an ideal alliance. Failed attempts with Temple Torah and Marathon Jewish Center are history now. Clearly, the match-up with OJC was what we were searching for all along! Reaching an agreement of this magnitude takes time and commitment. The latter was in evidence throughout as the respective consolidation committees met regularly, understanding the importance of a potential outcome.

In a sense, what was accomplished a few weeks ago was clearly just a beginning. Two congregations with proud histories now must combine their strengths, ultimately evolving into an even greater congregation that arguably will become the leader in northeast Queens. A calendar meeting a week ago helped develop a timeline and establish priorities. The Ritual Committee has determined which OJC religious articles will come to its new home and together with Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron will begin outlining how High Holiday services will proceed. Because no construction may begin prior to consolidation approval, it is likely that there will be no work started before the High Holidays. A letter outlining membership issues, including High Holiday ticket information, will be mailed prior to August 1.

This is an exciting time. New name. New congregation. New friends. However, one should not forget that neither synagogue loses its history; rather, each congregation brings its values to its new home. Oakland explored several synagogues before deciding that LNJC was the perfect match. Ultimately, it was our membership – who we are – that was the deciding factor.