

PRESIDENTIAL MATTERS

By Steve Aronowitz



One of the great nights in LNJC history is sure to be Sunday, May 20th, when we honor over 30 member families who have been with us for 36 years or longer, at our Journal Dinner Dance. Recipients of this year's Larry Kaplan award, our "double chai" honorees best represent our synagogue's proud history. After all, how many temples can boast such a lengthy list of members who have made their contributions to our shul, in some cases for seven decades? Over the years, or should I say in many cases, 'nearly half century,' we have annually highlighted the accomplishments of one or two individuals, each standing out in his or her own right. This year, I'm excited to join you in recognizing our temple's history and what better way to do it than by saluting long time temple members. In the opposite column is a listing of these honorees. If your name is missing from this list, please accept our apologies, let us know and we will be honored to add it to this list.

In addition to the Kaplan award, David Penner will accept the Leadership honor, recognizing his exceptional service to Little Neck Jewish Center. How does one define service to an organization – is it through hours upon hours of time devoted to designing computer programming? Or maybe it's updating the technology or telephone systems at the Center? Perhaps it's building the temple's website? In fact, it could be putting together Temple Talk, designing an easy-to-read, informative newsletter for our members? Whatever example one selects, David Penner's contributions to our synagogue are well-documented and appreciated. David will call his work a "labor of love," regardless, a formal thank you is long overdue. On a personal note, I have never met anyone who does so much and derives satisfaction solely through his commitment. Those who know him understand exactly what I'm writing. As David puts together this year's Dinner Journal, it is appropriate that his name will be featured.

This year's Sisterhood's Elaine Bruckenthal Award honoree will be announced next week.

As president for a sixth year, I am proud to join with you in honoring our double chai members as well as David Penner, and our Sisterhood honoree. Like you, when I take a look at this year's honorees, I am proud to be part of our congregation. Along with Julie, I look forward to reaching the double chai milestone and I continue to be impressed by the incredible efforts of this year's Leadership honoree.