

PRESIDENTIAL MATTERS

By Steve Aronowitz



We are quickly approaching a most critical juncture in our temple's proud history. At its April 24th special meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved and recommended to the general membership the Plan of Consolidation with Oakland Jewish Center of Bayside.

As you know, representatives of the two respective synagogues have been meeting for about one year in hopes of reaching a favorable conclusion to consolidate memberships. In January, negotiations took a serious turn and over the past few months the joint committee drew up a Plan of Consolidation that will be voted on at each synagogue on June 11, 2012. Voting at Little Neck will take place from 4 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., permitting all congregants an opportunity to cast a ballot in this important election. A complete information packet, including details on proxy voting, eligibility to participate in this vote, and a timeline of related events, will be mailed to each home no later than May 23, 2012. The vote, two and one half weeks later, is scheduled that far in advance due to the need for each temple's attorney to review the documents and allow the committee to reconvene, if necessary, as well as to provide ample time for the membership to receive and review the official document carefully.

In my six years as president, I have witnessed some memorable events – the installation of Rabbi Yaffe, the enthusiasm and work of Cantor Shron, an improved Hebrew School program - to name a few. Without question, the June 11th vote stands to top them all! The future of Little Neck Jewish Center hinges, in large measure, to the outcome of that vote. Several years ago, we decided against a proposed merger with Temple Torah. Much emotion went into that decision. Regardless of where you stood on that issue, we were “financially rescued” by a favorable agreement with the NYC Board of Education, a loyal tenant. In about six weeks, we will have an opportunity to solidify our future by approving the Plan of Consolidation.

Please note that our committee has tried to take into account the opinions of all members. That is why we have hosted an information session and will hold an additional one prior to the vote. You know, however, that at some point a direction has to be defined, decisions have to be made. I am comfortable with the individuals I have entrusted to lead this important venture. Soon, it will be each individual's turn to vote for our future. In the meantime, I ask you to read over the information you receive in late May, ask questions, contact me or any committee member, and vote based on accurate information, rather than simply hearsay.

One final note – and an important one! Voting regulations, including proxy voting, are based on the temple's standing constitution. This means that at Little Neck, it is one vote per family. Eligibility to vote is based solely on whether all dues and pledges have been met fully. Now is the time for you to clear up any outstanding balances. Now is also the time to contact the temple office to make sure you are current with your financial obligations.

As always, I am here to respond to any questions or concerns related to the consolidation issue or any other temple business. Contact the temple office for my phone number or email address. Finally, thank you for your commitment to our shul!

Consolidation Committee Members

Steve Aronowitz
Marjorie Goldstein
Dawn Singer

Jeffrey Bass
Howard Litvack
Irwin Wolf