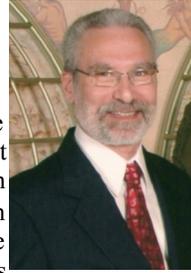


Presidential Matters

by Bob Stern



Given our publication schedule, I'm writing this article in early April. In fact, I'm writing it the day after what had to be the most memorable Yom HaShoah program I have ever witnessed. Everything about the program was magnificent. From the speakers, to the interviewers, to the singers, each was superb. Kudos to George Klein and Ellen Charlop for guiding the committee to such a productive result.

I'm pleased to say that along with the myriad of "routine" complaints, I constantly hear compliments about this program or that event or how something was handled or presented. I'm not being complimented or criticized, but these comments are intended for the person or committee responsible. And that is how it should be. Neither Steve nor I (despite what you may think) are responsible for the workings of this temple. Yes, we oversee everything but it is a constant stream of volunteers – your fellow congregants - who make everything happen. Sometimes it is behind the scenes but frequently, as it was last night, it is in the forefront.

I've said it before and I'm sure I'll say it many times in the future – the success of the temple depends on each of us pitching in and taking an active role. It is such participation and commitment that enables us to offer such a wide variety of programs, classes, events, and services. And that leads into my next segment.

The other day I received a rather unusual complaint. One of our congregants "complained" there were so many things going on that it was hard to decide which to attend. Speaking from the experience of having a synagogue with very little programming, this "complaint" was music to my ears. It was exactly what I had longed to hear. The range of activities provides something for everyone and while some members may elect to attend one activity over another, that is fine. Other members may opt to attend almost everything and that is equally fine. Find a level of participation with which you are comfortable and enjoy it. And if there happens to be something you want and we don't offer it, let us know and we will see if we can make it happen. Within reason, of course.

As you read this, it is my expectation that we will have had all the paperwork signed, sealed and delivered to become, officially, Congregation L'Dor V'Dor; Oakland Little Neck Jewish Center. It's been one long and winding road, but arriving at our destination has been worth every twist and turn along the way.

By the time you receive this issue of Temple Talk, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs will have held its annual dinner. Our honorees as Men of the Year were George Klein and Jerry Schwartz and Youth of the Year was Jordan Aronowitz. Yasher koach and mazel tov to each honoree. These honors were well deserved.

Coming up May 29th is the BQLI Region, Woman of Achievement Dinner Gala, and we say Mazel Tov and congratulations to our own honorees, Gloria Pollack and Harriet Spilkevitz. Again, honors well deserved.

Let me conclude by saying that I am deeply humbled to be selected as one of the honorees at this year's Journal Dinner Dance. To be in the esteemed company of Rabbi Gordon and Carrie Yaffe and Joan Ross is more than I could ever imagine. To be selected as the first recipient of the Maury Singer Award has a very special meaning to me and leaves me at a loss for words. Those who know me will attest to how rarely that occurs. Rest assured that I will do my best to live up to the levels of