

Presidential Matters

by Steve Aronowitz



The year was 2007 and its significance provides an important view of the operations of Oakland and Little Neck Jewish Centers. The presidents of the respective synagogues were Bob Stern and Steve Aronowitz, respectively. As we prepare to begin our ninth year as presidents, the message is clear: there is a critical need for new leadership. This is not to imply that we are no longer effective; after all, consider what has happened under our direction: a consolidation of two historic congregations that serves as a model for other temples facing diminishing membership.

Why is it critical to develop new leaders? Why are there term limits for officers? Individuals who step forward bring an enthusiasm and energy that is unmatched. Perhaps it is as simple as having something to prove, that everyone is watching, that a first year president or vice president wants to make a statement. I know that when I began my first term, I was excited about what I could do to help the shul grow. Bob felt the same way at Oakland. We are still totally dedicated to our temple; it is an important part of our lives. That won't change.

As I look around the sanctuary on a Saturday morning or, better yet, as I observe a Board of Trustees meeting, I see the passion. No doubt there are congregants who care about our direction. So many members I speak with share their concerns, presenting interesting insights as to how to resolve various issues. Now is the time to make your commitment.

Those of us who have children in high school or college have come to appreciate the words, *community service*, and its importance to the college application process. Those words aptly describe the contributions one makes to his or her synagogue. For me, the term I begin on July 1 will be my final one as president. Perhaps our Sulam for Current Leaders initiative, under the direction of Bruce Kaufman will reveal aspiring leaders. Of course, leadership positions are open to all congregants. Please understand how important it is for you to be part of the new leadership team at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor!

It is with great pleasure that we formally announce that at its April meeting, the Board of Trustees appointed Ms. Audi Acevedo as managing director of the congregation. Audi has served as an outstanding office manager and bookkeeper. Audi's management style is simple; she leads by example. She has earned the respect of her colleagues and those members who have had the opportunity to work with her. I hope you will have the opportunity to congratulate her.

Steve Aronowitz