

Presidential Matters by Bob Stern



It's hard for me to believe that we just celebrated our second joint High Holidays together. I'm very proud and deeply honored to be a part of the Oakland Little Neck Jewish Center, soon to be Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. And yes, as Steve pointed out, that phrase has gotten real old.

But, while we await the inevitable signing of the Order of Consolidation, we have not skipped a beat. What we are missing is only a signature on a piece of paper. What we have is a vibrant, caring, center of worship, learning and activities for all ages. We have taken it upon ourselves to make the best of our opportunity and interest to join forces and consolidate – yes, unofficially – but combine nevertheless. We're at the point where it's hard to tell who came from which temple. Friendships have been formed and grow stronger. It's a wonderful thing to see and experience. Yasher Koach to all of the members of our congregation who volunteered and gave of their time, energy and expertise to help make the High Holidays at OLNJC so special.

After a brief discussion, Steve Aronowitz and I decided that, unlike last year, there would be only one Kol Nidre speech. We figured most folks probably didn't want to hear either of us speak, let alone hear from both of us. Kudos to my friend and co-president Steve for delivering a Kol Nidre speech that certainly set the bar very high indeed for me to follow next year. It covered all the bases and highlighted the long list of the wonderful things we've done as a congregation the past year. One thing I hated at OJC was the Kol Nidre appeal. I favor the less invasive approach taken here. Our pledge breakfast was held the other day. The breakfast was an opportunity for all our members to show how much we care about the Jewish way of life that is so important to us. How much we care about our center of worship and learning. How much we care about passing our Jewish values to our children and grandchildren. How much we care about L'Dor V'Dor.

You've probably heard too many times that dues alone do not sustain a synagogue. It was true at Oakland. It is true at Little Neck. It will be true at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. If you've sent in your pledge or if you made it at the pledge breakfast, thank you on behalf of the congregation. If not, the window of opportunity remains open. Simply call the office or send in a note. Additionally, please consider sponsoring a Kiddush in honor of a special occasion. Or simply make a donation towards the Kiddush in honor of a Yahrzeit. We all enjoy the wonderful spreads put out each Shabbat and any assistance towards their costs would be most welcome and appreciated. Based on the calls, emails and pulled aside conversations, I know I don't have to say this, but Steve and I always welcome your comments (good and bad) and suggestions. After all, this is YOUR synagogue.

Bob Stern