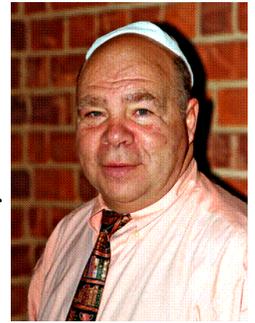


# **PRESIDENTIAL MATTERS ...**



It is very hard to top the excitement of last year, but once again, we have so much to be proud of! With the holidays a few weeks away, I am thinking of what is ahead for our congregation in the New Year. At a time of declining Jewish population and economic stress, we continue to attract attention as the place to be in our community. This is, of course, a reflection on our clergy and the many fine programs we host at LNJC.

I am particularly excited about two new initiatives that demonstrate our commitment to serving individuals of all ages. This fall, we begin a joint effort with Lake Success Jewish Center, co-sponsoring both a Kadima program and a USY chapter. Kadima is Hebrew for “forward.” Our older children now have the wonderful opportunity to participate in our USY Chapter, affiliated with United Synagogue Youth and The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. For years, we have talked about the need to provide rich programming for our teenage children. Working collaboratively with Lake Success Jewish Center, our objective is to provide young people with an opportunity to meet for enjoyable activities while learning more about our Jewish heritage. Programs are designed to develop a social consciousness through participation in social action projects within the community. We believe that strong youth programming is an important supplement to a formal Jewish education and helps to establish lifelong Jewish involvement. Our Kadima and USY chapters are nationally affiliated, making it possible for our young people to attend various regional and national functions. A parent committee, comprised of equal participation of the two synagogues, will oversee the programs.

Through the efforts of Rabbi Yaffe and temple member, Warren Shapiro, LNJC will host its first “Simcha Singles” Shabbat in September. We will formally welcome singles to Shabbat services once a month, knowing that, of course, our doors are always open. Reaching out to two constituencies, sometimes overlooked in programming plans, is affirmation of Rabbi Yaffe’s desire to let our community know: our doors are always open!

As I begin my sixth year as president, I am looking forward to helping these important programs grow. I believe Little Neck Jewish Center is in the right place at the right time. We can hone our understanding of who we are and speak about this in a more powerful way than ever before. I am proud to say, we truly are a welcoming congregation with a special niche for everyone.

*Steve Aronowitz*