

PRESIDENTIAL MATTERS



Just one year ago, right before the High Holidays, many of us were wondering what the future would bring for the congregations of Oakland Jewish Center and Little Neck Jewish Center. In the past 12 months, the question appears to have been answered. At the time of publication, we were awaiting the approval of our consolidation by the New York State Supreme Court. With this approval, Congregation L'Dor V'Dor will open its doors signaling the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the history of our congregations. I encourage each member of our congregations to be a part of this new beginning. Get in on the ground level. Join a committee. Participate in activities. Suggest new programs that you have wished for in the past.

All new beginnings are difficult. We are currently in a transition period during which we will be getting used to some of the changes that our consolidation has brought about. The Transition Committee is meeting on a weekly basis to address the kinks and concerns that are part of the transition process. We are delighted to see new friendships being formed and a new energy within our congregation with an increase in attendance at services and other synagogue programs. There is a new energy within our leadership and I am looking forward to working with Bob Stern a co-president of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor and our expanded Board of Trustees that will include members from both congregations.

As many of you know, our congregation recently lost one of its leaders. The sudden passing of Morris Singer has left a great void at the Consolidation Committee's table. Those from OJC, of course, knew Maury well so their loss is more personal. The LNJC members of the committee quickly came to appreciate his vision, his sense of humor, his love for his temple, and his passion in seeing this consolidation come true. Maury's passing is a monumental loss for all of us. I know you join the Consolidation Committee in extending condolences to Maury's wife, Eileen, their son, Scott and daughter-in-law Dawn, their daughter, Stacey and son-in-law Jason, and their grandchildren, Rebecca, Brianna and Alex.

The consolidation of our two congregations will bring us an increased sense of financial security. This, however does not reduce our responsibility to support our congregation. While, in keeping with the Little Neck Jewish Center's tradition, there will be no appeal from the bimah on the High Holidays, there will be a pledge breakfast on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. During this breakfast an appeal will be made. This is the time for members of the synagogue to commit their support to the congregation.

Together with Bob Stern, president of Oakland Jewish Center, soon to be co-president of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, and our families, we wish you a healthy new year, filled with happiness and prosperity.