

Presidential Matters by Steve Aronowitz



On behalf of co-president Bob Stern and the Board of Trustees, I would like to wish you a happy, healthy New Year. The High Holidays are a time of both celebration and introspection, a combination I find especially significant as we reflect on some of our milestones and blessings. Some of us have suffered great losses, others have experienced the joy of witnessing a child become a bar or bat mitzvah or welcoming a newborn into the world. Together, we value the heritage of our proud histories and at the same time, together with Rabbi Yaffe, Cantor Shron and those in leadership positions we are enthusiastically planning a robust, bright future for all of our members.

Synagogue programming has never been better. I hope you had an opportunity to join us in August when Rabbi David Ebstein was our guest and Scholar in Residence for Shabbat. He presented an insider's perspective of the complexity and challenge of living as a religious Conservative Jew in the modern state of Israel.

We know that a synagogue that provides creative, insightful programs brings many members and guests to its doors daily. Our concern for safety remains paramount. As the holidays approach, I have been in contact with the 111th precinct to do everything we can to ensure the safety of all those who come to the synagogue.

Behind the scenes and under the supervision of house chair, Paul Stein, the following concerns have been addressed:

Extension and widening of sidewalks for an easier
handicap entrance

Repair of the front steps

New carpeting in some offices

Water proofing and ceiling repairs

Installation of storage sheds

Improved security measures (planning stage)

Of course, much work remains. The Consolidation Committee will be meeting with architects and contractors to develop a plan for location of the memorial plaques. The committee's vision will be reported to both the Board of Trustees and the General Membership.

I would also like to recognize the tremendous efforts of those who volunteered for another very successful Rummage Sale. If you took a look at the ballroom at any point during mid-August, you, too, can appreciate the work of a few dedicated temple members. The set-up of clothing and merchandise so that buyers could make good choices was a monumental task.

I realize that when you cite a few examples of volunteerism, there will be some who will not be identified. Be assured the efforts of all volunteers are both recognized and appreciated.

Bob and I consider it to be a privilege to continue serving as congregational co-presidents. We are proud to be part of such a warm, welcoming, and inclusive community, one that honors and cherishes our past, embraces the present and plans for the future.