

Presidential Matters

By Bob Stern



As you are well aware, the temple has been, and will be, having lots of events and activities during the winter months. April is no exception with Pesach being the star attraction. Read about all of the services, events and activities in this month's Temple Talk.

I'm very pleased to announce that after much effort by W&E Baum and much deliberation by the Singer family, we have settled on a bas relief of Maury Singer for the Maury Singer Award plaque. Once the plaque has been completed, the names and dates of the past recipients will be added and the plaque hung in the lobby.

I'd like to conclude with a brief personal note. Lesley and I just closed on a villa (no, not the type in France or Spain). This is a semi-detached unit of more modest size than those. The first things we knew we needed were mezuzahs. We had always gotten our Judaica items from a shop in Festival Flea Market. Those of you familiar with south Florida are sure to be aware of it.

But Festival is a good 30 minute trip. So we did what everyone does now, we Googled Judaica in the Delray Beach and Boca Raton area. We found Cohen's Judaica (no, this isn't a plug for them but they do have a lovely selection of Judaica) on Glades Road. It was a Friday and the shop was only open until 4:00 PM because of the upcoming Shabbos.

We were greeted by Mr. Cohen (I forget his first name) and invited to browse his wares. While we were looking at the selection of mezuzahs, a woman and a teenage girl entered. The girl was going to be a bat mitzvah the following day. The woman was her grandmother and wanted to buy her granddaughter a tallit. She admitted that they had looked in other shops but kept putting off the decision until the last minute.

As we looked at the mezuzahs, Mr. Cohen showed the girl a selection of tallism. She seemed to like a simple, but elegant one. While she pondered if it were the "right" one, he returned to us. We picked our mezuzahs and he got the kosher scrolls for them. He mentioned that as a Kohen, he would bless them. Lesley told him I was a Levi. He said it was wonderful that in his shop we had the array of Jews – a Kohan, a Levi and Israelites. And while we were all a bit different, we were all the same.

The girl decided on her tallit and then went about selecting a bag. Of course the adults discussed the unity of Jews and the divisions. But we agreed that no matter whether you were on the left, on the right, Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, we shared a common bond – we were all Jews. He asked the grandmother and her granddaughter to permit him to finish up with us.

We paid for our Mezuzahs, wished the girl and her grandmother Mazel Tov, said Shabbat Shalom and left. Mr. Cohen was going to provide an additional blessing to the girl and her tallit. As Lesley and I left the inconspicuous shop (we had been in that shopping center countless times and never noticed it), we felt a sense of community. It was a very warm, pleasant feeling.

Steve, Julie, Lesley and I wish you and your families a zisen Pesach.