



## Presidential Matters

by Bob Stern

As you may know, I have tendered my resignation as co-president effective June 30, 2016, ending my tenure a year earlier than I intended. I had made it clear that this term would be my last. After serving as President of Oakland Jewish Center from January 2007 until the consolidation with Little Neck Jewish Center, then serving as Co-President since the consolidation, I've decided it's time to relinquish the reigns.

Nine and a half years as president/co-president is enough, more than enough, for anyone. The job of president is a difficult one in that so many different, and often competing, constituencies must be dealt with. It is well documented that the presidency is a thankless job. I knew that going in so it didn't come as a surprise. Still, I will look back at my tenure with a great deal of satisfaction and pride. I can say without equivocation that I always kept the best interests of the synagogue as priority one and I always gave the job my maximum effort and my complete attention.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with so many dedicated and talented people who volunteered their time and expertise with only one objective – to make the synagogue as good as it could be. This was true whether the name was OJC, LNJC or L'Dor V'Dor.

While I like to think I brought certain skills and abilities to the job, I was always quick to point out areas where I had no expertise. These included Ritual, Catering and Membership. Fortunately, we had members who were ready, willing and able to step in and provide their time and knowledge to ensure that you, the members, were properly served.

The list of names of those who stepped up to the plate is too long to include here. And even if I tried, I'm sure I would inadvertently omit a name or two. Please forgive me for not naming names. I thank you all. You know who you are and, for the most part, so too does the congregation.

Most of all, I must thank my wonderful wife, Lesley, for putting up with me these past 9½ years. She endured the incessant phone calls, the many evenings when I was at meetings (often late), and the other demands on my time that took me away from her. Not always without comment, but she let me do what I loved and was so committed to do.

Relieved of the presidency, I look forward to having more free time. I plan to use a good portion of that time babysitting and spoiling our grandson, Sam, and our forthcoming granddaughter.

My reasons for taking on the job of president were because somebody had to do it and I wanted to make a difference. I hope that after 9½ years it can be said that I made a positive contribution, left the synagogue a better place, and made a difference. May we go from strength to strength.