

## Presidential Matters

by Lysa Lopater



As I sit here in the seemingly never-ending heat and humidity of late August, I am thinking ahead to September. Even those of us who don't adhere to a school calendar alter our habits and patterns in the summer months.

The Summer Olympic Games in Rio are wrapping up. As it is reported today, Team USA dominated the games with 44 gold, 37 silver and 38 bronze medals, almost twice as many as the next nearest competing nation (China, with 70 total).

Team Israel had an excellent showing with 2 bronze medals in Judo. Our Israeli athletes competed in so many sports that were untelevised here. Israel showed the world how athletes behave. From the civilized demeanor the team showed when escorted to a second bus after the Lebanese delegation blocked their entrance to their assigned bus, through Or Sasson extending a hand to his opponent, from Egypt, after winning their match, Team Israel showed the world it's best side...something Israel does daily, but rarely gets the positive press it received from those two incidents.

September...a time to get back to our routines. I am looking forward to the cooler days and nights, light sweaters, leaves turning. School starts...traffic patterns change to accommodate. The political season is going to get hot this year. Usually, this is also the time to prepare for the High Holy Days, but this year they come later in the secular calendar. I can't remember a time when I had a full month of school before Rosh Hashana!

Steve and I recently sent out an e-mail asking members to try to set aside one Friday night every 3 months so we are assured of a minyan for Shabbat. If you haven't taken the time to look at your calendar and put one aside, please do so. September signifies the change of seasons, and so often changing seasons changes a habit. If we all make this commitment a few times each year, what a wonderful new routine we have developed.

Please take the time to review this edition of Temple Talk. As you will see, there are lots of activities and events that have been planned. Mark your calendar and take advantage of all that our synagogue has to offer.