

## Message from Cantor Shron



The new year 5777 is less than 30 days old...but at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, what a year it's been so far! Allow me to share some of my personal highlights with you.

The High Holy Day season at our synagogue is always a special time, but this year, I feel that we outdid ourselves. If you typically leave before the end of the service on Rosh Hashanah, I highly suggest you stay to the end next year. It's a party! A celebration of joyful Judaism - to say the least - with singing, clapping, and the kind of euphoric feeling one might experience at the end of an amazing concert or Broadway show. Yom Kippur, on the other hand, brought us meaningful reflection, powerful experiences and a 25-hour shot-in-the-arm that each of us needs...to help us keep Jewish priorities at the top of our minds throughout the new year.

I am grateful beyond words to those who have worked hard to enhance our services in so many ways - from ushers to office staff to our Ritual Committee and many, many more (see page 5 for details)...but for me personally, there are a few heroes that deserve special mention. First, to the incredible young people of our community, who enthusiastically accept my invitation to participate in the service year after year, working very hard to prepare for the big day. THANK YOU (in no particular order) to Ethan Blatt, Danielle Blatt, Erica Sosman, Ellie Shron, Julia Lesser, Dani Drucker, Sela Shron, Robert Yaffe, Josh Greenberg, Samantha Marcus, Zev Vladimir and Simcha Shron. Each of you is a true leader and role model for the young adults of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor.

Of course, to my amazing, dedicated choir members: Jeff Baskin, Sally Coons, Jana Kauffman, Joan Kase-Riger, Marcia Levine, Karen Popowsky, Judy Samuels, Harriet Spilkevitz and Richie Spivack. It is an honor to lead services with you each year, and I am inspired by your dedication, enthusiasm and spirit. And on behalf of our choir members, thank you to the congregation for enhancing our sound system this year so that our group's efforts can fully be heard and appreciated!

The next set of holidays were just as special as the first. Despite our fears for a COLD, late-October Sukkot, most of the holiday was met with warm temperatures, sunny skies, good friends, good food and great turnouts at all of our Sukkot activities. Finally, on Simchat Torah (my favorite holiday of the year), we enjoyed spirited dancing, "unique" melodies, lots of laughs, delicious ice cream and tons of fun.

Exhausting, yes...but what an AMAZING time of year!

Throughout the season, our synagogue's teens have been keeping busy as well. Just a few days before Rosh Hashanah, eight high schoolers joined me at "Can You Escape" in Mineola. We worked together to solve challenges, find clues, decipher codes, even climb through refrigerators...and although we ultimately failed in our quest to "escape", we had an incredible time! Then, on the second night on Sukkot, FOURTEEN high schoolers crammed into Rabbi Yaffe's sukkah for a fun evening of Frappuccino, snacks and a heated Jewish holiday trivia competition. We can't wait to formally begin our new season of "Conversations with the Cantor", kicking off on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

If the past month is any indication, the new year is going to be incredible! Let's start off on the right foot with a couple of events that are near and dear to my heart. Beginning **Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**, I'll be kicking off a five-part "Crash Course in Basic Judaism" - a fascinating course developed by the National Jewish Outreach Program consisting of five hot Jewish topics: Belief in God, Prayer, Shabbat, Jewish Observance and Sexuality. Please join us for what is sure to be a thought-provoking (and perhaps life-changing!) experience. Then, on **Saturday night, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, I hope you will be part of my favorite event of the year! Our Trivia Bowl 4.0 is guaranteed to be a ton of fun, whether you're a trivia buff or not. Ask anyone who has joined us before, and they're sure to offer rave reviews. Sign up today!

It is an honor to serve as your cantor. Let's work together to make 5777 our best year ever!

## Conversations with the Cantor



**November 7 & 21 at 9pm**  
*(9th & 10 Graders)*

**November 14 & 28 at 8pm**  
*(11th & 12th graders)*