

## **Presidential Matters**

**by Lysa Lopater**



We are just ending the holidays...mid-Sukkot as I write. Still seems so strange to be in the waning days of October and the chagim are not done. This week's bit of Indian Summer weather leant itself to two beautiful evenings in the synagogue sukkah, where it was standing room only to enjoy your meal... overcrowding in the sukkah should happen every year. A big thank you to everyone who attended and made the evenings happen.

The overarching question addressed at the forum that was part of the Men's Club/Sisterhood Barbecue on October 19 was: What can your synagogue do for you...and what can you do for your synagogue? After the High Holidays we always are asking: Why do we have 700+ people here for 3 days, and we see the same 100 or so for the whole rest of the year? Some excellent suggestions for increasing synagogue attendance were made. These were: making personal phone calls, introducing more English during our Shabbat Services and sending out surveys to get a better handle on the interests of the members of our congregation. We will be exploring each of these suggestions. I am so thankful for the people who took their time to join us and contribute, and I truly hope people set some time aside to respond to the survey we will be putting together and then set some time aside to participate.

As we look ahead to the new year that we have just begun, I am hoping that each member of our congregation will consider increasing his or her level of participation in synagogue programs. If each of us were to come to one more service, one more social event, one more class and one more dinner than we did last year, I can imagine the new dynamic of people we would have participating in our events. I am smiling at the picture. I am sure there is a smile from up above, as well.

From my family to yours...Happy Thanksgiving. Live, Love and Laugh!