

Presidential Matters

By Steve Aronowitz



So, what are you doing on December 19th? Not sure? Nothing on the calendar? Why not attend our membership meeting and be part of the decision making at your synagogue!!

General membership meetings may not sound very interesting, but your synagogue has been built by its individual members. These meetings determine our direction; each of us has a vote. We have engaged and passionate people and your voice needs to be heard. While it is important to attract new members, it's even more important that we nurture and retain the members we have. It is essential to strengthen each member's sense of belonging to L'Dor V'Dor. And it could start on one evening, a few hours, on December 19th, that's my New Year's wish. The successes that we enjoy started one evening, at a general membership meeting. Help us focus on making more connections among and within our membership.

One of the themes as we move into 2017 is to examine what it means to be a member of the Board of Trustees. Do many Board members feel disengaged? Month after month, are we a victim of passive participation. Why discuss this at a General meeting? Because the Jewish Center thrives when its members want to contribute. When congregants are more engaged, effective lay leaders emerge. Will this happen by attending one meeting? I don't have a prescription for our future success. However for good things to happen, each of us should have a role in making them happen.

So, there is no doubt that I want you to attend the December 19th meeting. If it's the only meeting you attend, I will be disappointed because I always hope one meeting will be the beginning of something big. As a community, we have much to be thankful for; the lights are on every night – there really is something for everyone at our synagogue.

The Agenda For The Congregational Meeting Will Be:

- **Voting on the Cantor's contract (the previous one has expired)**
- **Receiving a detailed financial report**
- **Listening to a review on possible renovations**
- **Determining what our course of action will be related to finding a new tenant (the public school is no longer using our building)**

Each item is vital to our future. Your presence at this meeting goes beyond the specifics of the agenda. It is your opportunity to be a part of the decision making process and for your voice to be heard.