

Presidential Matters

By Steve Aronowitz



What are you doing on February 1? How about February 11? Or March 3? Those dates, plus a full schedule of other events, highlight a typically busy calendar. Our synagogue cherishes and supports a full range of religious, spiritual, social, and educational programs for our diverse membership. Whether it is for a series of classes on Conversational Hebrew, taught by world class instructor, Cantor Shron, or Wednesday morning series – Torah and Our Lives – led by our passionate Rabbi Yaffe. Perhaps you will join us as we partner with The Samuel Field Y, hosting individuals with developmental disabilities for a Tu B'Shevat Seder, or at our Shabbat Across America dinner a few weeks later. Whatever the event, you are welcome. In fact, as you know, you are always welcome to be part of a growing number of members who have become involved in our Jewish Center functions.

Many of our programs and expenses are funded by contributions, whether we call them dues, gifts, or pledges. This allows us to provide exceptional opportunities to learn, pray, and socialize with friends and neighbors. And, as you know, there is always a nosh – or more – at practically every occasion. Take a look through this edition of Temple Talk and you will see that opportunities abound for members of different ages and backgrounds. Or...come up with your own idea and we will help you host it!

This also gives me the chance to remind you that we have established several funds within the synagogue. Take a moment to honor or remember friends and relatives. Give a gift of tzedakah to the synagogue on the occasion of an anniversary, a birthday, a graduation, marriage, birth, recovery from illness, or in memory of a departed friend or loved one. A note, acknowledging your contribution, will be sent to the family honored or remembered by you.

As I close out 10 years as president, I have rarely used this space to single out one member, preferring to write about the accomplishments of many. Today, however, I bend *my rule* to applaud the Men's Club's honoring Chuck Wayne as its Man of the Year. Chuck's contributions to our synagogue are well documented. Perhaps more than anyone, he is the architect of this consolidation, bringing Bob Stern and me together to discuss a merger. Chuck serves on the Ritual Committee, is a gabbai at services, sounds the shofar on holidays, and is an active trustee. In the end, when Chuck Wayne is involved, the end result is better. I do not know anyone who doesn't hold Chuck in the highest regard – as a school administrator or a temple member or most importantly, a person. I am blessed to call Chuck my friend. See page 6 for details on the special Awards Dinner at which Chuck will be our honoree. Hope to see you there!