

Presidential Matters

By Lysa Lopater



This is the time of year when we don't have major holidays bearing down on us. It is that time of year we can breathe for a bit. It is that time of year when we can find some time in our calendars.

Last Friday, March 3, close to 100 members and friends celebrated the annual Shabbat Across America event, demonstrating together the spirit of our Congregation. We joined with Jewish people all across the continent in celebrating Shabbat. It is an activity meant to turn one Shabbat into something extraordinary. As has been the case, year after year, those in attendance took time out of their busy schedules to pause for a few hours and celebrate the beauty of Sabbath. Following a Friday night service, we enjoyed Shabbat dinner, complete with matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, chicken, steak, kugel and more! Ask anyone who participated and I assure you that the message is the same: make your reservations for next year. It's a 'can't miss' event.

In the current nationwide climate, we have people making their voices heard for many reasons. We recently took time out to recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day and renewed our commitment to the words: "Never Again". We have seen a rise of Anti-Semitism around the nation with the desecration of cemeteries and the painting of swastikas on the NYC subway. And, we have recently seen many people standing together to make clear that there is no room to single out people of a single religion.

Coming together to celebrate Shabbat is a way of reminding ourselves of our connection to the past, our dedication to the words "Never Again", and our responsibility to future generations to ensure they will live in a world without hate.

Shabbat Across America connects us with our grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren. Shabbat Across America connects us with Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Chassidic and secular Jews. Shabbat Across America connects us from Malibu to Montauk; from Hudson (Maine) to Honolulu. Shabbat Across America connects us as married, single, old and young.

We want to thank Stan and Lois Wirtheim for chairing this event, Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron for helping us to embrace and feel the holiness of Shabbat, our office and custodial staff for all that they did to make sure that everything happened without a hitch and all who attended for making this a truly memorable evening.