

Presidential Matters

By Lysa Lopater



As we approach the end of our fiscal year, it is, once again, time to look ahead concerning the leadership of our synagogue. Over the years, we have had outstanding individuals who have stepped up to represent the membership. Now is the time to join the leadership team.

Volunteering to become a trustee is easy. All one has to do is let the Nominating committee know of your interest. Participating in the decision making process is rewarding. Each year, a new board faces challenges. There is great satisfaction taking part in addressing the issues we face. We have come a long way in the past few years, standing as one of Northeast Queens' healthiest Jewish centers. The demographics are of concern, but we have always benefitted from creative minds making sound decisions, ensuring that all of us have a synagogue that offers an impressive array of programs.

What is most impressive is the number of members who have come to their shul to celebrate a special event or memorialize the loss of a loved one. In the last month, members celebrated milestones of being called to the Torah as bar mitzvahs; for longtime Little Neck member Ken Guttenplan, it was his 60th anniversary of his special day; for Oakland member Howard Herman, it has been 57 years since his bar mitzvah. These occasions gave all of us a chance to recognize the accomplishments of two individuals who have worked hard in various leadership roles.

Adding to the month of wonderful memories, Cantor Shron celebrated his 30th anniversary of being called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. Topping off the schedule of happy events, we celebrated the aufruf of Arielle Kahaner, the daughter of temple members, Amy and Ken Kahaner, and her fiancé, Ryan Hoffman, who are soon to be married. The opportunity to share a special day with your friends and neighbors at the synagogue gives all of us reason to appreciate the importance of the synagogue in our lives.

As we close out this year, I hope you are planning to join us on May 21, at our Annual Journal Dance. This year, we are honoring Belle and Paul Stein and Stephen Aronowitz for their years of dedication to OJC, LNJC and now Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. If you have not yet sent in your RSVP, please do so. These three individuals have made a difference, working tirelessly on our behalf.