

Presidential Matters

By Steve Aronowitz



September is my favorite time of the year. The air is clean, the skies are blue, the days are comfortable, and the nights are cool. September, for as long as I can remember, has meant ‘new’. As a kid, it meant new stuff for school and new friends. As a teacher, it meant new classes and new students. It was an opportunity to instruct with new approaches and new ideas.

Of course, September always meant Rosh Hashanah – a New Year with new enthusiasm, an opportunity for a clean slate. So, there is no surprise that I would like to suggest we each make a new commitment to our synagogue. I get it: “you’re the president; what else are you going to say!” Hold on, though. We really are a terrific place. Take a look at the calendar of upcoming events, highlighted by the Sukkot dinner, the Open Sukkah at Rabbi Gordon and Carrie Yaffe’s home, and the Pollak lecture with Jason Gewirtz, executive producer at CNBC.

September is also the time for our annual High Holiday Appeal. This is the key fundraiser we hold! Dues account for approximately 1/3 of our revenue. Our operating costs present a significant deficit. Similar to other synagogues, whether a temple has its funds readily available or in reserve accounts, it doesn’t change the picture. The need for a strong Jewish Center in our area may be more crucial today than at any time in the last 50 years. Whether we remain as one or choose to consolidate, support of our Jewish culture is crucial to our well-being.

What can L’Dor V’Dor bring to you? I can answer that by explaining what it has done for me:

- The opportunity to celebrate joyous occasions with friends. Our relatively small size fosters an intimacy not found in larger centers.
- The gift of expressing our support for the State of Israel through a roster of activities focusing on Israeli history, language, and culture.
- The joy of engaging in acts of *tikkun olam* through advocacy and a commitment to improving the lives of people around the world.

The purpose of membership is different for everyone, and each view has legitimacy. We may join together for prayer (often or rarely), study, life cycle events, meals (of course!), social action or other programming, or simply to hang out with friends.

All of us want L’Dor V’Dor to be a place where you want to be.

Julie and I look forward to seeing you during the High Holiday services and throughout the rest of the year, and we wish you a healthy and happy New Year.