



Presidential Matters

By Stephen Aronowitz

Two recent events at the synagogue are concrete samples of why L'Dor V'Dor continues to be a center of religious and educational study in western Nassau County and eastern Queens. Each identifies the value of membership and is part of the commitment the Board makes in maintaining outstanding programs for all members.

On Friday, January 12, we hosted Rev. Dr. William A. Watson Jr., the founder and co-president of the Black Jewish Coalition for Justice. Rev. Watson Jr. is also the pastor of St. John's Baptist Church of Westbury and Free Will Baptist Church of Freeport. Our Rabbi Gordon Yaffe was the keynote speaker a week earlier at St. John's Baptist Church. Both religious leaders provided inspirational thought at respective Interfaith Fellowship Services honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and spoke about the importance of coming together representing the unity of our communities and the impact of working together. Large turnouts of members from their local houses of worship attended the two events.

In fact, Rabbi Yaffe has long been a champion of social justice. Through his direction, we annually participate in various local and national actions, highlighted this past year by significant contributions to the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund and the Interfaith Emergency Relief Fund at Thanksgiving. His work, along with his religious leader colleagues, promotes our participation in the Interfaith Action Committee of Eastern Queens and Western Nassau County and has received rave reviews with several of our members in leadership roles. I am certain you share my gratitude in the collaborative effort of neighborhood residents affiliated with several different churches and synagogues responding to the responsibility mandated by our different religious traditions to bring goodness, peace and harmony into the world.

While the events are separate, the theme is certainly the same, making our world a safe place.

Some programs require volunteerism and cost the synagogue little in terms of expenditures; however, others don't meet that criteria. In that regard, we are a business and operating costs are a factor as we move from year to year. In the 11 years I've served as president, I share your delight in how we have maintained our place as a community center; now, we are meeting to design a plan to help us to continue to live up to these expectations. We have invited representatives of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism to meet with us as we look to the future. We will be reporting on our success in addressing our future needs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.