



From Your Vice President

By Mitchell Stein

The great Stevie Wonder sang the following stanza in his huge 1976 hit song entitled "Sir Duke"... "Music is a world within itself with a language we all understand". Below I have selected several song lyrics that apply to us, the Congregants of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor.

In 1964 the movie *Funny Girl* opened. It featured Brooklyn's own Barbra Streisand singing her hit song "People". One lyric from that song is..."People, People who need people are the luckiest people in the world". During my short tenure as a member of this congregation, it is easy to see that our biggest asset is our people! We have long-term and brand new friendships, we have people who share in our joys and sorrows and more importantly we have people who want us to continue and thrive as a congregation.

In 1996 the group Spice Girls released their debut single entitled "Wannabe" which became the British song of the year in 1997. One of the lyrics from that song is... "I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really, want. So tell me what you want, what you really, really want." Based upon the responses to a simple survey from our Membership Committee, Congregation L'Dor V'Dor held an extremely successful American Bandstand event. This event was attended by 100+ people, which included approximately 15-20 non-congregational members. Please, come forward with ideas for fund raising events, social events and/or academic and religious classes that you want. We have people who will try their best to make your thoughts and suggestions become realities.

In 1979 the group Sister Sledge had the #1 R&B song of the year and the #2 Pop Song of the year with their hit "We Are Family". Lyrics from that song include..."High hopes we have for the future, And our goal's in sight, No we don't get depressed, Here's what we call our golden rule, Have faith in you and the things you do, You won't go wrong." We are entering a new chapter in our wonderful history. This chapter brings many new challenges (and rewards). All of us may not share the same views on how to continue our success story, but as the lyrics above state, have faith in you (each other) and the things you do, you won't go wrong. This is a great time to get involved with congregational meetings, one-on-one discussions with clergy, administration or board members to express your ideas on how best to move into this next chapter of our journey. We may take a path that you may not agree with, but remember, have faith in those decision makers and you too won't go wrong.

Fantasia Barrino became the Season 3 American Idol. Her success can be attributed to her singing the song "I Believe". This song debuted as a #1 song on Billboard Magazine in 2004. A lyric from that song is..... " I believe in the impossible, If I reach deep within my heart, Overcome any obstacle, Won't let this dream fall apart, See I strive to be the very best, Shine my light for all to see, Cause anything is possible, when you believe." Our congregational history is second to none. The future may seem challenging. We often meet and discuss our obstacles, not our accomplishments. However, our goal is to strive to continue our success story. I know that we have not come close to being our best yet. Like the lyrics say, I know this is the case, because I believe.