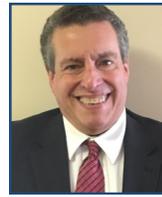


Presidential Matters

By Mitchell Stein



WOW !

This is my sixth year of celebrating the New Year at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor and each year keeps getting better and better. Rosh Hashanah started off with a packed house. It was amazing to me to the Sanctuary and Social Hall nearly filled with members of our religious community who came together on Monday, September 10th to usher in the New Year 5779. The building was so vibrant that I could see an aura of excitement and enthusiasm hovering over our heads as we prayed.

There was no change on Day 2 of Rosh Hashanah. We had another full house and our fervor to continue this celebration did not wane. People arrived early, stayed late, sang and chanted loudly and the building was just an explosion of energy and optimism. I want to thank Rabbi Yaffe for acknowledging the importance of September 11th while orating his sermon.

The congregation continued its' intensity throughout Yom Kippur. From Kol Nidre to the concluding shofar blast the following night, our building was bursting with pride and hope for the upcoming year. We also had a chance to celebrate one congregant's special birthday (no cake was served).

There are so many people, groups and committees that worked tirelessly to make these holidays so special for all of us. The short list of thank yous include: Rabbi Yaffe, Cantor Shron, the Choir, The Ritual Committee, the Ushers, all those with honors, the Office Staff, the Custodial Staff, the Security personnel, the Church who let us use their parking lot and the biggest thank you is to all of you for attendance at our religious home.

I had several memorable moments during this holiday week that I want to share with you. For the first time in my life I delivered a speech to a group of 700 people. From what I understand, it was fairly well received. The honor of holding our Torah during the Kol Nidre prayer is an experience that I will never forget. Rabbi Yaffe's September 11th sermon and his pre-Yizkor sermon made me shed many tears. However, the most important part of these few days was the chance for me to meet and to hold numerous conversations with so many people whom I have never spoken with before. I am more excited about my co-presidency because of these conversations.

As we move into year 5779 and as we move away from the summer of 2018 and head into the fall, I ask you, how do we keep this excitement going throughout the year? We have all the tools in place: the people, the boards, the committees, the clergy, etc. to make this such an inviting and stimulating place to be. Let's continue this year with all the anticipation, vigor and optimism with which we began this year. May 5779 be the best year yet for all of our congregants, their families and for our house of worship.

Happy New Year!