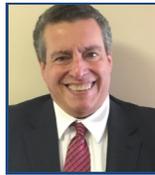


Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein

Congregation L'Dor V'Dor -
a vibrant congregation



Some of the words that I would use to describe this house of worship include: vibrant, energetic, exciting, lively, and animated. I say this with a bias as I am a member here. I can also say this based upon my attendance at Shabbat services, religious celebrations, congregational meetings and social gatherings.

Those who regularly attend our Friday night Shabbat service can assure you that the one-hour long service is warm, friendly and moving. Those who regularly attend our Saturday morning Shabbat service can declare that the service is spiritual, thought-provoking, and gives all attendees a wonderful sense of belonging and community. Our holiday celebrations are always well attended with friends and family. Participation in these events can help us to feel connected with this wonderful congregational family.

Just recently, we had nearly 50 people attend our annual Tu'B Shevat Seder. Like our Sabbath service, the Seder was rich with tradition, learning, and fun for both the adults and the children that attended. The Seder concluded with a delicious meal.

If you attended the congregational meeting that very same night, you would have seen more than 70 members of our congregational family participate and learn what is going on in our synagogue. Those who attended had a chance to see and hear more than a half-dozen people who have taken on important roles and lead some of the major activities of our Shul.

Two quick highlights of the congregational meeting include the approval of important capital projects. The membership approved an enhancement to our sanctuary that will allow all members of our congregation the ability to receive an Aliyah and actively participate in our Shabbat and Holiday services. The second project allows us to utilize a kitchen that is more modern and user friendly. Many of our generous congregants have already made donations to help us defray some of the costs of these projects. The remainder of these projects will be funded by monies that are required to be spent as per our legal agreements as approved by the New York State Attorney General. Additional donations will be gladly accepted so we can leave additional funds in the bank for additional projects that will enhance our building.

You have recently received a mailing with eleven, yes eleven, events occurring in the upcoming weeks. There are religious based celebrations like Shabbat Across America and our Annual Purim celebration. There are non-religious, social events like our nearly-annual dance and a pre-release of a Jewish themed baseball movie. I challenge you to talk to me if you did not see at least one event of interest to you, your family, your friends and neighbors. Running all these events is my definition of a congregation that is vibrant, energetic, exciting, lively, and animated.