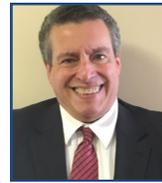


Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein

Happy New Year



It is hard to believe but another calendar year has just ended. It is already four months since we celebrated the start of our Jewish New Year. For me, new years are a time of reflection. I analyze the recently completed year and look ahead to the upcoming year.

2019 was a tremendous year for Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. We had a fantastic year filled with many people attending our weekly Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. Our classes are well attended (there is still room for you to join), our Sunday morning minion is going strong and our holiday and secular celebrations are bigger and better than ever. We completed two major capital improvements that enhance our sanctuary and our kitchen. We have taken major steps forward in securing our congregation, our staff and our building.

I could easily spend the next few pages highlighting the many achievements of the past year, however I will briefly highlight some events from the past two months. In November, we held a wonderful Kristallnacht program along with some of our neighborhood synagogues. We also held our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service at the Zion Episcopal Church.

During the month of December we had a large group come together to celebrate the recently refurbished kitchen. A delicious brunch was provided and so many of us contributed to the kitchen shower by buying new kitchen accessories and/or making generous donations to acquire additional kitchen gadgets and other household items. Along with members of our greater community, we participated in a challah bake. At the end of the month we celebrated Chanukah with our family and friends.

The year 2020 will continue to bring special events. In January we will be holding a very special Friday night. To celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday we will be holding Shabbat services and a dinner to celebrate this great man. As is our custom, we have invited the pastor and members from Black Baptist Church to participate in our service. On the last Friday in February we will be holding our annual Shabbat Across America service and dinner. Last year approximately 125 people including our community friends from Lake Success Jewish Center and Bellerose Jewish Center. We are also holding our annual dinner/dance. This year's theme is Prom Night. If you are like me and did not marry your High School or College sweetheart, this is the perfect time to ask your significant other to our Prom. Remember, many people also go solo to a prom so if you do not have a date, please come and dance the night away. We will be utilizing our new kitchen for our annual Hamantaschen Bake. Please keep in mind that we would be extremely happy to have your non-member family and friends join our celebrations.

With so many celebrations, so many activities, so much sharing with our congregational family it is impossible to believe anything other than the year 2020 will be even bigger and better for Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. I would love to see you at as many celebrations as possible.