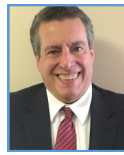


**Presidential Matters  
by Mitchell Stein**



**We are Open for Business – Please Join Us**

COVID19-the coronavirus has impacted all of us physically, mentally, socially and possibly spiritually. There is no person on this planet who has not been impacted by this deadly disease. Please accept my sincerest wishes for a speedy and complete recovery from this horrible situation. My biggest wish is that the world will quickly eliminate this pandemic and we can once again resume our “normal” lives. I hope that when this happens I get the opportunity to chat with each and every member so we can enjoy the community we have built and have shared together for so many decades.

Recently, I had to make one of the most difficult decisions of my life. Working very closely with Co-President Steve Aronowitz, Rabbi Yaffe, Audi and a representative group from our Executive Board, we unanimously voted to temporarily lock down our synagogue. We made this well thought out decision based upon the facts we had at the time. We collectively came to this decision a week or two prior to other businesses and houses of worship making this decision. Our highest priority at that time was keeping our staff and members healthy and safe.

After making that decision I had some second thoughts. As we all know, religion continues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year regardless of the situation. I was extremely concerned that I somehow was taking away members’ ability to express their faith at a time when they may need it most.

Shortly after the doors were locked, an email was sent to the membership and we initiated a phone tree to explain this decision to our congregational family. Very soon after this, we were introduced to Zoom Video Conferencing.

Rabbi Yaffe quickly has become a Zoom expert with many thanks to Cantor Shron who had used this software before. In no time at all, we bounced back and were able to continue the vibrancy of our synagogue programming. On a weekly basis we have the opportunity to attend a Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday night, Saturday morning services as well as a Saturday night Havdalah service after Shabbat.

We are also continuing with our Sunday morning Minyan and are also holding a daily evening Minyan service. In addition, the Torah Study, Israeli TV and the Conversational Hebrew classes led by the Rabbi and the Cantor have continued.

We were ahead of the curve again and anticipated the celebration of Passover. We held a Seder Workshop, Cantor Shron compiled a beautiful set of Passover songs for us to enjoy, we prepared an on-line Haggadah that was able to be downloaded, held a second night of Passover Seder together and held Passover Services during the first two and last two days of this important holiday. Yizkor Memorial services were also held twice. We participated in our Community Yom Hashoah Program on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>. This year’s theme was “Never Again”. We also had our Annual Israel Bond Breakfast (without the breakfast) with a live presentation from Israel by Marc Tobin, son of members, Janet and Irwin Tobin.

If you have not joined us, please do so. We are active and there is plenty of room for more people to join in all that we have to offer. All you need is a computer and some extremely minimal technology skills. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, the Rabbi, the Cantor or Audi and we will be happy to make you a Zoom expert too.

I look forward to seeing you on line participating in our many events. Stay well and stay involved. We are here for you in these trying times and always.

We are actively planning our next year at Congregation L’Dor V’Dor and we need your involvement. Although there may be changes with some customs and traditions in our building, we are planning ahead. The members of our Nominating Committee is working hard so that they can present a slate of candidates to comprise our Board of Trustees for the year 2020-2021.

If you want to take a leadership role in managing an extremely successful synagogue, if you want to be a role model for all of our congregational family members, if you want to increase our synagogue’s presence in the community with other houses of worship, community events or local political happenings, if you want to help establish and guide the many activities of the synagogue, if you want to be a member of the financial management team of the synagogue or if you want to provide leadership in maintaining our historic past and leading us into an even greater future, then PLEASE consider joining the Board of Trustees. (See page 6 for details)