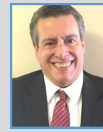


Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein

What's next?



I admit it. I do not have the ability to accurately predict the future. If I possessed this super-power one thing I would do is to play Lotto more often. This would result in a much better financial situation for my family, my friends and my synagogue.

Before I look into the future I will take a brief step back and review some of our most recent accomplishments. We recently completed a wonderful month of major holiday celebrations. This is the first time in this Shul's long and beautiful history we needed to utilize technology to bring these holidays into our community and into our homes. From the many reviews that I have seen and heard, kudos are given to the production company who assisted with the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Our Sukkot and Simchat Torah services were also well attended and brilliantly done.

It would be very negligent of me if I did not also compliment Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron for all the time and effort they put into these holidays to make them so meaningful and enjoyable. Additional credit must be given to the Ritual Committee and all members that were actively engaged in preparing and delivering these holidays to our homes. Thank you!

What's next? I will tell you what I see when I look into my crystal ball for the future. I would also be happy to discuss with you what your crystal ball is showing you. I have no prediction on how the Corona Virus will continue to impact us (I will leave that up to the medical experts, politicians and others).

What I do see is a community that will not miss a beat. We will continue to bring members of our congregational family together as much as we can. We hold a religious service every single day. It is nice to see so many family members at our Friday night and Saturday Shabbat services. Sometimes we need a few more participants at our daily minion service so please try to join us periodically.

There are many upcoming community events. The recent Pollack Lecture had an outstanding turnout and I am sure everyone was extremely happy. We have an upcoming community event to commemorate Kristallnacht. This year, we will once again be participating in the annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving service. I may be looking too far into the future but looking at the calendar Chanukah is also right around the corner. Unfortunately, life is not the same as it was just a year ago. However this congregation has risen up not only to "make do" because of the situation but we have risen up to be better than ever.

What's next? I will easily predict colder temperatures and shorter days in the near future. I will also predict that this congregation will continue to offer our family members daily services, a selection of educational classes, a variety of religious-based and secular based celebrations, speakers on a wide range of topics, discussions ranging from Israel, to best sellers to dealing with the pandemic to reviewing a hit movie. In addition, our newsletter is growing with more columns and articles for our reading enjoyment.

We are giving our congregation every opportunity to get involved with religious observances, with learning opportunities, with many occasions for socializing and numerous ways of having fun with friends. I hope you take advantage of all that we offer and I will predict a bright and glorious future for us both in the short-term and in the long term.