

Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein



The Year 5780 – The Past, The Present and The Future
To me, the High Holidays represent a time to reflect upon the past year, see where we currently are and a time to look towards the future.

The Past: The year 5780 started out as an excellent year for Congregation L’Dor V’Dor. We began the year with a “packed house” for both the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. It was wonderful to see over 600 members of our congregational family gather for these services. Shortly after this, we danced on Little Neck Parkway with our Torahs for Simchat Torah for the entire Little Neck community to see. Our annual Shabbat Across America was well attended with members of both Lake Success Jewish Center and Bellerose Jewish Center joining in our festivities. Our February Unity Service with members of a local church was so popular that our custodial staff kept adding additional rows of chairs even as the service was winding down. We invited the new Commanding Officer of the 111th Precinct to address us and our community Police Officers regularly stop into our building and patrol our facility. We added several new and active members and we are delighted they joined our community. We had a lot of enjoyment utilizing our modernized kitchen. Our new main-level Torah Reader’s table is used every Shabbat. We have a lot to be proud of.

The Present: It is no secret that the world is experiencing a pandemic that is impacting every person across the globe. Based upon health and safety concerns for our family (members, clergy, staff and others) we had to make some changes too. For the first time, and hopefully the last time we are conducting our High Holiday services virtually. The Rabbi, the Cantor and our Ritual Committee are meeting regularly to insure that although we cannot be together in our beautiful sanctuary we will be together spiritually. The service will be enlightening, moving, informative and enjoyable. We are trying our best to keep as many customs and traditions as possible. I encourage you to participate in these services as diligently as you have in prior years. In addition to the planned High Holiday services, we are now holding a daily minyan service, providing more speakers and programs than ever before and generating a monthly Temple Talk that is full with informative columns and a loaded calendar of events.

The Future: Like every other member of our congregation I too am very antsy to get back into our sanctuary and pray, celebrate and laugh with my congregational family members. I do not know when this will occur but rest assured that Co-President Steve Aronowitz and I speak daily about this issue along with our COVID-19 Chair, Marc Figelman. I see the Year 5781 starting with great attendance for our September and October holidays. I see classes, programs and discussions continuing virtually that will all be well attended. I see our clergy and staff working harder than ever to provide us with more of what we want and need during this pandemic. I also see our Boards, our Committee Chairs and many members of our congregation working hard to provide events for us to enjoy. Although I do not like to rush time, I am looking ahead to September 2021 so that we may all be in our beloved sanctuary fully enjoying the High Holiday experience in person. Personally, I am also looking forward to the September 2021 High Holiday address by our congregational president.

We had a different 5780 and we prospered. At this point, I see no reason why 5781 will not be successful and meaningful for all of us. My family and I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy and Healthy New Year.