

Presidential Matters

by Steve Aronowitz



The Chicago Transit Authority, later known as Chicago, a jazz fusion band, was not the first to ask, *Does anybody really know what time it is?* Truth is, we no longer rely on the sun, moon, and stars as ways to mark time. Our worries about getting, spreading, or dying from COVID-19 have led to increased anxiety, fewer routines, and disruptions to our clocks. Days of sameness contribute to losing track of minutes, hours, or days.

The trick is to maintain focus and believe that the possibilities for 2021 are exciting. I do!

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that things can change in a minute. The way we've always done things can be upended due to details outside our control. Resolutions by their very nature are the things of which we have an incredible amount of control. They are the things that, if we allow them to, can take priority in our lives. They're what we probably should have focused on beyond the first month of each year.

How does this apply to Congregation L'Dor V'Dor? Trusting the pandemic will become a sad note of history and that our lives will gradually return to our expectations, it is time to gain the wisdom of the past and use the present for action so that we can prosper in the future. As congregants, we will come together – in the synagogue – and enjoy the experiences we recall with reverence. I am excited about being with my friends at a Shabbat kiddush, sitting in the sanctuary and knowing I am in the right place. I look forward to attending – in person – the lectures, classes, and dinners that have made our shul home. That time is not far away.

Although our financial situation is in peril, I am confident that it will be resolved. And that is where memories come in! There is no reason to think that we can't – in the right setting – continue to be the center of Jewish life in northeast Queens and western Nassau County.

How will this happen? Unfortunately, we lost our school tenant and are looking for a replacement. This is, understandably, very difficult under current conditions. We will continue to strive to cut expenses and increase revenues, but it is likely that it will require a consolidation simply because our financial future requires it and the demographics are unequivocally pointed in that direction. And for those who signal, 'no', please remember that every good thing about our congregation remains with us. Consider the success of the Oakland – Little Neck bond. Without it, I doubt my optimism would be realistic. Better yet, a consolidation affords us the opportunity to grow as we have done repeatedly.

I believe that during the past nine plus months, we did grow in a most unconventional way. The fiber of our congregation provided the lifeline as virtual services and programming became the norm and we made the adjustment almost seamlessly. For me, this was unpredictable; for all of us, it became a reality. Credit the work of Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron who brought the synagogue into our homes.

Of course, nothing replaces the synagogue. We know that. Whether one considers 2021 the beginning of a new year or the start of a new decade is debatable. So, here's to a fresh start, a clean slate, new beginnings and boundless possibilities. I am certain you agree that our collective hearts are open and our sleeves are rolled up!