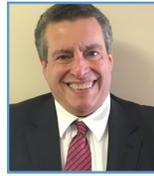


Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein



One Year Anniversary

Let's play the word association game. When I say the word right, I immediately think of the word left. When I say the word up, I immediately think about the word down. When I say the word anniversary, I immediately think of the word happy.

As I thought about my answers in greater detail, I was wondering if my last answer was on target. I know that this December 7th will be 80th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This September 11th will be the 20th anniversary of the devastating terrorist attack and destruction of the World Trade Center and closer to home, this spring will mark the 4th anniversary of my parents passing away.

March 2021 will make the one year anniversary when a small group of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor leaders, the Rabbi and Audi unanimously made a decision to temporarily lock our front doors. The sole intent of this decision was to insure that we keep all of us healthy and safe.

When I look at what this Shul has done this past year (with our doors locked), we not only survived, but we thrived. So many members, along with our Rabbi and Cantor and our Office Manager and Custodial Staff have kept us operating without missing a step.

We have expanded our religious services to include services 7 days a week. By utilizing technology, we have even greater attendance at our weekly Shabbat services on Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday evening for Havdalah. We offer a daily minyan service and we have never had to cancel even one service due to lack of attendance by our membership.

We have upheld our high regard in our greater community. We continued to partner with other synagogues in important virtual programs including: Yom Hashoah, Kristallnacht and the Israeli Day Parade. We also participated with other community houses of worship with our traditional Thanksgiving service. We continue to provide goods and services along with financial support to some local organizations that help those who are experiencing extremely difficult times.

I am proud of our leaders and committee chairs. Our Ritual Committee works closely with Rabbi Yaffe to ensure all the above services and holidays run smoothly. The House Committee is keeping our building functioning in a clean, germ-free and safe environment. Our Sisterhood and Men's Club are offering quality programs. Our Membership Committee is running events, reaching out to all of us and keeping each member engaged with the synagogue. They just recently held a Membership/New Member Shabbat service that welcomed our newest members into our synagogue family.

I would like to be in the sanctuary and hear the cantor putting his heart and soul into his chanting. I would like to be in the sanctuary listening to the Rabbi and not listening to unmuted congregants during the services. I would like to take the corner of my tallis, touch the Torah and kiss the tzitzit as the Torah passes by me before and after the weekly reading. I would also like to shake your hand and schmooze with you one-on-one at Kiddush and have a cookie with someone I did not know before. I know these will all come back again.

Strangely, at this one-year anniversary I can honestly say that I am happy. I am happy for all that we have done. I am happy for our accomplishments. I am happy that we continue as a congregation and move forward as if this disease never occurred. I am happy that our congregational family members have stayed with us and have actively participated in all that we are providing. I am happy to be a member of this community! Happy Anniversary.