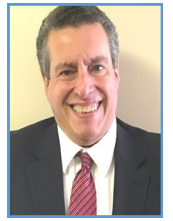


Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein

Hard Work Pays Off



Our synagogue consists of approximately 250 family units and a staff of 5. Together we have created a community that is a shining star within our neighborhood by providing services 7 days a week, programs and classes at least 5 days a week and we frequently share holidays, programs and other occasions like members of an extended family. There are many people who make these activities work so seamlessly. I would like to highlight the efforts of those who contribute so much. Hopefully, I will not omit anyone.

Recently, Co-President Steve Aronowitz and I formed an ad-hoc committee whose assignment was to find a third-party tenant to lease our school building. After months of hard work, I am happy to report that as of June 2022 we will have a new tenant. This tenant will provide much needed financial resources for us. However, please keep in mind that we will still be operating with an annual deficit so please continue to support your synagogue financially. Although every member of this committee dedicated many hours to the success of this project, I must highlight the extraordinary efforts of **Mark Höffer** and **Marc Figelman**.

I want to highlight the efforts of our Finance Chairs and committee. They regularly review our financials, look for cost savings, review our assets and ensure our short and long term solvency. Steve and I recently formed another short-term finance-based committee and charged them with trying to resolve our annual budget shortfall. This committee, chaired by **Ted Goodman** has a plan that may resolve a significant portion of our annual deficit. More details will be provided at a later date.

Our Membership Committee, under the direction of **Karen Popowsky**, keeps all congregational family members connected to our shul with phone calls and special services. **Elaine Fleischman** has created and maintained our monthly Movie Club. Our **Sisterhood** and **Men's Club** provide us with wonderful programs that are educational and entertaining. Our **Ritual Committee** is very active and always looking for ways to increase participation in our Shabbat services both on-premises and via Zoom. They are on top of every holiday and celebration and ensure we meet everyone's religious needs. A special Yasher Koach to **Irina Starr** who has been learning to chant all of our services and prayers and has been leading us in prayer on a regular basis.

Steve and I regularly talk with our COVID Committee and frequently review changes made by the federal, state and city governments. We discuss how these changes may impact us.

After a potentially dangerous situation in a Dallas suburban synagogue, we contacted the **111th Precinct** for additional guidance and safety advice.

Our Temple Talk has been enhanced by **Ellen Charlop** and **Paul Sacker** who have shared their knowledge and passion for Jewish traditions and Jewish Mysticism in their regular Temple Talk columns. Paul has also been our "Zoom Expert" who together with **Jessica Levy** and **Samantha Marcus** have been ensuring that all congregants whether they are in the sanctuary or in their homes experience the same Shabbat feeling by keeping us united despite the fact that we are praying from different locations.

Of course, I cannot omit our staff. Our custodians, **Juan Carlos** and **Fernando** continue to maintain our building during COVID. They have taken on many projects that have helped us to present the school building in move-in condition to enable us to successfully attract our new tenant. **Audi**, our Office Manager is always at the phone answering our questions, responding to member emails and queries, paying our bills, opening our doors to city inspectors and keeping our shul running. Let's also take a moment to thank **Phyllis Budne**, who has been such a huge help to Audi taking on some very important tasks. Last but not least, **Rabbi Yaffe** and **Cantor Shron** are in a class by themselves. They provide services that are spiritual, lively and moving. They run classes that keep us educated and informed with their light-hearted approach.

At this time I want to acknowledge my co-president, Steve Aronowitz. Though so many people provide so much time and energy to keep us thriving, there is no person who dedicates more of his personal time, energy and effort to ensure our daily successes than Steve.

This synagogue is so lucky to have so many hard working members and a wonderful staff. Please let Steve or me know if you would like to take an active role in helping to steer this ship. Yasher Koach to all who do so much. Hard work pays off!