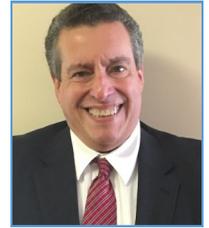


# Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein



## Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

There has never been a better time to be a member of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. There is so much to do from a religious, educational and social perspective.

**Yesterday:** We have recently completed a wonderful period of time with so many holidays to celebrate together as a unified community. We began the year 5782 with a bang. We had approximately 100 people attend services in the sanctuary for Rosh Hashanah along with a large group of Zoom participants. We continued with a wonderful Yom Kippur service. I do not know how they do it, but, somehow year after year, Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron make these holiday experiences more meaningful. We continued with celebrating Shemini Atzeret, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We had our first Kiddush together since the beginning of COVID in our sukkah. I must compliment everyone who attended services in our sanctuary. To the best of my knowledge everyone obeyed all of the protocols that we established especially sitting socially distant and wearing their mask properly (fully covering their nose and mouth). Special thanks must be given to our Membership Committee who reached out to every member to express wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

In the weeks after the holidays, we celebrated a Bat Mitzvah and an Aufruf. In addition to all this celebrating, our Sisterhood presented a book review (Rebel Daughter) by the author Lori Banov Kaufmann, who joined us live from Israel via Zoom.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge my friend and fellow congregational family member Michael Feiner. Michael, once again, organized a wonderful September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service honoring our many heroes and those who suffered losses. One guest speaker was Patrick Lynch, President of the NYC Police Benevolent Association.

As my wife and I arrived at this memorial service I was immediately greeted by two police officers. The first officer often patrols our building. In fact, he was on duty and was patrolling our synagogue that morning. The second officer to greet me was the Commanding Officer of the 111<sup>th</sup> Precinct. After exchanging hellos, the Commanding Officer asked me how the precinct can serve our synagogue better. One of the next people that greeted me was our State Assemblyman, Ed Braunstein. After exchanging pleasantries, Ed told me that he is always looking at ways to try to help our synagogue. Never in our 70+ history have our elected officials and local police understood the importance and significance of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor in their district more than today. This is something we all should all be very proud of.

**Today:** Shabbat services are flourishing with both on-premises and Zoom services being well attended. When we first unlocked our front doors, I attended several of the Friday night services in our sanctuary. Since that time, members are attending Friday night services via Zoom and have a reluctance to attend Friday night services in person. Our plan was to hold services every Friday night in the sanctuary, however, we cannot open the building for just a member or two. Moving forward, we have decided to open our synagogue for Friday Night Services once a month. We hope that this will encourage our members to mark the calendar and plan ahead. This month there will be Friday night services conducted in the synagogue on the 12th. Next month, Friday night services will be conducted in the synagogue on Friday night, December 3rd.

**Tomorrow:** All Shabbat services are being very well attended. Our classes that began again after the holidays are running efficiently and smoothly. In addition, our monthly book club and our monthly movie club are meeting with lively and engaging conversations. This month we will be hosting the Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and in December we will be hosting Holocaust Survivors as we celebrate the 7th night of Chanukah and our annual Pollak Lecture has been scheduled for Sunday morning at 11:00 am via Zoom with Rabbi Robert Harris, the chair of the Bible Department at JTS, will be our speaker.

There are always so many ways to participate in activities here. I look forward to seeing you at many of our future events.