

Presidential Matters

by Steve Aronowitz



On behalf of my wife, Julie, and son, Jordan, my friend and co-president, Mitchell, and his family, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a sweet, happy, and healthy new year. In life, there is a reason for everything and it is up to us to search and find meaning in our daily experiences. The year has been trying emotionally for everyone. The purpose of the Shofar is exactly that. Maimonides states that when we hear the Shofar sounds, we must awaken and seize the moment as a time of introspection and self-reflection.

Were you like me – taking for granted simply going out and getting together with friends and family? Community has taken on a new meaning. Reality has moved to Zoom and Facetime. By being alone to such an extent, we have come together as a synagogue family in ways we never imagined. Perhaps we should identify it as physical distancing rather than social distancing, as we continue to enjoy each other's company within modified conditions. Less than two years ago, the world did not know what distancing was all about. Today, it is a part of our wordlist and a defining feature of our lives. "Who would have thought that our synagogue would be the place that keeps us together and responds to whatever crisis confronts us. The efforts and accomplishments of Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron have helped us navigate this ongoing crisis.

It's been said so often – L'Dor V'Dor is described as "heimish." There are "no airs here!" And that is what I really miss. L'Dor V'Dor is comfortable. I feel at home, most probably because I am with friends. What I enjoy most about the High Holidays is how I re-connect with people whom I haven't seen in a while and the conversation picks up right where it left off a year ago.

I know we face many concerns right here. We are currently negotiating a possible consolidation with Lake Success Jewish Center. The reason we are considering this is in direct response to our commitment to maintain the foundations we have built. You know the story; you've studied the demographics. Change is hard. It asks us to pack up what has been part of our lives and simply move it. But, as we have done in the past, we have to respond to the latest challenge to meet our primary goal - to protect what we have created over decades and ensure that our congregation will remain a center of Judaism in Queens and Nassau County. So, once again, we believe it is not the physical structure as much as what is inside. Words may soften change, but no words really lessen this arduous task. Anxiety-filled? For sure. Stressful? No doubt. Possible? Absolutely. We will continue to keep you informed regarding the progress of any discussions related to a possible consolidation. Please remember – no change takes place without the approval of the membership.

So many of us have taken advantage of the outlet that L'Dor V'Dor provides – inviting us to connect at this difficult time through virtual prayers, social events, and seminars. Let's join to usher in a year of renewed commitment to the things that should be most important in our lives. Working together we can overcome the difficulties that we are encountering and we will come out stronger than we were before.

L'Shana Tova !