

Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein



Happy New Year

I feel a bit like Game Show Network host John Michael Higgins as he begins his America Says game show.

Please fill in the blanks. What season is it? B____, S____, W____ and H____. After the survey was taken the answers are: baseball season, spring season, wabbit season and of course holiday season. Congregation L'Dor V'Dor just completed a wonderful holiday season.

We began with our Selichot service on September 17th, continued with our Rosh Hashanah services on September 25th -27th, observed Yom Kippur on October 4th and 5th, began celebrating Sukkot on October 9th, participated in Shemini Atzeret on October 16th and 17th and celebrated and danced with our Torahs for Simchat Torah on October 17th and 18th. Wow!

There are some signs of us getting back to a pre-COVID environment. For the High Holidays, at the peak we had over 150 people attending services in our sanctuary along with over 100 people attending services on Zoom. All 20 or so attendees in our sanctuary at our Simchat Torah celebration had an opportunity to sing and dance with a Torah and there was a tremendous feeling of joy in our social hall. We even had the opportunity to sing and dance outside on our front lawn on Little Neck Parkway.

Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron led these services with their high energy, great enthusiasm and of course a high level of spirituality that is meaningful to all – thank you. Tremendous thanks must be given to our Ritual Committee Chairs, Stanley Wirtheim and George Klein, for ensuring that the holidays ran as smoothly as possible for all of us – those on Zoom and those in the sanctuary. Additional thank yous are also given to our Choir, our Usher and the 111th precinct of the New York City Police. We express our gratitude to Audi, Juan Carlos and Fernando for all their pre-holiday set-up and coordination and a special thank you to all all of the members of our synagogue family who participated in these holiday celebrations and helped make this season so special.

This is just the start of our year. There is so much happening. Please take the time read this Temple Talk and mark your calendar. Let us not forget that we have the chance to come together every week to enjoy and celebrate Shabbat as a congregational family. I look forward to seeing you at services and the at the programs that have been scheduled.

On behalf of my wife Diane and I together with Co-President Steve Aronowitz and his wife Julie, we want to wish all members of our community a very happy and healthy new year.