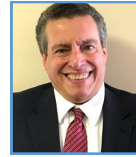


Presidential Matters

by Mitchell Stein



Look at How Much We Have Accomplished Over the Past Three Years

It was three years ago, March 2020, when Co-President, Steve Aronowitz, Rabbi Yaffe, Audi, our Ritual Chairs, Mark Hoffer and Chuck Wayne, and I made a very painful decision to lock our front doors to protect our community and to try to keep all congregational family members healthy and avoid suffering from the COVID pandemic.

So many people took on the challenge of keeping this community thriving during those very trying times. We must, once again, thank Rabbi Yaffe and Cantor Shron for keeping all Shabbat Services running smoothly, observing all Holidays, adding a Daily Minyan Service and bringing the Zoom application into our homes. We also must thank again our COVID Chair, Marc Figelman, and our Medical Expert, Dr. Alan Fein, for providing the synagogue's leadership the guidance and advice of keeping us safe and minimizing our chances of contracting the COVID disease. Lastly, we must thank each and every one of you for your continued participation during Shabbat and Holiday Services and in Weekly Classes, your attendance at Sisterhood and Men's Club speaking engagements, your attendance at our Book Club and, of course, continuing your membership and your financial contributions.

If you look back at the past Temple Talk issue, you will see that we are moving ahead and offering more and more events, celebrations and social gatherings in our building. Some of the on-site events held in our home included a return to the monthly Shabbat Morning Experience, the annual World Wide Wrap, and a beautiful Interfaith Shabbat Service honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Please be reminded that these events and all upcoming events have been and will be approved by our COVID experts prior to commencing.

As we move forward, I invite you to join us at some or all of the upcoming March and April events and consider celebrating them in our sanctuary. If you are still weary of joining us in person, all events will also be held in our Zoom Room. I encourage everyone to attend as many events as possible in whichever manner makes you the most comfortable.

On Friday night March 3rd we will be celebrating Shabbat Across America. Prior to the COVID outbreak this event was one of our most well attended annual events. A spiritual Kabbalat Shabbat service is followed by a wonderful buffet dinner and the entire evening is full of friends, fun, laughter and schmoozing. Just a few days later, the holiday of Purim begins on Monday, March 6th and we would love to see you during the reading of the Megillah.

One of the greatest parts of membership within our synagogue is having the opportunity to celebrate in the simchas of the members of our synagogue family. At Shabbat morning services on March 11th, Stan Wirtheim is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of his becoming a Bar Mitzvah. On Sunday, April 30th, following the morning minyan, Barbara Raber is hosting a beautiful Brunch, to which we are all invited, to celebrate the life of her husband, our cantor and friend, Julian Raber.

In three years we have gone from locked doors to an extremely active congregational life. I am looking forward to all that we have planned for the coming weeks and months. We are forging ahead with passion and great energy and I hope that you will be an active part in all that we do. I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy Spring.