

Presidential Matters

by Steve Aronowitz



I hope you were part of the big crowd at Sunday's tribute, "Celebrate and Remember Cantor Julian Raber." This was a heart-warming program with speaker after speaker reminiscing about their connections to our beloved Cantor who served the congregation for 30 years, from 1976. That means the majority of our Little Neck members were in attendance on several occasions, to be part of a service led by Rabbi Eckstein and Cantor Raber. Of course, this is a part of our story as Oakland members have also enjoyed a rich history of Cantorial leadership over many years under a different roof but with similar feelings. And, now we are together.

This past Sunday, however, was about Little Neck. The memories abound. Long-time member and former president, Don Forman, recounted that, "Many years ago, Barbara and Julie joined Esther and me, and Neil and Carolyn Berman in signing up for dance lessons at Mr. Mitchell Dance Studio on Middle Neck Road, (in Great Neck) .

"The first class went reasonably well as we were all told that there were possibilities," Don continued. "The second class led to remarks from Mr. Mitchell that we were the worst group he had ever taught. Julie refused to return."

For most of us, we can close our eyes and hear Cantor Raber davening, "Ha – Yom," as Yom Kippur drew to a close. The prayer that proclaimed the Day of Atonement "will give us strength," has to go down as one of the highlight moments in our Little Neck's 75-year history.

75 years of inspirational services, exceptional educational programs, family oriented activities, and special relationships. Isn't that what joining a synagogue is all about? Ask any member at either home and one will hear how important synagogue membership has been for three quarters of a century!

Last week we came together to celebrate *Yom Ha'atzmaut!* Over 50 members came to dance (Israeli dancing with instruction), and, of course, eat!

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