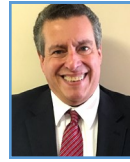


Presidential Matters by Mitchell Stein



This Is The Place To Be!

WOW! So much has happened recently. We completed an amazing month of holiday celebrations starting with Selichot and concluding with Simchat Torah. On Day 1 of Rosh Hashanah there were nearly 250 people in our beautiful sanctuary and over 100 more Zoom participants. What a great way to start the New Year. We slacked off just a bit for Day 2 but once again had a substantial gathering for the Kol Nidre service to begin Yom Kippur. During the Yom Kippur service we used our new Yizkor book. The new book was extremely well received. Many thanks to Debbie Sosman, Ron Cohen, Stanley Wirtheim, Rabbi Yaffe and Audi Acevedo for all their time and effort in generating this supplemental prayer book.

Our Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret services were also well attended. If you haven't had the opportunity to dance with a Torah during Simchat Torah you don't know what you are missing. Many of us had the chance to dance, sing and celebrate. This was truly a joyous holiday season.

During Sukkot we had several special events that added joy to our festival celebration. On the first night of Sukkot we enjoyed a delicious Shabbat Sukkot Dinner. On Sunday evening Rabbi Yaffe and Carrie hosted a delightful Open Sukkah at their home and during the week our Men's Club hosted a special evening with pizza and a presentation on the history of Jews and Baseball given by Ira Dornstein.

None of this celebrating could have occurred without a lot of time, effort, planning and coordination. The list of thank yous include: Ritual Committee Chairs George Klein and Stanley Wirtheim, all members of the Ritual Committee, Rabbi Yaffe, Cantor Shron, our wonderful choir, all those participating in our service, our custodial and administrative team, Audi, Juan Carlos, Fernando and Rahim, the Men's Club and our security personnel and officers of the 111th precinct.

If this was not enough, on Sunday October 15th we held the largest event in our shul in quite some time. On this night we held two very important celebrations. First, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor and its predecessor entities – The Oakland Jewish Center and the Little Neck Jewish Center. We also honored three of our members who gave and continue to give so much of their time and energy to the synagogue. We honored Dr. Alan Fein, Marc Figelman and Mark Hoffer. The night was full with a delicious catered meal, dancing to a DJ, a silent auction and schmoozing with our congregational family members. This wonderful event took months of preparation and every aspect of the event was perfect. Special thanks to all those who helped organize this party especially Ann Hoffer, Lois Wirtheim, Harriet Spivack, Dawn Singer and Debbie Sosman and our custodial administrative team.

Some of the upcoming events that you do not want to miss include: the Interfaith Thanksgiving service, our annual Pollak Lecture and a Chanukah Dinner celebration. Join us and be part of the spiritual, educational, social and fun activities that we have planned.

I look forward to closing out our calendar year 2023 with continued celebrations and joyous get-togethers. I wish you all a very Happy New Year and may we continue to share wonderful events together.