## Presidential Matters by Mitchell Stein

## **Looking Ahead**

On Friday morning, February 23rd, 2024, my wife Diane and I start a new and exciting venture together. We have a one-way flight to the Harry Reid Airport in Las Vegas. We will be continuing our life's journey together in our new home in Henderson, Nevada (an adjacent suburb of Las Vegas). Lots of time, thought, energy and discussion transpired before this decision was reached.

We have been members of Congregation L'Dor V'Dor for 11 ½ years. As the old adage states, "time flies when you are having a great time." The truth is, we have truly enjoyed all of our experiences in this shul. We fluctuated between being Saturday morning attendees and Friday night attendees. Both services provided us exactly what we were looking for. We also attended numerous holiday celebrations, many social events and always looked forward to the annual community events that we were involved with. As much as we hope we supported the synagogue, Diane and I greatly benefitted from our membership.

Approximately 6 ½ years ago I decided it was time to "get involved" with my synagogue. At my prior synagogue, I held nearly every Executive Board position except President, and my break from Synagogue Administration was over. I quickly took on the role of Executive Vice President for a year. I then became Co-President with Marjorie Goldstein for one year. For the last 4 ½ years I have been Co-President with Steve Aronowitz. Aside from some meetings that ran too late into the evening and that rare meeting that was "a tad" contentious, filling these roles was a wonderful experience for me. I learned so much from my Co-Presidents as well as from every person who was a board member during this tenure period. After taking another administrative break,, I know that I will be using my experiences here to improve my new synagogue, in Henderson.

Looking forward, I see a great life ahead for me and Diane. We purchased a beautiful home in a tremendously large 55+ community. This community has 3 club houses, every sport imaginable, a huge gym, 3 indoor and outdoor pools and offers 60 clubs that meet on a regular basis. I am nearly guaranteed that my snow shoveling days are over. The best benefit of this move is that we will be a short 15 minute car ride away from our son, who is a college professor. We are both so excited about starting the next chapters in our life story together.

Using my crystal ball, I see a very long and bright future for Congregation L'Dor V'Dor. Like every synagogue, there are some obstacles that need to be overcome. We have an extremely energetic Rabbi who always has this congregation's best interests at heart. We have a tremendous staff that all give more than 100% every day. We have a group of members who put so much time into ensuring that they utilize their personal skills to make this temple better and stronger. We have just recently seen some new social programs that have been extremely well attended. Possibly our secret weapon is that we have a President who somehow gives more of himself to this shul every single year. We should not take Steve's tremendous effort lightly. One thing is certain: there is no place to go but up. However, there is one tremendous need. That need is you! We need more participation at our services and classes. We need more people to assist in idea creation, rolling up their sleeves and helping out in any manner possible. Last but not least, we all know that finances are an issue and I am sure we all agree that everyone needs to take an active role in financially supporting our religious home. Our synagogue has a glorious 75-year history and I would like to think, "the best is yet to come!"

I thank you for all the wonderful experiences and memories Diane and I take with us. I thank you for giving me the chance to serve as a member of the leadership team. I truly wish each individual a long, happy and healthy life and may we continue to share our many happy experiences as one community for many years to come.