

## Presidential Matters by Steve Aronowitz



Don Forman is quite familiar with the address of Congregation L' Dor V' Dor. He knows it as the same location as Little Neck Jewish Center when he first joined in 1968. A week ago, Don celebrated his 90th birthday with his three sons, four grandchildren and their families at a gala kiddush.

"When I walk into the sanctuary and I see Esther's artwork," I smile and I recall so many special moments shared with my family and friends," he reflected. Just prior to his special birthday, Don and his family remembered Esther at an unveiling at Beth Moses cemetery. The two – Esther and Don, Don and Esther – were major players at Little Neck and Don continues to provide indispensable insights on how to properly be outstanding synagogue leaders. Don served as president from 1980 – 82. In addition, he served with his close friend, the late Neil Berman, as co-chair of Israel Affairs that included our UJA and Bond drives. Current chair, Stan Wirtheim, whose leadership is well documented, recognizes its importance, "It's an honor to pick up where Don left off and make sure we continue to hold annual drives."

In my term as president, I have come to Don regularly to ask, "What would you do? How would you respond?" In short, I have come to value his opinion and, more importantly, cherish his friendship. Julie, Jordan, and I have shared Passover seders and numerous break-fast meals with the Formans.

So, what makes Don so special? Surely, we've had numerous individuals who have served as productive members, their contributions have been important. Consider that Don first came to the shul in 1968 when his oldest son, Richard, enrolled in Hebrew school under the supervision of Rabbi Block. Sons Alan and Mark followed, each becoming a bar mitzvah. Rabbi Block was succeeded by Rabbi Eckstein, Rabbi Prouser, and Rabbi Yaffe. All have benefitted from Don's encouragement. "Each was different," Don explained, and each "brought his own strength to the bima." At the birthday celebration, the boys decided that nothing has changed, the temple looks the same. Perhaps it is that characteristic that Don labels the synagogue's "heimisha feeling" that epitomizes the uniqueness of our Congregation. "I'm in Florida for half a year but when I come back the warm feeling is still so special."

There have been changes – women becoming b'not mitzvah, and playing significant roles in the synagogue's operations. Those steps have been critical, and yet, the fabric of the membership hasn't budged. "It's absolutely beautiful, delightful," to come here and enjoy the warmth that embraces you upon entering the sanctuary."

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### HATS OFF TO DEBBIE SOSMAN

It's with great pleasure that I name Debbie Sosman to the position of president of Sisterhood. As we have come to expect, Debbie "does it all." Under her direction, synagogue members have participated in various activities, including Pilates classes, a Macaroon making workshop, and the Women's Seder. She produced a revised Book of Remembrance. I am confident that the 'best is yet to come.'

To be sure, Debbie is filling big shoes! Fortunately, Janet Tobin, the extremely dedicated past Sisterhood president, will work closely with Debbie on the leadership transition. Few members of our synagogue have played a more significant role than Janet, who along with her husband, Irwin, have been an invaluable resource for our membership for many years.