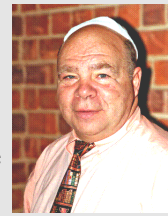


Presidential Matters by Steve Aronowitz



What an incredible October we experienced at the synagogue! For me, the highlight was on Saturday, October 19th, sitting in the sukkah at the Yaffe's home. It was just one week after the Rabbi collapsed while officiating at Rosh Hashanah's first day services. A scary, alarming scene no doubt.

Two weeks later, a New Year's that began in joy, and was interrupted by concern and sadness had worked itself back around to joy once more with family and friends gathered together under the sukkah. Memorable to say the least.

Now, another two weeks later, we must reach a verdict. Addressing our future, which may include finding a new home, presents numerous issues, none of which come without challenging decisions. That is why each member must attend a general membership meeting on Thursday, November 7. Holding a membership meeting is a twice-a-year event. Over the years, our major decisions are decided here with all members having the opportunity to discuss, debate, and, ultimately, determine how the congregation proceeds.

18 years of leadership have given me a lot of pleasure, enjoyment, and delight in sharing simchas with my friends. That won't stop! Because we know it is not the location that determines happiness; it is who we are with each day.

When I appointed the consolidation committee, I did so with a few factors in mind. First, I needed to have a level-headed individual who could lead a meeting that would, no doubt, bring passionate opinions. This person had to be organized, have direction, and not be swayed by the feelings of members. Next, I wanted to set up a cohesive operation for what I believed would be long time work. The individuals I selected as leaders had to fit the same description – thoughtful, organized, with a vision for planning. It was critical to have leaders who would not be hot-headed, but would also not be afraid to share their opinions in a rational way.

I believe I met all my criteria. You will decide. Please be involved. Come to meetings. Call board members or officers to ask questions and express your thoughts. After all, each member has one vote.