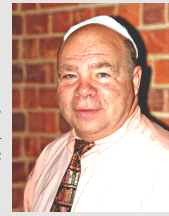


Presidential Matters

Dear Congregant:

At its meeting on December 16, the Board of Trustees endorsed the Consolidation Committee's recommendation that we sell our building to The Pillar Church. This is the first major step in executing our plan to consolidate.



At that meeting, the Board also voted to negotiate exclusively with Temple Israel of Great Neck. Due to the efforts of Marc Figelman, Dawn Singer, Bob Stern and their respective committee members, the Board identified Temple Israel as an ideal consolidation partner. The time that these synagogue leaders have devoted to this endeavor has been critical. Quite frankly, their personal efforts have been remarkable.

In our discussions with the Temple Israel Consolidation Committee, we have been assured that our current OLNJC dues will not increase following the merger. That is a key point as we continue meeting.

If you are struggling with this decision, you are not alone. No one could leave the place we have called 'home' without trepidation. We have enjoyed an incredible history at our current site. Moving is never easy; it involves years of recounting memories, wonderful events, and great friendships.

I, however, look at this as a challenging time, an opportunity to build additions to our history and make new friends while, of course, maintaining those special relationships that mean so much. We are fortunate that our consolidation with Oakland Jewish Center provides a very positive reference as to how consolidation can be overwhelmingly successful.

Let's back up for a minute.

Once the Pillar Church executes the agreement, our Executive Board and full Board of Trustees must vote on its approval. (We have voted to proceed but now we must approve the contract; complicated, yes!) At that point, the General Membership (each member must be in good standing) must vote to approve the sale by 2/3 majority. It is vital that each member in good standing votes as the lack of a vote equals a no vote.'

We anticipate a Congregational vote in the first quarter of 2025.

In parallel, we are continuing to progress on the synagogue consolidation. Updated information was presented to the Board. Following discussion, a motion was made and approved to focus our efforts solely on negotiating with Temple Israel.

It is the committee's intent to have a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the major points of the consolidation with Temple Israel to share with the congregation at our next general membership meeting. That meeting will be called to ratify the sale of the building, as described above. A later, separate general membership meeting will be required to vote on and approve the synagogue consolidation with Temple Israel. Once approved the Plan of Consolidation will be prepared and sent to the Attorney General for approval.

This update is a general summary. All steps, processes, and procedures are required by the religious corporation laws. The process is being overseen by our attorney, Randy Stein, a key component of the very successful OLNJC merger. While we are making great progress, this journey is far from over. There is significant work remaining to complete. We will continue to provide updates and appreciate the support of the congregation.

Please remember the future will be determined by the membership vote following its specific requirements. All voting procedures will be provided to you in advance.

As president of the synagogue for 18 years, I have had the joy of working with two Rabbis, four Cantors, a number of custodians, office personnel, and, most importantly, exceptional individuals who have steered the congregation in a positive direction, guided me and provided the leadership for us to grow in so many ways.

The word 'grow' is used intentionally. Some might question how that word applies to today's dilemma. Surely, it is because of that growth that we will be able to both maintain the great things we have in place and build new chapters wherever that might be.

Questions? Concerns? Please contact me directly at: 516-353-0599 or by email at: stevearonowitz@gmail.com After all, each member has the responsibility to vote regarding our future. Please be an educated voter! I want to hear from you.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you a Happy Chanukah and a healthy new year.

Steve Aronowitz
President