

## Presidential Matters



Like you, we are preparing to welcome family and friends to our House (of Worship) for the upcoming holidays. We are really no different. Even with a lot of decisions we must address, the immediate priority is for our synagogue to be ready for the High Holidays. Members have been notified of Aliyah and honor invites. The Rabbi and Hazzan are organizing each service. The custodians along with Miss Audi are in the final stages of ensuring the building is set for our guests, just as you do at your homes. The talented, energy driven Debbie Sosman and her crew have just about finalized The Book of Remembrance. George Klein is coordinating the Zoom operations, running last minute tests of our equipment.

So here I was, standing in front of the synagogue on a beautiful warm late summer afternoon, the obvious questions come to mind – where, exactly, will we be next year, will we be right here or will many be joining another Conservative synagogue? There will be options, for sure. **That's why it's critical to attend the congregation meeting on September 17.**

I appreciate that some are very frustrated with the pace of reaching a decision. But all of us want it to be the right decision for the membership. Preferences abound. Disappointingly, some have criticized the work of the negotiating committee. This is a senseless and damaging thought process. These are the individuals who have volunteered countless hours to meet, research, discuss, and negotiate. No one is paid for their services. Still, I understand the frustration. I am frustrated, too. Listening to someone whose voice is louder than others doesn't serve the good of our community. This decision is critical. Sounds obvious. We are moving forward. Give this committee the respect each member deserves. **Please plan on attending our congregation meeting on Wednesday, September 17. At this meeting (8:15 p.m. start), the congregation will vote on the budget (mailed separately), vote on the new contract with Rabbi Yaffe, and hear a presentation on the up-to-date information on consolidation talks.**

Here's the schedule of upcoming events:

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| <b>September 3</b>  | If you're receiving an honor for the HighHolidays, please confirm your acceptance. Help us plan accordingly.   |
| <b>September 6</b>  | Shabbat services and installation of officers and board members followed by kiddush.<br><a href="#">Click here</a> to let us know you plan on attending. |
| <b>September 15</b> | First board meeting with newly elected members present   |
| <b>September 17</b> | Congregation meeting at 8:15 pm  |
| <b>September 22</b> | High Holidays begin  |

In conclusion, It's the High Holidays and everyone has become accustomed to walking into the hallowed building we have come to call home for so many years. We will be ready.

From my family to yours, may the new year bring good health, happiness, and peace.