

## Presidential Matters



At a place that takes pride in maintaining a regular schedule for most events, the conclusion of Cantor Lewis Taub's work at our synagogue is on schedule as his contract ended earlier this month. He was hired when Cantor Shron relocated to Israel. Still, anytime someone leaves, it puts a lot of other things in motion.

There is no exception here.

First, however, on behalf of the congregation, this is my opportunity to thank the Hazzan for his efforts over the past several months. It can't be easy filling in for a popular Hazzan and bringing a congregation together in song and prayer. Cantor Taub did it! And to make matters even more challenging, he was on the bimah when Rabbi Yaffe became ill and was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

Cantor Taub didn't miss a beat, so to speak, and, most importantly, he took over the lead position and restored order to the services, and, most importantly, maintained the sanctity of the High Holidays, delivering well thought out comments to a full Congregation whose focus was on the well respected Rabbi Yaffe.

"Once we got to know each other, the partnership came together. I know what the Rabbi wanted and my responsibility was to assist him in any way I could.

"The thing many people probably don't know, explained the Cantor whose resonant voice filled the sanctuary, "is the Congregation made me feel very comfortable and that comfort gave me the ability to concentrate on my davening with a great deal of feeling."

His comfort level on the bimah was evident in having lunch with members at kiddush, all of whom he found "very approachable."

One thing that clearly resonated with the Hazzan was that he recognized how important Shabbat was to so many members. "I quickly recognized that to those who attended services every week being in the synagogue on Shabbat was important to them.

"If you ever need me to come back," Cantor Taub quickly pointed out, "I would love to return!"