

Presidential Matters by Steve Aronowitz



As Bob and I begin our 9th terms as presidents (starting at our respective synagogues and presently serving as co-leaders), we are excited about our future. In just three years, our temple has become a thriving community center, offering Jewish programming for everyone. Literally, the lights are on every night at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor.

Effective leaders gain the wisdom of past practice, develop strategies to function in the present, and hopefully reap the benefits of their work in the future. That is the task of officers and trustees.

Anyone who attended the Board of Trustees and/or General Membership meetings of June 24th understands our optimism. A newly elected Board, some of whom have accepted the challenge of leadership for the first time, joins a veteran cast of officers as we begin our term on July 1. We will continue to participate in the United Synagogue's *Sulam for Leadership Program*, an initiative designed to train new leaders.

Surely, there are challenges; existing demographics reveal an upward climb in terms of attracting new members. Jewish families with young children are simply not moving into our area, creating a serious void in operating an active Hebrew school and youth program. In spite of mounting odds, however, Cantor Shron has received rave reviews for his Wednesday night youth group meetings. Note to adolescents and their parents: the group will begin anew in the fall.

Providing the programs that you have become accustomed to over the past few years while also maintaining sound budget practices is, of course, the challenge every organization faces. Be sure to check out the temple website for open budget meeting dates – this is your opportunity to become part of the process as we finalize our 2015 – 2016 financial plan. We enacted an emergency spending provision through July and August (spending limited to critical building operations and employee salaries) so that we can develop a logical financial plan for the upcoming year. We delayed presentation of the budget to ensure that we heard from the membership and addressed our needs.

Designing and implementing an intelligent spending philosophy requires the efforts of each congregant. At the membership meeting, we addressed our desire to sensibly reduce costs while addressing environmental issues. One action taken will be the dramatic reduction of mailings. We will use the website and email distribution to communicate information. This includes Temple Talk. We realize that there are some members who prefer to receive a hard copy of each publication. Those individuals must contact the temple office to arrange that delivery system.

Some board decisions won't meet the approval of all members, but I am certain that we share this in common: maintaining a Jewish center that meets our needs, both religiously and spiritually.

Steve Aronowitz
Co-President



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