

President's Message

About six months ago, while we celebrated the Passover Seders, we began the recitation of the Haggadah by asking the following question: ***Ma Nishtanah Ha Layla Ha Ze Mi Kol Haleylot?*** On this year's Kol Nidre night, I asked a similar question: ***Why is this Kol Nidre night different from all previous Kol Nidre nights at the SJCC?***

The most obvious answer to this question relates to what is currently taking place on our three property lots at the corner of Morris Avenue and Kent Place Boulevard in Summit. The construction and expansion of the Shul officially started on Sunday, September 25th with a groundbreaking ceremony attended by over two hundred persons including local clergy from Summit, as well as federal, state and city elected officials. After almost thirty years of dreams and continued efforts and perseverance during the last nine years, we were able to get the necessary zoning and building approvals despite numerous objections and stumbling blocks raised by others through each step of the building approvals process.

This year's Kol Nidre night marks the beginning of a new era for the SJCC. Indeed, we are living and witnessing historical moments in the life of our eighty-two year-old Shul. We could not have reached today's milestone without the dedication of a group of devoted Congregants as volunteers within our SJCC family who for the past nine years continued relentlessly to pursue a dream that started thirty years ago. Although we raised just about enough money to qualify us for a building loan and a mortgage, we will continue to seek the Congregation's support and ideas to beautify and decorate our new Campus once the heavy construction is complete.

This past June 2011 we renewed Cantor Janet Ilene Roth's employment contract. The Cantor has been at the SJCC for the past twenty years, and her new contract is a five-year contract until June 2016. Also, we will soon begin negotiations of a renewal contract for Rabbi Avi Friedman to take effect in July 2012.

Some time in 2012, our 82-year old Congregation will be celebrating its second Bar or Bat Mitzvah. In addition, next calendar year our Rabbi Emeritus William Horn and his wife Dena will mark their half century presence in Summit as they joined the SJCC in 1962. These two milestones will be celebrated by the entire Congregation and its guests in 2012.

The future path of the SJCC is in the hands of its entire Membership which can shape and focus it in any way and direction that the Membership desires. In order to ensure a successful future for the Shul, it is critical for the Members to undertake the challenges to make this Shul a much better Community Center for all our current and prospective Members.

Maurice de Picciotto, President of the SJCC

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