

## ***President's Perspective. . . Getting our Ducks in a Row***

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Yes folks, these are my ducks. I collect rubber duckies. My office is full of them along with all sorts of other things like rubber balls, Cheshire Cats and other Alice in Wonderland stuff, and old cameras. My colleagues think I'm weird and I'm an embarrassment to my family; but I like my stuff. Anyway, I want to talk about my ducks. They are all lined up. This is the metaphorical embodiment of our strategic planning process. We are getting our ducks in a row!

If you recall from last Rosh Hashanah, one of the themes we discussed was the need to create a strategic plan. We have now surpassed 500 membership units. Our religious school has almost 400 students. Our preschool has been successful beyond our expectations. Our fledgling adult education offerings are in full swing. We have b'nai mitzahs almost every weekend. I can go on and on. From all evidence, it looks like we will continue to grow and we cannot laissez faire our way into the future. It's time to take stock of our shul and lay out a framework for the next 3-5 years.

We have engaged a small group of present, past and future shul leaders, under the capable leadership of Ilene Sporkin, to brainstorm for several months on our vision of the shul, our strengths and weaknesses and how we can engage as many members as possible in setting our direction for the future. We will be creating several substantive groups to discuss and recommend action plans on as many areas of synagogue life as we think we can handle. I hesitate to specify them as we have not even begun to create a list, but areas like finances, governance, building community, capital needs/infrastructure, and education will certainly be included. We may or may not formally survey shul members. We will most certainly speak to many of you. We're not talking about putting our shul in a 3 to 5 year straightjacket. We want to create a series of attainable goals that will aid us as we enter our 20th year of existence as Anshai Torah.

This can be a daunting task, but most certainly doable. Approximately 10 years ago we went through a similar exercise and the product was excellent. Our only problem was that we got caught up in the day-to-day operation of the shul and did not follow through or keep up with action plans. We will not make that mistake this time.

Several of you have already approached me about helping with this process. I have your names. This is our first open call to volunteers. If you want to participate in one of the groups we will be forming, e-mail me at <mailto:president@anshaitorah.org>. Let me know your interests. Be patient with us. We may not be forming our groups for sever-al months. But we do need your help.

Quack Quack.

Howard