



North Shore Jewish Center

Jim Frank

Thank you to the North Shore Jewish Center Men's Club for choosing me for their Man of the Year award recipient this year. Mazel Tov to the North Shore Jewish Center Youth honorees: Samantha Nosenchuck, Julia Roberts, and Louva Roberts as well as to the others being honored today.

Since joining North Shore Jewish Center, NSJC, Men's Club has been an important part of my life. I think of my self more as an active 'participant' rather than as a 'leader'. I'm very appreciative of the many educational programs and fun activities that Men's Club creates for our synagogue and our community. I've created some programs centered around the Shabbat morning Torah reading when the Men's Club Sefer Haftorah comes to North Shore. My first one included a contest in which adults as well as kids were encouraged to come in robes, in commemoration of Joseph's multicolored robe. The religious school got involved and everyone had a good time and good memories. The FJMC granted a Torch award for this program and it was proudly shown in the NSJC display case.

I'm an active volunteer in the program Men's Club organizes in which shiva minyanim are conducted in the homes of our congregants. Though sometimes difficult emotionally to lead such a service, it's an important service provided by our MC to NSJC families in need. On a personal level, what could be better than helping? Over the years I also have served many roles on the NSJC bimah - from gabbai to service leader.

So, now a bit about me. My wife and I moved to Long Island 34 years ago for what was initially a one year sabbatical as a physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory. After our first Shabbat on LI when Phyllis, kids and I attended NSJC Shabbat services, we knew we found the place where we wanted to raise our family. After moving to the area and joining NSJC we joined our shul's auxiliaries, Men's Club and Sisterhood for the additional social opportunities that they provided. Through them, we have developed close and caring friendships that will be 'forever'. We also became very active in the synagogue, me on ritual and educational committees, and Phyllis in many roles, marching eventually into NSJC presidency.

A couple of years ago, we decided to become snowbirds (enough LI winters!!), and bought a condo in Sun City AZ. We also downsized to a condo in Setauket less than a mile from NSJC. Our family is spread almost worldwide, with grandkids as far east as Israel, west in California, north in Canada, and NYC as well. When not traveling I enjoy fishing and golfing when in Setauket, and while in Sun City I dig many divots on several local golf courses.

Let me share the story about when Men's Club first became very personal to me. About 20 years ago, when I served on the NSJC 'big board', my portfolio was chair of Adult Education. This was during the year that the Museum of Jewish Heritage opened. I planned for a trip that would provide tickets to the Museum, a coach bus, a bag lunch, transportation to/from the hub of some Lower East Side kosher restaurants, and movies to show on the bus. When I priced this all out, the 'break-even' cost per person was prohibitive. My synagogue president encouraged me to talk to the MC President, Ray Scher. So I asked him, and after some quick checking, he responded that MC could provide \$500 to help support the program. That did the trick! I organized the program, the bus was filled, and the day was great!

So thanks and Bravo to Men's Club for all you do for us. 'Yasher Koach'. May it continue to go 'from Strength to Strength'.