

Good Morning.

This past weekend, My 7 year old daughter prepared for the holiday with her 91 year old great grandmother. Together they set the table, polished silver and baked a traditional german apfel charlotte. That evening as we sat around the table we had 4 generations present - from ages 1 to 91. It was truly the embodiment of what I had been taught about L'dor v Dor.

In today's world - this mixing and mingling of generations, let alone working together is a rare occurrence. My grandmother lives in Florida and only visits a few times a year. And like most modern families my parents live out of state. This holiday weekend the term L'dor v dor has been said many times. But this time it got me thinking.

What does l'dor v dor really mean. I know the informal definition of the term - passing from the older generation on to the next and younger definition- but was this the true definition or only a modern day colloquialism?

For many of you here today who are probably more learned than myself already know - the term 'L'dor v Do comes from a prayer.

The English translation of the prayer is *"To all generations we will declare Your greatness, and for all eternity proclaim Your holiness. Your praise, O God, shall never depart from our lips."*

What I found most interesting is that this prayer says " to all generations". There is no mention of older generations teaching younger generations. Which brought on another thought - Why do we assume that L'Dor v Dor means the passing of information only one direction?

Does this create a burden on our relationships? Do the older generations feeling pressured to pass everything on? I know that I often feel the

pressure to learn it and remember it accurately or else cause a fault in the L'dor v Dor line that dates back to Abraham.

Is this the reason why we doubt the generations after us?

I am sure that you have been at a board meeting, Jewish function or event where someone was talking about how impossible my generation is, why we aren't engaged and why we won't join your board or become a member at the the synaguge?

It is true that my Generation is different. But so was yours from the one before it. Each generation keeps growing and adapting to our ever changing world. Millennials aren't so bad. Yes we are on our phones a ton, but we have added to your lives too. Ever ride in an Uber? Love Netflix? Have DoorDash bring your food to your house? Can you Facetime your grandchildren? All were invented by Millenials.

Although on Sunday there were 4 generations in my kitchen - there are far too few places in my daily life where this happens on a regular basis. I rarely mix or interact with generations outside of my own.

And yet, there is one shining beam of hope. Synagogues. Other than here at Kol Shofar that are few places in society where I interact on a regular basis with those outside of my age range.

And yet, I know that our Kol Shofar community and greater Jewish community could be stronger simply by changing how we view L'dor v Dor. I don't always want to be the "Learner" and I'm sure it is exhausting to always be the "teacher". Why not shed these roles that bind us - and focus

on a Jewish community focused on dialog and on passing traditions and information back and forth?

This year I love serving on the Gala committee with women who are at different stages in their life. It brings a fresh perspective for all of us.

I know that not everyone at this shul has the same opportunity to mix and mingle with the generations. Yes it's true - my family and I do not attend Shabbat services - YET. However, we are here every Sunday and it is one of our favorite part of the week.

My family, plus all 80-90? Other families gather 30 minutes before Beit Binah (Sunday School) to drink some coffee, nosh some bagels and schmooze. We are involved congregants who take turns bringing bagels, packing snacks, drive field trips and sit on committees. We are raising Jewish children and take pride as they learn the prayers of our ancestors. And if you could see it you would be proud to. You would have a little more faith in the next generation and rest a little easier tonight knowing the Jewish future is in good hands.

This year we had 8/10? new families join Beit Binah. We are growing and I personally could not be happier. Kol Shofar adds meaning to my familys life. You should see how excited my children are to sit next to Alan & Rachel Haikimi's children each Sunday morning. And how they dance around the synagogue to Hallelu or all scramble to touch the Israel flag and sing Hatikvah.

But, it is not enough for me just to tell you that it happens. You should see it. I invite you all to come any Sunday morning and see the faces of Jewish future. We can promise you will be impressed. And even better than being impressed with us = perhaps you will engage with some of our children so that they have an oppurtunity to form a deep and meaningful relationship with someone from outside of their generation.

And although I can't promise this for all the other Beit Binah families - we will start coming to Shabbat services when my kids are a bit older so they too can start being part of our community.

Our Kol Shofar Community has an asset. 5 Generations of Jews under one roof. So let's use it. Let's ensure we create space for all ages and generations to be involved so Kol Shofar is not only a home for God, but a flourishing community hub.

So let's continue to reach out across generations and embrace it, especially here at Kol Shofar. There is so much we can learn from each other. I'm looking forward to a deeper, richer, more vibrant Jewish community this 5780 because of all of you.