

## ***Reflections from Rabbi Kushnick. . .***

What a summer this has been! A few days before Memorial Day, I celebrated my graduation from rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Immediately after that Talia and I began packing our apartment, and on July 1 we moved to Plano. Once our movers arrived, we quickly unpacked and began our life here. It has certainly been a busy summer.

We are so blessed to be part of such a wonderful congregation. The number of people who have reached out to welcome us to town and offer assistance has been incredible. Any apprehension that Talia and I had about being in Dallas quickly dissipated and was replaced with an overwhelming sense of community. We now truly understand why everyone says Anshai Torah becomes your second family. In the short time that we have been in Plano we feel comfortable with many individuals from the congregation. It seems like Texas is a natural fit for our family. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our transition to Plano so seamless.

Talia and I are constantly impressed by the dedication of the membership of the congregation and the commitment to Judaism that is present within our congregation. I hope that this dedication and commitment continue to help us grow and improve our congregation in the future. The *Shabbat under the Stars* event and the first day of Religious School showed me the number of children that are present in our congregation. It was truly amazing to see that much energy and noise in the building. The number of children we packed into our sanctuary over the weekend is a small highlight of my time at Anshai Torah and I look forward to finding new ways for everyone to come together in the future. I am energized with ways to enhance youth and family programs. If you have ideas that you would like to see implemented or have suggestions on how we may be able to improve, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Talia and I would like to wish a Shana Tova U'metukah (A Happy and Sweet Year) to everyone. If we have not yet met, I hope to meet you over the High Holy Days. As we begin 5774, may this be a year of happiness and health for you and your family. As we enter this next stage of our congregation's history, may we at Congregation Anshai Torah continue to grow and strengthen our community.

Shana Tova,

*Rabbi Michael J. Kushnick*