

President's Perspective. . .

Since this is my first Kol Emet article, I thought I would share some excerpts from installation to introduce myself to my Anshai Torah family. Who would have expected that a deeply rooted New York girl would find herself in a Texas shul and then find herself prepared to embark on what is sure to be a most fantastic journey with all of you? Certainly, not me, but here I am.

I am inspired by so many of you who make me believe that anything is possible, who drive me to work toward a Jewish world that embraces and includes the values of a new generation while still maintaining the foundation of 5000 years of Jewish history.

I am inspired by all the wisdom, commitment, partnership, friendship, ritual and holiness that surrounds us at Anshai Torah. So here I am, in awe at the vision and hard work of all who came before me, from the founders of our shul to our current leadership and volunteers that make this place home.

Since our beginning, we have been in a continuous growth phase at a remarkable pace. More than 550 families call Anshai Torah home. Over the last few years, our Strategic Plan Committee identified and assessed our needs as a growing shul. Now, we will focus on exactly how to meet those needs, to maintain a sustainable shul for all of our members, and most importantly, to create a legacy for future generations at Anshai Torah.

Scholar Dr. Erica Brown refers to the 'Circle Dance as a metaphor for community.' What a wonderful representation

of Anshai Torah: the circular nature of our sanctuary, the circles we dance in at celebrations, the circle of family.

We are all part of the circle and need one another to keep it whole. It is my hope that we continue to widen our circle and insure that our entire membership has the opportunity to engage in meaningful experiences, whether spiritual or educational, through programming or as a volunteer on one of our many committees. Please join the circle. Hold hands and find joy in belonging, in continuing to dream and build and sustain our Anshai family. We are a sum of beautiful parts and each part is imperative to maintain the continuity of our circle.

It is humbling to follow in the footsteps of so many extraordinary people whose shoes will be very difficult to fill, most recently Howard's. I am excited to be working with a team of committed volunteers and professionals who further the mission of this shul each and every day. I will do my best over the next two years by working together with all of you, learning from our past leaders, many of whom are my most treasured friends, working with our stellar clergy, Rabbi Weinberg and Rabbi Kushnick, and Wende and Talia, and our outstanding professional staff led by Harvey, and especially the capable slate of Officers that will sit around the table and our Board of Directors.

Thank you all for stepping up. What a team we have! I am inspired. Thank you for giving me this honor, this privilege, this opportunity to serve. I look forward to a meaningful, most special two years.

Marcy