

President's Perspective...

Coming off of a very busy High Holiday season, things do not slow down for us at Anshai Torah. I must acknowledge that bringing in 5777 was most special. The addition of our new Lev Shalem Mahzor enriched our services helping to bring about a more meaningful, inspiring experience for all of us. Thank you to those who participated in this initiative. It will be wonderful next year when we have the opportunity to read our stories when the bookplates are completed. And, thank you to all who played an integral role in the success of our holiday services. From Josh Socolof and the entire High Holiday committee, to our ushers led by Jeff Phillips and Hal Babitch, to Kol Rina and Ruben Perlmutter whose glorious voices surrounded and transformed us, to all of you who volunteered, chanted Torah, or read a passage, thank you. Lastly, deepest gratitude to our staff led by Harvey and Connie and Jim, and of course, to our very own Rabbi Weinberg and Rabbi Kushnick, who magnificently lead and inspire us at the holidays and do so year-round.

Moving on from the holidays, we had the privilege of honoring the members of Kol Rina, celebrating 10 years of music at Anshai Torah, with our Diamonds and Dice event. More than 200 of us gathered for an evening of casino games, auction and raffle prizes, music, food, and nosh. Thank you to our chairs, Kim Velevis and Leslie Krajalnik, and their incredible and committed team of volunteers, including Cynthia Brooks-Delgado, Andy Cohen, Trudy Cohen, Debbie Cohn, Shawn Frank, Kim Gold, Kathryn Kaplan, Bethany Last, Jeff Romick, Andrew Seigel, Jeff Wigder, and Gail Wine and of course, Harvey Swento and the entire staff of Anshai Torah. None of this would have happened without all of their creativity, dedication, and hard work. Special thanks to the members of Kol Rina for sharing your talent with our Anshai family and with the community. We look forward to many, many more years of song and spirit.

Thank you to Bonnie Rubinstein and Julie Liberman for putting together a beautiful new member brunch. It is so important that all of our members feel welcome in our home. When you are in our shul, or in the community, be sure to say hello, make them feel at home, invite them for Shabbat, or to join you at a program. And, we had a wonderful weekend of learning, as part of our Israel Advocacy program, with Professor Stephen Berk. Together, we explored Israel, our founders, and our future. Thanks to Manuel Rajunov for helping to organize this program.

Coming up this month are all of our Hannukah happenings and then in February, our signature Scholar-in-Residence program brings Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, a Holocaust scholar, to share her story behind the movie *Denial*, which many of us had the occasion to see. There is no shortage of opportunities at Anshai Torah. Find something that speaks to you. Give yourself the time to take advantage of all we have to offer. Try something new, come to one of our auxiliary programs, join us for Shabbat. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

Anshai Torah is our home. We come together as one family, in times of joy and in times of sadness. This has been a particularly difficult time for all of us with the passing of our beloved Wende. It is humbling to see the outpouring of love and support for Rabbi Weinberg, Danielle, Jordana, and Adina, and the entire extended family. This is who we are; busy with shul and personal business and our crazy schedules, but understanding what is most important – that we are here for one another. Thank you. We are so fortunate to have Wende's indelible mark on our Anshai community. May her memory be for a blessing.

Warmly, Marcy