

President's Perspective . . .

Our Rabbis, our staff and our members share a sacred partnership essential to the growth and sustenance of Congregation Anshai Torah. Each of you plays an important role, whether it be your attendance at Shabbat services, your involvement in Preschool or Religious School activities, one of our thriving auxiliaries, or your active participation as a volunteer on one of our many committees. You are the heart and soul of our shul and we thank you. So much of what goes on at Anshai is a result of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

We have just hosted another outstanding Arnie Sweet Scholar-in-Residence program. Dr. Deborah Lipstadt educated us throughout the weekend with her words of wisdom and insight, inspiring lively discussion and providing a springboard to further conversation about anti-Semitism, BDS, and Holocaust denial, which I am confident is taking place among all who participated. Many thanks to the SIR committee, chaired so capably by Warren Harmel who, along with Jacob Ratner, Barrett Stern, Athene Harmel, Alisa Makler, Sherry Rubin, Sheila Stern, Mitch Moskowitz, Karen Reid, Janice Sweet Weinberg, Fern and Andy Farkas, Stuart Blaugrund, Manuel Rajunov, Faina Aronovich, and Beth and Scott Berk, made the program a resounding success. Thanks to our outstanding staff, led by Harvey Swento, Connie Hochberg, Kay Sykora and Jim Morrison, who work so hard behind the scenes to make all of our programs run so seamlessly. Finally, on behalf of Anshai Torah, I extend sincere gratitude to our presenting sponsors, Janice Sweet and Art Weinberg, Joel and Cathy Brook, and Cindy and Mitch Moskowitz and to all of our incredibly generous sponsors without whom we would not be able to bring such significant and notable scholars to our congregation each year. Cindy Sweet Moskowitz shared some poignant and beautiful words about her dad and how our Arnie Sweet Scholar-in-Residence program speaks directly to the kind of person he was. Please see her remarks in this issue.

Moving on, don't miss out on Purim Doodle Dandy on March 12. Come hear the Megillah chanted by many of our members, and then sit back and enjoy the theatrics of our Rabbis as they play the lead roles in an historic story. Following that, we have a series of events kicking off and leading up to the Spring Fair of West Plano, presented by Parkhaven Dental Care. Anshai Torah runners are participating in the Dallas Rock 'n Roll Half-Marathon on March 19. If you are inclined to put your body to the test, sign up and join in the fun. Watch your email for our annual flower sale giving you the perfect way to start your spring landscaping. Then, mark your calendars for April 23, and bring your family and friends to the annual Spring Fair.

Anshai Torah is also reaching out into the community with a robust mentorship program at Christie Elementary School in Plano. Last week, under the leadership of Sherri Riskind and Dafna Rubinstein, we hosted an appreciation breakfast for the teachers and staff. Thanks to Marcy Parker, Warren Rubin, Gail Wine, Bonnie Rubinstein, Ilene Baumel, Jackie Fleschman, Tanya Glubochansky, Beth Berk, Mojgan Bakhshian, Denise Pollis, Athene Harmel, Warren Rubin, Lisa Olschwanger, Staci Rubin, Amy Balis, Marc Strauss, and Gail Wine who contributed to the success of this breakfast.

Anshai Torah's reach in the community is broad. Not only do our members take on leadership roles at Anshai, they are also in leadership positions across the metroplex. Regardless of where you find yourself involved, you will find a member of Anshai Torah working tirelessly and selflessly to insure a vital and vibrant Jewish community for all of us. It is this volunteer effort that makes our community so strong.

Please consider joining one of the many initiatives we have here at Anshai Torah. Find something that inspires you and be part of the story.

Wishing you all a Chag Purim, *Marcy*