

***No Denying a Record Breaking SIR***  
***2017 Arnie Sweet SIR with Dr. Deborah Lipstadt in the Books.***

*by Deb Silverthorn*

Congregation Anshai Torah's 2017 Arnie Sweet Scholar-in-Residence weekend welcomed hundreds from throughout the community to Plano for a weekend with Dr. Deborah Lipstadt.



“Dr. Lipstadt brought personal insight to the story of her trial and the making of the film *Denial*, also giving a brilliant review of the roots of anti-Semitism, and its expression in the modern world,” said event Chair, Warren Harmel whose work with Vice-Chair Barrett Stern, Jacob Ratner, and SIR committee members Faina Aronowitz, Beth Berk, Stuart Blaugrund, Andy & Ferne Farkas, Athene Harmel, Alisa Makler, Mitch Moskowitz, Manuel Rajunov, Karen Reid, and Janice Weinberg together with the Anshai Torah staff provided for a magnificent set of events. “This was our most successful program ever and we are honored to have shared it with so many members and leaders of Anshai Torah and our greater Dallas Jewish community.”

Dr. Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory College. Her book, *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*, which was brought to the big screen in the 2016 feature film *Denial*, tells the story of the 1996 suit brought by David Irving against Lipstadt, and her publisher Penguin Books, whom he charged libeled him in her 1993 book “Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory.”

The SIR included record numbers attending a Friday Lunch and Learn at which Dr. Lipstadt discussed Contemporary Anti-Semitism: A Clear and Present Danger, more than 350 attending the Friday night services, dinner, and keynote address regarding Dr. Lipstadt's trial, at least 220 at Saturday morning services and Kiddush which featured her addressing the subject of Jewish Life on College Campuses and the subject of BDS and anti-Israel attitudes and a question and answer session. At Saturday night's sponsor dessert reception, 65 guests gathered at the home of Alisa & Jason Makler. The Scholar-in-Residence weekend, presented by Janice and Art Weinberg, Cindy and Mitch Moskowitz, Cathy and Joel Brook, Debbie and Manuel Rajunov as Etz Hayim sponsors, and other supporters is an annual tribute to the late Arnie Sweet.