

President's Perception . . .

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 5778 was most special. The stories of loved ones in our Lev Shalem Mahzor threaded their lives into Anshai Torah's family, linking generation to generation, further enriching our High Holiday experience. Thank you to those who participated in this initiative. Next year, we will insert additional stories for those who were unable to submit in time for this year, and for anyone else who would like to participate. Our college kids received Rosh Hashanah treats from the CATs in College committee, insuring they feel the love from their Anshai Torah home. Special thanks to Karen Cohen and her entire committee of volunteers who baked, packed, and shipped these packages. Special thanks to Josh Socolof and the entire High Holiday committee, our ushers led by Hal Babitch, Kol Rina, Ron Nevelow, and Ruben Perlmutter, whose glorious voices surrounded and transformed us, and to all of you who volunteered, chanted Torah, read a passage, donated to Operation Isai-ah, or built the Sukkah. Lastly, deepest gratitude to our staff led by Harvey, Kay, Carol, Debbie, Connie and Nancy, and Jim, and all of the support staff, and of course, to our very own Rabbi Weinberg and Rabbi Kushnick, who magnificently lead and inspire us at the holidays and all year long. As I have shared before, we share a sacred partnership to make Anshai Torah what it is – a welcoming, inclusive, spiritual home for all of us.

We have many new members at Anshai Torah. If you are at services or a program, please be sure to say hello, welcome them

Moving on, Chavurah is a wonderful opportunity to connect to your Anshai Torah family and make new and lasting friendships. Please consider completing the Chavurah questionnaire, which will help the committee match people together in an effort to create new Anshai Torah Chavurot.

Thank you to Amanda Domenico, Randi Gerber-Katz, Fred Nathan, Patti Shore, Amy Strauss, and Ros Raitcher for their concerted efforts in bringing a new vision to the Chavurah program.

We will all have the meaningful opportunity to fulfill the 613th commandment with Project 613, which has been especially designed so that everyone can participate and is ongoing. Please consider attending one of the information sessions, which you all have been or will be invited to, to learn about the process of writing a Torah. Even more special is that our Torah will be written in honor and dedicated to the memory of Wende Weinberg z"l. Mark your calendars now for April 15 when the Torah will be dedicated and placed in our aron kodesh.

The Anshai Torah calendar is packed with activity. Coming up next month, we have the distinct pleasure of hosting Dr. Gil Troy, our Israel Advocacy program scholar. Don't miss out on that, or on the 2nd annual Diamonds and Dice, *and Denim too*, Casino party, when we will honor Stuart Blaugrund, behind-the-scenes legal-counsel extraordinaire, and very dear friend to Anshai Torah. Coming up in January, our signature Arnie Sweet Scholar-in-Residence program brings David Makovsky, which will likely be a sold-out event.

These are just a few of the many programs at Anshai Torah. Hopefully, your high-holiday experiences inspired and energized you to get more involved. 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.

Warmly, Marcy