

President's Perspective . . .

While the weather outside has not yet caught up with the calendar telling us that the end of summer is forthcoming, Anshai Torah is certainly getting ready for fall. In spite of the heat, we have had a busy summer and exciting things are happening. Our Board of Directors, officers, staff, clergy, and committees are working collaboratively on several fronts, insuring the very best for our shul from education and programming to the spiritual journey and beyond.

A few weeks ago, we had the opportunity to host a few USY-on-Wheels teens during their stop in Dallas. Their visit was short and very sweet but for me the highlight was participating in morning services with them. Hearing their voices fill our sanctuary while they davened reminded me of the tremendous responsibility we have in nurturing and educating our young Jewish souls. Our children represent the future and the sustenance of our Jewish community. How fortunate that we provide stellar educational opportunities with our Preschool and Religious School, both off to a fantastic start. If you have not yet enrolled your children, please send those forms in and get ready for another outstanding year.

Last Shabbat, we said goodbye to our new and returning college-bound students knowing that you and Anshai Torah have prepared them well for life on campus. Campus Hillel's will provide them with resources and a sense of Jewish community, and we will miss them. But our new CATs in College program will let them know we are thinking of them and that Anshai Torah is still their home. If you have provided your student's information, they will receive several holiday packages sent throughout the year.

Our twice-daily minyan continues to thrive thanks to the tremendous efforts of our members. While it is unfortunate there are so many who have the need to say Kaddish, we are gratefully able to be there for them. If you are available on any weekday morning or evening, please

join one of our minyanim. You will be doing such a mitzvah for our Anshai family and will also have the opportunity to daven in a small setting, and learn a little more about prayer.

Our auxiliaries are off to a great start with an abundance of programming from the Sisterhood, Men's Club, and Hazak. Please join at least one of our auxiliaries and be part of the fun. There is something for everyone. On that note, membership applications were due July 1, so please get those forms in. Consider becoming a Chai member. . .this tiered program enables us to provide membership to all. Your participation is so appreciated.

In a very few weeks, we will join together for High Holiday services and daven again with the Lev Shalem High Holiday Mahzor, enhancing our collective spiritual experience as it provides extended commentary, translation and transliteration of our prayers and traditions. This year, these prayer books will include your beautiful stories, bringing the lives of those we cherish into our community from generation to generation.

Finally, you will be hearing a lot about Project 613 over the next several months. We are embarking on a most profound journey to fulfill the 613th Commandment and write *Anshai Torah's* Torah. We do this in memory of and dedicated to our beloved Wende Weinberg, for whom family and Jewish education was paramount, and whose soul we can find in every corner of Anshai Torah. My heart is full every time I consider how meaningful this is for Anshai Torah.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to working with you this coming year to continue moving our shul forward from strength to strength.

Warmly, Marcy