

## President's Perspective . . .

I hope everybody is enjoying a happy and healthy new year. Over the last several weeks, the synagogue has been bustling with activity. While we send plenty of informative emails, consider connecting to our interactive social media platform on Facebook (CAT Community: Anshai Torah) where you will find lots of information along with fantastic photographs of all of the happenings.

Many of our Shabbat services and programs have been packed with members and guests. If you've had the pleasure of joining us on a Friday night when our Artist-in-Residence, Josh Warshawsky, is in town, you know the ruach he is bringing to Shabbat. Don't miss out on his next visit the weekend of February 9 and 10.

We also had the privilege of hosting the JCC Bookfest with Randy Susan Meyers, author of *The Widow of Wall Street*. Nearly 100 people had the pleasure of hearing Rabbi Weinberg interview Ms. Meyers about the book and then participate in a lively discussion. Thanks to Andrea Peskind Katz for coordinating this terrific program.

Kol Hakavod to Hal Babitch and all of the Hazakers who put together another outstanding Hazak Shabbat. Many of our members showcased their various skills by leading and participating in the service, including outstanding Torah and Haftarah reading and a thought-provoking D'var. We are fortunate to have such talent within the Anshai community.

By the time this article is published, Anshai Torah will have presented another successful signature Arnie Sweet Scholar-In-Residence program featuring Dr. David Makovsky. We are grateful to all of our sponsors and especially Janice (Sweet) and Art Weinberg, Cathy and Joel Brook, and Cindy and Mitch Moskowitz, and Debbie and Manuel Rajunov, for continued support of this program, and to Dot and Basil Haymann for hosting the sponsors' reception. Many thanks to Warren Harmel and the entire SIR committee for consistently bringing outstanding scholars, and orchestrating a flawless program year after year.

Anshai Torah has consistently taken the lead in the community for the most beautiful and creative Purim baskets, and this year will be no different. Purim Shalach Manot assembly is Sunday, February 18 and all are welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow congregants and get into the spirit of Purim. Many thanks to Jacob Ratner, Karen-Hazan Cohen, Debbie and Dan Cohn, and our newest creative mind, Michael Pershes. Together, they will orchestrate and organize the delivery of more than 700 baskets to the community. Please consider becoming a sponsor for this program and send Shalach Manot to the entire Anshai membership.

Yes, we have a plethora of programs, something for everyone. But, our members are the heart of our shul and we are there for everyone in good and difficult times. Thank you to those who attend one of our twice-daily minyanim. There are too many of us who say kaddish for a loved one and you have been there to insure we are able to do so. It is a beautiful thing to have a community of shoulders to lean on. Thank you.

Lastly, Project 613 hit a major milestone. More than half of our congregation is fulfilling the mitzvah to write a Torah, our Torah. My heart is full at the outpouring of love for this project. This past weekend, many had the opportunity to sit with our Sofer and complete a letter on the actual parchment. People have shared that this was such a meaningful experience, one they will remember forever. If you have not yet done so, please consider participating. Our Sofer will be here in April so that everyone who wants to, can share in this experience. Honor Wende and write yourself into the fabric of Anshai Torah, one letter, one word, one sentence at a time.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of our upcoming programs and of course, at Shabbat services each week.

*Warmly, Marcy*