

President's Perspective . . .

It's been another busy month at Anshai Torah. Thank you to Bonnie Rubinstein, Trudy Cohen, Michael Pershes, Kim Velevis and of course, our catering connoisseurs, Connie and Nancy, for putting together a beautiful new member brunch. Those who were there had an opportunity to meet some of our new families and share the love we have for Anshai. It was lovely. It is so important that all of our members feel welcome, so when you are in our shul and see some new faces, be sure to say hello and make them feel at home; and if you are new, introduce yourselves too. We are all one family.

We had an inspiring weekend of learning with Dr. Gil Troy, our Israel Advocacy scholar, who gave us much to think about as Jews and Zionists living in the Diaspora as compared with our Israeli family so far away and yet so close. Thanks to Manuel and Debbie Rajunov, who continue to support Anshai in so many ways, including helping to organize this program year after year, and bring outstanding speakers to Anshai Torah.

The Diamonds and Dice event was better than ever as a result of the creativity, dedication and hard work of a terrific team of volunteers. More than 200 of us gathered for an evening of casino games, auction and raffle prizes, music, and nosh as we honored Stuart Blaugrund, one of our long-time, behind-the-scenes heroes. Thanks to the chairs, Kim Velevis and Jenn Hersh and the committee, including Jennifer Abrahams, Beth Berk, Cynthia Brooks, Trudy Cohen, Debbie Cohn, Gretchen Edwards, Shawn Frank, Amy Gross, Bethany Last, Kimberly Mabel, Jeff Romick, Andrew Siegel, and Brad Welcher, and of course, Harvey Swento and the entire staff of Anshai Torah. Special thanks to Stuart for all he has brought and continues to bring to Anshai Torah. Stuart, Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

Moving on, January will be another packed month of activity. We have the privilege of hosting the JCC Bookfest featuring author Randy Susan Meyers, who will talk about her newest book *The Widow of Wall Street*. Find the book on Amazon and get ready for a lively discussion on January 11.

The weekend of January 26-27, Anshai presents our signature Arnie Sweet Scholar-in-Residence program with Dr. David Makovsky, a renowned expert on Israel and the Middle East Peace process, sure to be another sold out event. Dr. Makovsky's presentation is quite timely, given recent events, and will foster much thought-provoking conversation. Make your reservations now.

It is hard to believe a year has passed since we lost our beloved Wende Weinberg. On one hand, it seems just a minute ago that we were sitting together in shul or at Shabbat lunch, and on the other, it has been a very long year of missing her. We all continue to miss her so deeply. We came together to comfort Rabbi Weinberg, Danielle, Jordana, and Adina, and the entire extended family and I want to thank everyone who has been a source of support for them throughout this past year. It is humbling to see the outpouring of love we have for one another. Thank you. We are so fortunate to have Wende's indelible mark on our Anshai community and her legacy will be everlasting in the Torah that is being written in her name through Project 613. Her memory will forever be for a blessing, our blessing.

Warmly,

Marcy