

**Anshai Torah's Diamonds & Dice '18  
Debbie & Manuel Rajunov Honored**

*by Deb Silverthorn*

Congregation Anshai Torah will be playing to a full house at its 2018 Diamonds & Dice casino night honoring Debbie and Manuel Rajunov. The community is invited to an evening of games and fun, music and merriment, heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar from 8 to 11:30pm on Saturday, December 8 at Congregation Anshai Torah.

"Debbie and Manuel are two of the most enthusiastic supporters of our shul," said Rabbi Stefan Weinberg. "They're always ready to say yes - demonstrating their dedication to Anshai Torah on a daily basis. We are honored to express our gratitude to them for their leadership."

Co-chairs Jennifer Hersh, Kimberly Mabel, and Eric Olschwanger are joined by Jackie Austein, Beth Berk, Cynthia Brooks, Debbie Cohn, Gretchen Edwards, Shawn Frank, Amy Gross, Marcy Kahn, Matt Kurtzman, Shana Staub, Harvey Swento, Brad Welcher, and Kim Velevis in creating the spirited night of Vegas chic full of surprises. A silent auction will feature jewelry, sporting and entertainment event tickets, pampering opportunities, gifts, and more.

"This is a night to celebrate, honor, and raise funds to support all that makes Anshai Torah the place people call home," said Rabbi Michael Kushnick. "The Rajunovs are among the pillars of our congregation and are there at every turn ensuring our success. They are dedicated, present, and they care about every facet of Anshai Torah."

Anshai Torah members for 15 years, the Rajunovs are involved in many aspects of the congregation, helping to coordinate and lead programs and events and offering support regularly and devotedly.

Debbie is the daughter of Sabra parents Gideon and Ilana Kishony, and sister to David, Karen, and Ron. A New York native who was raised in Schaumburg, IL, Debbie attended religious school and was a member of the youth group at her family's Beth Tikvah Congregation.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, with bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture, Debbie is currently a member our board of directors and co-chair of our Religious School Committee.

Manuel, the son of Ana and Fermin and brother of David and Vicky, was born in Mexico City and spent his

formative years living in the border area of Tijuana/San Diego, CA. His commitment to Jewish life and Israel began early as he attended religious school four days a week and was a member and leader of the local chapter of Maccabi, a Zionist organization. In the last six years, he has been to Israel 16 times for business, personal reasons, and on educational missions.

An attorney with Greenberg Traurig, LLP, the only international law firm to have an established office in Israel, Manuel's practice focuses on tax consulting and transactional advice to foreign investors doing business in Mexico and advising Mexican investors on their investments overseas. His special emphasis is on real estate, corporate and securities, as well as mergers and acquisitions.

"It's important that we educate our community about Israel and I'm proud Anshai Torah makes that a priority, not only by hosting world-renowned scholars, but also by leading a large delegation to AIPAC's Annual Policy Conference," said Manuel, a leader in CAT's Israel education and advocacy programming.

Chair of Dallas' AIPAC chapter and a member of AIPAC's National Council and vice-chair of its New Leadership Network, Manuel says "Israel is a true light onto the nations and we must do all we can to protect her. In partnership with Anshai, protecting Israel has become one my main missions in life."

The couple, who met while she was based in Chicago and he working there temporarily, married in 1999. A job opportunity moved Manuel to the metroplex and it became home. As they began their family it was important for the couple to find a congregation, a Jewish connection and community with which to surround themselves. They found all of that and more at Anshai Torah.

"From the time our children started preschool, this has been our second home and we care so much about everything that goes on here," said Debbie. "When I create a list of friends in my mind, so many we can count are from Anshai. Our family has 'grown up' along with Anshai."



The two have set the example as strongly identified and committed Jews for their children, Abby and Josh, who as teenagers are now involved in Anshai Torah's DeReKH Hebrew High and youth programs.

"Our responsibility is to be involved in every aspect of our kids' lives and to make a better community for them," said Debbie. "Through Anshai and its teachers, rabbis, and everyone who cares about the synagogue, we are providing a spiritual, religious, and personally connective space for them to become strong Jews and strong people. In doing that, we continue to grow too."

Providing their family with positive Jewish experiences is foremost, echoes Manuel, saying "Anshai Torah is about

active engagement by its clergy, active involvement by its members, and the warmth and welcoming sense that is felt," . . .reminiscent of his own childhood shul—a *haimesh home*.

Hundreds more families have joined the synagogue since the Rajunovs, and we are now in our twentieth year. Whether your Diamonds and Dice night is rolling the die or playing the cards, something you can bet on: the family grows as does Anshai Torah — a family, a home, all one.

For tickets or sponsorships call 972-473-7718, email [receptionist@anshaitorah.org](mailto:receptionist@anshaitorah.org), or visit [congregationanshaitorah.shulcloud.com/event/dd2018](http://congregationanshaitorah.shulcloud.com/event/dd2018)