

President's Perspective . . .

Yes, everyone can breathe deep. We have concluded our very busy High Holiday season, with a wonderful Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchas Torah. I must acknowledge that bringing in 5779 was a special and meaningful time for me, and I hope it was for all of you as well. I have to say that every year I enjoy reading the stories of loved ones in our Lev Shalem Mahzor. Each time I find the family who's Mahzor I read, and love seeing their joyous reaction to finding their story. I want to personally thank Josh Socolof and the entire High Holiday committee, our ushers, Kol Rina, and Ruben Perlmutter, and to all of you who volunteered, chanted Torah, read a passage or speech, made a donation, and/or built the Sukkah.

We cannot thank Harvey, Rachel, Sharon, Kay, Carol, Debbie, Connie and Nancy, the support staff, and police officers enough for making our Holidays smooth and safe for all of us. Last but not least, I want to personally thank both Rabbi Weinberg and Rabbi Kushnick for inspiring and leading all of us throughout the holidays. Thanks to each and every one of you for making our spiritual home a special place for each and every one of us through the holidays and throughout the year.

Now that the holidays are over we can return to our normal activities and enjoy the Cowboys, our kid's events, the State Fair of Texas, and for some of you watch a Lady Gaga movie. Well, if the rain would stop for just a few minutes we may be able to return to outdoor activities. It was apropos that the Parshah of Noah was read during all of this rain.

We have many new members at Anshai Torah, and I was able to meet many of you at our New Member Brunch a couple of weeks ago. If I have not yet met you, please feel free to call or email me anytime. If you are at services or a program, please be sure to say hello.

Things do not slow down for us at Anshai Torah and the calendar is packed with activity. Coming up, we have the distinct pleasure of hosting Dr. Daniel Gordis, our Israel Advocacy program scholar. Don't miss out on that, or the 3rd annual Diamonds and Dice casino party, when we will honor Debbie and Manuel Rajunov for all that they have done for Anshai Torah over the years. We can all look forward to celebrating Hanukkah together in early December as well. Coming up in January, our signature Arnie Sweet Scholar-in-Residence program is proud to bring in Rabbi Naomi Levy, 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 a committee, and join us for Shabbat or one of our twice-daily minyanim. I look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

Hello, Good Evening, and Good Night!

Shalom, *Barrett*