

President's Perspective . . .

As I mourn the loss of another bad ending to a Dallas Cowboys season, I look forward to the great things that are happening here at Anshai Torah.

The new year has gotten off to a great start. Hazak Shabbat was a great success followed by a wonderful Torah Fund/Sisterhood Shabbat where we honored, my dear friend, Shawn Frank. Our auxiliary's strong leadership and support for our synagogue is vital to our existence. Your amazing participation and support in our programming, attendance and leadership at Shabbat services and daily minyanim is a brilliant example for all of us. Any time that I have asked for your help you have stepped up the plate. As you know, my motto is Do or Do Not, there is no Try, and our Auxiliaries are definitely "*Anshai Torah Doers*." Thank you for all that you do to make Anshai a special place.

We had the honor of welcoming Rabbi Naomi Levy as our Arnie Sweet Scholar in Residence during the week of January 25-27. Rabbi Levy was incredible. Her own life experiences make her books and lectures so personal and touching. We could not have asked for a better Scholar in Residence. I want to thank the committee, led by Warren Harmel, and all the sponsors that helped make this such a wonderful weekend.

During the same weekend of Scholar in Residence, we began our once a month Saturday School for the Religious School. This was an amazing Shabbat that began to assimilate the Religious School into our regular Saturday Shabbat. The Saturday School will continue once a month throughout the remainder of the school year. Our children also celebrated Tu BiShvat, the New Year of the Trees.

Over the next month we will have our Special Needs Shabbat and Men's Club Shabbat. Our Bar and Bat Mitzvahs are ramping back up, and these young men and women are doing such an amazing job. We will also begin to work on Shalach Manot and other important events for our synagogue.

The Anshai @20 Gala committee is hard at work to make the event an amazing success. This is going to be a fantastic party to celebrate our past and future with all of our members. If you would like to be a sponsor please let me or one of the committee chairs know.

I have spoken to so many of you over the past few months about getting involved, and that is awesome that you feel the excitement and energy here at Anshai. There is a place for everyone to get involved. So, if you have an interest and want to get more involved let me know.

Shalom, *Barrett*