

## President's Perspective . . .

I cannot believe that it has been over six months since I was installed as President here at Anshai. It has been a superb first quarter for me in this position, and I would not trade it for anything. I am honored to be surrounded by two fantastic Rabbis, a wonderful staff, top notch executive committee and board of directors, and everyone that provides their time and energy to make our Shul a success. I want to thank each and every one of you for making my position easier.

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and joyous eight days (and nights) of Hanukkah. It was very special to see the joy of watching over 350 people attend our Annual Hanukkah Celebration. The program was amazing and we even got to share in Harvey's personal Chicago cooked pizzas. Thank you to the Men's Club for frying fantastic latkes for the event.

Three days later, we had our annual 'world famous' Diamonds and Dice casino party honoring Debbie and Manuel Rajunov. Our D&D committee, chaired by Jennifer Hersh, Eric Olschwanger, and Kim Mabel, put together a night to remember. Even Rangers Captain (team mascot) made a special appearance and Eric Nadel, the voice of the Texas Rangers, provided a few special words to Debbie and Manuel.

Our Third Grade Consecration was a special night that saw over 100 family members watch 22 of our students and parents take part in and perform parts of our Shabbat

Mincha, Maariv, and Havdalah service. Once again, Rabbi Kushnick, Rabbi Weinberg, and the third-grade teachers pulled off a successful and amazing event that showcased the success of our Hebrew School students. Our Hebrew School will begin a monthly Shabbat School where family and students will be able to share in the special aspects of Shabbat prayer and learning. I believe this will become a very important building block in our children's Jewish learning experience for years to come.

We now get to look forward to a very busy and action-packed January. We will have our Hazak Shabbat on January 5, followed by Sisterhood Shabbat and Torah Fund Luncheon honoring Shawn Frank on January 12. We then have the honor to welcome Rabbi Naomi Levy as our Arnie Sweet Scholar in Residence during the week of January 25-27. This will be a 'can't miss' weekend. In addition, we will be celebrate Tu B'Shevat this month, the New Year of the Trees.

There is so much going on inside our walls and there is a place for everyone to get involved. If you have an interest and want to get more involved, let me know.

May the Force be with You and Shalom,

*Barrett*