

President's Perspective . . .

My heart is so full right now! We just had our very first Thanksgiving dinner here in Texas. Yes, we have lived here for nearly twenty years; but in those years, we have almost always gone "home" to Chicago to be with family for the holiday. Now that our son is in college in Chicago, he just wanted to be "home" for Thanksgiving. It sounds so odd, and yet it's perfect. Home for me had always been where I'm from, and home for him meant the same thing. It was a small dinner with one other family, but it was perfect. We had both of our kids home under the same roof for the first time in six months, and I was so content. The night after Thanksgiving, we went to Friday night Shabbat services. So many of our other college kids were home, and families wore their college spirit wear. The Big Ten was definitely represented, and seeing these families reunited was truly heartwarming! Of course, the weekend went by too quickly, but winter break is right around the corner and the "band" will be back together in just a couple of weeks, until it's time to go back to school and work.

The one thing that is constant with kids running in and out of the house, home and away for school, traveling for work and returning home; Anshai is still here! Our Shabbat services are so beautiful, and it's always so nice to see familiar and new faces every week. Our first shul-wide Shabbat dinner happened a couple of weeks ago,

and it was beyond perfect! Daniel, Nancy, and the talented kitchen staff made a *Friendsgiving* meal that was just delicious. We met some new people and now have new friends to add to our Anshai family. How perfect that the dinner came just in time for Thanksgiving, giving us another reason to reflect and give thanks for our Jewish home! The days are shorter and we seem to be in the race to enjoy the small amount of sunlight that we have during these colder months. The one thing I can say about that is there is always light here at Anshai!

Hanukkah comes at the perfect time this year. The light of our Hanukkah will be shining bright and the illumination will bring smiles to our faces. Please don't forget to post your pictures on our CAT Community Facebook Page! We have some incredible programming coming up this winter, and I hope that you will look at the upcoming events and put them in your calendars! Our programming team is hard at work to bring and keep us together; all you have to do is RSVP and Anshai will take care of the rest!

Wishing you all warmth and light in the season celebrating miracles!

Beth