

This evening, we are honoring two remarkable couples.

Shira and Andrew Wurzbarger are dedicated to the Land of Israel, the Jewish people and especially our community.

The kindnesses and thoughtfulness that Shira displays can truly not be articulated in word; her amazing sensitivity to and compassion for people is truly astounding. I know that her *chessed* knows no bounds. She has demonstrated a lofty level of care and kindness all of the years I know her. She does not want her good works to be extolled or enumerated. She does everything *לשמה*, for its own sake and certainly not for accolades and public recognition. She is truly our community's *צדקת*!

Andrew is a wonderful chazzan. He leads us on the Yamim Noraim and he elevates our souls. His beautiful nusach and tunes creates a spiritual wonderland for us. I know I look forward to his davening on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur all year! Andrew is also a past president of our shul. He led us in a most difficult transitional year as we were climbing out of the Covid abyss. He led with judicious and sensitive decision making. He drew us all back to shul and was extremely aware of the reluctance that many still had. He accommodated those individuals with understanding and compassion. Andrew has the reputation as a man who venerates the sacred sanctuary of the Shul. He never ever talks during services; in doing so he serves as an exemplar of reverence for a holy precinct. We wish Shira and Andrew and their entire family Mazal tov and good fortune now and in the future!

It is truly special that the Tucis - Mira and Anton - are being honored tonight. It is unique for a Shul to do this. But the Tucis are so special, so beloved, so admired and so respected that it seems like a very natural thing for us to do. I know that Abby and I, and I would imagine so many of you, feel a special bond, a special closeness to Mira and Anton. We consider them very good personal friends. They are dedicated to the Shul and the facility body and soul. It is impossible to come into the Shul and not see Mira making the doors and windows sparkle. Mira is indefatigable. Anton is always here moving heavy objects in order to break down a room from a previous event or lugging things to set up for the next event. No matter what is asked of them – they always comply with a smile.

What I admire most is their extreme reverence for our sanctuaries and the Holy items contained in them. It is so exhilarating watching Mira, Anton and their sons (and sometimes Melisa) cleaning up the *chumashim* and *siddurim* after Shabbat morning services.

Congratulations! We wish you only wonderful things in the future. Mazal Tov on Alex's upcoming marriage.

Rabbi R. Fink