



Barbara Kaplan, President
BQLI Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism
2021-2024

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you as we gather in celebration of the BQLI Region Woman of Achievement Virtual Gala. The honorees truly deserve this recognition. We acknowledge your contributions within your synagogue and Sisterhood communities. We are all volunteers of different ages and backgrounds, as we share the importance of strengthening Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

I want to extend warmest wishes and appreciation to all of this year's Woman of Achievement Gala honorees. Each of you makes your Sisterhood and synagogue stronger by your devotion and actions. Each of you is an amazing individual who shines a positive light on our region. Each of you deserves the recognition being bestowed on you tonight. *Yasher kochechen*.

As a region, we should celebrate milestones in our lives. Personally, my 3 daughters were married, and I became a grandmother since I was installed as Region President. On the other hand, it is important to remember the volunteers who have passed away since last year's Gala. For the second year, we are including an "In Memoriam" page to commemorate the loss of these treasured BQLI Region members. May their memories be forever blessings.

As I complete the first year of my three-year journey as BQLI Region President, I want to continue to share, celebrate, and participate in your upcoming membership, education, and Torah Fund events as well as Sisterhood *Shabbatot*. I also invite all members of the affiliates to attend Region-wide programs.

I want to thank the members of the Gala committee for their dedication and the time spent on making this evening special for the honorees, their loved ones, and guests. Thank you to the Event Chair, Jani Majewski, Bonnie Panzok, BQLI Region Ways and Means Vice President, Journal Co-Chairs, Vicki Granek and Karen Seltzer, and committee members Grace Schessler, Fern Summer, Ellen Multer and Elaina Corwin.

As Conservative Jewish women, we should be proud to be members of our Sisterhood affiliates throughout Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island (both Nassau and Suffolk Counties). We are also members of Women's League for Conservative Judaism as we engage, enrich, and empower Conservative Jewish women. I want to thank WLCJ International President Debbi Kaner Goldich and WLCJ Executive Director Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields for their important messages tonight.

The 2022-2023 Torah Fund theme, *Chazak v'Ematz*, Be Strong and Courageous, begins in July. Let us summon strength and fortitude in these changing times.

Though the two-year theme of *B'Yachad* is ending, as a region, we will always continue to work *B'Yachad*, together.

B'Shalom,
Barbara