



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

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you tonight as we gather in celebration of the BQLI Region Woman of Achievement Gala. The honorees truly deserve this recognition.

We are volunteers of different ages and backgrounds, as we share the importance of strengthening Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

How wonderful it is to be back in person for the first time since 2019 and to celebrate the accomplishments of twenty-four honorees, including five recipients of the *L'Dor V'Dor* award. Each person counts no matter your position as we all help in different ways. We acknowledge your contributions within your synagogue and Sisterhood communities.

We should be proud to be members of our Sisterhood affiliates in Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties). We are also members of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. As I complete the second year of my three-year journey as BQLI Region President, I want to continue to share, celebrate, and participate in your upcoming membership, education, Torah Fund programs, and Sisterhood *Shabbatot*. I also invite all members of our affiliates to attend Region-wide events throughout the year.

Thank you to Debbi Kaner Goldich, outgoing International President of WLCJ, for joining us tonight as we celebrate the contributions of the honorees. We are looking forward to seeing you again at the WLCJ 2023 Convention in July in Schaumburg, Illinois as "Sisters Celebrating Together."

Tonight would not have been possible without the dedicated group of volunteers who worked for months to ensure that this dinner and awards ceremony would flow seamlessly. This Gala is in person and the ceremony will also be live-streamed. Thank you to Jani Majewski, Event Chair, Bonnie Panzok, BQLI Region Ways and Means VP, and committee members Grace Schessler, Vicki Granek, Karen Seltzer, Fern Summer, Ellen Multer, Elaina Corwin, and Miriam Silverman. A gracious thank you to all who helped tonight. *Todah rabah*.

Even though the 2022-2023 Torah Fund theme, *Chazak v'Ematz*, (Be strong and courageous), is ending, let's continue to summon strength and fortitude in our daily lives.

B'Shalom,
Barbara