



# Young Israel of New Rochelle

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This year marks a milestone in the history of our Shul. It is the sixtieth year since the Young Israel of New Rochelle's establishment. It is also the fiftieth annual dinner. It is a double celebration.

As we all know, a shul is central to Jewish life. But a shul is not merely the physical plant. It is more than "bricks and mortar". This is the season where our Torah readings focus on the *Mishkan*, the Tabernacle. It was by all accounts and descriptions a magnificent edifice. But the Torah tells us that aside from the aesthetic beauty and engineering feat accomplished, the Tabernacle was the *Ohel Mo-ed*, the Tent of Meeting. It was the location where all Jewish endeavors and projects originated. It was the locus and focus of the Jews' spiritual and religious life. It was a place where one could feel the divine presence. All of that was possible only because of the people of Israel. The people whom the Torah describes as *chachmei Lev*, wise of heart were the builders of the *Mishkan*. That's why the Tabernacle was successful and that is also the secret of a Shul's success. It is the people, individuals who feel a synagogue is worthy of their devotion and hard work.

Tonight we are honoring two generations of a shul family whose dedication to Young Israel of New Rochelle is known to us all.

Bob and Ruth Lewis are among the founding families of our shul. They both served on the shul's Board and in many other capacities. Both busy physicians always seemed to have additional time and resources to help build the Young Israel from a relatively small community to the large, diverse and successful one we all enjoy today. Ruth who is a brilliant scientist is also an exemplar of a devout shul- going, Torah learning, Mitzvah fulfilling woman. Her illustrious medical career was always coupled with unwavering and constant shul attendance.

Bob is a remarkable person. Sharp as a razor, always ready with a quip, Bob is an expert in English grammar and an extraordinary wordmeister. Bob is a wonderful physician who brought thousands of children into the world. Bob was a personal medical counselor to Rav Moshe Feinstein and still maintains a close relationship with the Rabbis of the Feinstein family. He is also responsible for so many people in the Bonnie Crest area of New Rochelle being able to attend Friday night services. The Lewis's converted a portion of their home into a shul thus providing their neighbors with a short walk to prayer services. They are the proud parents of our own Debbie and David Isaac, their fellow honorees Adina and Lawrence Garbuz, and Beth and Yoel Greenbaum. They also have *bli ayen horah* eleven grandchildren. I consider Ruth and Bob among my closest friends and I wish them every happiness and success. Mazal tov to them on this momentous occasion.

Tonight we are also honoring Adina and Lawrence Garbuz. They are Ruth and Bob's children. The first Bat mitzvah I officiated at in the shul was Adina's. She was already a bright star on the horizon at that early age. She was so mature, bright and refined at the tender age of twelve. Adina grew into the magnificent human being she is today. An accomplished attorney and a full time mom, Adina still finds the time and the energy to serve her community. Adina has served as the Women's' League President and Treasurer. She helped develop the annual mishloach manot project as well as other important innovations. She has been on the Shul's Board and is presently the shul Treasurer. She also serves on the Simcha committee and works on High Holiday seating. She is a great daughter and a fabulous mother to her four wonderful children.

Lawrence, who serves as my chavrusa in Talmud, is a wonderful person. Highly intelligent and well read, Lawrence is a joy to speak to and work with. An acclaimed estate attorney, Lawrence is known for his integrity and dedication to his clients. His knowledge of Jewish estate law together with secular estate law makes him a much sought after estate lawyer to Orthodox Jews. A man who has demonstrated dedication and tenacity, Lawrence is a triathlete who competed on "Skippy's Team". Lawrence is a sophisticated and sensitive human being who has helped so many people with a host of serious problems. Adina and Lawrence are proud parents of Ella, Liav, Jonah and Eva. Mazal tov to Mrs. Garbuz Lawrence's mother, and to the entire Garbuz family. Mazal Tov to Drs. Ruth and Bob Lewis.

May our Shul continue to thrive and prosper and come together for many happy occasions.

Rabbi Reuven Fink

Affiliated with National Council of Young Israel