

Message from our President and Executive Board Chair

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has been ten years since the Chanukat Habayit of our beautiful Young Israel of New Rochelle building. In those ten years we have seen our YINR community expand and flourish in our new surroundings, as our shul has become the preeminent Orthodox synagogue in all of Westchester County. In addition to our Shabbat minyanim, we have eight (!) daily minyanim, two daily daf yomis and many additional learning opportunities. We are the proud home of the Women's Institute of Jewish Studies (WIJS) and Ruach's weekly Wednesday programming. Hundreds of our children participate in our youth programming each week as well as in special youth events. The fewer than twenty members that comprised YINR when it was first established in 1957 surely could not have anticipated that our community would become the focal point of Orthodox Judaism within Westchester that it is today.

We are fortunate to have a kehillah that is energetic and diverse. As our shul continues to grow, we strive to maintain the warm, welcoming atmosphere that drew so many of us to YINR. As the different generations that make up our congregation (including 25 2nd generation member families) come together each week after davening, it is common to see younger and older members chatting comfortably at kiddush and to see new members pulled in as we connect to one another. That spirit of togetherness is at the core of the many successful YINR Women's League programs and committees, which help us to reach out to one another, while also ensuring abundant support during life cycle events. Of course, our greatest uniting force is the communal leadership of Rabbi Reuven Fink. His wisdom and guidance, as well as his dedication to YINR, are the engine to our continued physical and spiritual growth. Rabbi Chaim Axelrod in just his second year at YINR is already a force for communal growth and inspiration.

The 2018 honorees embody the spirit of volunteerism and community mindedness that are the hallmarks of YINR. Dina and Marc Sterman have positively impacted every aspect of YINR daily life since they moved in over twenty years ago. From Women's League president to shul gabbai, from *Chevra Kadisha* to high holiday minyanim, from mikvah committee to IT support, the Stermans have done it all. And this activity peaked when Dina became the first ever Executive Board Chair because YINR needed her at the top of its leadership pyramid. We thank them for all their energy, creativity and time spent in making YINR the great institution that it is today.

It's almost hard to fathom how many areas of shul life Mickey and Doni Nyer have gotten involved in since moving in (returning) to 10804 just five years ago. Doni and Mickey immediately volunteered to become active lay leaders in the Youth Department and Doni now serves as co-chair of the Youth Committee. Mickey has run several different Shabbat and holiday programs enhancing our spiritual lives. What a fine example of volunteerism for their peers (and everyone else in the community).

We thank these honorees for allowing us to honor them and we look forward to so many of our members coming together on March 11 to salute their efforts. We are confident this Annual Dinner will be a rousing success.

Michael Raskas
Judy Friedman

President
Executive Board Chair