



Message from Our Assistant Rabbi

It is a pleasure to join the Young Israel of New Rochelle community in celebrating our 51st Annual Dinner. The number 51, is symbolic of the word "Nah", in Hebrew spelled Nun-Alef. This special word, translated as now, is used several times in the Hallel prayer. We ask Hashem to save us "now" and cause us to prosper "now". It is "now" at this point in time, that we as a Shul ask Hashem to save our community, and to cause us to grow and to prosper, so that we may continue to be the special place that we are for all of our members, and for all of the Jewish people.

Mazel Tov to Dina and Marc Serman, our dear Guests of Honor. This year's dinner is a great opportunity to offer our communal thanks to an amazing couple. Dina and Marc care deeply and profoundly about the current and future success of our Shul. Both behind the scenes and in front, the two of them are always there to assist in any Shul or communal related matter. I did not have the honor of being here during Dina's tenure as Chair of the Executive Board, but I do believe that the positive impact she had is still felt, and for that I am grateful. I have heard countless stories about the care and effort she invested into those years of service to our Shul. Marc has been a great partner in all that Dina has done and continues to do. On a personal note, I thank Marc for all the technical

advice and support he offers for my office in the Shul. I thank Dina and Marc for all the words of encouragement that I have received from them during my time here in New Rochelle. May Hashem bless Dina and Marc with many more years of contribution to our community, and of course with lots of nachat from their amazing children.

Mazel Tov to Mickey and Doni Nyer, our worthy recipients of the Young Leadership Award. Mickey and Doni are a true representation of the future of our Shul. Doni, having grown up in the Young Israel of New Rochelle, makes the fact that he chose to raise his own family here, all the more special. This was highlighted by the wonderful dinner that took place this year for all the families who are second generation in our Shul. Doni spoke about what the community means to him, and how special it is for him to bring up his family under the guidance of Rabbi and Rebetzin Fink, the same way he was privileged to be brought up. It is a most beautiful sight to see Doni's mother bring his kids to Shul, so they could sit right in between Dr. Nyer (MD) and Dr. Nyer (DMD). The Shul owes so much hakarat hatov to this young couple for the unique mark they have already made on our community. All matters related to youth, and all matters related to enhancing the spiritual growth of the Shul, will always be supported either directly, or indirectly, by both Mickey and Doni. It is our hope and prayer, that as long as Chutz La'Aretz is blessed to have the Nyers, Hashem will bless them to continue to be a role model for all current and future young families of New Rochelle.

It has now been close to a year and a half since my family and I joined the YINR community. The annual Dinner is a perfect occasion to offer thanks for allowing my family to become part of yours. I thank Rabbi and Rebetzin Fink for continuing to enable our collaborative efforts to enhance the Shul, as well as providing mentoring and guidance with a sincere care for our well-being. I thank Michael Raskas and Judy Friedman, as well as the members of the Executive Board and Board of Trustees, for their constant support and guidance. I thank Barbara and Rhetta for doing all the heavy lifting in the office, and for smoothly managing the day to day activities of the Shul. I thank the members of the YINR family for continuing to open up your Shul and community to me and my family. I thank Hashem for giving me the opportunity to be part of an amazing congregation, and for allowing me to help play a role in furthering the success of the New Rochelle Jewish community.

I look forward to celebrating with you all at the Dinner!

Rabbi Chaim Axelrod