



Yeshiva University

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Dear Friends,

Greetings and *mazal tov* on this propitious evening of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner of the Young Israel of New Rochelle.

This night celebrates those who have dedicated themselves to this beautiful community, as well as acknowledges the great and holy work of its tireless *rabbanim*, committed synagogue staff, and devoted lay leaders and committee members. I am pleased to congratulate my dear friends Simone Rudoff Semer and Mark Semer on their recognition as Guests of Honor, as well as Michelle and Rafi Halpert as they are presented with the Young Leadership Award.

Simone and Mark are extraordinary people who have made a deep and powerful impact in our community, especially as their efforts have inspired others to similarly volunteer and engage in the hallowed work of building a vibrant community. They are dear friends and role models for all of us.

Rafi and Michelle's ties to Yeshiva University run deep both on their own accord as well as through the Halpert family and Coach Johnny Halpert's years of dedication to our basketball team. They, and their entire family, embody the values of our Yeshiva University community and continue to bring us great pride.

We have a great deal to learn from tonight's honorees, and I wish them much success and happiness so that the Jewish people can continue to benefit from their personal example for many years to come. I offer heartfelt thanks to them for their contributions and faithfulness to the community, and to the rabbinic staff for their sacred service to the Jewish people.

Warmest wishes,

Ari Berman