

The YINR community has expanded and flourished, especially in the past twelve years since we moved into our new building at 1149, and YINR has indeed 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 proudly offer weekly classes including parshat hashavua, Navi, Talmud, and 929; the Women's Initiative for Jewish Studies (WIJS); and Ruach's weekly Wednesday programming; and host highly respected scholars-in-residence throughout the year. Hundreds of our children participate in our youth programming each week as well as in special youth events. For the second year in a row we offer Bnei Akiva snif on Shabbat afternoons, and recently added a Shabbat afternoon Teen Mincha minyan. 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.

In the past year, we welcomed to the YINR community 11 new families, our new Executive Director, Amy Stein, and new bookkeeper, Isio Jacobovitz. In addition we have added several new committees and programs to enhance the shul experience of our members. Many have enjoyed our revived Men's Club Friday night Shabbat onegs, filled with spirited zemirot, cholent, and kugel. Women's League has restarted a Bikur Cholim committee to visit members in a hospital or rehab facility and provide additional support services to them once they return home. Thanks to a member's initiative, we have formed a Disability Inclusion Committee to work on creating the infrastructure necessary for members of our community who have disabilities, and their families, to fully participate in all aspects of synagogue life. We are experimenting with a Shabbat Mevarchim Kiddush with multiple sponsors each time to offer more hot kiddushes at an affordable cost. Our Facebook page is updated and monitored regularly. Most significantly, our membership voted to proceed with the Terrace Project, with construction just starting and expected completion this summer. This will add a vital 2,100 square feet to our building, allowing for an expanded social hall or separate rooms available as needed for activities, davening, simcha meals and other uses. We hope you are as excited as we are by all of these important initiatives and projects.

We depend on the constant work of 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. He is assisted by Rabbi Chaim Axelrod who is a force for communal growth and inspiration. Our beloved Rebbetzins, Abby Fink and Yael Axelrod, play an integral role in the success of our community.

The 2020 honorees are the epitome of volunteerism and community mindedness that are the hallmarks of YINR. Rachel and Gary Berger find no cause too big or too small. Gary served on the YINR Board of Trustees during a critical period for the shul, has organized multiple shiurim for kohanim, oversaw the installation of the sound systems throughout the shul and has always been available to work on the audiovisual components of shul events and dinners. He is one of the masterminds behind Panoply, the most successful series of community events in YINR history.

Rachel has been equally dedicated to YINR and has taken on numerous roles and projects. She served as Women's League president; co-chair of the Mikvah Bake Sale, Women's League Mishloach Manot

project, YINR Chanukah Chagiga, YU/Rabbi Sacks Shabbat, and Sharsheret Pink Shabbat; was a member of the Simcha Committee; and has worked on multiple YINR Women's League cookbooks. We thank the Bergers for their incredible dedication to YINR and for all time they have invested in making YINR the great institution that it is today.

Yvette Finkelstein began volunteering for our community years ago, starting YINR's first Bikur Cholim Committee. She has served on the YINR Board of Trustees and is a member of the YINR Shiva Committee. Most significantly, she recently brought two major programs to Westchester and leads them both: the Women's Initiative for Jewish Studies (WIJS) and i-Shine of Westchester/Riverdale. Her commitment, organization skills, and ability to lead gracefully and effectively have made both of these programs successful and beneficial to so many. Yvette sets a great example of volunteerism and leadership, taking initiative and collaborating with people of all generations.

We thank these honorees for allowing us to honor them and we look forward to so many of our members coming together on March 15 to salute their efforts. We are confident this Annual Dinner will be an outstanding success.

Michael Raskas, President Judy Friedman, Executive Board Chair