

On behalf of the Women's League, congratulations to the 2020 YINR Annual Dinner honorees: Rachel and Gary Berger, the Guests of Honor and Yvette Finkelstein, the Distinguished Leadership Award Recipient.

Rachel's contributions to the Women's League are well-known! Just a few months after moving to New Rochelle, Rachel volunteered to help pack Mishloach Manot and she soon became the chair of that event. She later became the chair of the Women's League Barbecue as well as the New Mother's Committee. During Rachel's tenure as president (2003-05), the Women's League, acquired the Torah that is currently used in Shiva homes. Rachel has co-chaired the Mikvah Bake sale and has worked on so many YINR committees such as the YINR cookbook, Sharsheret Pink Shabbos and the Channukah Chagiga. Rachel, or otherwise known as the Kosher Dinner Lady, has baked her delicious baked goods for so many WL events in our shul, most recently the "Dessert Tea Room" for the WL Shabbat BBQ. Rachel's husband, Gary, oversaw the installation of the sound system that was donated by the Women's League, and is always available to help with any and all WL events that may need his sound set up and tech help. Rachel has inspired so many women to become involved. She has also inspired us in other ways as she has just completed the NYC marathon and was an inaugural member of the triathlon Skippy's Team!

Yvette Finkelstein moved to New Rochelle with her husband Jack in 1972. In those years, she has become a true pillar of the YINR community as well as the broader Westchester Community in the many initiatives she has created. In addition to starting WIJS and bringing female learning opportunities of the highest level to our shul and broad community, she also introduced an amazing art program to Westchester Day School, "Learning to Look" and most recently, introduced the Chai Lifeline i-Shine program to the Riverdale/Westchester community in the memory of her beloved son, Robert Finklestein, z"l. WIJS is an independent program that brings in female scholars from around the world on a monthly basis to discuss a tremendous range of topics. The proof of its success is its ability to be completed self funded through donations of those committed to women learning opportunities. The i-Shine program has brought tremendous chizuk and support to those families in our area who have suffered terrible losses, and also has given many of our members a wonderful opportunity to do chessed for those affected by such tragedies. In addition to all of this, she is a member of the YINR Shiva Committee, served on and chaired many YINR Dinner Committees, and has served on the YINR board of Trustees for six years. Yvette has inspired everyone in our community by leading by example. She is most deserving of the Distinguished Leadership Award.

It is only with the help of dedicated volunteers like tonight's honorees and so many others, that Women's League is able to support our community to the level which we do. We hope all our members are inspired by our honorees' commitment to our community and become involved both in Women's League and our shul. Thank you to Rachel and Gary and Yvette, for having such a positive impact. Mazal Tov!

Ellie Goldenberg & Amy Tarlowe
YINR Women's League
Co-Presidents of the Women's League