

On behalf of the YINR Women's League, congratulations to those being recognized at the 2021 Young Israel of New Rochelle Annual Dinner: our Gibborim and Michael Raskas.

Michael's contributions to the Young Israel of New Rochelle are countless. He and his wife, Karen, have volunteered many hours to our institution and our community. Karen is a past Women's League treasurer and has chaired many of our holiday boutiques, but she is best known for her Hachnasat Orchim, including welcoming new members into their home for the annual new-member seudah shlishit during Michael's presidency.

Michael began his service at YINR early just a few years after moving into the community. He first served on the Shul Board and then as Vice President. He has also served as head of the Programming Committee where he introduced the annual Purim Chagiga, a highlight event for YINR families (also known as the Purim Break-Fast Event) and in particular for Women's League. He continued as Youth Committee Chair, served on the Shiva Committee and as Gabbai of the 8am weekday minyan.

Most recently, Michael rejoined the board and became President of YINR. Over Michael's tenure as president he partnered with the Women's League to support our community initiatives. When COVID-19 hit New Rochelle, Michael tirelessly led our community and advocated for our health, safety, and religious communal life during the shul's most tumultuous period. He labored around the clock dealing with community needs yet still made time to check in with the Women's League and ensure that each YINR member was well taken care of and supported properly.

It is only with the help of dedicated volunteers like Michael Raskas and all the Gibborim that the Women's League is able to advance our community wide initiatives. Their hard work and dedication serve as an inspiration to the entire community.

Michael is a true leader and role model. The Women's League thanks him for his guidance and support over the years. We wish Michael a hearty Mazal Tov and a Tzeitchem Leshalom to Michael and Karen as they embark on their journey to Eretz Yisroel.

Lori Barnea and Ellie Goldenberg  
YINR Women's League  
Co-Presidents of the Women's League 2020-2021

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