

The Talmud in *Bava Batra* (6b-9b) discusses the laws associated with town councils: its officials and appointees. There are a number of characteristics and personality traits essential for that type of communal leadership. Among those qualities is even-temperedness, wisdom and integrity. The Talmud then cites verses from the prophets that project great blessings to those individuals who toil on behalf of the Jewish community.

This evening we are honoring two exemplary couples who have worked hard for our community. They certainly possess the qualities enumerated in the Talmud, and even more.

Ayala Helft is an unusual combination of prodigious talent in every area of organizational needs, as well as possessing the kind of personality that brings out the best in the people she works with. Her smile, coupled with her unparalleled efficiency allows her to chair or work in every area of communal endeavor. She has chaired multiple dinners, committees, packed mishloach manot and is involved in Women's League, AMIT, SAR and so much more. Anyone who has worked with Ayala would describe her as the quintessential leader!

Dr. Yosef (Yo) is in *shul* every morning for *Daf Yomi*. He *davens* at our early minyan every morning. He can be found in the evening after a long day's work in his scrubs in shul for *mincha /maariv*. Yo is known for his modesty and pleasant personality. Yo is a brilliant and sensitive physician who would make the Rambam proud of his integration of Torah and medicine.

We wish Mazal Tov to the Helfts as we thank them for their dedicated service!

The Bochners have been living in New Rochelle for only five years, yet their impact on our community has been profound.

Lauren, who greets everyone with her smile, is an indefatigable worker. No task too small or too big, she always says yes! Almost every week we receive a warm, welcoming message from Lauren about a new family that has moved into the neighborhood with full details about the family. As co-chair of the Hospitality Committee, Lauren helps the new families become familiar with the community.

Lauren is also very involved with the *Mikveh* of the *shul*. She was very important to the success of the Mikveh dinner and annual Bake Sale. Her home is a home filled with the spirit of hospitality and *hachnosat orchim*.

Andrew is a wonderful human being. His aura is one of goodness and kindness. What I find most endearing is his advocacy for the Sinai school that provides quality Day School education to ALL Jewish children. In *Pirkei Avot* we learn that one should make their house “open for all in need” (*patuach l’revacha*). Andrew sees to it that is the type of household he has. A delightful *baal tefillah* and *baal koreh*, he is so pleasant to listen to when he takes the *amud*.

We wish the entire Bochner family only great blessing and thank them for their work on our behalf!

The Young Israel of New Rochelle is immensely lucky to have two such impressive and wonderful families in our midst.

May we continue to thrive as a community,

Rabbi Reuven Fink