

Dear YINR Members and Friends,

Our YINR in-person dinner is finally back and we are so excited to greet you face to face. In the last few years our community has not only grown but flourished and, with this blessing in mind, we want to invite you to our 55th Annual Dinner on Sunday evening, May 15, 2022.

As Lag B'Omer falls out that same week, we chose fire as our dinner theme in order to highlight the irrepressible energy of our community and how our community has come roaring back from adversity with more positivity of spirit – and members – than ever before. In V'zot Habracha, fire is a reference to Torah: "Mimino aish dat lamo" (from His right hand He gave religious fire). Throughout the pandemic and beyond, we continue to keep the Torah fires burning through our beautiful minyanim and the myriad learning opportunities for our adults and our children. Our community has not only supported its members but has thrived and now it's time to celebrate.

At this year's dinner we honor Ayala and Yosef Helft (Guests of Honor) and Lauren and Andrew Bochner (Young Leadership Award Recipients), two couples who so beautifully exemplify the extraordinary energy of our community and set a prime example of who we are and can be.

Ayala and Yo have been contributing to our community from the moment they arrived in 2008. Ayala served on the YINR Executive Board as Recording Secretary for six of her seven years as a Board member, and continues to be deeply involved in the shul. During her Board tenure she helped YINR navigate key milestones and responsibilities, including the search for and hiring of Rabbi Axelrod, as well as managing the challenges of the pandemic. She has helped lead signature YINR events such as the Annual Dinner and ever-popular Panoply. Whether as dinner chair or playing a more informal role behind the scenes, she invests countless hours to ensure that shul events are well-orchestrated, inclusive and successful. Yo is a true role model of Torah u-Maddah fused with chesed. He is a daily minyan and Daf Yomi regular at YINR. Many members of our shul rely on Yo, a cardiologist, to care for them and for their extended families. He is often the first doctor to come running whenever there's a medical emergency in the shul – and has jumped into an ambulance more than once to accompany someone to the hospital. He joined the YINR security team to ensure our shul is protected, and served on the Reopen the Shul Committee to guide how we could safely reopen the building and enable communal davening amid the ongoing pandemic.

Although Lauren and Andrew Bochner have only been a part of our community for five years, they have already made their imprint by immediately taking on active leadership roles. Not only is Lauren a YINR Board member but she is currently co-chair of the Hospitality Committee, warmly welcoming the continuing influx of new YINR families. She has developed initiatives within the committee to welcome members during the past two challenging years, such as providing a meal the day a family moves in, creating a "Facebook" to introduce new members to the community and organizing a Zoom pizza night for new members. Lauren also volunteers in multiple other ways, including running the annual Challah Bake and using her graphic design skills to create beautiful flyers for Women's League shiurim and other events. Andrew joined the shul's chazzan rotation, even serving as a chazzan on Rosh Hashanah and became an active participant in Tomchei Shabbos. When he's not running a successful intellectual property and litigation firm, Andrew can be found volunteering for Sinai Schools or demonstrating how to cook matzoh pizza on Zoom.

The Annual Dinner is one of YINR's main fundraising efforts, providing a significant portion of our operating budget. Please join us as we pay tribute to our esteemed honorees – and our community – by registering for the dinner and by submitting your journal ads. An online dinner journal will be posted on our journal website. Journal ads can be submitted through our journal website, or by clicking this link. You, our members, have always been very generous and it is only through this generosity that YINR continues to grow and expand our abilities to provide excellent religious, educational and social opportunities.

Let's celebrate together with the warmth and energy that is emblematic of this year's theme. We look forward to seeing you on May 15!

Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions or if you have any financial concerns you can contact Tamar Croog([tcroog.contractor@fujifilm.com](mailto:tcroog.contractor@fujifilm.com)) or Amy Stein at [executivedirector@yinr.org](mailto:executivedirector@yinr.org).

Sandra Weinstein and Abby Glass - Dinner Chairs

Teri Rosengarten and Ellie Goldenberg - Journal Chairs