

While we will join together on May 19 to celebrate our 57th year as the Young Israel of New Rochelle community, our excitement is tempered by the fact that this year has dealt Am Yisrael a harsh blow. We certainly couldn't have predicted that this last half a year would be spent feverishly attempting to manage shul and community affairs, together with the impact of the war in Israel. It was so heartening and beautiful to see our community come together, in so many ways, to answer the greater call to Am Yisrael, while at the same time balancing our needs at home. This is summarized in one word, the theme for this year's dinner: Achdut.

Our shul has continued to expand and flourish under the leadership of our Morah D'Atra Rabbi Reuven Fink, and our Associate Rabbi Chaim Axelrod, together with our beloved Rebbetzins Abby Fink and Yael Axelrod. Through their wisdom and guidance they illuminate the ways in which we can improve spiritually and communally, particularly during this difficult period of time. We are grateful that they were able to lead and accompany our members in the multiple YINR solidarity missions to Israel.

This past year we were thrilled to welcome 17 new families to the neighborhood. As our membership grows, we witness how YINR continues to provide a richness to our daily lives, marked with multiple daily minyanim, shiurim, guest speakers, special events and celebrations. Our diverse programming targets the varying interests of our members - from our active youth department for our younger members, to Ruach programming for our more senior ones. Torah learning and Jewish scholarship thrive, and classes are held regularly by our Rabbis, members and guest speakers, including daily Daf Yomi, a robust 929 Tanach program, Women's Initiative for Jewish Studies, and the Semichas Chaver Program. This past year our visiting presenters included Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Rav Moshe Taragin, Dr. Jonathan Schanzer, Professor Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Rav Yehuda Sarna, Rav Moshe Tzvi Weinberg, and Jason Greenblatt, to name a few.

We are so pleased to have launched YINR's beautiful new website this year, making it even easier for our community to communicate and connect with each other.

Fortunately, we were able to purchase the property next door to the shul - the possibilities for its use have just begun to flow. After some renovations, it is now the new location of our Teen Minyan, and we look forward to expanding the house's use in the near future.

Of course, there is no denying that the heart and soul of our vibrant community are our members who are dedicated to improving our community life. This year is no exception, as we honor two extraordinary couples who have left an indelible mark on our shul: Jenny and Seth Sokol, our esteemed Guests of Honor, and Tamar and Andy Eagle, the recipients of the Young Leadership Award.

For over two decades, Jenny and Seth Sokol have been shining beacons of compassion and dedication in our community. Their unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others is nothing short of awe-inspiring. As active volunteers, they have lent their time and energy to countless endeavors, leaving a lasting impact on all they touch. We are grateful for their extraordinary service and consider it an immense privilege to have them as our acclaimed Guests of Honor.

Tamar and Andy Eagle are the epitome of young leadership in our community. Although they only moved to New Rochelle three years ago, their passion, enthusiasm, and willingness to get involved in shul matters is admirable. Together, Tamar and Andy represent the future of our community. Their energy, creativity, and unwavering commitment to making a difference are truly inspiring. We are proud to recognize them as the recipients of this year's Young Leadership Award and look forward to their continued contributions to the Young Israel of New Rochelle.

The commitment of our honorees to making a positive impact is a testament to their character and a source of pride for our community. We celebrate their achievements and are privileged to have the opportunity to honor them.

In keeping with our theme of achdut, it is so meaningful for us to pay tribute to our YINR family of IDF soldiers, past and present. Their devotion to and sacrifice for Eretz Yisrael and Am Yisrael is an inspiration to us all, and we are forever grateful to them and their families.

We are also thankful to everyone who has given so generously of their time and talent to make this dinner a huge success, and are grateful for their leadership and assistance.

Am Yisrael Chai!!

Elly Goldenberg, President

Rachel Berger, Executive Board Chair