

## **Message from our President and Executive Board Chair**

Once again, we will gather together, G-d willing, on March 30 to celebrate the 58th dinner of the Young Israel of New Rochelle. Our beautiful community has continued to grow and flourish under the leadership of our Marah D'Atra, Rabbi Reuven Fink, and our Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Chaim Axelrod, together with our beloved Rebbetzins, Abby Fink and Yael Axelrod. Through their wisdom and guidance they continue to lead the community on a path of religious growth, education and spirituality.

The theme for this year's dinner, Re'im Ahuvim, beloved neighbors, highlights the ways in which we, as a community, are present for each other. While the entire Jewish community still reels from the horrific events of October 7, the impact of the war in Israel, our brethren still being held hostage, and the antisemitism we face here at home, we still acknowledge and appreciate each and every act of kindness, comfort and good news that we can share together as a community. This year's dinner gives us the opportunity to recognize those who help ensure that our members receive the support they need in the best of times, and unfortunately, at the worst of times.

This past year we were thrilled to welcome 17 new families to the neighborhood. We also welcomed our new Youth Directors, Rachel and Jordan Benditson, to the YINR family, and have watched our Youth Department flourish with exciting programming under their guidance. In addition to our growing Teen Minyan, we have now added a Junior Congregation as well.

Our daily schedules are full with multiple minyanim, shiurim, guest speakers, special events and celebrations. 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. A new Chasidus Chaburah has been added to the lineup as well. Our weekly Ruach program for senior members offers exciting and informative lineups. This past year our visiting scholars/presenters included Rabbi Leo Dee, Rabbi Steven Weil, Rabbanit Noa Lewis, Rabbi Dovid Bashevkin, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, Nova Festival Survivor Eitan Halley, Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz, Rabbi Shai Finkelstein, Dr. Einat Wilf, and Rabbi Doron Perez, to name a few. We also were honored to host a Sayeret Golani Unit of the IDF through the Peace of Mind Program, which left an incredible impression on all.

Of course, there is no denying that at the core of our vibrant community are members who are dedicated to improving our community life. Our Guests of Honor, Shira and Andrew Wurzbarger, and Mira and Anton Tuci, the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award, exemplify what it means to be loving neighbors - Re'im Ahuvim.

For 17 years, Shira and Andrew have been dedicated to our community. From the moment they moved in they rolled up their sleeves and got involved in making YINR a better place. They have both lent their time and energy at the highest levels, impacting our members in meaningful ways. We are grateful for their extraordinary service and consider it a true privilege to have them as our esteemed Guests of Honor.

Mira and Anton are literally the people that keep our shul running. Even after 15 years of dedication to the shul, they both continue to go above and beyond their official duties. Together with their four children, they have become family. We are grateful to recognize them with the Distinguished Service Award and look forward to our continued friendship with them and their continued relationship with 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 are privileged to have the opportunity to honor them. We thank our volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent to make this dinner a huge success, and we are grateful for their leadership and assistance.

Am Yisrael Chai!!

***Elly Goldenberg, President***

***Rachel Berger, Executive Board Chair***