



Letter from our Associate Rabbi

It is a true privilege to join the Young Israel of New Rochelle community in celebrating our 58th Annual Dinner. This event is always a highlight of the year—a time to come together as a family and reflect on the strength, warmth, and blessings that define our Shul. Each year, I like to connect my message to the Gematria of our dinner year, and this year's number, 58, corresponds to the words *Uvechol*—"and with all"—and *Chen*—"grace." These words beautifully reflect the essence of YINR. Ours is a community that gives wholeheartedly—our time, our energy, our dedication—to supporting one another. At the same time, we are a community of *Chen*, embodying kindness, generosity, and warmth. Whether through Torah,

Tefillah, acts of Chessed, or simply being present for one another, we continue to grow together in unity and with grace. As we celebrate tonight, may Hashem bless our Shul to always be a place of *Uvechol*—giving fully—and *Chen*—overflowing with warmth and goodness.

Mazel Tov to our esteemed Guests of Honor, Shira and Andrew Wurzbarger! Shira and Andrew are a true power couple when it comes to community involvement and leadership. Andrew has served our Shul in countless official capacities, but beyond his roles, I have personally felt his unwavering support and friendship throughout my time in New Rochelle. It has been a privilege to work alongside him to strengthen our Shul and community. On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for the care and concern he showed toward me and my family during his tenure as Shul President. Andrew is a man of integrity and vision, whose honesty and dedication shine through in every interaction. Shira is the very definition of a *Ba'alat Chessed*—kindness is not just something she does; it is who she is. Our community owes her immense *Hakarat Hatov* for the countless ways she enables us to help those in need. Her heart beats for the well-being of others, and we are truly blessed to have her as one of the quiet, behind-the-scenes leaders of our Shul. May Hashem continue to bless Shira and Andrew with abundant *nachat* from Sarah, Lily, and Aleeza, and may they continue to inspire and uplift our community for many years to come.

Mazel Tov and congratulations to Mira and Anton Tuci, our Distinguished Service Awardees!

Both words—*distinguished* and *service*—perfectly capture who Mira and Anton are. They are refined, gracious, and deeply dedicated individuals whose *middot* shine brightly. Everyone who meets them, works with them, and observes their quiet dedication speaks of them with the highest admiration. Few embody the true meaning of service as Mira and Anton do. Their unwavering commitment and loyalty to our Shul are unparalleled. No request is too difficult, no task too demanding—they not only meet but exceed every expectation placed upon them. On a personal note, I am deeply grateful to Mira and Anton for all the help and support they have provided to me and my family, both in Shul and in our home. We always know that if a need arises, they will be there to step in and save the day. May Hashem bless Mira and Anton with many years of health and happiness to

enjoy their wonderful children—Alex, Altin, Frrok, and Melisa. May they continue to be the “glue” that holds our Shul together, allowing our community to reach even greater heights.

It is hard to believe that eight and a half years have passed since my family and I joined the YINR community. The Annual Dinner is the perfect opportunity to express my gratitude for the privilege of becoming a part of this remarkable family. I extend my deepest thanks to Rabbi and Rebbetzin Fink for their partnership in strengthening our Shul and for their invaluable mentorship, guidance, and genuine care for our well-being. I am grateful to Elly Goldenberg and Rachel Berger, along with the members of the Executive Board and Board of Trustees, for their unwavering support and leadership. A special thank you to Amy and Isio for their tireless efforts behind the scenes, ensuring that the daily operations of the Shul run seamlessly. Above all, I thank the entire YINR family for welcoming me and my family with such warmth, for embracing us as part of your community, and for allowing us to share in your lives. The Axelrod family is excited and honored to continue serving this incredible Shul for many years to come. Finally, I thank Hashem for the blessing of being part of such a special congregation and for granting me the opportunity to contribute to the continued growth and success of the New Rochelle Jewish community.

I look forward to celebrating with you all at the Dinner!

Rabbi Chaim Axelrod