

Welcome to the 56th Annual Dinner of the Young Israel of New Rochelle!

What incredible things have occurred in our community since last year's dinner! Our shul has continued its remarkable growth trajectory, as **23** new families have joined as members over the past twelve months. We continue to provide incredibly diverse programming to meet the varying interests of our members—whether through our youth department, for our younger members, or Ruach, for our older members. If you are interested in Torah learning or Jewish scholarship, there are classes by our rabbis and 929 on a weekly basis, WIJS once a month and periodic outside scholars (this past year our visiting presenters included Rabbi Judah Mischel, Dr. Malka Simkovich, and Yaakov Katz, to name a few). We have welcomed Eitan Katz and FIDF for memorable Shabbosim. And of course we experienced collective fun at our fifth (and most well-attended ever) Panoply.

The story of YINR continues tonight, when we are privileged to honor two incredible couples who are individually such pillars of our community. The theme of tonight's dinner is "Thoughtful Growth", and who better exemplifies that concept than Dana and Yudi Fishkin and Deena and Rafi Zlotnick, who have contributed tirelessly to the successful growth of our shul in such different ways. Dana has principally attended to our intellectual curiosity, actively working on (and now co-chairing) WIJS and our Scholar-in-Residence programs. She also has served on the Board of Trustees and other shul committees. Yudi has taken on the responsibility of managing our physical home. He was a critical member of the Terrace expansion team, and after serving as assistant House chair has now assumed the role of House chair. In addition to serving on various event committees, Deena has leveraged her skills as an educator to benefit all of our children, as co-chair of the youth department. As a member of our gabbi team, Rafi ensures on a daily basis that our Tefilot function properly. Indeed, all four honorees have exuded chessed to so many of us through their volunteerism and compassionate and affable demeanors. We wish a big "shkoyach" and thank you to these amazing individuals and their families.

Of course, putting on a dinner such as this one could not happen without a wonderful and dedicated team. We are grateful to the following people for their leadership — the irreplaceable "General" Tamar Croog, Dinner Chairs Michelle Halpert and Stephanie Minkove, Journal Chairs Ellie Goldenberg and Teri Rosengarten, the Raffle Committee, composed of Lauren Bochner, Tamar Eagle, Kayla Moerdler, Ayelet Monaker and Rachel Raskas, and this year's entertainment/cinematography team of Michelle Goldberg, Shmueli Kerstein, Elana Minkove, Stan Weiss and Lynda Vidomlanski.

Enjoy the evening!

Andrew Wurzburger, President
David Blumenthal, Executive Board Chair