Elul 2, 5781

August 10, 2021

Dear Friends of Havurat,

The adventure called Havurat Yisrael started in the early 80's when a group of young families decided to create a place that would have three important characteristics: learning Torah, warmth of camaraderie and acceptance of all people regardless of their level of observance or knowledge. Throughout the 40 years since its inception, I am proud to state that Havurat more than lived up to these goals with the singular Havurat touch. Without a physical space at the beginning, and with multiple challenges later in its career, Havurat Yisrael continued its work of teaching, creating a caring atmosphere and lasting friendships that are maintained even when people move away from Forest Hills.

There are so many stories of families that came in without any background and who are now able to rejoice in grandchildren studying in Yeshivot and having observant homes, of people who came in on Shabbat wearing inappropriate attire and who are now fully observant  (and some wearing haredi attire as well) in the US, Brazil and Israel, of young intellectuals in college  who are now rabbis and authors. Some people have always commented how much they miss the very unique Havurat spirit when they move away from our community. For all this we can only be grateful to Hashem Who gave us the opportunity to serve the Jewish people in the Havurat style for these 40 years. As David Hamelech said, "My portion has fallen in beautiful places."

As part of the celebration we are asking you to share your story, to write or record some of your memories and thus to share in the gratitude that we

owe this beautiful organization. Also, please reach out to others who may not be aware of this event and share with them this letter and let them write to us directly. The year-long celebration will culminate with a **Gala**

**Dinner on Sunday December 12.** Enclosed please find a Journal ad to make your reservations for this historic night. At that time, we will be honoring some of the families that founded Havurat, David and Ruth Better, Jack and Shuli Goldhaber, Bruce and Miriam

Jacobs and Stuart and Judy Rosen. They deserve our honor and we hope you will join us on December 12.

Until then, please send your stories at email havurat40@gmail.com, send the ads that will insure the future of Havurat, and be Havurat Yisrael ambassadors throughout the world.

On behalf of our Journal chairs, Louis Ordentlich and Jerry Revich and the committees (still in formation) in this stationery, I remain,

As ever,

David Algaze

Rabbi