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H A R H A L U T Z S E M I N A R C E N T E R

Har Halutz community village is a young free-enterprise Reform settlement of western immigrants and native Israelis located in the heart of the majestic mountains of upper Galilee. The settlement, established in September of 1985 and planned for 200 families already numbers 18 families (including 24 children).

The community includes upon its goals the advancement of progressive Judaism in Israel, active participation in improving relations between Arabs and Jews, strengthening the ties between Israel and the diaspora and heightening ecological awareness through sensitive planning and development of the area.

To these ends the community plans to establish a seminar and education center affiliated with the Reform movement. The facility, to be located on a magnificent mountain adjacent to the community, will serve the more than 2000 high school and college Reform students that visit Israel annually in the framework of short and long term programs. In addition to the students, there are numerous congregational visits as well as private tours who can make use of such a facility. And lastly, the facility will serve the Israeli progressive movement as well as various Israeli adult and youth groups seeking a retreat center in an area where no such facility exists.

The educational thrust of the center is towards the issues of pluralistic Judaism in Israel and Arab-Jewish relations. In addition to serving as a touring base for the entire Galilee region (Har Halutz is within an hour of all major tourist attractions in the Galilee), the center can present special, unique activities such as group visits to Arab and Druze villages in the immediate area, lectures and discussions on the impact of rapid Jewish settlement in the region, work with underprivileged youth in neighboring villages, meetings with Ethiopian immigrant groups and workshops on tolerance and mutual coexistence.

The seminar center will be a multi-purpose project built in several stages. First and foremost will be the establishment of the actual center and overnight facilities outlined in the attached budget proposal. This will be followed by a series of projects (recreational facilities, conference center, riding school, restaurant) which will convert the Har Halutz seminar center into a major destination-point facility with a wide range of services for various groups.

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