

H A R C H A L U T Z C O M M U N I T Y V I L L A G E
-----Doar Na Ma'ale HaGalil-----20129 Tel-(04) 925270-----

Rabbi Alvin Sugarman
The Temple
1589 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

9.16.86

Dear Rabbi Sugarman,

Shalom. I hope that all is well with you and yours. I wanted to take this opportunity to write you personally and thank you for the help that you gave us regarding the kind donation of Mr. Alfred Davis and family. Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter I sent to Mr. Davis.

I would like to also take this opportunity to let you know that Har Halutz is progressing very nicely - we are growing slowly but surely (we now have 12 families and another 3 moving up in the next two months). There are now 12 children on the site, 5 more with the new families, and one pregnancy, so by the end of November we will be 15 families and 18 children!

Development is also progressing, although more slowly. We continue to fight diligently with the various government institutions for our fair share, occasionally with success and occasionally with less success. It is in this regard that I write you this letter.

As you may know, Har Halutz has a mountain adjacent to our housing site which we call our "tourist mountain". It is our hope that we can develop here a Reform movement education and seminar center, possibly combining some of the elements of a resort/vacation lodge with seminars that deal with the subjects of religious pluralism in Israel, Aliyah, Yidiat Haaretz, the Galilee, improved Arab-Jewish relations and ecological awareness (the subjects that form the ideological basis of the settlers here at Har Halutz.) We envision a modest hotel/hostel facility, restaurant, riding stables and sport facilities, etc.

In the beginning this facility will provide a base for the over 1500 N.F.T.Y. students that visit Israel annually. When they tour the Galilee this can be their home base. In addition, the many congregational tour groups, such as the one that you brought to Har Halutz last January would then have a nice facility where they could stay a day or two as well. The same applies to many other groups from Israel and abroad who could benefit from such a facility.

Needless to say this is an idea which will cost a great deal of money. In our dealings with the various government agencies, including the Jewish Agency, their reaction has been one of hesitancy. I feel confident that if we can find the funding for this project through the movement in the U.S., the Jewish Agency will kick in an equal part for the infrastructure costs. We are talking about a sum in the neighborhood of over half a million dollars. I would like to enlist your support, and perhaps that of Mrs. Marilyn Shubin

and the Atlanta Jewish federation to make this project a reality. If the community there decided to make this their project goal in Israel, I believe that it could be done.

I would like to know your initial reaction to this possibility. We will do everything possible to help from our end, but there is no doubt that we need your help in a big way. Because of my close personal ties with the Jewish community of Atlanta I am confident that such a project is feasible. Please convey to me your initial thoughts. I look forward to hearing from you and again, many thanks for the help and support you have given us thus far.

B'shalom,

Hal Applebaum
Mazkir, Har Halutz

cc:

Rabbi Eric Yoffie - Executive Director, ARZA
Rabbi Charles Kroloff - President, ARZA
Oded Lewensohn - Shaliach, Garin Galil to Har Halutz
Marilyn Shubin - Asst. Director, Atlanta Jewish Fed.