

## Rabbi Pesach Lerner

January 2011

Dear Friends,

You most likely know about the devastating Chanukah fire in the Carmel and Haifa region that destroyed over five million trees and many lives. The Israel Ministry of Agriculture has declared: *“Replanting in the Carmel must wait two years for the soil to heal naturally”*

Zo Artzeinu, a group in Israel, has planted more fruit trees than any other organization in Israel’s history! Every one of these fruit trees is taken care of by Shomer-Shabbat Jews and all Halachot are strictly observed. They plant in many places, but their main fields are in Yitzhar – overlooking Kever Yosef, Bet El and the Golan. You can visit these orchards and vineyards the next time you come to Israel and see the magnificent work they do.

When I visited Jonathan Pollard recently, he asked that people plant fruit trees for him in Eretz Yisrael. I had never heard that request from Jonathan before, but it was very clear and directly to the point. **He simply wants as many Jews as possible to plant fruit trees in Israel on his behalf.**

Please distribute the enclosed fliers and make announcements over the next two or three weeks to let people know that your shul is planting fruit trees in Israel for this Tu Bishvat. I personally am acquainted with people who run this organization and they’ve told me that separate orchards can be set up for every individual Young Israel. A beautiful sign will be custom-made for each Young Israel, as long as a minimum number of trees have been planted.

I hope you will take part in this wonderful mitzvah to help rebuild and plant trees in Israel that will continue to bear fruit for years to come.

Sincerely,



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