

**52 Years of Pardes Celebration**  
**Day of Learning**  
**October 22, 2024**

*Read on behalf of Rick Zitelman, President of The Zitelman Family Foundation*

It is a privilege for our family to sponsor this Day of Learning at Pardes.

The mission of the Zitelman Family Foundation is “*to support the **unity and continuity** of the Jewish people through relevant and meaningful Jewish wisdom and education*”. Unity is what we need now more than ever. There is no better time than now, and no better match than Pardes.

We see how strong Israel and the Jewish people can be when we are unified. We see how ugly and divisive it is when we are not. We’ve seen this throughout our 3,000+ year history.

Please remember - It is OK to disagree with someone else’s position on an issue, as we well know from debates between Rabbis Hillel and Shammai and throughout the Talmud. But we need to be respectful and listen so that we understand the others’ position – even if we do not agree with it.

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we shared the following: “...and today is the beginning of the next 50 years of Your Torah, Your Journey.”

We are all on journeys every day of our lives. Where will that journey take *you?*”

Not one of us could have imagined the journey that we are currently on. It’s been nearly a year.

We read every year in the Pesach Haggadah, “In each and every generation they rise up against us to destroy us. And the Holy One, blessed be He, rescues us from their hands.” Our generation is no different. This time is no different. Every time they try, we unite together as family – brothers and sisters – and come out stronger and more unified.

We thank Pardes for being the premier high quality Jewish learning community, providing world class educators and education and most importantly a home of continuity and unity.

For those of you who have made the decision to stay in Jerusalem and continue to study with Pardes, kol hakavod. It is not an easy decision. We applaud your decision.

For those of you that continue to learn online, you have made a statement that Jewish learning in and outside of Israel is critical to you and critical to the continuity of the Jewish people. We applaud your decision.

To all of you – teachers, administration and students, Chazak. Chazak. We are so proud of all of you.