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## New Year's Letter from Rabbi Hirsch

Dear Mekor Community,

For over 18 years, Mekor Habracha has been serving the Center City and greater Philadelphia community, often quietly, but always with dedication and impact. Since October 7, the strength of our shul community has kept us resilient and resolute in our support of Israel and the Jewish people. We have organized programming to combat antisemitism, raise awareness of the challenges facing Israel, commemorate those who died on October 7 and in the aftermath, support the hostages, and raise funds for vital organizations such as the IDF, Hatzalah, and Magen David Adom.

We have taken on those additional challenges without abandoning our ongoing mission to make Center City a thriving hub of Jewish life. Members and visitors alike are drawn to our year-round weekday, Shabbat, and holiday services. Moreover, our unwavering commitment has led to the growth of kosher establishments, ensured the reliability of our eruv every week, and contributed to the building of our beautiful mikvah. And through our efforts to enrich our Center City environment, we have also laid the foundation for additional shul communities to flourish.

As we look to the future, we are excited to strengthen our commitment to Philadelphia by welcoming Rabbi Steven Gotlib as Mekor's inaugural Associate Rabbi. He is a dynamic and insightful leader who will, with G-d's help, enhance our learning, programming, and positive influence on the Mekor community, as well as everyone we serve throughout Center City and beyond.

With the new year upon us, we ask that you contribute to our efforts by joining Mekor as members or auxiliary members (residing outside Center City). If you share our determination to see Mekor's holy work continue for your benefit, for the benefit of your family and friends, along with our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel and across the diaspora, we need your support now more than ever.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year ahead,  
Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch