By the Grace of G-d
Erev Shabbos Kodesh
Chai Elul, 5747
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
Dinner Celebration of the
Friends of Colel Chabad

Greeting and Blessing:

I was pleased to be informed of the forthcoming event, taking place on the 27th of Elul. May it be blessed with Hatzlocho in every respect, especially as it is taking place in this month of special Divine Grace and Mercy.

The significance of the month of Elul, the last month of the outgoing year, is explained by the Alter Rebbe, Founder of Colel Chabad (whose birthday is on the 18th of Elul), by the parable of "A King in the Field." The point of it is that at certain times the king goes out to meet the ordinary people working in the field and gives them a unique opportunity to greet their king personally and present their petitions. At such a time the king is particularly gracious and benevolent and is pleased to grant their requests.

The parable, meaningful in all its details, calls attention not only to the "King in the Field," but also to the "Man in the Field". Here is a humble person engaged in the vital activity of planting seeds, with the fullest confidence – Bitochen, we call it – in the creator that He will make the seeds grow into a rich harvest.

Colel Chabad, as is well known, is a time-honored institution that serves the needy in the Holy Land, both materially and spiritually. Colel Chabad, in the spirit of the aforementioned parable, is "particularly gracious and benevolent and is pleased to extend assistance to all those who are in need." At the same time, like all other Chabad institutions in all parts of the world, it works for a better society through its representatives and active friends and supporters.

I feel confident that all of you who actively support the various programs of Colel Chabad, consider it a privilege as well as an obligation to be *partners* in this vital cause. A "partner" is, of course, more than a "supporter."

With prayerful wishes to each and all of you, and the Guests of Honor in particular, for a *Ksivo vachasimo toivo* for a good and sweet year, both materially and spiritually, and

With esteem and blessing,
/Signed: M. Schneerson/

By the Grace of G-d,
Erev Shabbos Kodesh Shuvo, 5749
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
Dinner Celebration of the
Friends of Colel Chabad

Greeting and Blessing:

I was pleased to be informed of the forthcoming Dinner event celebrating the 200th anniversary of Colel Chabad. May G-d grant that it be with *Hatzlocho* in every respect.

In addition to its own importance, the event takes on an added significance in terms of time. It is taking place in the auspicious period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Ten Days of Teshuvoh (Return). These are the first ten days of the new year, characterized by G-d's special benevolence, forgiveness and grace in response to our prayers and good deeds.

Moreover, we are now coming from the year 5748 (תשמ"ח), which in transliteration into our holy tongue forms the words *tismach*, "be joyful," and *t'samach*, "bring joy to others." And there is not a more genuine and lasting joy than the joy of Torah and Mitzvos – our Jewish way of life.

The previous year was significant in that it was a year of Hakhel (Gathering): The point of it is to increase – in quantity and quality – the activities designed to bring *men, women, and children* closer to HaShem, down to concrete deeds, in all three areas of Torah, Avodah and Gemilus Chassodim, thereby to fortify still more strongly the union (Hakhel) of Jews with one another, to the degree of complete oneness of the Jewish people, *one nation on earth*, and – oneness with the *One G-d*, through our Torah, the *one Torah*.

Since "all things of holiness have to be on the increase," and, indeed, since G-d provides the good causes and opportunities to help us that way, these perceptions of *tismach* and *t'samach* will surely be extended into the new year on an even deeper and higher level.

In the same vein, the current new year 5749 spells the word *tashmet* (from the word *Shemittah*, meaning "release" of, among other things, unpaid debts). It is a good indication that G-d will grant everyone in the midst of our Jewish people remission of any outstanding "debts" to Him, so that everyone can make a new start and proceed from strength to strength in all three areas of Torah, prayer, and acts of benevolence – the Three Pillars upon which the

world (the "big" world as well as the "small" world of each individual) rests.

The Colel Chabad philanthropies, namely, the Tzedoko that has been so closely linked with our Holy Land ever since it was founded by the Founder of Chabad, is an especially cherished cause. The Dinner celebration of its 200th anniversary offers an excellent opportunity to identify oneself with our Holy Land and with our needy brethren there in a most meaningful way. The Z'chus of it will certainly stand everyone in good stead.

With prayerful wishes to each and all of you, and to the Guests of Honor in the forefront, for a Chasimo uGmar Chasimo Toivo for a good and sweet year, materially and spiritually, and

With esteem and blessing,

/Signed: M. Schneerson/

By the Grace of G-d,
12th of Elul, 5750
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
Dinner Event of the
Friends of Colel Chabad-Lubavitch

Greeting and Blessing!

I was pleased to be informed of the forthcoming event, taking place on Sunday, the 26th of Elul. I extend congratulations and prayerful wishes to the distinguished honorees and all participants.

It is significant that this event is taking place in the auspicious month of Elul, the last month of the outgoing year, which is a time of preparedness for Rosh Hashanah and the entire new year.

We are also in the *fortieth* year of the passing of my saintly predecessor, my father-in-law the Rebbe.

The Torah tells us that everyone in the 40th year of his activities (studies, activities), attains a deeper knowledge, a keener perception, and a fuller appreciation of the eternal values, in which he has been and is involved.

It follows from the above, that such understanding and appreciation calls for new dimensions in terms of one's dedication and participation in the ongoing and expanding activities and institutions that have been founded by the Rebbe and are conducted in his spirit and guidelines.

Moreover, the current year תשי"נ, which has been designated as a year of *Nissim* (miracles), adds a further meaning to the message relating to the event. In Loshon HaKodesh, the word *Nes* (miracle) also means a flagpole, or banner, which is used as an effective means of rallying people together for a common purpose. And, of course, the common purpose of all Jews is to make this world a fitting "dwelling place" for HaShem – in our heart and mind, in our home and in our community, and in the world at large.

With all the above in mind, I am confident that each and all of the participants, will take the fullest advantage of the enormous opportunities that you have to expand and intensify the ongoing activities and programs of Colel Chabad.

With prayerful wishes, for Hatzlocho in all above, and for a good and sweet year, both materially and spiritually, and

With esteem and blessing,
/Signed: M. Schneerson/

By the Grace of G-d,
15th of Kislev, 5752
Brooklyn, N.Y.

To All Participants in the
Annual Dinner of
Colel Chabad

Greeting and Blessing!

In response to the notification of the forthcoming Dinner, taking place on Sunday, the 17th of Kislev, I extend congratulations to the Honorees, Chairman, Co-Chairmen, distinguished guests and all friends of Colel Chabad, on reaching this significant milestone.

Especially so since the current Jewish year is a **Leap Year**.

The significance of a Leap Year has been explained on previous occasions, as have the practical lessons we can learn from it. We shall here discuss one point that especially relates to this gathering: the subject of "giver" – the sun – and "receiver" – the moon. During a Leap Year the two meet together, thereby reconciling the difference between the solar year and lunar year, and accomplishing the Divine intention that Pesach always be in the Month of Aviv – springtime.

The main point of this is that, through the mutual effect upon each other, namely the "giver" and "receiver" – the "giver" simultaneously also being a "receiver" and the "receiver" also a "giver" – the two become one, thereby fulfilling the Divine design for both of them, and for the world as a whole.

This point is particularly outstanding in regard to outreach activities, where the "giving" is primarily from the "Giver" – to the one who is the "Receiver". That is why it is especially important that the "giving" be in the fullest possible measure, quantitatively and qualitatively: the Torah and Mitzvos implanted in the receiver should not be merely by force of habit, but should permeate their thoughts, speech and actual deeds so that this is reflected in his daily conduct – in fear of G-d, improved character traits and so on, so that it be evident – at home, at shul and also in the street – that this is a product of an activity on high standards of holiness.

In order that the "giving" be even more complete, givers, educators and counselors should bear in mind that they are, at the same time, also "receivers" – and to a tremendous extent, incomparably more than the effort and work they invest in their students. Indeed, who can estimate

the merit and reward associated with the sacred work of assisting the Almighty's "kinder," children of the Supreme King of Kings, the Holy One, blessed be He?

However, in order that these activities be able to fulfill its responsibilities in the best possible way, it has to rely upon yet another class of "givers" – Torah-supporters who understand the value of Torah education and the preciousness of Jewish men, women and children.

With all the above in mind, I am confident that each and all of the participants, will take the fullest advantage of the enormous opportunities that you have to expand and intensify the ongoing activities and programs of Colel Chabad.

And, in this connection, there is an added dimension to this year, in that it is a complete and full year (with the most amount of days), which teaches us – reminds us – that one is to accomplish his utmost in good deeds.

And especially being that we find ourselves in the year 5752, in Hebrew ה'תשנ"ב, whose Hebrew letters form an acronym **הי' תהא שנת נפלאות בכל** מכל כל ("this will be a year of wonders 'in all things,' 'by all things,' with 'all things,'") G-d Almighty will surely grant all of you a wondrous year of goodness in all matters material and spiritual.

With esteem and with blessings for success
and for good tidings in all the above,
/Signed: M. Schneerson/