

*File Excellence*

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, AUTHOR OF ALL LIFE, HOPE, CARE, AND CONCERN WHO HAS CREATED EACH OF US WITH THE NEED TO EXCEL AND WITH THE NEED TO BELONG, GRANT THAT AS

<sup>ALL</sup> WE GATHER HERE TODAY AT THIS Z.O.A. SOUTHWEST REGIONAL MEETING WE WILL ALL ALWAYS *Be mindful*

*of the fact* REALIZE THAT THE WORD ZIONIST COMES FROM THE WORD TSIYAIN WHICH MEANS TO BE DISTINGUISHED, <sup>and also to MARK or indicate</sup> TO BE EXCELLENT. O LORD, LET ALL OF US WHO ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY ~~BE EVER MINDFUL~~ <sup>ALWAYS</sup> Realize

~~OF THE FACT~~ THAT OUR STRIVING AS ZIONISTS IS A STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE, THAT ~~THE WORD~~ <sup>OUR Zionism</sup>

<sup>is an</sup> ZIONIST ~~ALSO BEARS~~ INDICATION, THAT IF WE PURSUE EXCELLENCE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME <sup>link our <sup>eyes</sup> to TRADITIONS</sup>

NEVER SACRIFICING OUR PEOPLE ~~IT IS AN INDICATION THAT~~ <sup>we</sup> JEWS WILL SURVIVE AND JUDAISM FLOURISH. O LORD, LET NONE OF US EVER FLAG IN HIS OR HER EFFORTS TO SEE TO IT THAT

OUR PEOPLE REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND THAT ~~THROUGH THE EXCELLENCE OF TSIYON~~ <sup>Israel, <sup>optimizes</sup> ~~be~~</sup>

*excellence so it* ~~WE~~ WILL BE A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS AND AN INDICATION TO ALL OF HOW TO PURSUE THE <sup>moral just happy</sup>

*Israel* <sup>GOOD</sup> LIFE. MAY ISRAEL SOON KNOW PEACE, AND MAY WE ALL BY WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE

~~WE~~ TRULY EXCELLENT BE DRAWN CLOSER TO OUR ROOTS, TO EACH OTHER, AND THUS TO THEE.

AMEN.

Excellence

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, THE SOURCE OF ALL HISTORY, THE AUTHOR OF ALL LIFE, AND THE CREATOR OF TIME, WHO HAS CHOSEN THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO BE HIS PARTICULAR INSTRUMENT IN PERFECTING THE WORLD AND WHO HAS ENDOWED EACH OF US WITH A PAST WHICH SHOULD HELP US TO DETERMINE THE COURSE OF OUR FUTURE AND WITH A FUTURE WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS BE LOOKED ON AS A PERSONAL CHALLENGE, GRANT THAT AS WE ALL GATHER HERE TONIGHT AT THIS Z.O.A. SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION, WE WILL ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT WITHOUT A DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PAST WE WILL HAVE NO FUTURE, THAT OUR SURVIVAL AS THE JEWISH PEOPLE DEPENDS ON OUR FORGING TIGHT BONDS WITH OUR PAST SO THAT OUR PRESENT SHOULD NOT DISINTEGRATE AND OUR FUTURE SHOULD NOT DISAPPEAR. GRANT, O LORD, THAT OUR SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL SHOULD NEVER WAVER FOR ONLY IN IT DO WE HAVE THE PROPER TOOLS TO LINK OUR FUTURE WITH OUR PAST. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US WILL UNDERTAKE TO BECOME FLUENT IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE SO THAT WE ALL INDIVIDUALLY CAN TAP OUR RICH HERITAGE IN BUILDING OUR FUTURE. GRANT, ALSO, O LORD, THAT WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE WORD ZION, ZIONIST COMES FROM THE HEBREW ROOT WHICH MEANS TO BE EXCELLENT. MAY WE NEVER FORSAKE EXCELLENCE IN ANY FIELD, IN MORALITY, DUTY, RESPONSIBILITY, THE ARTS, SCIENCE, OR RELIGION SO THAT WE WILL ALWAYS TRULY FULFILL OUR ROLE AND BE A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US WILL SUPPORT ISRAEL WITH ALL THE PHYSICAL MEANS AT HIS OR HER DISPOSAL BECAUSE WITHOUT A HEALTHY, STRONG BODY THE JEWISH SOUL CANNOT LONG ENDURE. BUT LET US ALSO AT THE SAME TIME ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT TRUE ACHIEVEMENT AND GREATNESS COME FROM THE SPIRIT AND NOT THE BODY. MAY WE ALL ALSO REALIZE THAT EACH OF US MUST CONTRIBUTE THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR PEOPLE'S SPIRIT BY PERSONAL DEDICATION TO ITS IDEALS AS PRACTICES AS WELL AS BY PUBLIC AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS. MAY THE DAY SOON COME WHEN THE CHALLENGE OF OUR FUTURE WILL NO LONGER BE THE SHEER SURVIVAL OF OUR PEOPLE BUT HOW BEST WE CAN SHARE THE TEACHINGS OF OUR WONDERFUL HERITAGE WITH ALL PEOPLE. BLESS, O LORD, THE DAGANIS, THIS WONDERFUL DEDICATED COUPLE WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR THE PEOPLE DURING THE PAST YEARS. GRANT THEM LONG LIFE AND CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH SO THAT THEY MAY HELP THEE IN THIS GREAT WORK. AND MAY WE ALL BY WORKING TOGETHER MERIT A NEW YEAR OF HEALTH, HAPPINESS, PROSPERITY, AND SELF-FULFILLMENT AND THUS BE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND TO THEE. AMEN.

*Excellence*

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, AUTHOR OF ALL LIFE, HOPE, CARE, AND CONCERN, THE SOURCE OF ALL INSPIRATION AND THE CREATOR OF ALL MEN WHO HAS CREATED EACH OF US WITH THE NEED TO EXCEL AND WITH THE NEED TO BELONG, GRANT THAT AS WE ALL GATHER HERE TOGETHER TODAY AT THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL MEETING WE WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT THESE TWO BASIC NEEDS ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE BUT THAT THEY ARE COMPLIMENTARY. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US HERE WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT WE MUST

LET EVERYONE DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IF WE ARE TO HAVE A SOCIETY <sup>in which which</sup> ~~AND THAT IT IS ONLY IF WE HAVE A SOCIETY WHERE EACH FEEL THEY BELONG CAN WE HAVE A SOCIETY WHICH IS~~ WHICH IS HARMONIOUS, DYNAMIC, CREATIVE, AND DEMOCRATIC. O LORD, LET US ALL REALIZE THAT THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN KEEP PEOPLE DOWN IS TO ~~YOURSELF DOWN~~ <sup>and lower</sup> YOURSELF DOWN. LET US ALWAYS WANT TO RISE ~~TO DO BETTER NOT TO WORRY~~ <sup>let us all always realize</sup> ABOUT WHETHER OTHER ~~PERSON'S~~ <sup>person's</sup> EXCELLENCE THREATENS US BUT RATHER HOW THE ~~OTHER PERSON'S~~ <sup>other person's</sup> EXCELLENCE CAN HELP US. GRANT, O LORD, THAT IN OUR

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE NONE OF US WILL EVER SACRIFICE OUR HUMANITY, OUR COMPASSION, <sup>OR</sup> OUR FEELINGS FOR OTHERS. WE NEED TO BELONG, ~~EACH OF US~~ <sup>we</sup> NEEDS ROOTS. ~~EACH OF US~~ <sup>we</sup> NEEDS SECURITY BEFORE WE CAN EXCEL. WE

NEED PEOPLE TO BRING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO. GRANT, O LORD, THAT ~~ALL OF US WILL REALIZE THAT WE ALL BELONG TO ONE FAMILY AND THAT WE SHOULD~~ <sup>all of us will always</sup> TAKE PRIDE IN EACH OTHER, <sup>and</sup> THAT OUR STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE ~~SHOULD NOT~~ <sup>will never</sup>

CAUSE US TO EITHER BREAK WITH OUR PAST OR WITH OUR FAMILIES BECAUSE IT IS OUR FAMILIES, OUR TRADITIONS, AND OUR PAST WHICH GIVES US <sup>the</sup> STRENGTH TO DO EXCELLENTLY IN THE FUTURE. O LORD, BLESS THE WORK

OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION WHICH STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE WITHOUT CUTTING ITSELF OFF FROM ITS JEWISH PAST. GRANT THAT ITS EFFORTS WILL BE CROWNED WITH SUCCESS AND THAT ~~ALL MEN WILL LOOK AT EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND THAT EVERYONE WILL REALIZE THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER~~

WE SATISFY NOT ONLY OUR NEED FOR EXCELLENCE BUT OUR NEED FOR BELONGING <sup>also</sup> AND ~~THAT BY DOING WE ARE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND, THUS,~~ <sup>may well working together cause us to be</sup> TO THEE. AMEN.

TO THEE. AMEN.

אני רוצה לומר לך שאתה יכול להיות גאוני ואתה יכול להיות חכם ואתה יכול להיות מוכשר ואתה יכול להיות מפורסם ואתה יכול להיות מוערך ואתה יכול להיות מרובץ

*excels*

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, AUTHOR OF ALL LIFE, HOPE, CARE, AND CONCERN, THE SOURCE OF ALL INSPIRATION AND THE CREATOR OF ALL MEN WHO HAS CREATED EACH OF US WITH THE NEED TO EXCEL AND WITH THE NEED TO BELONG, GRANT THAT AS WE ALL GATHER HERE TOGETHER ~~TODAY~~ AT THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL MEETING WE WILL ALL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT THESE TWO BASIC NEEDS ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE BUT THAT THEY ARE COMPLIMENTARY. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US HERE WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT WE MUST LET EVERYONE DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IF WE ARE TO HAVE A SOCIETY IN WHICH EVERYONE CAN FEEL THEY BELONG AND ~~FEEL~~ ONLY IF WE HAVE A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYONE ~~CAN FEEL~~ THEY BELONG ~~CAN WE~~ HAVE A SOCIETY WHICH STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE AND WHICH IS HARMONIOUS, DYNAMIC, CREATIVE, AND DEMOCRATIC. O LORD, LET US ALL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN KEEP PEOPLE DOWN IS TO STOOP DOWN AND LOWER YOURSELF. LET US ALL ALWAYS, O LORD, NEVER WANT TO STOOP BUT TO RISE. LET NONE OF US EVER FEEL THREATENED BY ANOTHER PERSON'S EXCELLENCE. LET US ALL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT EXCELLENCE CAN ONLY ELEVATE US ALL. GRANT, O LORD, THAT IN OUR PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE NONE OF US WILL EVER SACRIFICE OUR HUMANITY, OUR COMPASSION, OR OUR FEELINGS FOR OTHERS. GRANT THAT WE WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT WE NEED TO BELONG, THAT WE NEED ~~ROOTS~~ THAT EACH OF US NEEDS THE SECURITY OF BELONGING BEFORE WE CAN EXCEL. WE NEED PEOPLE TO BRING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO. GRANT, O LORD, THAT ~~WE~~ ALL OF US WILL ALWAYS TAKE PRIDE IN EACH OTHER AND THAT OUR STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE WILL NEVER CAUSE US TO EITHER BREAK WITH OUR PAST OR WITH OUR FAMILIES BECAUSE IT IS OUR FAMILIES, OUR TRADITIONS, AND OUR PAST WHICH GIVES US THE STRENGTH TO DO EXCELLENTLY ~~IN THE FUTURE~~. O LORD, BLESS ~~also~~ <sup>our brave thought</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>who in her life has exemplified the best in our tradition by her constant giving of her self.</sup> ~~work~~ OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION WHICH STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE WITHOUT CUTTING ITSELF OFF FROM ITS JEWISH PAST. GRANT THAT ITS EFFORTS WILL BE CROWNED WITH SUCCESS AND THAT ALL OF US WILL ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER WE SATISFY NOT ONLY OUR NEED FOR EXCELLENCE BUT ALSO OUR NEED FOR BELONGING AND MAY ~~OUR~~ <sup>we by</sup> WORKING TOGETHER ~~CAUSE US TO~~ BE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND, THUS, TO THEE. AMEN.

*our brave thought who in her life has exemplified the best in our tradition by her constant giving of her self.*

*Bless Muriel Folger*