

Jewish Federation

Fund Raising

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, CREATOR OF ALL LIFE, THE REDEEMER AND ROCK OF ISRAEL, THE SOURCE OF ALL HOPE AND INSPIRATION WHO HAS CREATED EACH OF US WITH THE DESIRE TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS FOR OURSELVES ^{and} ~~AND~~ ^{with the desire} ALSO TO TRANSCEND AND BE PART OF SOMETHING GREATER THAN OURSELVES, GRANT THAT AS WE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER HERE TONIGHT TO INSTALL THE NEW OFFICERS OF OUR JEWISH FEDERATION AND ^{have subjected to} ~~WE~~ HEAR A GREAT JEWISH LEADER, ~~(THAT)~~ WE WILL BE EVER MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT ~~THE~~ TWIN GOALS OF DOING GREAT THINGS FOR OURSELVES AND BEING PART OF SOMETHING GREATER THAN OURSELVES ARE NOT CONTRADICTORY BUT ^{are} COMPLIMENTARY, THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS FOR OURSELVES ^{and to transcend ourselves is} ~~IS~~ TO BE PART OF AN ENTERPRISE SUCH AS THE JEWISH FEDERATION WHICH REACHES ^{has the potential for} OUT AND TRANSCENDS ^{ing} ALL OUR LIVES ^{that by} ~~AS TO~~ BE A VEHICLE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE ^{it takes on many dimensions} GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH ARE NOT TIED TO OTHERS, ^{to} CAUSES ~~BEYOND~~ OURSELVES, ARE STERILE AND THAT HOPES WHICH ARE NOT TRANSLATED INTO ACTION ARE FRUSTRATING AND USELESS. MAY WE ALL ^{that even} ~~QUICKLY REALIZE~~, O LORD, THAT OUR OWN SELF FULFILLMENT CAN ONLY COME FROM GIVING AND TYING OURSELVES TO THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF OTHERS, ^{the hopes of} ESPECIALLY OUR OWN PEOPLE. GRANT, O LORD, THAT NOT ONLY WILL WE FIND PERSONAL SELF FULFILLMENT THROUGH WORKING FOR THE JEWISH FEDERATION AND FOR SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS BUT THAT THROUGH OUR WORK IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS WE WILL BRING THE DAY CLOSER WHEN PEACE, ABUNDANCE, HARMONY, AND ^{fulfillment} GOODNESS WILL FILL OUR GLOBE. ^{The Day when} ~~MAY~~ ISRAEL AND THE WORLD ^{will} ~~SOON~~ KNOW TRUE PEACE, ^{Prosperity & happiness and} ~~AND~~ MAY WE ALL BY OUR DEDICATION TO ^{to these} ~~OUR~~ JEWISH ^{Goals} ~~IDEALS~~ BE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND THUS TO THEE.

Jewish Federation

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, SOURCE OF ALL OUR POWER AND STRENGTH, WHO UPHOLDS THOSE THAT FALL AND HEALS THOSE THAT ARE SICK AND FREES THOSE THAT ARE BOUND, WHO HAS CREATED MAN WITH GREAT ENERGY AND PASSION WHICH HE CAN USE EITHER TO SERVE THEE OR TO CROWN HIMSELF AS A GOD, GRANT THAT AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY AT THIS JEWISH FEDERATION FUNCTION, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH IS DEDICATED TO HELP MAN FREE HIMSELF FROM THE FETTERS OF POVERTY, IGNORANCE, CRUELTY, AND SELF-DELUSION, ~~WE WILL~~ ^{ALL ALIBYS} WE WILL REMEMBER THE PLIGHT OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BRUTALIZED AND HAVE BEEN MADE PRISONERS EITHER BY THE DELIBERATE DESIGNS OF ~~THE~~ ^{own} HATEFUL GOVERNMENTS WHO ~~WISH~~ ^{Wish} TO ENSLAVE AND EMPOVERISH THEIR PEOPLE OR BY RULERS WHO DELUDE THEMSELVES INTO THINKING THAT THEY ARE GOD, GRANT, O LORD, THAT OUR IRANIAN HOSTAGES WILL SOON BE FREE, THAT THE CAMBODIAN HOLOCAUST THROUGH STARVATION ^{Quickly} WILL COME TO AN END, THAT SOVIET JEWS WHOSE ONLY CRIME IS THAT THEY ~~WISH~~ ^{Wish} TO IMMIGRATE WILL BE SET FREE AND THAT ~~ALL~~ ^{son} OF US WILL NEVER FALTER IN OUR EFFORTS TO HELP THOSE WHO ~~WISH~~ ^{MUST} BURST THEIR BONDS OF POVERTY, EMOTIONAL TURMOIL, IGNORANCE, ~~AND~~ ^{OR} DISEASE. BLESS, O LORD, THE WORK OF THIS FINE ORGANIZATION THAT ALL WHO PARTICIPATE IN IT KNOW THE FEELING OF SELF-FULFILLMENT THAT COMES FROM DOING THY WORK. GRANT THAT ~~THE~~ ^{Thy} WORK OF FREEING MAN WILL CONTINUE AND BE EXPANDED AND ~~THAT~~ ^{as individuals} THAT EACH OF US WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT WE ~~ARE LIMITED~~ ^{we can with} AND ~~THAT WE CAN~~ ^{all decent men} OVERTHROW THY HELP AND THE HELP OF ~~OTHERS~~ ^{Justice, truth, mercy & compassion and let all} WE OVERCOME OUR PROBLEMS. LET HATRED CEASE. LET ~~JUSTICE~~ ^{In the past} PREVAIL. MAY LEADERSHIP ~~ARISE~~ ^{for the sake} ARISE THROUGHOUT THE ^{whole} WORLD LIKE THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED FROM PRESIDENT FORD WHO RECOGNIZED THAT NO MAN IS SO RIGHT THAT HE CAN, ~~IN THE NAME~~ ^{for the sake} OF ANY CAUSE, DISPENSE WITH ~~JUSTICE~~ ^{freely & elegantly}. May the Jewish Federation go from strength to strength. - And may we all by coming & contributing tonight bring forth & bring forward thy spirit of goodness & hope.

Jewish Federation

O LORD, MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, CREATOR OF ALL LIFE, THE REDEEMER AND ROCK OF ALL MAN, THE SOURCE OF ALL HOPE AND INSPIRATION, THE AUTHOR OF BOTH FREEDOM AND THE DESIRE

TO ~~COUNT~~ ^{all US} AND BE ACCOUNTABLE, WHO HAS CREATED ~~MAN~~ ^{with the desire to do to be made} WITH THE STRONG DESIRE TO LEAVE ~~HIS~~ ^{OUR} MARK ON THE WORLD AND ALSO THAT ~~THIS~~ ^{love} MARK SHOULD BENEFIT NOT ONLY ~~HIMSELF~~ ^{our} BUT ALSO ALL HUMANITY, GRANT THAT AS WE ~~GATHER HERE TODAY AT~~ ^{love} THIS JEWISH FEDERATION FUNCTION WE WILL ~~ALWAYS~~ ^{all} BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT BY GIVING WE NOT ONLY HELP OTHERS BUT WE ALSO

FULFILL OURSELVES. GRANT, O LORD, THAT WE WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT THE ONLY ~~THING~~ ^{accomplishments} ~~MAKES~~ ^{goodness} WE ~~REALLY~~ ^{Really} ~~MAKE~~ ^{make} ~~IN THE WORLD~~ ^{in the world} ARE THE GOOD DEEDS WE DO, ~~JUST AS THERE IS A LAW OF CONSERVATION~~ ^{that we will always be mindful of the fact that}

OF ENERGY AND MATTER THERE IS ALSO A LAW OF THE CONSERVATION OF GOODNESS, THAT NONE OF THE ~~GOODNESS~~ ^{Deeds of loving kindness} THAT WE DO IS EVER LOST, ~~IT~~ ^{that} REMAINS ~~THERE~~ ^{as a base} ADDING TO THE GOODNESS THAT ~~WAS~~ ^{us} ~~BRINGS~~ ^{as a base} CLOSER THE DAY WHEN ALL MAN SHALL WANT NO MORE, ~~ALL~~ ^{when} PEOPLE SHALL BE FREE AND EVIL AND

IGNORANCE SHALL BE BANISHED FROM THE EARTH. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US HERE TODAY WILL ~~REMEMBER~~ ^{Never forget} THAT THIS IS THE FINEST MARK WE CAN MAKE ON THE WORLD, THAT BY GIVING WE NOT ONLY BRING ~~THE~~ ^{close} REDEMPTION BUT WE BRING ~~A~~ ^{to ourselves, a self fulfillment} SELF-FULFILLMENT WHICH TRANSCENDS OURSELVES AND MAKES US MORE THAN OURSELVES. ~~ALL~~ ^{Grate O Lord Grant that} ~~THOSE~~ ^{just as we find inner peace by giving} WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS OF OUR GIVING KNOW PEACE, ~~ESPECIALLY~~ ^{and also me of freedom} ~~ISRAEL,~~ ^{especially} ~~AND~~ ^{of our hostages in Iran and that we are of the beleaguered people of Israel among} ~~WE~~ ^{AND} ~~MAY~~ ^{we} BY GIVING ALSO ~~FIN~~ ^{bring} ~~OTHER~~ ^{inner} PEACE

~~AND~~ BE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND THUS TO THEE. AMEN.

YAVNEH AWARD 1999
Rabbi Joseph Radinsky

I am reminded of the story they tell about a group of Chassidim who took their rebbe to see for the first time a train. He looked at the train as it passed, a steam engine pulling 100 cars, and he looked up and said, "This is wonderful." His Chassidim looked at him and asked, "Why is it wonderful?" and he said, "Because you see one hot car can pull 100 cold cars."

Enthusiasm is a necessary ingredient to teach Judaism. One enthusiastic teacher can turn on hundreds of students to Judaism. I thank you very much for giving me this Yavneh Award. Our family has always been enthusiastic about Jewish education. I am glad that my mother is here today. Her father, my grandfather, Abe Silver, was one of the three people who started a day school in Seattle, the Seattle Hebrew Academy, and my father, Jack Radinsky, was its first president. As you all know, my daughter Devora Urkowitz is the Judaic Coordinator of Beth Yeshurun, and my son-in-law, Rabbi Mark Urkowitz, teaches at the Academy and is our congregation's NCSY Youth Director. My son, Elie, is a rabbi, and although he works in the financial world, he still teaches adult education classes, and my daughter, Dena, has taught Sunday school, so we have four generations in Jewish education. As for my wife, what can I say? At one time I became very ill and contracted many expenses, and I

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left the rabbinate and worked for Boeing for a while. When I decided that I would like to go back to the rabbinate, it turned out the job that was offered to me was half the pay that I was getting at Boeing. Everyone told me to stay in the business world except my wife, so you see, if it would not be for my wife, I would be making airplanes today, and that is the plain truth.

As you all know, the Yavneh Award is named after the city Yavneh, which was saved by Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai after the destruction of the Temple, to be a haven for all the scholars in Israel. When Veshpasion besieged Jerusalem, things were going from bad to worse. The Jews in the city were even fighting among themselves. The zealots had burned the grain stores so the people would fight harder. There were assassinations and battles between Jewish groups. Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai had himself smuggled out of Jerusalem in a coffin. The zealots would not let anybody leave Jerusalem unless they were dead. He was brought before Veshpasion. When he saw Veshpasion, he said, "Hail, Emperor." Veshpasion became angry and said, "How dare you call me Emperor! I am only a general." Just at that moment, a courier came from Rome and proclaimed Veshpasion Emperor. Veshpasion turned to Rabbi

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Yochanan Ben Zakai and said, "I will give you anything you want because you hailed me as Emperor." Rabbi Yochanan asked for three things: for Yavneh with its scholars; for the life of Gamliel, a descendant of Hillel; and for a doctor for Shmuel Hakoton, who had fasted for 40 years to prevent the destruction of Jerusalem. On Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai's deathbed he was worried. He did not know whether he was going to go to heaven or not. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi Yochanan, you of all people are worried?" He answered, "I do not know if I made the right choice. Veshpasion said I could have anything I wanted, and even Rabbi Akiva asked me, 'Why didn't you ask for Jerusalem?' and it has bothered me ever since then. Why didn't I ask for Jerusalem?" We all know that perhaps Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai did not ask for Jerusalem because he felt that if he would ask for too much, he would get nothing, but maybe there is a deeper reason why he did not ask for Jerusalem, and that is that perhaps he knew that we Jews were not deserving or prepared to keep Jerusalem. We were fighting among ourselves. There was no Jewish unity. There was only senseless hatred.

The Jews of that era did not have enough Jewish education. They did not know

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that despite their differences, they had to get along. We all hope and pray that during these past almost 2000 years, we have learned something. We have learned the lessons of Yavneh, that we have to have Jewish unity, that we must respect each other and care for each other, even if we do not always agree with each other.

Thanks again for this Yavneh Award. I hope and pray that Jewish education will flourish and that all Jews will understand the importance of caring and loving each other so that the Jerusalem of today will truly signify such unity so that the Mashiach will come quickly in our day. Amen.