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I. GREETING.

- A. Pleasure to be with you on this first Annual Chanukah Banquet since my coming to Springfield. All this past year - $11\frac{1}{2}$ months - have had series of "firsts" - 1st High Holidays, Purim, Simchas Torah etc. This is the "last of my firsts", for in a very short time I will have completed the first cycle in Kodimoh.
- B. Ordinarily, would say it is inappropriate to have a Kodimoh Festival, a purely Congregational celebration, on Chanukah. EIN ME'ARVIN SIMCHAH BE'SIMCHAH, ... so as not to detract from either one (thus, weddings on Cho.Hamoed, Purim etc.) But today both Kodimoh's personal and Isreal's national Chanukah Festivals coincide in essence: LO VA'CHAYIL VE'LO BA'KOACH KI IM BE'RUCHI AMAR HA'SHEM TZVA'OS. And what is all this if not a festivity in honor of our purpose which is the RUACH, the sprit of Torah and Judaism.

II. PROGRAM REVIEW AND PREVIEW.

- A. The program of Kodimoh - in its ritual, educational, administrative and auxilliary aspects - is actually the story of the implementation of that RUACH, that Divine-like spirituality, in all phases of our congregational life. All that has been done and that will be done, is geared to that premise that the primary function of a synagogue is nothing if not the advancement of the RUACH HA'SHEM TZVAOS, the advancement of Torah in the lives of those whom Kodimoh serves.
- B. I have been asked to present to you, in brief outline form, both a review of the past year and some previews of what we expect this coming year, Please G-d.I shall not, however, make that clean-cut division of review and preview, of last year and next year. At the present we are in a state of flux, of continuing activity and progress. A great Hebrew poet once said something which in English would be, "Today by tomorrow will be yesterday". Let us look upon Kodimoh's program as a continuous and unbroken program of implementing RUACH HA'SHEM, the Spirit of Judaism and Torah.

C. RITUAL

1. High Holidays. Pre-Slichos Social (type of Service, attendance, young people); Distribution of Honors with formality & dignity befitting the occasion; same principle in matter of notification of honors, the dress of the official and officers of the synagogue; Yizkor Service was made more true to its real aim by certain revisions.
2. Other. Bar Mitzvahs according to set pattern, no speeches; Torah Reading so that less time-consuming; additional Sunday morning Minyan-Breakfast. Plan to continue all this, improve from time to time; plan something special coming Shvuoth.
3. Friday Nite Late Services. Gave talks more character of lecture than sermon. Some new, young faces being seen. Attempted experiment whereby some changes introduced. I FAILED. THE EXPERIMENT DID NOT SUCCEED. As a result, we had to scrap the venture, at least for the present.

May I add, in passing, that I am not ashamed of admitting the failure. It is true that I am ~~fa~~ still far from satisfied with conditions as they are. But- and I hope others will understand me - I prefer to know in the future that I tried and failed that never to have tried at all. This holds true for all that I mention - much of what we attempt may fail. But at least we will have the satisfaction of having tried. It is far more honorable than doing nothing.

D. OTHER VENTURES.

1. Mr & Mrs Club. Meeting regumarly, new faces, new interest in things Jewish, hence Kodimoh.
2. Bulletin. Now biweekly. New format coming up soon. Book reviews, but a bit disappointed in lackadaisical attitude of our adults to their own education.
3. Adult Ed. Attempt to overcome this indolent attitude: now coopertaing Hebrew "ay School on two Hebrew courses. ~~Expect~~ Usual "shiurim" of Lomdei Torah proceeding in order. Expect announcement soon on new adult ed system with Center.

E. YOUTH WORK . Most NACHASS, most important work here.

1. When came had very little, less to work on.
2. Thank G-d: now, Junior Cong average from 50 to 65 kids, efficient & smooth; Senior Cong. just beginning; Bnei Mitzvah looks like it will pick up now; one Youth group 7-10 every Shabbos; Yaar Ganim - every Staunday, once or twice middle week, subtle education, dances, movies, game rooms; Sunday School better & more efficient;
3. Many more things planned for future. Matter of fact, STYMIED BECAUSE OF LACK OF SPACE. OUR ACTIVITY IS SUCH THAT WE ARE BURSTING AT SEAMS. THANK G-D.
4. In near future - Kodimoh Youth Bulletin, Kodimoh Yputh Council.

F. THANKS.

1. None of the things that have been done or will IYH be accomplished can be done single-handedly. It requires the talents and dedication of many, many individuals.
2. Time does not permit me to single out by name the many who have so nobly helped me in many of these projects. Many of those are here this afternoon.
3. But I do want to express my thanks in absentia to the Yeshiva University's Community Service Division, which has lent me materai l and ideas for the many varied aspects of our organizational work. I am proud of the extent to which my alma mater has and will continue to help me help Kodimoh.
4. But above all, let me just single out one person for honorable mention. He is one who had most to do with "breakin me in" to Springfield, with quietly and yet ably giving me his assistance and the benefit of his experience in meeting the many new people and new situations with which I was confronted this year. No Rabbi could ask for a better friend, trusted guide and refined Baalebas for a President. In his own modest, fine and personable way he symbolizes the difference between the lay leadersip of Orthodoxy today and that of several decades ago: It is the difference between enlightened leadership and the petty tyrants and empty autocrats who once held sway years ago. May G-d repay him and his family many many times for the kindness, the generosity, the true loyalty and abiding friendship which he has so unselfishly given me and my wife this past year.
Aaron Kurn, I thank you piblicly from the bottom of my heart.

III. INSTALLATION .

A. THE BOARD MEMBERS.

1. Chanukah represents not only a military victory, but a spiritual triumph as well. The reason for the title CHANUKAH is that in those days they celebrated the CHANUKAS HA'MIZBEIACH, the rededication of the Altar. Today we too indulge in a sort of CHANUKAS HAMIZBEIACH. It is the rededication of the ALTAR OF SERVICE, the Installation of those who minister at this Altar of Service. It is the CHANUKAS HA'BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
2. Call Names; ask to Rise.
3. The MIZBEIACH which is Kodimoh is in your keeping. You are entrusted with its safety and care. Like the Kohanim of old, do you too remember that the care of this Altar is not only a privilege but a heavy responsibility. Bring to this Altar of Service the diligence and vigilance upon which its safety depends; the solemn sense of dedication and loyalty which have imbued you with the willingness to accept the charge; the talents with which G-d has graced you.
4. Our Sages of old said: MIZBEIACH NIVRA LE'HAARICH YAMAV SHE'ADAM, the Altar was created to lengthen the days of man. May the Altar of Public Service at which you now rise to minister, ~~fill~~ lengthen your days and those of your dear ones; may it fill those days with the joy that comes from a selfless task well-done; with the happiness of a mission successfully achieved; and with the knowledge that you have served G-d and advanced the cause of Israel. May it bring a blessing into your homes, even as you strive to bring blessing into the lives of others.

B. THE GABBAIM.

1. Chanukah is one of two holidays on which we recite so-called thanksgiving prayers which we introduce with a short verse which reads: AL HA'NISSIM VE'AL HA'PURKON VE'AL HA'GVUROS V'AL HA'TESHUOS V'AL HA'MILCHAMOS SHE'ASSISA LA'AVOSEINU BA'YAMIM HA'HEIM BA'ZMAN HAZEH, We thank Thee for the Miracles, Redemption, Mighty Deeds, Triumphs and Battles, which Thou didst perform for our fathers in those days at this season.
2. I like to think that this verse describes as well the tasks and duties of our Kodimoh Officers.
3. First, AL HA'NISSIM. For the Miracles. To my mind it is a sheer miracle that a synagogue membership is not in revolt and does not violently depose its GABBAIM. I do not envy their duties. Imagine having to satisfy over 400 members, each and every one of whom is convinced that he has been purposely mistreated and should get Shlishi or Shishi or Maftir every other Shabbos. For the GABBAIM to still maintain their equanimity and Congregational Peace is a true miracle. It is even a miracle that they manage to multiply the Hosafos in geometric progression and still keep the Rabbi from complaining.
***ST: many kinds miracles...two Hassidim: My Rebbe miracle that G-d performs His will...yours: miracle he performs G-d's will....**Our Gabbaim are such that we expect them to be pious, knowledgeable Jews. The miracle is that G-d acts as a sort of super-Gabbai for them.
4. Call Names, Rise.
5. Your task, as Elders of Cong, a sacred one. Upon you depends the smooth and proper functioning SEDER HA'TEFILLAH. Go to your new duties with renewed vigor, dedication. Remain open new ideas, suggestions; so you can marshal all kinds of forces, talents & ideas for accomplishment your noble lofty goals. And even as you perform G-d's will...kids, grandkids.

C. SEC*TREAS.

1. Next in the list of AL HANISSIM is Purkon and Gevuros, Redemption and Mighty Deeds.
2. In our Biblical and Talmudic languages, PURKON, or Redemption, has, frequently, a financial interpretation, even as it sometimes does in English. It means "to pull through", "to keep out of trouble". The Treasurer of the Synagogue, the Chancellor of Kodimoh's Exchequer, is the guardian of Purkon, or our redemption.
3. The Secy of the Cong is the recorder of GEVUROS. He is our official historian. From his MINUTES do we glean the HOURS of GEVURAH, of Spiritual Strength, religious Fortitude and Jewish Progress of our Congregation.
4. Call Names, Rise
5. (to Treas). Remember that the monies which pass thru your hands are not just so many dollars; they represent the devotions of a community, the concretized loyalty of a congregation. It is not merely money; it is value - the kind of value that emanates not from a bankbook to a bank-acct, but from a prayerful heart to a Prayer-book and a House of Prayer. Let that knowledge be with you at all times. Let it lend to your mundane task the gracefulness of holiness. Let it imbue your mission with meaningfulness, and let it fill your life and the lives of your loved ones with the blessing which is your due.
6. (to Secy). Mr. Bernstein, your business in this administration is words. But a secy is more than a Recorder, a human dictaphone. Also a lever of the Board, who can by insight and intelligence use his talents for the good of the Cong. and the glory of the G-d of Israel.

Words, Bernie, can be more than hollow phrases and prosaically recording dry facts. Words are wings of the mind, born in the heart, shaped on the tongue and recorded in the Minutes of the Cong, but which have the capacity to soar in hard and enduring syllables in the hearts of those who have come to dwell in the shadow of this Cong. Use those words in that manner, so as to make them the records of GEVUROS, the mighty accomplishments of Kodimoh. Use them as pellets of meaning with which to spur on your colleagues to new horizons, greater vistas and deeper religious experience in this House of G-d.

May G-d be with you and your family, and may your home be blessed by Him.

D. V-Ps .

1. Must now instal 2 VPs.
2. VP is right-hand man Pres. Proper to refer to 2 VPs as the Two Right Hands of the Pres? - if so, not far Rabbi, Rebitzen: 2 left feet.
3. TESHUOS . Triumphs. Precisely what expected of those in whom resides the ~~fat~~ hope for the Cong's future Triumphs. VP as Pres' Executive officer expected acheive, accomplish and be successful. Upon them that devolves task transforming the idea into fact, the plan into reality. VP has reached next to highest level of leadership. Sign to his fellow workers that the VP is what we expect and hope of him is: PERFORMANCE - i.e. TESHUOS.
4. Call ~~Hi~~ White, Tillman.
5. Dr. Tillman: You not new this Cong. But this 1st time you have been honored by coreligionists, & honored them by accepting, this office. . You bring to it a personality clearly stamped with Sincerity, Loyal Devotions. We have no doubt you'll lend office Dignity & Distinction, Reliability & Loyalty. May you mix these ingredients well in the Crucible of your personality, add the catalyst of your own experience, and produce TESHUOS - unending religious Triumphs , Spiritual Victories, and health of soul & mind for the entire community, and not the least for you, your dear wife and your entire family.
6. Mr. WHITE, You seem to have endeared yourself to so many people in this Cong. We find in you a refreshing spirit combined with unfailijg loyalty to Kodimoh. We suspect that there where there is LIVELINESS, there will be found LIFE. Your TESHUOS, Triumphs, ahve been ~~many~~ and diverse.

As you continue in this role, we thank you for your service in the past with the Traditional Hebrew greeting which expresses the hope that you continue it w ever increasing vigor in the future: YE'YASHAR KOCHACH, May Your Strength Be Enhanced. May your Triumphs be many, and be greater. Let us conitnue to be warmed by your sincerity, your vitality, andthe appearance of Leadership qualoties in our younger ranks. With Patience, Love and Loyalty, remember that SOF HAKAVOD LAVO, that greater glories are yet to come.

The most appropriate change I can give you is the one G-d gave your namesake SOLOMON when he was installed as a Jewish leader, when he like you asked of G-d not riches, not personal gain, not even health, but something much more enduring:

"BECAUSE THOU HAST NOT ASKED FOR THYSELF LONG LIFE, OR RICHES, OR THE LIFE OF THINE ENEMIES, BUT HAS ASKED FOR THYSELF UNDERSTANDING AND WISDOM TO DISCERN JUSTICE, BEHOLD I HAVE DONE ACCORDING TO THY WORD, I ~~HAVE GIVEN THEE~~ SHALL GIVE THEE A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING HEART....AND I HAVE ALSO GIVEN THEE THAT WHICH THOU HAST NOT ASKED BOTH RICHES AND HONOR ALL THY DAYS. AND IF THOU WILT WALK IN MY WAYS, TO KEEP MY STATUTES AND MY COMMANDMENTS THEN I WILL LENGTHEN THY DAYS".

May G-d give all that to you, your dear wife, your entire family.

E. PRESIDENT.

1. Reread AL HA'NISSIM, translate (see P.3; III,B,1).
2. Miracles, Redemption, Might and Triumph are the expected accomplishments of the officers so far installed. But all - nought, if not for Leadership, Foresight & Vision President, who is the General in the MILCHAMOS HA'SHEM, the Wars of the Lord.

Indeed, it is true: Religious Leadership requires many of the hard qualities of military leadership: Vigilance, stamina, endurance to withstand opposition & criticism; courage to lead to new horizons; and a profound and unwavering commitment to the cause for which you are fighting.

Religious leadership, and Presidency of an ORTHODOX CONG in particular, means a continuing battle against a 3-eyed Monster: ~~that is~~

- * Indifference
- * Ignorance
- * Inertia

It is a grueling task, and the battle is never over. Of course, the President has with him the Rabbi, whose life is dedicated just to this battle, and his officers. But he, by himself, must be willing, able and dedicated to the task.

3. Sam Black, Rise.

4. As President Of an ORTHOD CONG, you must tread a dangerous path. You must work with the Rabbi in ensuring Dignity & decorum, without letting it ossify into stuffiness and mere formality.

You must make the Synagogue attractive, without violating its holy function and reducing to a merely gorgeous show-place. You must lead in a manner which will be satisfying w.o. appeasing, pleasing but not obsequious.

You must remember, as an Orthodox lay-leader of this year 1954, that your loyalties must transcend local institutions. Remember that if it were not for its embodiment of the principles of Torah, Kodimoh would not be worth our devotions. And that therefore your leadership must extend outward too, remembering that CHAVEIRIM KOL YISRAEL, that all Israel is one.

Above all, remember that you now represent an Orthodox Synagogue. To remember that at all times and under all conditions is a heavy burden and a wearying task.

But Kodimoh recognizes that in you it has found a valiant warrior in the MILCHAMOS HA'SHEM. It places in you its trust and confidence to guide its fortunes in this year to come. For it knows that you will do so in a most exemplary fashion, SHE'ASSISSA LA'AVOSEINU BA'YAMIM HA'HEIM. ~~BAZMAN HAZEH~~ for you have done so in years gone by. You have been battle-tested in the War for Torah, the War in which the secret weapons are Education, Goodness, Humility and Sympathy.

Now, BAZMAN HAZEH, this time, this year, go forth into that battle with the knowledge that your congregation is with you, and that G-d will be with you. We place Kodimoh, this Fortress of Judaism, this Citadel of Torah, in you keeping. Do it Justice. Keep aloft the banner of Judaism. May you reap the spoils of victory in success for Kodimoh, in blessing for your wife and your home, and in the rich rewards of satisfaction and happiness in the pursuance of our common noble aims.

Benediction . G-d grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change,
the courage to change the things we can;
and the wisdom to know the difference.