

Personal development

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 BE UNIQUE AND INDEPENDENT AND, AT THE SAME TIME, WITH THE DESIRE TO BE PART OF A FAMILY AND A PEOPLE AND TO DRAW STRENGTH AND COMFORT FROM THEM. GRANT THAT AS WE GATHER TOGETHER TONIGHT TO HONOR LIBBY AND ABRAM GELLER EACH OF US WILL BE EVER MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THESE TWIN DESIRES OF OURS ARE NOT CONTRADICTORY BUT COMPLIMENTARY. GRANT, O LORD, THAT EACH OF US WILL ALWAYS REALIZE THAT WE BECOME MORE UNIQUE AND EVEN MORE INDEPENDENT WHEN WE ASSUME MORE AND MORE RESPONSIBILITY. WE DEEPEN OUR OWN TALENTS AND DEVELOP OUR OWN PERSONALITIES AND WE DISCOVER FORCES WITHIN OURSELVES WHICH WE WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN ABOUT WHEN WE ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHERS, ESPECIALLY OUR FAMILY AND OUR PEOPLE. THE TRUTH IS THAT BY DOING FOR OUR PEOPLE NOT JUST REMAINING PASSIVE WE BECOME BETTER AND MORE DEVELOPED INDIVIDUALS. GRANT, O LORD, THAT WE WILL ALL OF US LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLE OF LIBBY AND ABRAM GELLER, THAT DEVOTION TO OUR PEOPLE AND TO ALL JEWISH CAUSES DEVELOP THEIR PERSONALITY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE AND THEIR SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE. MAY THEY BE GRANTED MANY, MANY MORE YEARS OF FRUITFUL LABOR IN THE CAUSES OF OUR COMMUNITY AND MAY ISRAEL BONDS, UNITED ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES, SOUTH TEXAS HEBREW ACADEMY, AND ZOA CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM THEIR ~~COUNSEL~~ FOR MANY YEARS. MAY WE ALL NEVER FLAG IN OUR DEVOTION AND DEDICATION TO OUR PEOPLE, AND MAY WE REALIZE THAT THE ISRAEL BONDS WE BUY NOT ONLY HELP ISRAEL BUT ALSO TRULY SERVE AS BONDS WHICH BIND US TO OUR PEOPLE AND DEVELOP US AS INDIVIDUALS. MAY ISRAEL AND THE WORLD SOON KNOW TRUE PEACE, AND MAY WE ALL, BY WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE, BE DRAWN CLOSER TO EACH OTHER AND, THUS, TO THEE. AMEN.