MEMENTO

From the Wedding Celebration of

Mendel and Schejna שיחי

Eisenbach

16 Cheshvan, 5787

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Mendel and **Schejna** שיחיו

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Produced by:

Rebbe Responsa

A project dedicated to collecting, digitizing, organizing, and providing access to the Rebbe's English letters

B"H

Foreword

With joy and gladness, we give thanks to Hashem for His kindness as we celebrate the Simcha of the marriage of our children, Mendel & Schejna שי'.

As is customary amongst Anash to share a memento of the occasion, based on the *Minhag* at the wedding of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin, we are honored to present this special *Memento*.

Included here is a collection of letters from the Rebbe in English, addressed to Mr. David Chase, who in 1988 spearheaded the construction of the Chabad House of the Chassan's maternal grandparents in West Hartford, Connecticut (see letter 9).

Thanks are due to the Chassan's brother, Moshe Eliyahu, for his help in procuring the letters.

Most of the letters are being printed here for the first time. These letters are reproduced from scans of the original. All titles, summaries, and footnotes are from the publisher.

It is our fervent hope and prayer that we go from this joyous occasion to the ultimate Simcha, the coming of Moshiach, speedily in our days.

The Eisenbach and Wilhelm Families

16 Cheshvan 5787

To enjoy a full collection of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's English letters, we encourage you to download the Rebbe Responsa app. With over 5,000 letters organized by both topic and date, the app makes finding the Rebbe's guidance and worldview on a vast array of topics simple and accessible.

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Mr. David Tuvia Chase

Philanthropist David Tuvia Chase (1929–2016) was a longtime supporter of the United Lubavitcher Yeshivoth in New Jersey, first in Newark and later in Morristown, and a founding member of the Machne Israel Development Fund.

Mr. Chase was a young teenager when he survived the Holocaust. Though he lost many relatives during the Holocaust, he remained a strong believer. He once said, "I have never questioned the will and existence of G-d."[1] In 1946, he immigrated to the United States and settled in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1952, he established Chase Enterprises. His business eventually brought him to Newark, New Jersey, where, in 1964, he purchased a department store chain headquartered there. There, he met Rabbi Moshe Herson (see letter 2 below), who invited him to be the guest of honor at the Lubavitch yeshivah's annual dinner.

In 1969, Rabbi Herson encouraged Chase to meet the Rebbe. That meeting grew into a close relationship, marked by extensive correspondence and private audiences. The Rebbe strongly encouraged Chase to assist the yeshivah, and this support eventually led to the purchase of a large campus in Morristown, New Jersey. The campus became home to the Rabbinical College of America (RCA), which houses the Lubavitch yeshivah, *Tiferes Bachurim*, a *cheder*, and a camp, and serves as the headquarters of Chabad in the state (see letters 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 below).

In 1981, the Rebbe asked Mr. Chase to put on tefillin every weekday. The Rebbe purchased three pairs for him: one for his home in Connecticut, one for his home in Florida, and one for his yacht. Before davening aboard the yacht, Mr. Chase would ask the captain which direction was east. This eventually inspired the captain to pray as well. The Rebbe recounted this incident during a *farbrengen* in Chase's presence and continued the story at a later *farbrengen*.[2] In addition, it

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[1] Dovid Zaklikowski, *Dear Rebbe: Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson corresponds with a singer, a writer, a sculptor & a Holocaust survivor* (Hasidic Archives, 2021), p. 181. See also the appendix below for a talk he delivered at the American gathering of Jewish Holocaust survivors.

[2] See *Dear Rebbe*, pp. 218–228.

seems that during another *farbrengen*, the Rebbe alluded to Chase, who was moved by the reference (see letter 5 below).

In 1985, at the inaugural meeting of the Machne Israel Development Fund, which was established to address Chabad Houses' financial difficulties and support their growth, the Rebbe suggested that Chase become the fund's chairman. From then on, Chase became one of the fund's leading forces and invited supporters to its gatherings. [3] In a letter to all participants at one of the fund's gatherings, the Rebbe added a personal handwritten blessing for Chase (see letter 10).

In one letter to Mr. Chase, the Rebbe wrote that Holocaust survivors are "living witnesses of G-d's miracles." The miracle is not only the survivors' survival, the Rebbe continued, but also their rehabilitation in their personal lives and the significant contribution "both materially and spiritually" that they make to society, "as this has been exemplified so well by yourself and your family."

The Rebbe concluded that there is an added dimension when the rehabilitation is done with "strong religious motivation and with pride in one's Jewishness — motivation, indeed conviction, that it is the duty and privilege of every Jew to work for the betterment of the society in which one lives."[4]

In this vein, Chase had spoken at the American gathering of Jewish Holocaust survivors. The Rebbe acknowledged to Chase that he read the speech in the N.Y. Times and encouraged that it be published also in regional newspapers (letter 6 below).

For an elaborate account of Mr. Chase's relationship with the Rebbe, see Dovid Zaklikowski, *Dear Rebbe* (Hasidic Archives, 2021), pp. 180–243. Two additional letters were provided by HasidicArchives.com.

For additional correspondence from the Rebbe to Chase, see the Rebbe Responsa app, letters dated 28 Tammuz, 5731, 26 Nissan, 5732, 30 Nissan, 5738, 20 Shevat, 5740, 12 Nissan and Rosh Chodesh Tammuz, 5741, 25 Elul, 5744. See also letter dated Erev Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Elul, 5744.

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[3] https://derher.org/wp-content/uploads/35-elul-5775-05.pdf

[4] For the entire letter, see the Rebbe Responsa app, letter dated 25 Elul, 5744.

1
Creating a Chain Reaction[5]

New year wishes; thanks for ensuring success of the dinner of the Rabbinical College of America; providing one generation of Torah education, has the merit of providing all future generations

By the Grace of G-d
28th of Elul, 5736
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. David Tuvia Chase
96 Highbridge Road
W. Hartford, Conn. 06117

Greeting and Blessing:

At this time, with the approach of Rosh Hashono, may the new year bring goodness and blessing to all our Jewish people. I send you and yours my prayerful wishes for a good and sweet year.

This is also a very timely occasion to express my sincere gratification at the very active and effective role that you had in ensuring the success of the annual dinner of the Rabbinical College of America, as has been reported to me.[6]

I was also impressed with your message which was published in the Souvenir Journal, and I am confident that it will be a source of inspiration to many in accordance with the saying of our Sages that "words coming from the heart penetrate the heart"[7] and are eventually effective. Indeed, this is also the purpose of Torah-true education, the goal of which is not only to imbue the students with the spirit of Torah and Mitzvoth to be expressed in the daily life and conduct, but to imbue them to such an extent that they, in turn, inspire others to follow in their footsteps, thus creating an endless chain reaction, as I had occasion to mention before. By the same token it is clear that the person who is instrumental in providing such a Torah education to the first generation of the students, has a share also in the Torah education of the subsequent generations for all times. The Zechus of it is simply inestimable.

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[5] Credit: Hasidic Archives.

[6] The Rebbe's message to the dinner is dated 15th of Elul, 5736, and can be accessed on the Rebbe Responsa app.

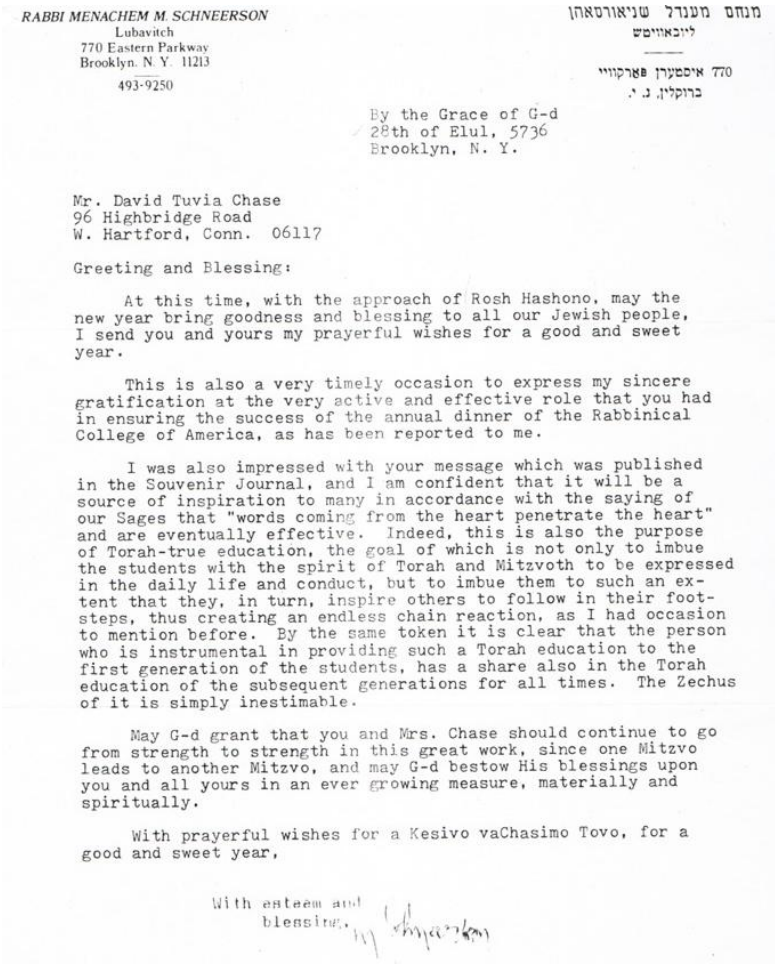
[7] *Sefer HaYashar* sha'ar 13.

May G-d grant that you and Mrs. Chase should continue to go from strength to strength in this great work, since one Mitzvo leads to another Mitzvo,[8] and may G-d bestow His blessings upon you and all yours in an ever growing measure, materially and spiritually.

With prayerful wishes for a Kesivo vaChasimo Tovo, for a good and sweet year,

With esteem and blessing,

M. Schneerson



RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש
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With esteem and blessing,

[8] See *Avos* 4:2.

2
Spiritual Success

Purim is a festival for the body and, more importantly, the soul; Yeshiva students are healthy both in body and in soul; have a mazaldik *success for the founders' dinner of the RCA*

By the Grace of G-d
9th of Adar, 5739
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. David Tuvia Chase
One Financial Plaza
Hartford, Conn. 06103

Greeting and Blessing:

From time to time I inquire after you through our mutual friend Rabbi Moshe Herson,[9] and I trust that he also conveys my regards to you.

While acknowledging the copy of your letter to Mr. I. Stone,[10] I am taking advantage of this opportunity to extend to you and yours best wishes for a joyous and inspiring Purim.

As you know, the joy of Purim is special in that it is not confined to the soul, but also calls for the body to share in it, as emphasized by the special Purim Seuda, etc. However, the essential aspect of Purim is, of course, the spiritual content of it, as expressed also in the words "For the Jews there was Light, Joy, Gladness and Honor"[11] which our Sages explain that, in addition to the plain sense of the words, their inner meaning is "Light — this is Torah," etc.[12] In your case this includes a growing measure of Hatzlocho in your dedicated work in behalf of the Rabbinical College of America, which is engaged in the Chinuch of the

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[9] Rabbi Moshe Herson (1934–2025) was the director of the Rabbinical College of America and was a leading Chabad representative in the state of New Jersey. Rabbi Herson was influential in forming and cultivating Mr. Chase's relationship with Lubavitch and the Rebbe.

[10] Mr. Irving I. Stone (5669–5760) was president of American Greetings, one of the world's largest greeting-card companies, and a major supporter of Jewish education. For letters from the Rebbe to Mr. Stone, see English letter dated Rosh Chodesh Menachem-Av, 5733, and letters referenced there.

[11] *Esther* 8:16.

[12] *Megillah* 16b.

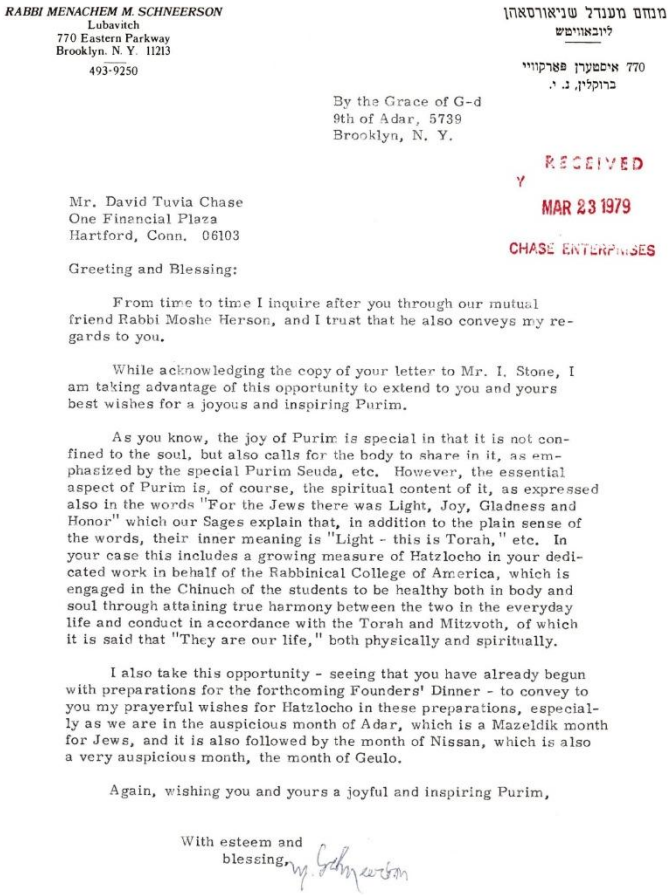
students to be healthy both in body and soul through attaining true harmony between the two in the everyday life and conduct in accordance with the Torah and Mitzvoth, of which it is said that "They are our life," both physically and spiritually.

I also take this opportunity — seeing that you have already begun with preparations for the forthcoming Founders' Dinner — to convey to you my prayerful wishes for Hatzlocho in these preparations, especially as we are in the auspicious month of Adar, which is a Mazeldik month for Jews, and it is also followed by the month of Nissan, which is also a very auspicious month, the month of Geulo.

Again, wishing you and yours a joyful and inspiring Purim,

With esteem and blessing

M. Schneerson



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ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d
9th of Adar, 5739
Brooklyn, N. Y.

RECEIVED
MAR 23 1979
CHASE ENTERPRISES

Mr. David Tuvia Chase
One Financial Plaza
Hartford, Conn. 06103

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3
“Landslide” Activities

Wishes for continued success in the cause of Yiddishkeit; lesson learned from the recent presidential landslide

By the Grace of G-d
25th of Cheshvan, 5741
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. David Tuvia Chase, LL. D.
1 Financial Plaza
Hartford, Conn. 06108

Greeting and Blessing:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence, especially your letter of Oct. 21st with the enclosures.

May G-d grant the fulfillment of your heart's desires for good, both in regard to yourself and your wife and family, as well as for continued Hatzlocho in your fruitful activities in the cause of Yiddishkeit and Torah education.

In keeping with the well known principle to the effect that a Jew should learn something useful from every event, I trust that your said activities will take the form of a "landslide," which is the expression that has been heard so often recently.[13]

Wishing you the utmost Hatzlocho in all your affairs, and looking forward to further good news from you both personal and general, and

With esteem and blessing,

M. Schneerson

[13] The Hebrew date of the letter corresponds to November 4th, which was the U.S. Presidential election day, when President Reagan defeated President Carter in winning 44 States and was widely reported as a “landslide.”

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By the Grace of G-d
25th of Cheshvan, 5741
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With esteem and
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M. Schneerson

4
News About the RCA

Good news, personal and communal, is always welcome; personal and public affairs go hand-in-hand and should steadily grow; permeate every day of the year with the joy of Simchas Torah

By the Grace of G-d
28th of Tishrei, 5742
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. David Tuvia Chase, LL. D.
1 Financial Plaza
Hartford, Conn. 06103

Greeting and Blessing:

Your letter of Sept. 24th reached me with a delay, but good news is always welcome, particularly when it is received at such an auspicious time as in proximity to the Festival of Our Rejoicing. The news was doubly gladdening because it included both your personal affairs as well as your activities in spreading Yiddishkeit, first and foremost through the Rabbinical College of America, one of the outstanding institutions which are conducted in the spirit of my father-in-law of saintly memory, at whose holy resting place you are remembered in prayer on propitious occasions.

May G-d grant that you should continue from strength to strength, with ever growing Hatzlocho in all above. There is no need to emphasize to you at length that for a Jew this includes growing achievements both in one's personal as well as public affairs, which go hand in hand together and support each other.

Especially as every Jew is now enriched and fortified with all the religious experiences of the festivals of Tishrei, which conclude with Simchas Torah — to permeate every day of the year with the joy of Torah and Mitzvoth.

With esteem and blessing,

M. Schneerson

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5
Being Singled Out

Extend the light of Chanukah to the whole year; Chanukah demonstrates transforming the physical into spiritual — the job of the Jew; pleased that you understood the comment; being an exemplary public worker on behalf of the RCA is ample reason to be singled out publicly

By the Grace of G-d
In the Days of Chanukah, 5742.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dr. David Tuvia Chase
1 Financial Plaza
Hartford, Ct. 06103

Greeting and Blessing:

I just received your letter of Dec. 17th which, like a good thing at the right time, reached me during these days of Chanukah. Many thanks for the good news it contained, and may the inspiration and brightness of Chanukah and its lasting message be felt throughout every day of the year, in a growing measure of commitment and dedication to the observance of Torah and Mitzvoth in the everyday life.

More than any other Mitzvo, the Mitzvo of kindling the Chanukah Lights exemplifies the special privilege which was given to every Jew to transform a material thing into something spiritual and holy which is even visible to the eye. And so are all matters of Torah and Mitzvoth which a Jew performs in the everyday life. To quote a well known saying of the Alter Rebbe, Founder of Chabad, whose day of Geulo we just observed on the 19th of Kislev: "G-d bestows material things upon a Jew, and the Jew transforms the material into spiritual."[14] May G-d grant that you should go from strength to strength in this reciprocal relationship.

With esteem and blessing,

M. Schneerson

P.S. With reference to your remarks at the beginning of your letter about "being singled out publicly"[15] — I am pleased to note that you

[14] See *HaYom Yom* 27 Teves.

[15] Chase's letter to the Rebbe was written two days after the Rebbe's 19 Kislev Farbrengen. Perhaps, during one of the talks, one of the Rebbe's comments was directed at Chase.

understood my comment. Nevertheless, your being a pillar of the Rabbinical College of America provides ample qualification for being singled out. Moreover, you are not just a pillar, but are also an example and inspiration to others, involving them, too, in supporting this great institution, and all this in a steadily growing measure, in the true spirit of the Chanukah Lights which are kindled in growing numbers from day to day.

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6
Holocaust Gathering Speech

Shavuos wishes; congratulations for substantive speech given in a good spirit; may the speech bring fruitful outcomes; the great advantage of the local press

By the Grace of G-d
4th of Sivan, 5743
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. David Tuvia Chase
1 Financial Plaza
Hartford, Ct. 06103

Greeting and Blessing:

With the approach of Shovuos, the Festival of Mattan Torah (Giving of the Torah), may it bring good and blessing to all our people Israel,

I extend to you my blessing in the traditional expression used by my venerable father-in-law of saintly memory, to receive the Torah with joy and inwardness.

With blessing,

M. Schneerson

P.S. I have just been handed the clipping of your Address delivered at the gathering of Jewish Holocaust survivors, which appeared in the New York Times.[16] Although I have been informed about it earlier, it now gives me the opportunity to congratulate you again, and doubly so, both on the contents of your address and the spirit in which it was delivered. Since our Sages tell us that "Words coming from the heart enter the heart and are eventually effective,"[17] I am certain that this will be so in connection with your address, and will bring additional Divine blessings in your activities to strengthen authentic Yiddishkeit, especially in the field of Torah education.

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[16] Throughout April 11-14, an American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors was held in Washington, with the participation of around twenty thousand survivors, among them well-known and influential survivors. The text of the address is published in the appendix, reproduced from the *Hartford Courant* (May 26, 1983 [14 Sivan, 5743]). The speech may have been reproduced there in connection with the Rebbe's request at the conclusion of this letter.

[17] *Sefer HaYashar* Sha'ar 13.

I trust that the address has also been published in local and regional media. It is not just a matter of added prestige, but very often the local press is more effective in such matters.

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7
In the "Business" of Helping Torah Education

Wishes for the new year for one who helps and inspires others to help Torah education; King in the field; new purchase of additional acreage; have success and continue in these fruitful endeavors

By the Grace of G-d
14th of Elul, 5743
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. David Tuvia Chase
96 Highbridge Rd.
W. Hartford, Ct. 06117

Greeting and Blessing:

To begin with the timely subject, now that we are approaching Rosh Hashono, may it bring us all, in the midst of our people, goodness and blessing,

I extend to you and yours prayerful wishes for a Kesivo vaChasimo Tovo, for a good and sweet year, materially and spiritually.

In general, though every Jew requires a Kesivo vaChasimo Tovo in everything, how much more so in the case of one who has been most active in the “business” of helping provide Torah education for G-d's children through the facilities of the Rabbinical College of America, and who, moreover, inspires and influences many others to become involved in this sacred work, not only financially, but wholeheartedly.

Especially as we are now in the auspicious period when "The King is in the Field," and in connection with the acquisition of the additional acreage for the College[18] and your personal very generous pledge, as well as being instrumental in involving others in it, may HaShem grant you the fullest measure of Hatzlocho to bring it all to fruition with joy and gladness of heart, and continuing from strength to strength in the same direction.

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[18] In 1983 the original 15 acres of the Morristown campus increased to 81 with the purchase of an attractive 66-acre tract across the street from the main campus. The woody, secluded campus has garden apartments for married couples enrolled in classes and expanded upon the original multi-story building.

Again, wishing you and all yours a Kesivo vaChasimo Tovo, including much true Nachas from each and all of your children and offspring,

With blessing,

M. Schneerson

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש
770 איסטערן פארקוויי
ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d
14th of Elul, 5743
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. David Tuvia Chase
96 Highbridge Rd.
W. Hartford, Ct. 06117

Greeting and Blessing:

To begin with the timely subject, now that we are approaching Rosh Hashono, may it bring us all, in the midst of our people, goodness and blessing,

I extend to you and yours prayerful wishes for a Kesivo vaChasimo Tovo, for a good and sweet year, materially and spiritually.

In general, though every Jew requires a Kesivo vaChasimo Tovo in everything, how much more so in the case of one who has been most active in the "business" of helping provide Torah education for G-d's children through the facilities of the Rabbinical College of America, and who, moreover, inspires and influences many others to become involved in this sacred work, not only financially, but wholeheartedly.

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Again, wishing you and all yours a Kesivo vaChasimo Tovo, including much true Nachas from each and all of your children and offspring,

With blessing,
M. Schneerson

8
The Animating Force[19]

Enclosing message to the 66th-acre development celebration of the RCA; you and your colleagues are the most vital force of the RCA and stimulate its future growth

By the Grace of G-D
Erev Shabbos, Sedra *Chaye*
Mevorchim Kislev 5746
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. David Tovia Chase LL.D.
96 Highbridge Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06117

Greeting and Blessing:

I am pleased to send you herewith my message to the forthcoming 66th acre development celebration of the Rabbinical College Of America in Morristown, New Jersey.[20]

At the same time I gladly welcome the opportunity of conveying to you personal regards and good wishes.

Needless to say while the message is addressed to all participants and friends of the Rabbinical College Of America, I am aware, as are most people associated with the Rabbinical College, that you and your colleagues are the vital force that drives and animates the entire undertaking, and stimulates continuous growth and development of this outstanding Torah institution.

May you continue to go from strength to strength in the above, as well as in all your personal affairs.

With all good wishes, cordially and with blessing,

M. Schneerson

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[19] Credit: Hasidic Archives.

[20] The letter, dated the same date as this one, addressed "To All Participants in the 66-Acre Development Celebration of the Rabbinical College of America," can be accessed on the Rebbe Responsa app.

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש
770 איסטערן פארקווי
ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-D
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May you continue to go from strength to strength in the above, as well as in all your personal affairs.

With all good wishes, cordially and with blessing M. M. Schneerson

9
Kindling the Jewish Flame

New Chabad House in Hartford; kindling the flame to rise of its own accord; the lamp already exists — it just needs to be kindled; the objective of the Chabad House

By the Grace of G-d
21 Sivan, 5748
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. David Chase
96 Highbridge Road
West Hartford, CT 06117

Greeting and Blessing!

Your letter of May 31, 1988 with the good news about the forthcoming celebration of the opening of the new Chabad House in Hartford reached me in proximity to Shabbos P. *Beha'alosecho es haneros* — a most appropriate time, since the Sedra begins on the subject of lighting the Menorah in the Beis Hamikdosh.

As Rashi notes,[21] the choice of the word "*beha'alosecho*" (instead of the more direct and usual *behadlikcho*) indicates that the lamps of the Menorah had to be lit in a manner that once lit, "the flame would rise of its own accord," without having to be rekindled.

Such is the intent and purpose and actual work of a Chabad House. The Chabad Houses are "lamplighters" kindling the flame that is inherent in every Jewish heart and soul, since "the soul of a Jew is the lamp of HaShem."[22] The "lamp" is already there: the vessel, the oil, the wick — all uniquely geared to shine forth with the light of Torah and mitzvot, *Ner mitzvah v'Torah or*.[23] The lamp has only to be kindled and the flame rises, and in a manner that then it rises and shines by itself.

Through the association of the Menorah with the Chanukah Lights, as explained by our Sages, we are clearly and forcefully reminded also that every effort connected with Torah and mitzvot, both in one's personal and family life, as well as in spreading Yiddishkeit in the

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[21] Rashi on *Bamidbar* 8:2.

[22] *Mishlei* 20:27.

[23] *Ibid.*, 6:23.

community at large, must not remain static, however satisfactory the level may be at any given time; it must consistently grow and rise to ever higher levels. This is exemplified in the fact that we do not continue lighting just one Chanukah light throughout Chanukah - though one light was quite sufficient for the *first* night of Chanukah, but we add an additional light *each* subsequent night.

May HaShem grant that this be so, in the fullest measure, with the new Chabad House in Hartford.

With prayerful wishes for much Hatzlocho and

With esteem and blessing,
also in your personal affairs

M. Schneerson

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש
770 איסטערן פארקווי
ברוקלין, נ.י.

By the Grace of G-d
21 Sivan, 5748
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. David Tuvia Chase
96 Highbridge Road
West Hartford, CT 06117

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Such is the intent and purpose and actual work of a Chabad House. The Chabad Houses are "lamplighters" kindling the flame that is inherent in every Jewish heart and soul, since "the soul of a Jew is the lamp of Hashem." The "lamp" is already there: the vessel, the oil, the wick - all uniquely geared to shine forth with the light of Torah and Mitzvos, Ner Mitzvah vTorah Or. The lamp has only to be kindled, and in a manner that there it rises and shines by itself.

Through the association of the Menorah with the Chanukah Lights, as explained by our Sages, we are clearly and forcefully reminded also that every effort connected with Torah and Mitzvos, both in one's personal and family life, as well in spreading Yiddishkeit in the community at large, must not remain static, however satisfactory the level may be at any given time: it must consistently grow and rise to even higher levels. This is exemplified in the fact that we do not continue lighting just one Chanukah light throughout Chanukah - though one light was quite sufficient for the first night of Chanukah, but we add an additional light each subsequent night.

May HaShem grant that this be so, in the fullest measure, with the new Chabad House in Hartford.

With prayerful wishes for much Hatzlocho, and

With esteem and blessing,
also in your personal affairs M. Schneerson

10
Lesson from Leap Year

Pleasure to meet with you and the rest of Machne Israel members; recoup the lost days and be a master over time; a lesson for Asseres Yemei Teshuvah

By the Grace of G-d
11th of Tishrei, 5749
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. Tuvia David Chase
96 Highbridge Road.
West Hartford, CT 06117

Greeting and Blessing:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and our other distinguished friends on the day before Erev Yom Kippur.

A personal meeting between Jews should always be a good, pleasurable and productive event. When it coincides with the other two auspicious dimensions, namely, time and place — it is certain to have all three elements: goodness and sweetness to themselves, and usefulness to other fellow Jews, in the fullest measure.

To focus on the dimension of time — what could be a more auspicious time than the period between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, at the beginning of an especially auspicious year, an *Ibbur* Year (Jewish Leap Year), a year that has thirteen months.

The essential aspects of our Jewish Leap Year have been discussed on various occasions. One point, which cannot be overemphasized, is particularly relevant at this time of year. It has to do with the Torah concept of time.

Normally, the lunar year, (which is the basis of our *Luach*, the Jewish calendar) lags behind the solar year by about eleven days. In order that our festivals should occur in their due season (Pesach in the spring; Succos in the autumn, etc.) the time lag is made good by the inclusion of an extra month every two or three years. This makes an Ibbur Year, which not only evens out the score, but surpasses the solar year by as many as eighteen, nineteen, or twenty days, as the case may be.

While the *Ibbur* Year is a recurring phenomenon involving highly intricate calculations, and details that affect Jewish life in totality, it also provides a simple object lesson. Every Jew has been endowed with the

capacity to recoup and complete those "lost" days which, for one reason or another, have not been fully utilized in terms of Yiddishkeit, Torah and Mitzvos.

This means, in effect, that a Jew has the spiritual strength to make himself "master over time." Indeed, he can gain mastery over time not only in terms of the present and the future, by setting for himself the highest standards of conduct, but he can also rectify his *past*.

This is why the above lesson of the *Ibbur* Year is particularly relevant in the Ten Days of Return, the *Asseres Yemei Teshuva*, — the period in time that has been assigned for Jews to return even closer to their true essence.

The same period, inasmuch as it begins with Rosh Hashana, marks the origin and creation of the world. It is written, "The world was built on *Chessed* (kindness)." [24] The Creator, the Master Builder, in His kindness, among other things, set the stage for created man to become a builder of worlds — our old world as well as "new worlds." We Jews have been particularly privileged to be builders, especially where our children are concerned: בניך/בוניך *banayich* — "your children," *bonayich* — "your builders."[25] Each child, boy or girl, brought up in the way of Yiddishkeit, Torah and Mitzvos, is a *Binyan adei-ad*, "an everlasting edifice" — a world in his/her own right, as well as a *builder of worlds*.

This is why our recent meeting, during the Ten Days of Return, at the "head" of the current new *Ibbur* Year, for the purpose and cause of building new worlds, must become meaningful and vitally important.

With prayerful wishes *for Hatzlacha* in all above, and for a joyous Succos festival, and

With esteem and blessing,
להצלחה רבה בכל

M. Schneerson

This is why our recent meeting, during the Ten Days of Return, at the "head" of the current new Ibbur Year, for the purpose and cause of building new worlds, must become meaningful and vitally important.

With prayerful wishes for Hatzlacha in all above, and for a joyous Succos festival, and

With esteem and blessing,

[24] *Tehillim* 89:3.

[25] *Yeshayahu* 54:12; *Berachos* 64a.

Appendix to letter 10

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE שליט"א TO THE MEMBERS שי' OF THE MACHNE ISRAEL SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND TISHREI 8, 5749

It is now a day and a half before Yom Kippur. After the prayers and inspiration of Rosh Hashanah and the initial days of the Ten Days of Return, G-d has certainly inscribed each and everyone of us for a *Chasima U'Gmar Chasima Tova*.

Your good deeds will certainly add to the blessings for which G-d has inscribed each of you. G-d is infinite and his blessings are infinitely greater than anything man can approximate. As such, G-d will bless you and your families, together with the entire Jewish Nation, in a greater measure, much more than you wish for yourselves.

It is an age-old Jewish custom to give everyone a piece of sweet cake before Yom Kippur. The meaning of this custom is that if it is ordained for someone to receive help from a human being, then this should be fulfilled by receiving the sweet cake, and henceforth there will be no need for help from a human being, only from G-d Himself.

This custom also teaches us an important lesson in sharing. When one is approached for help it must be given immediately and with joy. Our Sages teach that one who is blessed with the ability to help others is given that potential for him to act as G-d's representative. One must thus realize the profound honor bestowed upon him as G-d's emissary to help others. Because of this privilege the donor, in effect, receives more from the recipient than he gives.

Indeed, before descending to this physical world, the soul, the *Neshama* in *Gan Eden*, has all it needs, but there it does not have the ability to share with others. G-d chooses the ***Neshama*** as His messenger in **this** world to spread His sustenance to others. The fulfillment of this mission brings the greatest possible satisfaction and joy.

*

At the beginning of a new year everyone makes firm resolutions and aspires to reach new goals, and finds new strength to realize these potentials.

As we have discussed on many recent occasions, this year is "a time to build," especially to build in the realm of Yiddishkeit. Since you are associated with a local Chabad-Lubavitch Center, I would like to propose a new goal:

During this new year all the activities of Lubavitch should be done in a building owned by the organization.

Discuss this matter with your local *Shliach*, — I do not want you to be a mere "sponsor" of your local project, but rather, to join in a true partnership, with the *Shliach*, and to utilize all your energies. Determine whether you need to purchase an existing facility or to build a new one so that all the activities may take place on your *own* premises.

The facilities themselves should also pose a challenge. Build a building larger than the present activities call for. When you will visit the building and see unused space, as a practical businessman, you will be motivated to fill that space with new activities.

When successful business people like yourselves will get involved in this matter, the objectives will be accomplished faster and more efficiently than if it were done by the *Shliach* alone.

This then, is my proposition:

During this new year every Chabad-Lubavitch Center which does not have its own building should acquire or build its own facility, and wherever the property is already owned there is certainly room to build additional floors, rooms or wings.

Immediate resolutions concerning the above will certainly bring forth G-d's blessings for you and your families, bringing utmost *hatzlacha*, in good health and greater prosperity and in greater abundance than until now. May you go from strength to strength, until very soon, our righteous Moshiach will redeem us all from this *galut*, at which time all the bounty will go along with us to the Holy Land, where it will be used only for the good, because then there will be peace and tranquility in the world, with no need for any expenses for unfavorable matters.

May G-d grant each of you and everyone of us, among all the Jewish people, a *Chasima U'Gmar Chasima Tova* in a sweet manner. And may we receive the "sweet cake" from G-d Himself, and take it with us throughout the whole year, and utilize it in the fullest measure, materially and spiritually.

11
Being G-d's *Bikkurim*

Pleased to see you along with other members of Machne Israel; Bikkurim — recognizing G-d's authority; a Jew infuses the world with G-dliness

By the Grace of G-d
Day after Yom Kippur,
11th of Tishrei, 5752
Brooklyn, New York

Mr. Tuvia Dovid Chase
96 High Ridge Road
W. Hartford, CT 06117

Greeting and Blessing:

I was very pleased to see you last Sunday night at the meeting of the Machne Israel Development Fund.

In the Torah portions before Rosh HaShanah we read about the mitzvah of bringing *Bikkurim*, the offering of the first fruits (*Parshas Ki Savo*, Deut. 26:1-11). A Jew would select the very best of his early harvest, the first fruits of his hard toil. With all-encompassing joy and gladness of heart he carried them to the *Beth HaMikdash*, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, and placed them "there before G-d." This act expressed his recognition that "the earth and all therein is the L-rd's" (Psalms 24:1) and his gratitude to G-d for His bountiful sustenance.

The prophet (Hoshea 9:10) refers to the Jewish people as G-d's *Bikkurim*, the prime and essential purpose of His creation. A Jew is indeed a veritable "part of G-d." In his life in the world at large, it is his purpose to infuse this G-dliness and holiness into every moment of time and into every aspect of his daily life, in thought, word and act, elevating himself and his environment as "*Bikkurim*."

Through such conduct, one merits the fulfillment of G-d's promise concluding the verses quoted above: "and you will rejoice in all the good which the L-rd your G-d has given you and your family" (Deut. 26:11).

In this year of 5752, in Hebrew תשנ"ב, whose Hebrew letters form an acronym: **תהא שנת נפלאות בכל** ("this will be a year of wonders in all things,") may G-d Almighty grant you and all yours a wondrous year of goodness in all matters material and spiritual.

With blessing,

M. Schneerson

P.S. I take this opportunity to enclose an excerpt from my remarks addressed to the participating members שליט״א.[26]

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11213
493-9250

מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
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Through such conduct, one merits the fulfillment of G-d's promise concluding the verses quoted above: "and you will rejoice in all the good which the L-rd your G-d has given you and your family" (Deut. 26:11).

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With blessing M. Schneerson

P.S. I take this opportunity to enclose an excerpt from my remarks addressed to the participating members שליט"א.

[26] The talk was edited by the Rebbe in English and can be viewed on Chabad.org/2466831.

12

Because of Chase's involvement with Polish Jewry (see Dear Rebbe pp. 192–196, 202–218), it seems that the letter from the office of the president was faxed to Chase, who in turn sent the letter, in an English translation (the text is published below), to the Rebbe. The Rebbe's response was also forwarded to Chase.

Office of the President
of the Republic of Poland
Undersecretary of State

Dear Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213
U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi,

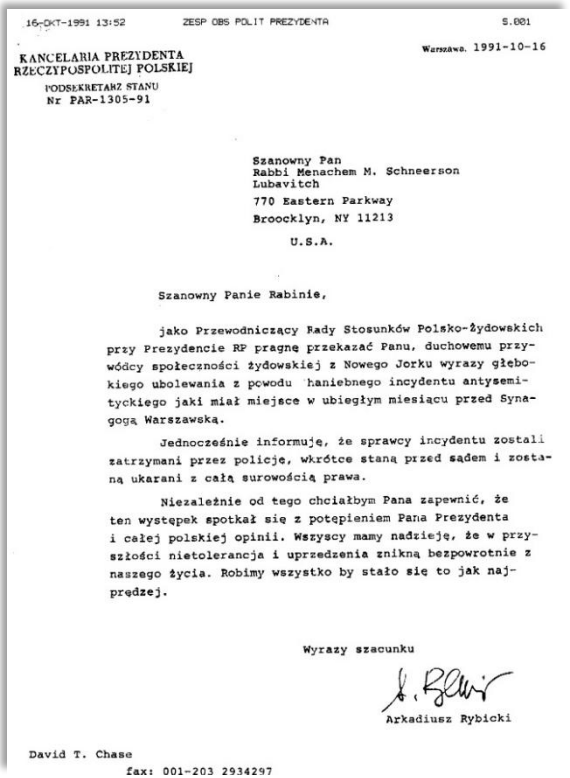
As the President of the Council for Polish-Jewish Relations with the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland, I wish to convey to you, spiritual leader of the Jewish community in New York, my deep sorrow about the terrible antisemitic incident that took place last month in front of the synagogue in Warsaw.

At the same time, I would like to inform you that the perpetrators were captured by the police and will be prosecuted with all the gravity of law.

Notwithstanding the above, I assure you that this behavior was condemned by President Walesa and the entire nation. We hope that in the future intolerance and prejudice will disappear completely from our lives. We are working hard towards this end.

With best regards,

Arkadiusz Rybicki



16-OKT-1991 13:52 ZESP OBS POLIT PREZYDENTA S.001

KANCELARIA PREZYDENTA
RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ
PODSEKRETARZ STANU
Nr PAR-1305-91

Warszawa, 1991-10-16

Szanowny Pan
Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson
Lubavitch
770 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213
U.S.A.

Szanowny Panie Rabinie,

jako Przewodniczący Rady Stosunków Polsko-Żydowskich przy Prezydencie RP pragnę przekazać Panu, duchowemu przywódcy społeczności żydowskiej z Nowego Jorku wyrazy głębokiego ubolewania z powodu haniebnego incydentu antysemityckiego jaki miał miejsce w ubiegłym miesiącu przed Synagogą Warszawską.

Jednocześnie informuję, że sprawcy incydentu zostali zatrzymani przez policję, wkrótce staną przed sądem i zostaną ukarani z całą surowością prawa.

Niezależnie od tego chciałbym Pana zapewnić, że ten występek spotkał się z potępieniem Pana Prezydenta i całej polskiej opinii. Wszyscy mamy nadzieję, że w przyszłości nietolerancja i uprzedzenia znikną bezpowrotnie z naszego życia. Robimy wszystko by stało się to jak najprędzej.

Wyrazy szacunku

Arkadiusz Rybicki

David T. Chase
fax: 001-203 2934297

No Superior Ancestral Origin

The anti-Semitic incident in Poland; all humans descend from the same progenitor

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

Mr. Arkadiusz Rybicki
President of the council for Polish-Jewish Relations
Office of the President of the Republic of Poland
Warsaw

Dear Mr. Rybicki:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter in which you express deep sorrow about the terrible anti-Semitic incident that took place last month in front of the synagogue in Warsaw; that the perpetrators were captured and will be prosecuted, and that the behavior was condemned by President Walesa, etc. You also express the hope that in the future intolerance and prejudice will disappear from the Polish people, and that you are working towards this end.

We appreciate the sentiments expressed in your letter, and we pray that your hope and efforts will materialize very soon indeed.

Apropos of the above I would like to add that last month, in the beginning of Tishrei, we ushered in the current Jewish Year, 5752, with the celebration of Rosh Hashana, the anniversary of the creation of the first man, Adam. Our Sages of the Talmud explain why the creation of man differed from the creation of other living species and why, among other things, man was created as a single individual, unlike other living creatures created in pairs. One of the reasons — our Sages declare — is that it was G-d's design that the human race, all humans everywhere and at all times, should know that each and all descend from the one and the same single progenitor, a fully developed human being created in the image of G-d, so that no human being could claim superior ancestral origin; hence would also find it easier to cultivate a real feeling of kinship in all interhuman relationships.

Indeed, although Rosh Hashana is a Jewish festival, our prayers for a Happy New Year include also all the nations and dwellers on earth. And true happiness includes everyone's peace and prosperity both materially and spiritually.

With prayerful wishes,

M. Schneerson

Appendix

— Letter 6 —

TEXT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE

AMERICAN GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

By Mr. David T. Chase, President, Chase Enterprises

April 12, 1983—Washington, D.C.

Paid for by Friends of the Rabbinical College of America, Morristown, N.J. Friends of the Chabad House of Greater Hartford, The Greater Hartford Jewish Federation and the Holocaust Memorial Committee

ב"ה

Dear Friends:

I stand in front of you today in fulfillment of a silent promise given to two condemned men who were my fellow inmates at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in the Spring of 1944.

They were condemned to die for attempting to escape from the camp. As an example, the S.S. guards assembled all of the remaining inmates to witness the hanging of the two young Jewish boys who were in the prime of life.

Their guilt was their desire to survive. Their tragedy was that they were born Jews. Moments before the executioner removed the bench on which they stood, with their last breath, they screamed out to us: "Don't let this day be forgotten—Never forget this inhumanity."

I don't believe that I ever knew their names, and I don't even remember their faces, but their dying wish and mandate I shall never forget for the rest of my life.

How many times has this episode been repeated in so many different forms and incidents during the Holocaust years? Is there any one of us alive, in this room, who has not lost a family member? I am fortunate to still have one sister who survived the Holocaust from my immediate family. Approximately 60 members, including my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, became victims of the Holocaust.

But, as Jews we believe that everything is bashert, good or bad. As Jews, we are taught gam zu l'tova, everything happens for the best. That was a most difficult premise for me to accept at the age of 15. When I learned that my mother and 6-year-old sister were no longer alive, that little flower cut down before she had a chance to bloom, that wonderful woman who used to take her children on Friday afternoons to the poor section of town, that angel of mercy

brought food, clothing and money to the sick and the poor. How could I accept this Jewish philosophy of bashert when that golden neshama perished in the gas chambers?

But, I remembered the voice of my beloved mother ringing in my ears: "Never question the will of the Almighty, gam zu l'tova—Everything is meant for the best. It is G-d's will!!!" I have accepted her request. I have agreed not to question the will of the Almighty! And for the past 18 years I have been most fortunate to have been involved with the Lubavitch Movement. For the past 18 years I have had the privilege to know our great Rebbe, the spiritual leader of the Lubavitch Movement, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, whose philosophies and teachings of kindness, goodness and unquestionable belief in G-d helped me to find peace within myself.

At the Rebbe's request, I have begun praying every morning for the past three years and have been putting on the talis and tefilin each morning. [27] *I am grateful for the opportunity to know this great man. I am grateful that I am a Jew.*

Dear friends, today we are in Washington, the capital of our beloved country. We are here today to pay homage and express our deep gratitude to America; America which gave us a home when we had none; America which embraced us when we felt rejected; America which gave us a feeling of belonging when we were stateless.

We are here today to say, "Thank you, America" for your kindness, for your love, and for your understanding. Thank you for the trust and your confidence in us. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to become proud Americans. Today we are here to tell you America, that you indeed can be proud of your adopted children—the Holocaust survivors.

Today, my friends, if you check statistics you will find that there are more doctors, lawyers, business leaders and professional people per capita in this group among you, your children and grandchildren, than any other group of this comparable size in our country. The largest builders of residences, office buildings, and commercial real estate in the world are among this group; people like the Reichmanns, the Chapells, the Wilfs, the Halperns, the Konovers and the Levies. More hospitals, schools, and

[27] See Rebbe Responsa issue 82.

houses of worship—Jewish and non-Jewish—are being funded and supported by this group, and of course, our everyday commitment to the State of Israel.

Every Jewish mother's dream and aspiration is for her child to be a doctor, a lawyer. In 1978 bashert again entered my life when I received a Doctor of Laws degree from my beloved Rabbinical College of America. I was honored at the time to share the podium with President Gerald Ford. My mother's wishes came true.

Today, my friends, we can proudly say to the world, "No longer do we need your sympathy for our sufferings." We proudly ask, "Give us credit for our achievements and contributions to society." The initials "D.P." which identified us as displaced persons years ago have taken on a new meaning. Today, my brothers and sisters, we can walk with our heads high. Today, my friends, we are proud to be Americans.

But, what about tomorrow? Can we become complacent or indifferent to the injustice which takes place in this world? Can we limit our concern to ourselves only? Or as good Americans and true to our Jewish heritage, we acknowledge our responsibility to our fellow man, and acclaim that indeed all men are the children of G-d and all have been created equal with liberty and justice for all.

We have suffered and paid a terrible price in the past for our indifference to reality. We have taken too many things for granted and paid the consequences. From now on we must teach our children and their children that to be a Jew is a privilege. To be a Jew is a commitment to G-d and fellow man. United in a single voice, we must secure the future. United we must assure our future generations that no other Holocaust can ever occur.

With a single voice we must help to fulfill the mandates and rights which our forefathers forged in blood in our Bill of Rights. United with a single voice of justice and in pursuit of equality, we can and will make this world a better place to live. With the help of G-d, remembering the past, grateful for today, and securing tomorrow, we can say to our future generations with pride, "We have done our share; now it is up to you."

AM ISRAEL CHAI! G-D BLESS OUR AMERICA! G-D BLESS US ALL!

לזכות

החתן הרה"ת **מנחם מענדל**

והכלה **שיינא ביילא**

שיחיו **אייזנבך**

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יה"ר שיבנו בית בישראל

בנין עדי עד על יסודי התורה והמצוה

כפי שהם מוארים במאור שבתורה

זוהי תורת החסידות

לנחת רוח כ"ק אדמו"ר

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ולזכות הוריהם

הרה"ת יוסף יצחק יהושע ומינא שיחיו אייזנבך

והרה"ת שאול ואסתר שיחיו וילהלם