Anniversary Ball

Honoring Nathan and lIbby Dender

Format

Be there by 5:00 Have the video machine set up

in Sapper Hall

6:00 PM

Jack Mandel opens-intro Cantor for anthems, Rabbi invocation

Invocation

 We meet tonight, to celebrate and toast of beloved couple, Nathan and Libby Dender. Ouir celebration occurs, however, in the period known as beyn hametzarim--between the sorrows--between the 17th of Tammuz, on which day, the walls of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem were breached, and the 9th of Av, in which the Temple was destroyed.

 We stand here,in the Hollywood Temple Beth El--it is the spiritual and historical offspring of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. Our ancient Temple was destroyed by sinat hinom--useless strife and hatred. How shall we protect the walls of our sacred Temple ? By applyiong the opposite. We shall strengthen and build it up by ahavat hinom--groundless love, love of each other, our fellow Jews, our fellow congregants, solely because we, each and evryone of us is precious, solely because we share in the destiny of the Jewish people, solely because we are committed together for the sake of the Jewish heritage and people.

 May that spirit of ahavat hinam, of love of each other for no reason, take over us all completely, and may trhe merit of that love strengthen this sacred sanctuary,this mikdash meat. Amen.

(add some extra words for Trude!!!!)

intro Trude Behr

Arthur linsk,

Frances Linsk

Harry Kotler=hamotzi

Dinner, Dancing, birkat hamazon

Musical interlude- Andrew Erman

 Trude Chairs presentation to Nathan

Max Cukier==talk

Rabbi:

About Nathan Dender

Biography of Nathan Dender

Nathan Dender was born in the same town as our friend, Max Cuckier, in Ricky, Poland( Near Warsaw)

He was born into a Hasidic family who were followerrs of the Zelikhover Rebbe. If you know about Hasidism, you realize that each Rebbe had his own style, own ideology, and own specialty, This was a Rebbe known as an execellent Baal tefilah- he used the nusah of tefilah and the musical spirit of the liturgy to lift up the sparks of holiness in his followers.The Minyan would meet in Rebbe's home and on Yom Tov they would pray at the Beis medresh.

 Nathan had a sweet voice and was in the Rebbe's choir--this was big honor. His father saw potential in him and after Bar Mitzvah, sent him to Yeshivah in the big city of Warsaw to "sein a mensch". Studied at "Tomchei Temimim, which was under the auspices of the Lubavitcher movement" in Warsaw. There he studied Hasidus in depth--He studied, besides Torah and Talmud, the great masterpiece of human ethics and psychology of the first Chabbad Rebbe, the Tanya, and other Hasidic lore.

 Every Rosh Hodesh Benchen the students would go to visit the Alter Rebbe( father of current Rebbe Menahem Mendel Schneerson).He was there for four or five years and absorbed the ideals of Chabad--Chochmah, binah, daas--wisdom,understanding, and knowledge.--but also remained loyal to the style of the melodic Hasidism of his rebbe of Zelikhov

The Nazis invaded Poland, and the students of the Yeshivah dispersed, most going back to Riga, from whence, many were spirited out of Europe and saved from Hitler's grasp.

 However, Nathan knew that his family needed him, and he returned to his hometown. From this moment on, he was dependent on siyata dishmaya--Heaven 's help--.he had to split up with his family, go into hiding with a Poliosh family, escape to another town. Finally , he was caught by the Nazis--sent first to Maidanek, then to Auschwitz, finally transferred to Bergen Belsen, where he was liberated. He didn't believe he would make it--he was small, young, and innocent of this cruel world of the concentration camps.

 Finally, light dawned, the British liberated his camp-- he developed a reputation as a knowledgable Jew who could run religious services, and he was soon called to Fulda by the Jewish Community there to help them run their regular minyan( 47-48)

From there , he was then invited to Oakland California as Cantor and Baal Koreh and teacher in an Orthodox synagogue. After 11 years

he needed to increase his income,and went into business-- the members cried when he left. He went to San Francisco-- then, moved to LA for medical treament for his first wife. who passed away. He went again into business, met his wife Libby in Radomer Club. Libby was a native of Radom, a significant Jewish commuinity 100 km from Warsaw, a city of industry and Torah. While she was but a youngster, WWII broke out--Libby went through Auschwitz and survived, She married her first husband and, was in the refugee camps in Stutgart, The first child was born there=Annie Dender.One other child,Allen Waxman, was born shortly afterwards, when the family moved to the USA.First NYC., then Baltimore, then LA in 1960. In 1968, daughter Annie met Jack, son of Nathan, & married. In 1972, Nathan and Libby, both now widowed, married.

She has been active in bnai Brith and American Congress of Survivors, as well as Radomer Society. "When the Orchestra plays, I have to dance".

 Nathan has been here for 10 years at HTBE==first as reader in the chapel, then, in main sancturay-as our baal shaharit for high holy days and shabbat morning, and as our teacher for hafatarah and davening. He brings to us here that spirit of nigyun and of tefilah of the Zhelikhover Rebbe, as well as the nobility of character that was the hallmark of Chabad hasidism in Europe.

 It is our privilege to be honoring Nathan and Libby dender this evening.

 However, tonight, we wish to complete something that Hitler nd his henchmen stopped. Nathan had been studying in yeshivah, when the nazis interrupted his studies --he would have surely gone for semikhah.

 We have in Nathan what our prophet zekhariah described after the hurban, after the destruction of our Temple--we have ud mutzal min haesh--a branch that has been plucked and saved from the fires of destruction. The branch of Torah, the branch of learning, of human decency and menschlichkeit has been plucked from the fires of Europe and it is here with us in Nathan Dender.

 On this occasion, we are especially proud to bestow a unique title of **Moreh ve Chaver - Colleague of the Scholars and Teacher**, upon Nathan Dender, in recognition of years in Rabbinic study , as well as service as teacher and leader in worship and Torah reading to the surviving remnants of the Jewish people in Europe, in Oakland, California, and now , here , at Hollywood Temple Beth El. The title Moreh was often used to indicate someone in whom religious authority was granted. Chaver was reserved in time of the second Temple, for a spirtual elite, Jews who had studied well, and who had taken upon themselves and exemplary life, dedicated to Torah and mitzvot and maasim Tovim. In medieval times it was reserved for those few of distinguished knowledge and service to the community.

 This bestowing of the title is carried by me, in consultation with Rabb Dr. David Lieber, President emeritus of the University of Judaism, and Rabbi Marvin Bornstein, Rabbi Emeritus of Bnai Tikvah Congregation, and both Rabbis have been associated with the Temple as well. In this, we constitute a bet din, a Rabbinical tribunal.

I read the declaration, first in Hebrew and then in English.

I wish to thank Viola Goldstein in preparing this certificate in both Hebrew and English. This was accomplished long distance via Fax, and each of us was using a different keyboard for the Hrew , which made it even more complicated.

Letter for book

 It is our privilege to be able to honor our dearest couple, Nathan and Libby Dender.

 Nathan Dender, as our Master of Prayer and Master of the Torah Reading, is a gem in the crown of this Temple. Nathan has been an exemplar of dignity and grace, in the style of the classic disciples of the wise, the Talmidey Chachamim . He has followed the pattern of Hillel, who declared,Lo habayshan lamed valo hakapdan melamed--The shy can not learn, nor can the short-tempered teach." By his patience and perserverance, he has succeded in empowering our members to take full and active part in our worship. He has, in the footsteps of Hillel and Aaron, pursued peace and brought his fellow Jews closer to their heritage.

 This is all made possible by the support from his dear wife of twenty years, Libby Dender.

 The paths of Nathan and his wife, Libby, crossed indirectly for many years before they met and married. Both were natives of the religious milieu of Polish Jewry, both went through the concentration camps, and both survived by miracle. Both rebuilt their lives, and came to America. It was through the children, Nathan's son Jack and Libby's daughter Annie, that the paths finally crossed. Jack and Annie brought Nathan and Libby, both widowed, together for a new life once again.

 They have both been active with the American Congress of Jewish Survivors of Poland , the Radomer Society, Bnai Brith, as well as Hollywood Temple Beth El.

 On this occasion, we are especially proud to bestow a unique title of **Moreh ve Chaver - Colleague of the Scholars and Teacher**, upon Nathan Dender, in recognition of years in Rabbinic study , as well as service as teacher and leader in worship and Torah reading to the surviving remnants of the Jewish people in Europe, in Oakland, California, and now , here , at Hollywood Temple Beth El. This title was reserved, in ancient and medieval times, for those few of distinguished knowledge and service to the community and is signed by Dr. David Lieber, President emeritus of the University of Judaism, Rabbi Marvin Bornstein, Rabbi Emeritus of Bnai Tikvah Congregation, as well as by myself.

 My wife, Ofra, my mother Irene, and I extend to Nathan and Libby Dender, to their children, Annie and Jack Dender and Allen Waxman, and their families, our very best wishes of osher vosher--of happiness and well-being.

 Shalom,

 Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

Mrs. Viola Goldstein

8524 W Sahara #103

Las vegas, NV 89117

July 1, 1993

Dear Viola,

 On behalf of Hollywood Temple Beth El, I want to thank you for preparing the certificates in both Hebrew and English in honor of Nathan Dender. I recognize the amount of work and concentration to transcribe the Hebrew correctly, especially as our Hebrew language programs were so different.

 This certificate which you have prepared will be the highlight of the Anniversary Ball.

 Sincerely yours,

 Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

Feature Release Contact: Rabbi Norbert Weinberg

For Immediate Release Tel 213-656-3150

 Unique Title Reestablished for Nathan Dender

 A two-thousand year old title of distinction will be brought back to usage when Nathan and Libby Dender will be the honorees of Hollywood Temple Beth El in West Hollywood on Sunday, July 11, at 5:30 PM at a Testimonial Gala Dinner. At that time, Dr. David Lieber, President emeritus of the University of Judaism, together with Rabbi Norbert Weinberg of the Temple and Rabbi Marvin Bornstein, acting as a Rabbinic tribunal, will bestow upon Nathan Dender the ancient and esteemed title of "Chaver", Colleague of the Sages .

 Nathan Dender is currently beloved teacher of liturgy to adults , reader of the Torah and leader in the worship services at Hollywood Temple Beth El for the past decade. His wife, Libby, is active with the Radomer Society and they are involved in the American Congress of Jewish Survivors of Concentration Camps.

 (more)

Dender p.2

 Dender is a native of Ricky ,Poland, received training in liturgy from the Chasidic Zhelikover Rebbe, and then continued to advanced Rabbinic studies in Warsaw. With the onset of the Holocaust, he broke off his studies to help his family but was caught by the Nazis and sent to the conecentration camps. After liberation, he led a congregation of survivors in Germany. He has served as at teacher, leader in worship, and reader of the Torah in Oakland, California, and for the past ten years, at Hollywood Temple Beth El.

 The title bestowed that evening was first used two-thousand years ago to indicate someone who had dedicated himself to learning and noble conduct, and was then used through the Middle Ages as a mark of distinction for someone who had achieved both high Judaic learning and had an exemplary personality. The Nazis prevented Nathan Dender from completing his orginal goal, of obtaining the title of Rabbi; distinguished Rabbis now complete what had been left undone in bestowing the title of "Chaver" once again in our times to Nathan Dender.

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June 16, 1993

Photo enclosed of Nathan and Libby Dender