

FROM OUR RABBI

There are moments in one's life when speech, which is the vehicle through which we express our emotions, is meaningless; when words are inadequate.

We stand at such a moment. For what can I say that would be as eloquent as the dedication, devotion and zeal of the many who worked so hard and tirelessly to make our dream of a new Sanctuary, a reality. To say Thanks is redundant; to say it's been a pleasure, sounds trite.

I have been your Spiritual Leader for over 16 years. In that space of time we have been through a great deal of trial and tribulations together. But, far from allowing it to get us down, we rose above our problems and became one of the greatest, most active Congregations in the entire midwest. We grew from 150 members to almost 400; we moved from Avondale and erected a complex of buildings with an aggregate value of over 1/2 million dollars. We have built a beautiful edifice to the Glory of God.

But a Synagogue must be more than mere stone, mortar and brick. His presence cannot be captured in glass or wood no matter how ornate and expensive. It can only exist through the spirit of righteousness, religiosity, justice, and the other time-tested Jewish values, because a Sanctuary was not meant to contain God, but rather to radiate Him.

In this spirit, we re-dedicate ourselves to the service of His people and to His Torah and humbly thank the Almighty for allowing us to build a House of Israel in our community.

I wish to conclude with the timeless prayer of King Solomon when he dedicated the Temple of God. "That thine eyes may be open towards this House day and night, even to this place about which you have said, my name shall be there; to hearken to the prayers of your servants and listen to supplications of all Thy people Israel when they shall pray at this place."

