



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series A: Writings and Addresses. 1947-1991

Box 5, Folder 15, Invocation Honoring President von Weiszacker,  
4 June 1989.



INVOCATION BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM, AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, AT DINNER  
HONORING PRESIDENT VON WEISZACKER, UNIVERSITY CLUB, JUNE 4, 1989, NEW YORK

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RIBON HAOLAMIM, MASTER AND CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE,

WE, YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, MEMBERS OF ONE HUMAN FAMILY, STAND TOGETHER ACKNOWLEDGING  
THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN LIFE CREATED IN YOUR SACRED IMAGE.

Jews and Christians, Germans and Jews, we are inextricably linked by the terrors of the  
past and bound together by the promise and hope of a humane future where the sanctity  
of life, of all life, will be inviolate and revered.

May this historic evening in which we honor the eminent president of the Federal Republic  
of Germany, a man of great moral courage, whose power of speech is the outward image  
of his inner integrity, be a time for all of us to reach out to one another in renewed  
faith and trust for the shaping of a more humane and just world.

In the words of Rabbi Nahman of Brzislav, 18th century Hasidic master and grandson of the  
Baal Shem Tov, we pray these holy words:

"May the will come from thee to annul wars and the shedding of blood from the universe,  
and to extend a peace, great and wondrous in the universe. Let all residents of the earth  
recognize and know the innermost truth, that we are not come into this world for quarrel  
and division, nor for hate, greed, and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed, but we are come  
into this world to live together in peace and freedom with one another as good neighbors  
in mutual respect under thy guiding providence."

On the eve of Shavuot, the Jewish festival commemorating the giving of the ten commandments  
to Israel at Mount Sinai, which we observe beginning this Thursday evening, we freely  
acknowledge that respect for moral law is the foundation of all just and civilized societies.  
In this spirit, we pray that the power mightier than ourselves will continue to inspire  
our honored guest with such moral vision and strength, and give fulfillment to all engaged  
in this pilgrimage of reconciliation.

ADONAI OZ L'AMON YITEN, ADONAI YEVORAH ET AMO BASHALOM, BLESS THE WORK OF THEIR HANDS,  
AND GIVE STRENGTH TO YOUR PEOPLE, ADONAI, BLESS YOUR PEOPLE WITH SHALOM.

HAMOTZI