

OUR FESTIVITIES

Tonight's dinner climaxes the festivities marking two great events in traditional Jewish living in Cincinnati. First and foremost is the Siyum Hagodol for the entire Talmud. Not that there are so many who participate in the study of the Torah, but those who support the Torah are fully as important as those who study it: Aitz Cha-yim He La-ma-chazikim Bo V'soim-che-ho M'ushor "It is a tree of life to those who lay hold of it; and its supporters are happy" And so throughout the ages, the Jews have always been ready to support those who devoted themselves sincerely and whole heartedly to the study of the Torah.

That is why the Completion of some thirteen years of study of the entire Talmud which the Siyum Hagodol indicates, is of such ado to the Jewish community of Cincinnati. The festivities and particularly this dinner, also celebrate 20 years of important achievements by Rabbi Eliezer Silver through the Vaad Ho-ier which he organized even before he came here as Rabbi.

Among the more outstanding accomplishments which Rabbi Silver introduced in Jewish traditional living in Cincinnati, might be mentioned the organization of Kashrut in the city, the building of a Synagog for the Sephardic Jews in Price Hill, the Building of a modern sanitary Mikveh in Avondale. It might be mentioned that this was done in the face of organized opposition of the leaders of the Rockdale Temple. The organization of the first German Jewish refugees in a Congregation Tikvah Chadosha, the establishment of the Chofetz Chaim Day School and Kindergarten, the organization of the Kosher Kitchen at the Jewish Hospital and the Kosher Restaurant down town as well as the Down-Town Vaad Synagog, the organization of the United Committee for Orthodox Charities which enables many Orthodox institutions in Israel and in this country to secure assistance from Cincinnati Jewry without the need of sending Meshulochim, and more and still more could be mentioned if space were available.

It can be said without fear of contradiction, that in the 20 years of Rabbi Silver's residence in our midst, Cincinnati has become known as an Orthodox Jewish Center the world over.