

HIDDUR MITZVAH
TREASURES OF OUR PEOPLE
AN INSTALLATION

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Description: Officers are discharged and installed, using Jewish ritual objects that reflect some aspect of their role in Sisterhood.

In this installation, each member of the new administration is installed immediately after her predecessor has been discharged from office. Each officer is assigned a symbol of her office, which she hands over to her successor as the latter is installed. Each officer is called by both her English and Hebrew name.

If there are any women who are continuing in office for another term, it will be necessary to slightly change the words of the installing officer to suit the occasion.

If there are fewer than 12 Vice Presidents, select from the tokens of office as desired and needed. The tokens of office are as follows:

Recording Secretary: *quill*
Financial Secretary: *tzedakah box*
Treasurer: *hamsa*
Vice Presidents: *shofar* *mezuzah*
 etrog box *spice box*
 dreidel *yad*
 gragger *kiddush cup*
 seder plate *siddur*
 omer counter *Tanakh*
President: *hanukkiyah*

Bir'shut haveiyrai...

With the permission of all those assembled, we begin our installation ceremony.

We honor all who **have** served Sisterhood with devotion, love and hard work. We take pride in our past presidents and the achievements of their administrations and, together, we look forward to the future. At this moment, we charge all those who **will** serve Sisterhood in the coming two years to take upon themselves the responsibilities of office.

We call upon all the members of the outgoing Board to rise in their places. *Ta'amdu bevrei ha-banhalab!*

We thank you for your dedication – *Today*;

For your efforts – *Today*;

For your achievements – *Today*.

Most importantly, we thank you for your example. *Today Rabbah!*

While you remain standing, we call upon the incoming members of the Board to rise.

Ta'amdu bevrei ha-banhalab ha-badashab!

We offer this prayer:

*Mi shebeirakh avoteinu Avraham ve-Sarah,
Yitzhak ve-Rivkah,
Yaakov, Rabel ve-Le'ah...*

May God who blessed our fathers and mothers bless all those who devote themselves to the needs of the Jewish community: strengthening synagogues, schools of learning and homes; providing for those in need; building the land of Israel; supporting the Jewish people wherever they may be; and considering the Jewish tradition. May the Holy One reward you, and may the Divine Presence bless all your worthy endeavors. And let us all say: Amen.

I ask the **outgoing** Board members to repeat after me:

Hazak – May you be strong!

I ask the **incoming** Board members to repeat after me:

Hazak – May you be strong!

I ask all of you to say together:

Ve-nithazeikh – Let us strengthen one another!

Please be seated.

I now call the **outgoing** Recording Secretary (NAME), Financial Secretary (NAME) Treasurer (NAME) to come up and stand beside me with the tokens of their office.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

You have recorded our decisions, collected our dues, paid our bills. Your responsibilities have not always been among the most glamorous, but they certainly are among the most important. You have enabled Sisterhood to remain viable and strong. Each of you is an *ishet hayil*. May you go *me-hayil le-hayil* – from strength to strength.

Will the **incoming** Recording Secretary (NAME), Financial Secretary (NAME) and Treasurer (NAME) come and stand beside me.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

The quill, the token of office of the Recording Secretary, is now passed on. (THE QUILL IS HANDED OVER.)

We read in the book of Esther: (Esther 8.8)
"Kitvu al ha-yehudim katov be-eineikhem."
"Write for the Jews what is good in your eyes."

Be-hatzlahab. You may be seated.

The *tzedakah* box, the token of office of the Financial Secretary, is now passed on. (THE TZEDAKAH BOX IS HANDED OVER.)

We read in the Second Book of Chronicles: (II Chronicles 24:5)
"Tzu le-'arei Yehudah ve-kivzu mikol Yisrael kesef."
"Go out to the cities and collect money from all of Israel"

Be-hatzlahab. You may be seated.

The token of office of the Treasurer, the *hamsa*, is now passed on. (THE HAMSAS IS HANDED OVER.)

We read in Psalms:
"Poteiah et yadekha umasbi'a' le-khol hai ratzon."
"You open Your hand, and give to all according to their needs." (Ps. 145:16)

Be-hatzlahab. You may be seated.

I now call upon the outgoing Vice Presidents to rise and come forward with the tokens of their offices. (CALL EACH BY HER ENGLISH NAME, FOLLOWED BY

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.)

You have been the eyes, the ears, the voice, the hands of our President. You can be said to represent *Shivtei Yisrael*, the 12 tribes of Israel. You are a living symbol of our organization's diversity and its unity. You have blessed our President with your support, your advice and your hard work. For that, all of Sisterhood is grateful. *Rav todot.*

I now call upon the incoming Vice Presidents to rise and come forward to receive the tokens of their offices. (THEY ARE CALLED AS WERE THE OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENTS.)

(THE OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENTS HAND OVER THE TOKENS OF OFFICE AS EACH TOKEN IS MENTIONED.)

The *shofar*: May we learn how to call our people together.

The *etrog* box: May we learn to serve God with beauty and with joy.

The *dreidel*: May we learn that great miracles can happen **here**, as well.

The *gragger*: May we learn to ever drown out the noise of adversity.

The *seder* plate: May we learn to take the bitter and dip it into the sweet.

The *omer* counter: May we learn to count each and every day as precious.

The *mezuzah*: May we learn to make our homes places where the word of God is to be found.

The spice box (*bessamim*): May we learn to distinguish between *kodesh* – that which is sacred, and *hol* – that which is profane.

The *yad*: May we learn to point ourselves and others in the direction of the *Torah*.

The *kiddush* cup: May we learn to share with others the sweetness and joy of Judaism.

The *siddur*: May we learn the words that enable us to speak to God.

The *Tanakh*: May we learn how to listen to the words of God, wherever they may be found.

Be-batzlahab. You may be seated.

I now call upon _____, the outgoing President of Sisterhood, to come forward.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

This *hanukkiyah* is the token of office of the President. As President, you have assumed the responsibility of gathering the many sparks of devotion and dedication of our Sisterhood women, day by day, until they become a bright flame, illuminating our synagogue, our community and, indeed, the Jewish world with the light of service to God and to humanity. For this we commend and thank you. I ask you to hand over the *hanukkiyah* to _____, our incoming Sisterhood President, as she steps forward.

Ta'amod _____ bat _____ v' _____.

_____, as you receive this *hanukkiyah*, symbol of your office, you stand with us to light the way for the future. But, like the *shamash*, you stand a bit taller, to show us the way to use the light of each one of us to make our world a brighter and a warmer place for all to enjoy.

Be-batzlahab.

(PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH)