

Dovart Weizer speech –Palo Alto visit to Ramat Hasharon, June 24, 2018

Dear fellow Amitim

First and foremost, it is a great pleasure to have you with us today and I would like to welcome you to Ramat Hasharon. While Ramat Hasharon is considered a small city in Israel terms in many respects it is one of the leading cities across the state much the same as Palo Alto.

During the 90's when I was still a young Jewish Israeli teenager growing in a developing country that faced war and tension I had a very idealistic view that all the Jewish people should immigrate to Israel and live here. Over the years as Israel developed and as the world became a global place I have developed a more realistic and relevant view that the Jewish communities worldwide are as important and are as instrumental to the development of not only the Jewish people but even more so to the state of Israel.

I recently read an article about the relationships between the Jewish communities worldwide and the state of Israel. It describes the support of those communities and its focus on building the country in the first fifty years since the state was established. It then discusses the changing dynamics in recent years and the shift of focus and gravity to the local societies and local communities. As Israel matured and the world became a more global place the requirements of the state of Israel changed as well and the focus continues to shift to society and its requirements. The article referred to it as the move from the hardware stage to the software stage much like the shift of technology and the shift from local to global markets.

As the world becomes more global and technology, allowing better and easier communication we have an extremely significant and exciting opportunity to learn and share our different experiences within our own local society. Unlike other people there's a strong bond between the different Jewish communities regardless of country or state it exists in and this connection we share as Jewish people has no borders. This bond provides an opportunity to collaborate, share and throughout this process equip different societies and communities with better tools and set of expertise that can act as a catalyst to the development of not only the local community but the society it is part of as a whole.

I truly believe that our joint programs can become a bridge between the different Jewish communities each with its own characteristics, representing the local society it lives in. It is our role to maximize the potential and find ways to empower each other by creating, developing and sharing concepts with proven track record for the benefit of our local community and the society we live in.

I hope yet confident that you will find this trip enjoyable and interesting and look forward to cooperating closely together with you in the future.

Thank you!