

For the last decade we have been exemplifying the visionary of the State of Israel, Benjamin Zeev Herzl's wisdom when he stated: If you will it – it is not a dream.

Today, *for the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel* we dedicate *our vision- our Beit Knesset* – but, let us ask, what is a *Beit Knesset*?

The historic function of a *Beit Knesset* was to provide a spiritual stronghold for the Jewish people throughout the generations – from the time of the Second Temple, for thousands of years, to this day.

In the Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Brachot (Page 6: 51), we find:

“How do we know that we need a quorum of ten in order for the divine presence to be among them?”

As it is said: We can feel God's presence in a community.

The *Beit Knesset* is a place where we congregate *as a community*– day-in and day-out, week after week. We pray in it. We study in it. It is here that we discover the richness of the Jewish library and through it we learn how to conduct ourselves as well as learning the ways of the world.

The *Beit Knesset* is the place where we create our connection to God. It is the place where we create connections with one another and where we create our responsibility for the society in which we live.

The *Beit Knesset* is a House of Prayer, a place where we make time for personal and communal soul-searching, and plan our personal and public expectations for the future. It is here that we dream and hope.

The *Beit Knesset* is House of Study for life. It is here that we acquire the skills we need to assure the continuity of the Jewish people in all of its variations. It is here that we pass these skills on to the next generation.

The Beit Knesset of YOZMA is a reflection of all of these aspects of communal life and opens its doors to each and every one of you seeking a warm environment, a spiritual home which honors Jewish tradition while translating it into our modern lives. I look forward to welcoming all of you as you enter our new sacred space.

This is the day that God has given us let us be glad and rejoice in it!

Rabbi Kinneret Shiryon