

Funeral oration 2

One day in 1988 a group of tourists from the open university in Koblenz came for one day tour to Petach Tikva. At the end of their visit they arrived to the youth department where I was working in order to learn about the youth activities. Before leaving an amazing woman whom I never knew was approaching me. She introduced herself as Doris Leber and asked me:

" "Can we do some thing together?" "yes" I answered "youth exchange

Thus began the saga of a profound friendship between our two cities. We were lucky to overcome all the difficulties and borders in our efforts to tie the first links of true love between the Israeli and German youth. The young groups were hosted by families who became for them part of the family. Later grown up groups from Koblenz visited Petach tikva more than once, and became very good friends for many years

I had the privilege and pleasure to step with Doris along the long way beginning with the foundation of the freindship leage climbing up to stage of twin towns. The achievements and blessed activities of Doris are well known. but the real secret of her success was her unique personality which make people love her so much. I can tell how much Petach Tikva loves her. I also witnessed how friends of her from other towns loved her as well

The highlight of Doris activity that still goes on was the youth exchange. The Israeli and German youth of this generation know the dark time of the holocaust from books or family stories. There for they can and will build together strong bridges of real friendship over the abyss of the past. They are capable to build a new world without hatred on a basis of brotherhood. This was a strong hope we shared with Doris

Thank you Doris for all you have done and for who you were. Thank you for being such a true friend for me. IT is a great honour to speak about you in your funeral but it is an endless pain to loose a friend and sister like you. How we depart from you? We do not depart. We shall never forget you