



Dear Friends of Israel, Members of the Friendship Groups,

I would like to greet you on the occasion of the election of a new assembly of the National Association of the Hungarian-Israeli Friendship Groups. It is a time of new peaks in the relations between our two countries with expanding cooperation in different aspect which calls for reinventing and redefining our goals. I am confident of the role the Friendship Groups and its new assembly should play.

This year we mark the 30th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Hungary and Israel. Few could have imagined back in 1989 how close our two countries will turn strategically. It is worth mentioning that with the resumption of diplomatic relations, the first Hungarian-Israeli Friendship Group was established in Budapest. After the establishment of the Budapest Friendship Group, founded by the late President Hidvégi György, more and more associations followed, and at present, we have 24 Friendship Groups of which the Nyugat-Dunántúli Friendship Group is the youngest.

I am certain of the contribution of the Friendship Groups to the strengthening of the relations, creating a friendly atmosphere and goodwill. As you gather and as we witness the ongoing improvement in the bilateral relationship, I would like to take this opportunity to express my special thanks for the dedication and rigorous commitment. I much appreciate the support of the Friendship Groups and their willingness to be at the forefront of our struggle.

I believe that through you, through the Israel-friends and through the Hungarian Jewish Community, we can make a closer understanding of Israel, its culture, politics, history, religion, and economy. I consider it important for the Friendship Groups to take upon themselves new challenges and reach out beyond our ranks, especially a new chapter for young people, as they bring new vision and energy.

As we meet present time challenges, spreading the love of Israel has always been a priority. I believe that spreading this love is not only for Israel, the country, I am proud of, but also the people and the Jewish nation. Fighting prejudice, superstitions, xenophobia and anti-Semitism is still crucial. This battle has not yet won.

I hope that the newly elected officials will vigorously work and continue to update the vision of the National Association and strive to make it come true. I can assure you that the Friendship Groups can count on the help of the Embassy in the future as well.



Yossi Amrani  
Ambassador



Budapest, May 19, 2019