

**REMARKS BY STANLEY M. BERGMAN
HENRY SCHEIN, INC. CHAIRMAN AND CEO**

TREE OF PEACE INAUGURATION

JULY 10, 2013

Good morning. All of us at Henry Schein are so proud to be one of the four sponsors of the Tree of Peace being unveiled today here at Al-Quds University.

This day is even more special for me because I am in the company of dear friends whose commitment to peace and brotherhood is a model for our world: Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, the President of Al-Quds University, who looks across the valley that separates two villages and reaches out to create relationships, dialogue, understanding and collaboration; Dr. D. Walter Cohen, whose inspirational founding of the D. Walter Cohen Middle East Center for Dental Education at Hebrew University in 1997 laid the foundation for the Bridge to Peace program.

Dr. Allen Finkelstein, a socially responsible and highly respected oral health leader from New York who inspired and developed the original Tree of Peace; Dr. Musa Bajali and Dr. Adam Stabholz, the founders of the Bridge to Peace program and two visionary leaders whose personal friendship and commitment to the cause of peace is the very reason we are here today and continues to inspire to us all.

Dr. Amid Ismail, my dear friend, a Muslim born in Iraq, who is the Dean of the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, home to another Tree of Peace, and an amazing human being who will speak eloquently to us about the foundation of peace, and whose leadership of the Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders is truly inspirational; Dr. Jack Dillenberg, the Dean of the A.T. Still University Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health in Mesa, Arizona, an extraordinary leader devoted to public service and whose school also is home to a Tree of Peace; and Dr. Mohamed Elachi, my Palestinian friend from New York, another great leader committed to making the world a better place, who approached us to help organize the Arab-American Dental Association, which he chairs and which we are proud to support.

We also want to welcome a very special guest who is with us today, Dr. Jawad Awad, Minister of Health for the Palestinian Authority. And thank you to Hedva Ser, the extraordinary artist who created this beautiful and symbolic sculpture, for lending her support to help make today's ceremony possible.

In addition to the vision and support of Dr. Finkelstein, the Tree of Peace at Al-Quds University is the result of support from the Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders, the Dr. Edward B. Shils Entrepreneurial Fund, named in honor of my mentor, Ed Shils, who worked to bring together people of diverse backgrounds, and Henry Schein Cares.

I stand before you as a Jew whose family fled Nazi Germany for South Africa, where I was born, educated, and bore witness to the horrors of apartheid. I saw first-hand the seemingly insurmountable chasm that can exist between two groups of people separated by conflict and suffering.

As a young man, I left my homeland for the promise of America, whose founding ideal is the belief that all people are created equal. As the years passed, I saw the power of the non-violent approach of the ANC, as the ANC followed the example of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. I also saw the commitment of Nelson Mandela to bring about peace and equality in South Africa by bridging that “impossible” gap and inspiring others to do the same. Speaking about this achievement later in his life, Mandela said, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” We have seen other “impossible” gaps bridged between Germany, France and England following World War II and, more recently, in Northern Ireland.

Bridging the chasms that separate people in this part of the world may seem impossible, but it is not. Yes, it will be difficult and will take all of our combined commitment, but one day we will look back together and see that the “impossible” has been done.

The inauguration today of this sculpture at Al-Quds University School of Dental Medicine is another step on the journey to what is “possible.” We, the children of Abraham – Jews, Christians, Muslims – are gathered here today, along with those of other religions and even those with secular beliefs, in a place that has known so much war to declare that love and respect are the only way to peace. Because, as Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be attained through understanding.” Our Tree of Peace plants the roots of understanding and friendship deeply into the ground, to allow peace to flourish.

On behalf of all of my colleagues at Henry Schein, we are very proud to be affiliated with the Tree of Peace program and to be part of this unveiling today at Al-Quds University.

Today we celebrate our fourth Tree of Peace. We are determined that it will not be our last.