

WELCOME REMARKS: VIP Reception Kicking Off Local  
Exhibition of *“People. Book. Land: The 3,500 Year  
Relationship of the Jewish People with the Holy Land”*

Monday, November 27, 2017 5:00 PM  
SJSU Diaz/Compean Student Union  
President Mary A. Papazian

Thank you so much, Sarita. Welcome, everyone!

I am very proud to

And it is a distinct honor to welcome all of you to San Jose State University.

For many reasons, this is the perfect place to celebrate the west coast opening of an exhibit that chronicles the history of the Jewish people in the Middle East.

You are visiting the oldest public university in the western United States. The founding campus of the California State University.

We have a unique history and important legacy. Our people we call them Spartans long have been committed to the struggle for social justice and human rights.

I am an Armenian-American. My grandparents lived through the Armenian genocide. I heard their stories. As a consequence, I





Before turning things back to Sarita, I would like personally to recognize and welcome several important guests.

Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen. Welcome, Jeff.

Ravit Baer,

And

Global Social Action, Rabbi Abraham Cooper.

Rabbi Cooper is a New York native. I spent a good number of years on university campuses in New Jersey, Connecticut and the Bronx, New York.

Rabbi, we will have to find time to reminisce while you are here!

A warm Spartan welcome to you all!

Let me close by saying that as a career educator, academic leader and parent of two adult daughters, few things matter as much to me as ensuring that future generations truly comprehend history.

I was involved years ago in the Facing History and Ourselves campaign to support holocaust and genocide education in our public schools, and my husband was a commissioner for eight years on the Holocaust and Genocide Commission of New Jersey, which sought to do the same in the state of New Jersey.

That is what this exhibit  
3,500 Year Relationship of the Jewish People with the Holy  
is about. I am proud that you are here to celebrate its  
arrival on the west coast.

Thank you.