

Ariane, Nicole,
Mrs. Walesh, Mr. Boll, Mr. Schuhbauer,

Dear members of the Zivi and Zivy family,

If we are all here tonight, it is because of our common interest in family, forebears, and genealogy. I can see a number of family trees circulating around, so obviously there has been considerable effort by some of you and their relatives to understand where we all come from.

Some decided not to come, they have little interest, but as long as one descendant of each branch keeps extending the research and passing the results on, history will be preserved.

But I would like to share with you one additional reason why we are all here tonight:

Until a few years ago, all these family trees were mostly disconnected, the Durmenach branch, the Mullheim, Mutzig, Biesheim, Freiburg and more branches, including those like us who thought they were from Durmenach whereas it actually was from Mullheim...

Some four years ago, one person spent considerable time and effort connecting the dots, and actually succeeded building one global Zivi-Zivy family tree out of all the smaller ones.

So part of what you will receive as an outcome of this reunion is our global family tree in electronic format, to which you will be able to add more information and more members as you uncover new links.

This work was a team effort in which Nicole, Ariane and a few more among you participated. But one person broke the puzzle and connected all the branches to our common ancestor Aaron Moshe. This person unfortunately is not here with us tonight; he attended the kick-off meeting last October in Zurich and could not travel again so far so soon afterwards.

His name is Sam Zivi, and he lives in Los Angeles. I talked to him earlier this week and he asked to pass his warmest thoughts to all of you and said he was with us in his heart.

So I'd like to ask all of you to please join me in a toast to Sam...

Tomorrow, we will be visiting more family places, and I hope all branches can take time to better know each other while paying a tribute to our common ancestors in a cemetery which will open especially for us.

I wish you all a good time here and there.

G rard Zivy