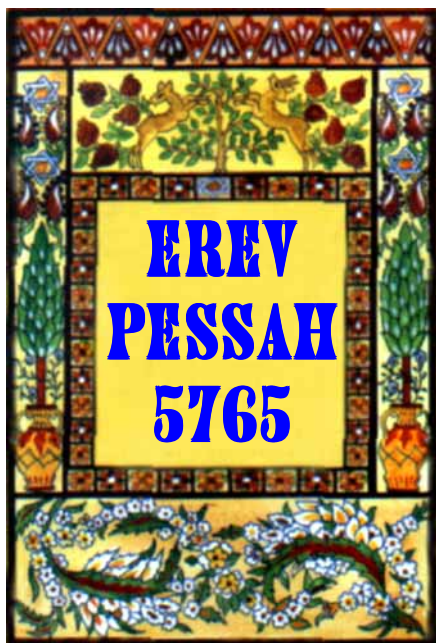


# JEWISH REALITY



In this edition we dedicate a page to *Erev Pessah*. Its nucleus includes the *Pessah* thoughts of the spiritual and community leaders, respectively, the Passover messages of adv. Iulian Sorin, interim president and general secretary, and of Great Rabbi Menachem Hacoen to the Romanian Jewish community. The appeal to moral verticality of the holiday is emphasized by the memories of collective Seders with Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, z.l. as the mesader, or of his Eminence's speeches in the Coral Temple. The published fragments are commentaries on the first Seder night of 5703 in the Warsaw ghetto, the beginning of the revolt, on the question mark as a way of conceiving the existence, on the deep meaning of the Had Gadia poem, which ends the Seder. The thoughts about the Pessah belonging to Dr. Alexandru Safran, Sorin Vieru, Henri Wald, Martin Buber's literary texts, commentaries related to the Seder poetry, and others, offer the page an opening to the Jewish ethics and esthetics related to the Holiday of Freedom.

F.J.C.R.'s acting president  
**Av. IULIAN SORIN**

Let us say with love the greeting:  
*Hag Pesach Shameah!*

On the month of Nissan, starting with its 15<sup>th</sup> day, we celebrate our passage from slavery to freedom. This act of liberation, the first in the history of the world, can be considered the moment of our birth as a nation, and we celebrate it starting with the Seder night on its eve. Nissan also marks the beginning of springtime, when the whole nature comes back to life. This is why Pesach is both a historical and a spring celebration. The late Chief Rabbi, Dr. Moses Rosen, used to say that Nissan is the month of the "eternal Israel," which, for so many times seemed defeated by the storms of history, and yet was reborn every single time, thus continuing its multi-millenary path towards spreading the light of the Torah that was received at Mount Sinai. On the Seder evening, when we read the Hagaddah, in fact we read the first

lines of our history, so that we can better understand the wonders of our past and present, having a glance at the mystery of the survival of the Jewish people. We also have more faith in the perspectives of the Jewish people and we can thus increase our efforts towards keeping our identity and defending our dignity.

May these days of Pesach 5765 be a new opportunity for us to get closer to the community, to feel closer to one another and to be happy together because we can greet each other with: **HAG PESACH SAMEAH!** Let us unite our voices in imploring the Almighty to give peace to Romania, to Israel and to the whole world.

## THE DAYS OF THE YIDDISH CULTURE IN BUCHAREST

April 10-12, 2005

For three days, on April 10 – 12, 2005, the Jewish State Theatre and the "New Europe" College, hosted performances and debates on the Yiddish culture and language; the topics: the history of the European Ashkenazi Jews from the Middle Age till the 20<sup>th</sup> mid-century, speakers and in the last centuries creators of Yiddish culture. The event was organized by the Austrian Embassy in Bucharest and by the Cultural Austrian Forum, in partnership with F.J.C.R., the Jewish State



Theater, the Romanian Cultural Institute, the Ecumenical Association of the Academies and of the Secular Centers from Europe, the Office of the Eastern Europe Counselor from Romania. The main performances of the Jewish Theater – "The Kreutzer Sonata", "The Trifle Sellers", the participation of prestigious researchers from Romania and from other countries, the interesting interventions on the ways of preservation and transmission of the cultural patrimony to the future generations, were the subject of the Days of the Yiddish Culture in Bucharest.

Great Rabbi  
**MENACHEM HACOEN**

[...] The fundamental commandment of the Seder night is to recall the story of the exodus from the Egyptian slavery, as it is written in the Hagaddah: "The one who tells more and more about the Exodus from Egypt is praiseworthy." The story has two major themes: 1. *The slavery and the hard work from Egypt.* 2. *The miracle of the Exodus from Egypt and the freedom that was destined to the people.* The importance of this event, with all the preceding, simultaneous and immediately following miracles, has eternal connotations, which find their best expression in the words read during the Seder evening. "With each generation, man has the duty to see himself as if he was the one who got out of Mitzraim." This underlines the fact that the event of the liberation from the Egyptian slavery is not only a national, historical memory, but, due to its uniqueness in the ancient world, it has a universal meaning. The victory of the Jewish slaves over tyranny represents a landmark in the history of the world, of humanity, having an echo at all times, up until today. The exodus from Egypt became a general human prototype of liberation from tyranny, no matter of its features; it is a symbol of the human desire for spiritual, as well as cultural, national and social freedom.

May the Pesach holiday, the holiday of matza, of freedom and springtime bring a new wave of life and peace to man, to the whole community, as well as freedom and springtime to the Jewish people and to all the peoples of the world. **HAG COSHER VESAMEAH!**

*Freedom – a fundamental desiderate of humanity*

## ESZTER GONDA - "BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES ENNOBLE THE SENESCENCE"



Eszter Gonda (97), is the age dean in the "Rosen" nursing home. The way these years have passed in order to leave their trace is most meaningful.

The venerable lady brings back memories in our conversation with the grace that characterized her long ago, when she made her dance steps on the stage of life.

## High school students present Israeli realities

A program initiated by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Israel sent high school students as envoys in 20 different

countries in order to present the realities of the modern Israel as reflected in the eyes of the younger members of the society. Avihai Parizade and Daniel Beiski, both 17 years old, had several lectures in high schools in Bucharest, Cluj, Oradea and Timisoara. They presented to their Romanian colleagues the real situation in Israel, the way of life in a country presented most often as an exclusive area for war and terror. The event offered the Romanian students the opportunity to get acquainted to a different political, economical and social system. Avihai and Daniel, whose program was coordinated by the Embassy of the State of Israel in Romania, were warmly received, as they declared, by the students and by their teachers, and they made a lot of friends on the occasion.



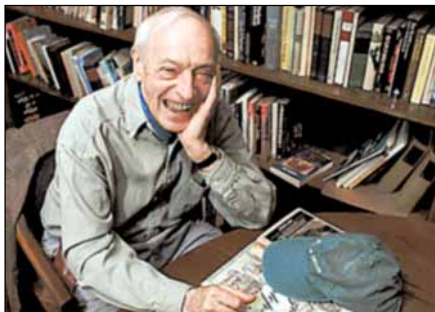
## "JEWISH REALITY INQUIRY" – OPENED TO ALL OUR READERS AND COLLABORATORS

## HOPES, THOUGHTS, PERSPECTIVES FOR 2005

We continue to publish the plans of our friends for 2005. In this edition we find out the thoughts of *Carol Friedman*, president of the Jewish Community from Constanta, of *Toma George Miorescu*, of professor *Rafael Vago*, from the Tel-Aviv University, of *Lia Borza*, interim president of the Jewish Community from *Alba-Iulia*, of professor *Albert Zimber* from Craiova, of *Moshe Yassar* from New-York and of *Adrian Rozenberg*.

## SAUL BELLOW'S VOICE

The great American novelist Saul Bellow died on the night between April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, at the venerable age of 89. The Nobel Prize laureate in 1976, he is well known to the Romanian public. Beside "Herzog", "Humboldt Gift", the novels "The Dean's Winter" and "Ravelstein" were received as related to the realities of the Romanian society, which he personally got to know. On this sad occasion we publish an essay, "Saul Bellow' Voice", signed by Radu Lupan, an American literature specialist, and some biographic and bibliographic data.



## JEWES IN THE WORLD

The page includes an article dedicated to Joshua Boettinger, the grand-grandson of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the famous American president, who will soon finish his rabbinical studies. We also present Gisele Bendor, the Israeli conductor, one of the few women who conducts a symphonic orchestra in the world. The Chief of the police in London appeals to the Jewish citizens in the city to join the order forces, as the best way to achieve the self-defense of the Jewish community. The page also mentions the release of the memories of Ari Fleischer, the former press secretary of President Bush.

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