

JEWISH REALITY

COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES FOR THE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS IN SATU MARE, TARGU MURES AND ORADEA

As every year, in the first decade of June, impressive commemorations of the Holocaust victims took place in North Transylvania, respectively, Satu Mare, Targu Mures, and Oradea. Representatives of the local authorities, of the F.J.C.R. leadership, local communities' leaders, Jews born in these cities and living in other areas in Romania and abroad, who lost family members in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, participated to the ceremonies. In Satu Mare the "Monument of Names" was inaugurated. In Targu Mures, "Papiu Ilarian" High School organized a scientific session, where the school students presented papers on the Holocaust. Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen honored the commemorative ceremony in Oradea. The cantor Tibi Kovari, born in Oradea and living now in Canada, was the soloist of the Oradea choir "Hakesheth".



THE COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTIMS OF IASSY POGROM AND OF THE "DEATH TRAINS" FROM JUNE 1941

The commemoration ceremony of the victims of the pogrom from Iassy and of the "Death trains" from June 1941 took place at the Iassy Jewish cemetery, in the presence of the Jewish community members, of the Federation representative, Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Parliament, of Dr. Otto Adler, president of the Association of the Holocaust Victims from Romania, of the central and local authorities, of intellectuals from the city. The speakers evoked the events of those terrible days and warned against forgetting the facts. They also warned against the new manifestations of anti-Semitism in the world and underlined the necessity of fighting against the phenomena. Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld officiated the commemorative prayer at the monument raised near the common graves of the victims from Iassy, Targu Frumos and Podu Ilioaiei. For the first time such a ceremony was organized at the Jewish cemetery from Roman, where the monument is also raised near the common graves of the victims of the "Death Trains" that had started its journey to Calarasi. The speakers, after reminding the co-existence for centuries of the Jews and Romanians in the city, remembered the courageous deed of Viorica Agarici, president of the Red Cross at the time, who stopped the train and, together with members of the Jewish community from Roman and other citizens of the city, treated and helped those almost passed out in the train, saving thus their lives. Viorica Agarici received post-mortem the honor title of "Righteous of the World".



PARIS, June 26th, 2005

THE REUNION OF THE EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS

The central debates topics at the reunion of the European Jewish Congress, where F.J.C.R. was represented by adv. Iulian Sorin, interim president, and Alex Sivan, general director, included: □ the anti-Semitism situation in Europe □ the European - Israeli relationship □ the presentation of the candidates' programs to the presidency of the European Jewish Congress and of the Leadership committee of the E.J.C. The participants made an analysis of the re-activation nuclei of the anti-Semitism, more intense than ever since the end of WWII. The reunion underlined the forms of the fight against these phenomena, which need to be organized such as to penetrate the public and to avoid being left only at the state authorities' level. Israel Singer, executive president of the World Jewish Congress, also supported this approach.

After the free voting, *Pierre Besnainou* was elected as the new president of the European Jewish Congress. The need for unity of the Jewish life in an enlarged Europe, the support for Israel and the solidarity in the fight against the neo-extremism were the main guiding lines of the reunion.



THE DECLARATION OF CORDOBA - AN INSTRUMENT OF FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM AND INTOLERANCE

The third reunion of the Organization for European Security and Cooperation against anti-Semitism and intolerance took place in Cordoba in June. Participants from more than 60 countries of Europe, U.S.A., Canada and Israel listened to reports regarding the modalities of application of the decisions taken at the 2004 Berlin Conference concerning the fight against anti-Semitism. On this occasion the debates topics were enriched by the discussion of other forms of intolerance, such as that against Muslims and Christians. Romania was represented by a delegation led by Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, Foreign Minister. Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Parliament, represented F.J.C.R. The programs of implementation of the conclusions of the International Committee for the Holocaust Study in Romania regarding the younger generation necessity of acquiring a better knowledge of this darker period of the history of our country were presented in a special session dedicated to Romania. The Declaration of Cordoba, an instrument of fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance, was adopted at the end of the Conference.

THE AUDIO LIBRARY OF "JEWISH REALITY"

Radu Lupan: "Reading is my «vice» and, in a way, my only way of living"

With an extraordinary descriptive gift, Radu Lupan, after remembering the years and friendships of his youth, told us about his meetings with writers from whose books he translated memorable pages. Patiently and thoroughly he wanted to help us understand the tenacity with which he penetrates the magic world of creation and the pleasure of creating, of playing and imagining a world in which he situates his favorite authors and heroes.

THE TRUTH DISTORSION IN A DENIAL VERSION

The review "Transylvania" from Sibiu managed to surprise the public opinion with the publication of the article "The Impact of the Holocaust Problem over the Contemporary

Romania and Aspects of the Romanians/Jews Relationship", signed by the chief editor himself, Prof. Corvin Lupu. The author claims to have a historian quality and the right to freely express his opinion, in order to activate old fashioned slogans from a register belonging to the ethnic nationalism, with Fascist roots, still trying to bring them to life nowadays. In the spirit of the outrageous denial, the pretended objective researcher diminishes the amplitude of the Holocaust inside the Romanian borders, in order to blame the Jews for the imagined responsibilities of bringing the communism over the Romanian citizens of the past, and for the present dragging of the country in the globalization process, which would only be a modality of subordinating the local assets and the energies to the international economical and political powers. A chilling anti-Occidental trend joins the recrudescence of blaming and exorcizing the Jews, as in the saddest time. In reply to these enormities wrapped in a faked desire of re-discovering the truth, Dorel Dorian, chief editor of the "Jewish Reality", and Geo Serban, the literary historian, sign commentaries in our pages. We are also including in our page the answer of Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Parliament, to the letter addressed by Prof. Dr. Constantin Oprean, the rector of "Lucian Blaga" University from Sibiu, expressing "the total disapproval of the Anti-Semitic manifestations expressed by the above mentioned member of the academic staff".

THE "YAHAD" SEMINARY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

On June 30th - July 3rd, 2005 the third edition of the Seminary addressed to the families with children up to age 13, suggestively entitled "Yahad" (together), took place in Timisul de Sus. The 60 participants from different communities from Romania, parents and children, enjoyed a rich program which included psychological, pedagogical, religious, social, philosophical subjects. The younger generation had separated sections in various moments of the program, where they played and learnt near their trainers. The Pedagogical Center of F.J.C.R., the organizers - Eng. Sandra Segal, Bianca Stiubea, Mirela Asman, Eduard Kupferberg, and the trainers, made this week-end become a very special event for the whole family. "Hine Ma Tov u'Ma Naym, Sheveth Ahym Gam Yahad..." ("How nice and pleasant stay all brothers together") is the quoting from a well-known song evoked by Bianca Stiubea, which best defined the atmosphere of the "Yahad" Seminary.



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www.romanianjewish.org
E-mail: re2000@rdslink.ro
realitateaevreiasca@yahoo.com

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Tehnoredactare
computerizată:
ANCA MEȘINĂ
MARIUS GELLER

Administrație:
N. GHERBEZEANU

REDACȚIA: București,
str. Popa Nan, nr. 70.
Tel. / fax: 322.75.60

ADMINISTRAȚIA:
Str. Vasile Adamache nr. 11
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