

JEWISH REALITY

THE GREAT SYMPHONY OF THE AUTUMN HOLIDAYS

How could we define our soul experiences now, at the retrospective of the great autumn holidays of 5766, from the Terrible Days to the *Simhat Torah*? Maybe through our desire and strive to repair the evil. On *Rosh Hashanah* - the Judgement Day - near the F.J.C.R. and the Bucharest community leaders, near the community members who gathered at the Choral Temple, many representatives of the Israel Embassy in Romania, of the Jewish Agency branch, of the Romanian Parliament, of the Royal House, of the Romanian Radio Broadcast Society, of the different religious and national minorities organizations, diplomats

shared our feelings. On behalf of the Federation leadership, Dr. Aurel Vainer, President and member of Parliament, greeted the guests and read the *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* messages and greetings of Traian Basescu, President of Romania. Her Excellence Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel in Romania, read the messages sent to all the Jewish communities in Diaspora by Moshe Katsav, President of the State of Israel, by Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister and by Silvan Shalom, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Prince Radu de Hohenzollern was the messenger of the thoughts addressed to the Romanian Jews by King Mihai. Eng. Ossy Lazar, President of the Jewish Community from Bucharest, read the *Rosh Hashanah* message sent by Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen. Images from *Erev Yom Kippur* came back to our mind: the opened *Aron Hakodesh*, the holy *Sifrei HaTorah*, our men carrying them. We remembered before *Izkor*, the prayer for our dear, the perennial teachings clarified by Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen. Then we greeted the *Sukkoth*, the holiday of the tents, of the harvest, of the blue sky after the storm. Her Excellence Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel in Romania, His Excellence Wilfrid Gruber, ambassador of Germany in Romania, the senators Ion Bazgan, Varujan Vosganian, president of the Armenian Union in Romania, many personalities of the Romanian social and cultural life participated to our joy holiday in the *Sukkah* built in the Choral Temple courtyard. We listened together to the inspired commentaries of Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen. After *Hoshana Raba*, the day meant to bring the awareness to the ephemeral existence of the human being, after the gravity of *Shmini Atzeret*, that reached its peak with the *Izkor* in the memory of our dear ones, we attained, with *Simhat Torah* the sublime zone.

THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY commemorated in Bucharest and in the country



commemorated in Bucharest and in the country

For the second time the Jewish communities from Bucharest and from the other cities commemorated the Holocaust Remembrance Day in Romania. In the capital the event was attended by President Traian Basescu and by Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu, who laid flowers at the Holocaust Monument in the Choral Temple courtyard. The President invited the representatives of the Jewish community at the Cotroceni Palace; there he spoke about the need of the Romanian State to take responsibility over the Jews' tragedy during the Second World War and about decision taken against the repetition of these events. On the same occasion the first handbook of Jews' history and of Holocaust teaching was released. In many cities flowers were laid, symposiums and exhibitions were organized. A special event took place in Iassy, where in the presence of Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and of many Romanian and foreign guests, the Center of the Hebrew Studies of the "Al.I. Cuza" University was inaugurated.



MESSAGES FOR ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR 5766

TRAIAN BĂDESCU,
President of Romania

Good health, happiness, peace and prosperity

To Mr. AUREL VAINER,
President of F.J.C.R.

On the occasion of the autumn holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I am honored to address to you, as the new elected president of the Federation of the Jewish Communities from Romania, the warmest wishes of good health and happiness, of peace and prosperity, to you personally and to all Jewish community members. I hope you will send them my greetings, on behalf of the Romanian people. In these joyful moments that represent a new beginning, I would like to assure you of the special attention I dedicate to the problems confronting the Jewish community from Romania.

Dr. AUREL VAINER,
Member of Parliament,
President of F.J.C.R.

The power of our solidarity

Your participation in great number in this New Year Evening shows once again the attachment to the traditional Judaic values and the power of our solidarity. I wish you the year 5766 would bring you good health, prosperity and joy. May it be a year of strengthening the cooperation of our people with the Romanian people and with the other national minorities, a year of new achievements and development of our relationship with the State of Israel and with all the Jewish communities of the world. From all my heart, *Shanah Tova!*

On the occasion of the Holocaust Day, "Elie Wiesel" Institute for Holocaust Studies was slated to open. The representative of President Traian Basescu, two former presidents of Romania, the ambassador of the State of Israel and other diplomats, the president of F.J.C.R., political personalities, representatives of the civil society, guests from abroad, between them the director of

THE INAUGURATION OF "ELIE WIESEL" INSTITUTE FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES IN ROMANIA

the "Yad VaShem" Museum and of the Holocaust Museum from Washington, members of the Jewish community attended the event. The director of the institute, General Mihail Ionescu, as well

as other speakers, underlined the importance of founding the institute for the acknowledgement of the historical truth regarding the Romanian Jews fate during the Second World War.



"LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH"

The exhibition "Life in the Shadow of Death", a remarkable moment in the series of events dedicated to the Holocaust Day, presented images of the Romanian Jews' deported in camps or in the "death trains" suffering, created by Jewish painters and artists, many of them directly involved in the tragic events. A series of huge posters published the text of the anti-Semitic legislation of the period. A list of 600 lyrical and theater artists, whose presence on the Romanian stages had been forbidden, was most impressive.

THE PRESENCE OF THE MIDDLE AGED GENERATION MORE AND MORE FELT IN THE COMMUNITIES

More than 900 members of the "second age" generation are present in most various activities, as participants or as animators of programs. We wouldn't have achieved this without the support of the "Joint" organization and of its representative, Dr. Zvi Feine. The recruiting of this age category proved to be the most difficult task, because we are speaking about active people, with jobs, families, school- or college-aged children. That is why the effort of those who assumed the responsibility of the actions is worth to be mentioned, after asking them to sacrifice some of their free time. The organizers succeeded due to the attractive, interesting programs suggested to the members of the middle aged generation.

FEARS, HUMILIATIONS, REVOLTS DURING THE PERSECUTIONS

One of Maria Banus' poems with a powerful resonance in the loyal readers' soul is called "Pogrom". It is the direct fruit of some bitter experiences lived by the poet during the persecution years, a period described in her "Diary" kept during all those years. There are tens of pages in handwritten notebooks, who are still waiting for their editor. "Jewish Reality" publishes in absolute premiere, excerpts that represent a dramatic testimony about humiliations and unbearable sacrifices known by the persecuted Jewish population.



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

Serie nouă a
REVISTEI CULTULUI MOZAIC
Fondată în 1956
de Șef-Rabin dr. Moses Rosen
APARE BILUNAR

Director de onoare: HAIM RIEMER
Redactor-șef: DOREL DORIAN
Secretar general de redacție:
ELENA MARINESCU
Redactori:
IULIA DELEANU, LUCIANA
FRIEDMANN, EVA GALAMBOS,
BORIS M. MEHR, AVRAM CROITORU,
SOLOMON FLORIAN, FLORIN Z. FLORIN

Corectură: MIHAELA OBERSCHI
Traducător (ebraică și engleză):
SANDA LEPOIEV
Tehnoredactare
computerizată:
ANCA MEȘINĂ
MARIUS GELLER
Administrație:
MARCU GOLDSTEIN
N. GHERBEZEANU

REDACȚIA: București,
str. Popa Nan, nr. 70.
Tel. / fax: 322.75.60
ADMINISTRAȚIA:
Str. Vasile Adamache nr. 11
Telefon: 314.96.90
Tiparul: SINOROM PRINTING &
PACKAGING CORPORATION S.R.L.
I.S.S.N. 1223 - 7736

Prețul unui abonament pe un an este de 19,80 (198.000) lei. Pentru semestrul întâi, prețul unui abonament va fi de 12 (120.000) lei; pentru semestrul doi, prețul unui abonament va fi de 9 (90.000) lei. Abonamentele pentru cititorii din provincie se vor face la comunitățile evreiești din localitatea respectivă. Pentru cei din București - la sediul F.C.E.R. din str. Sfânta Vineri nr. 9-11, cod poștal 030202. Abonamentele se mai pot achita și prin mandate poștale fie pe adresa F.C.E.R. - la oficiile poștale din localitate, conform catalogului de presă poz. 3030 - pe cont B.C.R. RO10-RNCB-5030-0000-0170-0001 filiala sector 3, București. Pentru cititorii din străinătate un abonament pe un an costă 65 de dolari USA. Această sumă include taxele vamale și poștale și se poate trimite pe adresa F.C.E.R., cont B.C.R. RO20-RNCB-5030-0000-0170-0015 (USD), filiala sector 3, București-România.