

JEWISH REALITY

DECEMBER 1st, HALLMARK FOR UNITY

This year December 1st, the National Day of Romania, became the hallmark for deeper understanding of the meaning of national unity. There were no confrontations between the leading parties and those in opposition; the political parties were ready to listen to the President's demand to forget the political disputes and to be united on this day. President Basescu's image near the former presidents Ion Iliescu and Emil Constantinescu, near the heads of the leading and opposition parties, following from the Triumph Arch the military defilation, is worth to be more often seen on the TV broadcasting channels. Though there were few speeches, people knew what and whom to celebrate. The Great Union was an act of will not only of the Romanian population living in this area, but also of the national minorities that had been promised in Alba Iulia equal rights and the possibility of maintaining their ethnic identity. Between those there were also the Jews who promoted the reunion of Romania not only with words, but also with their military deeds, and many of them sacrificed their lives in war. But, in spite of the promises, the Jews became citizens of Romania with full rights only in 1923, after many external pressures.



AN IMPORTANT "OTER" SEMINARY

The Jewish Community from Cluj-Napoca became the host of the first seminary "OTER" on November 25th-27th, 2005 where the platform-program of the organization and the future projects were discussed. On the occasion, leaders of the youth organizations and active members involved in several programs participated to the debates. Attila Gulyas, member of the Leadership Committee of F.J.C.R. and national leader organized the seminary. Parker Crockford, the Joint organization volunteer, had a particular role in this action. The essential aspects discussed in the meeting were the description of the opportunities involved by the community life and the idea of being young and in the same time a follower of important tradition. The presence during the whole event of Israel Sharli Sabag, vice-director of "Joint" for Romania, sealed once again the importance seen in this institution for the future of the Jewish community in the world and in this case, in Romania.



THE SYMPOSIUM DEDICATED TO THE WRITER GHEORGHE SCHWARTZ

On November 27th at the Community Cultural Center, the homage symposium dedicated to the writer Gheorghe Schwartz on the occasion of the anniversary of his 60th birthday took place. Dr. Jose Blum, cultural counselor, opened the symposium that was led by Toma George Maiorescu, writer. Dr. Aurel Vainer, M.P., President of F.J.C.R. spoke about the important work of the writer and awarded the "Excellence Diploma" of F.J.C.R. The vice-president of the Writers' Union, *Varujan Vosganian*, senator and poet, academician *Alexandru Bogdan*, professor *Vasile Morar*, *Dorel Dorian*, writer, chief editor of the "Jewish Reality", *Boris Marian Mehr*, poet and publicist, *George Balaita*, poet, completed Gheorghe Schwartz's portrait. In this edition we dedicate a page to this cultural event, reflecting the manifestation, a literary portrait of Gheorghe Schwartz, a presentation of the most recent editorial publication of the writer, "The World Axis", a novel published by "Polirom" Publishing House.

YOUTH REGIONAL SEMINARY

IASSY,
december 1st - 4th,
2005

On December 1st - 4th the Youth Department of F.J.C.R. organized in Iassy a Regional Seminary that included in its program the national phase of the Jewish knowledge competition. Young Victor Rosenzweig from Oradea is the winner of the contest. From the nine participants, on the next two positions were Andrei Schwartz (Timisoara) and Asher Pusztai (Arad). Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R. and member of the Parliament, participated to the event and led a panel on "Anti-Semitism versus Real-Semitism or Pro-Semitism - a present problem and possible modalities of approach and action", in the presence of many important personalities from Iassy. Israel Sabag, vice-director of "Joint" for Romania, also participated to this important event.



BUCHAREST,
november 23rd - 27th,
2005

THE INTERNATIONAL BOOKFAIR "GAUDEAMUS" - LEARNING BOOK, AT ITS 12TH EDITION

Tens of thousands of visitors

It is already a tradition at the end of each autumn to organize in Bucharest an international bookfair named "Gaudeamus". Even the name reflects the main objective, that of contributing to the stimulation and maintaining the pleasure of reading of the youth. Tens of publishing houses from the country, beside some similar enterprises invited from abroad, take part in an authentic competition of new titles (and also of the last years production), able to answer the preoccupations and to stir the interest of various categories of readers, oriented to exact sciences, and to humanities as well. The editorial production fills the bookstalls near the computers connected to Internet, in a chain of fertile interferences, benefic for the augmentation of the spiritual life. The Prime Minister spoke at the opening of the fair, underlying the importance of this event. Jonathan Scheele (head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Commission in Romania) who accepted to be the honor president of the "Gaudeamus" Bookfair, was an encouraging presence.



THE CONFERENCES OF 5766

Acad. SOLOMON
MARCUS

PAUL ERDÖS, A LEGEND FROM THE 20TH CENTURY

On November 20th, at the Community Cultural Center, in an overcrowded hall, the legend Paul Erdős was presented by acad. Solomon Marcus with the literary gifts of the family and with the passion for the queen of the sciences, the mathematics. This was the debut for the 5766 conferences on Judaic themes, with its opening - the children choir conducted by Bogdan Lifsin, the opening speech of Dr. Aurel Vainer, M.P., president of F.J.C.R., and also the interventions of other participants: eng. Ossy Lazar, president of the Jewish Community from Bucharest, architect Aristide Streja, Emanuel Reicher, the world chess champion, Dr. Liviu Beris, professor Sigmund Tauberg, and others. The event proved metaphorically and in reality as well, the youth of a community that still has something to say in the contemporary Jewish world.



BARUCH TERCATIN'S VOLUME, "THE SCROLL OF ESTHER", LAUNCHED IN CLUJ-NAPOCA AND BUCHAREST

The release of "The Scroll of Esther" in Cluj and in Bucharest, translated and commented in Romanian by the well-known Israeli scholar and writer born in Romania, eng. Baruch Tercatin, represented a memorable event in the cultural Romanian life. Memorable through its participation: personalities of the social and cultural life, leaders of F.J.C.R., of the Jewish Community from Bucharest, of the Rabbinate, of the "B'nai B'rith" Forum from Romania, of the Cultural Association for Friendship Romania - Israel, of the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust. Also memorable through the substance of its recommendations: Professor Ladislau Gyemant

and the writer Dorel Dorian, chief editor of the "Jewish Reality", in Cluj. Dr. Aurel Vainer, M.P., President of F.J.C.R., Her Excellence Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel in Romania, academician Gabriel Stempel, academician Cornelia Bodea, adv. Constantin Visinescu, honorific president of the Cultural Association for Friendship Romania - Israel, in Bucharest. Everywhere the moderator of these panels of book release was Professor Alexandru Singer, director of "Hasefer" Publishing House, which published all the mentioned volumes, "The Scroll of Esther" - "Megilath Esther", included. The event was also memorable due to the splendor of the cultural spaces that hosted the book release: the "Babes-Bolyai" University in Cluj, the Romanian Academy and the "Gaudeamus" Bookfair in Bucharest.

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