

JEWISH REALITY

PESSAH 5766

The collective Seders from the capital and the provinces demonstrated that every Pessah celebration constitutes a renewed opportunity for identity rediscovery, for a meditation upon the meaning of the Jewish people history. These evenings revealed we have the power to defend the right to independence and sovereignty of the country we gained, subsequently to our delivery from slavery, after 40 years of wandering through the desert. This was also the spirit of the greeting Hag Pessah Sameach, expressed on behalf of the F.J.C.R. leadership, by Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of the Federation and member of the Parliament. Before reading the Haggadah shel Pessah, the president

of the Jewish Community from Bucharest, eng. Ossy Lazar, read the greeting message of Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu to the Jewish community from Romania.

The participants, who gathered for the collective Seder evenings of 5766 at the Cultural Center from Bucharest, had various feelings: ● a sense of belonging to the great

“MA NISHTANAH, HALAILAH HAZEH?”

family of our community; ● spiritual purification; ● awareness of the Judaism continuity in Romania. Our emotions increased with the everlasting Seder songs – “Dayeinu”, “Adir Hu”, “Ehad Mi Yodeah”, and so many others, sang by prime cantor Iosif Adler and repeated by the choir of the Jewish youngsters (conductor – Bogdan Lifsin). The Haggadah commentaries of Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld were illustrated through Hebrew readings and Romanian translations of leaders of F.J.C.R., J.C.B., and of representatives of the youth department. In the 8th day of the Pessah, eng. Paul Schwartz, vice-president of F.J.C.R., read the greeting message of Traian Basescu, President of Romania on the holiday occasion, signed by Bogdan Tataru-Cazaban, state counselor for culture and religions. The message of His Holiness Ioan Robu, Archbishop Mitropolit of the Romano-Catholic Church of Bucharest became also public.



Bruchim Habaym! – we said on April 27th to an important and big delegation of JOINT. The visit of a tremendous importance expressed a re-confirmation of a Talmudic precept: each Jew is responsible for the other. It was the essence of the speeches of Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R. and member of the Parliament, of Great Rabbi Menachem Hacoen, of Attila Gulyas, national coordinator of the youth organization O.T.E.R., of eng. Ossy Lazar, president of J.C.B. Patricia Uhlman, president of JOINT Committee for Central and East Europe and Debby Miller, vice-president, thanked for the warm reception: the liturgical music of the Choral Temple choir conducted by Maximilian Kertesz, the traditional music of the Bucharest youth choir conducted by Bogdan Lifsin. Her Excellence Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel in Romania participated to the reception of the guests at the Choral Temple. Dr. Zvi Feine, director, Israel Sabag vice-director of the JOINT program for Romania, and Alex Sivan, general director of F.J.C.R. accompanied the delegation. The guests had a very intense work schedule: ● visit to the Educational Center of the Youth Department, at the future Cultural Center from Bucharest; ● meeting with the members of the Jewish Community from Bucharest at the Choral Temple; ● visit to “Balus” Complex, to the new offices of the Social and Medical Assistance Department, to the homes of some assisted members of the community in Bucharest. Impressed by the youth enthusiasm, by the elderly gratitude, by the efficient use of the funds allocated by JOINT, Debby Miller had the concluded remarks: “We were, we are and we will be near you”.

The visit of a JOINT delegation in Bucharest

“WE WERE, WE ARE AND WE WILL BE NEAR YOU”

REUNION ON “THE ITINERARY OF THE HASSIDIC CULTURE”

The debates related to the project initiated by the Ministry of Culture and Religions in partnership with the European Council on the “Itinerary of the Hassidic Culture” took place on April 19th at the Ministry offices. The speeches outlined several central issues: ● “the Hassidic tradition in Yiddish language is an integral component of the national cultural patrimony”; ● one of the permanent preoccupations of F.J.C.R. was the preservation and the promotion of Hassidism through reference volumes published by “Hasefer” Publishing House; ● the European cultural identity incorporates the Hassidism; ● the salvation from disappearance of the Hassidic culture means the salvation from disappearance of an European voice. The presentations of the experts in cultural programs from the European Council and those of the Romanian researchers are the departure point for the future Hassidic cultural itinerary: a web page including a short encyclopedia on the subject, a map of the Hassidic courts, Hassidic stories (text accompanied by images and music), and others. At the end of the reunion, the participants could see two important documentary movies of Radu Gabrea: “The Goldfaden Inheritance” (script – Manase Radnev) and “Itzik Manger” – both artistic modalities of great refinement, anticipating in fact, the project discussed at the symposium.

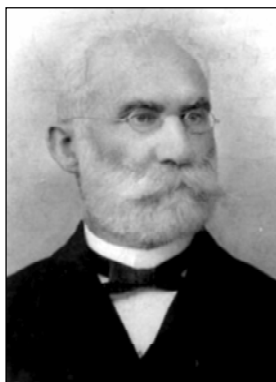
Two review pages are dedicated to the last events in Israel – Independence Day and Holocaust Day. We are also publishing the messages of Moshe Katsav, President of the State of Israel, and of the Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, on the occasion of the Holocaust Day and Independence Day, as well as information on the manifestations organized by the Embassy of Israel and by F.J.C.R. on the occasion of the two events.

The Independence Day is presented through the evocations made by Zeev Sharef, Romania-born participant and witness of the event that took place on May 14th, 1948. He describes in full emotion the moment and the reaction of the personalities present in the Tel Aviv Museum Hall, on the birth day of the Jewish state. On the Holocaust Day commemorated in Israel, the political leaders who participated at the solemn meeting of the “Yad VaShem” Museum, outlined and warned against the new threats upon the Israeli security, and the special session of the Knesset underlined the fact that the anti-Semitism did not disappear, but has been replaced by the anti-Israelism. These ideas can be identified in the messages of the Israeli leaders too.

ISRAEL - TODAY

The page “Judaica” offers to the reader commentaries made by the respected Judaist, eng. Baruch Tercatin, a few excerpts from “Pirkei Avot”, and the evocation of two

JUDAICA



personalities: Samuel Pineles and Franz Rosenzweig. Samuel Pineles (1843 -1928) was one of the most active Zionists from Romania, lived for a while in Galati, and his grave is in Har HaZikaron in Jerusalem. Franz Rosenzweig (1886 - 1926) was an important representative of the 20th century Judaism, beside Martin Buber, Levinas, Gershom Scholem, Andre Neher.



LOLA SCHMIERER ROTH, painter – descendant of Tiktin family

The life passage and the artistic itinerary of Lola Schmierer Roth, painter (1893 – 1981) are interwoven with notorious personalities of Jewish intellectuals in Romania. She was the grand-daughter of H. Tiktin, European linguist, who in his youth traveled in classic metropolis. The painter's second daughter, Anne Louise Roth, married to advocate Alexandru Cezar Ionescu, the unique heiress of the maternal heritage, made a generous donation, more than 300 works – paintings and graphics works – to the National Art Museum. The Museum made very soon available a substantial selection of works, almost with the character of a retrospective exhibition. For several months a score of works could be seen in the richest clusters meant to reflect the stages of an artistic evolution, closely related to the metamorphosis of the European plastic art in the inter-war period. In spite of her living most of the time in Galati, a Danube harbor with an Oriental atmosphere and mentality, the painter stayed connected to all modern artistic trends, from expressionism to cubism. Maybe this mobility and interest for various painting experiences wasted the attention and focus capacity of the painter, so that her work is not completely coherent, but expresses a great fervor each time she sat in front of the easel.

NEW BOOKS

In this edition we dedicate two pages to new released books. We choose some interesting titles: ● “Life between Destiny and History”, by Andrei Voinea and Constantin Visinescu, with pages on sufferings, human solidarity, and totalitarian systems effect upon destinies, not only of Jews, but of people in general ● The “Company” publishing house is present with a volume signed by Zigu Ornea, “The Life of C. Dobrogeanu-Gherea”, and the continuation of Emil Dorian's “Journal” (1945-1948 inedited!) ● Ephraim Glaser tells his Jewish-Israeli biography in “The Price of Survival” ● We also read about the poetry of Bianca Marcovici, the highly appreciated writer from Israel, about David Ioachim's verses (Felix Goldstein), about the essays of Dr. Iancu Feldstein, and about the release of the poetry volume “The Rise of the Sunset”, of Felicia Mohr ● We also evoke in the same page the regretted poet Horia Gane (Gutman) who on April 10, 2006 would have been 70.

In other pages you can also read:

● LYA BENJAMIN – anniversary moment



● The audio library of the “Jewish Reality” – STEFAN IURES (75): “A link in the generation chain”



● The critic S. DAMIAN – guest of the “Jewish Reality”

● Teleobiectiv (by Sanda Faur)

● From the cultural press

● The anti-Semitism chronicle

● Meridians

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