

# JEWISH REALITY

## A VERY MEANINGFUL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS

A premiere for our community, the meeting of the executive leadership of the European Jewish Congress that took place in Bucharest (May 17 – 18, 2006) included a working meeting with the F.J.C.R. leaders in the Choral Temple library, and with high authorities of the Romanian state. The central themes of the discussions: the fight against the anti-Semitism and against the denying tendencies, emphasized by the fact that the Ordinance 31/2002 was passed into law, the restitution of the community assets and of the private persons' properties confiscated during the Antonescian and the totalitarian regimes, the preservation of the Jewish cultural patrimony. On the same occasion, Pierre Besnainou, president of the European Jewish Congress, offered an exclusive interview to our review.



## The Emergency Ordinance no. 31/2002 was passed into law

On April 27<sup>th</sup> President Traian Basescu signed the Decree stating as law the Emergency Ordinance no. 31-2002 regarding the interdiction of the organizations and of the symbols with a fascist, racial or xenophobic character, and of promotion of any person guilty of committing infractions against peace and

mankind. In a political statement, dr. Aurel Vainer, MP, representative of the Jewish community, emphasized the importance of this new law. Our review publishes opinions of persons directly involved in the fight against anti-Semitism - general Mihail Ionescu, director of the Institute for the Holocaust Study in Romania, «Elie

Wiesel», Alexandru Florian, executive director of the same institution, and Marco Katz, from the Monitoring Center of the Anti-Semitism, Romania, concerning the importance of this activity and the degree in which the law will contribute to the discouragement of the anti-Semite attacks of different forms in Romania.

## “BALKAN BLACK SEA GESHER” – THE FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE FOR THE REGIONAL YOUTH

Between May 11 – 14, the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Program “Balkan Black Sea Geshet” took place in Halkidiki (Greece). 300 young persons from Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Macedonia and Turkey met on the occasion initiated by JOINT. Adrian Gueron, Cristi Ezri, Attila Gulyas and Dalia Golda, together with Parker Crockford, the Joint volunteer, were involved in the organization of the great project on behalf of the F.J.C.R. Israel Sabag, depute director of the JOINT for Romania was also present near the 83 youngsters from Romania. The program approached various themes: history, religion, modern Jewish civilization in Israel and Diaspora; it also included entertainment moments matching the participants' age. The Sabbath was celebrated near the hotel piscine, and at the festive dinner the participants sang the traditional Jewish songs accompanying this weekly celebration.



## SOLIDARITY WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF THE WORLD



This edition includes under the title an interview with Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Parliament, the leader of our Federation delegation to the Centennial of the Conference of the American Jewish Committee and to the International Conference of the Jewish Leaders of the Jewish Communities – debates that took place in Washington. Dr. Aurel Vainer, the Federation president, also participated to the yearly Conference of the “Joint” board. The leader of F.J.C.R. underlined the large participation, the high interest and level of the debates. The solidarity with Israel, with the Jewish people from all over the world

represented the common ground of the debates. The high emotional moments weren't missing, and such was the meeting with Alfred Moses, former ambassador in Romania, who evoked the good relationship with the regretted acad. Nicolae Cajal and who also expressed his desire to help anytime the Jewish community from Romania. On the occasion of the Joint leaders, our Federation president thanked Dr. Zvi Feine, director of the Joint program for Romania, Israel Sabag, depute director and Alberto Senderey, director for Europe, for the constant support to our community.



## JUDAICA

“Judaica” page includes as usual interesting articles, daily commentaries made with competency by our collaborator, eng.

Baruch Tercatin. Zvi Ben Dov, Israel, writes about the first Zionist congress in the history of the movement, in Focsani 1881. Harry Kuller, ethno-sociologist, evokes the personality of Haim Bedjerano (1850-1931), the scholar who gained a high consideration at the court of king Carol I of Romania and Boris Marian writes about Rabbi Simon ben Jochai, great scholar, Rabbi Akiva's follower. A presumptive author of Kabbalah (only a hypothesis), Simon ben Jochai is remembered on Lag BaOmer (18 Yiar), and his name is linked to the re-foundation of Sanhedrin (by disciples, as a homage to the master). The “Judaica” page remains open to any contribution to better knowledge of the millenary history of the Judaism evolution.

## THE CAMERI THEATER IN BUCHAREST

The public from Bucharest had the opportunity to see a very special «Hamlet» representation of the «Cameri»

Theater from Tel Aviv, a team invited to participate at the «Shakespeare Festival» from Craiova, a representation that left the usual patterns being adapted to the 21<sup>st</sup> century realities. Hamlet, in the magisterial interpretation of Itay Tiran, «the wonder child» of the Israeli stage, is an angry young man, the eternal adolescent raging against everything and everyone, a rebellious against the whole establishment, against the

## HAMLET, AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN

corrupt court and the flattering court men, against the so-called friends who are betraying him, against the woman he loves, and, above all, against the parents and the older generation. Besides, Hamlet from the 21<sup>st</sup> century is not already only a thinker, tormented by problems to which he has no answer, an undetermined and hesitating person. When he realizes the evil dimensions, he decides to act, he calculates every single movement, even when aware of the life price. But if this is the truth price, he is ready to pay for it for his peace of soul. The original vision of Omri Nitzan, the stage director, the actors' interpretation, between them we are mentioning Gil Frank in the double role Claudius - the father phantom, and Neta Garti - Ofelia, offered the public an image of the present Israeli theater in general, and of the Cameri Theater in particular, especially if we consider it is known as «the theater of the social responsibilities».



THE AUDIO LIBRARY OF THE “JEWISH REALITY”

## SOLOMON MARCUS

This is the credo of Solomon Marcus, a distinguished academic personality. He is as the moving

mercury, always in permanent movement in order to cope with his different interests, and he dedicates himself to his activity with an admirable youth re-lived at the dawn of his 90's. That is why the project of the “Audio Library” could become a reality only after six month. Thus we can discover his memories from the childhood street, about his school years and his unforgotten teachers, about his meeting with Yehudi Menuhin, and many others that bring closer the charming Solomon Marcus. He put down in 180 special notebooks the results of his activities and their journey to the world. And if we consider the fact that Solomon Marcus belongs to a century vigorous family tree – the grand-grandchildren of his sister, Olga, who died several years ago in Israel, are Yasmine, one year old, and Tzuk, one year and a half, and his older brother, the journalist Marius Mircu will be on June 9<sup>th</sup> 97 years old, we can hope the number of his notebooks will grow, enriching the patrimony with new brilliant ideas.

## “WE’LL LIVE AT LEAST AS LONG AS WE’LL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY OR TO DO”

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PACKAGING CORPORATION S.R.L.  
I.S.S.N. 1223 - 7736

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