

JEWISH REALITY

“On that Sunday...”

THE COMMEMORATION OF 65 YEARS FROM THE POGROM OF IASSY

The National Institute for the Holocaust Study in Romania, together with F.J.C.R., the Jewish Community of Iassy and the University “Al. I. Cuza” of Iassy organized in the Moldavian capital on June 28th – 29th several manifestations dedicated to the commemoration of 65 years from the Iassy pogrom and from the “Death Trains”. Beside the ceremonies at the common graves of the victims in the cemeteries from Iassy, Podu Illoaiei and Targu Frumos, an international conference took place: “The Pogrom of Iassy (June 28 – 30 1941), the Prologue of the Holocaust in Romania”. The Romanian and foreign participants, historians, researchers, sociologists presented and discussed in three sections and a panel many aspects related to the pogrom of Iassy; many of the presentations relied on inedited unknown documents that became accessible after the opening of some archives. All the researchers who analyzed the organization and the development of the bloody events of Iassy in the summer of 1941, reached the same conclusion sustained by documentation: the conception, the organization and the execution of this action was the work of the Romanian authorities, based on the orders of Ion Antonescu. Unfortunately, as the speakers outlined, the pogrom was also supported by a large part of the Iassy population, but, as also underlined in many of the presentations, many Romanians helped their Jewish neighbors.



Several personalities of the political, social and cultural life from Romania were present at the event, as well as the ambassadors of Israel and U.S.A., Her Excellency Rodica Radian Gordon and His Excellency Nicholas Taubman, leaders of academic staff of the University of Iassy, of F.J.C.R., of the Jewish Community of Iassy, a large public, Jews and Jews' friends, journalists. Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his triple quality of Iassy citizen, historian specialized in Judaism and member of the government, insisted on being present and was the moderator of one of the conference sections.

The messages of Traian Basescu, President of Romania, of Mihai Razvan Ungureanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, of Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R., and others evoked the tragic events from 65 years ago in Iassy, analyzed the causes and the consequences, outlined the danger of the anti-Semitism resuscitation in Europe and of the extremist right-wing manifestations in Romania. The speakers promised to build a common front against those who intend to bring back the anti-Semitism, the xenophobia and the racism specter, so that events as those in Iassy would never happen again.



THE MEETING OF THE F.J.C.R LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On July 9–10 the meeting of the F.J.C.R Leadership Council took place at the Community Cultural Center. On the debates agenda the following topics were present: ● the updated strategy to improve the efficiency and the diversity of the activities in the nursing home „Amalia and Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen” ● the budget execution for the first six months and the F.J.C.R. budget achievement for 2006 ● the statute procedure for the exploitation of the real estate patrimony of F.J.C.R. and of the communities through lending, selling, investment partnership ● the F.J.C.R. statute, final form project ● the program of measures regarding the Jewish cemeteries from Romania ● analysis and proposals for the exploitation of the patrimony of F.J.C.R. ● information regarding the „Caritatea” Foundation ● scholarship awarding for the „Lauder-Reut” School ● information regarding the present issues of the fight against anti-Semitism and against the Holocaust denial ● information regarding the international activity of F.J.C.R. ● the research activity regarding the Jews' life between 1944–1989, program and study topics at C.S.I.E.R. The meeting reflected the new and pragmatic approach of the discussion, through the proposals regarding new modalities for the F.J.C.R. patrimony management, subsequently to the JOINT contribution constrictions and due to the resilient and negotiating spirit of the F.J.C.R. president, Dr. Aurel Vainer, the moderator of the debates.

„LOVING OUR ARTISTS MEANS LOVING OURSELVES”

“Centennial N. Stroe” at the Community Cultural Centre in Bucharest

How a rainy afternoon during the week days of mid June 2006 spent in Popa Soare Street at the “Centennial N. Stroe” has become a time of rediscovering the youth years of the hosts and guests – stars of the Romanian theatre and entertaining music, of the radio and familiar figures? It was an extraordinary performance where the joy mingled with the dramatic features of the century, of humanity and life: N. Stroe. And there was another important factor involved: *the power of friendship and kindness immune to any type of fundamentalism of the past or of the present.* Ion Vova, Alexandru Arsinel, Horia Serbanescu, Radu Beligan, Tesu Solomovici were ready to prove it. We mention two memorable moments: the first, Octavian Sava with a presentation-script on Stroe – “life and work”, together with television excerpts from his couplets interpreted by contemporary favourite actors; the second, Florin Piersic with a homage to his maestro, an exceptional interpretation of Aurel Storin's poem, “The Chosen People or the Conversation of Tubyia the Milkman with God”. An authentic “royal” performance, as the president of the Jewish Community from Bucharest, Osy Lazar, concluded. “Stroe Nacht revealed himself to be light”, underlined the President of F.J.C.R., Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Parliament.



The great poet Evgheni Evtushenko is an enemy of all kinds of dictatorship – Stalinist, fascist, of xenophobia and anti-Semitism, he is a supporter of democracy in his own country and in the international relationship. Born in 1933, he became famous in 1961 with the poem “Babi Yar”, the name of the place where the massacre of Jews and other citizens from Kiev by the Nazi occupants took place in September 1941. In 1962 he published the poem “Stalin's Followers” which had a great impact. Evgheni Evtushenko, who came for the second time in Romania (the first was in 1963 when he was allowed his

EVGHENI EVTUSHENKO IN BUCHAREST



NORMAN MANEA at 70

Norman Manea, author of several prose works well received in Romania and abroad, distinguished with „Nonino 2002” Prize and member of the Art Academy from Berlin from April 2006, is one of the most important Romanian language contemporary authors. Born on July 19th, 1936 in Burdujeni – Suceava county, he was deported in 1941 in Transdnister with his family. In 1984, he was awarded the Writers' Union Prize, that was afterwards withdrawn, an unique case in the writers' union history. He left Romania to live in Germany, received the support of Heinrich Boll, then settled in U.S.A. We wish him „Ad Meah Ve'Esrim”!



● “Nephesh VeGuf” – a program for body and soul ● On family – with erudition, openness and humor

Two seminaries for singles and young families organized by O.T.E.R., the youth organization, and supported by the JOINT, took place in two picturesque locations from Romania: Poiana Brasov and Timisu de Sus. The first manifestation represented an opportunity for the youth to get to know each other, to discuss their common interests, to find out how to care for their body and soul, and also to have fun. The second seminary dedicated to young families with children up to 13 offered to those present the possibility to participate to a rich program where different aspects of the Jewish life and the facilitation of the communication between parents and children were presented and discussed. The program also included entertaining moments: camp fires, songs and poetry, sports competitions.

THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK SALON „BOOKFEST”

The first international book salon “Bookfest” (Bucharest, June 13 – 18 2006) was organized with the aid of private sponsorship at the initiative of Gabriel Liiceanu, president of the Editors' Association from Romania. Traian Basescu, President of Romania, participated at the opening festivity. 315 publishing houses, press trusts, etc., including some from European countries – Germany, Greece, Belgium, Spain, and others, participated to the event. “Hasefer” Publishing House participated with the release of four volumes, the authors being Sergiu Dan, Iosef Eugen Campus, Gina Sebastian Alcalay, I. Schechter. The “Tesu” Publishing House, the only one owned by an Israeli in Romania, also participated to the fair. In the same pages we are bringing information on the Salon. We also present the 4th volume of the “General Dictionary of the Romanian Literature”, including many Jewish authors names.

first trip over the border), had an interview with the poet Mircea Dinescu, on the “Realitatea TV”, then on July 3rd he held a press conference at the House of the Writers' Union in Bucharest, on the occasion of the release of the poetry volume translated to Romanian by Stefan Dimitriu and Nadia Brunstein; in the evening he offered an extraordinary poetry performance at the National Theater in Bucharest, in the presence of many political and cultural personalities. Evtushenko recited the poems “Babi Yar” and “Two Cities” and in the same time stated his opposition to any form of extremism. On July 4th he was received by Traian Basescu, President of Romania, who awarded him a high cultural distinction. Evgheni Evtushenko lives in Moscow, but also in U.S.A, where he teaches at the University of Oklahoma.

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