

JEWISH REALITY

"May you be signed in the Book of Life with health, peace and prosperity!" The traditional blessings for the beginning of the Jewish Year were heard in the farthest corners of the country, where only a few Jews are still living. On Rosh Hashanah – Judgment Day – near many members of the Jewish Community from Bucharest, Her Excellency Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel in Romania, His Excellence Nicholas Taubman, ambassador of U.S.A. in Romania, representatives of the Romanian Parliament, of the Romanian Broadcasting Society, of different religious cults, and of various national minorities welcome the New Jewish Year. Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Romanian Parliament and President of F.J.C.R., presented a community "Heshbon Hanephesh", even more meaningful when this year *Erev Rosh Hashanah* happened to be just

5767 AUTUMN HOLIDAYS

a year after the election of the new leadership of F.J.C.R. Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld spoke about the meanings of the Judgment Day. The messages addressed by the Israeli leaders to the Jewish communities from Diaspora were read. We also relate the *Erev Yom Kippur* images: the opened *Aron Hakodesh*, the Holy Scrolls, the important members of our community carrying them. We remember the prayer for the dear ones before *Izkor*, the perennial teachings enlightened by Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen. We then welcomed *Sukoth* – the Holiday of the Tabernacles, the harvest and the sky enlightening after the struggle. After *Hoshanah Raba*, the day meant to bring in our conscience the human being ephemeral existence, after the gravity of *Shmini Azereth*, with *Izkor* in the memory of the dear ones, we reached the sublime zone through *Simhat Torah*.

TODA RABA MR. ZVI FEINE

Dr. Zvi Feine, director of the JOINT Program for Romania, was as he himself pointed out, our *chazan* before God, and he managed not only to ensure our survival, but to make us change, to properly rejuvenate us. Is there any other better proof than the evening celebrating the ending of his mission in Romania on September 18th, at the Community Cultural Center, when the ceremony maestros were two young people: Erwin Shimshensohn and Attila Gulyas?! And metaphorically as well; our way of thinking became different: more flexible, more pragmatic, more courageous. Nothing was only formal in the festivity dedicated to Dr. Zvi Feine: the special edition of the *Jewish Reality*, the portraits made by Dr. Aurel Vainer, President of F.J.C.R., by Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, by Jorge Diener, the new director for the JOINT Program in Romania, by adv. Iulian Sorin, the president counsellor, by eng. Nilu Aronovici, director of the Social and Medical Assistance Department, by eng. Osy Lazar, president of the J.C.B., by Dr. Otto Adler, president of the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust, by Tanya Grinberg, JOINT special referent at Radauti, all these between music and dance, between moving letters addressed by young people to whom Dr. Zvi Feine brought back their confidence and hope in life. The words of the celebrated, our gratitude flowers, the presents, the number one diploma of Honorary Member of F.J.C.R., the Diploma of Excellence of the Jewish Community from Bucharest added to moving moments of the evening.

HOLOCAUST DAY IN ROMANIA commemorated in Bucharest and in the provinces

On October 9th for the third time the Holocaust Day was commemorated in Romania with manifestations in the whole country. In Bucharest the most important moment of the ceremonies was marked by President Traian Basescu who placed the foundation stone of the Holocaust Memorial. In a short speech he re-stated the firm will of the Romanian state to assume the true history

and to make known to the younger generations the Romanian Jews' tragedy during the Second World War. The event was followed by a ceremony where representatives of the state authorities (presidency, government, ministries), embassies and some organizations, F.J.C.R. and J.C.B. placed wreaths of flowers near the monument in the Choral Temple courtyard. Books releases, the opening of an exhibition on the Holocaust theme, and a conference of Professor Serge Klarsfeld from the French Foundation "Shoah" concerning the fate of the Romanian Jews in France during the Second World War took place at the National Institute for the Holocaust Study, one of the events organizers. Many communities from other Romanian cities also organized events dedicated to the Holocaust Day.



SUKOTH 5767

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING US KNOWN IN THE INTERNATIONAL JEWISH LIFE

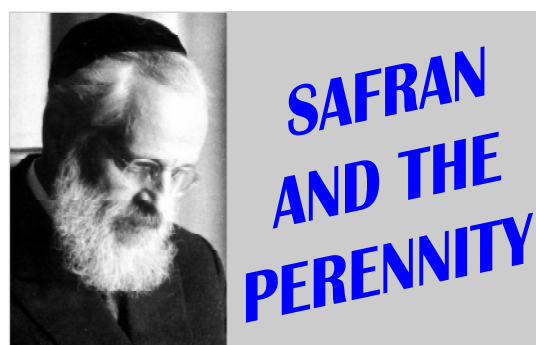
We publish in this edition an interview with Dr. AUREL VAINER, member of the Parliament, president of F.J.C.R., who participated on September 8th-9th this year at the marriage ceremony of the son of Moshe Kantor, President of the Jewish Congress from Russia. The marriage represented an opportunity to bring together, between the 300 participants, many high personalities from the European Jewish communities. A second important event for the development of the F.J.C.R. relationship with the international Jewish world was the reunion of the European Jewish Congress Executive in Jerusalem on September 10-12 this year. The commemoration in Ukraine of 65 years from the Babii Yar massacre, on September 26-28, was another event of meaningful amplitude. The president of F.J.C.R. outlined the return to the Judaism of the Russian Jews, related the main topics of the E.J.C. Executive reunion, particularly the post-conflict Israel situation, and spoke about the commemorative ceremonies in Babii Yar.



Ion Antonescu gave the explicit order for the lassy Pogrom

In this edition we publish excerpts from the historian JEAN ANCEL's remarkable study "The state authorities responsibility for framing, preparation and execution of the pogrom in lassy and the determination of the victims' number", presented at the manifestations organized on the occasion of the commemoration of 65 years from the event. After the research made in the archives from Romania and from other countries, the historian reaches doubtless the conclusion that the massacres in lassy were carried out

after the explicit order of Ion Antonescu. "The Second Section of the Great Headquarters and SIS prepared the ground and offered the pretext of the slaughter", the study outlines. As for the German army role, it mentions that the German soldiers who were in lassy supported the Romanian side in this action, but they didn't conceive the plan, still "without the presence of the German army, the Antonescu regime wouldn't have dared to conceive such a plan and with these dimensions". The author also underlines the lassy pogrom represented a prelude to the mass assassination committed in Europe by the Nazis. As Jean Ancel says, the authorities freely allowed the army, the police, the gendarmes to kill, to torture and evacuate the Jews in the "Death Trains"; the historian remarks the massive participation of the lassy population from all the social categories to the pogrom, but also underlines the fact that many citizens helped the Jews and saved their lives. According to the author the dead numbered 15,000, including the victims of the "Death Trains", but this number is still on debate.



The commemoration at the Choral Temple of Dr. Alexandru Safran z.l., former Chief Rabbi of the Romanian Jewry in the period 1940-1947, became an authentic symposium on the Safran's model in the posterity conscience. We heard the last interview realized by Manase Radnev on February 6th, 2004 in Geneva. Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R., Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, Bogdan Olteanu, president of the Deputy Chamber, His Holiness Ciprian Campineanu, Patriarchy Vicar Bishop on behalf of Teoctist, Patriarch of the Orthodox Romanian Church, His Holiness Ioan Robu, Archbishop of the Roman-Catholic Church in Bucharest, Dr. Otto Adler, president of the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust, Jose Iacobescu, president of B'nai B'rith Forum in Romania, Dr. Hary Kuller held impressive speeches. Bogdan Tataru Cazaban, presidency counsellor, and Dr. Alexandru Elias read the messages addressed by Traian Basescu, President of Romania and by Nicolae Vacaroiu, president of the Senate. "El Male Rahamim" sang by Iosif Adler, prime cantor, made vibrate an ancient and sacred feeling in our souls.

THE YOUTH CAMP OF CRISTIAN, THE BED SEED FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION OF JEWS

In a thoroughly feature report entitled "The Youth Camp of Cristian Transformed in a Center for Jewish Programs", Luciana Friedmann describes the multiple actions for children and young people organized during this summer. The programs aim to contribute to the Jewish education of the participants, thus preparing the future generations who are going to be involved in the life of the Jewish communities from our country. The content of the different programs dedicated to the various age categories is presented and analyzed, starting from the educational and ending with the cultural and entertaining ones. The camp activity was enthusiastically received by the participants, and many of them expressed their opinions in the review pages.



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
Corectură: MIHAELA OBERSCHI

Traducători:
Ebraică: TEHILA OFER,
Ing. B. TERCATIN (Israel)
Engleză: SANDA LEPOIEV
Tehnoredactare
computerizată:
ANCA MEȘINĂ,
MARIUS GELLER
Administrație:
EMIL FINCHELSTEIN
N. GHERBEZEANU

REDACȚIA: București,
str. Popa Nan, nr. 70.
Tel. / fax: 322.75.60

ADMINISTRAȚIA:
Str. Negustori nr. 5
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 25 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. RO51RNCB0074011952750001 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. RO40RNCB0074011952750005 (USD), filiala sector 3, București - România.