

JEWISH REALITY

HANUKKAH 5767

The Hanukkah pages of this edition include reports from the first phase of the Hanukkiadah, when Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen and Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld are visiting, together with members of the F.J.C.R. leadership, the communities in the country, bringing the joy of the holy words to the parishioners. In this feature report: Botosani, Iasi, Piatra Neamt, Targu Mures, Pitesti and Craiova. The youth from OTER also organizes several festive moments on the Hanukkah celebration occasion. Other articles



present the Hanukkah show at the Choral Temple, at the "Lauder-Reut" School, and the moment organized by Chabad. We also publish the message of Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen on the meanings of the holiday "that has to be increased, for where there is light, the darkness cannot lead; where there is light, the darkness will fade away". In his message Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R., speaks about the necessity of spiritual survival, with any efforts and any sacrifice, about the adherence to the justice and peace principles and the need to react when we are attacked by the enemy.

"THE JEWISH REALITY - 50"

The anniversary of 50 years from the first release of the "Jewish Religion Review" and of its continuator, the "Jewish Reality", was celebrated in a festive reunion organized at the Cultural Center of the community, an event to which we dedicated two pages of our review. The event was led by Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R.; many speakers, readers and friends of the review expressed their joy and satisfaction for the existence of the publication of the Jewish communities from Romania. Her Excellency, Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel, highly appreciated the quality and the richness of the information included in the review, the way it reflects the Jewish and the Israeli reality. Dr. Aurel Vainer evoked facts from the history of the Jewish press in Romania, whose continuity has been ensured by the two publications. Other speakers underlined the importance of the publication, its role in strengthening the ecumenical spirit, in the mutual closeness between minority and majority, respectively, the Romanian nation. We received many salute messages from Israel and from the country - we mention those of Great Rabbi



Menachem Hacohen, Eng. Baruch Tercatin, Rabbi Ephraim Gutman, of the sister-review "Ultima oră" ("Last Hour"), of Shaul Carmel, president of the Association of the Romanian Language Writers from Israel -, from the Romanian authorities (Ministry of Culture and Religions, the Department for the Inter-Ethnic Relationship), from the National Broadcasting Society, from Tova Bin Nun ("Lauder-Reut" School), from presidents of communities in the country and from other friends (whose texts are published by the review). In these pages we also provide a short history of the Jewish press from Romania, starting with the "Romanian Israelite", the first publication written with Latin letters.



"SCIENCE AND LIFE"

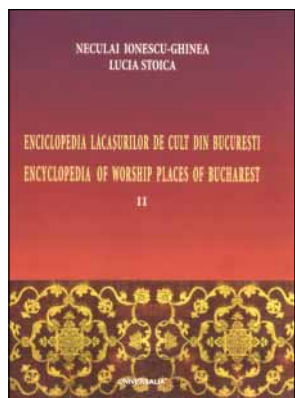
In this edition, the "Science and Life" page includes an interesting article on the Gestalt therapy (the personality improvement through the well-being state of mind), as well as some biographical data of the father of this psychotherapeutic method: Friedrich Salomon Paris. We also find out about the awarding of the *Doctor Honoris Causa* title of the Civil Engineering Technical University to professor Dr. Iosef Craus from "Technion" Institute, a former graduate of the Civil Engineering Institute from Bucharest. In the context of the energy consume increase in the world, the coal and the nuclear energy return to the front pages - as shown by the analysts' study at "Sanford Bernstein Group". The page includes also the evocation of Milton Friedman, economist, Nobel Prize laureate, who recently passed away, and the anniversary of 52 years from the creation of the first computer in Israel.

"JEWISHLAND"

Traveling again through the Jewishland, we find out from the American stage director Harris Solomon, invited as a member of the jury at the "Dakino" Festival in Bucharest, in an interview to our review, that the Americans, included himself, who produced several documentary movies on the Holocaust, knew nothing on the history of the Jewish community from Romania, on the Romanian Holocaust generally, on the Romanian Jews situation. He found out more after he visited The Choral Temple and the Jews' History Museum. The director also spoke about his new film, on a script written by him, inspired by a love story during the Holocaust, a film with Maia Morgenstern also in the cast. The article "Leica Freedom Train" relates the story of the Jews' salvation action organized by Ernst Leitz, the "Leica" society owner from Germany. "Rabbis...on the Internet" presents the site www.erezhemdah.org from Israel, where 35 rabbis answer the religious questions of the internet users. We also publish the permanent column "Jewish Kitchen" (obviously with a Hanukkah receipt: apple latkes).

A rich book "harvest" is presented in the two pages of our review dedicated to some Jewish writers' works or to volumes inspired by Jewish themes. "The man who stopped the trains to Auschwitz", by David Kranzler, American historian, reveals the heroic deed of a Jew with Bistrita roots, who managed to stir the world conscience in order to save the Jews from Budapest. "Purple Shadows", by Andrei Voinea and Constantin Visinescu evokes the tragic moments from our community life under the communist regime. The third volume of Teodor Brates trilogie on the 1989 events is also presented. "The Chicken Road" is the novel of an American woman writer that deals with the fate of the last two Jews from Afghanistan. "The Jews from Trei Scaune", a monograph, relates the fate of the Jewish population from the Transylvanian area. "The Sufferings after Victor Brauner", by Emil Nicolae, reveals less known episodes from the great artist's life. Finally, the special edition of the review "Plural", dedicated to the francophone days, is also presented.

NEW BOOKS



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE RELIGIOUS CULTS EDIFICES FROM BUCHAREST

It is a vast work of historical documentation on the orthodox churches (volume 1) and the edifices of other religious cults (volume 2), an integral part of the spiritual patrimony able to illustrate the harmonious life together of citizens with different origins, with specific aspirations and options. Tens, hundreds of images and architectural projections that accompany the explanation texts are transferring the reader in the atmosphere of the edifices loaded by the time patina, included those demolished under the totalitarian regime. The chapter dedicated to the Jewish synagogues and temples, generous in explanations and illustrations from the period, proves a prolific community life and brings a well-deserved homage to the outstanding servers of the Jewish religion. A tremendous moving emotion evolves at the encounter with the image of the buildings devastated by the extremist gangs, submitted to the criminal legionary prescriptions, to set fire to the edifices with their parishioners included.

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TUDOR STERIADE

"«Bulandra» Theater gave me my best years"

This is Tudor Steriade's confession when he entered, on December 15th, the octogenarians club. During the three decennials of his activity as a literary assistant, he met many playwrights, directors, actors, and he spoke about them for the Audio Library. After 1987, when he retired, he continued to translate several plays successfully present in the repertoire of the theaters from Bucharest and from the country. And he also wanted to speak about the age-related particular joy: the achievements of his nephews who are living in Israel and Sweden. Three years ago Tudor Steriade saw his life efforts rewarded: the Ministry of Culture awarded him the "National Prize for all the artistic activity", for a life dedicated to the theater.

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