

JEWISH REALITY

The Purim message
of Great Rabbi
MENACHEM HACOEN

A HISTORY 2600 YEARS OLD CONTEMPORARY THROUGH ITS ESSENCE

[...] When Ahashvarosh ordered the first anti-Semite pogrom acknowledged by history to begin, the Jews fought and won. Israel learnt from the history some lessons: at present, the Jews threatened again with extermination by voices coming from the same area of the former Persian Empire, and not only from there, do not rely anymore on Esther's miracle, but on one of the strongest world armies [...]. The assertion of Judaism identity, as that of Esther, in these last years which registered a resurrection of the anti-Semitism, represent a moral problem for each Jew: he has to reply with dignity to chauvinistic attacks, striving in the same time to counter fight the assimilation trend [...]. Our wise people always knew how to ascend their souls during the Purim, and this holiday when you have to be joyful till you "know no more" became a traditional holiday of acknowledging God and of gratitude for His miracles.

**AVANT -
PURIM 5767**

We publish in this edition two pages to welcome Purim 5767. They intend to preface the Purim show and open with a commentary of the "Book of Esther", of the lesson taught by Esther and Mordechai to their successors, from a contemporary perspective: the right to legitimate defense when we are attacked. The pages include a humorous and lyrical commentary on Purim, which is celebrated this year, according to the Gregorian calendar on the *Martisor Day* (March 1st) and *Woman Day* (March 8th). This is an article - paper "martisor" dedicated to all our women readers and colleagues from the review, from all the cultural institutions and departments of our Federation, to all the mothers of the world, to the ladies from the old-age homes, to the feminine personalities of our community. A special "martisor" is dedicated to Esther: a fragment from the musical with the same title of Octavian Sava, on Marius Teicu's music. The pages of *avant-Purim* also include an interview with the director of more than 30 Purim shows, Harry Eliad, director of the State Jewish Theater; he spoke about the Jewish comedy, shared his memories on the Purim shows, on the great actors, script writers, composers who contributed to their success and disclosed few information from the show in preparation, "Euro-Purim 5767".



THE INCREASE IN DEMOCRACY AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIFE STANDARD FOR F.J.C.R. MEMBERS

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION

The first reunion in this year of the Leadership Committee of F.J.C.R. proposed as main objectives the discussion of the Regulations for the election of the leadership organisms of the Jewish Communities from Romania, the Regulations for the Organization and Functioning of the Leadership Committee, and the budget for 2007. During the presentation of the three documents the permanent maintenance of the democratic spirit and of transparency was outlined for the first two issues, and, as for the budget, the need for maximum efficiency was underlined. This last aspect became the core focus for the federation activity and it was subjected to analysis also in another field: the partnership between the F.J.C.R. and the Joint organization regarding a more efficient social and medical assistance activities. The informing report on the agreement between F.J.C.R. and the "Caritatea" Foundation, mentioning the need to render profitable the assets gained by the Foundation and the distribution of the funds obtained between F.J.C.R. (60%), Romanian survivors of the Holocaust who live outside Romania in poverty (25%), Jewish monuments for the Romanian Jews (10%) and Foundation expenses (5%), enjoyed a special interest. During the debates the participants presented their observations and brought improvements to the presented projects.

THE FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY F.J.C.R.

For the first time F.J.C.R. decided to organize a press conference on theme of the present anti-Semitic manifestations in Romania. The event took place at the Sofitel Hotel and enjoyed the participation of many representatives of the written press, of the radio and television channels. In this context, the Federation president, Dr. Aurel Vainer, informed the press that F.J.C.R. and the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust (A.E.R.V.H.) suited

of professor Ion Coja for the "Letter addressed to President Traian Basescu", in which he denies the Romanian Holocaust and threatens with a new Holocaust. The Federation president presented the different forms of manifestation of the anti-Semitism in Romania, underlined the existence of a specific law that punishes such positions and criticized the specific authorities, particularly the public Prosecutor, who should have expressed his position. The press conference content was presented by many publications, by the radio public broadcast in several programs, by BBC, RFI and TVR 1, in the News Journal at 19 h, with maximum of audience.

"SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL, COOPERATION, UNITY"

In this edition we publish an interview with Dr. **AUREL VAINER**, president of F.J.C.R., member in the board of the European Jewish Congress (E.J.C.), who participated between January 24 - 28 to several events: ● the reunion of the executive in Madrid and Marbella ● the commemoration of the Holocaust International Day in Spain ● the meeting of E.J.C. executive with the Prime Minister, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice from Spain. In the core of the discussion were: ● the extent of the commemoration of the Holocaust International Day in a country where there was no Holocaust, because there were no Jews; ● the importance given by the state authorities to the study of the Holocaust history in the Spanish educational system; ● the fact that Spain is more and more involved in the renewal of the peace process in Israel; ● the solidarity feeling and the Jewish brotherhood; ● the more and more active involvement of F.J.C.R. in the life of the European Jewry.



AN IMPORTANT GUEST IN OUR COMMUNITY

The visit at the Choral Temple of His Eminence Shlomo Amar, Chief Rabbi Sephardic (Rosh LeZion), from Israel, on February 22nd, began by the cantor Maximilian Kertesz's intonation of a hymn of blessing. Great Rabbi Menachem Hacoen who undertook the initiative of inviting Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar in Romania, opened the Aron Kodesh and said the ritual prayer. Dr. Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R., spoke in the presence of the Israeli guests who accompanied Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar - Avram Iosef, rabbi in Holon, Dr. Klein, representative of "Chabad-Lyubavitch" in Israel -, of Rabbi Naftali Deutsch from the "Yeshua Tova" Temple, of Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld, of Her Excellency Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel in Romania, of Her Excellency Mariana Valeria Stoica, ambassador, of the representatives of JOINT, Jorge Diener and Israel Sabag, of the members of the community. He awarded the "Diploma of Excellence" to the distinguished guest and the album "Synagogues from Romania". Cantor Iosif Adler sang a gratitude hymn to God. The translation in Hebrew and Romanian was made by Liviu Rotman.

THE CELEBRATION OF INAUGURATING THE "YESHUA TOVA" SYNAGOGUE

The synagogue near Piața Amzei from Bucharest has a history of near two centuries, but in the last twenty years it was mostly closed or used only Friday evenings, due to the difficulty of gathering a "minyan". Rehabilitated in the last years by the Chabad Center from Romania, meaning by the Rabbi Lyubavitch disciples, the synagogue was completely renovated and its inauguration was celebrated on the evening of February 21st 2007. In the center of this ceremony in which the prayers intermingled with the traditional Hasidic dances full of an explosive joy of life, was the completion up to the

final letter of two Torah Scrolls dedicated to the Romanian Jews killed in the Holocaust. Many personalities participated to the synagogue inauguration: Shlomo Amar, Chief Rabbi of Israel, Great Rabbi Menachem Hacoen, Levi Levlev, president of the Jewish Communities from Russia, H.E. Nicholas Taubman, ambassador of U.S.A. in Romania, Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld, leaders of F.J.C.R., together with Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Romanian Parliament, president, Albert Kupferberg, general secretary, and Eng. Osy Lazar, president of the Jewish Community from Bucharest.



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