

JEWISH REALITY



PURIM IN OUR COMMUNITIES - A TRADITION

The Purim shows 5767 became a way of stating we are not alone in front of the Hamans, of asserting the presence of a common interethnic and interconfessional barrier that defends the democracy values. We listened again to Megilath Esther at the Choral Temple, read by Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen and Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld, and we understood once again its perennial meaning: the right to self defense when our own existence is threatened. We are laughing because the laughter is healing and contagious. This year the youth carnival, a premiere at the Community Cultural Center was remarkable. We praise the script writers, the composers, the actors of the show directed by Harry Eliad and presented on the Purim evening and on March 5th and 6th. We rediscovered in the show the professional musical presences, the choir members, younger and older, the Israeli dance charm. The Purim holiday was celebrated in all our communities, re-asserting the vitality and the regeneration power of our small community. Near the F.J.C.R and J.C.B. leaders, officials, high prelates, cultural personalities attended the Purim shows, in Bucharest and in the country.



ANTISEMITIC MANIFESTATIONS WITH DIFFERENT FORMS

The page also mentions the apparition of an anti-Semitic brochure, published under the E.U. symbols and the E.U. officials' reactions to its release. The Hungarian Prime Minister, Ferenc Gyurcsany himself warns against the intensification of anti-Semitism in Hungary. "Being Jew in Denmark" deploras the change in the Jews' situation in this country, in the past a model for their integration in the Danish society. Regarding the activity of the Global Forum against Anti-Semitism, we mention that for the first time, the Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry decided the fight against this phenomenon represents a priority.

"The Anti-Semitism Chronicle" deals in this edition with new forms and manifestations of these phenomena registered in Romania and in other countries of the world. Thus, one of the articles confronts the forged modality of the "Nation" publication that presents the so-called "reasons" that determined Antonescu to decide the deportation of the Jews to Transdnier, "to save them from the Romanian population fury", angered by the supposed "atrocities" committed by Jews against the Romanian soldiers when they retired from Basarabia and North Bukovina.

THE 23rd EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOOKFAIR FROM JERUSALEM, February 18 – 23, 2007

A "SUMMIT" OF THE WORLD BOOKS

In this edition we dedicate two pages to the 23rd edition of the International Bookfair from Jerusalem, an important event organized on February 18–23, 2007. The bookfair, organized since 1963 at the former city mayor's initiative, the regretted Teddy Kollek z.l., represents a huge book market where various cultural and social meetings, symposiums, movies, music, dance and poetry shows, painting and photography exhibitions are also taking place. The awarding of the Literature Prize of Jerusalem was maybe the crucial moment of the event. This year the prize of international acknowledgement was awarded to Leszek Kolakowski, writer and philosopher, at the opening of the bookfair. Shimon Peres spoke about the meaning of this year laureate's work and about the writer's constant mission to fight against the evil. The present mayor of the city, Uri Lopolianski, brought a homage to his predecessor. The "Hasefer" Publishing House enjoyed a tremendous success at the bookfair: in terms of prestige

– a press conference at the Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv, an interview with its director, Stefan Iures, at Kol Israel, participations in many cultural activities organized in collaboration with the Center for the Study of the Romanian Jews from the Hebrew University from Jerusalem and the "Goldstein – Goren" Center for Hebrew Studies from the University from Bucharest, book releases at the Romanian stand, the release of the "Book of Ruth" in the translation and with the commentaries of Eng. Baruch Tercatin, at the Cultural Center from Haifa; and in terms of sales – all the books were sold. The music and poetry recitals, the meetings with Israeli poets, the event "In memoriam Lucian Raicu", the dance – the lordache group – and the jazz performances – Alexander Balanescu and Ada Milea, completed the gallery of the Romanian cultural events at the bookfair.



CONTROVERSIES SURROUNDING REHABILITATION

Under this title we are publishing our review standpoint, as well as that of some intellectuals, Jews and Romanians, concerning the recent decision of the Court of Appeal from Bucharest of partially rehabilitating Ion Antonescu. Arguments concerning the negative character of this decision and its consequences are presented, not only from the Romanian Jews' perspective, but also from the perspective of the appreciation of Romania according to international values.

NEW COLUMNS OF THE JEWISH REALITY

We are continuing to renew the review according to our readers' desires; thus, near the pages and columns already included – "Science and Life", "Jewishland", "Jews in the Literature of the Present" – we are opening two other new columns that we are hoping will please our readers. "The World of the Emotional Memory", signed by the writer Octavian Sava, will evoke many Jewish personalities from the art world – composers, actors, writers – once met by the author. The column "Critical Judgement" will try to present different opinions concerning various aspects and problems of the Jewish life, either in the community, or beyond it, opinions meant to invite to an authentic exchange of ideas. We are waiting for the readers' contribution.

THE AUDIO LIBRARY OF THE "JEWISH REALITY"

GEORGE RADU BOGDAN

A colorful stain on the image of an era

George Radu Bogdan, whom Alecu Paleologu appreciated as the most important art historian of the country, celebrated on March 11, his 87th birthday. In a long conversation that gave birth to the material of the audio library that we are publishing in this edition, George Radu Bogdan, while looking at the long way from the native city Galati to the world museums, evoked from all the remarkable people he had met, some of the moments spent near Tudor Arghezi, Ilya Ehrenburg and Horia Bernea. He had started to write his memories under the title "Memories from the Antechamber", managed to put down only 14 years from his lived experience and has still a lot to say for its completion.



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