

# JEWISH REALITY

Messages for PESSACH 5767

Great Rabbi  
MENACHEM  
HACOHEN

## The Holiday of Freedom and Redemption

Haggadah and the study of our wise men commentaries in all the generations, replaced the Exodus from the narrow national historical event with limited meaning, to the universal category of the freedom concept. With this joyful feeling, we have to carry in pride and courage our Judaism, to plant in our hearts the love for our Jewish tradition and heritage, to get closer to spiritual ancestors of Torah Israel. Hag Sameach Ve'Kasher!

Being closer to the Pessach Holiday 5767, I address my blessings to you and your dear ones. May our Father in the high sky make this spring holiday of Freedom and Redemption bring on its wings a life of happiness, good health to all the people, peace and prosperity in Israel and in the whole world, may He be blessed. The common reading of the Pessach

Dr. AUREL VAINER,  
President of F.J.C.R.,  
Member of the Parliament

## The revival power of our community

patrimony; the modernization of the Choral Temple; restoration and reparation of synagogues, cemeteries, community centers; the renovation of the synagogues from Iassy, Piatra Neamt and others; the "Euroiudaica" Festival; a more intense collaboration with the public authorities, with the non-governmental organizations of the country, the development of the international relationship of F.J.C.R., the fight against anti-Semitism and negationism; the permanent promotion of ecumenical attitudes, the life conditions improvement for the Jewish population from Romania, increasing the efficiency of the medical and social assistance, of the Jewish education (the "Mazal Tov" program), all these in collaboration with Joint for Romania.



## The gates of ideas' debate laboratory opened at the Center for the Study of the Romanian Jews' History

A recent initiative of the leadership of the Center for the Study of the Romanian Jews' History (director Liviu Rotman), came as an incentive for the activity of this institution of scientific research of the past, connecting it to the exigencies and needs of the present. In a reunion at the Choral Temple Library, the "ideas' debate laboratory" was inaugurated, conceived in order to bring to the public attention the newest stages of reflection on crucial and actual issues. For the beginning the selected theme was "The Jews and the Communism", a theme approached by Professor Ion Ianos, philosopher, from a theoretical perspective, joined by Harry Kuller,

sociologist, who shared the results of his latest researches in the recently opened archives to the professional investigations. Both lectures, followed by the interventions of the participants, raised against prejudice in connection with the supposed Jews' "guilt" in supporting the totalitarian system, in order to avoid the confusion between humanism and the dogmatic doctrines of perverting and converting consciences.

## A new phase in the development of the Romanian-Israeli relationship

In his interview to our review, Dr. Aurel Vainer, member of the Parliament, referring to his visit in Israel as member of a governmental delegation, mentioned his remarkable meetings with: high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Israel, including the future Israeli ambassador in Romania; the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Teophilos the III<sup>rd</sup>; the Archimandrite Ieronim Cretu of the Romanian Settlement Church from Jerusalem; Moshe Shalev, director of the "Yad VaShem" Memorial; the leaders of the Baha'i Center; David Amar, Mayor of Neshet and Shmuel Rainish, president of the Association of the Romanian Olyms from Haifa; Shlomo Leibovici Lais, president of the World Association of the Romanian Jews (A.C.M.E.O.R.) and Micha Harish, president of the United Organization of the Romanian Rooted Jews (A.M.I.R.). He also outlined the chapters on the working agenda of the delegation in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa (symposiums, press conferences, exhibitions, visits to "Yad VaShem", to the Romanian Settlement Church in Jerusalem, etc.). Dr. Vainer made a synthesis of his most interesting interventions at the seminary "Romanian Diaspora, Jewish Diaspora", in Tel Aviv, of his speeches to the debates regarding Romania and F.J.C.R. support to the improvement of the activity of each organization of Romanian Israelis. He also appreciated the authentic interest manifested by the Israeli journalists for the positive evolution of the relations between Romania and Israel.



A recent initiative of the leadership of the Center for the Study of the Romanian Jews' History (director Liviu Rotman), came as an incentive for the activity of this institution of scientific research of the past, connecting it to the exigencies and needs of the present. In a reunion at the Choral Temple Library, the "ideas' debate laboratory" was inaugurated, conceived in order to bring to the public attention the newest stages of reflection on crucial and actual issues. For the beginning the selected theme was "The Jews and the Communism", a theme approached by Professor Ion Ianos, philosopher, from a theoretical perspective, joined by Harry Kuller,

## THE BOOK AND PRESS SALON

BUCHAREST, March 7 - 11, 2007

The books' spring arrived with their first meeting (March 7 - 11) at the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bucharest Book and Press Salon, at the National Museum of the History of Romania. More than 120 companies offered their potential readers belletristic literature, technical, didactic, children books at any level. A remarkable fact: the Department for Interethnic Relations was the sponsor for all the publishing houses present at the National Minorities Stand. Between the events we mention some Judaism book releases, as well as books written or translated in Romanian by Jewish authors. Despite the restrictive space, the interest for the books published by Hasefer Publishing House remained constant. The most demanded were *The Encyclopedia of Judaism*, *The Nomad Text and The House of the Snail*, by Norman Manea, *Jewish Stories* by Claus Stephani, and others. The Book Salon at the present edition represented an additional argument defending the complementary position of the books beside the Internet in a over-technological world.

## "NEW MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM"

When founded in Jerusalem almost 15 years ago, few, maybe not even its initiators - Leon Volovici and Costel Safirman - would have dared to anticipate that the Cultural Club of the Romanian originated intellectuals would become a prestigious forum of stimulation and promotion of spiritual values. At the beginning it could have the appearance of a kind of cenacle where poets and writers would mutually praise each other. Soon the debate became the main priority and each meeting brought together participants from Haifa and Tel Aviv, from Ashkelon and Beer Sheva, interested to share opinions on the present actuality, not only in literature, but in arts, theater, and cinema as well. Quite often the meetings enjoyed the participation of foreign lecturers, mainly from Bucharest. Consistent with the wise saying "verba volant, scripta manent", the organizers decided to gather in volume all the lectures that took place at the Club, attached to the discussions. Such a synthesis volume was recently published and it reflects the prestigious activity between 2000-2006. More than 500 pages give the reader the feeling of sharing and participating to live and witty dialogues, not at all on a formal or contextual level, dialogues meant to prove the enthusiasm and the strong creative resources. Tens of photographic images, the majority belonging to Sandu Medrea increase the interest for the direct testimonials included in the volume edited with the support of the Cultural Institute from Bucharest.

NOI ÎNTÂLNIRI  
LA IERUSALIM



INSTITUTUL CULTURAL ROMÂN

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, ANDREI BANC,  
BORIS M. MEHR, AVRAM  
CROITORU, SOLOMON FLORIAN

Corectură: MIHAELA OBERSCHI

Traducători:

Ebraică: SARIT BLONDER,

Ing. B. TERCATIN (Israel)

Engleză: SANDA LEPOIEV

Tehnoredactare

computerizată:

ANCA MEȘINĂ

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.

## The position of the Federation of the Jewish Communities from Romania and of the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust concerning the partial rehabilitation of Ion Antonescu

The Federation of the Jewish Communities from Romania and the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust adopted a Declaration referring to the Decision of the Appeal Court from Bucharest to partially rehabilitate Marshall Ion Antonescu and other persons, including some Iron Guard leaders who were between those brought to trial for war crimes and damage to peace and humanity. In their outspoken position the two organizations express their "deep astonishment and bitterness" at the news regarding their rehabilitation, underlining that the Court decision "justifies military actions with undisputable aggressive character". In fact, as shown in the declaration, "the results of World War II and the established guilt on international level of all those who collaborated with the Nazi Germany are revised". "The years of the Antonescu regime - the text states - meant human sufferings, war crimes and the killing of more than a quarter of million civil citizens, just because they were born Jewish or Roma... Our worry is also determined by the fact that the decision of the Appeal Court from Bucharest to partially rehabilitate some of the outstanding exponents of the Antonescu regime could generate some extremist attitudes and actions in our country, with negative effects on the national and international political climate, in the new context of the membership of Romania in E.U and N.A.T.O." In the end, the Federation of the Jewish Communities from Romania and the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust "praise the initiative of the General Prosecuting Magistracy to formulate the appeal to the decision of the Appeal Court."