

JEWISH REALITY

THE "EURO-JUDAICA" FESTIVAL - A CONFIRMATION OF THE SPIRITUALITY AND OF THE CONTEMPORARY VALUES



OF THE JUDAISM

The four days of the "Euro-Judaica" Festival enriched the cultural program of the year in which Sibiu is a European cultural capital with new values. The 33 manifestations in the festival demonstrated, as on so many other occasions before, that we, the Romanian Jews, in spite of our limited number, we are the creators and the carriers of a multimillenary culture, adapted in the same time to the contemporary expectations, with a defined role in the Romanian culture. The multi-cultural conception as the nucleus origin of the initiative of European cultural capital, is well represented in Sibiu and "Euro-Judaica" was included in this approach. Music, theater, movies with specific themes, Jewish authors or artists from Romania or from abroad, the revival of the literary coffee shop, with interactive dialogues between the "actors" and the public, exhibitions, book releases and panels - "Euro-Judaica" offered a program satisfying any taste, the peak point being the klezmer concerts in Piata Mare, where an authentic explosion of collective joy of the artists and of the public broke out. "Euro-Judaica" represented a confirmation of our capacity and potential, of our creative imagination, of the fact that we aren't a "lost tribe" and of the fact that we can have our hopes... We think there is no better final than one of the participants spontaneous words: "A magic week. Bravo to the Jews. We are waiting for you as soon as possible, because many interested people remained outside..." It is the most precious reward for those who conceived and worked hard for the accomplishment of this event.



THE SEVEN-HEADS DRAGON OF HATRED

The pogrom from June 28th-29th 1941 was commemorated as every year in lassy. Hundreds of persons participated at the ceremony that took place in the Jewish cemetery. Nilu Aronovici, president of the Department for Social and Medical Assistance, delivered the message of Aurel Vainer, president of F.J.C.R. Pincu Kaiserman, president of the Jewish Community from lassy, representatives of the local authorities and of the Orthodox Church held speeches. A pilgrimage to the common graves from Targu Frumos and Podu Iloaiei, where some of the 12,000 victims of the "Death Trains" rest in their eternal peace, took also place. The speakers underlined that the pogrom fed from hatred is like a dragon with several heads, attacking not only Jews, but as we had learnt from the history, is also oriented toward other nations as well, against intellectuals, against democratic politicians and students. Let us cut its heads off, but also remain vigils, because, as the Romanian fairy tales are telling us, they are always brought to birth again.

AN EAST-EUROPEAN LEADER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS

The Federation President, Aurel Vainer, Ph. D., presented the election process in the European Jewish organization and the mandate he received from the Leadership Committee. He characterized the new elected president, Moshe Kantor, as a very competent personality interested and preoccupied by the fate of the Jewish communities, and particularly by those from Eastern Europe. The fight against the anti-Semitism, the strengthening of the Jewish identity through education and the care for the Holocaust memory are between his objectives.

200 YEARS OF JEWISH PRESENCE IN BRASOV



In the troubling sound of the Shofar two memorial plates on the Temple of Brasov were revealed, celebrating 200 years of Jewish presence in the beautiful town from the heart of Romania. The anniversary moment was honored by the participation of 18 presidents of communities from the country, of leaders of F.J.C.R.,

of the Jewish Community from Bucharest, of B'nai B'rith, of the Association of the Romanian Jews Victims of the Holocaust and of the Association of Friendship Romania-Israel. Many personalities were present to share our joy: Her Excellency Rodica Radian Gordon, ambassador of the State of Israel in Romania, Meir Nitzan, Mayor of Rishon Le-Zion, the brother city of Brasov, Mariana Valeria Stoica and Edi Iosiper, former and present ambassadors of Romania in Israel, Eli Izhaki, general director of the Jewish Agency branch for Romania. Great Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, Rabbi Abraham Ehrenfeld, prime cantor Iosif Adler and the Choir of the Choral Temple held the religious service. After the short history of the local community presented by Eng. Tiberiu Roth, several diplomats, local officials, representatives of different religions and of local organizations of the national minorities, parliamentarians, secular and spiritual leaders of F.J.C.R., leaders of B'nai B'rith underlined the various meanings of the celebration. They spoke about the exemplarity of this community through the way it preserves the past heritage, the way it educates the young generation and promotes the ecumenical spirit, all these on the background of the multiple cultures and ethnical groups of Brasov. The exhibitions, the performances, the symposiums, the book releases, the religious ceremony in front of the Holocaust Martyrs' Memorial from the Jewish cemetery, the concerts of the choir of the Brasov youth, "Yahad", of some klezmer formations, from Brasov, Cluj and Oradea, all became authentic art and reflection moments that contributed to the bi-centennial of the Jewish Community from Brasov.



JEWISH PHYSICIANS FROM ROMANIA

The series "The Jews' Contribution to the Development of Modern Romania" include an interesting essay on the contribution of the Jewish physicians from Romania in the last two centuries, insufficient known and seldom presented, even partially, which analyzes the importance of great discoveries and of some fields developed by Jewish physicians, between the beginning moment - the work of Moise Ghelerter and C. I. Parhon, and the virology works of Nicolae Cajal. The essay is signed by academician Gheorghe Bratescu, historian. The presentations of some prestigious physicians in full present activity

complete the data: Professor Cornel Sabetay (Craiova), Professor Carol Friedman (Constanta), Dr. Mirjam Bercovici, Professor Andrei Voinea.



MEIR SHAI
(MARCEL SLACMAN)

«The supreme
reward
of kindness is never
to be forgotten»

An impressive ceremony took place at the Patriarchy Palace on the occasion of awarding the post-mortem title of "Righteous among Nations" to George Russu, church painter. At the "Audio Library", Meir Shay, who lives at present in Haifa, tells us how, in the period 1941-1943, his family was taken out from the Cernautzi ghetto and hidden for 18 months in the Mitropolia basement, grace to George Russu's kindness, who acted together with Mitropolit Tit Simeadrea. The reader gets to know aspects from Shai's life - the school years at the "Cultura" High School from Bucharest, the painful period after the graduation from the University, when as an engineer he had to clean the courtyards of some factories, due to his Alyia formal request. After he reached Haifa in 1970 he became for some tens of years a math teacher of the prestigious "Reali" High School.

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