



# GLASNIK

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Zgrada Židovske općine Osijek  
Jewish Community Osijek, the building

# VOICE

of B'nai B'rith  
„Gavro Schwartz“ Croatia

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*Darko Fischer, urednik "Glasnika"*

## **Uz dvadesetičetvrti broj BB Glasnika**



**P** oštovane čitateljice i čitatelji,

**U** mjesecu rujnu smo rnijih godina obilježavali Dan židovskog nasljeđa. Zbog pandemije je to prošle godine u potpunosti a ove godine djelomično izostalo. No Židovska općina Osijek je usprkos ovim teškoćama sijeli mjesec rujan obilježila kao Mjesec židovske kulture. Brojne kulturne in društvene manifestacije odlično su provedene. Donosimo opis tih događaja kao i razgovor s gospođom Nives Beissmann, inicijatorom, organizatorom i najzaslužnijom osobom za obavljanje uspjeh ove manifestacije.

**M** elita Švob, vrijedna voditeljica CENDO ureda, dokumentacijskog centra o žrtvama i preživjelima Holokausta i članica mnogih međunarodnih židovskih organizacija, proslavila je svoj 90. rođendan. Još uvijek u punom radnom elanu u svom decetom desetljeću, gospođa Švob dala je izjavu za naš „Glasnik“

*Darko Fischer, editor of "Voice of BB"*

## **Editorial to the twentyfourth issue of The Voice of BB**

**D** ear readers

**I** n September for many years we used to mark The Day of Jewish Heritage and Culture. Due to Covid-19 pandemic last year there was no possibility for this and in this year only some Communities made some activities on that day. But contrary to such attitude, the Jewish Community Osijek, a town in East Croatia, organized The Month of Jewish Culture during the whole month in September. We bring you the news about this very successful manifestation. Also you can read our conversation with Mrs. Nives Beissmann, the initiator, organizer and producer of these events as she was most responsible for all events during these happenings in Osijek in September.

**M** rs. Melita Švob of Zagreb Jewish Community celebrated her 90. Birthday. She is well known as a Director of CENDO documentation center for Holocaust victims and survivors. She is also very active in many international Jewish organizations. In entering her tenth decade of the fruitful life, Mrs. Švob, still very active, gave us an interview you can read in this issue of our "Voice".

Paula Rem:

## Mjesec židovske kulture u Osijeku

Za Židovsku općinu u Osijeku, nova godina 5782. nije mogla započeti bolje. U sklopu Mjeseca židovske kulture organizirani su mnogobrojni događaji: predavanja, glazbeni koncerti, sportski turniri, obilasci grada, radionice, promocije knjiga. Raznolik program privukao je mnogobrojne židovske i nežidovske posjetitelje, ukazujući na važnost židovske kulture i njezin utjecaj na povijest Osijeka. Glavna tema cjelokupnog programa – dijalog – prožimala je svaku od ponuđenih aktivnosti.



Koncert kvarteta Turangalila (10.9.2021.)

Premda je Židovska općina Osijek i inače veoma aktivna, pa su tako prethodnih godina sudjelovali u projektima poput *Rediscovery*, ove su godine nadmašene sve dosadašnje aktivnosti. Mjesec židovske kulture bio je najopsežniji od svih dosad, a svaki dan bio je ispunjen jednim ili čak nekoliko raznovrsnih programa. Zahvaljujući glavnoj organizatorici Nives Beissmann, inače voditeljici Nedjeljne škole i plesne skupine u ŽO Osijek, ovogodišnji je program svojim opsegom nadmašio slične manifestacije koje su se odvijale u ostalim europskim gradovima.

Program je obuhvatio dva koncerta, dvije kazališne predstave, tri prikazivanja filmova (dva izraelska i jednog domaćeg), četiri izložbe, dvije promocije knjiga, četiri predavanja, dvije vođene ture gradom, četiri žive knjižnice u Muzeju osobnih priča, dva sportska turnira i glazbenu radionicu za pripadnike



Muzej osobnih priča, 18.9.2021.



Otvorenje izložbe "Jeruzalem – glavni grad Izraela" 6.9.2021.

nacionalnih manjina te nekoliko radionica za djecu.

Mjesec židovske kulture otvoren je koncertom solo violinistice Evgenije Epstein, a uslijedio je još jedan koncert kvarteta Turangalila. Osim odlične šestosatne predstave *Semper idem* Narodnog pozorišta Sombor, prikazana je predstava *Dječak koji je govorio Bogu*, temeljena na romanu Damira Mađarića (2010.), u izvedbi glumaca iz HNK Osijek. Ova predstava svojim je dinamičnim tempom angažirala mlađe generacije, a održala budnu pozornost starijih. Mnoštvo specijalnih efekata savršeno je "uvuklo" mlade u radnju, tjerajući ih da se poistovjete s likom i sudbinom dječaka stradalog u Holokaustu.

Osim dva izraelska filma, socijalne drame *Doubtful* (2017.) i komedije *Forgiveness* (2019.), prikazan je kratkometražni film



hrvatske produkcije, *Porajmos* (2020.) koji se bavi tematikom ustaštva kao hrvatske varijante njemačkog nacizma.

Sve četiri subote odvijao se program Živa knjižnica u Muzeju osobnih priča, gdje su građani imali priliku razgovarati s akterima izložbe Priče Židova – Damiirom i Ivankom Lajoš, Darkom Fischerom, Slavicom Singer, Dragom Kohnom, Sarom Beissmann, Biljanom Majnik i Romanom Pavlov. Ova aktivnost potaknula je mnoge osnovnoškolce, srednjoškolce i studente da se uključe u dijalog i povežu se s osobnim pričama pojedinih aktera.

*Rosh Hashana* obilježena je otvorenjem diplomatske izložbe "Jeruzalem – glavni grad Izraela". Pedesetak posjetitelja dočekalo je novu godinu u toploj atmosferi Muzeja likovnih umjetnosti u Osijeku. Izložba je okupila ljude različitih generacija, nacionalnosti, religijskih i političkih preferencija, kao i mnogobrojne članove židovske zajednice. Postavljene fotografije prikazuju sve najpoznatije jeruzalemske lokacije, uključujući one svjetovne (Izraelski muzej, kazalište, sveučilište, sabor, memorijalni centar Yad Vashem, Damascus Gate) te religijske (crkve, sinagoge i džamije). Osim izložbe o Jeruzalemu, održana je izložba "Dijalog" u suradnji s Nacionalnom knjižnicom Izraela, izložba "Tragovi u 30 slika" o somborskim židovima u Holokaustu te izložba dječjih uradaka jedne osnovne škole na temu židovstva.



Predavanje Ljiljane Dobrovšak "Židovi u Osijeku", 20.9.2021.

Posebna atmosfera *Rosh Hashane* prolongirana je tijekom sljedećih dana programa Mjeseca židovske kulture u Osijeku. Tri dana kasnije u istom nas je prostoru prof. Darko Fischer informirao o svim najbitnijim činjenicama vezanim za ponovni osnutak židovske Države Izrael 1948. godine. Činjenica da je Izrael nakon više od dvije tisuće godina ponovno pripao Židovima budi nadu u bolju

budućnost židovskog naroda. Više o Židovima u Osijeku ispričala je nekoliko dana kasnije Ljiljana Dobrovšak, istraživačica Instituta za društvene znanosti Ivo Pilar. Održano je još jedno predavanje prof. Fischera o poznatom kiparu Oskaru Nemonu, kao i predavanje na temu hebrejske književnosti.

Na jutro *Rosh Hashane*, odvila se promocija knjige Zvonimira Miše Pape "Zaklela se Zemlja raj" u kojoj autor opisuje vlastitu potragu za identitetom nakon otkrivanja vlastitog židovskog podrijetla. Nekoliko dana kasnije, održana je promocija knjige Filipa Škiljana "Sjećanje nacionalnih manjina u Hrvatskoj na Domovinski rat" iz Instituta za migracije i narodnosti. U diskusiji je istaknuta važnost bavljenja ovom temom jer se u hrvatskom javnom diskursu i dandanas ratne okolnosti često vezuju uz ideologiju nacionalizma. Međutim, radovi poput ove zbirke memoara pokazuju kako su mnogobrojni pripadnici



Vođena tura "Tragovima židovske baštine u Osijeku", 16.9.2021.

nacionalnih manjina sudjelovali u ratu, premda ih se nažalost u javnom diskursu često nastoji isključiti iz povijesnih prikaza rata.

Također su održane dvije vođene ture Osijekom na temu "Tragovima židovske baštine u Osijeku". Vodič Tomislav Vuković, srednjoškolski profesor povijesti, objasnio je posjetiteljima važnost pojedinih lokacija u gradu za židovsku povijest. Također je istaknuo doprinos židovskih građana kulturi grada krajem 19. i početkom 20. stoljeća, koji se nastojao zatrti tijekom perioda nacizma. Posjetitelji su bili iznenađeni informacijom da se nedaleko od samog centra Osijeka nalazi masovna grobnica žrtava nacizma, a iznad nje stoji samo mali, neuočljivi natpis. Istaknuta je važnost progovaranja o temi Holokausta.

Mjesec židovske kulture zaključen je nedjeljnom proslavom Sukkota s rabinom Prelevićem u Dalju. Budući da je ŽO Osijek ušla u novu godinu dijaloški i aktivno, za očekivati je da će se pozitivna atmosfera programa reflektirati na cijelu godinu. Čini se da nam predstoji jedna godina puna kulturno-političke suradnje između Izraela i Hrvatske, židovstva i kršćanstva, ali i među samim Židovima.

Fotografije: Nives i Željko Beissmann

*Paula Rem:*

## Month of Jewish Culture in Osijek

For the Jewish community in Osijek, the New Year of 5782 could not have started better. As part of the Month of Jewish Culture, numerous events were organized: lectures, music concerts, sports tournaments, city tours, workshops, book presentations. The diverse program attracted many Jewish and non-Jewish visitors, pointing out the importance of Jewish culture and its impact on the history of Osijek. The main theme of the entire program - dialogue - permeated each of the offered activities.

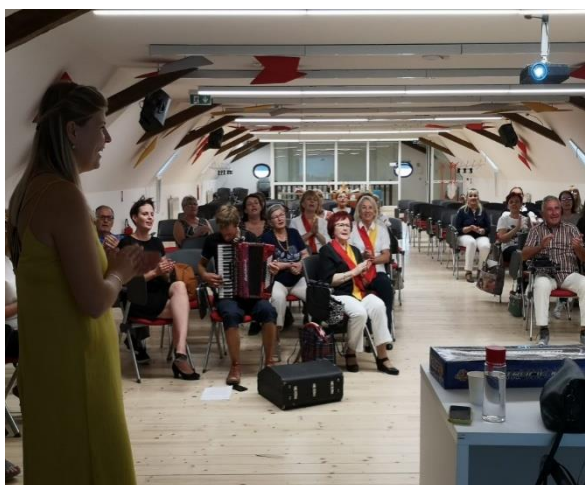


Opening of the Month of Jewish Culture.  
Concert by Evgenia Epstein, 3.9.2021.

Although the Jewish community of Osijek has always been active, having participated in projects such as *Rediscover*, this year they have surpassed all of their earlier activities. This year's Month of Jewish Culture was the most comprehensive one to date, as each day was filled with one or even several diverse programs. Thanks to the main organizer Nives Beissmann, the head of the Sunday school and dance group at the Jewish Community of Osijek, this year's program surpassed similar events that took place in other European cities. The program included two concerts, two theater performances, three film screenings (two Israeli films and one Croatian film), four exhibitions, two book promotions, four lectures, two guided city tours, four living libraries at the Museum of Personal Stories, two sports tournaments and a music workshop. for members of national minorities and several workshops for children.

The Month of Jewish Culture was opened with a solo violin concert by Evgenia Epstein. In the course of the program, another concert by the *Turangalil* Quartet was held. In addition to the great six-hour play *Semper idem* by the National Theater Sombor, the play *The Boy Who Talked to God* was shown,

based on the novel by Damir Mađarić (2010), performed by actors from the Croatian National Theater in Osijek. The dynamic pace of this play engaged the younger generations, and kept the vigilant attention of the older ones. The multitude of special effects “dragged” the young people into the plot, enabling them to identify with the character and destiny of the boy killed in the Holocaust.



Workshop "Dialogue through Songs" of National Minorities.9.2021.

In addition to two Israeli films, the social drama *Doubtful* (2017) and the comedy *Forgiveness* (2019), a short film of Croatian production, *Porajmos* (2020), which deals with Ustashatism as a Croatian variant of German Nazism, was shown.

All four Saturdays, the Living Library program took place at the *Museum of Personal Stories*, where citizens had the opportunity to talk with the participants of the exhibition *Stories of Jews* - Damir and Ivanka Lajoš, Darko Fischer, Slavica Singer, Drago Kohn, Sara Beissmann, Biljana Majnik and Romana Pavlov. This activity has encouraged many primary and secondary school pupils, as well as university students, to engage in dialogue and connect with the personal stories of the participants.



Presentation of Zvonimir Mišo Papo's book, 7.9.2021.

*Rosh Hashana* was

celebrated by the opening of the diplomatic exhibition "Jerusalem - the capital of Israel". Fifty visitors welcomed the New Year in the warm atmosphere of the Museum of Fine Arts in Osijek. The exhibition brought together people of different generations, nationalities, religious and political preferences, as well as numerous members of the Jewish community. The exhibited photos showed all the most famous Jerusalem sites, including secular ones (Israeli Museum, Theater, University, Parliament, Yad Vashem Memorial Center, Damascus Gate) and religious ones (churches, synagogues and mosques). In addition to this exhibition on Jerusalem, there was an exhibition "Dialogue" in collaboration with the National Library of Israel, an exhibition "Traces in 30 Images" about Sombor (town in Serbia not far from Croatian border) Jews in the Holocaust and an exhibition of children's works related to Judaism.





The special atmosphere of *Rosh Hashanah* was prolonged during the following days of the Jewish Culture Month program in Osijek. Three days later, in the same room, prof. Darko Fischer informed the public about all the most important facts related to the re-establishment of the Jewish State of Israel in 1948. The fact that Israel belonged one again the Jews, after more than two thousand years, raises hopes the better future oto Jewish people. Few days later, Ljiljana Dobrovšak, a researcher at the *Ivo Pilar Institute for Social Sciences*, told us more about the Jews in Osijek. Another lecture was given by prof. Fischer on the famous sculptor Oscar Nemon. There was also a lecture on Hebrew literature.

On the morning of *Rosh Hashana*, the presentation of Zvonimir Mišo Papo's book "The Earth Swore to Paradise" took place, in which the author describes his own search for identity after discovering his own Jewish origins. A few days later, a presentation of Filip Škiljan's book "Memory of National Minorities in Croatia on the Homeland War" from the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies was held. The importance of dealing with this topic was emphasized in the discussion, because in Croatian public discourse even today, the circumstances of the war are often associated with the ideology of nationalism. However, works like this memoir collection show how many members of national minorities participated in the war, even though unfortunately in the public discourse they are often excluded from historical depictions of the war.

There were also two guided tours of Osijek on the topic of "Traces of Jewish Heritage in Osijek". Guide Tomislav Vukovic, a high school history teacher, explained to visitors the importance of certain locations in the city for Jewish history. He also highlighted the contribution of Jewish citizens to the culture of

the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which sought to be wiped out during the Nazi period. Visitors were surprised by the information that not far from the center of Osijek is a mass grave of victims of Nazism, and above it is only a small, inconspicuous inscription. The importance of speaking on the subject of the Holocaust was emphasized.

The month of Jewish culture ended with the Sunday celebration of Sukkot with Rabbi Prelević in Dalj, a village near Osijek. Since Jewish Community of Osijek entered the New Year through dialogue, we expect that the positive atmosphere of the program will be reflected throughout the year.



to  
for

Exhibition of the children's drawings on the topic of Judaism at school Tin Ujević, 14.9.2021.



Guided tour "Traces of Jewish Heritage in Osijek", 16.9.2021.



It seems that we are facing a year full of cultural and political cooperation between Israel and Croatia, Judaism and Christianity, but also among the Jews themselves.

Photos by: Nives and Željko Beissmann

## Intervju s Nives Beissmann, voditeljicom kulturnih aktivnosti u Židovskoj općini Osijek

*Intervju vodio Darko Fischer*

### **Glasnik: Kada i kako stese počeli baviti židovskom kulturom? Što su bili početni motivi?**

Sve je počelo nakon Domovinskog rata, dakle 1992. Kako je moja svekrva radila ovdje (u Osijeku) kao tajnica, pitala je mene i Željka (mog supruga) želimo li ići na obiteljski seminar u Szarvas u Mađarskoj. S obzirom da smo poslije rata svi bili istraumatizirani, rekla je kako nam je to prilika da se malo opustimo. Sedam ili deset dana, ne sjećam se točno. Tamo će biti svašta – predavanja, pjesme, kupanje na bazenima. Bilo je doista svakakvih radionica, a jedna od njih bila je i ples. Budući da smo



**Nives Beissmann**

se Željko i ja ranije bavili plesom, otišli smo na radionicu čisto da vidimo kakva je. Toliko nam se sviđjelo da smo ostajali na plesu cijelo vrijeme: kako su se grupe mijenjale, mi nismo mijenjali grupu nego stalno ostajali plesati u svim grupama tako da smo plesali po nekoliko sati na dan.

Tada smo imali priliku otići na seminar "Machol Europe" koji se odvija tradicionalno u Londonu, međutim Željko ne zna engleski, a ja nisam Židovka, tako da nitko od nas nije otišao. U međuvremenu je otišla Neda Wiesler (voditeljica plesne grupe u Židovskoj općini Zagreb) i jako joj se sviđjelo. Kad se vratila iz Londona, čula je da postoji u Osijeku bračni par koji se susreo s izraelskim folklorom, a ranije su se bavili plesom. Ona nas je nazvala i pitala bismo li se našli s njom da osnujemo ogranak plesne grupe u Osijeku i tako je sve krenulo. Došla je ovamo i upoznali smo se. Ponovili smo neke plesove koji smo mi već bili zaboravili jer je već bila 1998. godina i prošao je određeni broj godina. Krenula sam plesati s djecom koja su bila tu u

Općini pa sam ih željela naučiti plesu. Pomalo je to preraslo u plesnu grupu. 2004. se organizirao Pirovac (ljetovalište židovske omladine Hrvatske), htjeli smo da netko povede osječku djecu na ljetovanje, pa sam ja išla s njima. Tamo me je Silvija Kozlović, sada Hercog, pitala zašto ne bih pokrenula Nedjeljnu školu u Židovskoj općini. Rekla sam da ne znam ništa o tome, a ona mi je dala knjige i razne materijale. Sve mi je pokazala i otišla sam s njom nekoliko dana na edukaciju gdje mi je Silvija pričala, a ja sam marljivo zapisivala, nakon čega sam 2005. pokrenula Nedjeljnu školu.

Tada je sve krenulo jedno za drugim: plesna grupa je već postojala, Nedjeljna škola je profunkcionirala, tada je krenuo i Europski dan židovske kulture, zahvaljujući vama.

***Glasnik:* Iduće pitanje se nadovezuje na rad u plesnoj grupi. Tko su bili polaznici, kako je sve to funkcioniralo?**

Na samom početku, prvi članovi bili su – naravno, Željko i ja - zatim Tatjana Šterni Vedrana Štern, tada mala djevojčica koja je već prve plesne korake naučila u Szarvasu. Sjećam se da je Anamarija Pinterdolazila kao djevojčica od šest godina. Tu i tamo je još netko, na tim samim počecima, naletio, ali nismo bili formirani kao plesna grupa već smo plesali za zabavu. Nakon toga su se pridružile plesačice: Maja Šimić, koja je sada u Irskoj, Ana Kolobarić, koja živi u Zagrebu, i Tena Ugljik Milaković, koja još uvijek pleše s nama.

***Glasnik:* Kako je funkcionirala Nedjeljna škola?**

Nedjeljna škola je u početku imala 17 polaznika, to je bilo zlatno doba Nedjeljne škole. To su sada sve odrasli ljudi. Moja Sara je bila najmlađa, imala je 5 godina, a dobni raspon je bio sve do 17 godina. Tijekom duljeg vremenskog perioda imala sam djecu različite dobi, od malih do starijih, i pokušavala sam to povezati tako da se radi uglavnom sa starijima, mali ponešto nauče, stariji se brinu o malima, i tako je to funkcioniralo neko vrijeme. Sada su generacije zahtjevnije i kad djeca dođu u neku stariju dob, 13-14 godina, gube interes za Nedjeljnu školu i više se ne žele "bakćati" s malima. Prethodna generacija je to voljela, ali ova sadašnja ne. Internet i razne igrice uzimaju maha i sad već duži vremenski period imam djecu od 6-7 godina, pa do 12-13, dakle do puberteta. Trenutno ih ima devet. Od ove godine krenut će možda neki novi, a neki su već napunili 12 godina, pa ne znam hoće li nastaviti pohađati. Među njima ima i nežidovske djece, oko 2-3. Za jedno od njih znam da ima židovsko podrijetlo, premda ga roditelji nikad nisu istražili, a dvoje nemaju nikakvo.

***Glasnik:* Kakvi su bili odjeci tih aktivnosti u javnosti, na nivou Hrvatske i u zemljama bivše Jugoslavije?**

U našoj Općini bilo je od početka prihvaćeno dobro. Ima onih kojima smeta što nemam židovsko podrijetlo, tako da to izađe tu i tamo kao komentar, ali općenito je naš rad dobro prihvaćen i iz drugih općina uvijek dobivamo samo pohvale. Mi smo jedna od najmanjih općina. Postoje puno veće općine koje nemaju ni nedjeljnu školu ni plesnu grupu. Bez obzira što se borim s brojnošću plesne grupe, ipak postojimo. Svaki put kad treba odraditi nastup, mi se okupimo i uspijemo to odraditi. Ispostavilo se da ima na području bivše Jugoslavije samo dvije plesne grupe – naša u Osijeku i jedna u Novom Sadu. Prije je bila i u Zagrebu, a u Beogradu su bile čak dvije, ali mi smo uspjeli opstati od 1998. Isto je s Nedjeljnom školom. Mnoge općine s više članova nisu uspjele opstati. Zagreb se već godinama bori s Nedjeljnom školom i neke od djevojaka iz Osijeka sada vode Nedjeljnu školu u Zagrebu. Vodila je Rebecca, zatim Lea Kasabašić. Sara će voditi i ove godine. Maja vodi omladince. Budući da se druge općine također bore sa svim i svačim, mi ispadamo najuporniji. Čak i ako se dogodi dajednu nedjelju dođe samo dvoje djece, ja se poigram s njima, odemo u šetnju, zabavimo se. Svejedno nastojimo održati taj kontinuitet čak i ako je situacija deprimirajuća, a ponekad jest.

### ***Glasnik: Kakav je doprinos osječke Židovske općine ovoj židovskoj kulturnoj djelatnosti?***

Ne mogu se žaliti. Počela sam raditi kad ste vi bili predsjednik (Dr. Fischer) i nikad nisam imala nikakvih problema, sve je krenulo iako nisam znala u kojem smjeru. Kad je Damir (Lajoš) postao predsjednik, tada se sve "zalaufalo". Sedam godina sam volontirala s plesnom grupom, a od kada sam počela Nedjeljnu školu, ona mi je plaćena. Za plesnu grupu dobivam plaćen jedan sat tjedno, a radim četiri, no to je moj izbor, nisam nikad tražila više. Što se tiče financijske pomoći, ne mogu reći da je nisam imala. Nikad se nismo rasipali i nabavljali smo kostime samo ako su nam baš bili potrebni za neki veliki nastup. Glede moralne podrške, uvijek sam bila podržana. Mijenjali su se predsjednici i uprava, ali uvijek je dobro funkcioniralo.

### ***Glasnik: "Menora" ponovno izlazi od prije godinu i pol. Što nam možete o tome reći?***

"Menora" je uvijek bila moja "tiha boljka", kako se kaže. Jako je boljelo što "Menora" devet godina nije izlazila. Jasni su mi razlozi zašto je Nada (Valentić) prestala to raditi, ali nekako sam se nadala da će netko od mladih to ponovno pokrenuti. Nikad nisam mislila da bih to bila ja, ali nitko nije pokazivao interes. Bilo mi je žao da se toliko puno toga radi u Općini – ženska sekcija, proslava praznika, razni projekti s gradom. Za Sukot i Pesah dolazili su nam članovi svih židovskih općina u Hrvatskoj, ponekad po 300-400 ljudi, zatim plesne grupe, nastupi, a nitko to nigdje ne bilježi. Ako se ne zabilježi, kao da se nije ni dogodilo. Mi to još pamtimo, ali za dvadeset, pedeset godina bilo bi kao da se nikad nije ni dogodilo. Nama puno znači kad saznamo nešto, npr. iz '40-ih ili čak '60-ih, kad se pojavi nekakav mali tekst. Mislila sam kako ljudi poslije neće znati što se događalo tijekom ovih godina. Tada sam odlučila ponovno pokrenuti "Menoru". Dok je Upravni odbor imao sastanak, pitala sam za jednu minutu pozornosti i upitala mogu li ponovno pokrenuti "Menoru". Rekli su da Općina nema novaca, kako to već obično biva. Rekla sam da neću uzeti nikakve novce, da samo želim pokrenuti "Menoru" da je imamo, iako možda neću znati u početku, možda će časopis biti bezveze, ali to što je nema mene jako boli. Ne znam boli li još nekog, ali mene boli, i tako sam odlučila pokušati. Najviše me je mučila tehnička strana. Mučila me i urednička strana, ali pogotovo tehnička strana, da to neću znati posložiti i odraditi. Ipak, nakon našeg vikenda u Zagrebu, vidjela sam da nije veliki problem. Uvijek kažem: ako netko drugi misli da može bolje, rado ću mu prepustiti to uredničko mjesto. Radim najbolje što mogu i željela bih da imamo glasilo koje je kvalitetno. Ako netko može bolje, neka preuzme. I meni je u interesu da bude što bolje. Mislim da je važno da se sve zabilježi. Digitalno izdanje već je obišlo cijelu Hrvatsku, bivšu Jugoslaviju, Europu, čak i cijeli svijet. Dobila sam pisma iz Izraela i Amerike gdje nam ljudi čestitaju što smo tako aktivni, traže da im pošaljem sljedeći broj. Meni je to potvrda da vrijedi ono što radim jer ostaje za budućnost.

### ***Glasnik: Koliko često izlazi "Menora"?***

Probala sam da si ne stvorim pritisak. U početku sam htjela da bude 4 puta godišnje, barem 3, ali kasnije sam shvatila da je naprosto najbolje objaviti broj kad god se skupi materijala. Jako je teško jer radim volonterski, a moram od nečeg živjeti, tako da je teško spojiti to sa svakodnevnih obvezama i poslovima koji donose novac. Ali kad se materijala skupi, zatvorim se u sobu na dva tjedna i tad me nema (smijeh). Zaista mi treba puno vremena jer najviše vremena odnosi čitanje tekstova ponovno i ponovno, jer uvijek pronađem poneku grešku. Zatim šaljem i drugim ljudima da mi pošalju povratne

informacije jer svatko vidi nešto drugo. Nastojat ću da izlazi barem 2-3 puta godišnje, jer imamo materijala za to.

***Glasnik: Kakva je suradnja na kulturnom planu sa sličnim institucijama, s drugim religijskim i nacionalnim zajednicama?***

Suradnja je dobra, premda bi mogla biti i bolja. Imamo odličnu suradnju s Makedonskom zajednicom i Evanđeoskom pentekostalnom crkvom. U sklopu Mjeseca židovske kulture također imamo aktivnosti koje uključuju druge nacionalne manjine: turnir u stolnom tenisu, turnir u šahu, radionicu Dijalog pjesmom nacionalnih manjina. Na turniru u stolnom tenisu dečki su se baš dobro zabavili i družili. Uvijek tu nastaju nekakve veze među ljudima, zbog čega sam osmislila aktivnost "Dijalog kroz pjesme nacionalnih manjina". Nisam htjela ići na neki nastup, jer ima prilike za te ozbiljnije stvari. Htjela sam nešto neformalnije. Kako je "dijalog" glavna tema, palo mi je na pamet da bi svaka nacionalna manjina mogla podučiti drugu nacionalnu manjinu neku svoju pjesmu. Zasad nam se prijavilo osam nacionalnih manjina, što je taman koliko treba. Budući da treba desetak minuta da se nauči pjesma, to je već 80 minuta. Da ih se prijavilo više, možda bi predugo trajalo (smijeh). Ja sam pozvala sve, naravno. Nadam se da će radionica uspjeti, ali ideja je bila da se nasmijemo, zabavimo, jer učenje na novim jezicima bit će vrlo smiješno. Bitno je da se okupimo i da se stare veze prodube, nove veze uspostave, da se možda otvore mogućnosti za nove suradnje. Neke možda poznajem, neke sam samo vidjela u prolazu. Svaki od tih susreta vodi do tog da se nekog novog upozna, da se s novim ljudima poveže tako da se nadam da će nam to pomoći za daljnje projekte.

***Glasnik: Imate li kakvog bliskog pomagača, nekog tko bi Vam mogao postati nasljednik, nasljednica?***

Dobro pitanje. Bliski pomagač mi je Željko. On je, jadan, ovdje i kad bi htio i kad ne bi htio (smijeh). Uvijek je prvi koji pregleda "Menoru". Sara mi već duže vremena pomaže u raznim stvarima, od toga da mi pregleda tekst do toga da mi da ideju u vezi djece u Nedjeljnoj školi. Kada dođem do zida, kako je ona mlađa i kreativnija, uvijek se sjeti nečega pa mi pomogne u tome. Kao svog nasljednika vidim nekoga od djece tko su prošli moju Nedjeljnu školu i plesnu grupu. Sara, Rebecca, Maja, ovisno od toga tko će biti u Osijeku. Došla nam je u općinu nova članica ovih dana, tko zna možda će ona biti ta. Ali nikad se ne zna, možda će netko od novih generacija biti zainteresiran i kreativan. Nije to lak posao, stalno se mora nekoga "vući", nagovarati, zivkati, nijedna Nedjeljna škola se ne dogodi ako svima ne pošaljem poruku. OK, možda sam ih ja na to navikla, pa sad tako funkcioniramo, ali stalno treba voditi računa da organiziramo nešto novo i nešto zanimljivo jer djeci sve vrlo brzo dosadi. Nikad se ne mogu "uljuljkati", cijelo vrijeme treba nešto novo pronalaziti. To je možda ono što i mene drži da mi ne postane dosadno. Udovoljavanje djeci i meni čini posao zanimljivijim pa tako sve funkcionira ovih godina.

***Glasnik: Kako vidite budućnost židovskih zajednica u zemlji kao što je Hrvatska s obzirom da nas je sve manje, da je stopa asimilacije sve veća?***

Ja sam veliki optimist u životu, ali po ovom pitanju nisam previše optimistična. Jako me strah da će se za nekoliko godina na ovom prostoru židovske zajednice ugasiti. Ne sve, ali brojnost neće biti ovolika. Mislim da asimilacija uzima danak. Vidim to po našoj Općini. Mi se jako trudimo zadržati članstvo, ali znamo da "postotak" židovstva opada. Mrzim pričati o "krvnim zrnima", ali mnogoj



djeci jesamo djed ili pradjed bio Židov, nekako to odlazi sve dalje i dalje, a mnogi nisu ni zainteresirani za židovstvo.

Vidim da u nekim gradovima Hrvatske postoje samo 2 člana, negdje više ni jedan. Bojim se da će u Osijeku doći sa 100 i nešto članova na 50, s 50 na 20. Meni se čini da će broj članstva opasti, no na nama je truditi je da to sve opstane. Zato i radim s djecom. Da sam potpuni pesimist, ne bih radila s djecom. Ako radimo s njima od malih nogu, vežemo ih za općinu i postaju zainteresirani. Učimo ih da dolaze ovamo i tako se nastavlja tradicija. Rijetko neka odrasla osoba dođe u Općinu jer shvati da ima židovsko podrijetlo, ali i to se ponekad dogodi.

***Glasnik:* Čini mi se da interes hrvatske, ali i svjetske javnosti za židovsku kulturu raste. Samo u posljednjih mjesec dana tri-četiri knjige su izašle na tu temu. Ljudi su sve više zainteresirani za identitet Židova i zločin koji je nad njima počinjen. Kakvo je Vaše razmišljanje?**

Ja također vidim da ima interesa sve više, pogotovo u našem gradu, jer su pokrenuti neki doista bitni projekti. Imali smo "Židovski Osijek" prošle godine. Imali smo "Rediscover" koji je trajao dvije godine i mnoštvo drugih stvari. Institucije su doista spremne surađivati. Svi kojima smo se obratili našli su način da se uključe u Mjesec židovske kulture, i to vrlo rado. Nismo ih ničim nagovarali, već smo ih pitali i odmah su pokazali interes. Svi koje smo pozvali pristali su doprinijeti. Da, dio javnosti je jako zainteresiran, a dio javnosti bi volio da ne postojimo (smijeh).

***Glasnik:* Što biste rekli, koji je uzrok tome zašto interes raste?**

Možda kreće od nekog tko shvaća važnost židovstva u povijesti, konkretnije u povijesti grada. Mislim da sve krene od aktivnih pojedinaca, od nekolicine koji za sobom povuku druge. Postoje ljudi koji su zainteresirani, a možda nemaju ideju što i kako započeti, pa ih motivira kad vide aktivnosti drugih. I meni ideje padaju na pamet kad negdje nešto vidim. Ali interes nije samo ovdje, već u cijeloj Europi, da ne kažembaš cijelom svijetu. Možda je došlo do točke kad preživjelih Holokausta ima sve manje, nacionalizma sve više, a u ljudima se počeo javljati strah da se nešto slično Holokaustu može ponoviti ukoliko se ne bude osvještavalo ljude. Mnogi tvrde da se Holokaust nije dogodio, a kad preživjelih ne bude bilo, ta teza mogla bi još više uzeti maha. Moramo skretati pozornost na taj problem i već sad raditi na tome da se to spriječi.

***Glasnik:* Gospodo Beissmann, mnogo hvala na ovom razgovoru!**

## **Interview with Mrs. Nives Beissmann, Head of Cultural Activities in the Jewish Community of Osijek**

(The intervju was conducted by Darko Fischer)

***The Voice:* When and how did you start to work with Jewish culture? What were the initial motives?**

It all started after the Croatian War of Independence, so in 1992. As my mother-in-law was working here (in Osijek) as a secretary, she asked me and Željko (my husband) if we wanted to go to a family

seminar in Szarvas, Hungary. Since we were all traumatized after the war, she said it was an opportunity for us to relax a bit. Seven or ten days, I don't remember exactly. She said there would be different activities - lectures, songs, swimming in the pools. There were really all kinds of workshops, and one of them was dancing. Since Željko and I used to dance, we went to the workshop to see what it was like. We liked it so much that we stayed at the dance all the time: as the groups changed, we didn't change the group. We stayed in all the groups so we were dancing for many hours every day.

Then we had the opportunity to go to the seminar "Machol Europe" which takes place traditionally in London, but Željko does not know English, and I am not Jewish, so none of us went. In the meantime, Neda Wiesler (leader of a dance group in the Jewish community of Zagreb) went to that seminar and really liked it. When she returned from London, she heard that there was a married couple in Osijek who knew Israeli folklore, and they had danced before. She called us and asked if we would meet with her to establish a branch of a dance group in Osijek and that's how it all started. She came here and we met. We repeated some dances that we had already forgotten because it was already 1998 and a certain number of years had passed. I started dancing with the children who were there in the Community so I wanted to teach them to dance. It grew into a dance group. In 2004, Pirovac (the summer resort of the Jewish youth of Croatia) was organized, we wanted someone to take the children from Osijek on vacation, so I went with them. There, Silvija Kozlović, now Herzog, asked me to start a Sunday school in the Jewish community. I said I knew nothing about it, and she gave me books and various materials. She showed me everything and I went with her for a few days. During this education, Silvija told me everything I needed to know and I diligently wrote it down. Afterwards I opened up Sunday School in 2005. One thing followed another: the dance group had already existed, Sunday School was functioning, then the European Day of Jewish Culture started, thanks to you.

***The Voice: The next question is about working in a dance school. Who were the attendees, how did it all work?***

Apart from Željko and I, the first members were Tatjana Štern and Vedrana Štern, back then a little girl who had already learned her first dance steps in Szarvas. I remember Anamarija Pinter coming as a six-year-old girl. Here and there someone else, in those very beginnings, came and joined us, but we were not formed as a dance group. We were dancing only for fun. After that, the dancers joined: Maja Šimić, who is now in Ireland, Ana Kolobarić, who lives in Zagreb, and Tena Uglik Milaković, who still dances with us.

***The Voice: How did Sunday School work?***

Sunday School initially had 17 students, it was the golden age of Sunday School. These are all adults now. My Sara was the youngest, she was 5 years old, and the age range went all the way up to 17 year old teens. Over a long period of time I worked with children of different ages, younger and older, and I tried to connect it. I was working mostly with older children, trying to have the little ones learn something. The older ones were taking care of the little ones, and that's how it worked for a while. Now generations are more demanding and when children become 13-14 years old, they lose interest in Sunday school and no longer want to "hang out" with the little ones. The previous generation loved it, but the current one does not. The Internet and various games are gaining momentum so now for a

longer period of time I work with children who are 6-7 years old, until they become 12-13 years old, so until puberty. There are currently nine of them. This year, maybe some new ones will start, and some attendees have already turned 12, so I don't know if they will continue to attend. There are non-Jewish children among them, about 2-3. I know that one of them has some Jewish descent, though his parents have never researched it properly, and the two have none.

***The Voice: How were these activities received in the public, at the level of Croatia and in the countries of former Yugoslavia?***

In our Community, it has been accepted well from the beginning. There are those who are bothered that I do not have Jewish origins, so it comes out here and there as a comment, but in general our work is well received and we always get only praise from other communities. We are one of the smallest communities. There are much larger communities that have neither a Sunday school nor a



**Mrs. Beissmann (first from left) with Haverim Shel Israel dancing group**

dance group. No matter how much I struggle with the number of attendees at the dance group, we still exist. Every time a performance needs to be done, we get together and manage to do it. It turned out that there are only two dance schools in the former Yugoslavia - ours in Osijek and one in Novi Sad. There used to be one in Zagreb, and there were even two in Belgrade, but unlike them we managed to survive since 1998. It's the same with Sunday school. Many communities with more members have failed to survive. Zagreb has been struggling with the Sunday School for years. Some girls from

Osijek now run the Sunday School in Zagreb. It was run by Rebecca, afterwards by Lea Kasabašić. Sara will lead this year as well. Maja leads the youth. Since other communities also struggle with many things, we turned out to be the most persistent. Even if it happens that only two children come one Sunday, I play with them, we go for a walk, we have fun. We still try to maintain that continuity even if the situation is depressing, and sometimes it is.

***The Voice: What is the contribution of the Jewish Community in Osijek to Jewish cultural activities in general?***

I can't complain. I started working when you were president of the Community in Osijek and I never had any problems. Everything started even though I didn't know in which direction it was going. When Damir (Lajoš) became president, then it really "took off". I worked as a volunteer with a dance group for seven years. Since I opened up Sunday School, I started getting paid for it. For a dance group I get paid one hour a week, even though I work four. However, it's my choice, I never asked for more. As for financial support, I can't say we didn't have it. We never squandered and only got costumes if we really needed them for some big show. In terms of moral support, I have always been supported. Presidents and management have changed, but it has always worked well.

***The Voice: "Menora", the periodical of Jewish Community of Osijek, is published again since a year and a half ago. What can you tell us about that?***

“Menora” has always been my “silent pain,” as they say. It hurt a lot that "Menora" was not published for nine years. The reasons why Nada (Mrs. Valentić, former editor of „Menora“) stopped doing this are clear to me, but somehow I was hoping that some of the young people would start it again. I never thought it would be me, but no one else showed interest. I was sorry that so much is being done in the Community - the women's section, the celebration of the holidays, various projects with the city.



**Mrs. Beissmann at an opening of an exhibition**

For Sukkot and Pessach, members of all Jewish communities in Croatia would come to us, sometimes as many as 300-400 people, dance groups, performances, and it was not recorded anywhere. If it is not recorded, it would be as if it did not even happen. We still remember these happenings, but in twenty, fifty years it would be as if it never happened. It means a lot to us when we learn something, for example from the '40s or even the '60s, when a text from that time appears. I thought people wouldn't know what was going after many years. That is why I decided to restart "Menora". While the Board was having a meeting, I asked for one minute of attention and asked if I could restart “Menora”. They said that the Community had no money, as is usually the case. I said I wouldn't take any money, that I just wanted to start “Menora” to have it, although I may not know how to do it at first. Maybe the magazine will be nonsense, but the fact that it does not exist hurts me a lot. I said I didn't know if it hurt anyone else, but it hurt me, so I decided to give it a try. The technical side bothered me the most. I was also bothered by the editorial side, but especially by the technical side. I was fearing that I would not be able to do it. However, after our weekend in Zagreb, I saw that it was not a big problem. I always say: if someone else thinks they can do better, I will gladly leave that editorial position to them. I do

the best I can and I want us to have a high quality magazine. If anyone can do better, I will let them take over. It is in my interest for "Menora" to be as good as possible. I think it's important to keep a record of everything. The digital edition of our magazine has already "toured" Croatia, former Yugoslavia, Europe, and even the whole world. I received letters from Israel and America where people congratulate us for being so active, asking me to send them the next number. To me, it's a confirmation that what I do is important because it stays for the future.

***The Voice: How often is "Menora" published?***

I tried not to pressure myself. At first I wanted it to be published 4 times a year, at least 3, but later I realized that it was simply best to publish an issue whenever enough material was collected. It's very hard because it is volunteer work, and I also have to make a living, so it's hard to combine editorial work with daily commitments and jobs that bring in money. But when the material gathers, I lock myself in a room for two weeks and then I'm gone (laughs). I really need a lot of time because it takes



a lot of time to read the texts over and over again. I always notice some errors. Then I send other people to send me feedback because everyone sees something different. I will do my best for "Menora" to come out at least 2-3 times a year because we have enough material for it.

***The Voice: What is the cultural cooperation with similar institutions, with other religious and national communities?***

The collaboration is good, although it could be better. We have excellent cooperation with the Macedonian community and the Evangelical Pentecostal Church. As part of the Month of Jewish Culture, we also have activities that include other national minorities: a table tennis tournament, a chess tournament, "Dialogue through the Songs of National minorities" workshop. At the table tennis tournament, the boys had a great time hanging out. Connections between people are always formed during such activities. For the same reason, I designed the activity "Dialogue through the songs of national minorities". I didn't want to do formal shows because there are enough opportunities for more serious events. I wanted something more informal. As "dialogue" is the main theme, it occurred to me that each national minority could teach national minorities its own song. So far, eight national minorities have registered with us, which is just enough. Since it takes about ten minutes to learn a song, it's already 80 minutes. If more had applied, it might have taken too long (laughs). I invited everyone, of course. I hope the workshop will succeed, but the idea was to laugh, have fun, because singing in new languages will be very funny. It is important that we come together. Old ties will deepen, new ties will be established and opportunities for new collaborations may open up. Some people I already know, some I just saw in passing. Each event leads to meeting someone new, to connecting with new people so I hope this will help us for further projects.

***The Voice: Do you have a close helper, someone who could become your successor?***

Good question. A close helper is Željko. Poor thing, he is here both when he wants to and when he doesn't want to (laughs). He is always the first one to inspect the "Menora". Sara has been helping me with things for a long time, from reviewing my text to giving me an idea about Sunday School kids. When I'm up against the wall, as she is younger and more creative, she always comes up with an idea to help me. As my successor I see one of the children who went through my Sunday school and dance group. Sara, Rebecca, Maja, depending on who will be in Osijek. A new member joined our Community these days, who knows, maybe she will be the one. But you never know, maybe one of the new generations will be interested and creative. This is not an easy job, you have to constantly "pull" someone, persuade them... no Sunday school happens if I don't send a message to everyone. OK, maybe it's my fault that I got them used to it, but we always have to organize new and interesting things because children get bored very quickly. We can never relax, we need to look for something new all the time. This keeps me from getting bored too. Attending the needs of children makes the job more interesting also for me. That's how everything has been working all these years.

***The Voice:* How do you see the future of Jewish communities in a country like Croatia, given that there are fewer and fewer of us, that the rate of assimilation is increasing?**

I'm a big optimist in life, but I'm not too optimistic about this topic. I am very afraid that in a few years the Jewish communities in this area will beshut down. Not all, but number of members will not be this large. I think assimilation takes a toll. I see it in our Community. We are working hard to maintain membership, but we know that the "percentage" of Judaism is declining. I hate to talk about "blood cells," but for many children, only their grandfather or great-grandfather was a Jew. Somehow this connection to Judaism goes "further", and many children aren't even interested in Judaism.

I see that in some cities in Croatia there are only 2 members, somewhere no more. I am afraid that the number of members in Osijek will drop from 150 to 100, in a few years to 50, and then to 20. It seems to me that the number of members will decrease, but it is up to us to try to keep it all going. That's why I work with children. If I were a complete pessimist, I wouldn't be working with youth. If we work with them from a young age, we tie them to the Community and they become interested. We teach them to come here and so the tradition continues. Rarely does an adult come to the Community because they find out about their Jewish origins, but even that sometimes happens.

***The Voice:* It seems to me that the interest of the Croatian and world public in Jewish culture is growing. In the last month alone, three or four books have been published on the subject. People are increasingly interested in the identity of the Jews and the crime committed against them. What do you think about this topic?**

I also see that there is more and more interest, especially in our city, because some really important projects have been launched. We had "Jewish Osijek" last year. We had "Rediscover" which lasted two years and many other events. The institutions are really ready to cooperate. Everyone we approached found a way to get involved in the Month of Jewish Culture, and very gladly. We did not need to persuade them, but we simply asked them and they immediately showed interest. Everyone we invited agreed to contribute. Yes, part of the public is very interested, and part of the public would like us not to exist (laughs).

***The Voice:* What would you say is the reason why the public interest in Judaism is growing?**

Perhaps everything starts from someone who understands the importance of Judaism in history, more specifically in the history of the city. I think it all starts with active individuals, with a few who pull others along. There are people who may be interested and have no idea what and how to start, so it motivates them to see other people's activities. Ideas also come to my mind when I see activities of others. But the interest is not only here (in Croatia), but in the whole Europe, not to mention the whole world. Today there are fewer and fewer Holocaust survivors, more and more nationalism, and people have begun to fear that something similar to the Holocaust could happen again if people are not made aware. Many argue that the Holocaust did not happen at all, and when there are no witnesses left, that claim could take off even more. We need to draw attention to this problem and work now to prevent it.

***The Voice:* Mrs. Beissmann, thank you very much for this interview!**

## Razgovor s Melitom Švob povodom njenog 90. rođendana

(Razgovor obavio D. Fischer)

Iako po profesiji biolog i sveučilišni profesor na medicinskom fakultetu, dr. Melita Švob u svojoj 91. godini života vrlo je aktivna u svojim aktivnostima prikupljanja podataka o Židovima Hrvatske, postavljanju baze podataka o žrtvama Holokausta kao i baze o preživjelima. Također obavlja mnoge značajne dužnosti u međunarodnim židovskim organizacijama. Povodom njenog 90. rođendana, časopis „Ha-Kol“, glasilo Židovske općine Zagreb i suradnica Maša Taušan objavili su intervju s gospođom Melitom Švob.



**Melita Švob**

U želji da i čitatelji našeg „Glasnika“ dobiju uvid u rad i aktivnosti ove izvanredne osobe, i mi smo postavili nekoliko pitanja gospođi Švob. Nastojali smo postaviti pitanja koja se ne preklapaju s intervjuom u Ha-Kolu, ali će dati dobru sliku aktivnosti gospođe Švob

**Glasnik: Vaš intenzivniji rad na prikupljanju podataka o Židovima Hrvatske započeo je 1990. godine. Što Vas je motiviralo i kako je sve počelo?**

Nakon povratka iz Bosne gdje sam bila asistent na Medicinskom fakultetu u Sarajevu (1960-1964), habilitirani docent na PMF, viši znanstveni suradnik na Zavodu za kožne bolesti (1964-1977) te profesor na Medicinskom fakultetu u Tuzli, zaposlila sam se u Institutu za migracije i narodnosti u Zagrebu 1979. godine i tamo ostala sve do umirovljenja. Tu sam nastavila svoja

istraživanja na djeci i mladima u migraciji koje sam započela (zajedno s suprugom) u antropološkim istraživanim djece (Sarajeva, Banja Luke i Mostara) u migraciji selo-grad.

Osobito sam se zainteresirala za djecu izbjeglice i prognanici u ratu 1991. godine (knjiga „Prognana i izbjegla djeca u Zagrebu“ 1992. godine) i kao predsjednik Socijalnog odbora u Židovskoj općini u Zagrebu u ratno doba, napravila sam socijalnu anketu u ŽOZ-u 1995. godine na osobama starijim od 65 godina i 1997. objavila knjigu „Židovi u Hrvatskoj- Migracije i promjene u židovskoj populaciji“.

U studenom 1997. me je Vlada Republike Hrvatske imenovala za člana Povjerenstva za istraživanje povijesnih činjenica o sudbini nacističkih žrtava u Hrvatskoj te sam kao član državne delegacije sudjelovala na brojnim međunarodnim konferencijama. Imenovana sam za direktora Švicarskog fonda (1999) i Fondova Claims konferencije u Hrvatskoj.

Odmah nakon umirovljenja osnovala sam Istraživački i dokumentacijski centar (2.000. godine) i započela rad na bazi podataka žrtava Holokausta u Hrvatskoj (zajedno sa Zoranom Mirkovićem) čije

sam prve rezultate objavila u knjizi „Melita Švob: Židovi u Hrvatskoj-Židovske zajednice“ 2004.godine.

Zatim su slijedila nova istraživanja, nove knjige, nova domaća i internacionalna aktivnost- no to je sve već poznato.

**Glasnik: Iako više niste bili u „prvoj mladosti“, shvatili ste važnost digitalizacije podataka, stvorili ste baze podataka, napravili i održavate WEB stranicu, što nije tipični za osobe takve dobi. Kako to objašnjavate?**



**Melita Švob na predavanju**

Moj osnovni pristup znanstvenim istraživanjima je da ona moraju biti dostupna znanstvenoj i drugoj javnosti i podložna verifikaciji, pa i kritici. Publiciranje knjiga, časopisa i priloga je za znanstvenike sve teže i ovisno je o dobivanju sredstava Ministarstava znanosti, Ministarstva kulture i drugih institucija i fondova, koja su sve oskudnija kao i o znanstvenoj politici koja nije uvijek objektivna. Zbog toga je digitalizacija radova i distribucija putem interneta idealno rješenje i opće je prihvaćeno. Mladost ili starost nema s time veze.

**Glasnik: Bili ste i još uvijek ste organizator mnogih susreta preživjelih Holokausta, na primjer zimovanja u Opatiji. To je bilo popraćeno raznim kulturnim aktivnostima. Kako procjenjujete učinke takvih susreta??**

Cijelo moje znanstveno i društveno djelovanje je određeno time što sam Židovka i što sam i sama preživjela Holokaust i što su brojni članovi moje obitelji stradali. Zato je možda moj pristup istraživanjima emotivniji i angažiraniji, a subjekti u njima su moji supatnici čije probleme razumijem.

Naši susreti u Opatiji su koncipirani tako da pružaju preživjelima mogućnost uživanja u rekreaciji, kulturnim priredbama, knjigama, predavanjima, muzici- svemu onome što im je većinom uskraćeno ( sticajem prilika) u njihovom svakidašnjem životu. Zbog toga pokušavam i tokom godine organizirati aktivnosti, gimnastiku, radionice, izlete, susrete itd.

**Glasnik: U kojoj mjeri preživjeli Holokausta, svi već osobe poodmakle dobi, mogu motivirati mlade na održanju židovskih vrijednosti.**

Cijelo 20 godišnje djelovanje CENDA bilo je uz sudjelovanje naših omladinaca, neki od njih su bili suradnici na projektima i imaju radove. Nažalost CENDO je institucija koja se „samofinancira“ projektima i može samo honorarno angažirati suradnike tako dugo dok projekti traju.



Smatram da u ŽOZ-u nema potrebne politike zapošljavanja mladih, izvrsnih članova. Pa čak je Fond osnovan u tu svrhu godinama nije djelovao, a sadašnje „raspisivanje“ natječaja ne znači da postoji politika školovanja, osposobljavanja i zapošljavanja naših mladih.

**Glasnik: Do nedavno je u Hrvatskoj na javnim mjestima bilo vrlo malo spomenika žrtvama Holokausta. Čini li Vam se da se u posljednje vrijeme to mijenja na bolje? U Zagrebu je nedavno postavljeno više „kamenja spoticanja“ („Stolperstein“).**



**M. Švob s predstavnicima Claims Conference iz New Yorka u CENDO uredu u Zagrebu**

Uvijek je bilo malo spomenika žrtvama Holokausta. Obično su za vrijeme komunizma oni spominjani zajedno s ostalim žrtvama fašizma, a rijetko se priznavala, kao i sada, uloga domaćih fašista u uništenju židovske zajednice u Hrvatskoj. „Stolperstein,“ su dobra inicijativa, koja je potekla iz inozemstva i mi kao dobri članovi Evropske zajednice nastojimo pokazati da smo demokrati i antifašisti pa to dozvoljavamo. No to je gotovo simbolična gesta koja

ovisi o inicijativi lokalnih židovskih zajednica i pojedinaca.

**Glasnik Ipak, oko postavljanja spomenika žrtvama Holokausta u Hrvatskoj, za koji je već pripremljeno postolje kod zagrebačkog Glavnog kolodvora, ima nekih nedoumica. Kako ovo komentirate?**

Naravno da smatram da je apsurdno da se u Zagrebu postavi spomenik žrtvama Holokausta u svijetu (koji postoji već u Berlinu), a ne žrtvama Holokausta u Hrvatskoj, kao što su i apsurdne diskusije o tome da li je uopće bilo Holokausta i čemu su služili Jasenovac i drugi logori smrti.

**Glasnik: Koje su vaše preporuke mladima koji će nastaviti Vaš posao u CENDO dokumentacijskom centru i u organizacijama židovskih žena?**

Preporuke trebaju biti upućene organima ŽOZa - Izvršnom odboru i Vijeću, a ne mladima kojima su uvijek otvorena vrata CENDA i dokumentacija im je na raspolaganju da nastave istraživanja.

## Interview with Mrs. Melita Švob on the occasion of her 90th birthday

(Interview conducted by D. Fischer)

Although by profession a biologist and a university professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Melita Švob in her 91st year of age is also very active in numerous other activities, such as collecting data on Croatian Jews, as well as setting up a database on Holocaust victims and a database of survivors. She also performs many significant duties in international Jewish organizations. On the occasion of her 90th birthday, the magazine "Ha-Kol", the organ of the Jewish Community of Zagreb, published an interview with Mrs. Melita Švob which was conducted by the magazine associate Maša Taušan.

In order for the readers of our "Voice of BB" to get an insight into the work and activities of this extraordinary person, we too asked Mrs. Švob a few questions. We did our best to ask questions that



would not overlap with the interview at Ha-Kol, but would still adequately portray Mrs. Švob's numerous activities.

***The Voice:* You started to work more intensively on collecting data on the Jews of Croatia in 1990. What was your primary motivation? How did it all begin?**

**Mrs. Svob's CENDO office in Zagreb**

In Bosnia I was an assistant at the Medical Faculty in Sarajevo (1960-1964), habilitated assistant professor at the Faculty of Science, senior research associate at the Department of Skin Diseases (1964-1977) and

professor at the Medical Faculty in Tuzla. After returning to Croatia, I got a job at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies in Zagreb in 1979 and remained there until retirement. There I continued my research on children and youth in migration that I had started (together with my husband) with anthropological studies of children in Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar regarding rural-urban migration.

I was particularly interested in refugee children and children in exile during the 1991 war (the book "Exiled and Refugee Children in Zagreb" in 1992). As chairperson of the Social Committee in the Jewish Community of Zagreb during the war, I conducted a social survey at the Jewish Community of Zagreb in 1995. In 1997, I published the book "Jews in Croatia - Migrations and Changes in the Jewish Population" on persons over the age of 65.

In November 1997, the Government of the Republic of Croatia appointed me a member of the Commission for the Investigation of Historical Facts on the Fate of Nazi Victims in Croatia, and as a member of the state delegation I participated in numerous international conferences. In 1999, I was appointed director of the Swiss Fund and the Funds of the Claims Conference in Croatia.

Immediately after retiring, I founded the Research and Documentation Center (in year 2000) and began working on a database of Holocaust victims in Croatia (along with Zoran Mirković). Our first results were published in the book "Melita Švob: Jews in Croatia - Jewish Communities" in 2004.

This was followed by new research, new books, new domestic and international activity - but this is already known.

***The Voice:* Although you were no longer young, you realized the importance of digitizing data, creating databases, creating and maintaining a webpage, which is not typical for people of this age. How do you explain this?**

My basic approach to scientific research is that it has to be available to the scientific and other public and subject to verification and even criticism. Publishing books, journals and articles is increasingly difficult for scientists, as it depends on obtaining funding from the Ministry of Science, the Ministry of Culture and other institutions and funds, which are increasingly scarce. It also depends on current policies on sciences, which do not always follow the principle of objectivity. Therefore, digitization of works and distribution via the Internet is an ideal solution and is generally accepted. Youth or old age has nothing to do with it.



**Mrs. Švom at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem**

***The Voice:* You were and still are the organizer of many meetings of Holocaust survivors, for example wintering in Opatija. This was accompanied by various cultural activities. What are the effects of such activities?**

All my scientific and social work is determined by the fact that I am Jewish. I myself survived the Holocaust and many members of my family were killed. So maybe my approach to research is more emotionally engaged, and the research subjects are my companions whose

problems I understand.

Our meetings in Opatija are designed to provide survivors with the opportunity to enjoy recreation, cultural events, books, lectures, music - all that they usually lack in their daily lives due to circumstances. That is why I try to organize activities, gymnastics, workshops, trips, meetings, etc. during the year.

***The Voice:* To what extent can Holocaust survivors, now older people, motivate young people to maintain Jewish values?**

The entire 20-year operation of CENDO was accompanied with the participation of our young people, some of whom were collaborators on projects and have published papers on the topic. Unfortunately, CENDO is an institution that "self-finances" projects and can only hire part-time associates as long as particular projects last.

I believe that the Jewish Community of Zagreb lacks necessary employment policy for young, excellent members. Even the Fund established for this purpose has not operated for years, and the current "announcement" of tenders does not mean that there is a policy of education, training and employment of our young people.

***The Voice:* Until recently, there were very few monuments to Holocaust victims in public places in Croatia. Does this seem to be changing for the better? Several "stumbling blocks" ("Stolperstein") have recently been set in Zagreb.**

There have always been few monuments to Holocaust victims. Usually during communism they were mentioned together with other victims of fascism. The role of domestic fascists in the destruction of

the Jewish community in Croatia is rarely acknowledged even today. "Stolperstein" is a good initiative, which originated from abroad. We try to prove that we are good members of the European Union, democrats and anti-fascists, so we allow that. But it is an almost symbolic gesture that depends on the initiative of local Jewish communities and individuals.

***The Voice:* However, there are some controversies surrounding the erection of a monument to the victims of the Holocaust in Croatia, for which foundation has already been set at Zagreb's Central Station. What is your comment?**

Of course I think it is absurd to erect a monument to the victims of the Holocaust *in the world* in Zagreb (as this type of monument already exists in Berlin) and not to the victims of the Holocaust *in Croatia*. It is also absurd that this initiative is accompanied by questioning whether the Holocaust happened at all and discussions about the supposed real purpose of Jasenovac and other death camps.

***The Voice:* What are your recommendations to young people who will continue your work in the CENDO Documentation Center and in Jewish women's organizations?**

Recommendations should be addressed to the bodies of the Jewish Community of Zagreb - the Executive Board and the Council, and not to young people. Door of CENDO is always open to the young people and the documentation is available to anyone who wants to continue the research.

Oto Konstein:

### **Gertrude Adler, tajnica Elvisa Presleya**



**Gertude Forsher i Elvis Presley**

Od smrti Elvisa Presleya, zlatnog dečka popularne glazbe, prošlo je preko 40 godina. Teško da postoje ljudi koji nikada nisu za njega čuli, ali vezano uz njega postoje događaji i ljudi koji su manje poznati.

Radi se o njegovoj vrlo utjecajnoj tajnici! Zvala se Trude Forsher i rođena je u Beču 1920. godine kao Gertrude Adler. Bila je austrijska Židovka koja je od strahota Drugog svjetskog rata pobjegla prvo u Englesku, a zatim u Ameriku. Od 1956. do 1960. radila je kao tajnica Elvisa Presleya. Uspjela se afirmirati u Hollywoodu, gdje je ostvarila zapaženu karijeru.

Beč je napustila 1938. godine, nakon što je dobila radnu dozvolu za Englesku. Uspjela je čak u London dovesti roditelje i mlađeg brata Alfreda.

U listopadu 1940. Trude i njezini roditelji otišli su u Ameriku, a brat u Kanadu. Živjeli su kod obitelji Farkas u New Rochelleu.



U klubu gdje su se okupljali izbjeglice iz njemačkog govornog područja, upoznala je svog budućeg supruga Brunu Forshera, inženjera u IBM-u, s kojim se vjenčala u rujnu 1942.

Devet godina kasnije, bračni par se preselio u Kaliforniju u Santa Monici. Tamo su kupili kuću u kojoj su počeli živjeti sa svoja dva sina. Među svojim susjedima upoznali su obitelj Aberbach iz Beča. Njihovi sinovi Jean i Julian osnovali su izdavačku kuću *Hilland Range Songs* pa su imali pod ugovorom razne glazbenike. Jedan od njih bio je i mladi glazbenik Elvis Presley.

Nakon pojavljivanja u TV-emisiji *You Bet Your Life* Groucha Marxa, Trude je zaradila 200 dolara kojima je platila tečaj novinarstva na sveučilištu. Jedan od profesora uočio je njezin talent i nagovorio ju da se počne baviti novinarstvom. Trudin tekst o nastupu kod Marxa objavljen je u poznatom časopisu *TV Radio Life*, čime je započela njezina karijera u Hollywoodu.

Mladu novinarku braća Aberbach su upitali bi li intervjuirala Elvisa Presleya, tada glazbenika u usponu. Trude je pristala, iako nije imala pojma tko je on. Elvisov menadžer Tom Parker omogućio joj je intervju odmah nakon Elvisovog nastupa u emisiji *Milton Berle Show* u lipnju 1956. Samo mjesec dana kasnije, Parker joj je ponudio da postane njegova i Elvisova tajnica. U to vrijeme Elvis je baš snimao svoj prvi film „Love me tender“.

Od toga trenutka bila je uz njega i njegovu bogatu karijeru. Gertrude Forsher svojim je organizacijskim sposobnostima pomogla Elvisu Presleyu da stekne i održi svjetsku slavu. Uz standardne tajničke poslove, Trude je također odgovarala na silnu poštu koja je stizala od obožavatelja.

U studenom 1960. Trude se rastala od supruga. Budući da se razvod javne osobe poput nje smatrao skandalom, kako bi se zaštitila Elvisova reputacija, dobila je otkaz. Trude, tada majka dvoje male djece, postala je nezaposlena. Ipak, njezin talent je prepoznao jedan od osnivača *Paramount Pictures*, Adolph Zukor. Zajedno su osnovali tvrtku *Zukor-Forsher Productions*, koja je producirala TV emisije. Trude je u to vrijeme bila jedina žena-producent.

Dugo vremena radila je također kao tajnica reformiranog rabina Leonarda Beermana u sinagogi Leo Beck u Los Angelesu. U mirovinu je otišla 1974. godine.

Zajedno s prijateljicom Marian Winston za kalifornijsko ministarstvo zdravlja objavila je izvještaj o djeci čiji očevi ne plaćaju alimentaciju. Vidjevši njezinu studiju, gradonačelnik Los Angelesa Tom Bradley pozvao ju je u svoje Socijalno povjerenstvo. Radila je četiri godine kao savjetnica gradonačelnika za socijalna pitanja.

Osim toga, nastavila je pisati članke za razne novine, uključujući i glasilo židovskog centra. Svoje zadnje dane provela je u staračkom domu gdje je umrla 2000. godine.

Ovoj iznimnoj ženi posvećena je izložba „Trude & Elvis“ u Židovskom muzeju u Beču koja traje do 12. studenog ove godine.

14. kolovoza 2021. U 22.30 sati ORF 2 bio je premijerno prikazan film „Elvis und das Maedchen aus Wien.“



Izvor: [https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at/Trude\\_Forsher](https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at/Trude_Forsher)

Oto Konstein:

### Gertrude Adler, Sekretärin von Elvis Presley

Über 40 Jahre seit dem Tod von Elvis Presley, dem Goldjungen der Popmusik, vergangen. Es gibt kaum Menschen, die noch nie von ihm gehört haben, aber es gibt einige Ereignisse und Personen, die weniger bekannt sind.

Es geht um seine sehr einflussreiche Sekretärin! Sie hieß Trude Forsher und wurde 1920 als Gertrude Adler in Wien geboren. Sie war eine österreichische Jüdin, die vor den Gruseln des Zweiten Weltkriegs zuerst nach England und dann nach Amerika floh. Von 1956 bis 1960 arbeitete sie als Sekretärin von Elvis Presley. Sie schaffte es, sich in Hollywood zu etablieren, wo sie eine bemerkenswerte Karriere machte.

1938 verließ sie Wien, nach dem sie eine Arbeitserlaubnis für Engländer halten hatte. Sie schaffte es sogar, ihre Eltern und ihren jüngeren Bruder Alfred nach London zu holen.



Quelle

!

Im Oktober 1940 sind Trude und ihre Eltern nach Amerika und ihr Bruder nach Kanada weggezogen.

Sie lebten bei der Familie Farkas in New Rochelle. In einem Club, wo sich deutschsprachige Flüchtlinge versammelten, lernte sie ihren späteren Ehemann Bruno Forsher, einen *IBM*-Ingenieur, kennen, den sie im September 1942 heiratete.

Neun Jahre später ist das Ehepaar nach Santa Monica, Kalifornien, gezogen. Dort kauften sie ein Haus, in dem sie mit ihren beiden Söhnen lebten. Sie lernten die Familie Aberbach aus Wien kennen. Ihre Söhne Jean und Julian gründeten den *Verlag Hilland Range Songs*, so dass sie verschiedene Musiker unter Vertrag hatten. Einer von ihnen war der junge Musiker Elvis Presley.

Nach dem sie in Groucho Marx' TV-Show *You Bet Your Life* aufgetreten war, verdiente Trude 200 Dollars, um einen Journalismuskurs an der Universität zu bezahlen. Einer der Professoren entdeckte ihr Talent und überredete sie, sich mit Journalismus zu beschäftigen. Trudes Text über ihren Auftritt in Marx' Show wurde im renommierten Magazin *TV Radio Life* veröffentlicht, wo mit ihrer Karriere in Hollywood begann.

Die Brüder Aberbach fragten die junge Journalistin, ob sie Elvis Presley interviewen würde. Er war damals ein aufstrebender Musiker. Trude stimmte zu, obwohl sie keine Ahnung hatte, wer er war. Elvis' Manager Tom Parker ermöglichte ihr ein Interview mit Elvis unmittelbar nach seinem Auftritt in der *Milton Berle Show* im Juni 1956. Nur einen Monat später bot Parker ihr an, seine und Elvis' Sekretärin zu werden. Zu dieser Zeit drehte Elvis gerade seinen ersten Film „Love Me Tender“.

Von diesem Moment an blieb sie bei ihm während seiner erfolgreichen Karriere. Gertrude Forsher verhalf Elvis Presley mit ihrem Organisationstalent zu Welt ruhm. Sie war auch für Erhaltung dieser Ruhm verantwortlich neben normalen Sekretariatsjobs antwortete Trude auch auf die zahlreiche Fanbriefe.

Im November 1960 ließ sich Trude von ihrem Mann scheiden. Da die Scheidung von Persönlichkeiten des öffentlichen Lebens als Skandal galt, wurde sie gefeuert, um den Ruf von Elvis zu schützen. Trude, damals Mutter von zwei kleinen Kindern, wurde arbeitslos. Den noch wurde ihr Talent von einem der Gründer von *Paramount Pictures*, Adolph Zukor, erkannt. Adolph Zukor und Trude gründeten da nach die Firma *Zukor-Forsher Productions*, die TV-Shows produzierte. Trude war damals die einzige weibliche Produzentin.

Außerdem war sie lange Zeit als Sekretärin des reformierten Rabbiners Leonard Beermanan der Leo-Beck-Synagoge in Los Angeles tätig. 1974 ging sie in den Ruhestand.

Zusammen mit ihrer Freundin Marian Winston vom kalifornischen Gesundheitsministerium veröffentlichte sie einen Bericht über Kinder, deren Väter keinen Unterhalt zahlen. Der Bürgermeister von Los Angeles Tom Bradley sah ihre Studie und lud sie in seine Sozialkommission ein. Sie war vier Jahre lang als Sozialreferentin des Bürgermeisters tätig.

Darüberhinaus schrieb sie weiterhin Artikel für verschiedene Zeitungen, darunter für Zeitschrift der jüdischen Gemeinde. Ihre letzten Tage verbrachte sie in einem Altersheim, wo sie im Jahr 2000 starb.

Die Ausstellung „Trude & Elvis“ im Jüdischen Museum Wien ist dieser außergewöhnlichen Frau gewidmet. Die Ausstellung ist geöffnet bis 12. November.

Am 14. August 2021 um 22.30 Uhr wurde der Film "Elvis und das Mädchen aus Wien" im ORF 2 zum ersten Mal aufgeführt.

Quelle: [https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at/Trude\\_Forsher](https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at/Trude_Forsher)



## In Memoriam

Isak Drutter

Isak Drutter umro je u Zagrebu u 96. godini života 19. rujna 2021. Godine. Rođen je u Šibeniku od majke seferdskog i oca aškenaskog porijekla. U toku Drugog svjetskog rata priključio se kao mladić partizanima i tako preživio Holokaust.

Nakon rata završio je srednju školu i Ekonomsku fakultet u Zagrebu. U toku svog radnog vijeka bio je istaknuti ekonomski stručnjak, bavio se istraživanjima i bio guverner Hrvatske banke.

Bio je oženjen i imao jednu kćer, no i njegova žena i kći umrli dosta ranije od njega.

Bio je nadasve omiljen među svojim kolegama i prijateljima, posebno Židovima. Bio je krajnje miran, tih, prisojan, ugrađen i skroman čovjek. Volio je dolaziti na razne događaje u Židovsku općinu Zagreb u kojoj su ga s radošću dočekivali njegovi prijatelji koji su uvijek uživali u njegovom društvu.

B'nai B'rith loža „Gavro Schwartz“ zahvalna mu je što je često bio spreman napisati članak za naš „Glasnik“. Iako je bio u poodmakloj dobi, imao je odlično pamćenje te je svojim natpisima ostavio vrijedne uspomene iz života Židova.

## **In Memoriam**

Isak Drutter

Isak Drutter, aged 96, passed away in Zagreb on September 19 2021. Borne in Adriatic town of Šibenik from Sephardic mother and Askenasi father, Isak joined Yugoslav guerilla fighters against Nazis, the Partisans during WW II and was one of few Yugoslav Jews who survived the Holocaust.

After the war he finished his high school and university education studding economy in the University of Zagreb. During his carrier he became one of the most prominent economic experts in Croatia serving as a researcher and Bank Governor of Croatia.

He was married and had a daughter, but both his wife and daughter died many years before him.

He was beloved among his colleges and especially among his Jewish friend as he was an extremely calm, polite, nice, silent and humble person. He liked to join Jewish events in the Jewish Community of Zagreb where he was always welcomed and his friends always enjoyed his presence.

At the BB Lodge “Gavro Schwartz” we were thankful for his readiness to write articles for our “Voice of BB”. Although in an old age, his memory was extremely good, and he gave us several valuable articles on some Jewish issues.

Zihrono Livraha