

The European Day of Jewish Culture 2013 in Serbia

Report

PANČEVO

Jewish Community of Pančevo organized EDJC in Pančevo already tenth time in a row. As before, we tried to respond to a given topic and the program was as follows:

Judaism and Nature – lecture by Isak Asiel, chief rabbi in Serbia, held on September 1st in National Museum in Pančevo.

The lecture arouse great interest and was well attended. After the lecture, which dealt with the relation between Jewish Law and Nature, rabbi answered numerous questions, trying to explain the issues through practical examples.

1. National Parks and Nature Reserves in Israel – exhibition held on September 29th in National Museum in Pančevo. The authors were Miroslava Kon-Panic, Barbara Panic and Darko Derikrava.

Among many national parks and nature reserves in Israel, considerable number of visitors could see large-scale photos of about twenty of them, encompassing different geographical regions, different climate zones and different reliefs.

The exhibition was presented on twenty five panels, each of which was followed by summarized texts describing it.

The retrospect of EDJC in Pancevo from 2003-2012 was presented as accompanying program, in the form of PPP.

After the opening of the exhibition, Jewish music was played by two community members in almost an hour long concert. Some Jewish food was also served, including falafel, thina, humus and haminados eggs.

The exhibition was opened for a week and was accompanied by a catalog describing Israel's natural beauties.

3. Children's Workshop on ecology and recycling

It was organized in Jewish Community of Pančevo premises, including lecture, tests, experimental work and free form expression simple recycling processes

(marking different garbage containers, making symbols for recycled materials and products, preparation of compost with eaten fruits, etc.). The workshop was very successful and each participant got a small handbook on the topic.

Local TV and newspapers extensively reported about the European Day of Jewish Culture in Pancevo and our program, so many more people saw at least part of it. Further more, our program will be presented in other Serbian cities, first of them will be Bela Crkva in Vojvodina on October 30th. So, estimated number of visitors to EDJC program of Jewish Community of Pancevo will far exceed 400. Miroslava Kon- Panic, coordinator of EDJC





ZEMUN

September 15, 2013- JC Zemun at the Festival of Jewish Culture

This year again the Jewish Community of Zemun took part in the Festival of Jewish Culture in Belgrade, in the Sukat Shalom synagogue. The event was opened by Rabbi Isaac Asiel, and visitors were greeted by Israeli Ambassador to



Serbia HE Josef Levi.

We've presented our exhibition on the Judenlager Semlin with accompanying publications. We were pleasantly surprised by the attention that visitors devoted to our project and the observation that it was the most professional and the most complete setup of the festival.

NOVI SAD

Exhibition *Judaism and Nature*; Concert presented by *Simcha* Orchestra from Belgrade and Mina Momcilovic on the Harp; Cocktail at which fruit and natural products were served; Decoration with *Arbaa Minim* (Lulav).



The long awaited Day arrived and found the Jewish Community in Novi Sad (Serbia) busy and excited for the EDJC. The program started at 7 pm as announced, at the Synagogue. Visitors started arriving some twenty minutes before 7 pm and were taking a look at the exhibition in the Synagogue Hall, which was inspired by nature and ecology, presented by photographs (taken in Israel and Serbia) and quotations from the Old Testament, Talmud as well as from other sources, including several blessings (*bracha*) concerning nature. The author of the exhibition is Jelena Komlosh, a young agricultural engineer, member of the community.

The entire event was recorded on video.

BEOGRAD

In regard of EDJC, Jewish Community Belgrade organized Festival of Jewish Culture where we presented the Jewish culture to the citizens of Belgrade.

The festival took place on Sunday 15th September, 2013. in the Synagogue and in the street in front of it, where we have posted exhibitions and cultural program. We presented Jewish culture through the various events such as public exhibitions, Jewish humor, concerts, cultural program, guided visits of the Synagogue, Jewish cuisines, Jewish music. We also took part in organization of the concert of the Serbian- Jewish singer society, choir Baruh Brothers at 29.9.2013. Numbers of visitors were at the Festival, members of the community and our fellow citizens.

On behalf EDJC, was organized a choir concert and Jewish chamber Orchestra, as a follow up event. The concert was held in the most prestigious concert halls in Belgrade and in Serbia. Name of the hall is Kolarac University. Hall has about 850 seats and all were full . The concert was free. NAME COORDINATOR: Ivona Beker Albahari



KOSOVSKA MITROVICA

EU informational and culture center office in Kosovska Mitrovica organized together with prof. Milos Damjanovic a cultural manifestation regarding to Kosovo and Metohia Jewish creativity during the past. It was divided into two parts which included lecture about „Creativity of Kosovo and Metohia Jews,, by lecturer prof. Damjanovic and exhibition about the same topic which author is the same professor. It was open in 14.10.2013. at 17h and held in the premises of EU informational and culture center office in Kosovska Mitrovica. There were about 20 people who attended lecture and during the rest of the day and exhibition more people came in different time intervals, so 50 people at all, mostly youngsters, local serbian students

visited exhibition at the first day. Lecture lasted around one hour and author as an introduction gave few words about European day of Jewish culture, as it was reason for organizing such an event. He gave a brief history of this manifestation and said something about it`s character and goals. After it, he started to speak about the main topic, chronologically and pretty detailed informing presented public about all famous, important but also rarely-known cultural and public individuals of Jewish origin from Kosovo and Metohia. He spoke about their biography, destiny, education and professional life, putting accent on their creative works, and the most significant achievements. It was so interesting for auditorium to listen and be informed about people from their area, for whom, mostly of them, have never heard. Kosovo Jewish photographers, painters, novelists, historians, scientists, musicians...were subject of very interesting lecture held by prof. Damjanovic. For the first time, people of Kosovska Mitrovica had an opportunity to see, listen or read intellectual material work which authors were/are Jews from Kosovo and Metohia, presented at exhibition in EU info office. Several participators asked questions to author about similar topic regarding to life, level of religiosity of Kosovo and Metohia Jews, their destiny during the years of Holocaust and during Kosovo war 1998-99 and situation about Jewry in Kosovo today. After it was finished, visitors could take a look on exposed materials and listen a music sung by Jewish singer originated from this area. At the same time, they were self-served with different type of drinks – gas and non-gas water, juices, red, rose and white vine and they could taste different salted and sweet snacks also available to them. In atmosphere of relaxation, inspire communication and joy it could be seen to visitors, exhibition closed that day at 21h. Regarding to all, i can proudly say that we fulfilled the aim we wanted to achieve when i came to idea to organize event of this kind. NAME COORDINATOR: MILOS DAMJANOVIĆ



SUBOTICA

Jewish municipality of Subotica, this year organized by the European Day of Jewish Culture. The program was as follows:

First Premiere shorts - Jews of Subotica,

28 September 2013th in cinema "Lifka ART" in Subotica. A short film is about a legacy Subotica Jews, and are subtitled in Serbian, Hungarian and English.

2nd Walk on the Jewish cemetery – 29th september 2013th year. Walk was organized with a professional guide.

3rd Open Synagogue - 29th September 2013th year. The Great Synagogue Square Jakab and the Chamber, where visitors had the opportunity to view and short films. This was organizovanu in the form of free roaming in space Synagogue.