



Olomouc, 10 October 2018

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, friends and supporters of the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre for Jewish Studies,

It's my pleasure to share with you the most significant events and activities of the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Center for Jewish Studies of the academic year 2017/2018. We have successfully passed the accreditation process with both of our study programs, hosted an international conference, organized another volume of the periodical international festival of the Jewish culture, continuously worked on a number of research projects, expanded international cooperation and continued in offering a wide spectrum of courses in Jewish and Israeli studies. In following report, you will learn more about these activities. We would like to thank you for your commitment and support. Needless to add, you are very welcome to turn to us with questions, comments and suggestions.

Teaching:

- The number of students signed up for the first year of both, B.A. and M.A. study programs grew constantly during the last two academic years. Altogether, there were 42 students signed up for the academic year 2017/2018 (37 students for 2016/17) in all the three of our programs: B.A. in Jewish and Israeli Studies, M.A. in Jewish Studies (one field program), M.A. in Jewish Studies (two-field program, i.e. combination with any other field in the humanities).

- The academic year 2017/18 was rich in foreign lectures. The Center welcomed three experts from the partner institution, Hebrew University in Jerusalem: in March 2017 the students and faculty had a chance to meet an outstanding Israeli professor, expert in Eastern European Jewish history, Prof. Eli Lederhendler and listen to his lecture „*Wandering Jews in their New Homes: The Rise of New Diaspora Centers*“; in March 2018 Dr. Semion Goldin led a lecture on „*The 'Jewish Question' of the Late Russian Empire': State, Society and Nationalistic Discourses*“ and finally in April 2018 Dr. Vladimir Levin spoke about „*The St. Petersburg Jewish Community and the Capital of the Russian Empire: an Architectural Dialogue*“. In October 2017, the Center also hosted prof. Zvi Zohar with his lecture "*Why Jews born in the Soviet Union after WW2 may marry other Jews? An unknown halachic drama in Soviet Russia – and its potential significance for current halachic challenges*".

At least briefly, we should mention other fascinating lectures organized in the Series of Jewish lectures for both students and public :

WS 2017/18

1 November: Eva Feiglová: author reading from the book of memories of Josef Feigl "*Whoever went on a journey has something to tell*".

8 November: Zoša Vyoralová a Michal Pacovský: Jewish National Fund, Zionism,

Contemporary Israel and Czech Republic.

29 November: Kateřina Klimešová: Jewish bioethics and contemporary medicine.

SS 2018:

21 February Daniel Baránek presented (?) his book, Jews in the Ostrava region.

28 February we celebrated the feast of Purim.

14 March we commemorated the founder of Olomouc Centre for Jewish Studies prof. Kurt Schubert, to whom was dedicated the anthology "*Judaica Olomucensia*. Kurt Schubert, the Founder." Dr. Eva Schubert and Prof. Ingeborg Fialová-Fürst spoke at the occasion.

21 March the lecture on "The Rabbinic Social Network in the 19th Century: Letters by Joachim Pollack from Třebíč" was given by young researcher and Jewish studies scholar Tobias Smolik.

4 April we had a guest, art-historian Dr. Vladimír Levin of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Then we celebrated the Pesach Seder.

18 April Prof. Ivan Rektor summarized the results of medical research in the long-term effects of Shoah on survivors and their offspring.

Besides the lecture events, we jointly celebrated the holidays of the Jewish year.

- The Centre built upon its cooperation with Israeli universities and successfully continued with the academic and students exchange programs within the framework of Erasmus+ (Hebrew University, Bar-Ilan University).

- Throughout the academic year the Centre continued organization of field trips for B.A. and M.A. students to Jewish sites and monuments in the Czech Republic, including a field trip to Theresienstadt ghetto (supported by Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University, USA).

- Students of both B.A. and M.A. programs participated in internships at partner institutions Yad Vashem (Jerusalem), CENTROPA (Vienna), Galicia Jewish Museum (Cracow).

- The Centre's applications for re-accreditation of B.A. and M.A. programs were approved by the Ministry of Education in the institutional accreditation process for the next period 2019-2024.

Research:

- In October 2017 the Centre organized the international conference "*Reframing Jewish Life: Moravian Jewry at the turn of the 19th and the 20th Centuries*" that reflected the changes in the social and cultural life in the context of the Moravian Jewish Communities with accent on the Jewish Community in Olomouc. The program included lectures by Prof. Josef Jařab (Palacký University Olomouc), prof. Karl E. Groetzinger (Center for Jewish Studies, Berlin-Brandenburg), dr. Louise and Dieter Hecht (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna / University of Potsdam) and colleagues from the Jewish Museum in Prague, Charles university in Prague and CJS.

- Members of the Centre continued their research projects supported both by the foreign and Czech institutions, including the Palacký University:

“Life and work of Berekhiah ben Natronay ha-Nakdan” (Czech Grant Agency)

“Language behaviour of Moravian Jewry in the 18th century” (Rothschild Foundation Europe)

“Short Texts about Šoa – an Anthology” (Palacký University)

“Averroes Edition“ Project, Thomas Institute, University Koeln,

„Medieval Jewish Intellectual History: New Perspectives“, IGA Palacký University

- The Center published the last issue of its peer reviewed English language academic online journal *Judaica Olomucensia*. The festive anthology *Judaica Olomucensia. Kurt Schubert, the Founder* (https://judaistika.upol.cz/fileadmin/userdata/FF/katedry/jud/judaica/Judaica_Olomucensia_20162017.pdf) was presented to the audience in April by Eva Schubert, prof. Ingeborg Fialová-Fürst and Ivana Cahová.

The series *Judaica Olomucensia* as academic journal is concluded with this last festive issue. Starting with the year 2019 *Judaica Olomucensia* will appear as a peer-reviewed anthology on occasion.

- In October 2018 an important international students conference, The Students Voice, will take place at CJS. This year the contributions will concentrate on the provincial Jewish communities.

Cultural events:

- On 4th October, 2017, an official opening of the Winter Semester 2017/2018 was organized traditionally, together with a Sukkoth celebration at the University Botanic Garden in Olomouc.

- More than a thousand people visited the 10th year of the festival Days of Jewish Culture in Olomouc in October 2017. It was devoted to the topic of two important anniversaries: 120 years of the consecration of the former synagogue in Olomouc and 150 year-anniversary of the significant rabbi, Berthold Oppenheim. The festival was opened with the exhibition “The synagogue in Olomouc” which attempted to give a detail picture of the Jewish community in Olomouc. The Centre prepared its Film section following the topic of synagogue as the “real” and “virtual” space. The festival program embraced more than 15 cultural events: concerts, theatre performances, lectures and field trips.

The 11th year of the festival will focus on another two important anniversaries: 100 years since the foundation of Czechoslovakia (1918) and 70 years since the establishing of the State of Israel (1948).

- In October 2018, in cooperation with Beit Theresienstadt Israel, we installed and solemnly opened the exhibition of drawings from Theresienstadt "Angle of View". The exhibition presented the drawings, originally created in Theresienstadt, by three members of the Groag family, important industrial Jewish family in Olomouc.

- The Centre’s library, as always, served throughout the academic year as a venue for regular celebrations of Jewish festivals. The Chanukah, Purim, Pesach and Lag ba-omer celebrations which were open for all of university students and public and were met with a great interest.

In following years, 2018-2020, the Faculty of Arts of the Palacký University expects demanding reconstruction of the building on Třída Svobody 26, which is the residence of CJS. During the reconstruction, the Center will be moved to the university building Na Hradě 5. We will have one classroom in which the core book collection, necessary for the Centre's ordinary operation and for teaching, can be situated. The rest of the funds will be housed during the reconstruction in UP Library so that they can be reached if needed. However, somewhat limited access to some funds and, above all, to archives during the reconstruction process is to be expected. We believe that the premises in the newly renovated building will be able to offer our students as well as scholars from the professional and non-professional public more comfort than before.

CJS presented its activities also in frame of two important events. On the beginning of April 2018 the meeting of Jewish studies academic and museum institutions took place at the Charles University in Prague, in May 2018 the workshop of institutions taking care of the Jewish heritage in the Olomouc region (organization dr. Tomáš Jelínek, the long term president of the Jewish community in Prague, more information about the event:

<http://www.beacentrum.cz/v-bea-campusu-o-zidovskem-kulture-a-historii-v-olomouckem-regionu-aktuality-200.html>).

All our news you can follow on our webpage www.judaistika.upol.cz and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CJSFFUP/>

On behalf of the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre of Jewish Studies,

Ivana Cahová