



Shevat 5769 – February 2009

Why the Center of Studies ZAKHOR?

We see the importance today of presenting to the civil society, the scientific world, the universities and research centers, the public administration and the Jewish collectivity at large, the contribution of a Jewish dimension to the reading of history and the interpretation of legacy, for its better understanding and comprehension.

This Center of Studies will take care of research and work in issues related to Jewish heritage, tangible and intangible, from a perspective that accounts for the collective Jewish memory and its transmission capacity.

We propose to take the experience of the Jewish people as a primordial element to explain its transcendence. By raising the knowledge of Jewish presence at all times -including today- we seek to contribute to the cultural diversity of our society, bringing in elements for this new phase of respect and coexistence in Europe.

From this position, we will ask meaningful questions for our times, such as: what is the value of heritage? who are we preserving for? what use should be given to heritage? what are the ethical limits of scientific research? how do we interpret historical data? etc.

The Center of Studies ZAKHOR is a not for profit organization which will be funded by private or public grants, donations or income for professional services.

Mission and objectives:

- > Sensitize the society in general, the Jewish communities and the public administration, about the value of a heritage common to us all and the benefits of transmitting it at national and European levels.
- > Encourage the preservation and appreciation of sites with historic, cultural or religious Jewish interest.
- > Protect ancient cemeteries from any kind of abandonment, damage, exhumation, destruction or improper actions.
- > Propose actions to raise their significance based -among others- on local directives and national regulations about citizen's rights as well as agreements between the nations and the Jewish communities, according to which cemeteries are inviolable.
- > Offer an expert Jewish participation to bring in contents for the use of heritage that will help its better understanding.



- > Facilitate communication among different interested agents (national and local administrations, museums, Jewish communities, universities and private entities) to interpret and transmit the development and contributions of Judaism and Jewish culture in these lands as well as in the Diaspora.
- > Collaborate with the public administration in its tasks to study and preserve the national historic heritage, seeking solutions for complex situations in a way that they are compatible with Jewish tradition.
- > Collaborate with local and international experts on the subject, in their tasks to study and preserve the national historic heritage, seeking solutions for complex situations in a way that they are compatible with Jewish tradition.
- > Study and analyze the process of reinsertion, development and contribution of Jewish culture to the Catalan and Spanish societies, since its return at the end of XIX c., after four centuries of absence.

The team:

David Stoleru - co founder

French - Israeli, architect graduated at the École de Paris-La Seine, specializing in rehabilitation. Has previously studied at the 'Yeshiva Netiv Meir' in Jerusalem. Since 1997 lives in Barcelona, sharing his professional practice with Jewish education. Some years ago he started working to introduce the contribution of the Jewish communities today to the study of Jewish history from the middle ages as it developed in Spain. He has also created and coordinates a 'Talmud Torah' group which gathers weekly.

Dominique Tomasov Blinder - co founder

Born in New York, grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she graduated from architecture school. Her career started in New York in 1979 and in 1991 she moved to Barcelona. In 1999 she started her project Urban Cultours to connect Jewish past and present in Barcelona through city visits. This contribution to the protection and recovery of Jewish heritage turns into a systematic action to achieve that the Jewish communities have an active participation in heritage recovery process. She is nominator to the Jewish Heritage program of the World Monuments Fund and a consultant on issues in the field of Jewish heritage and legacy.

Professor Yom Tov Assis – head of *Scientific Committee*

is a professor of medieval Jewish history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem specializing in the history of the Jews in Spain, Portugal, Provence and in the Sefardi Diaspora. He is the head of Hispania Judaica – Center for the History and Culture of the Jews in Spain and Portugal, chairman of the Center for the History and Culture of the Jews of Aleppo and its surroundings and chairman of The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of the Jewish Communities in the East. He is the editor of the academic journal Hispania Judaica Bulletin and the series Hispania Judaica and Sources for the History of the Jews in Other worldwide experts are being invited to this consulting team.

ZAKHOR Council - Mr. Aaron Azagury, President B'nai B'rith Spain



FIRST STEPS

Cooperation agreements signed with many prestigious institutions

Centre d'Estudis de Montjuïc, Barcelona

Fundación ATID, Barcelona

Editorial Raíces, Madrid

Department of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Instituto Ben Zvi, Jerusalem

International Survey of Jewish Monuments, New York

Institut Ramon Muntaner, an institution which groups Catalan centers of studies in several disciplines, has included us in their membership.

Headquarters inaugurated in the heart of the Jewish quarter

7 Tishri 5769 – 5 October 2008

CENTRE D'ESTUDIS ZAKHOR זכור
PER A LA PROTECCIÓ I LA TRANSMISSIÓ DEL PATRIMONI JUEU

Us desitjem *Xanà Tovà 5769*, i aprofitant l'any nou, és un plaer convidar-vos a l'acte de col·locació de la *mezuzà* de la nostra seu, el dilluns 6 d'octubre de 2008, 7 de Tishri 5769, a les 19h00.

Os deseamos *Shaná Tová 5769*, y aprovechando el año nuevo, es un placer invitaros a la colocación de la *mezuzá* de nuestra sede, el lunes 6 de octubre de 2008, 7 de Tishri 5769, a las 19h00.

RSVP: info@zakhor.net



שנה טובה ומתוקה

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www.zakhor.net





www.zakhor.net in Catalan - Spanish - English

CENTRE ESTUDIS ZAKHOR PER A LA PROTECCIÓ I TRANSMISSIÓ DEL PATRIMONI JUEU - Windows Internet Explorer

CENTER OF STUDIES ZAKHOR זכור
FOR THE PROTECTION AND TRANSMISSION OF JEWISH HERITAGE

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שנה טובה ומתוקה

► ANNUAL REPORT 5768

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ARTICLES

- > *A la découverte du passé juif en Espagne*
Aurora, Israel, Winter 2007
- > *Old Jewish cemetery on Montjuïc, challenges & opportunities*
Revista Raíces, Spain, fall 2008
- > *Toledo - Yet another case ???!*
Jerusalem Post France?????
- > *Ancient Jewish cemeteries in Spain: a need for dialogue*
Revista Raíces, Spain, spring 2009



PRESENTATIONS

- > *The debated issue of ancient cemeteries*
for Jewish Christian understanding, Barcelona, 2007
- > *Jewish Communities today in front of Jewish History in Catalunya*
for B'nai B'rith, Barcelona, 2007
- > *Shalom Tarragona*
for B'nai B'rith, Barcelona, 2008
- > *Middle Ages responsa: a multi disciplinary approach*
for ATID, Barcelona, 2008
- > *À la découverte du passé juif en Espagne*
pour Centre Culturel Darius Milhaud, Aix en Provence, 2008
- > *Commented visits to Montjuïc, centered on its Jewish history*
own production, Barcelona, during 2009



PROJECTS

- > *Ancient Jewish cemetery of Montjuïc: conceptual frame for a new project*
proposal presented to the municipal authorities in Barcelona, 2008
- > *Ancient Jewish cemetery of El Berrocal: ideas for a respectful intervention*
proposal presented to the municipal authorities in Plasencia (Extremadura), 2008
- > *European Day of Jewish Culture: the Music*
two sessions for the program in Barcelona: recital and workshop
one session for the program in Castelló d'Empuries: lecture and recital
for Red de Juderías de España, 2008
- > *Preservation of ancient Jewish cemeteries in Spain* - work in progress

design of a new model for the intervention in ancient Jewish burial sites, based on archival documents research (as an alternative to excavation). This approach includes respect for cultural diversity and is based on collaboration between Jewish community, civil society and government. with a grant by The Rothschild Foundation Europe

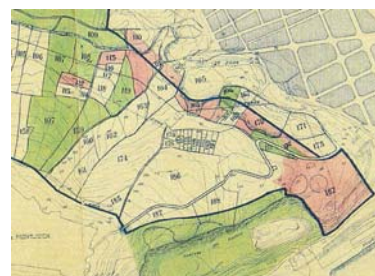




- > **Funerary tradition in Judaism: K'vod Hamet** - work in progress
 this book will present our funerary tradition to local society, with explanations about the ritual, respect for the dead, and the many traditions related to cemeteries, including relevant legal aspects, designed by Catalan rabbis in the Middle Ages.
 Articles by Prof. David Kramer, JTS; Prof. Yom Tov Assis, HUJI; Rabbi Yamin Levy, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah; Jack Neguer, Head of Art Restoration Israel Antiquities Authority.
with a grant by the Religious affairs Department, Catalan Government



- > **Definition of boundaries of ancient Jewish cemetery in Barcelona**
 work in progress
 application of the new model to the ancient Jewish cemetery in Barcelona. This is the most important of the kind in Spain, due to its extension and to the relevant figures who were buried there: Shlomoh ben Adret, Shmuel ha Sardi, among others. It is the first Jewish necropolis to be designated a landmark thanks to a collaboration between ZAKHOR founders and the local Jewish communities. Once we have accurately defined its extension, it will be possible to plan the best project for the site.
with a grant by The Rothschild Foundation Europe



FUTURE PROJECTS

- > **Mapping Jewish cemeteries in Spain**
 project to identify all locations in Catalonia and throughout Spain
 This map will be a useful tool for their respect and protection.
 in collaboration with the *International Survey of Jewish Monuments*, New York
- > **Reclaiming cultural heritage:**
professional workshop on conservation & ethics
 Archaeologists, historians, town planners, religious leaders, activists and preservationists, will discuss cross-cultural issues related to the rediscovery and reclamation of Jewish heritage sites, particularly cemeteries. Practical issues in the framework of ethical practices, religious observance, social responsibility and community-wide education
in collaboration with Centre d'Estudis de Montjuic, B'nai B'rith Spain; Unesco Catalunya

