



JEWISH POPULATION IN CROATIA before, during and after the Holocaust



Research and documentation center CENDO



Jewish population in Croatia

To settle in any town, one needed a special permit. In 1746, Empress Maria Theresia issued permits for 11 Jews, specified by name, to settle in the Lower Town of Osijek. In 1807, a decree, comprising five chapters and 72 paragraphs, was issued on the settlement of 20 Jewish families in Varaždin. The Jewish Community in Zagreb was founded in 1906, with seventeen families from Gradec and Kaptol. In northern Croatia and Slavonia, especially after Emperor Joseph II issued the Patent of Tolerance from 1782 and 1783, the Ashkenazi came from Burgenland and Hungary and settled in trading towns, villages, and later in cities, with a surge in their population in Zagreb. Tolerance applied exclusively to "the head of the family and the children to be cared for, but not to all sons or daughters who married an intolerant or foreign Jew"; they were forced to leave the city. This was the reason why in the census of 1857 Jews were registered in 330 inhabited places.



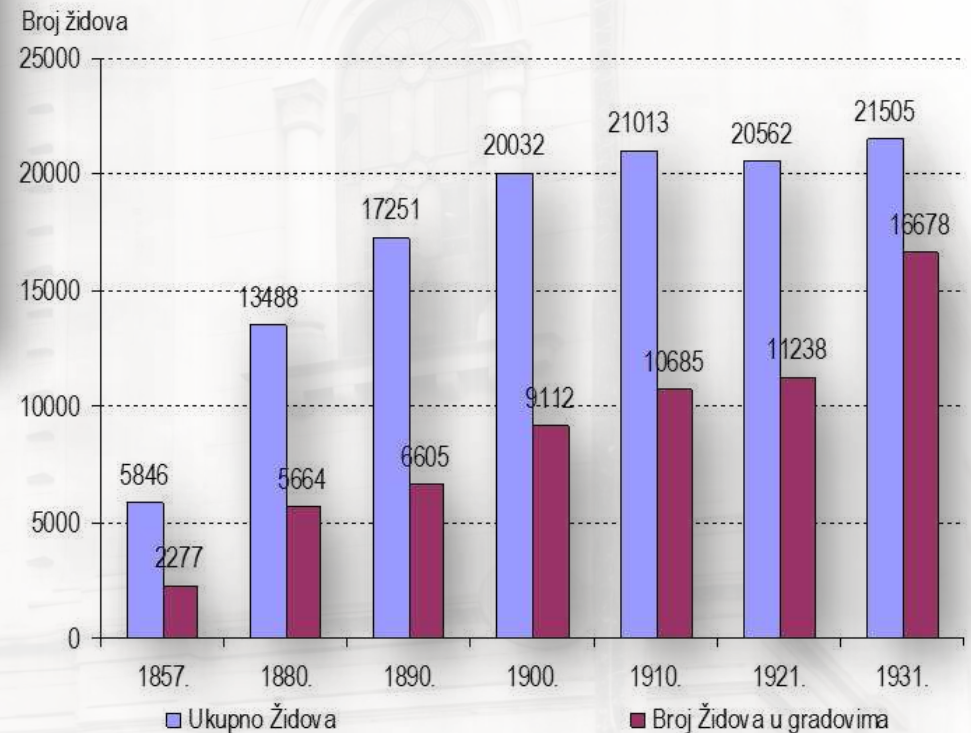
*The first page of Chevra Kadisha
From the Municipality of Zagreb*



From a Jewish prayer book

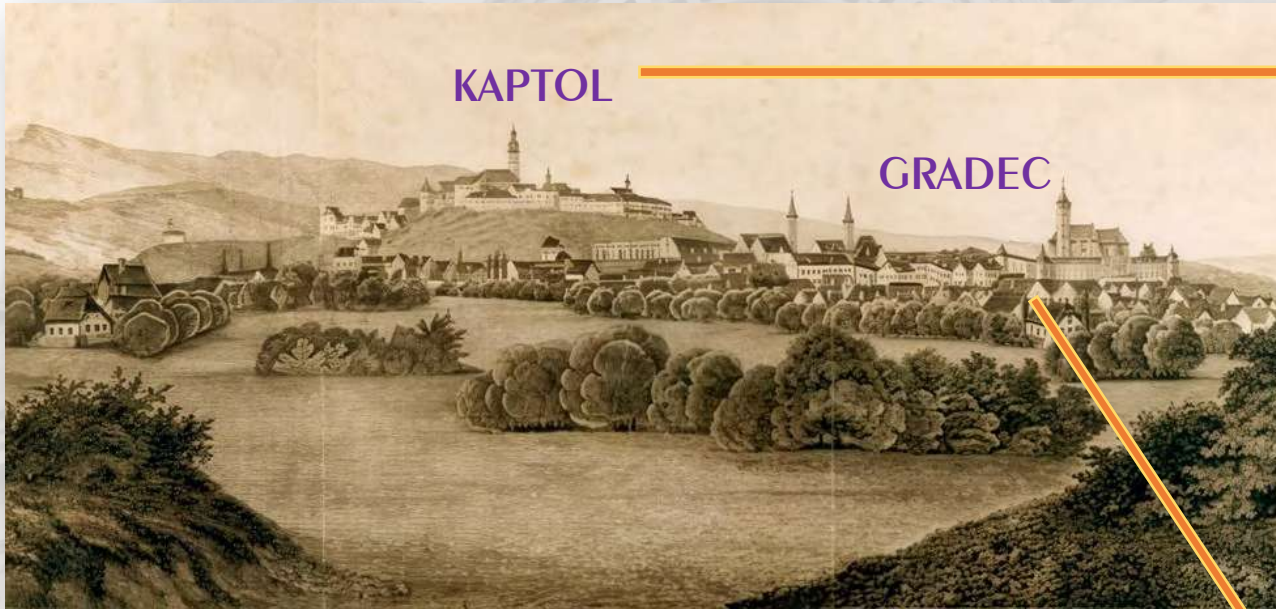


Old Jewish cemetery in Rijeka



*Jews in censuses of 1857 and 1931
(Jews living in towns were specially designated)*

The first Jewish settlers in Zagreb



KAPTOL

GRADEC

Conscripio
Familiarum Judaicarum in Vico-Latinorum Jurisdictione Episcopali
habitantium sub Infrascripto Dato peracta.

Numerus familiæ	Numerus socialis Capituli	Nomen et cognomen	Annus advenitæ	Annus advenitæ Zagreb.	Reditus consuetudinæ	Observationes
I.	1.	Jacobus Stern	1776.	1789.	Trafica minuta	Advenit Zagrebiam ex Bohemia Lubenau oppido.
	2.	Rosina uxor	1770.	1789.		
	3.	Salamon filius	1790.	—		
	4.	Edvardus filius	1793.	—		
II.	5.	Philippus Stern prioris status maximus filius*)	1784.	—	"	Cum parente venit Zagrebiam e Castri-ferrei Comitatu.
	7.	Ignatius filius	1810.	—	"	
III.	8.	Elias Herschl	1760.	1789.	"	Advenit ex Rechnitz oppido Hungariae Castri ferrei Comitatu.
	9.	Ester uxor	1766.	1805.	"	
	10.	Majereb filius	1800.	—	"	
	11.	Maria filia	1805.	—	"	
IV.	12.	Josephus Fischer	1784.	1789.	"	Advenit Miskolczino.
	13.	Caecilia uxor	1794.	1800.	"	
	14.	Sigismundus filius	1804.	—	"	
V.	15.	Theresia soror uxoris	1794.	—	"	Oppido Balotia Vesprimiensis Comitatu.
	16.	Ignatius Velazar	1780.	1807.	"	
VI.	17.	Jacobus Erlih	1782.	1800.	"	Miskolczino ex Comitatu Castri ferrei. Poseno.
VII.	18.	Simeon Khon	1760.	1794.	"	
VIII.	19.	Jacobus Khroh	1764.	1807.	Cremati exautor.	

Per Joannem Babočaj Ord: Judicum m. p.

Census of Jews in Kaptol from 1812

CONSIGNATION

No der Familien	Des Nahmen, Zunahmen und der Eigenschaft des Juden	Das Geschlecht oder Handwerk	Alt Jahre	Geldstück von	Beförder von Herberth seit Anno
10	Jacob Wehse Hausvater	Handelmann	40	Reichthal	1790
	Franziska Ehrentsch	"	23	Kanien	"
	Sera Schatz	"	13	Agram	"
	Tuchler Theresia	"	3	"	"
	" Charlotte	"	3	"	"
	" Sohn Max	"	15	"	"
	Anton d. Verstorbenen Bruders Sohn	"	23	Neustadt an der War	"
	Hermann Pösch	Schreiber	22	Gross Stiegh	"
	Samuel Schöninger	Lebenderer	22	Zuzen	1808
	Maria Polak	Bei den Produkten	23	Lubenbach	"
	Gottlieb Hirscher	Geschaftin	17	Göding	"
	Sera Bruder	Handwerker	40	Podtsach-Meiser	"
	Benedict Schillingner	"	22	Hierstadt	"
	Vincenz Polak	Kutscher	24	Temovar	"
	Joseph Levczger	Drucker	24	Kralau	"
	Jose Ehrenferl	Handwerker	19	Reismannger	"
Theresia Frieda	Küchin	27	S. Magdalena	"	
Martina Burge	Küchin Weib	24	Karstadt	"	
20	Jacob Stiegler Hausvater	Handelmann	37	Trebitzsch	1787
	Ehrentsch Anna Feodor	"	28	Schlesien	"
	Tuchler Theresia	"	11	Agram	"
	Joseph Schanzburg	Schreiber	24	Karstadt	"
	Joseph Mann	Bei den Produkten	31	Pozna	1790
	Jaco Lebl	Produkt	21	Böhmung	"
3	Ehrentsch Fany Heirich	Geschaftin	25	"	"
	Sohn Manf II.	"	1	Jahala	"
	Alexander Fischer	Lebenderer	32	Caslaten	"
	Hanna Schwester von J. Stiegler	"	31	Trebitzsch	"
	Maria von Verstorbenen	"	11	Warschau	"
	Sachzia Bruders Witwe	"	7	"	"
4	Israel	Küchin	20	"	"
	Küchin	Küchinweib	30	"	"
	Kendi	"	20	"	"
	Adam Schewinger Hausvater	Handelmann	41	Kanien	"
	Ehrentsch Theresia	"	20	Kanien	"
5	Wilhelm Sohn von Vorfahren Sohn	"	12	Karstadt	"
	Rosalia Tochter	"	10	Agram	"
	Katali Köchin	"	19	Körmend	"
	Isak Lebl Hausvater	Lehrer	70	Hierstadt	"
Jacob Lebl Sohn	"	20	"	"	
6	Franz Lebl mit Weiber	Handelmann	35	Kanien	"
	Theresia Lebl Ehrentsch	"	35	Löb	"
	Margaretha Tochter	"	13	Agram	"
7	Hanna	"	9	"	"
	Salamon Schwarz	Tapezierer	21	Kanien	"
	Katharina Ehrentsch geb. Lebl	"	28	"	"
8	Israel Löwy Hausvater	Zahn Arzt	37	aus Gochingee im Reich Mähren gross Meisch Löwy	1797
	Ehrentsch Katali	"	29	"	"
	Sara	Desamant	17	"	"
9	A. Abraham Stiegler Hausvater	Handelmann	24	Göching	1790
	Ehrentsch Theresia geb. Späzer	"	19	Lackonbach	"
	Sohn Achse Stiegler	"	24	Agram	"
9	Christina Löwy	Küchinweib	40	"	"
	Philipp Fischer	Wollengraber	43	aus Pöhlen	1797
	Theresia Ehrentsch	"	35	aus Löwy	"
	Franz J. Löwy	"	10	Agram	"
	Josef Tochter	"	7	"	"
Zita	"	"	3	"	"
	"	"	14	Löwy	"

Census of Jews in Gradec from 1806



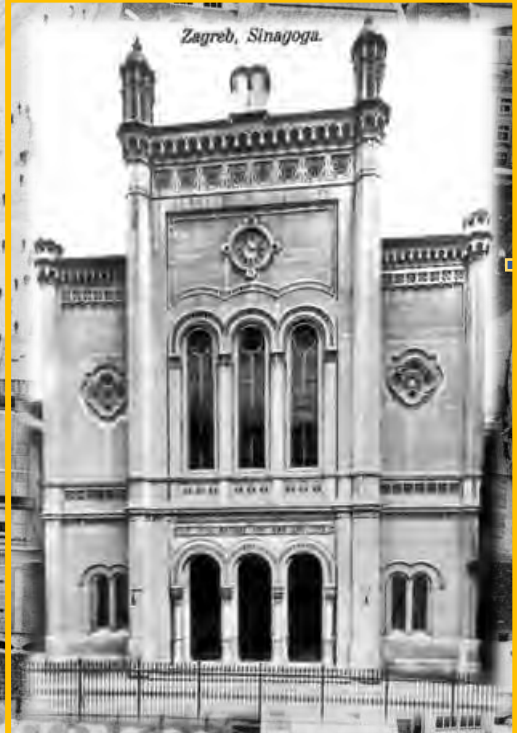
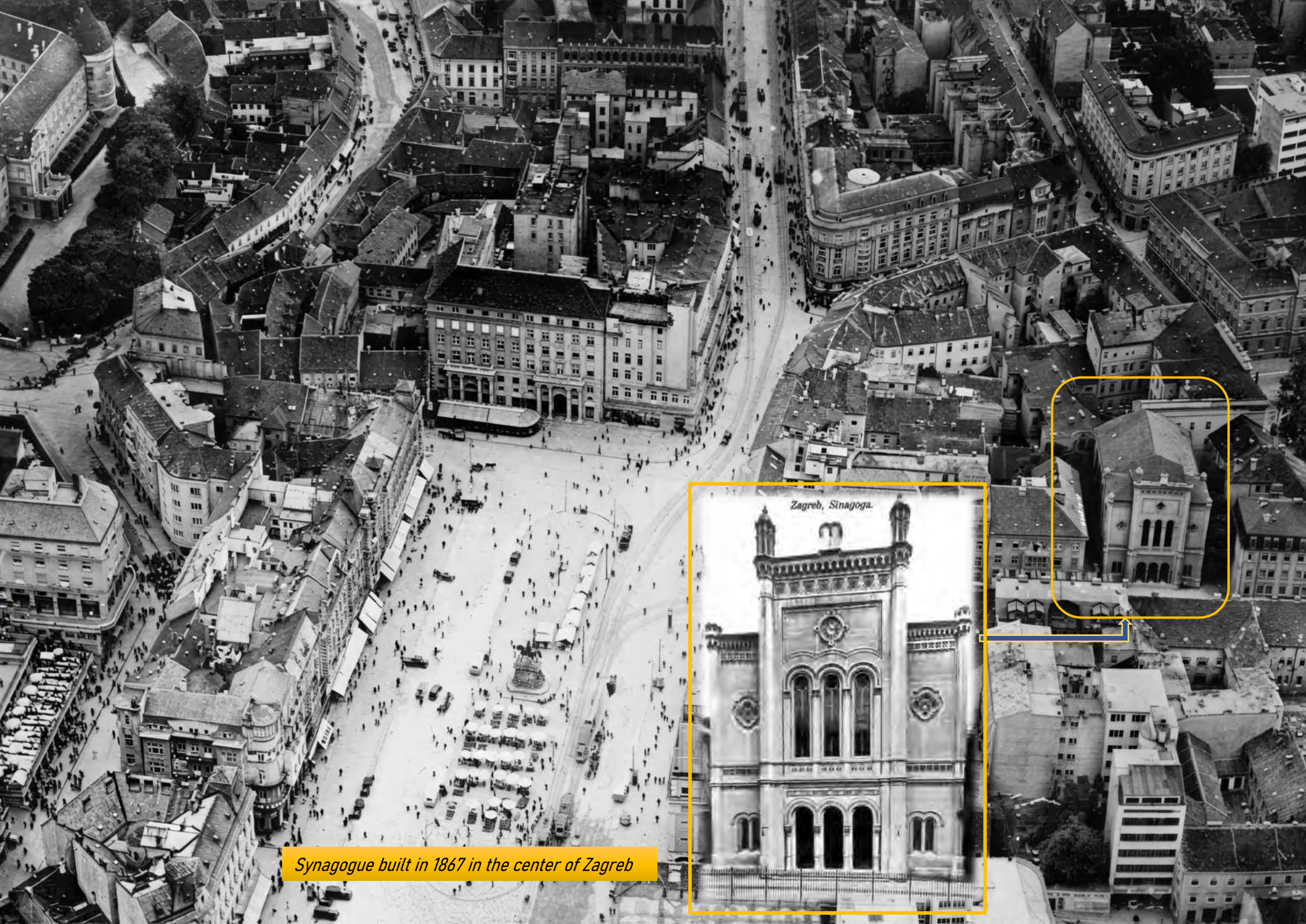
The statue of Moses at the Jewish cemetery in Mirogoj

Data on the population of Kaptol and Gradec were kept separately until 1850 when they were united by the patent by Emperor Joseph II.

At the time, the city of Zagreb had two jurisdictions - civil and episcopal, from which Jews had to ask permission to settle. Only 20 Jewish families comprised a single Jewish community they formed in 1806.

On 5 November 1808, Judge Babočaj compiled a list of Jews, which was kept on Kaptol, Laška Street, but the only list preserved was a subsequent one from 1812.

Jakob Stiegler and Jakob Weiss made on 5 July 1808 a list of Jews living in Gradec. The lists did not include just the members of all the families, but also their officers and domestic staff. All of them had arrived to settle in Zagreb from Hungary, Poland, Austria, and other countries. The lists are shown below.



Synagogue built in 1867 in the center of Zagreb

Communities:

- Foundation of the Jewish community (17 families - 52 Jews in Gradec and 19 in Kaptol) in 1806
- Separation of orthodox Jews and the "Laška Street community" foundation in 1841
- Reunification of the two communities in 1856
- Foundation of the autonomous Orthodox community in 1926
- Foundation of the Sephardic community in 1927

Synagogues:

- The first service was held in Lukačić house, Petrinjska 12 1809
- A house on the corner of Petrinjska and Amruševa streets was bought to be repurposed into a synagogue and an apartment for the rabi in 1840
- An Orthodox synagogue in Ružička Street and the Zbirec cemetery were established in 1841
- A decision to build a new synagogue was made in 1855

Cemeteries:

- The first cemetery was established near St Roch's Park, Zagreb, in 1811
- The cemetery near the Church of St Peter in Zagreb was established in 1842
- The Mirogoj cemetery was opened in 1878
- The "Chevra Kadisha" community was founded in 1828



Invitation to the solemn consecration of the synagogue 1867.



Program of the consecration of the synagogue on September 27, 1867



The interior of the Zagreb synagogue



Visit of Emperor Joseph I to the Jewish Community and Synagogue in 1895.

Jewish families before World War II



The wedding of the Kohn family.



Ketubah



Three generations

From family photo albums



Wedding



Three generations



Wedding



The family gathered for the Sabbath dinner



Family walk

Jewish schools



After the patent on religious tolerance by Emperor Joseph II (1782), Jews, among other rights, gained the right to establish their primary schools and enrol in academic studies and art academies.

In May 1841, the primary school *Bildungsschule* was opened in Zagreb, Jewish Community. In addition to regular subjects, the Hebrew language and religious studies were taught, and the first teacher was Karl Saphir. However, most Jewish children attended regular schools, taught in the Hungarian language in Slavonia, and some in German language schools. There was a school with 65 pupils in Varaždin and a Jewish school founded in Osijek in 1856.

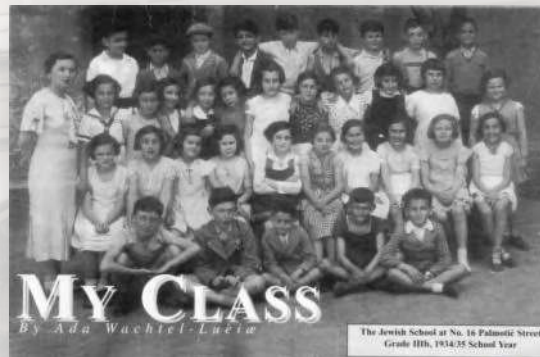
In October 1855, after a brief hiatus, a three-grade *Trivialschule* was set up at the Jewish Community. The German language and Hebrew subjects were taught. In 1889, the school was transferred into a new building on Palmotićeve Street. It was located on the first floor and named "Accredited Elementary School of the Israelite Religious Community". The school had four classrooms, an administration office and auxiliary rooms, and the ground floor was used to teach handicrafts to girls. Children living far away came several times a week for religious study. The school principal was Dr Hosea Jakobi.

Starting in 1920, the school worked according to the curriculum of the state educational authorities and was under the supervision of the state. In addition to the school subjects, the schoolchildren were taught the Bible, traditional holiday customs and the Hebrew language. A kindergarten was also founded.

There were also special religious schools teaching Torah and Talmud. Such schools existed in Ilok, Vukovar, Vinkovci, and Zagreb, with a total of 85 pupils (1929). All high-school youth attended religious studies once a week. It was taught initially by chief rabbi Dr Gavro Schwarz, and later by Dr Šalom Freiburger.

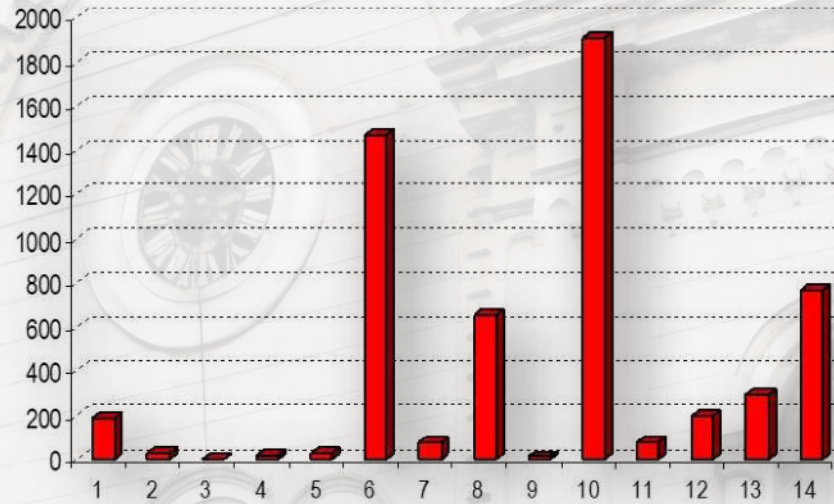
Literacy among Jews was high and by the end of the 19th century, nearly 50% of Jewish children completed at least four grades of secondary-school education. Because of the possibility of educating their children, Jews moved from smaller towns to the city centres, and there was also solidarity enabling children from smaller surrounding settlements to come to the city and get their meals at Jewish households (so-called "Tage Essen").

After World War I, the "Jewish Academic Supporting Society" was founded to support poor students, and a student canteen for approximately 300 students. EZRA, a wish credit cooperative that supported education in different crafts, was founded in 1932. Student associations and dormitories for student accommodation were also established.



- 1) Industry and mining
- 2) Agriculture and fisheries
- 3) Forestry
- 4) Civil engineering and architecture
- 5) Transportation and communications
- 6) Trade
- 7) Hospitality and tourism
- 8) Crafts and personal services
- 9) Housing and utilities sector
- 10) Financial, technical, and business services
- 11) Culture, education, and science
- 12) Education
- 13) Healthcare and social welfare
- 14) Other occupations

number of employees.



Jews in Zagreb by branches of activity in 1941



Mixed goods store



A butchery owned by Mavro Weinaber



Sugar factory in Osijek



Paint and varnish shop in Našice

Jewish women's associations

Jewish women's associations, frequently entitled "*Izraelsko gospojinsko društvo*" (Israeli Ladies' Society) were founded by almost all Jewish communities. The societies were distinctly philanthropic and founded on the initiative of rabbis or prominent community members. Women's associations have played a significant role in helping children and the elderly by organising charitable events and actions during holidays.

"Izraelsko gospojinsko društvo Jelena Prister" (Israeli Ladies' Society Jelena Prister) was founded by Eduard Prister in 1887 in Zagreb, to commemorate his late wife. The chief task of the society was to "support Israeli widows and orphans" and youth, provide dowries for poor fiancées, and aid charitable organisations and hospitals. Every year for Hanukkah children and the elderly would receive presents, clothes and underwear, a winter supply of firewood, and so on. During World War I, Jewish girls had their organisations - "Girls' Zion societies".

In 1912, the "Israeli Youth Colony" was organized to provide delicate Israeli children" with accommodation at the seaside, with special attention to health improvement.

At the assembly on 17 May 1923, Tilda Deutsch Maceljki was elected president, and her "Foundation for the Establishment of Youth Resort" was founded. The Foundation funds were used to buy Villa Antonija in Crikvenica. By the end of 1939, 2,300 children stayed at the youth resort in Crikvenica. Just before World War II, spouses Albert and Tilda Deutsch Maceljki also built a resort for children in Ravna Gora, Gorski Kotar region.



Tilda Deutsch - Maceljki



Youth resort in Crikvenica



A group of children on summer holidays in Crikvenica

Youth organisations

At the conference in Slavonski Brod in 1919, the "Alliance of Jewish Youth Societies" (*Savez židovskih omladinskih društava - SŽOU*) and the youth magazine "Gideon" were founded, with the first issue published on 1 November 1919. The role of the Union was to establish and aid youth societies and sections, and the organisation of rallies. The rallies were held in Osijek, Sarajevo, Zagreb, Beograd, and Novi Sad. The Alliance was governed by committees with chairpersons, and the head office of the Alliance was in Zagreb (1929). At the head of the Labour Committee governing the Alliance was rabbi Dr Šalom Freiberger. The operation of the Alliance was directed at aiding the "Hebrew Palestine Project", with courses held for different forms of organisation.

Large gymnastics, athletic and other sports competitions were held annually, along with trips to nature, gatherings, song-singing events, and discussions. Amateur and dilettante drama groups were founded. The youth competed in general knowledge, rhetoric, and the Hebrew language.

In Europe, a movement called "Hapoel hacair" (pioneer workers) prepared the youth for life in Palestine by teaching them agricultural skills. Thus, in 1920, the first group of young people was trained on the Fincija estate in Bijeljina for life in Palestine, the second group were in Vilova near Titel on the estate of Dr Grossman, and the further groups on the estate of Jakob Schlesinger in Vinkovci, and the estate "Ljupina" held by Vaksler family in Nova Gradiška.

The Jewish Pedagogical Archive was founded in Vienna, for all practical occupations, technical occupations, and trades. "B'nai B'rith" society organised handiwork courses. Youth societies had libraries. Charitable organizations built student dormitories and provided scholarships, established canteens, and purchased books. In Zagreb, the "Jewish Academic Canteen" was founded, which was organized in such a way that the students managed the canteen themselves.



Youth group „Mošava” 1939



„Kvuca Binjan”, on Zvornik 1940



„Kvuca Binjan”, on Vučja jama hill, 1936



Children's resort in Ravna Gora

Maccabi

At the 1st Zionist Congress, Max Nordau called for the physical regeneration of the Jewish people, leading to the establishment of the Maccabi groups. The "Židovsko gombalaško društvo" (Jewish sports and gymnastics society) was founded at the start of the twentieth century, however, the founding assembly was not held before 1914, and in 1920 the society was named "Maccabi". The first president was Dr Dragutin Zweiback. The most important discipline was gymnastics, but there were also football, athletics and fencing sections, and the tennis section was founded in 1922. Handball (Hazena) was played by members of Maccabi from Vukovar and Osijek. Apart from Zagreb, Jews were active athletes in numerous other Croatian cities.



Pre-war sections of the Maccabi organization



Lavoslav Schwarz (Foundation) Old Age Home

Lavoslav Schwarz (1837-1906), a tradesman from Zagreb, left in his testament of 1905 a great legacy to the Jewish community in Zagreb – “Home for frail and older people”. The home was opened in December 1910, and the first governing board, headed by the chief rabbi in Zagreb Dr Hose Jakobi, was appointed in January 1911. The building of the Home was converted into a military hospital during World War I (1914-1918). The Home fund held 200,000 gold krone, which were spent on the war loan. The number of residents grew from only 12 in 1911, over 14 in 1919, to 90 in 1939.

The “Society of Friends of the Schwarz Home” was founded on 24 March 1933, with Matija Freund as the first president. The Society had 262 members in 1939.

Eventually, the Home required expansion, which was carried out in 1939. Part of the new premises was furnished to accommodate orphans, as requested by the founder of the "Teodor Schillinger Orphanage Fund in Zagreb" in his will. The Home's manager from 1910 to 1922 was Vilim Löw, after which Ferdo Singer and his wife Irena took over.



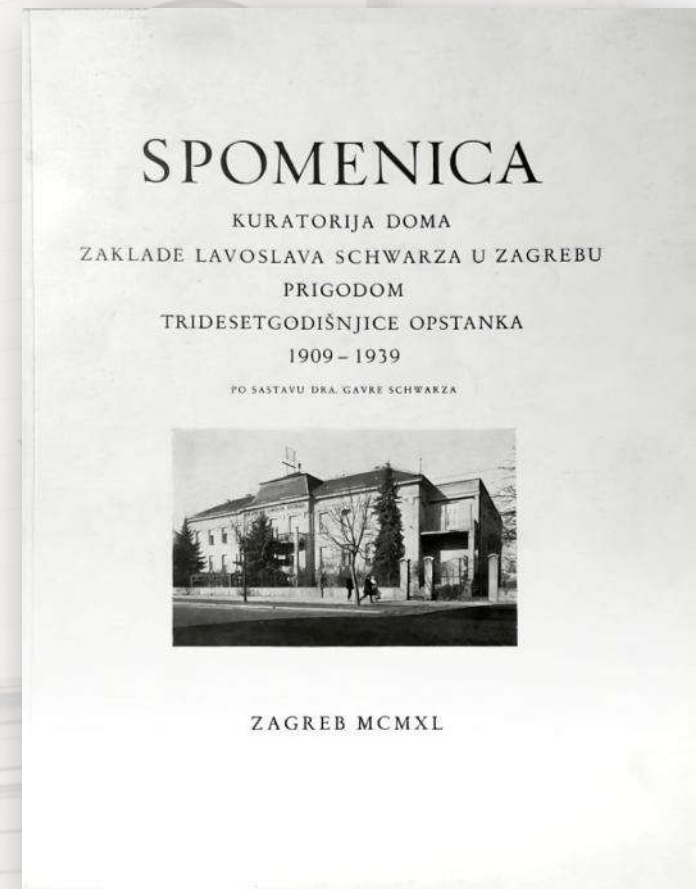
Lavoslav Schwartz



Collection box for contributions to the construction of a nursing home



Home for older people in Maksimirska street



Commemorative publication on the occasion of 30 years of Schwarz's home from 1909 -1939

Lavoslav Schwarz (Foundation) Old Age Home during the Holocaust and after

In 1941, there were 100 residents in the Lavoslav Schwarz Home, 78 women and 22 men. Yet on 9 April 1941, after the Germans marched into Zagreb, the home residents were forced to leave within 24 hours, and not allowed to take their personal belongings with them. Some settled at the homes of their relatives, and some in improvised apartments in Rapska Street (their fate remained unknown) and Boškovićeva 3.

The old people from the apartment in Boškovićeva street and some who temporarily resided in the Home's basement (gravely ill), were transferred into two small remote houses in Stenjevec near Zagreb. There, they lived in severe conditions and constant danger until December 1943, when Usthas took them away and their fate remained unknown. After that, on 8 December 1943, the older people were transported in trucks from Stenjevec to Brezovica (Cardinal Stepinac's estate), into a small cottage which was later upgraded. There were 60 of them and they were cared for by the Jewish Community. Fifty-two of them survived (8 men and 44 women).



Living in Brezovica



Return from Brezovica



Return from Brezovica

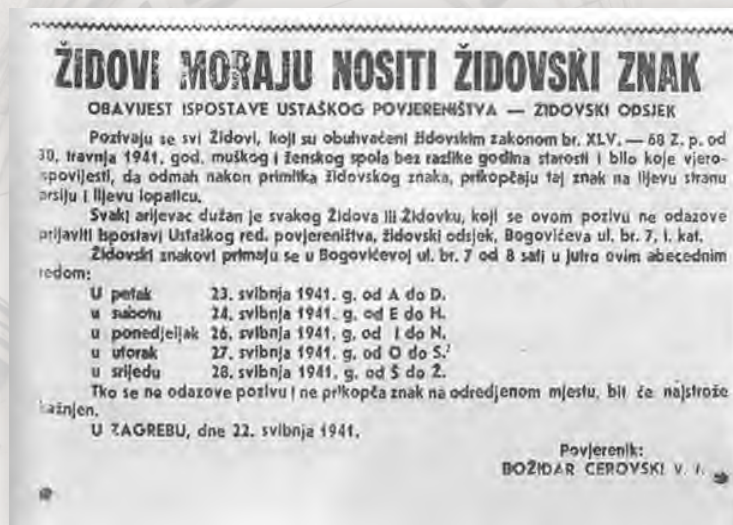


Surviving residents of Lavoslav Schwarz Home celebrating Shabbat

The Holocaust in Croatia



Announcement of the forced evacuation of Jews in Zagreb.



Notice of mandatory wearing of the Jewish mark



Vilim and Piroška Levi in August 1941. Eight days after their wedding, Vilim was taken to Jasenovac camp and killed

Immediately after the establishment of the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), racial laws were passed and the prosecution of Jews began.

The NDH opened concentration camps in the spring and summer of 1941 (Jadovno, Jasenovac, Stara Gradiška, and others). Croatian Jews mostly perished in Ustasha death camps, but they were also transported to Auschwitz and other Nazi camps.

Jews from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was part of the NDH, were transported to concentration camps in Croatia. Bosnian Jewish women and children were sent to the Đakovo concentration camp, where they perished due to horrific conditions and typhoid fever brought to the camp by women prisoners from the Stara Gradiška women's camp. A cemetery with over 500 victims was preserved in Đakovo.

There were also camps on the territory of Croatia under Italian rule, but the death toll of Jews was lower in those camps. When Italy capitulated in 1943, Germans occupied those areas, sending most Jews they found there to Auschwitz. Some saved themselves before the Germans arrived by escaping in boats from the Italian camp on Rab to the refuge camps on the mainland.

In Čakovec and other places in Međimurje, Jews suffered under Hungarian persecution, and most of them perished after the Germans arrived in the area in 1944 and sent Jews to Auschwitz.

Some Jews who participated in the anti-fascist resistance movement survived. There were 1,739 Jews in the National Liberation Movement (NOB), of which 325 perished.



Demolition of the Synagogue in Zagreb 1941-1942

Humanitarian work during the Holocaust

The Jewish communities in Croatia were since 1933 involved in the activities of rescuing and aiding numerous refugees.

The Alliance founded the Social Fund to help refugees. Until 1939, refugees received residence and permanent residence permits from the government (with certain movement restrictions).

A total of 55,500 refugees passed through Yugoslavia from 1933 until April 1941. Approximately 6,800 refugees passed via the Danube River to the Black Sea.

The famous "Wiza" operation, in which 250 children of Aliyah Hanoar from Berlin were saved, is still well-known.

A group of orphaned Jewish children was saved in Split and sent to Nonantola in Italy with the help of Dalassem, where they arrived on 14 April.

The Zagreb Jewish Community reported that:

- 1,100 emigrants were supported in collective shelters,
- 1,500 internees were fully supported in Lobor-Grad,
- food, clothes, and medicine were sent to Jasenovac (for 4,000 people)
- 56 people and 10 janitors were supported in Stenjevec,
- 300 meals were provided daily in the Soup Kitchen,
- a shelter for older people and children was maintained (22 people),
- an outpatient clinic for the poor, a dental clinic, and a children's clinic were provided
- hospital expenses were paid and assistance was provided.



Humanitarian work during the Holocaust (orphans from Split before their journey to Palestine)

LOGOR JASENOVAC	IME PREZIME Ing. Juhar Milan	TEKUĆI BROJ K
LIČNI PODACI		UPISATE
GRADNA BODIŠKA 1912	DATUM	IME UPISATIČA
ZANIMANJE trgovac		IZNOS
POSLEDNJE BODAVIŠKE Zagreb		
BRACNI STANJE oženjen		
ADRESE RODAKA		
KOH KODJE BIBIČU	Sidoija Juhn Zagreb, Pajlas, Zagreb.	
KOH SU U KOPEM	LOGORI	POSLANI PAKETI 1/10 1941 6/1941
PREMJEDBA		Br. cipela: Br. šaljeje: Br. odjele: Br. šleke:

Jasenovac camp inmate card

Logor Jasenovac	Prezime i ime - Oznaka Juhar Milan ing. K	Oznaka chouva
Datum javljanja	Poslani paketi	Primjetba
24. IV. 41	30 190 70 210 130 44 281 150 112 29/2	
20. I. 41	14/3 24/3 31/4 20/4 2/5 27/5 1/6 1/7 2/8 1/9	
2/2 2 *	17/9 2/10 4/11 14/11 23/11 20/12 2/1 2/2	
20. 3 *	24/1 2/2 1/3 1/4 1/5 1/6 1/7 1/8 1/9 1/10	
1. 7 *	2/7 1/8 1/9 1/10 1/11 1/12	
10. 7 *		
17. 7 *		
25. 1. 45		

A record of received packages

Concentration camps in the *NDH*

The Danica camp near Koprivnica was established on 14 April 1941. The camp held approximately 5,000 prisoners, of which about 600 were Jews who were sent to Gospić and other camps in July 1941. A group of 165 young Jewish men were arrested on 27 May 1941 under the pretext of student labour obligations and sent to the Danica camp, later to Jadovno, where almost all of them were killed.

The Gospić camp was established in early June 1941. About 2,500 Jews passed through the camp before it was closed down on 21 August 1941. The prisoners were transferred to other camps: Pag, Jadovno, Jastrebarsko, Kruščica, Lobargrad, and Jasenovac.

The Slano and Metajna camps on the island of Pag were founded on 25 June 1941 and operated until 19 August 1941. During that time, 407 men, 293 women and 91 children were killed, while the rest were transferred to the Jastrebarsko, Kruščica, Lobargrad, and Jasenovac camps.

The Jadovno camp on Velebit was founded in June 1941. It operated until 19 August 1941. During that time, a large (unknown) number of Jews were killed.

The Zagreb Fair camp in Zagreb (established in June 1941) was a transit camp from which approximately 2,500 Jews were sent to Gospić. A special commission liberated some of the Jews who were in mixed marriages.

The Jasenovac camp was established on 20–21 August 1941. This was the largest camp complex in the *NDH*, which operated until April 1945. There were several camps in this complex: the first ones were Bročice (I) and Krapje (II), disbanded in November 1941, with the inmates transferred to camp (III) - the Bačić brickyard, camp (IV) was Kožara, and camp (V) was Stara Gradiška. According to Mihailo Sobolevski (1996): *Jews in the Jasenovac Concentration Camp Complex*, there were approximately 60 transports of Jews with about 15,000 men, women and children sent to the camp. The number of Jews who perished in Jasenovac is still debated.

The Lobargrad camp was established in August 1941, for about 1,700 women and children. About 200 female prisoners died in the camp from hunger, disease and rape. Between 13 and 28 August 1942, the camp inmates were handed over to the Germans and taken to Auschwitz.

The Gornja Rijeka camp was established in September 1941 for about 100 (older) women from the Lobargrad camp. They were returned to Lobargrad in May 1942 and then taken to Auschwitz.

The Đakovo camp was established in December 1941 for 1,865 women and children from Sarajevo and 1,161 women and children transferred from the Stara Gradiška camp on 26 February and 6 March 1942. In this camp, 569 people perished and were buried in the local cemetery. The rest were transferred to Jasenovac between 15 June and 5 July 1942 and killed on arrival.

Tenja camp (near Osijek) was established in June 1942 for about 3,000 Jews from Osijek and various parts of Slavonia. On 15 August 1942, the children were sent to Auschwitz first, and the rest were sent to the Jasenovac and Jablanac camps where they were killed in September 1942, and to Auschwitz where they were killed on arrival.



The Jasenovac camp, destroyed during the escape of the Ustasha



Memorial plaque to the youth murdered in Jasenovac



Graves of victims from the Đakovo camp

Jews in camps in the Italian zone of the *NDH*

Italian Zones I and II were created by an agreement between Mussolini and Pavelić reached on 18 May 1941, relating to the territory of Dalmatia, part of the Croatian Littoral and the coastal islands.

Due to the difference in the powers of the Italians in these two zones, the position of Jewish refugees in them was different.

The Italian military and civil authority were in Zone I, annexed by Italy. In that zone, the racial laws were not strictly enforced (although Italy also passed them).

In Zone II, the Italians had military and the Ustashe had civil authority and applied the laws of the *Independent State of Croatia* against Jews. At first, the Italians did not interfere in the persecution of Jews, only after the massacres carried out by the Ustashe in their camps on the island of Pag (Slano and Metajna), did the command of the 2nd Italian Army order that the Jews in Zone II be interned in different camps:

The Dubrovnik camp was located in Kupari, Srebreno, Mlini, Gruž, and on the island of Lopud. The Dubrovnik camp held approximately 1,700 internees, mostly from Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Kraljevica camp was founded for Jewish refugees, mostly originating in Croatia and Slavonia, and there were also some emigrants. According to the official records, 1,172 Jews were interned at the Kraljevica camp.

Camp on the island of Brač; for 211 Jews, located in the towns of Sumartin, Postire, Supetar and Bol.

Camp on the island of Hvar; for 404 interned Jews, originally from Mostar and Sarajevo.

In total, there were 2,554 Jews in the above-listed camps, even 2,661 according to other sources.



The Rab Camp



Camp barracks



Camp barracks



*Women with children under
14 years old*



Women's barrack in Kraljevica



School certificate from the camp



Camp orchestra



On the day of the liberation of the camp



Camp money



Camp ID



Men's barrack in Kraljevica

The Jewish battalion

The Italian camp for Jews on the island of Rab was liberated on 8 September 1943 (some say 7 September) by prisoners. It happened when a call for the liberation of the camp was sent from the Slovenian camp and a crowd of inmates headed towards the camp exit disarmed the guards.

The Rab Brigade was established immediately after, and the Jewish Battalion, or the "fifth battalion", with 244 fighters and a medical unit. David-Dača Kabiljo was elected commander of the Jewish Battalion. The battalion consisted of three troops, and each troop consisted of three platoons. The commander of the medical platoon was Ela Samakovlija.

After the capitulation of Italy, the camp on Rab was evacuated. The Jewish battalion was transferred by ship "Senj" to Novi Vinodolski and on 2 October arrived in the village of Lipa, near Generalski Stol, the location of the Partisan's 7th Banija Division headquarters. Here, the fighters of the Jewish Battalion joined the Division on 3 October 1943. Out of 197 Jewish fighters (they had the weapons that they took from the Italians), 36 died by the end of the war. Only those (204) who declared they did not want to be evacuated (due to illness, old age, etc.) remained on Rab. On 22 March 1944, the Germans took them together with 330 Jews from other areas, mostly Istria and transferred them first to Rijeka, then to a prison in Trieste, from where they were transported to Auschwitz on 28 March 1944 by freight rail cars.



The Jewish batalion



Memorial plaque at the site of the camp on the island of Rab



Jewish doctor in the partisans



Partisan medical nurses



Partisan hospital in Petrova Gora



Time for a break

Zionism and Alya

After World War I, hopes for the establishment of a Jewish state (Herzl) increased, and Zionist organizations, especially youth organizations, were founded. The "National Fund" collected funds for purchasing land and establishing kibbutzim in Palestine.

After World War II, in 1948, the state of Israel was established, and Yugoslavia allowed the "repatriation" of Jews - their emigration to Israel, but the condition was the renunciation of Yugoslav citizenship and the loss of ownership of real estate.

Emigration commissions were established, and ships were engaged to transport Jews who decided to leave.

According to collected data, between 1933 and 1941, 1,698 Jews left Yugoslavia for Palestine, and after the declaration of the state of Israel, from 1948 to the end of 1952, an additional 7,764 Jews (including family members) emigrated, about 1,000 from Croatia.



Emigrants on the ship Kefalos on the way to Palestine

The arrival of the ship Galicia in Haifa



Program

OPROŠTAJNE AKADEMIJE

Jevrejske vjeroispovjedne općine u Zagrebu u
čast pripadnika, koji se iseljavaju u državu Izrael

1. **HIMNE: HEJ SLAVENI, LIJEPA NASA, HATIKVA**
(izvodi mali orkestar)
2. **OPROŠTAJNI POZDRAV ISELJENICIMA**
(Rafael Montiljo, član Predsjedništva JVO i predsjednik Komisije za iseljenje)
3. **2. Hiršler: HEDER KATAN** (pjeva D. Halpern)
4. **VI. Nazor: EXODUS IZ EGIPTA** (recitira Ivka Singer)
5. **H. Singer: HEBREJSKA POEMA** (izvodi mali orkestar)
6. *** * * : TROJANAC — NARODNA IGRA**
(plešu M. Šrajber, E. Pavlačković i D. Szilagyi)
7. a) **A. Dvoržak: NOĆNOM STAZOM**
b) **F. Chopin: ETUDA C-MOL — REVOLUCIONARNA**
(na klaviru Antonija Geiger-Eichhorn)
8. **OPROŠTAJNA RIJEČ ISELJENICIMA**
(David Levi, tajnik Općine)
9. *** * * : SOLO PLES** (Marika Ferber)
10. **S. Heimbach: ZDRAVO, ZAGREB-GRADE** (S. Heimbach)
11. **J. S. Roskin: PJESMA JERUSALIMA** (pjeva D. Halpern)
12. **H. Singer: IZ PARTIZANSKOG ŽIVOTA — DIVERTISEMENT**
(izvodi mali orkestar)
13. **OPROŠTAJNA RIJEČ ISELJENIKA** (Števo Fišer)

Glasovirska pratnja: Karlo Sorger

21. VI. 1949.

The program of the Farewell Academy held in 1949

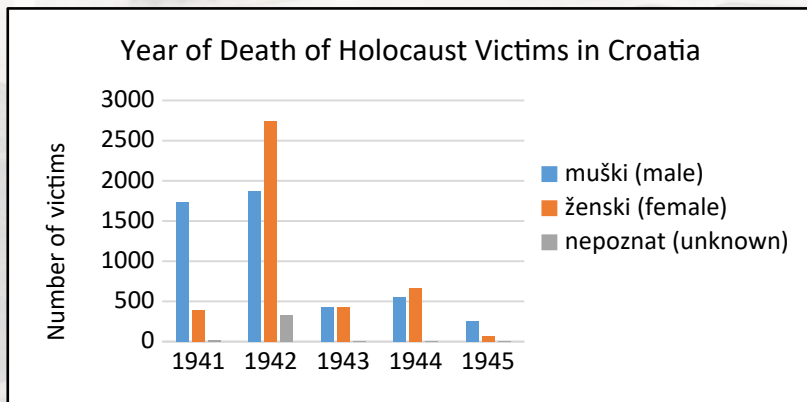
Victims of the Holocaust

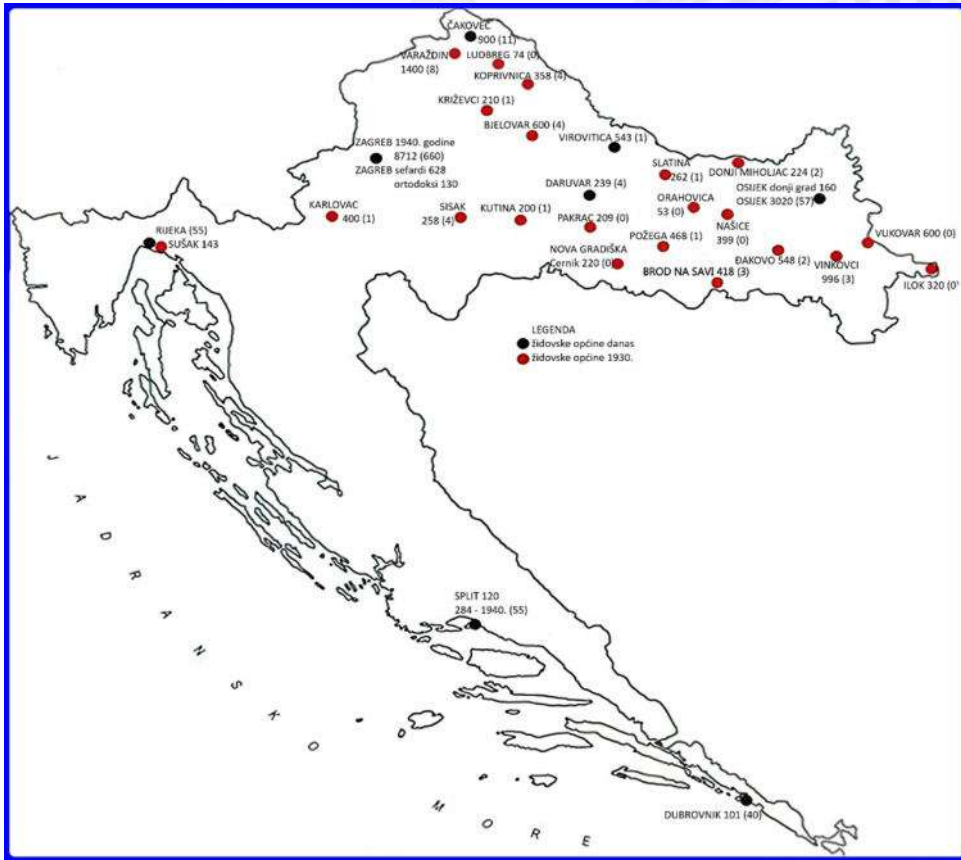
Year of birth	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
1844-1848	1	3		4
1849-1853	12	5	2	19
1854-1858	40	18	1	59
1859-1863	89	58	5	152
1864-1868	130	129	6	265
1869-1873	252	235	14	501
1874-1878	352	311	16	679
1879-1883	402	408	24	834
1884-1888	434	467	20	921
1889-1893	442	475	22	939
1894-1898	476	522	14	1012
1899-1903	435	489	22	946
1904-1908	421	512	20	953
1909-1913	352	487	20	859
1914-1918	238	344	17	599
1919-1923	296	429	11	736
1924-1928	224	239	27	490
1929-1933	175	152	29	356
1934-1938	116	145	31	292
1939-1944	60	51	20	131
Total sum	4947	5479	321	10747

Victims of the Holocaust in Croatia - by year of birth



Commemorations of the Holocaust victims

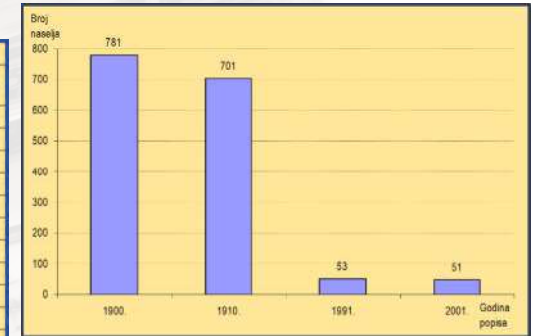




Map of Croatia with Jewish communities (the existing ones are marked in black and the destroyed ones are marked in red)

Židovske općine 1930. prema registru rabina					
Općina	Članova	Duša	Sinagoga godina izgradnje	Židovsko groblje godina izgradnje	Rabin
Bjelovar	210	600	1917.	1876.	+
Brod na Savi	177	418	1896.	1880.	+
Čakovec	211	800	1836.	1794.	+
Daruvar	106	239	1860.	1890.	+
Dubrovnik	45	101	15. stoljeće	15. stoljeće	+
Đakovo	100	548	1880.	1879.	+
Gradiška Nova	73	220	1925.	1800.	+
Ilok	50	320	1870.	1870.	+
Karlovac	137	400	1850.	1830.	+
Koprivnica	148		1875.	1842.	+
Križevci	62	210	1894.	1840.	+
Kutina	75	200	1914.	1730.	+
Ludbreg	42	74	1895.	1890.	+
Miholjac Donji	100	224	1860.	1860.	+
Našice	60	399	1896.	1865.	+
Orahovica	20	53	1911.		+
Osijek	702	3.020	1860.	1850.	+
Osijek - Donji grad	86	160	1903.	1860.	+
Pakrac	63	209	1875.	1875.	+
Požega	90	468	1898.	1900.	+
Rijeka-pod Italijom		143 - Sušak			
Sisak	230		1880.		+
Podravska Slatina	80	262	1896.	1858.	+
Split	50	120	1500.	1573.	+
Valpovo	85	157	1898.	1858.	
Varaždin	262	1.400	1862.	1810.	+
Vinkovci	227	995	1922.	1870.	+
Virovitica	102	643	1863.	1830.	+
Vukovar	134	600	1857.	1830.	+
Zagreb - aškenazi	2.740	12.000	1867.	1878.	+
Zagreb - sefardi	121				+
Zagreb - ortodoksni	130				

Jewish communities in the year 1930 according to the rabbinical register



The number of settlements where Jews lived (before and after the Holocaust)

Grad	1900.	1910.	1921.	1931.	1991.	2001.
Vinkovci	515	613	748	647	5	4
Vukovar	513	493	456	306	6	1
Osijek	2.094	2.340	2.731	2.445	19	24
Slavonski Brod	393	558	648	462	2	2
Nova Gradiška	143	210	-	207	0	0
Požega	327	327	340	248	1	0
Virovitica	228	229	278	233	2	2
Bjelovar	345	550	502	360	3	3
Koprivnica	368	447	369	339	4	8
Križevci	230	230	167	126	0	0
Varaždin	730	621	569	486	2	3
Karlovac	324	320	302	347	1	4
Sisak	373	395	331	248	2	2
Zagreb	3.261	4.275	5.970	8.702	392	368
Split	0	0	173	292	47	42
Dubrovnik	0	0	108	120	19	17
Čakovec	591	622	611	533	4	6

The number of Jews in cities

History: The establishment of Jewish communities was regulated by law in 1852, which allowed them to create their own rules, subject to approval by the relevant ministry. The Croatian Parliament passed a new law on the organization of Jewish communities in 1906. According to the law, Jews were required to belong to a community. Only one community was permitted to exist in each settlement. In 1926, Orthodox Jewish families (49 members) separated and established their own community in Zagreb. A year later, a separate Sephardic community was also founded. After World War I, all Jewish communities in the State of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (SHS) united into the Belgrade Union. New rules were issued, and in 1929, the Law on Religious Societies of Jews in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was proclaimed. Zionist, youth, and sports organizations also merged.

Today, there are ten Jewish communities in Croatia: Čakovec, Daruvar, Dubrovnik, Koprivnica, Osijek, Rijeka, Slavonski Brod, Split, Virovitica, and Zagreb. The total Jewish population in Croatia is around 2,500-3,000 Jews. Most of them (about 75%) are concentrated in Zagreb, which is the largest Jewish community. Jews live, sometimes just one or two families, in about 50 locations. This is all that remains today of a large and developed Jewish community that numbered around 25,000 members concentrated in 35 Jewish communities before the Holocaust. This large community was almost completely destroyed during World War II. Not only were about 80% of Croatian Jews killed in the Holocaust, but the entire Jewish community and Jewish life were also obliterated.

After World War II - after the Holocaust

After World War II, only about 15,000 Jews from Yugoslavia survived, which is around 20%. They lost their property, their families, and mostly their health. Many had no place to return to, and therefore concentrated primarily in areas where larger Jewish communities had resumed operations and organized their reception, protection, nutrition, and medical care. In Yugoslavia, only 38 Jewish communities were gradually reestablished (out of the former 117), but in some, very few Jews remained, and they later "disappeared."

The work of the Federation of Jewish Religious Communities was renewed. All activities were centralized in the Federation of Jewish Communities in Belgrade, where an Archive and Museum were established to collect materials and documents from all Jewish communities in Yugoslavia.

Today, when we look back, we can determine that the organization of the Jewish community was, in a way, a copy of the state's centralized structure in a one-party system, with prominent and deserving individuals.

There were no differences between Sephardim and Ashkenazim, between "Orthodox" and "Neolog," between assimilationists and Zionists, between the rich and the poor, between the highly educated and the less educated, between those who were natives and those who had immigrated; the common denominator was now the Holocaust. In Croatia, 10 Jewish communities resumed their activities, but the largest number of Jews settled in Zagreb, which is still the largest community today. Due to the pauperization of the Jewish population, its demographic and even family structures, and the general economic and living conditions, humanitarian and charitable work was one of the main activities of the communities.

Jewish property confiscated during the Nazi regime was not returned to the Jews, and in fact, it was re-confiscated. Reparations and other forms of compensation that Jews received in Western European countries and Israel were not received by Jews in Croatia. After the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, many surviving Jews from Croatia chose to emigrate to the new country, and the Jewish population was halved. The Jews who remained in Yugoslavia tried, given the circumstances at the time, to rebuild their lives in communities, particularly in social and cultural activities.



Meeting of the committee in the Jewish community



Meeting of the Coordination of Jewish Communities in Belgrade



Kindergarten in the Jewish community

Religious culture was mostly reduced to the celebration of major Jewish holidays when members of the community would gather. For the few who wished to, services were organized in synagogues. This substitution of religiosity with the observance of customs was an adaptation to the circumstances in society. In the decimated Jewish population, with a disrupted demographic structure (entire generations of youth had disappeared), mixed marriages predominated. In the Jewish community, special emphasis was placed on commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, as well as participation in the anti-fascist resistance (the National Liberation Struggle), which became the basis for joint commemorative ceremonies. These commemorations gradually lost their Jewish character and became social events with familiar rhetoric about anti-fascism and brotherhood and unity. This continued later when many of those original achievements were exhausted.

In addition to common memorials, special Jewish memorial monuments are being erected, a museum and archive are being established, and chronologies, memoirs, and books about the Holocaust are being written. Attention was given to memorial architecture, while the old Jewish heritage, the few remaining synagogues, and numerous Jewish cemeteries were neglected. The same can be said for museum, archival, and journalistic activities. In Israel, a "Forest of Martyrs" was planted with 60,000 trees in memory of the Jews of Yugoslavia who were killed in the Holocaust. This initiative involved the entire community as well as numerous non-Jewish institutions and organizations.



Commemoration at the Jewish Cemetery in Mirogoj



"Judaica" of the Jewish Community of Zagreb along with representatives of the Municipality and the L.Š. Elder Home



Neglected Jewish Cemetery in Vukovar



Commemoration in Jasenovac



Celebration of the Hanukkah holiday in the Jewish Community of Zagreb



Neglected Jewish cemetery

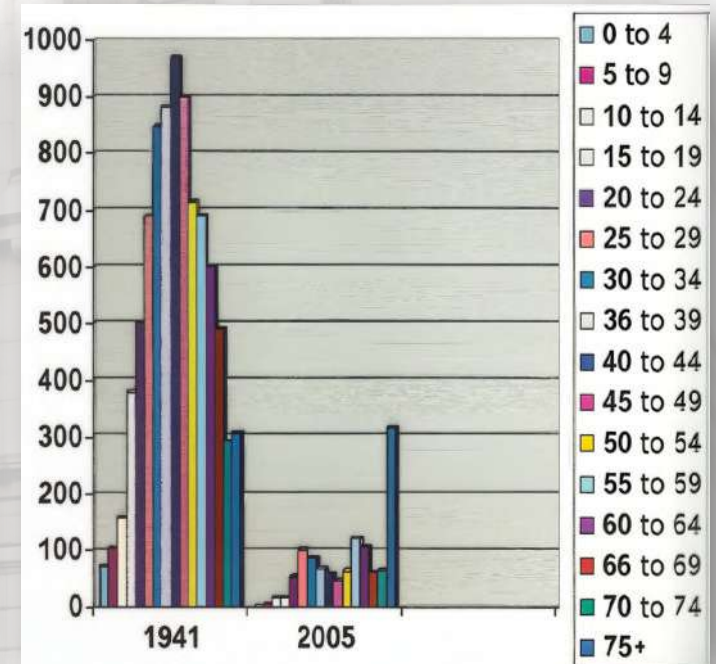
Holocaust Survivors in Croatia

The Jewish population in Croatia today is a remnant of a large community (25,000 members registered in 1941) before the Holocaust. Approximately 80% of the Jewish population was killed during the Holocaust, and most Jewish communities were destroyed. Today, there are 10 Jewish communities with about 2,500 members, a significant portion of whom are Holocaust survivors. In the so-called "Swiss Fund" (1998/1999), when Jews in Croatia first received personal assistance, around 900 Holocaust survivors were registered, living in about 60 locations in Croatia, sometimes as just one family.

The database of Holocaust survivors in Croatia is an important research project funded by the Claims Conference. This database includes registered survivors regardless of whether they currently live in Croatia or if they are still alive. Over 3,400 names have been entered into this database, which also includes data from earlier research. New information from documents, lists, interviews, testimonies, and publications has also been added. In that database, data about their history, suffering, and life after the Holocaust has been collected and is available.



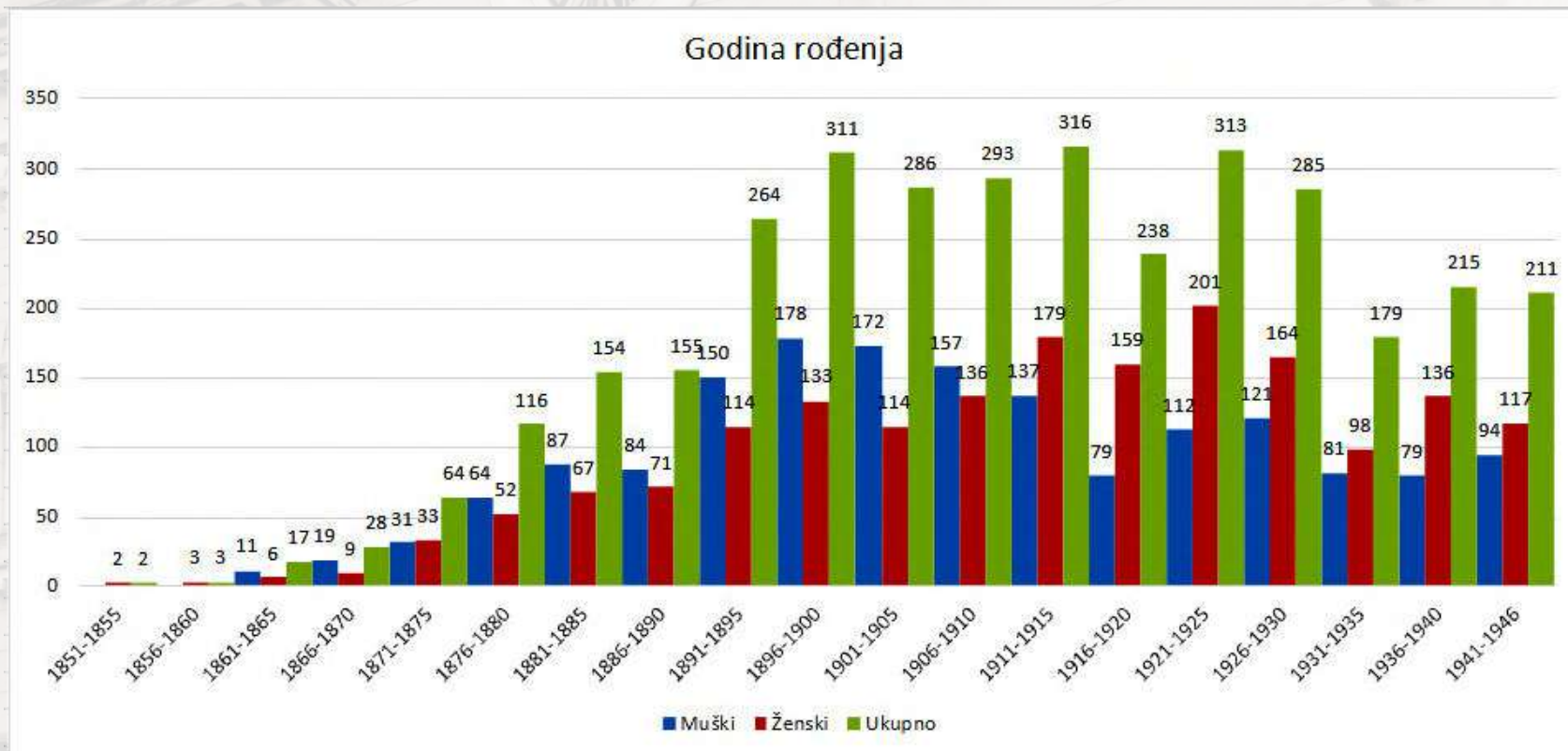
At the gathering of Holocaust survivors in 2019



The Jewish population in Zagreb before the Holocaust (1941) and in 2005

Jews who survived the Holocaust

These are the surviving Jews who lived in a country at a time when it was under Nazi rule, under Nazi occupation, or under the regime of Nazi collaborators. This is the definition that the Claims Conference applies for the "reparations" funds approved by the German government. The number of Jews who survived the Holocaust is estimated to be around one hundred and one thousand, of which 511 thousand lived in Israel. In Croatia, with the help of the "Swiss Fund," data on the number of Holocaust survivors living in Croatia was collected for the first time in 1998/1999. At that time, there were about 900 surviving Jews in Croatia, which accounted for over 90% of the members of Jewish communities. The Jews who survived the Holocaust represent the remnants of what was once a large and prosperous Jewish community in Croatia, which numbered around 25,500 Jews. In total, about 15-20% survived, but between 1948 and 1953, 7,739 Jews emigrated from Yugoslavia to Israel. In the Claims Conference project, a database of Holocaust survivors in Croatia has been established, which registers 3,450 Jews (1,794 women and 1,656 men) regardless of whether they currently live in Croatia and whether they are still alive.



Years of birth of Holocaust survivors in Croatia

The demographic structure of survivors in Croatia, along with their social, economic, family, and health status, indicates that they are a population with special needs. The mortality rate is very high. The largest group of survivors during the war were children (28%), most of whom were of preschool age. Another significant group of survivors in Croatia were the fighters of the National Liberation Movement and those who were in Italian camps.

New Home

After the Holocaust, a large number of elderly survivors, left with no one and nothing, sought accommodation in the Home. After 1948-1952, when predominantly younger Jews with children emigrated to Israel, the situation worsened for the older population who remained in Zagreb. Due to the significant needs, the Jewish community made two floors of its building at Palmotićeve 16 available, and free meals were provided from the home. A committee was formed within the Jewish community to construct the Home based on the design by architect Ing. Slavko Löwy, ensuring accommodation for 114 people. The construction of the Home was financed through funds obtained for the building on Maksimirska Street, donations from JOINT, a fundraising campaign by the Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia, and other donations. The Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia in Belgrade took out a loan to complete the construction of the Home in Zagreb, and on December 15, 1957, a ceremonial handover of the new building took place.



Improvised hospital for survivors on Palmotićeve Street



The new home for elderly people of the Lavoslav Š Schwarz Institute in Bukovačka.



Socializing in the garden



Exhibition of works by the ceramic group



Choir of the Home



Shabbat in the premises of the Home

During the Holocaust, efforts were made to organize education and schooling for children, both in communities and in some camps. After the war, many Jewish children needed to make up for the lost years of schooling. This was made possible for them in special schools and gymnasiums. In Zagreb, on Gundulićeva Street, the "Partisan Gymnasium" was established, which operated from 1945 to 1948.



The building that housed the "Partisan Gymnasium."



Submission of the doctoral degree diploma



Promotion at the University of Zagreb



From youth work actions



Jewish youth after the war

