



Opening of the permanent exhibition of Emanuel and Josef Zima at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest

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On June 13th, 2018, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest celebrated the opening of a permanent exhibition devoted to the memory of former Czech citizens, Emanuel and Jozef Zima, former MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) employees, who at the end of World War II bravely rescued 13 Slovak and Hungarian Jews.

The opening ceremony was a part of the planned public diplomacy events to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia. Among the invited guests of the opening ceremony were representatives of the Hungarian Jewish community, state administration, diplomatic corps, business representatives, Czechs and Slovaks permanently living in Hungary. The Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Hungary Juraj Chmiel and the Slovak Ambassador to Hungary Rastislav Kácer welcomed the participants.

The opening part of the ceremony was a concert of the Ensemble Moscheles, which was not only interested in its national composition: a Czech citizen Tomáš Tuláček - violin, a Slovak citizen Angelika Pavlechová - mezzosoprano and a citizen of Israel Shaked Shahar - piano, but mainly by the brilliant musical performance.

The musicians introduced a program consisting of works by Jewish authors (U. Brener, A. Shitomirsky, F. Drdla, M. Wiesenbergs, S. Sharar and M. Zur) supplemented by compositions by A. Dvořák, J. Suk, M. Schneider - Trnavský and J. Hubai. The artistic performance of the songs was highly appreciated by the audience, who rewarded the artists with long-lasting applause.

Subsequently, visitors had the opportunity to get acquainted with a permanent exhibition located in the basement of the Embassy of the Czech Republic, which is where Emanuel and Josef Zima hid their protectors.

It was already the fourth event that the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest prepared to honor the heroism of E. and J. Zima (in 2014 the ceremony was held to hand over the diploma and the Yad Vashem medal to the family members of E. and J. Zima. In 2015 a memorial plaque was unveiled at the embassy wall and in 2016 the names of E. and J. Zima were carved on the commemorative plaque "The Truth of the World" in the park of the Jewish Synagogue in Budapest).

The exhibition, the author of which is H.E. Juraj Chmiel, has awoken a warm welcome among visitors.

The exhibition will be open to the public on a regular basis on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11:00 and 14:00, after a prior agreement with the Embassy Secretariat.

As part of the supplementary program, invited guests were also able to get acquainted with the life story of Aron Grünhut, an important representative of the Jewish community in Bratislava from 1930 to 1945. Presenting the exhibition was also her curator, Slovak journalist Martin Mozer, who in 2013 discovered and drew attention to the brave action of Emanuel and Josef Zima.

JOSEF
ZIMA



A part of the permanent exhibition – Josef Zima

EMANUEL
ZIMA



A part of the permanent exhibition – Emanuel Zima



Ensemble Moscheles – S. Shahar and A. Pavlech



Ensemble Moscheles – S. Shahar and T. Tuláček



A photo from the permanent exhibition



An interview of H. E. Juraj Chmiel for TV JOJ



An interview of H. E. Rastislav Káčer for TV JOJ



an interview of H. E. Yossi Amrani for TV JOJ



An introduction to the permanent exhibition

1944

Úkryt na ambasádě v Budapešti

Hiding at the Embassy in Budapest

V roce 1944 by Aron Grünhut prožíval životního těžkotílu v Maďarsku. Nejvýznamnější rok v životě mnoha moudrých lidí, když se zdejší sovětský vojsko obležilo. Pomocí svého podřízeného Emmanuela Žimra, který byl v sídle budoucího československého ambasády v Budapešti, které bylo v roce 1939 po západu Československa do ruky Němcům dalo.

Arón a Grünhutovou oženili manželskou páru v roce 1936. Po skončení války se vrátili do Maďarska, kde žili v Budapešti. V roce 1944 byl Arón Grünhut pověřen v roce 1939 vzniklou Smyslovou působností nejdříve vlastního obchodu s obleky.

V roce 1944 se vlastní oblečení už nedělal a ožil v roce 1959 až do svého smrti v Budapešti. Toto významnému pánovi, když ho v roce 1944 přivedl do Maďarska Mihály Károlyi, se posléze nazýval "kapitán Miklós".



A panel from the exhibition dedicated to A. Grünhut



A photo from the permanent exhibition