

# JEWISH DAYS AT THE CITY HALL

COMMON HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE 'RATUSHA' RESTAURANT (1, RYNOK SQUARE). FREE ENTRY



UNDER THE PATRONAGE  
OF THE HONORARY CONSULATE  
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL IN LVIV

**July 28– August 10, 2015**  
**«Ratusha» restaurant (Rynok square, 1)**

A series of educational events and discussions Jewish Days at the City Hall invites everyone to discuss selected topics and issues on the history and culture of Jews in Eastern and Central Europe. Moreover, the topics include issues on how the notion of heritage is treated, how history of the city and a dialogue in society are perceived. Conversations and lectures will touch upon the subjects on who the heritage belongs to and who should be responsible for its preservation. Is history of a separate community important to help understand the history of entire city? Why are attitudes towards Jewish history in Ukraine often based on myth? What myths about the past are popular in Lviv? What does it all mean for the development of modern open society in Ukraine?

The series of events is related with an initiative "Synagogue Space: Jewish History, Common Heritage and Responsibility" launched in our city on July, 15 with an exhibition of a photographer Jason Francisco "The Golden Rose". Synagogue Space is an initiative to commemorate the history of Jews in Lviv, to understand the tragedy of Holocaust, common past and heritage, and to create new memorial and educational spaces in the city. The first stage of project implementation is the conservation of the Golden Rose synagogue remains, marking out the Beth Hamidrash site (House of Study) that used to be found next to the synagogue, and mounting a memorial installation "Perpetuation". Understanding these places is part of a broader social dialogue, both with the past and between the contemporaries.

**28.07 at 19:00**

**Conversation: 'Somebody Else's or Common: Who Does the Heritage Belong to?'**

Researchers of Jewish history prof. Nataliya Aleksion and prof. David Fishman from New York, Dr. Joanna Lisek from Wrotslaw will start the *Jewish Days at the City Hall* with a conversation about who the heritage belongs to. Is the history of a separate community important to understand the history of an entire city? Who is responsible for preservation of 'somebody else's' heritage: are those direct heirs only or absolutely all citizens? How does the forgotten or unforgotten history of the yesterday impact the condition of the today? Special focus will be on the examples from three cities: Wrotslaw, Warsaw, and Vilnius.

Participants of the conversation: professor **Natalia Aleksion** (Touro College at the Graduate School of Jewish Studies, New York), professor **David Fishman** (Jewish Theological School, New York), Dr. **Joanna Lisek** (Jewish Studies of Wrotslaw University). Moderator **Iryna Magdysh** (Head of Office for Culture of Lviv City Council).

**29.07 at 18:30**

**Lecture of Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern: 'Myths and Beyond: Jews in Ukraine'**

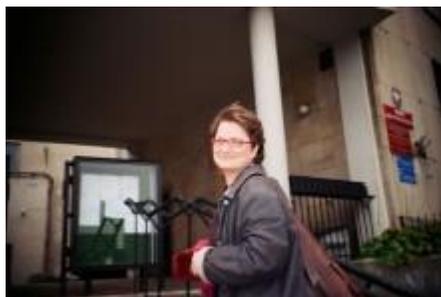


A common Ukrainian stereotype about Jews and Jewish history in Ukraine is typically based on myths, but not on understanding of complicated Jewish-Ukrainian relations. Did Jews rent Ukrainian churches? Did they regularly make Ukrainian peasants drunk? Did they lick the boots of Polish noblemen and favour communism? At the same time, were they really in for imperial attitudes and Ukrainian-bloodthirsty? We shall be analyzing answers to these and other sore points that still dominate national cultural memory of Ukrainians.

**Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern**, a professor of Jewish Studies and Jewish History at Northwestern university of Chicago. He taught at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Jerusalem University, Harvard and others. He is author of over a hundred of academic articles and six books. Lecturer of summer school of Jewish history at the Center for Urban History.

**30.07 at 18:30**

**Lecture of Nataliya Aleksion: 'Walk by My Side...' Mayer Balaban and the History of Jewish Quarter in Lviv**



A lecture on Lviv born Mayer Balaban (1877-1942), a founder of modern Polish Jewish Historiography. In 1904, Mayer Balaban presented his doctoral thesis on the life of Jews in Lviv in the 16-17<sup>th</sup> c. Thereupon, he kept publishing his works on the history of Jewish organizations and communities in Galicia. He also studied in detail the history of historians in Lviv before and after the First World war. During the lecture we shall talk about his life in the context of local history of Jews in Lviv in particular, and Galicia in general.

**Nataliya Aleksion**, a professor of modern Jewish history at Touro College at the Graduate School of Jewish Studies (New York); also worked at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Lecturer of the Summer Jewish school at the Center for Urban History.

**31.07 at 18:30**

**Discussion: 'Multicultural Lviv: Imaginary, Desirable, or Problematic?'**

Some 50 years ago Lviv still had over 100 000 Jewish citizens. As of today, Lviv has crucially changed its ethnical and cultural image. Occupation regimes were eradicating personalities and communities and cultivated on the emptied place stereotypes and myths about the 'inconvenient' groups. Jewish population of Lviv were also ranked as such. Which prejudice and manifest fictitious narratives are popular in the city with the word 'openness' in a promo motto? Who is responsible for them? How could they be overcome?

These questions will be discussed by a literary historian **Iryna Starovoyt** (Lviv Ivan Franko National University), a historian **Roman Holyk** (Institute of Ukrainian Studies, The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), a sociologist **Anna Susak-Chebotariova** (Center for Urban History), and a journalist **Vitaliy Portnikov**. Moderator – a culturologist **Zoryana Rybchynska**.

**04.08 at 18:30**

**Lecture of Jason Francisco: Fighting Against Memory: Photos of Jews of Eastern Europe, 1997-2015'**



Documentary is one of photography's most accessible and also most complex traditions. Its predicating idea is that photography allows for—is a force for—meaningful social connectivity across time, place, and culture. Documentary images summon the observable toward narrative, and elaborate stories beyond words alone. In this artist's talk, American-Jewish photographer and essayist Jason Francisco will present an overview of nearly two decades documentary works on Jewish Memory in eastern Europe. Historically rich and artistically experimental, Francisco's works negotiate Jewish memory after the Holocaust as a charged field of difference between information, aesthetic venture, and narrative construct, and so attempt larger answers to what Jewish remembrance might become.

**Jason Francisco** is a photographer, critic, curator, professor of Emory University (Atlanta) and Stanford university (Palo Alto) in the USA.

**05.08 at 18:30**

**Presentation "What Memorials does not/Need the City? Challenges and Issues for the Project 'Space Synagogue'"**

Presentation of the project 'Synagogue Space: Jewish History and Responsibility' aimed to commemorate Jewish history, realize the tragedy of Holocaust, to preserve common heritage and to reconsider the significance of memorial educational spaces, as well as to create new attitudes to such spaces in Lviv. The project will be presented from different perspectives: architecture, preservation of monuments, history and heritage of Jews in Lviv, and Jewish organizations and communities in Lviv and in the world.

Participants of the presentation: architect **Iris Gleichmann** (German Society for International Cooperation GIZ), **Liliya Onyshchenko** (Department of Historic Environment, Lviv City Council), historian **Sofia Dyak** (Center for Urban History), architect **Yuriy Stolyarov** (National Union of Architects of Ukraine), **Adel Dianova** (Ukrainian Jewish Charitable Foundation "Hesed Arie"), professor **Jason Francisco** (Stanford University, Palo Alto). Moderator **Anna Susak-Chebotareva** (Center for Urban History).

## Places of Jewish history in Lviv: Presentation of the projects 'Sites of Jewish History in Lviv: Art, Heritage and Comemoration'

The main objective of the project is to find ways to bring attention to the communities and people who lived in the city before World War II and the Holocaust. Participants of the summer school "Jewish History, Multiethnic Past, and Common Heritage: Urban Experience in Eastern Europe", who came to Lviv from different cities of Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and Poland, worked on the concept and implementation of the projects along with photographer and professor of visual studies **Jason Francisco** (Stanford University), sociologist **Anna Susak-Chebotareva** (Center for Urban History), and exhibition curator **Andriy Linik** (Center for Urban History).

The presentation of the projects will take place in three locations according to the schedule:

### **06.08 at 16:00, Krakivsky market area**

installation "Mapping points"

### **07.08 at 13:00, Koliyivshchyny Sq.**

"The message from the past, the lesson for the future"

### **07.08 at 17:00, St.Theodore Sq.**

evening "At the neighbours"

## **10.08 o 18:30**

### **Conversation: 'Close and Together: Ethnical, Political and Human in Modern Ukrainian Society'**

Shimon Redlich described Berezhany as a place where all citizens, Poles, Jews, and Ukrainians, lived together and apart. Such coexistence was put to an end by the Second World War, Holocaust, and deportations. Ukraine is one of the places where the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought some of the bloodiest experiences of war and implementation of radical ideologies. Today, in Ukraine we face multiple challenges and are looking for answers to the following questions: How to build openness not only in expectation of loyalty? How can different thinking be and how must it be part of dynamic society and culture? How should boundaries of a community be defined and whether they are needed at all? Is Ukraine a state for all of its citizens? How do we define the notion of a 'Ukrainian' in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Moderator – journalist **Volodymyr Beglov**.

**Myroslav Marynovych**, a dissident, human rights activist, political essay writer. Vice-rector of Ukrainian Catholic University. Co-founder of Ukrainian Helsinki Union. Ex-president of Ukrainian PEN-club.

**Josef Zissels**, a dissident, public figure and social activist. Head of Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Ukraine. Vice-President of Congress of Ethnic Minorities of Ukraine.