Jewish Community of Prague (JCP)

Annual Report 2023

JCP logo

Table of Contents

- I. Introduction from the Chairman
- II. Basic Information about the JCP

Mission

Associations

Lauder Schools, Programme of the Lauder Kindergarten in Prague

Marta Choděrová Endowment Fund

Members of Statutory Bodies and Management of the JCP

Synagogues managed by the JCP visited by tourists

- III. Obecní noviny
- IV. Cultural and Social Events, Celebrations of Jewish Holidays, Commemorative Events
- V. Report on the Activities of Individual JCP Departments
- 1. Rabbinate and the New Jewish Cemetery, Three-Generation Community Centre
- 2. Social and Healthcare Department
- 3. Library and Information Centre, Pre-archival Care Centre
- 4. Centre of Catering Services, Shalom Restaurant
- 5. Financial Department
- 6. Security Centre
- 7. Operations Centre
- VI. Matana, a. s.
- VII. JCP Website
- VIII. Grants, Subsidies and Donations provided to the JCP in 2023
- IX. Economic Results of the JCP in 2023
- X. Auditor's Report

I. Introduction from the Chairman

Dear and beloved friends,

Last year, when introducing the Annual Report for 2022, I recalled the level of hatred of the Russian aggression, threats to destroy the whole states or nations, death of the

innocents, and I expressed the hope that everything would turn out better than in the cruel twentieth century. Regrettably, the last civilian year, despite many positives, did not bring with it the end to the war in Ukraine nor a reduction in threats of aggression and violence on the international stage. On the contrary, after more than seventy years, we experienced, almost as if in a live transmission, pogrom, killing of the innocents, kidnapping and torture. And similarly, we can watch, again as a live TV programme, other manifestations of beastly hatred, calls for slaying and destruction of the entire nation.

Our concerns and anxieties whether the world is able to fight this level of evil and hatred have been justified. We cannot but express our hope, yet again, that reason and the will of the world to preserve civilisation will prevail.

In the past year, our Community continued to support and help refugees from Ukraine, and beginning from 07 October, we also provided the much needed assistance to refugees from Israel. I am delighted to report that our Social Department, the management of Lauder Schools and many volunteers coped with the situation successfully. I am glad that also our fundraiser earned much success, and the funds were donated to the seriously damaged Kfar Aza Kibbutz.

Acknowledging the extremely difficult situation of Israel, we all are delighted that the Jewish State has the extraordinary support of our government, a large part of our political representation and our fellow citizens. We must appreciate this, remembering that the level of security present in our country can be the envy of most of Europe.

The Jewish Community in Prague proves every day that its team of employees is well functioning and proficient in the care of the needy, both the elderly and the Community's younger members who have found themselves in a difficult situation. Whenever possible, we try to take care of monuments, we support the school, religious and social activities. We greatly appreciate those who help, donate and promote our activities in various ways. The management and representation of the JCP work well, despite the internal range of opinions, and have managed to consolidate the internal situation of the Community, stabilise the finances and set up its sustainable development. Despite minor concerns and many different wishes, I can perhaps conclude that we are doing well. Let me extend my thanks to all those who actively contribute to this situation.

The autumn will again mark elections at the Community, and I would therefore like to wish the new representation and leadership every success in the hope that they will be able to build on all the good things achieved, to implement the projects prepared, support the

development of Lauder Schools and to maintain the high level of social services as well as prudence in decision-making.

I am delighted that volunteer work selfless support of the Community's activities have become an integral part of its life. I have been in the representation since 2003 and as a Chairman, I have for many years done my best to contribute to the prosperity of the Community. Hopefully I am still full of strength, will and ideas to be able to help with my volunteer work. Thank you all for cooperation.

František Bányai, April 2024/5874

II. Basic information about the JCP

Mission

The Jewish Community of Prague brings together citizens from more than forty per cent of the territory of the Czech Republic who claim to be of the Jewish faith, nationality or origin, and who are not members of other churches or religious societies or other Jewish communities in the Czech Republic, and who have been accepted as members. The Community ensures the religious and cultural life of its members through the Social and Healthcare Department, providing social and psychosocial assistance to the members of the Jewish community and their family members who find themselves in unfavourable life situations. The Community supports the education of its members in Jewish traditions and contributes to general education in Judaism and Jewish history, in particular work with youths. The Community actively opposes all manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, Nazism, Fascism, discrimination and intolerance, and protects the memory of Jewish victims.

On 31 December 2023, there were 1,438 regular members registered (651 men and 787 women), 252 extraordinary status holders (114 men and 138 women), and 18 guests (4 men and 14 women).

The average age of members has stabilized in recent years: 52 for men (48 for extraordinary status holders, and 49 for guests), and women 55 (54 for extraordinary status holders and 45 for guests).

A slight decline in the total number of members continues. The year-on year decrease by 18 members corresponds to 1.2% of the total membership, the average age of members

remained the same. However, there has been an increase by 9 extraordinary status holders, which corresponds to 2%. Their average age remained unchanged.

The year-on-year increase in the number of guests from 11 to 18 is mainly due to the arrival of refugees from Ukraine.

In the future, we can expect a greater increase in members whose native language is not Czech.

Member's Assembly

On Sunday, 12 November 2023, an assembly of JCP members was held in the Great Hall of the Municipal Library at Mariánské Square in Prague 1. There were 153 members present, the required quorum was reached, and the meeting was therefore quorate.

The assembly was opened by Her Excellency Anna Azari, Ambassador of the State of Israel, who greeted the participants. Next, the President of the JCP asked the present members to observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attack in Israel on 07 October 2023.

The present members then voted and confirmed the composition of the mandate, counting and drafting committees as nominated by the resolution of the representation in June. Tomáš Pasternak was confirmed in his position of the Chairman of the Assembly as proposed by the representation.

Step by step, the following items of the approved agenda of the Assembly were discussed.

- 1. Summary report on the Community's activities and information on the Community's management for 2022 and the outlook for 2023 was presented by the JCP Chairman F. Bányai.
- 3. Electoral Rules. The approval of this document was one of the key points of this Assembly. Among other things, F. Bányai said: "Let me thank Mr František Tomášek, Ttamara Pavlíčková, Pavel Hořák, Michal Borges and Dana Dočekalová for their willingness to read repeatedly and discuss the content of the draft Electoral Rules. The individual details were edited by Mgr. Ladislav Prošek."

After the ensuing discussion, the draft new Electoral Rules were approved by secret ballot (142 votes in favour, 8 against, number of invalid votes: 3).

4. Cancellation of J. Jerochim's membership in the JCP. Since more than 4/5 of the members presented voted in favour of cancellation of J. Jerochim's membership, his membership in the JCP was cancelled by vote.

5. Miscellaneous. The report on social and cultural activities of JCP was presented by Zuzana Veselá. In particular, the activities of the JCP Rabbinate, Three-Generation Community Centre and associations attached to the Community were mentioned.

Subsidised associations

In 2023 the JCP financially contributed to the activities of the following associations, organisations and groups:

- Children's Theatre,
- Besamim,
- Rafael Institute,
- Moishe House,
- Youth Coordinator (Federation of Jewish Communities),
- Children's Camps (Federation of Jewish Communities),
- Limmud (Federation of Jewish Communities),
- Mišpacha, Klezmerim,
- Bejachad,
- Terezín Initiative.

Lauder Schools attached to the JCP (and Jewish programme of the 1.B class of the Na Výšinách Kindergarten)

In 2023, the JCP also significantly subsidized the activities of the Lauder Schools (21% of the school budget). The Lauder Schools represent a unique educational project for children, pupils and students interested in education in the spirit of Judaism. The primary school was established in 1997, and since 1999 there has been a middle school and since 2009 a kindergarten. Teaching at all levels of education is based on the Le Chajim school educational programme, which is based on framework educational programmes for preschool, elementary and middle school education, enriched by Jewish education and Hebrew. The school profiles itself as community-based and inclusive and is currently facing a sort of overhang of demand that it is unfortunately having to turn away applicants from the target group. By the end of 2023, 401 pupils and students attended the kindergarten, primary school and the grammar school within the Lauder Schools, with an additional 135 students in the E-school.

As of 2021, the Jewish programme of the 1.B grade at the Na Výšinách Kindergarten will also be under the responsibility of the Lauder Schools. It is implemented in a classroom with a specific programme for Jewish children. The kindergarten run by the Prague 7 district has operated a class with this programme for twenty-eight years and is

intended for preschool children belonging to the JCP. The number of children is 25-28, the same as in the other classes. The children are guided together in Jewish traditions, history and holidays. Meals for the children are prepared in the preschool kitchen in a kosher style.

Marta Choděrová Endowment Fund

The Marta Choděrová Endowment Fund at the Jewish Community of Prague was founded in 2019. The fund's resources are intended to support and provide for the needs of the dignified life of children from the wider Jewish community who are medically or socially disadvantaged or are at risk of social exclusion and material deprivation, and whose family situation does not allow this disadvantage to be sufficiently compensated and for standard living conditions to be ensured for the child.

The resources from the fund are allocated on the basis of applications received by members of the committee. Those interested in a subsidy apply for support through one of the following organisations: the Jewish Community of Prague - Social Department, Lauder Schools, Bejachad, z. s., the management of the Tuvja scout unit, and Beit Simcha, the management of the Jewish community.

In 2023 as many as ten applications were submitted through the JCP Social Fund and the Lauder Schools. The final financial support in the amount of CZK 27,920 was given to a total of six children.

In February, the Fund, in cooperation with theatre company Motýlí divadelní společnost staged a benefit performance of Havel's one-act play at the JCP. The proceeds gained from this event totalled CZK 10,322.

Members of Statutory Bodies and Management of the JCP

In 2023, the following representatives worked in the top bodies of the JCP:

Chairman - statutory representative of the Community

František Bányai

Management - fulfils the role of Community Executive

František Bányai, Chairman

Eva Lorencová, First Deputy Chairwoman

Tomáš Pasternak, Second Deputy Chairman

Michal Borges, Secretary

David Peter, Chief Rabbi of Prague

Ester Karasová (until 03 April 2023)

Tomáš Taussig

Tomáš Büchler

In 2023 the management met for eleven regular meetings.

Representation - is elected once every four years. The highest body of the Community after the Member's Assembly, representation fulfils the role of the community parliament. Meetings are accessible to members of the Community, and the dates are published on the Community website.

In 2023, the JCP Representation worked in the following composition:

František Bányai

Tomáš Büchler

Ivana Hrubá

Martin Jelínek

Ester Karasová (until 03 April 2023)

Michal Klíma

Eva Kosáková

Tereza Kotláriková

Pavel Král (until 13 March 2023)

Tomáš Kraus

Šimon Krýsl

Petr Kučera

Eva Lorencová

Marta Malá

Vida Neuwirthová

Jiří Pacovský

Tomáš Pasternak

Leo Pavlát

Jan Roubínek

Lior Sharafi (from 03 April 2023)

Tomáš Schäfer (from 13 March 2023)

Jindřich Svátek

Tomáš Taussig

Zuzana Veselá

Michaela Vidláková

Dominika Weiss Hošková

Virile members:

Michal Borges, Secretary

David Peter, Chief Rabbi of Prague

In 2023, nine regular Representation meetings took place with the participation of members of the Review Committee.

Review Committee

In 2022, the JCP Review Committee worked in the following composition:

Jaroslav Němec, Chairman

Otto Herman

Hermína Neuner

Tomáš Pezl

Jakub Roth

Zdeněk Racek

Vít Šlechta

Synagogues and other tourist centres managed by the JCP visited by tourists_

In 2023, tourist traffic at monuments directly managed by the JCP was marked by a gradual return to our old pre-Covid routine. The number of visitors and associated revenues had not reached the pre-2020 levels yet; however, the overall admissions revenue was higher when compared to the original estimates. Under this perspective, 2023 can be perceived as a successful year.

Old-New Synagogue

Today, the Old-New Synagogue is the oldest monument of Prague's Jewish Town and the oldest surviving functioning synagogue in Central Europe, and it has been a National Cultural Monument since 1995. In 2023, as many as 251,414 visitors came to the synagogue. During the last quarter of 2023, preparations were underway to incorporate the Old Synagogue into a joint visitor circuit with the Jewish Museum. This will be instrumental in better orientation of visitors and allow improved presentation of all objects of the Jewish Town.

Jerusalem Synagogue

The Jerusalem Synagogue was also open to the public in 2023 from 13 March. Attendance at the synagogue in 2023 was virtually the same as that in the last pre-Covid season. Five guided tours were held during the season, attended by 214 visitors. These tours were accompanied by an organ intermezzo performed by organist Václav Peter.

In 2023, the cycle of organ concerts continued for the eighth year in a row, with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. Always starting at 6 pm, the musical programme did not exceed 70 minutes. The project was also purely educational last year, with no entrance fee.

During the season, three short-term exhibitions were presented in the Synagogue - Neglected Czech-German-Jewish Personalities, Jindřich Waldes - Entrepreneur, Collector, Patron and Seven Blessings - an exhibition of photographs by Jindřich Buxbaum.

Old Jewish Cemetery in Žižkov

Beginning from 01 January 2023, the cemetery was opened in an automatic unattended mode, without the constant presence of a gatekeeper or supervision. The entrance gate is equipped with an automatic programmable lock with remote control via the Internet and the entrance area and its surroundings are monitored by a CCTV system with remote access and recording.

During 2023, five guided tours (including two in the evening) were given at the cemetery and were attended by 87 visitors.

Four more guided tours and one lecture were held during the Days of Žižkov Cultural Heritage, attended by a total of 135 people.

Historic Mikveh

The Historic Mikveh was only open to individual visitors on a limited basis. In 2023, as many as 1,887 people visited the Historic Mikveh area.

Concerts and Cultural Events at the Jerusalem Synagogue

In 2023, the cycle of **organ concerts** continued for the ninth year in a row, where a number of Czech organists performed. It was opened by organist Václav Peter together with trumpeter Tomáš Hrbáček and singer Miroslava Časarová (10 May), followed by a concert by organist Jitka Chaloupková together with Václav Peter (21 June), then by organists Tomáš Pindór (12 July), Josef Kšica (2 August), Jan Kalfus (13 September) and Jan Hora (18 October).

On 24 August 2023, the Jerusalem Synagogue hosted a singing concert by Israeli cantor Avraham Taylor with musical accompaniment by Helena Divecka entitled "Rosh Hashanah Songs".

On 07 September 2023 the renewed association Muzika Judaica organised a concert "Musical Traditions in Jewish Families or Apples Fell under the Trees". The concert featured compositions by J. S. Bach, M. Bruch, D. Popper, J. L. Dusik, G. Gershwin, J. Vogel and Jewish folk songs performed by Pavla Vondráčková-Jahodová, Eliana Vondráčková, Jiří Hošek, Dominika Weiss-Hošková and also children Adina, Micha, Noa and Amos.

On 12 October, a fundraiser concert was held at the Jerusalem Synagogue, organised by the KDP EZRA, and featured organist Václav Peter, guitarist Peter Györi, flutist Robert Fischmann, singer Annamária d'Almeida and the Lauder Schools Choir under the direction of Helena Ester Divecká. The proceeds were used to support the care of clients who survived the Holocaust.

In 2023 the Jerusalem Synagogue celebrated the **Festival of Lights** on 14 December, when the eighth candle was lit on the Hanukkiah in the early evening. The programme was again eventful. At the beginning, František Bányai, the chairman of the JCP, greeted the fully crowded synagogue, and Milan Hein led the audience through the evening. Rabbi David Peter, the Chief Rabbi of Prague, took charge of the lighting and also sang Maoz Tzur. A story about the Hanukkah holiday was read from Viktor Fischl's book "Conversations with Apple Trees" by actors Petr Štěpánek and Zlata Adamovská. The musical performance of the Harfičky ensemble, led by Eliana Jahodová and Pavla Vondráčková, earned a passionate response. The presence of the children from Feigele was much anticipated: they recited Hanukkah poems and sang under the direction of Vida Neuwirth. Next, the violin virtuoso Alexander Shonert performed and at the end of the celebration, Václav Peter played the organ.

Days of European Cultural Heritage

A guided tour of the Jewish cemetery Na Malvazinkách took place in September 2023 as part of the Days of Jewish Cemetery.

Day of Jewish Monuments

On 14 August, the fifth year of the Day of Jewish Monuments (DJM) event was held in the Czech Republic. The objective of the event was to make available and visible several dozen regional monuments, synagogues and cemeteries, which either are not open to the public or recently underwent reconstruction. For this reason, structures repaired within the Revitalization of Jewish Monuments - 10 Stars project, were also included in the Day of Jewish Monuments. All the buildings were accessible free of charge or for a voluntary admission fee.

In total, 28 cemeteries and 28 synagogues as well as other monuments were made accessible at 40 locations across the Czech Republic (including the "10 stars" monuments).

III. Obecní noviny

Publication of the internal, news bulletin, not for sale, intended for JCP members called *Obecni noviny (ON, Community Newspaper)*, continued in 2023; eleven regular editions were

published. The newspaper is published in both printed and electronic form, which can be found on the Community website. The online version of ON is in colour. The graphic design of the printed version is based on the JCP corporate design. *Rabinský list (Letter from the Rabbi)* was inserted into *Obecní noviny* as an independent supplement prepared by the Rabbinate.

Through its regular publishing of news from the Representation and the JCP management meetings, as well as information about social events and upcoming events, *Obecní noviny* facilitates greater awareness and better communication amongst the members of the JCP.

In 2023, the newspaper continued to include a double page containing information from the Lauder Schools, compiled by Petr Karas and Irena Poláková. There were regular reports from the Rabbinate, and the reflections of Chief Rabbi Efraim K. Sidon continued (Stumbling Blocks, from the End to the Beginning and from the Beginning to the End, Compassion and Mercy, Ancient Torah, Lies Have Short Legs, Compassion and Fear, Ecumene in Bucha, Rabbi's Letter on the New Year 5784, King is Naked, Too Many Hands, Wisdom from Ústí nad Labem). Attention was paid to the work of the JCP Rabbinate: We ask David Peter, Chief Rabbi of Prague.

ON published interviews with many-year staff of the JCP: Katka Čítková and Marta Klimentová at the occasion of the 30th anniversary of their work for the JCP.

Information about the award conferred on historian doc. PhDr. Vojtěch Blodig, CSc., who received the French Order of the Legion of Honour from Alexis Duterte, French Ambassador in Prague.

Readers were informed that other Stolpersteine, or Stones of the Disappeared, were laid in Prague and other cities or towns of the Czech Republic, and the book *Prague*Stolpersteine – Stones of the Disappeared – Forgetting in spite of was introduced to readers. The book, with the foreword written by Rabbi Efraim K. Sidon, was prepared and presented by British pensioner Trevor Sage, the man who began cleaning the tarnished and hard-to read brass plates of the Stolpersteine. In 2020 he made a decision to write a book about the Stones of the Disappeared, which, after it was published in Great Britain, waited to see its Czech edition. In addition, Mr Sage compiled a list of the stones and created an online map of those stones. In Prague, there are 549 of them, but the number grows every year. The stones have been installed by the Public Benefit Association for the support of persons affected by Holocaust, led by František Bányai and Hermína Neuner.

Regular reports were published regarding cultural programmes of the Jewish Museum in Prague, in the Department for Education and Culture and at the Maisel Synagogue, ON also informed its readers that radio programmes on Jewish topics are available at the library of the Jewish Museum in Prague, an interview with Michaela Sidenberg, chief curator of the collections, was published, in which the interviewee talked about the paintings of Cleve Gray and the work of Gertrude Kauders newly acquired for the Jewish Museum collections. Last but not least, the new Director of the Jewish Museum in Prague, Pavla Niklová, was introduced by ON.

ON also brought an interview with organist and script editor Václav Peter about the upcoming organ concerts in the Jerusalem Synagogue.

Readers learnt about activities of the Public Benefit Association for the support of persons affected by Holocaust, who subsidies social and health services provided by the JCP. ON regularly reported about the activities of the Marta Choděrová Fund as well as the activities of the JCP Social Departments, whose staff, in addition to their regular social work, provided assistance to Ukrainian refugees, and, after 07 October 2023, their assistance was extended to refugees from Israel. Particular attention was paid to the war of Israel against Palestinian terror.

Mrs Golda's psychological couch continued, as well as the memory exercise: *Don't Let your Brain Idle, Who wants to train brain threads? Do not leave your brain at rest!*Regular information from the Social Department included interviews with volunteers (Šárka and Tomáš Hruda, Markéta Richterová, Alena Parolková, Libuše Mozsiová, Diana Chrástková, Philip Schindler, Antonina Kondr, Milena Tučná, Rozálie Drdová, Dora Mesárošová, Táňa Hoťová).

The Life Stories column featured the memories of Richard Svoboda (Stein), Saul Friedlander or Jiří Pavel Kafka.

In 2023, *Obecní noviny* continued to publish the memoirs of Alexander Goldscheider as well as other short stories written by Zuzana Peterová, Miroslav Adamec, Petr Eidler, Rut Sidonová and Helena Garpová. It also reported on new books and, in the Welcome to the Library Section, excerpts from selected books were provided to readers.

The newspaper briefly informed about major projects, commented on current political affairs, and provided information concerning the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. The newspaper reported in detail on the JCP economic results for the preceding year and the approved budget for the following year. Regular information about new books appeared in the newspaper. The editor-in-chief was Petr Balajka.

IV. Cultural and Social Events, Celebrations of Jewish Holidays, Commemorative Events, Important Visitors

In 2023 the Coffee at Four discussions were held sixteen times. The dates were adjusted to accommodate government hygiene measures, the availability of guests and lecturers, and to the Jewish calendar. Guests in 2023 included: Eva and Václav Hudeček – writer and violin virtuoso, Karel Nešpor – psychiatrist, Petr Kostka-actor, Štěpán Rak – guitar virtuoso, Karel Oliva – linguist and mathematician, Petr and Adela Pokorný– archeobotanists, Jan Hřebejk – film director, Michael Kocáb – musician and composer, Tereza Kostková – actress and presenter, Cabaret of Dr Felix Porges from the Terezín Ghetto 1942, Iva Janžurová – actress, Jiří Komorous – director of the Protective Services of the Police of the Czech Republic, Irena Kalhousová – director of Herzl Centre for Israeli Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, prof. Jakub Hort, Ph.D. – neurologist, Jiří Lábus – actor, Eliška Selinger – nutritional epidemiologist.

In 2023, the Charles Jordan Guesthouse hosted various cultural and discussion events: — *Discussions at Request* with guests — RNDr. Alena Lehovcová — How to strengthen immune system (05 January), PhDr. Zuzana Peterová and writer Roman Cílek (31 January), Chief Rabbi of Prague David Peter (09 February), Bára Hrzánová (16 May), Josef Lustig (25 May), Jan Šimeček (20 June), Jana Wichsová and Šárka Velká (01 June), Michal Borges (11 July), Igor Tausinger (12 September), Tereza Weissová (16 November), Helena a Anthea (21 December), presented by Zuzana Peterová.

- Chair for our Guest with the subtitle Meet Interesting People of Today Lucie
 Vamberová, social worker, Jana Vohryzková homeopath and psychotherapist, Rut
 Sidonová, MUDr. Pavel Kolan, Mgr. Dan Bardoš, Ph.D., Jana Řeháková. The programme was presented by Ruth Sidonová.
- Sitting together with music and Discussion with interesting people Igor Tausinger and Václav Peter, pianists: Concert in the Courtyard (22 June, 27 July and 10 August), afternoon with songs and piano "Singing in Winter" (19 January), Singing Together (16 February), Singing in Spring (30 March), Singing with self-defence presentation with Lada Jirkalová (20 April), Farewell to Summer (07 September), Singing and Humour (19 October), Singing for Joy (02 November).
 - Exhibitions: 23 February "Garden" Bohemia Patchwork club;
 18 April "Life with Paintings", Jana Dubová;

5 October "Paintings", JUDr. Dana Římanová.

In the Shalom Restaurant: 18 January – the President of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic Petr Angyalossy was the guest of František Bányai;

15 February – "Havel's one-act plays", a fundraiser performance for Marta Choděrová Fund rendered by theatre company Motýlí divadelní společnost.

06 March – Purim at the JCP, a Purim evening celebration for adults seamlessly followed the Megillah Esther reading in the Old-New Synagogue. This year's programme was again directed by Petra Ernyeiová, who also acted as a presenter. A short opening speech was rendered by the Chief Rabbi of Prague David Peter. In addition to the spoken performances (Jan Jiráň, humorous actor from Ypsilonka) and the clown performance (Števo Capka), music dominated in all genres, from Jewish and Ukrainian songs performed by Neshama, Zuzana Wirthová's trio, to folk music and chanson by Jana Richterová, popular songs of Lauder School students Hanna Stránská and Ella Fábra, the excellent accordionist Aliaksandr Yasinský, who also touched upon moder classical music, to the sensational klezmer band Trombenik, who had the whole hall dance. On the third floor, a disco of Michal Nohejl was in full swing for the young. The evening programme earned much success, the hall was packed, the programme entertaining, the music played long into the night and the masks were tremendous.

07 March – Purim for children at the JCP. By tradition, the Purim celebration includes events organised especially for children and their parents. This year, the children's Purim was launched by a creative workshop for children and games with madrichot. The actual celebration was then opened by Rabbi David Peter, the theatre ensemble Feigele of Vida Neuwirthová, also Aleš the clown came. There was also a contest for the best mask, accompanied by face painting, and generally, everyone enjoyed themselves to their hearts' content.

For those who could not attend the programme, the children's theatre ensemble Feigele prepared, in Úštěk and at the Community, a video recording of Purim 5783, featuring Petr Vacek and the klezmer bank Trombenik. The video recording is available at the website www.kehilaprag.cz.

10 December – Hanukkah for children was exceptionally successful, in terms of the extraordinary number of child visitors, accompanied by their parents or grandparents, and also from the perspective of the whole event as such and the number of co-organisers. This year, a

group of Israels living in Prague under the leadership of JCC joined the programme, and we could thus welcome many Israeli families to the Community. Accordingly, part of the programme was held in Hebrew. The programme started at 2 pm with workshops on the third floor of the Jewish Town Hall. The children made wooden Hanukkiahs, Hanukkah cards, stained glass windows and dreidels. Then, they played together to win sweet prizes. At 3 pm, a fun-packed program began, which was opened by the children of the Lauder School singing group under the direction of Helena Divecká. The Feigele ensemble with Vida Neuwirthová followed by a theatrical performance entitled Jonah and the Whale. Afterwards, Omer Tal danced for the children and introduced his entertainment show with competitions, dancing and singing.

12 December – Hanukkah entertainment for adults in the ballroom of the town hall with a varied programme and quality performers. The evening was presented by Petra Ernyeiová. Opening the evening with a prayer, the Chief Rabbi of Prague, David Peter lit six candles for the Hanukkiah. He was accompanied musically by an ensemble from the Lauder Schools led by Helena Divecká at the piano. Later, the children played several other pieces. Singer Kateryna Koltsová-Tlustá sang several songs in Yiddish, accompanied by Semyon Yakumov on the piano. This was followed by a performance by actor and director Milan Steindler, who proved to be one of the stars of the evening. In his sketch, he humorously glossed over the use of English abbreviations in mobile communication. Young singer Ella Fábry performed several jazz-oriented songs with piano accompaniment by Petra Ernyei and rhythmic music. Max Bruch's well-known composition Kol nidrei was played by cellist František Host, accompanied by Eliška Tkadlčíková on piano. Architect and actor David Vávra, with a charm all his own, presented his design of the Hanukkiah for the Memorial of Silence in Bubny, the design of M. Ščigol's matzeva and spoke about his "enlightenment" he experienced during one of his visits to Israel. Then followed an instrumental performance by Haredonist Aliaksandr Yasinsky, who rendered mainly his own impressive compositions. At the end of the programme, director Václav Marhoul, who used to be their producer, joined the theatre ensemble "Sklepáci", i.e. Šteindler and Vávra, in recalling the turbulent beginnings of their theatre. Jiří Pazour rendered piano improvisations. The Trombenik band again met with the audience's enthusiastic response to their lively klezmer pieces, to which the audience danced. After the programme, everyone could enjoy themselves at their leisure.

Commemorative events

On the evening of 26 January a commemorative concert was held in the Spanish Synagogue to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. The opening speeches were presented by the Director of the Jewish Museum Leo Pavlát and the President of the Jewish Community František Bányai. The concert introduced compositions by Viktor Ullmann, Erwin Schulhoff, Hans Winterberg and Pavel Haas performed by soprano Irena Troupová and pianist Jan Dušek.

On 27 January 2023, the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and the Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims, in cooperation with the Office of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, held a traditional commemorative meeting in the main hall of the Senate on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Prevention of Crimes Against Humanity. The meeting was held under the auspices of the President of the Senate, Miloš Vystrčil, who in his opening speech summarised the reasons why in his opinion, the commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust is necessary. Then the Chairwoman of the Chamber of Deputies, Markéta Pekarová Adamová, spoke, stressing that the Holocaust and its unimaginable horrors must not be forgotten. This was followed by a speech by Dita Krausová, a memorialist and prisoner of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi camp. The next speech was given by Alica Sigmund Heráková, a citizen member of the Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs. Finally, the President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, Petr Papoušek, spoke. The festive and commemorative meeting was complemented by compositions by Ernst Bloch and Karl Pexidor performed by Adela Kamínková, Václav Dlask and Jan Mára of the NeoKlasik Orchestra. Among the guests at the festive meeting were two survivors from Ukraine who were forced to flee Russian aggression and found refuge in the Czech Republic.

The traditional memorial service of the largest single murder of Czechoslovak Jews in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp in 1944 was traditionally held on 08 March in the Pinkas Synagogue. The commemorative event was organised by the Terezín Initiative and attended by representatives of the Jewish community and numerous guests, including the ambassadors of the State of Israel, Austria and representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Terezín Initiative Chairman Michal Stránský opened the memorial service, his granddaughter Hana Stránská lit candles in memory of the murdered, and Helena Illnerová gave the keynote speech. The prayer was delivered by the Chief Rabbi of Prague, David Peter, and Jiří Daníček.

On 18 April, a commemoration of the victims of the Yom HaShoah 5783 (2023) genocide of the Jews was held at the Pinkas Synagogue. In his opening remarks, JCP chairman František Bányai emphasized that every year we remember our loved ones by reading the names of those murdered during the Shoah, and in doing so we emphasise that the horrors of World War II and wars in general must not be repeated. The next speaker was Mrs Alena Lehovcová. Vida Neuwirthová and Petr Vacek read a list of the Protectorate prohibitions against Jews and an emotional poem by Elli Wiesel. A musical performance by cellist Judita Škodová was followed by the reading of names. The prayer was concluded by the Chief Rabbi of the Land, Rabbi Ephraim K. Sidon. At the same time, on 18 April, public readings of the names of the victims took place in 24 Czech and Moravian towns.

Terezín Memorial Service 2023

The traditional memorial service began in Terezín on 21 May with the arrival of the guard of honour and the laying of wreaths. This was followed by the national anthem performed by singer Edita Adlerová. The opening speech was given by the director of the Terezín Memorial Jan Roubínek, and then Petr Pavel, the President of the Czech Republic, rendered the key speech. Jan Hanák, a survivor, spoke on behalf of the survivors. A Christian prayer by Cardinal Dominik Duka and the Jewish prayer by Chief Rabbi Ephraim K. Sidon followed. The musical performance was provided by the girl choir Puellae Cantate. After the end of the official part of the service, the wreath-laying and kaddish at the Star of David took place. The event was also attended by President Petr Pavel.

On 26 November, a regular memorial service for those who perished on the Patria was held at the New Jewish Cemetery.

Ceremonial introduction of the Torah scroll into the Old Synagogue

On the afternoon of Sunday, 19 March 2023, the Torah scroll was ceremoniously introduced into the synagogue. The ceremony began in the Town Hall on Maiselova Street with a banquet featuring popular music with Jewish lyrics. One of the speakers was Rabbi Karol Efraim Sidon, who, *inter alia*, recalled the extraordinary dignity of the Old Synagogue. Otherwise, the ceremony was entirely directed by foreign rabbis. In several speeches, the speakers returned to the remarkable history of the scroll, which was written in Poland around the beginning of the 18th century, reached Prague in the late 19th century and then arrived in London in 1930. About a quarter of a century ago the scroll fell into disuse in a synagogue in north London. The scroll was discovered and repaired by Baruch Nahum. The whole process

was expensive and spanned over two years. The reason is a strange script that not every sofer knows how to use. Baruch Nahum decided to donate the repaired scroll to the Old Synagogue in Prague not only thanks to its historical significance, but also because of his personal experiences of faith in his life. There are a few spaces left in the scroll for the ceremonial letter-wrapping. The Torah scroll was thus "written" by those who contributed in various ways and to various degrees to its restoration. The invocation of each "scrivener" was accompanied by great rejoicing, music, dancing and singing. There were supposed to be ten "scriveners", but the number was apparently higher than planned, and, as a result, the "writing" lasted more than two hours. Indeed, the whole ceremony took place in great joy, with music continuously playing and spontaneous dancing. The ceremony also included a scroll dance around the Jewish Town Hall. Before the Torah left the main hall, the men prayed silently on the stage. When the Torah scroll "danced out" of the town hall, dusk had fallen. The procession eventually danced into the Old Synagogue, where the Torah scroll was placed in the sanctuary - aron ha-kodesh - with the other scrolls after the prayers.

V. Report on the Activities of Individual JCP Departments

1. Rabbinate

The powers of the Rabbinate include: ensuring all of the religious activities of the JCP, organising holidays, keeping a register of Jewish marriages and other documentation and issuance of relevant affirmations, supervision over the religious guidance and education of JCP members (regular religion classes from the Midrash and special courses), preparing for bar and bat mitzvahs, education of women (Rosh Chodesh party); supervision of acceptance of new members into the JCP, supervision of operation of ritual baths, making decisions in matters of Kashrut, issuing hechshers (certificates of compliance with Kashrut requirements), supervision of catering both inside and outside the JCP, ensuring that synagogues are equipped, supervision of the condition of ritual items, responsibility for the used ritual items and their condition, co-decision-making on the use of consecrated buildings owned by the JCP, close cooperation with the Lauder Schools and the Bejachad citizen's association, and cooperation with the Czech Union of Jewish Youth. The Rabbinate is also responsible for the inspection of kosher foods at production facilities, composing lists of kosher foods for the needs of the JCP members, and for the operation of the New Jewish Cemetery and the Old Jewish Cemetery in Žižkov.

The Rabbinate publishes a monthly supplement to *Obecní noviny* titled Rabínské listy (Letter from the Rabbi), kosher list and Pesach Guide.

Chief Rabbi of Prague: David Peter

Head of the Rabbinate: Lior Sharafi

Rabbis: David Peter (Chief Rabbi of Prague), Menachem Kalchheim (responsible for

Kashrut), Efraim K. Sidon

Rabbinate Secretary: Dagmar Dushinsky

Kashrut Coordinator: Chaim Kočí

Teachers in Midrash: r. Michael Dushinsky, r. Efraim K. Sidon, r. David Peter, Zeev

Breiner, Elilse Peter Apelbaum

Mashgiachs: Václav Bittner, Marie Goldbergerová, Jakub Peter, Milan Walter

Balanit in the Mikveh: Dagmar Dushinsky, Marta Polakovičová, Ojuna Sidonová

Shameses: Andrej Weissman (Old-New Synagogue and High Synagogue), Milan Walter

(Jerusalem Synagogue), Václav Peter (Hagibor Social Care Facility)

Prayers: weekday morning and afternoon prayers in the High Synagogue, Shabbat and holiday

prayers in the Old, Jerusalem and High Synagogues

Circumcisions: 1

Bar Mitzvah: 6

Bat Mitzvah: 3

Weddings: 2

Funerals: 7

For the year 2023, the JCP accepted 24 fully-fledged members, 19 special status holders, 9

guests and renewed the membership of 7 persons.

Tours and commemorative events: representatives of the Rabbinate participated in 7 events.

Kashrut: in our daily routine, we ensured the kosher operation of the JCP catering facilities - the Shalom Restaurant, Lauder Schools and Hagibor. On a daily basis, we also kosher supervised the Mamacoffee café chain, Terpet's Trdelník and the Mizlala kosher restaurant in Hybernská Street. Cooperation with the King David Hotel and the ChocoCafé and Cafe Ebel cafés continued. We maintained our cooperation with Le Caveau and Mansson bakeries in Prague, as well as with dairies in Polná and Velké Meziříčí to provide basic food for our members. A number of other producers were examined and, from their products available in the regular retail network, we compiled a traditional kosher list – for instance, products from United Bakeries, Penam, Spak, Agrimex Vestec and Agro Jesenice, Nowaco, BonaVita and

others.

Our mashgiachim also carried out special kosher productions, 24 kosher productions for Extrudo Bečice, a. s., 16 special productions for Rupa, spol. s r. o., a producer of protein bars for export to Israel. Special supervision of kosher production was also undertaken for the producer of Becherovka from Karlovy Vary.

New Jewish Cemetery

The New Jewish Cemetery (NJC) is a protected historical building. Since this cemetery has been used continually for funerals of deceased persons of the Jewish faith since 1890, it requires constant and increasingly costly care. Operation of this cemetery and the urn depository are subject to the regulations for non-public cemeteries applicable as of 01 January 2002 and by the religious customs of the Jewish community.

Compared to previous years, 2023 was a year with fewer deaths. We held only 7 traditional funerals in observance orthodox religious practice, yet with every effort to accommodate the wishes of the bereaved, who are often not practitioners themselves. Accordingly, families who needed clarification on the meaning and symbolism of traditional funerals were always interviewed prior to the funeral. We also provided assistance in dealing with the authorities and other follow-up activities. The preparation and conduct of traditional funerals were conducted in cooperation with the cemetery team and the Chevra Kadisha of the Czech Republic in carrying out the ritual preparation of the deceased – tahara.

Twenty-eight urns were also placed during this period, depending on the practice and wishes of some of the dying and survivors, either in special urn graves or, in rare cases, in existing family graves. These burials were also carried out with the utmost reverence and with the addition of spiritual content if the survivors agreed.

During the year 2023, four meetings were held to mark death anniversaries and the erection of new headstones, a practice that is traditionally related to the family's wishes and religious sentiments. Furthermore, the tragedy of the Patria was commemorated.

The NJC Ritual Administration cooperated with Matana a. s. on the maintenance of the greenery and the gradual renovation of damaged gravestones including the addition of missing gravestones. The new cemetery database was continuously updated to correspond as closely as possible to the contemporary situation.

Close cooperation continued with Chevra Kadisha Czech Republic, a key partner for cooperation in the field of ritual matters associated with cemeteries and burials. Members of Chevra Kadisha are also actively involved in the creation of the necessary Minyans, they visit the sick, participate in the ritual preparation of the deceased and assist in other ritual acts.

We provided consultations to individuals and educational institutions and several guided tours were held during the year.

Three-generation Community Centre (TGCC)

The Three-generation Community Centre continued both with the Rabbinate and independently in the social, educational and cultural fields in close cooperation with the Social Department of the JCP, the Lauder Schools and Kindergarten, JCC, Beyhad Association, Federation of Jewish Communities, Feigele, Hakoach, Mishpacha and Czech Union of Jewish Youth.

In 2023, TGCC events of the TGCC were funded by JDC, JCP, Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims and Metropolitan Authority of the Capital City of Prague.

The major events of 2023 included:

- Tu BiShvat workshops for children, traditional tubishvat dinner;
- Purim joint celebration for children at the JCP (preparation of mishloach manot, workshops for children and teenagers, programme for parents with children – theatre, clown, carnival)
- Pesach Pesach programme for children + picnic and programme for families with children
- Yom haacmaut celebration at the ZOP (workshops for children, prayer, concert, party in the dining room)
- Lag baomer barbecue on the island of Štvanice with workshops for children
- Shavuot programme for children, picnic
- Rosh Hashanah holiday prayers and workshops for children, lunch together at the
 JCP followed by tashlich and a madrichah programme
- Sukkot Sukkah decoration with creative workshops, magician's performance, holiday prayer and programme for children in the sukkah
- Simchat Torah holiday programme for children in the Synagogue and in the Community
- Hanukkah joint celebration at the JCP workshops for children, programme for teenagers, theatre, competitions
- Shabbatons with shaliach (twice a year)
- Community Shabbat evenings (four times a year)
- World Shabbat Project

- Sports day at Hagibor for children from Bejachad and Lauder Schools and seniors
- Workshops at Hagibor for children from Bejachad and Lauder Schools and for seniors (once a month)
- Rosh Chodesh party for women
- Jewish Theatre Club (once a month)

2. JCP Social and Medical Facilities

The main objective of the work pursued by the facilities is to provide social and medical services at a professional level according to the individual needs of users.

The target group of all of the provided services are people in need, with special attention paid to the needs of survivors of the Shoah.

The individual facilities work in mutual cooperation and are divided according to the service user target group and type of social or medical service. These include:

- 1. Ezra Comprehensive Home Care social and medical care in the field,
- 2. Social Department social activation services for senior citizens and persons with a medical disability, community social work for JCP members,
 - 3. Care service at the Charles Jordan Pension,
 - 4. Hagibor Social Care Facility, day care and Relief Services residential and outpatient social care,
 - 5. Vehicle Transportation Centre,
 - 6. General Practitioner Centre medical care.

2.1. Ezra Comprehensive Home Care

Ezra Comprehensive Home Care (hereinafter as the "Ezra CHC") is a non-state medical facility and registered in-field "Personal Assistance" social service. Since 2002, it has provided the users of the service with an interconnected form of medical and social care in their natural social environment based on individual needs. The main aim of this comprehensive care is to support and extend the life of users in their own home environment for as long as possible, and safely.

Services were provided to those in need - users with reduced independence due to age, chronic illness or medical disability whose situation requires the help of another person.

Comprehensive social and medical services were provided to clients in their natural social environment in the activities that they need and, with special attention focused on Shoah

survivors, erstwhile victims of Nazi violence, whose personal goals are rooted in Jewish traditions and roots.

Personal Assistance services were provided within the City of Prague for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year in observance of the clients' individual needs.

In **2023**, Ezra CHC attended to 94 clients. These clients were provided with social, medical and occupational-therapeutic care.

Comprehensive services provided by Ezra CHC in 2023:

- home medical care expert medical care according to specialisation 925;
- social care services basic social consulting and provision of personal assistance pursuant to Section 39 of Social Services Act No. 108/2006 and Decree No. 505/2006 Coll., Section 5;
- occupational therapy expert medical care pursuant to Decree No. 55/2011 Coll;
- compensatory aid rental.

The costs for the services were financed using several resources - the JCP, Claims Conference grant, state and private grants and subsidies (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic, Municipality of Prague 6 and 10), health insurance companies, grant from the Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims, financial assistance from the Association for Persons Affected by the Holocaust, and clients' financial involvement.

The Ezra CHC team, led by Director Ing. Eva Jelínková, is composed of the following positions: head nurse, nurses, social workers, personal assistants, occupational therapists and administrative workers. In **2023** the team consisted of 30 employees.

More information is available on the JCP website: www.kehilaprag.cz and www.ergoterapiepraha.cz.

2.2. Social Department

The Social Department provided two types of social services in 2023:

- social activation services for seniors and people with disabilities,
- care service.

Social activation services for senior citizens and persons with medical disabilities are mainly intended for persons belonging to the Jewish community and their close families who find themselves in an adverse social situation either due to reasons of age, loss of independence, illness, crisis situation or a health condition.

The following activities are provided as part of these services:

Social consulting was primarily related to information in the area of compensation, social services, social benefits, work consultations and the options of follow-up services. Social workers also provide assistance with writing and submitting claims for compensation, social benefits, and the handling of other official matters. They mediate health and social services and help with the home care reimbursement agenda from the Claims Conference grant. The counselling was provided in the Town Hall building, and assistance in dealing with the authorities and institutions and with the personal affairs of the clients was done in the field at the relevant offices or at home.

Dusiach Help - psychotherapeutic services, crisis intervention over the phone and in person, memory training and brain jogging, positive thinking training. Group activation was also expanded to include regular conversation classes in English and German.

Health Club – exercise at Janovského, Maiselova and the DSP Hagibor gym, individual physiotherapy at home and at the JCP Town Hall, trips and outdoor walks, reconditioning and wellness stays (Šumava, Železné Hory).

In 2023, a total of 172 persons (147 women, 25 men) utilized these services and 6,245 hours of direct care was provided-

Community social work for members of the JCP

Last year's main topic continued to consist in helping refugees from Ukraine and in the autumn, our help was extended to people who came from Israel for a certain period of time. During the year we provided help and support to about 100 people from Ukraine and at the end of the year to about 200 people from Israel.

We helped them mainly with housing and food, finding employment, and finding schools and nurseries. They were accompanied by us to the authorities and doctors.

During the year, we expanded our team of social workers to include activation workers who helped to ensure the integration of newcomers into the life of the community.

Volunteer programme for local volunteers and volunteers from abroad. The programme is accredited by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and its main activities

primarily include the Miriam Volunteer Café in Klub Na balkoně, visits to clients' homes. In 2023, **42 volunteers** had a volunteer contract, **with approximately 30 more** volunteering on a one-off or informal basis by reason of their connection to the Jewish community, where volunteering is one of the basic mitzvot of Judaism.

In 2023, we launched a **mentoring program in** which volunteers help refugees from Ukraine in specific areas of their lives – learning Czech, finding a job, dealing with everyday life matters.

In 2023, four foreign volunteers worked at the department - two from Germany and two from Austria. These young volunteers visit our clients on a regular basis and provide them with accompaniment during walks, small home help and lunch delivery.

The Social Department team worked in the following composition: centre manager, four social workers, psychotherapist, administrative assistant, financial assistant, volunteer coordinator, community activation workers, two physiotherapists and trainers.

22.3 Care Service

The care service is provided in clients' homes in Prague and mainly involves assistance in coping with common tasks of personal care, assistance with hygiene and household care, providing meals, shopping, errands, accompaniment. The care service is provided by social workers, a care service coordinator and a lunch delivery coordinator, as well as nine caregivers and one caregiver who also runs the laundry. The team further includes lunch delivery staff and employees who directly provide lunch to clients. Services for clients in the field are available on business days from 8 am to 8 pm.

In 2023, a total of **164 clients** (**138 women, 39 men**) utilized the care service and **9,097 hours of direct care** were provided.

2.4. Hagibor Social Care Facility

The Hagibor Social Care Facility (HSCF) is a social care facility that provides comprehensive social services.

The following registered social services were provided in 2023: Retirement Home with 47 beds, Relief Services with a capacity of 15 beds and a Day Care Centre with a capacity of 5 places.

The **Retirement Home** residential service offers permanent accommodation, full board, and social care pursuant to Section 49 of Act No. 108/2006 Coll., Section 15 of Decree No. 505/2006 Coll., and medical care to senior citizens in the scope under specialisation 913.

The service is rendered to senior citizens who, owing to their age, impaired state of health and reduced independence, are no longer able to look after themselves in their natural environment and need the help of another person all day long.

In 2023, the services of the Retirement Home were used by a total of 51 clients, of whom 39 were women and 12 men. A total of 18 clients were admitted in 2022, 10 clients died - 3 in the hospital and 7 at the HSCF. The average age of clients of this service was 88.

The residential **Relief Services** provide essential rest for families or persons caring for one of their members - a close person in the household. The clients of these services may be either senior citizens who need help of another person all day long due to reduced independence and impaired health, or adults with a medical disability who need the daylong help of another person. The scope of social care is stipulated by Section 44 of Act No. 108/2006 Coll., and Section 10 of Decree No. 505/2006 Coll. The maximum length of stay is three months.

A total of 94 clients used the Relief Services in 2023, 74 of whom were women and 20 men. Some clients used the Relief Services repeatedly, whilst a total of 17 clients went over to the Retirement Home services. A total of 10 clients died. The capacity of the relief beds was fully utilized. The average age of clients of this service was 88.

The outpatient **Day Care Centre** is intended for senior citizens who have reduced independence due to age or a medical disability, and persons with chronic mental illness whose condition requires the regular help of another person. Clients come to the centre from their homes. The service is provided on business days between 8 am and 4 pm. The scope of social care is stipulated by Section 46 of Act No. 108/2006 Coll., and Section 12 of Decree No. 505/2006 Coll.

The Day Care Centre had a maximum capacity of 5 clients in 2023. A total of 3 contracts were registered.

All the services are provided with special attention paid to the needs of Shoah victims and persons whose personal goals are based on Jewish traditions and roots.

Overview of cultural events in HSFC in 2023

The Centre for Day Activities (CDA) continues to maintain a high standard and professional management of activities for the highest possible number of clients. In 2023, the activities offered to clients saw a further improvement in services. This development is thanks to new projects as well as the ongoing training of professional staff. Regular dance activities, which clients participate in twice a week, continue to be very popular. The HSFC Ball has recently

been organised and the aim is to repeat this event twice a year. We have been able to re-open the baking and baking together programmes with the children of Bejachad. During the year, the canister therapy dog Angel by canister therapist Iva Myslivcová started to work. Angel and her owner come every week and provide group canister therapy, which is extremely popular. Mrs Tučná and her female dog Stella also continue their canister therapy practice and visit HSFC clients once a week during individual sessions. Felinotherapy is currently used by 1 client in the Zoom session, which is complete with memory training. Mgr. Jan Pellar, who regularly sings with our clients on the occasion of various holidays and celebrations offered his services to the HSFC. Another successful project was the year-long Golem Studio event at the CDA. Its leader prepared an exhibition of paintings with the clients throughout the year, which can now be seen in the premises of the HSFC. The clients had the opportunity to dab at different art techniques during the project. Every month, Rabbi David Peter visits the clients of HSFC and on the third Thursday of each month he conducts a discussion on interesting topics with its residents. Dr Zuzana Peterová also comes to our premises and presents interesting books with Jewish themes. Senator M. Hilšer, who came to tell them about his journey as a doctor in Africa, was heartily welcomed by the clients.

Namaste has already been successfully integrated into the HSFC operation and is running under direct care on the wards.

In addition to the usual weekly practice, programmes are also offered on Sundays once a month. Activities are also available during Jewish holidays.

All activities are carried out as sensitively as possible, with respect to diagnoses, if any. An appropriate selection of activities offered gives clients a sense of unconditional acceptance, cohesiveness, safety, stability and humour. The activities are primarily aimed at mental well-being as well as the motivation for further cooperation with occupational therapists, physiotherapists, direct care and other specialists. For clients who, for whatever reason, are unable or unwilling to participate in group programmes, individual implementation of activities in the clients' rooms was provided in 2023 whenever an interest was expressed. In this respect, we are helped by volunteers and students, including the aforesaid canister therapists and feline therapist.

Overview of the main activities and programmes provided

Overview of activities and programmes provided

Regular meetings with Rabbi David Peter, discussions over books with Jewish themes with Dr Zuzana Peterová, canister therapy, joint baking of clients, joint baking of clients and

children, Music programme with possible active participation, AAA (Animal Assisted Activities), Atelier Golem - art workshop, dance activation, individual activation, memory training, creative activities, cognitive training, literary and musical cafés, film meetings, café with a guest, lectures, readings, discussions, board games - individually, computer work – individually, moderated debates, celebrations of Jewish holidays, birthdays, openings, concerts, theatre performances, balls, group and individual singing. Shopping including optional.

In 2023, collaboration with the JCP Social Department continued, in particular in the volunteer area. The volunteering scheme has been divided to ensure that volunteers are deployed in all areas where possible. Engagement with volunteers is now on a more individual basis but very flexible in response to pandemic government measures. Together with the volunteers we discuss and choose the most optimal path for each of them. Volunteers visit clients in their rooms, accompany them on walks, play board games with them, read to them, keep them company and bring them birthday presents. International students have also made a significant contribution to volunteering at HSFC and are very popular with our clients.

In 2023, the Day Activity Centre worked closely with **Bejachad.** The HSCF clients and children bake together or attend together variously themed workshops. The Three-Generation Centre is also active in the above area. Thanks to Bejachad, the cooperation between CDA and TGCC could be renewed.

The major events included:

Tu Bishvat celebration - internal celebration;

- Purim celebration internal celebration, including a Purim parade and distribution of gifts (prepared by parents and children of Beyhad) to clients;
- Pesach celebration internal celebration;
- Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration of the establishment of the State of Israel
- Celebrations on the occasion of the opening of the HSFC
- HSCF Ball
- Sukkot internal celebration reminder for HSCF clients;
- Simchat Torah internal reminder for HSCF clients;
- Hanukkah joint candle lighting with clients, concerts

Other events organised by CDA:

Discussions

Discussions with Rabbi Peter, Dr Peterová, M. Hilšer and others.

Concerts and dance, theatre

Theatrical performance of The Sleeping Lion, Prof. Majerová-Dorůžková, Prof. Nováček, Prof. Nováček's students, Mr Taussinger, ballet performance of the class of prof. Tázlarová, concert of Jan Pellar, HSCF Ball and others, Dance swing performance on the occasion of the anniversary of the HSCF - Zig Zag tap and swing and others.

Exhibitions, openings

Openings of the Atelier Golem workshop project, twice a year

Creative workshops

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There are four canister therapy dogs - Wiky from Jasmine Sky, Stella Norther Star, Belle Mischenka and Angel

Felinotherapy is now used by 1 client

External memory training

Dr Diana Chrástková

Daniela Hypšová – Zoom

The HSFC website was operated at thttps://www.kehilaprag.cz/cs/dsp-hagibor.

Professional care

Multidisciplinary consultations

Multidisciplinary consultations concerning the development of the overall condition and individual needs of HSCF clients were held regularly once a week, or once a month for each client, even once a week if necessary. The multidisciplinary meetings maintained the option of a medical consultation with a geriatrician on pre-selected clients. These were usually clients who had experienced a significant deterioration in their health, and the geriatrician, suggested a different, at that moment better and gentle method of nursing care, including possible palliative care. The system of the possibility of consilient consultation within the wider team, including physicians and with the participation of family members, also continued to work in a supportive way towards the families of the clients. The aim of the consultation was to inform the family of the client's health condition and the details of the individual care of the client. In acute cases, an intervention consultation was convened.

Intervention consultations

Intervention consultations (immediately - up to 48 hours) were convened in the event of a serious problem in the client's care, the resolution of which usually could not be delayed. These conferences were attended by anyone and everyone who could be of assistance in resolving the problem, including the social worker, the head nurse, the manager of the Territorial Rescue Service Centre, the director, psychologist, sometimes the GP and geriatrician, psychiatrist, the client or family members.

Palliative care

General palliative care continued to be provided to our clients in collaboration with a general practitioner. We also availed of the expertise of geriatrician MUDr. Kalvach. Family members were at all times informed by the physicians. The option of professional consultation, cooperation and support is still available in the organisation Cesta domů, but has not yet been used.

Biography - life story

Compiling a client's life story is very time consuming for both staff and family members. Also in 2023, thanks to the extraordinary activity of some of our staff, we were able to compile additional life stories for several clients, which are available, for example, in individual plans.

Reminiscence

We have long worked with reminiscence, which helps to use knowledge about a person's past to enrich his or her present. Reminiscence therapy revives positive experiences and their remembrance through various subjects and verbal and nonverbal communication. In 2023, reminiscence was connected with the Namasté Care programme.

Namaste care

In the second half of the year, Namaste care was launched in the small common rooms of B and D wards. *Namaste care* is designed for people with advanced dementia who are unable to participate actively in other activities due to their condition. Namaste care is based on the principles of intensive individual attention to each client in a specially adapted environment.

Health care system within the social services provided

According to the Organisational Rules, 10 nurses (8 general nurses and 2 practical nurses) and 2 health care assistants took care of clients during the year. Health care in social services is managed for health insurance companies in specialty 913. The nurses performed specialist tasks as directed by physicians, which tasks were reported to the health insurance companies.

Specialty 913 - contractual relationship with health insurance companies, namely VZP, OZP, VOZP, ZPMV and ZP Škoda.

Regrettably, we never cease to address a shortage of nurses. If necessary, only one nurse other than an advance practice nurse has to work the night shift; that nurse has to work permanently under the supervision of the general nurse. The team of nurses is helpful, flexible and solidary. The senior nurse is a methodological guarantor of compliance with the quality standards of health care.

As prescribed in the Organisational Rules, during the year we have 2 full-time physiotherapists, 1 half-time physiotherapist, 1 occupational therapist, 1 nutritional therapist, and from among physicians, we have a geriatrician, a psychiatrist and a psychotherapist. For clients fully dependent on our care, it is very important to have regular access to physiotherapy and occupational therapy according to their attending physician's surgery. Mobility, movability and self-sufficiency in activities indispensable for the client is a priority for maintaining a dignified old age. All professional actions as indicated by the physicians were reported to the health insurance companies VZP, OZP, VOZP, ZPMV. For physiotherapy, the contractual relationship with VZP is only allowed for 1 full-time physiotherapist, whose capacity is instantaneously taken up by our clients, hence it impossible to attend to external patients. The above contract has been concluded for a definite period until 31 December 2024. Regular medical care for the clients of HSCF was provided by the GPs of JCP, MUDr. Přemysl Šubrt and MUDr. Karin Taussig. Geriatric surgery was provided twice a week by MUDr. Zdeněk Kalvach. In addition, gerontopsychiatrist MUDr. Mira Babiaková attended the HSCF once a week. To ensure a greater comfort for our clients, a neurologist, surgeon, skin physician and dentist also came to HSCF at regular longer intervals. HSCF has long cooperated with health insurance companies and health care within the social services provided was provided to HSCF clients to the maximum extent possible as prescribed by the physicians.

Professional cooperation with other entities

External hairdressing and pedicure services were provided at the HSFC premises.

The cooperation with the Social Department of the JCP within the framework of volunteering continued.

We continued to cooperate with secondary or higher education institutions:

- First Medical Faculty of Charles University occupational therapy
- Third Medical Faculty of Charles University general nursing

- Evangelical Academy of Higher Education social work and social activities
- College of Polytechnic Jihlava nursing and general nursing
- Sue Ryder Home, z. ú. internship
- SEDUCA CZE, s. r. o. retraining course for workers in social services
- MAVO, s. r. o. social worker internship

Professional employee development

Training of employees in social services and social workers is defined by the Social Services Act No. 108/2006 Coll. The planned training for 2022 was implemented as proposed. The training team of HSCF professionals worked according to the operational capacities. Regular supervisions with PhDr. Zuzana Peterová were held.

Each year, a curriculum is designed at the HSFC and evaluated at the end of the year. Staff training is provided annually on both a group and individual basis, at both theoretical and practical levels. As a matter of course, individual attention is paid to each direct care staff member since each staff member has different training needs. The individual training plan is therefore evaluated with each employee on an ongoing basis throughout the year. At the HSFC, the education process is summarised in four points:

- 1) Preparation of a "Draft Education Plan" for the year,
- 2) Compilation of an "Draft Internal Training," which is carried out repeatedly and is mainly aimed at new direct care staff (PC literacy, first aid, lectures by PhDr Peterová and internal training regarding client care),
- 3) the need for supplementary training in the individual professions "Education beyond the established plan" is performed during the year, both at group and individual level,
- 4) An overall "Learning Assessment", both at group and individual level.

Our occupational therapist (Mgr. Svatava Bartošková) passed the exam in the educational programme titled: Activation Worker in Social Services - Memory Trainer of Degree III. The exam comprises three stages - practical, theoretical and defence of the final thesis titled: Synergistic Effect of Memory Training in the Work of Occupational Therapist.

2.5 JCP Vehicle Transportation Centre

The JCP Vehicle Transportation Centre offers its services to members of the Jewish communities of the Czech Republic, JCP employees and members of associated groups. The Vehicle Transportation Centre's services are linked to services provided by the JCP social and medical facilities, thereby sharing in the provision of comprehensive care for senior citizens.

The head of the JCP Vehicle Transportation Centre in 2023 was Dr Radek Roule.

In 2023 the Vehicle Transportation Centre had one passenger car equipped with a platform. One driver of the car transport centre handled client orders together with external contractors Taxi Kužel, Tick Tack Taxi and Pragotour.

The total costs of the centre in 2023 were CZK 1,768,393, and 1,232 orders were handled.

Vehicle transportation in 2023 was funded from the following sources:

8% - client payments and GG fund (in 2021 - 6%),

91% - JCP centres (in 2022 - 90%),

1% - JCP (i.e., to the extent of economic losses; in 2022 - 4%).

The largest costs were incurred for lunch deliveries (80%, i.e., CZK 1,421,656; in 2022 - 80%) and for clients' trips (9%, i.e. CZK 153,209; in 2022 - 7%). The cost of travel for both of these purposes is supported by the Claims Conference according to the rules of the currently announced projects.

2.6 General Practitioner

The main activities of the general practitioner for the JCP at Hagibor is the provision of quality individual care for registered JCP patients, clients of Hagibor SCF and employees as part of the facility care system.

The office of the general practitioner works full time. Care was provided by MUDr Přemysl Šubrt, MUDr. Karin Taussig and nurse Kateřina Čítková.

The office currently cares for 2,620 patients, 1,230 of whom are registered.

The office has three basic pillars of care on which it currently bases its work:

Operation of a classic general practitioner's office for adults

Every day we provide medical, preventive, visiting and occupational care for patients at the Hagibor doctor's surgery. We perform blood sampling, and for patients, we perform basic CRP monitoring, swabs, etc. We have also arranged for procedures for the monitoring of uncomplicated metabolic diseases (diabetes, thyroid disorders...), as well as lung and prostate diseases.

Care for the residents of the Charles Jordan Guesthouse

This care is provided through regular visits every week with the possibility of checking the health status of the residents as needed or required. Here, the procedure is coordinated with home care agencies (Ezra, Jaroš, s. r. o., Monada), the Social Department and the on-site care service.

Care for clients at Hagibor SCF

We make daily visits where we check the health condition of clients whose health has deteriorated or need their treatments to be adjusted.

We collaborate in a multidisciplinary manner - i.e., with occupational therapy, rehabilitation and social workers and other representatives of various medical specialities.

In 2023, the surgery returned to its standard mode of operation after the termination of all the restrictions and measures that accompanied us in connection with Covid-19. Accordingly, the surgery was able to provide preventive care to the full extent for its patients, but also for the contracted facilities, which include ŽM, Matana, MAPO group, etc.

3. Library and Information Centre, Pre-archival Care Centre

The Library of the Jewish Community of Prague is a public library that serves not only members and staff of the community, but also readers from the general public.

For our library, we purchase, process and lend out books by Jewish authors and books with Jewish themes, primarily fiction, but also professional literature including Judaica and topics related to the Holocaust. In 2023, the library purchased a total of 140 new books which were processed and included in the library collection. Of these, 109 titles were purchased, and 31 titles were donated. This year, we purchased 3 new additions for our child readers.

This year 124 readers visited the library, 15 of whom were new registrants. A total of 224 books were borrowed. Readers are regularly informed about new books through *Obecni noviny* or the library website, where we publish our newly purchased books once a month. In the comprehensive catalogue of the Czech Republic on the website of the National Library, it is possible to verify whether we have the required title in our collection and under what signature it is stored.

Since our library space cannot be expanded and its capacity has already been filled, we have proceeded to discard older fiction titles, mostly German-language books, as well as titles that the library has in multiple copies.

This year we managed to obtain a grant from the Ministry of Culture in the amount of CZK 70,000 for the project of creating and making available an on-line catalogue. The implementation of this project resulted in the creation of an on-line catalogue of the JCP Library, using the Evergreen library software, in which 5,000 library units from the JCP library fund were entered. The online catalogue will be made available to readers and the automation of the borrowing protocol will start in 2024. The public online catalogue will then allow users to search for documents, manage their reader account, order books and share book lists.

The role of the **Information Centre** (hereinafter as the "**IS**") is to search for answers to questions that come to the Community or directly to the IS. The queries are varied and still

include requests for information about survivors or documents needed for the Stolpersteine, or Stones of the Disappeared. There has been an increase in enquiries relating to owners not being properly identified in the Land Register. The deadline for their identification was 31 December 2023. Among the more complex searches is the search for living descendants. Thanks to the Geni World Family Tree, and the database Holocaust.cz, our searches are mostly successful.

In 2023, the Pre-Archival Care Centre (hereinafter as the "SPP") took over two items from two centres or departments of the Jewish Community in Prague, namely the Secretary's Office and the Security Department, to be filed in the depository.

As in previous years, the Centre was involved in answering queries addressed to the Information Centre, and also handled requests to locate and submit documents referred to the Centre by individual centres or departments of the JCP. The Centre dealt with over 30 research queries in total.

In April, the SPP organised a training session for those interested among employees of the JCP in issues regarding the data box, its functions, operation and news related to the newly adopted legislation.

As last year, the SPP archivist attended two conferences. The first was the May National Archival Conference in Pardubice, held a year late due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The other was the CNZ 2023 conference, which could be attended on-line. In addition to the conferences, the archivist also attended two seminars on current archival issues, such as the computerisation of state administration and eIDAS 2.0.

After thirty years, the long-time head of the KIS Centre, Mrs Eva Fantová, has decided to retire from her work for the Jewish community in Prague. We wish her all the best and on behalf of the entire work team we thank her for her wise (not only work-related) advice and patient guidance.

The new head of the Library, Information Centre and Pre-archival Care Centre is Mgr. Hana Čadová.

4. Centre of Catering Service, Shalom Restaurant

The Centre of Catering Services, formerly the Catering Centre, has been involved in the support of community life for many years now and with a growing intensity.

The purpose pursued by our services is to provide kosher meals to our members at the Shalom Restaurant, which holds the highest kosher certification for meat cuisine, and shopping for kosher goods in the shop on the balcony.

Shalom Restaurant

Kosher catering constitutes the basis of our business, and our services are divided into internal and external.

Internal activities include restaurant activities for community members, students of the Lauder Schools, members of Federation of Jewish Communities organisations, refugees, social service clients, and JCP staff. The restaurant provides lunches, Shabbat and holiday meals, and refreshments for in-house events. To have Shabbat dinner and lunch in the restaurant, at least 10 people must sign up by 2 p.m. on Thursday.

External services include events and catering, which the restaurant provides to private individuals, corporate clients, tourists and tourist groups in our premises, but also outside our building. All enquiries from external clients interested in catering at the restaurant is sent to the Security Department for consideration.

The restaurant works closely with the Rabbinate on kashrut, mashgiach, kiddush, and coordinates with the TGCC on food orders for Jewish holidays and community Shabbatons. In cooperation with the Department of Culture, the restaurant provides refreshments for the Hanukkah and Purim holidays.

In 2023, the Shalom restaurant served over 26,000 meals, of which 3,000 were for refugees from Ukraine.

Kosher shop and café on the balcony

In May 2023, a new kosher shop was opened on the balcony, which is furnished with wheelchair access, unlike the original location in the area under the High Synagogue. The shop is also newly open Monday to Thursday from 12 noon to 9 p.m. from November 2023, and on Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm.

During the structural alterations of the premises, the plan for the shop was to function also as a café. It is a greatly challenging to ensure the operation of this unit, which serves as both a shop and a café. The café commenced the essential operations in December 2023.

The newly created multifunctional space on the balcony is intended for cultural activities, exhibitions, lectures and meetings.

Andrea Ernyeiová is the Head of the Catering Services Department.

5. Economic Department

In 2023, the Financial Department performed all the necessary duties of a legal entity. It employed six permanent full-time employees in the following positions: Head of the Financial

Department, chief accountant, payroll accountant, two financial accountants and a cashier. An external expert provided IT management.

6. Security Department

Security remained one of the priorities of the Jewish Community in Prague in 2023. The year 2023 saw a worsened security situation following the retaliatory response by the Israeli Defense Forces to the October attack by the Hamas terrorist organisation in Israel. As in previous years, events in Israel spilled over to the rest of the world, including Europe and the Czech Republic, and brought with it a marked increase in anti-Semitism.

In addition to the normal operation of the individual protected facilities of the JCP and holiday and Sabbath services, the Security Department (OB) provided security for approximately 230 community, religious, cultural and public events. Security personnel served more than 20,000 hours last year.

In 2023, the OB also comprised a team of security and information analysts who, inter alia, provided systematic data collection on anti-Semitism in the Czech Republic. More than 4,300 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in 2023, mainly in the virtual environment. In a year-on-year comparison over the past five years, there has been a significant and constant increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents.

The collection of data on anti-Jewish prejudice in 2023 was carried out as part the MANTIC project, which started on 01 January 2022. This two-year project was co-funded by the European Union and involved a consortium of JCP, Federation of Jewish Communities and Jewish Museum in Prague. The JCP was the main researcher and leader of the consortium and was also responsible for the overall coordination, continuous monitoring and evaluation of manifestations of anti-Semitism. The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic prepared annual reports on the manifestations of anti-Semitism and arranged for their media coverage on the basis of input from the JCP. The Jewish Museum in Prague used the annual reports on manifestations of anti-Semitism in its educational programmes for pupils, students and teachers.

Through the OB, the JCP continued to participate in the fulfilment of the aims of the *Memorandum on Cooperation in Providing Security to Jewish Institutions (soft targets)*. The Memorandum was concluded on 05 April 2016 between the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, the Police of the Czech Republic and the City of Prague as one party, and the Federation of Jewish Communities, JMP and Chabad Lubavitch as the other party. By

coordinating the joint security activities mainly during important Jewish holidays, we managed to continue in the good practice, connected to the Memorandum.

On 17 May 2023, a security exercise called GOLEM was held in cooperation with the Federation of Jewish Communities, Jewish Museum in Prague and Integrated Security System forces. The subject of the exercise was a planned synchronized terrorist attack. Suborganisational units of the Czech Police, Emergency Medical Service, Fire and Rescue Service and, last but not least, Na Františku Hospital were involved in the exercise in different phases and to different extents.

7. Operations Department

The main tasks of the Operations Department include:

ensuring the trouble-free operation of the organisation's equipment and the proper condition of buildings directly used by the JCP,

ensuring the periodic course of inspections of technical equipment and carrying out inspection and control activities in fire prevention and occupational safety.

The Operations Department coordinates the work performed by Matana and collaborates in project preparation. The Operations Department collaborates with JMP on the registration and execution of loans of collection items. In technical and personnel terms, the department arranges for social and cultural events for the JCP. The Operations Department also ensures the purchase of technical and protective material.

VI. Matana, a. s.

Registered office: Malá Štupartská 1/646, Prague 1

Company ID No.: 41 69 12 11

Matana, a. s., whose exclusive and sole owner is the Jewish Community of Prague, operates as an independent commercial company separated from its founder. The company is headed by a Board of Directors. Powers of the General Meeting are exercised by one shareholder, the Jewish Community of Prague, which also appoints the company's Supervisory Board. Implementation of the decisions of the Board of Directors and the General Meeting is provided by the company director with a team of employees. The average number of employees in 2023 was 25, of whom 3 were managers.

In 2023, the composition of the company's statutory bodies was as follows:

Board of Directors: JUDr. Alice Güttlerová – Chairwoman

Ing. Mojmír Malý Ing. Zdeněk Skála Ing. Daniel Kosta

JUDr. Ludovít Katuščák

Supervisory Board: JUDr. Tomáš Pezl – Chairman

František Bányai

Tomáš Hruda

Also in 2023, the main activity performed by Matana a. s. was the management of the properties owned by its founder and 100% owner, the Jewish Community of Prague. Matana also performs this activity for the Jewish Community of Prague Foundation, the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, and the Hagibor Foundation. This involves not only the management of commercial buildings mainly in Prague but also the management of 273 Jewish cemeteries (181 belonging to the JCP), 40 synagogues (30 belonging to the JCP) and 150 cemetery buildings of all shapes and sizes throughout the Czech Republic.

In 2023, the situation after the Covid-19 pandemic stabilised, in particular tourism was resumed, although pre-Covid levels had still not been reached.

Non-residential premises

In 2023, the situation was stable, and no major tenants terminated their contracts. Thanks to the end of the pandemic crisis, rental income was higher than anticipated. Most of our tenants' business continued to operate without significant problems, while energy-intensive businesses remained affected. In the case of the JCP, the above businesses include restaurants, fitness centres, and medical facilities. The energy crisis broke out in the autumn of 2021, energy prices increased substantially, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine rendered the situation even worse. The price shock had only a limited impact on the JCP, as Matana managed to fix gas and electricity prices for the vast majority of properties in the previous spring.

Energy prices have now been falling, but we believe that these prices are bound, most certainly, to rise in the future, whether as a result of the threat of armed conflict or the energy policies being pursued by the EU.

Apartments

Rental income in Prague in 2023 was stable. An increased demand for rental apartments and therefore an increase in rental prices had been caused by a sharp rise in interest rates leading to higher mortgage prices.

Moreover, we continued to repair vacant apartments in 2023. Repaired flats were then re-let at higher rents. A total of **CZK 12,660 thousand** was spent on the refurbishment of 10 apartments owned by the JCP in 2023.

Rental income from residential and non-residential premises in the amount of CZK 100,050 thousand exceeded the approved budget for 2023 by 7.88%.

The construction activity plan for 2023 was set at the usual level corresponding to the situation before the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to repairs of apartments, major construction projects included:

Overhaul of the facade of the house Italská 19, Prague 2 CZK 7,512 thous.

Stage II of the façade restoration of the Jerusalem Synagogue CZK 6,844 thous.

Installation of photovoltaic source on the roof of HSFC (PV) CZK 1,874 thous.

Removal of dampness in the Great Ceremonial Hall at the New Jewish Cemetery,

Stage II CZK 1,821 thous.

Necessary maintenance and repairs of accidents were also carried out.

Investments considered, a significant project consisted in the ongoing reconstruction of the synagogue in Čáslav by the tenant (Dagmar Lieblová Foundation) in the amount of **CZK 2.36 million**, as well as the modification of the balcony of the Town Hall for the needs of the shop and café (**CZK 508 thousand**) and the aforementioned installation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of the Hagibor Social Care Facility.

Activities of the BCA

New Jewish Cemetery (NJC) - the activities of the technical administration in 2023 continued in a reasonably economical mode, only the most important of the planned activities were implemented, some were postponed or limited in scope. As in the previous years, the most important project was the next stage of a long-term project to save the tombstones in a static state of emergency, and the overall revitalization of greenery also continued. The second stage completed the construction work aimed at removing the dampness of the ceremonial hall building, which was combined with the introduction of a new heating system in the small prayer room. The roofing of the gatehouse building and the plastering of the southern part of the enclosure wall were repaired. Part of the cost of this work was covered by grants, donations and other income in the aggregate amount of CZK 1.94 million (Capital

City of Prague, Municipal District Prague 3, ČS, a.s., insurance benefits, 7 private donors). In parallel, routine maintenance of the cemetery area and buildings was carried out, mostly by our own employees. The total costs incurred for these activities, after deducting all income, amounted to **CZK 7.01 million**. The actual spending stood at **93.9%** of the planned expenditure of the JCP. The originally approved budget was not exceeded, while a substantial saving of **CZK 455 thousand** was achieved.

Old Žižkov Cemetery in Žižkov (OZC) - The most important project in the technical management and maintenance of the compound in 2023 was the restoration of 21 damaged and erosion-threatened historically valuable tombstones selected in the oldest (western) and central part of the cemetery area. These included gravestones damaged by overturning, toppling, cracking or breaking, as well as gravestones with interesting symbolism and artwork.

Detailed documentation of tombstone inscriptions also continued, with a particular focus on the identification of the personal data of the buried and the registration of this data into an electronic database. As in previous years, professional care of trees was also carried out. Routine activities (grass cutting, cleaning of litter, leaves and fallen branches) were undertaken by our own staff with the support of the NJC work team. The costs of CZK 269.1 thousand related to these activities were covered by grants and donations of CZK 269.1 thousand (Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims, ČEZ Foundation, ČNFB and 5 private donors). The originally approved budget was not exceeded and, with 91.7 % of implementation, a saving of CZK 81 thousand was achieved.

In addition to the above, preparatory work was underway to finish the Return of the Stones Memorial, which will be complemented by a freestanding structure featuring the names of the donors who contributed to the funding of the Memorial in 2022. The paving stones from the cut tombstones will also be used for its construction and the authors of the structure will again be **Lucie and Jaroslav Róna**.

Care for monuments outside of Prague

Building and Cemetery Administration (BCA) is an independent department of Matana a. s., which primarily ensures care for Jewish monuments owned by the JCP located in an area about half the size of the Czech Republic. In their activities, BCA employees attempt to use subsidiary sources of funding as much as possible, mainly by obtaining funds from various subsidy programmes and donations.

The total volume of acquired subsidies, donations and other income during 2023 amounted to **CZK 5,148 thousand** (in 2022, the volume stood at a mere CZK 1,827

thousand), which represents 33.0% of annual expenditures totalling **CZK 15,597 thousand.** The reason for the leap in the amount of funds received was the fact that the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic temporarily renewed its most widespread subsidy programme for 2023, which significantly expanded BCA activities.

Accordingly, the ratio of the sums of the received subsidies and donations against the available JCP funds (total budget less administrative expenses) in 2023 was 1.01, which means that each CZK 1 paid out from the JCP funds as financial participation for subsidies and donations brought in an extra **CZK 1.01**.

The most significant construction and restoration projects in 2022 included the continuation of the gradual building and restoration of the cemetery premises in Brandýs nad Labem, Březnice, Byšice, Černovice, Čichtice, Golčův Jeníkov, Habry, Hořice, Hostomice, Hroubovice, Humpolec, Jindřichův Hradec, Kladno, Kolín - old and new cemeteries, Koloděje n. L, Košetice, Kovářov, Litomyšl - Lány, Markvarc, Mirotice, Mladá Boleslav, Mořina, Neveklov, Nová Bystřice, Nový Bydžov - old cemetery, Pardubice, Písek, Polička, Polná, Protivín, Prudice, Přistoupim, Staré Město p. L., Třeboň and Zběšičky. A remarkable achievement was the successful implementation of the rescue and the first stage of the overall structural restoration of the ceremonial hall in Kostelec u Křížků. In Luž, the restoration of wooden elements in the interior of the synagogue continued, and the structural and restoration works of the synagogue in Čáslav, carried out through the Dagmar Lieblová Foundation, made further significant progress.

In addition to the above work, a number of other events took place, which were smaller in scope, but no less important. These mainly concerned the removal of unwanted vegetation and waste, emergency chopping, clean-up after natural disasters, healthy pruning of trees and creation of documentation (cemetery plans, photo documentation of tombstones, transcriptions and translations of epitaphs), and last but not least, the securing of technical operations of the synagogues renewed in the **10 hvězd** (10 stars) project (www.10hvezd.cz) also continued.

Due to several objective reasons, the originally planned JCP budget for 2023 was exceeded by CZK 2,134 thousand, with fulfilment of 125.7%. These objective reasons included mainly a large-scale accident of the fence wall in Mladá Boleslav with the costs of ordered temporary static securing in the amount of CZK 628 thousand, correction of the deficit incurred in the maintenance area during the Covid period (405 thousand was spent on hazardous felling and pruning of emergency trees, 300 thousand on the increase in other routine repairs), the rest of the overrun was attributed to covering the financial contribution to

the exceptionally increased number of subsidy opportunities. Shortly after the renewal of the most frequently used subsidy programme, the Ministry of Culture announced that it would not announce the programme in 2024.

VII. JCP Website

No changes were made to the JCP website during 2023. The website is divided into two levels - the public section offers not only general information about the JCP but also a selection from daily news and cultural events.

The section that is accessible only to JCP members, JCP special status holders and JCP employees, publishes minutes of management and representation meetings, important announcements, and an overview of events organised for members of the community. *Obecní noviny* and the *Letter from the Rabbi* in colour PDF format can also be downloaded here. The website of the Jewish Community of Prague can be viewed at: http://www.kehilaprag.cz.

The JCP has continued to improve communication with its members - since 2018, members are informed electronically via e-mail and they receive a weekly Newsletter each week. Members are informed about social, cultural and religious events, and the associations' activities.

VIII. Grants, Subsidies and Donations provided to the JCP in 2023

Foundations and institutions

a) seated in the Czech Republic:

Czech-German Fund for the Future,

DAP, a. s.,

Epstein Executive, s. r. o.

Federation of Jewish Communities,

Hotel Bílý jednorožec v Třeboni, s.r.o.

Hotel on the square – Kostelec u Křížků, cemetery,

INTAX, spol. s r. o., Israel (Kibbutz Kfar Aza)

South Bohemian Region,

JK KLIMA – Krušina, s. r. o.,

Klenoty Aurum,

Vysočina Region,

Prague City Hall,

Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic,

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic,

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic,

Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic,

Prague District 1,

Prague District 3,

Prague District 6

Prague District 10,

ČEZ Foundation

Foundation of EP Corporate Group,

Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims,

Public benefit association to support people affected by the Holocaust,

municipal authorities of Golčův Jeníkov, Habry, Kolín, Litomyšl, Luže, Nový Bydžov, Polná, Polička, town of Vysočina.

b) seated abroad:

Claims Conference (USA),

The provision of social services to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution is supported by subsidies from Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc. seated at New York, USA.

E & S Tours (Prague),

EPSTEIN EXECUTIVE, s.r.o., Lakewood, Miami,

HIAS Europe,

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,

The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation (USA),

WJC (World Jewish Congress).

Individuals (donations over CZK 10,000):

Alena Bányaiová – donation to Israel,

Kurt Barth,

Baruch – donation for Krav Maga training,

Ondřej Bernot – donation to Israel,

Ludmila Bernot – donation to Israel,

Michal Borges,

Mr Brandeisky (inheritance),

Jiří. Brožík,

Tomáš Büchler,

Michal Dostál,

Jiří Frankl,

Michal Frankl,

Veronika +Anna Freimanová,

Iakov Frenkel – donation to Israel,

Martin Gerstman,

Barbora Hrzánová – donation to Israel,

Petr Janda,

Eva Jelínková,

Violeta Jiráčková,

Vilma Jurková – donation to Israel,

Daniel Spencer Kahn,

Hod Kdumin,

Marie Konětopská (Kostelec u Křížku)

Milan Korn – donation to Israel,

Alexandr Kravtsov,

Evan Lazar,

Lucie Lederer,

Jiří Malý,

Eva Neumannová,

Hana Neuwirth,

Petr Neuwirth,

Tomáš Pasternak,

Jakub Roth – donation to Israel

MUDr. Singer, psychiatry – Israel,

Jakub Schwab,

Vladimír Singer,

Jiří Skála,

Ondřej Skála,

Zuzana Skálová,

Dagmar Šabatová,

Mrs Šmejkalová – donation to Israel,

MUDr. M. Tesařová – Kladno, cemetery,

Ant. Van Proosdij,

Jiří Vytlačil,

Helena a Charles Wiener,

Michael Wiener.

and many others who did not wish for their names to be published.

Donors (donations up to CZK 10,000):

In 2023, the JCP received financial donations from more than a hundred donors, mostly for social purposes, repairs of Jewish cemeteries, or as donations focused on equipping the HSCF.

IX. Economic Results of the JCP in 2023

The 2023 financial year ended with a surplus (profit) of CZK 23.725 million. The profit after tax stood at CZK 6.202 million.

In terms of the valid budget, the budgeted operating surplus increased by CZK 12.35 million. This means that the economic situation is back to the level of 2018 and 2019, i.e. before the COVID pandemic.

The main contributor to the aforesaid result was the growth in revenue, both in the tax and non-tax centres of the Community. The key to the positive economic result was the fact that effective management was able to keep costs below a proportionate level (compared to revenue growth).

From a budgetary perspective, the individual centres managed not only to maintain budgetary discipline but to increase the overall positive economic result of the Community. The management of assets, in particular the necessary repairs, also complied with the budget. For objective reasons, investments have progressed at a slower pace, particularly in the preparation of the Dlouhá 37 project. During the year, own funds needed for this major investment project were partly relocated for appreciation in conservatively designed government bonds, in accordance with the opinion of the advisory body and the disposition of the management of the JCP. The value of these assets of the Community was CZK 245 million at the end of 2023.

The management of the JCP in 2023 was audited in accordance with the applicable rules. Based on the audit opinion "Unqualified" of the auditor Ing. Ivo Rambousek, (AUDIT FINANCO, spol. s r.o., KAČR [Chamber of Auditors of the Czech Republic] No. 418) it can be stated that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the subject matter of the accounts.

Let us conclude that the described favourable economic results could not have been achieved without the support of donors (both legal and natural persons), subsidy providers, cooperating persons and last but not least the employees and volunteers of the JCP. Many thanks to all of them.

Final profit and loss statement

	Activities		
Name of indicator	Main	Economic	Total
a	b	С	d
A. COSTS	X	х	X
I. Consumed purchases and purchased services	52,488	59,558	112,046
Consumption of material, energies and other non-stockable supplies	18,542	4,309	22,851
2. Goods sold	0	25	25
3. Repairs and maintenance	16,503	42,739	59,242
4. Travel costs	379	14	393
5. Entertainment costs ,	192	0	192
6. Other services	16,872	12,471	29,343
II. Changes in inventory from own activities and capitalisation	0	0	0
7. Change in inventory form own activities	0	0	0
8. Capitalisation of material, goods and intra-organisational services	0	0	0
9. Capitalisation of fixed assets	0	0	0
III. Personnel costs	126,462	17,581	144,043
10. Payroll costs	95,542	13,337	108,879
11. Statutory social insurance	30,920	4,244	35,164
12. Other social insurance	0	0	0
13. Statutory social costs	0	0	0
14. Other social costs	0	0	0
IV. Taxes and fees	1,841	488	2,329
15. Taxes and fees	1,841	488	2,329
V. Other costs	31,678	2,029	33,707
16. Contractual fines, default interest, other fines and penalties	0	0	0
17. Bad debt written off	2	623	625
18. Interest paid	0	0	0
19. Exchange rate losses	17	0	17
20. Donations	10,872	0	10,872
21. Shortage and damage	34	0	34
22. Miscellaneous other costs	20,753	1,406	22,159
VI. Depreciation, goods sold, additions to and use of reserves and adjustments	0	29,979	29,979
23. Depreciation of fixed assets	0	30,326	30,326

24. Fixed assets sold	0	2	2
25. Securities and shares sold	0	0	0
26. Material sold	0	0	0
27. Creation and use of provisions and adjustments	0	-349	-349
VII. Contributions provided	101	0	101
28. Membership contributions provided and contributions accounted for among organisational components	101	0	101
VIII. Income tax	0	17,523	17,523
29. Income tax	0	17,523	17,523
Total costs	212,570	127,158	339,728

	Activities		
Name of indicator	Main	Economic	Total
a	b	С	e
B. REVENUES	X	X	X
I. Operating subsidies	52,257	110	52,367
Operating subsidies	52,257	110	52,367
II. Contributions received	47,551	50	47,601
Contributions received accounted for among organisational components	0	0	0
3. Contributions (donations) received	46,034	50	46,084
4. Membership contributions received	1,517	0	1,517
III. Total revenues from own operations and goods	45,343	179,028	224,371
IV. Other revenues	15,620	202	15,822
5. Contractual fines, default interest, other fines and penalties	0	0	0
6. Payments for written-off receivables	0	0	0
7. Interest received	8,939	0	8,939
8. Exchange rate gains	27	0	27
9. Clearing of funds	2,380	0	2,380
10. Miscellaneous other revenues	4,274	202	4,476
V. Revenue from sale of assets	5,698	71	5,769
11. Revenue from sale of intangible and tangible fixed assets	4	27	31
12. Revenue from sale of securities and shares	0	0	0
13. Revenue from sale of material	0	44	44
14. Revenue from short-term financial assets	5,694	0	5,694
15. Revenue from long-term financial assets	0	0	0
Total revenues	166,469	179,461	345,930
	,	,	,
C. PROFIT (LOSS) BEFORE TAX	-46,101	69,826	23,725
D. PROFIT (LOSS) AFTER TAX	-46,101	52,303	6,202

Balance Sheet 2023

ASSETS	First day of reporting period	Last day of reporting period
a	С	d
A. Total fixed assets	806,970	914,300
I. Total intangible fixed assets	1,747	1,747
Research and development	0	0
2. Software	211	211
3. Valuable rights	0	0
Low-value intangible fixed assets	719	719
5. Other intangible fixed assets	817	817
6. Intangible fixed assets in progress	0	0
7. Advance payments for intangible fixed assets	0	0
II. Total tangible fixed assets	1,579,353	1,585,583
1. Land	240,333	240,331
2. Works of art, fine art articles and collections	3,111	3,111
3. Structures	1,306,338	1,310,418
Tangible movable things and their groups	10,643	10,643
5. Perennial crops	0	0
Mature animals and their groups	0	0
7. Low-value tangible fixed assets	0	0
Other tangible fixed assets	2,541	2,541
Tangible fixed assets in progress	16,387	18,539
10. Advances paid on tangible fixed assets	0	0
III. Total long-term financial assets	41,520	172,946
Shares – controlled or controlling entity	2,000	2,000
Shares – decisive influence	0	0
Debt securities held to maturity	39,520	170,946
Loans to organisational components	0	0
5. Other long-term loans	0	0
6. Other long-term financial assets	0	0
IV. Total adjustments to fixed assets	815,650	845,976
Adjustments to research and development	0	0
2. Adjustments to software	134	134
Adjustments to valuable rights	0	0
Adjustments to low-value intangible fixed assets	2,900	2,900
Adjustments to other intangible fixed assets	579	579
6. Adjustments to structures	800,300	830,232
7. Adjustments to tangible movable things and their groups	9,913	10,307
Adjustments to perennial crops	0	0
Adjustments to breeding and draught animals	0	0
10. Adjustments to low-value tangible fixed assets	0	0
11. Adjustments to other tangible fixed assets	1,824	1,824

a	С	d

B. Total current assets	239,820	136,714
1. Total inventory	4,187	4,471
Material in stock	4,151	4,451
2. Material in transit	0	0
3. Work in progress	0	0
Semi-finished products	0	0
5. Finished products	0	0
6. Young and other animals and their groups	0	0
7. Goods in hand	36	20
8. Goods in transit	0	0
9. Advance payments on inventory	0	0
II. Total receivables	64,073	57,569
Accounts receivable (customers)	1,529	696
2. Bills of exchange receivable	0	0
Receivables for discounted notes	0	0
Advance operating payments provided	0	0
5. Other receivables	31,930	30,550
6. Receivables from employees	154	24
Receivables from social security and health insurance institutions	0	0
8. Income tax	0	0
9. Other taxes	0	0
10. Value added tax	0	0
11. Other taxes and fees	0	0
12. Claims to subsidies and other receivables from the state budget	0	0
13. Claims to subsidiaries and other receivables from budgets of bodies of regional administrative units	0	0
14. Receivables from partners in the association	0	0
15. Receivables from long-term-term transactions and options	0	0
16. Receivables from bonds issued	0	0
17. Other receivables	5,951	6,688
18. Estimated accrued revenues	26,409	21,162
19. Adjustments to receivables	1,900	1,551
III. Total financial short-term assets	169,641	74,646
1. Petty cash	565	442
2. Valuables	0	0
3. Bank accounts	169,076	74,204
4. Equity securities for trading	0	0
Bonds, debentures and similar securities for trading	0	0
6. Other securities	0	0
7. Cash in transit	0	0
IV. Total other assets	1,919	28
Deferred expenses	-840	-2,483
2. Accrued revenues	2,759	2,511
TOTAL ASSETS	1,046,790	1,051,014

LIABILITIES	First day of reporting period	Last day of reporting period
a	С	d
A. Total internal resources	1,011,607	1,016,301
I. Total equity	1,022,937	1,010,099
1. Equity	827,001	798,965

2. Funds	195,936	211,134
Gains or losses from revaluation of financial assets and liabilities	0	0
II. Total profit (loss)	-11,330	6,202
1. Profit (loss) account	-11,330	6,202
2. Profit (loss) to be approved	0	0
Retained profit, accumulated losses from previous years	0	0
B. Total liabilities (external resources)	35,183	34,713
I. Total provisions	0	0
1. Provisions	0	0
II. Total long-term payables	0	0
1. Long-term bank loans	0	0
2. Bonds issued	0	0
3. Leasing payables	0	0
Long-term advance payments received	0	0
5. Long-term bills of exchange to be paid	0	0
6. Estimated accrued expenses	0	0
7. Other long-term payables	0	0
III. Total short-term payables	28,524	30,841
Accounts payable (suppliers)	2,211	0
2. Bills of exchange to be paid	0	0
3. Advance payments received	5,152	7,481
4. Other payables	871	0
5. Employees	258	265
6. Other payables to employees	0	0
7. Payables to social security and health insurance institutions	4,176	4,547
8. Income tax	4,572	6,963
9. Other direct taxes	817	911
10. Value added tax	971	987
11. Other taxes and fees	0	0
12. Payables to the state budget	0	0
13. Payables to budgets of bodies of regional administrative units	0	0
14. Payables from subscribed outstanding securities and ownership interests	0	0
15. Payables to partners in the association	0	0
16. Payables to long-term-term transactions and options	0	0
17. Other payables	8,654	9,322
18. Short-term bank loans	0	0
19. Discount loans	0	0
20. Short-term bonds issued	0	0
21. Own bonds issued	0	0
22. Estimated accrued expenses	842	365
23. Other short-term financial assistance	0	0
IV. Total other liabilities	6,659	3,872
1. Accrued expenses	1,322	1,308
2. Deferred revenues	5,337	2,564
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,046,790	1,051,014

X. Auditor's Report

Zpráva auditora za audit účetní závěrky 2023 - zkrácená

AUDITORSKÁ ZPRÁVA O VÝROKU

ÚČEL:

Tato zpráva se vydává pro doložení výroku auditora za ověření Účetní závěrky za rok 2023 ve "Výroční zprávě Židovské obce za období roku 2023.

FORMÁLNÍ NÁLEŽITOSTI

2.1. Příjemce zprávy:

František Bányai Předseda Židovské obce v Praze

Osoba oprávněná jednat

za účetní jednotku ve věci auditu:

Ing. Michal Borges-tajemník,

Účetní období:

Autor ověření:

1.1.2023 – 31.12. 2023 Statutární auditor: AUDIT FINANCO, spol. s r.o. U Trojice 1042/2 150 00 Praha 5 KAČR 418 Ing. Ivo Rambousek KAČR 1262

III. PRÁVNÍ RÁMEC

Ověření bylo provedeno na základě smlouvy ze dne 2. 4..2024 po schválení auditora reprezentací ŽO

- Objednavatelem je statutární zástupce předseda Židovské obce Kontaktní osoby: Mgr. Petr Hrdina ekonom ŽOP
- Milan Batovec účetní ŽOP

STANOVISKO A VÝROK AUDITORA

Struktura majetkové a finanční situace v předepsaných účetních výkazech je vykázána v souladu s daným platným právním rámcem finančního účetnictví a účetního výkaznictví ve smyslu ustanovení Zákona č. 563/1991 Sb., o účetnictví a vyhlášky č. 504/2002 Sb., kterou se provádějí některá ustanovení zákona o účetnictví, včetně přílohy k účetní závěrce.

Ověřená účetní závěrka za účetní období 2016 ve všech významných ohledech podává věrný a poctivý obraz o předmětu účetnictví ve smyslu ustanovení § 7 odst. 1, zákona č. 563/1991 Sb., o účetnictví v platném znění a poskytuje oprávněným uživatelům spolehlivé informace o majetku a závazcích, finanční pozici, peněžních tocích a výsledků hospodaření, po stanovení a zúčtování daňové povinnosti. Průkaznost byla ověřena inventarizací majetku ve smyslu ustanovení § 29 a § 30 tohoto zákona.

Zpráva auditora za audit účetní závěrky 2023 - zkrácená

Stránka 1

2.2. VÝROK

Výše uvedené stanovisko se pokládá za

VÝROK BEZ VÝHRAD

Zpracováno dne: 21.5.2024 Podpis auditora:



Zpráva auditora za audit účetní závěrky 2023 - zkrácená

Stránka 2

Basic Information about the JCP

Registered office: Maiselova 18, 110 00 Prague 1

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e-mail: sekretariat@kehilaprag.cz

www.kehilaprag.cz

bank details: Česká spořitelna, Prague 4, account no: 1936531399/0800

Company ID No. 00445258

JCP data box: pecaq88

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