



INFORMATION

24.07.2014

“HUNGARIAN-JEWISH WOMEN'S LIVES” INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

in commemoration, reconciliation and setting examples

in honor of the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year

Venue: Danubius Hotel Gellért, Budapest, Gobelín Room

Date and time: 21 July 2014, between 10:30 am - 17:30 pm

**AWCDH offered the event to commemorate
the beloved and respected Friend and Mentor, Judith Müller**

Perfume creator, winner of the Perfume Oscar and the Pro Europe Prize

Language of the conference: Hungarian and English, with simultaneous interpretation

Photos and video were recorded at the conference

The Prime Minister's Office supported the proposal submitted by the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) in honor of the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year – 2014 in frame of the „Civil Foundation 2014 – Grant Program”. Owing to this and the voluntary work of the members and supporters of AWCDH, as well as supplementary grants, our international conference, “Hungarian-Jewish Women's Lives” in commemoration, reconciliation and setting examples was organized on 21st July 2014 at Hotel Gellért in Budapest. This special event, as the only women's event of the Memorial Year, has also been posted on the list of events on the official website of the Holocaust Memorial Year (www.holokausztemlekeve2014.kormany.hu) and attracted widespread interest both in Hungary as well as abroad. 160 participants visited the conference during the day coming from Budapest and other Hungarian towns, as well (e.g. Győr, Pécs, Debrecen, Szeged, Lőrinci, etc.). Our foreign guests came from 10 European countries as well as Israel, the US and Canada.

OUR AIMS:

In the program against anti-Semitism the 10-year-old Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH), based on its commitment to the subject, its professional background and its solid international relations, wishes to address and mobilize women of Jewish origin in Hungary and throughout the world to contribute to Hungarian democracy and the empowerment of the country with their talent, knowledge, and personal commitment to Hungary.

Calling upon the example of Judith Müller, born in Debrecen, perfume creator, winner of the Perfume Oscar and the Pro Europe Prize, who became famous in Israel as well as around the world, we would like to point out what an important role we, the women of the 21st century, have in fighting racism and anti-Semitism.

The most important element of the fight against racism is the common action of minorities and the representatives of the majority against all kinds of discrimination, humiliation and anti-Semitism. Accordingly, our event is meant to address not only those directly involved. Rather, we plan to address a much wider circle –Hungarian Jews and all the people who condemn anti-Semitism.

We think it important to present our event worldwide in the near future, because besides our professional knowledge and commitment, we can also rely on our social networking capital in the European Union and the UN, hand in hand with a variety of women's and human rights organizations with whom we cooperate on a regular basis.

AWCDH has been granted the opportunity to cooperate in the work of UN/ECOSOC as the first Hungarian NGO in “Special consultative status with UN-ECOSOC”, a status awarded in 2009. This recognition makes our cooperation in the field of European relations and global issues like gender equality, women's rights and women's employment more effective than ever.

We will ensure the sustainability of the Project as follows:

We will reach all age groups with the most modern ways of communication and ensure the sustainability of the program by means of video and photo materials on the project which will be made available on our new Hungarian-English website. We will continuously extend and upgrade the materials, since we think it our mission to commemorate examples of outstanding Hungarian-Jewish women for the generations to come.

Szervező: Magyar Női Karrierfejlesztési Szövetség

Organizer: Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary



MOTIVATION

Since World War II a whole generation has grown up – the offspring of millions of Jewish and Roma people who were killed – and who have inherited, to a greater or lesser degree, the burden of their mentally weary forbears. Among them there are many women who have to face the difficulties of their lives with double effort: they have to be able to cope with the historical ordeals of their families as well as the present-day problems of their existence as women. According to major studies, the first post-War generation, though born in peace, bears the horrors of the Shoá as part of their own experience.

The Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary presents the "Hungarian-Jewish Women's Lives" International Conference in the spirit of commemoration, reconciliation and setting examples in honor of the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year. This provides an important opportunity to provide a summary of our most important mission; the improvement of women's lives. Who would better know the way of thinking and the relations to the past, present and future of women exposed to multiple disadvantages and discrimination than us, who have been organized to present women's careers, successes and achievements.

Our beloved and respected friend and mentor, Judith Müller, died in 2012. Her life emblematically represents all that a self-conscious Jewish woman experienced in the last century. Judith's family left the country after World War II and settled down in Haifa, Israel. Judith started as a water-seller and then, having fulfilled the obligatory military service required for women in Israel, she trained as a beautician. But she wanted more and went to study in Paris, the capital of fashion where, due to her extraordinary personality, she became a member of Cocteau's circle of friends. She belonged with those who not only represented but created the intellectual trends of the era.

Upon her return to Israel, she founded her own perfume factory and created Bat Sheba, the first national scent of the world, which brought her the highest professional acknowledgement, the Perfume Oscar. Later she also played a very important role in the development and promotion of the healing and cosmetic values of Dead Sea mud.

In her private life, Judit Müller also experienced everything that a woman can experience, from the darkest depth to the brightest heights. She lost her son when he was a couple of days old, and like any mother, she was never able to fully recover from the tragedy. The life of her daughter, July, on the other hand, brought her much pride and joy. July acquired the knowledge that a modern woman needs not only to live a balanced and happy private life, but also to build a career, at one of the elite schools of Switzerland.

Judith Müller lived an exemplary life. Even towards the end of her life she worked in a hospice with her usual devotion, and in this work she was as committed as when, at the top of her career, she participated in the peace demonstrations of Israeli women. The life of Judith Müller can serve as a shining example for women everywhere, about how to be committed to important and good things after having survived the sufferings caused by history, how to have a family and build a career and, last but not least, how to remain a patriot and a cosmopolitan at one and the same time. Judith Müller, who felt at home in many places in the world, never forgot her beloved city, Debrecen, and the famous Dóczy school that she attended with the writer Magda Szabó. Her commitment to her hometown is also demonstrated by the fact that she always visited it, even during her last trip to Hungary, just as she never failed to visit one of her best friends, Éva Bornemisza-Sarkady, who also hails from Debrecen.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Ms. Andrea Ferenczi

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OUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES:

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