

TRIBUTE

8th of Kislev, 5695
8th of Kislev, 5775





TRIBUTE

It was 80 years ago that the Ohel Jacob Synagogue's Book of Records was started, our synagogue also known by the Synagogue of Poles, the only Ashkenazi synagogue in Portugal. On that day, an introduction was written in order to serve for future memory so that subsequent generations could learn about the deeds of the first leaders of the community. Next to this introduction there is a record in which a tribute is made to Samuel Sorin.

This opening is dated 15.11.1934 which corresponded to 8th of Kislev, 5695.

Today is 8th of Kislev, 5775, which corresponds to 30.11.2014, and we are in the synagogue's third premises. The first was in Miguel Bombarda Avenue 81, the second in Elias Garcia Street, and currently here we are, always in Lisbon. This is the reason why we consider today a date which should be set aside to honor the four members who we believe are the four most important pillars of this community and the reason why this synagogue continues to be open.

The first one is **Samuel Sorin**, the founder of Ohel Jacob Synagogue along with the Polish community at that time. Here is a transcription of some passages of the tribute mentioned above that starts like this:

For eternal memory in honor of our dear president, R' Shmuel Sorin, gabbai and honorary president of the Ohel Yaacov Synagogue, our gratitude for his time of service.

Later we read:

When, in 1933, he realized that the flow of migrants from Poland had increased, he began to address the enlargement of the synagogue space in order to receive and shelter them under the same roof. He understood the political and historical situation as well as the religious needs of the people. To achieve his goal, he borrowed a Sefer Torah and rented another house far bigger that served also as a kosher restaurant during the day. The synagogue had public appearance and not private with the aim of a better living.

And more ahead we can even read:

His prayer style was so special that everyone understood it and felt happy. Beyond that, his way of pronouncing the Hebrew and his way of singing were so magnificent that everyone was delighted.

The second one was **Sapese Noymark**. He always tried to have the Shull open on Saturdays for anyone who wanted to come and pray. It was he who opened the door to us in 1998 when we were just a group of B'nei Anusim and asked him permission to be able to attend the synagogue. He has always been a sweet and pleasant person to us and always insisted on having flowers on every festivity in memory of his wife.

The third one was **Salomão Marques**, who gave us a great deal of religious support during the main festivities and financial support when there was no money to pay the rent. He was the one who defended our cause many times in various situations. He was the one who brought us his great friend Rabbi Leon Zachary Gottlieb, who started to support the movement of the B'nei Anusim immediately. He also financed the painting of the premises on Elias Garcia Avenue.

Lastly, there was **Aron Katzan**, who joined his uncle (Sapese) at HeHaver. After a committee meeting of the three people who were the keepers of the Hehaver, he along with the others, approved the attendance of the B'nei Anussim. He was the Chairman of the Board since the doors were opened to us and until his last day of life. Although in the last mandate he had been appointed as vice President due to his bad health condition he kept being our leader. We never took any decision that was not endorsed by him. As we often said, he continues to be our President in the shadow. He never understood nor accepted the reasons and so many difficulties that were raised against our return to our ancestors origins.

Here is a quote of an article published in the Expresso newspaper, 27.12.2006:

Aron Katzan, 70 year old civil engineer, born in Azores but of Polish origin, has difficulty in understanding that the persons concerned, "having Jewish ancestry and desire to return to the faith of their ancestors are no longer welcomed". Therefore, along with other family members and leaders of the Hehaver Association, the institution responsible for the opening and maintenance of a small synagogue of Ashkenazi Jews, the Ohel Yaakov, since the 1930s, he collaborated in the process of union between this temple (which have moved its premises several times, over the years) and the new community.

To all of this people we give our sincere THANKS FOR EVER AND EVER.

And to finish this small and humble tribute we will read Psalm 24 as guidance received by our friend Rabbi Leo Zechariah Gotlieb, who has always supported the cause of the B'nei Anusim.

Psalm 24

1. Of David, a song. The land and the fullness thereof are the Lord's; the world and those who dwell therein.
2. For He founded it upon seas and established it upon rivers.
3. Who will ascend upon the Lord's mount and who will stand in His Holy place?
4. He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not taken My name in vain and has not sworn deceitfully.
5. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord and charity from the God of his salvation.
6. This is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your presence-Jacob, forever.
7. [You] gates, lift your heads and be uplifted, [you] everlasting portals, so that the King of Glory may enter.
8. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord, Who is strong and mighty, the Lord Who is a mighty warrior.
9. [You] gates, lift your heads and lift up, [you] everlasting portals, so that the King of Glory may enter.
10. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of Hosts-He is the King of Glory forever.

We all also thank our member Manuel Basto his offer of the tombstones to Aron Katzan and Salomão Marques.

Guests and members / attendees

ABRAHAM KATZAN

OTILIA KATZAN

PHILIPO CARBONARO e esposa

PEDRO SCHLIESSER

ALEXANDRE NOYMARK

MARIA JOSÉ (NOYMARK)

SALOMÃO MARQUES

DINA SORIN

SHARON KLAIN GIANNONE

PROF. PAULO MENDES PINTO

EMBAIXADORA DE ISRAEL TZIPORA RIMON

Dr IRENE PIMENTEL

Dr MONIQUE BENVENISTE

Dr INÊS MEDEIROS

MARIA DA CONCEIÇÃO TOMÁS CARLOS e família

ALLAN FLEISHMANN

MARIA DA CONCEIÇÃO CALEIRO

JOSÉ COHEN ABOLNIK

DANILO ELIAS ALVES SOUZA

ADRIANA SOUZA

ELIANA SOUZA

ADRIANA IORGA

MANUEL BASTO

SINCLAIR OWEN

JOSÉ ANTÓNIO OLIVEIRA

MARIA JOSÉ FERNANDES

ANA MARGARIDA ALVES BRITO

VASCO BELTRAN

HENRIQUE MACHADO

LAONE SANTOS BRASIL

JOÃO ERNESTO PAES BARROS

JESSICA BARROS

EUCLYDES BARROS

GUSTAVO BARROS