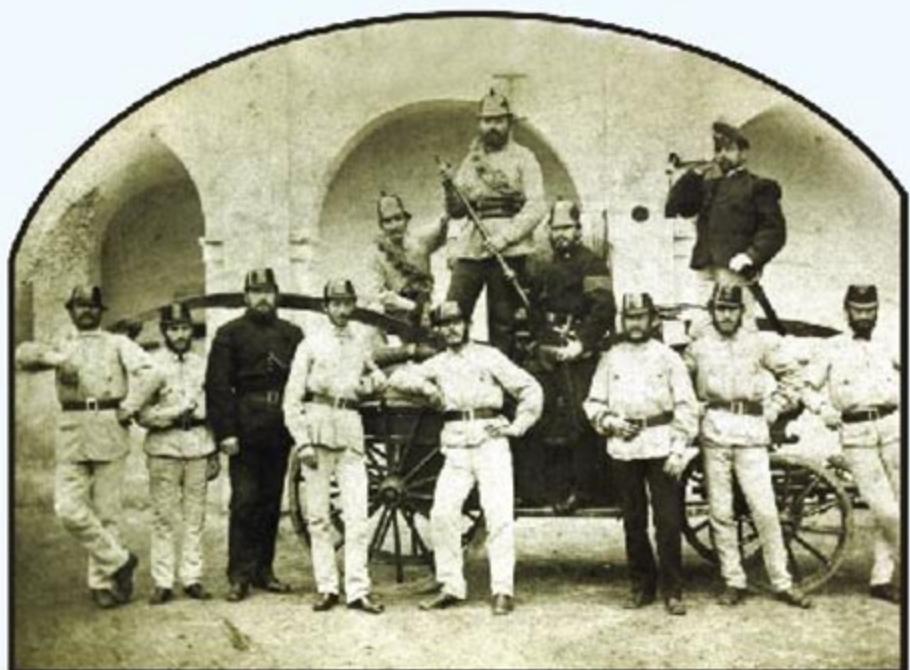




English from p.47



Dipl. ing. Nenad Fogel

UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU

Posvećeno Jakovu-Žaku Čelebiju



Jevrejska opština Zemun
Jewish Community Zemun
הקהילה היהודית זמונן

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**Članovi štaba sa prvim zapovednikom Hajnrihom Velšom 1886. godine
(fototeka DVD Zemun)**

Dipl. ing. Nenad Fogel

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DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA
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Zemun, 2017.

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U V O D

Jevreji su organizovano počeli da naseljavaju Zemun 1739. godine. Zahvaljujući državnoj politici dugo godina bili su na marginama društvenog života. O tome svedoči i dugogodišnja borba sa vlastima da im se dozvoli podizanje sinagoge. Konačno, posle više od 110 godina, dobili su dozvolu za podizanje aškenaskog hrama. Gradnja sinagoge počela je 1850. a osvećena je 1863. godine. Značaj podizanja sinagoge kao dela jevrejskog kulturnog centra sa školom i opštinom bio je višestruk.



Aškenaska sinagoga

Sinagoga je postala mesto okupljanja na kome su se pored verskih obreda vodili ozbiljni razgovori o načinima da se Zemun učini boljim i sigurnijim mestom za život, ne samo za Jevreje, već za sve građane. Mala jevrejska zajednica u Zemunu bila je veoma aktivna. Zamah njihovoј većoj angažovanosti bila je odluka cara Franje Josifa doneta 1868. godine da Jevrejima u Carstvu prizna punu ravnopravnost sa ostalim konfesijama, odnosno narodima. Tada su prestala brojna ograničenja u pogledu izbora zanimanja i prava na naseljavanje u Zemunu, odnosno na teritoriji tzv. Vojne granice.

Jevreji iz Zemuna uvek su bili spremni da prihvate sve napredne ideje svog vremena. Zato su među prvima prihvatili, ako ne i pokrenuli, ideju o osnivanju dobrovoljne vatrogasne službe. Učešće Jevreja u formiranju prvog dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva u Zemunu, davne 1870. godine,

bilo je značajno. Želja da učestvuju u osnivanju dobrovoljno vatrogasnog društva bila je i znak njihove društvene emancipacije u multinacionalnoj i multikonfesionalnoj sredini kakav je u to vreme bio Zemun. Inicijativa da se osnuje vatrogasno društvo potekla je od svih naroda koji su živeli u Zemunu. Među potpisnicima „Protokola“ o osnivanju Društva bili su Srbi, Jevreji, Česi, Hrvati, Nemci... Društvo je bilo veoma tolerantno prema svim narodima i konfesijama i sve do okupacije 1941. „.... je gledalo da ima obzira prema svima“.

Danas kada u sastavu Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva Matica nema ni jednog Jevrejina postavlja se pitanje da li se zna zašto je to tako. Mnogi pripadnici Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva svakodnevno prolaze pored spomen ploče „PALIM DRUGOVIMA U NARODNOJ REVOLUCIJI 1941 -1945“ postavljene u holu Društva, ali verujemo da mali broj zna da se na toj tabli nalaze imena poslednjih Jevreja vatrogasaca iz Zemuna.



Izuzetak je **Jakov Žak Čelebi**, jedini Jevrejin vatrogasac koji je preživeo Holokaust. On je odmah po završetku Drugog svetskog rata nastavio sa brojnim aktivnostima koje su mu bile zabranjene ulaskom Nemačke okupacione vojske a potom i preuzimanjem vlasti u Zemunu od strane NDH.

Ovom izložbom želimo da osvetlimo ulogu zemunskih Jevreja u formiranju i radu Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva ali i da podsetimo na tragičnu sudbinu koju su Jevreji – vatrogasci doživeli tokom Holokausta.

VATRA I ORGANIZOVANA BORBA PROTIV POŽARA

Ljudi su od davnina bili fascinirani vatrom. U početku su bežali od nje, kasnije je obožavali, ali uvek su žeeli da je drže pod kontrolom. Kada su shvatili koliko vatra može da im bude od koristi, slučajno zapaljene šume poslužile su im da počnu da je čuvaju. Nisu znali kako sami da „naprave“ vatu pa su zato godinama negovali kult „čuvanja vatre“. Kada su konačno ovladali vatrom, uvideli su da ona može da bude i veoma opasna po njihova naselja. Istorija organizovane borbe protiv požara počinje u drevnom Rimu pod vladavinom Avgusta. U Francuskoj beležimo prve početke borbe protiv požara 1254. godine pod vladavinom Luja IX Svetog kada je dekretom osnovao „gues bourgeois“, gradski nadzor. Istim dekretom dozvoljeno je i građanima da se sami organizuju. Tokom razvoja urbanih sredina ne retko su se dešavali požari katastrofalnih razmera. U početku su im gorele slamnate kuće, kasnije drvene, pa sve do modernih zgrada od betona i gvožđa.

Ogromni požari koji su uništavali čitave gradove, pretili su i Zemunu osamnaestog i devetnaestog veka. Požar koji je izbio 2. aprila 1788. uništio je u Zemunu ceo blok južnih kuća, magacina i pomoćnih zgrada. Ipak, savladan je pre nego što je stigao do samog centra grada. Samo tri godine kasnije, 22. avgusta 1791. godine, požar uništava 58 kuća na potезу između Oračke i Bežanijske ulice. Vatra koja je zahvatila jednu zgradu na Magistratskom trgu uništila je 16. avgusta 1867. godine zgradu starog Magistrata i desetak okolnih kuća. Sutradan je požar zahvatio i Sindelićevu ulicu gde je stradalo dosta kuća, a stradao je zvonik i krov Sv. Nikolajevske crkve. Ceo Donji grad bio je zahvaćen gustim dimom a iskre su letele na sve strane daleko od mesta požara.

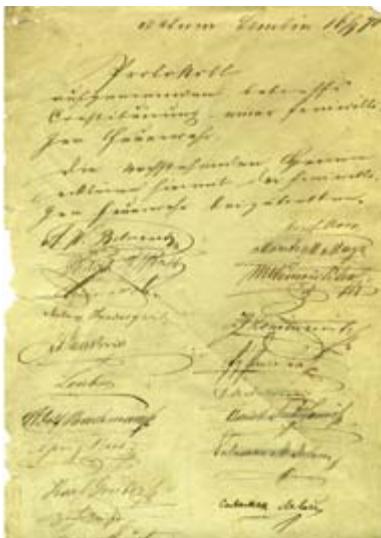
Zemunski Magistrat 1869. godine donosi "Uredbu o vatrogasnem redu". Formira pri Magistratu "Vatrogasnu komisiju" čiji je zadatak bio da donosi „efikasne mere zaštite i borbe protiv požara i kazne za nepoštovanje propisa“. Grupa uglednih građana Zemuna snažno je podržala odluku Magistrata. Započeli su pripreme za osnivanje dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva po uzoru na društva koja su se tih godina osnivala u mnogim gradovima Austro-Ugarske (Austrije).

Prvo dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo na teritoriji nekadašnje Jugoslavije osnovano je u Varaždinu 1864. godine. Posle Varaždina sledi osnivanje dobrovoljnih vatrogasnih društava u Sisku 1865, Metliku 1869, Zagrebu, Ptiju, Ljubljani i Zemunu 1870.

Nepuni godinu dana od donošenja „Uredbe o vatrogasnem redu“ dvadesetak pristalica ideje o osnivanju dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva održali su 16. septembra 1870. godine inicijativni sastanak na kome

su potpisali nameru da pristupe Dobrovoljnemu vatrogasnemu društvu. Na originalnom zapisniku stoji: *PROTOKOL sačinjen u vezi konstituisanja dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva. Dole potpisani učesnici Zbora ovim izražavaju spremnost da pristupe Dobrovoljnem vatrogasnem društvu.* (prevod sa nemačkog). Slede potpisni prisutnih.

Potpise na PROTOKOL od Jevreja stavili su žitarski trgovac **Filip Hercl**, trgovac **Leopold Kon**, **Salamon Levi**, **Moric Majer**, slovosлагаč **Samuel Kon**, **Asriel Haim**, **Salamon Nisim** i graditelj **Josef Marks** po čijim planovima je 1871. izgrađen sefardski hram u Zemunu.



Protokol o osnivanju
Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog
društva 1870.



Sefardski hram

Među osnivačima Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva pored Jevreja bilo je Nemaca, Čeha, Hrvata i Srba. Dve nedelje kasnije, prvog oktobra, održana je druga sednica osnivača. Na toj sednici pored osnivača bili su prisutni brojni ugledni građani Zemuna (43) a među njima i trojica Jevreja: **Bernard Bilic**, **Mozes Veksler** i trgovac **Anton Levi**. Na sednici su izabrani članovi tri „komiteta“. Jedan za „kontrolu statuta“ (Matija Mate Ivić, Ferdinand Hajnrih i Gojko Teodorović) drugi za „vrbovanje novog članstva“ (**Philip Hercl**, Đorđe St. Petrović i Panajot Morfi) i treći za „prikupljanje priloga u kasu vatrogasne brigade“ (**Anton Levi**, Anton Bolmanac i **Leopold Kon**). Prvo dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo na današnjoj teritoriji Srbije zvanično je osnovano odlukom „Generalne skupštine“ 1. novembra 1870. godine u Zemunu. Skupština je donela „Ustav dobrovoljnog vatrogasećeg društva“

koji je potvrđen odlukom „vojničko divizione komande u Varadinu“ iste godine. Za zapovednika Društva izabran je Hajnrih Velš, za blagajnika Panajot Morfi a za sekretara Ferdinand Hajnrih. Na osnovu donetog Ustava Društvo se delilo naodeljenje: penjača, štrcara, vodonosa i čuvara. Imalo je i jednog trubača. Na istoj Skupštini naimenovano je četrnaest „penjača“ od strane komandanta. Među njima su bila i trojica Jevreja: **Salamon Levi, Josef Marks i Filip Hercl**. Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo je osnovano u vreme dok je Zemun još uvek bio deo Vojne granice. Zbog toga je službeni jezik bio nemački ali je dosta materijala štampano srpskom cirilicom.

Ustav je štampan početkom 1871. godine na cirilici u štampariji „Pečatnja I. K. Soprona“. Takođe je štampan i na nemačkom jeziku.

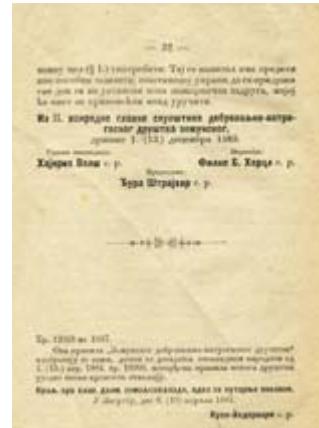
Pravila „Zemunskog dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva i signala njegovih“ štampana su 1888. godine na cirilici u štampariji „Stampa Sime Pajića“. Doneta su na drugoj vanrednoj skupštini dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva Zemunskog 1 (13) decembra 1885. godine. Pravila su potpisali glavni zapovednik Hajnrih Velš, perovođa **Filip B. Hercl** i predsednik Đura Štrajher. Ova pravila su potvrđena 6 (18) aprila 1887. godine od strane „*Kralj. hrv slav. dalm. zemaljska vlada, odel za nutarne poslove.*“ Potpis je stavio Kuen - Hedervari.



*Ustav Zemunskog
vatrogasećeg društva
1871. društva 1870.*



*Pravila Zemunskog
dobrovoljnog
vatrogasnog društva*



*Pravila overena od strane
Filipa Hercla*

Nemački jezik je i posle proglašenja Zemuna za slobodni grad i uvođenjem građanske uprave korišćen kao zvanični jezik. Na njemu se komandovalo, pisani su zapisnici, potvrde, zakletve i svi ostali dokumenti. Društveni pečat DVD imao je ispisani tekst na nemačkom i srpskohrvatskom, cirilicom i latinicom i grub Zemuna. Od 1918. sva dokumenta se štampaju na srpskohrvatskom jeziku.

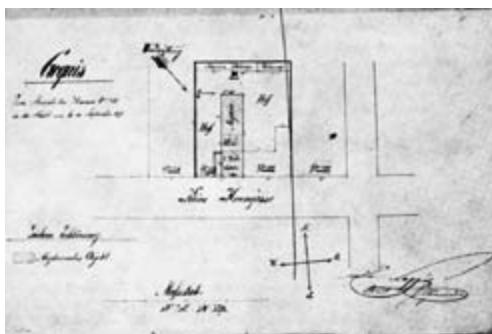
RAD DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASNOG DRUŠTVA DO PRVOG SVETSKOG RATA

Prve godine od osnivanja protekle su u raznovrsnim aktivnostima posvećenih povećanju broja članova, jačanju materijalne i finansijske baze Društva. Dana 9. juna 1872. godine Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo izabralo iz redova uglednih građana svoje prve počasne članove. Godinu dana kasnije 23. juna 1873. obrazovano je i prvo „rezervno vatrogastvo“. Bilo je upisano 40 članova, podeljenih u tri grupe. Članovi rezerve imali su privilegiju da nose vatrogasnou uniformu Društva pod uslovom da je sami naba ve. Prvi lekar Društva bio je **dr Mavro Rehnic**.



Pismo zahvalnosti Magistrata
Jevrejskoj opštini Zemun na
sakupljenom prilogu

Jevrejska opština Zemun aktivno je učestvovala u prikupljanju dobrovoljnih priloga za rad Društva. Tako beležimo zahvalnost koju je Gradski magistrat 19. oktobra 1873. godine uputio predsedniku Opštine Mozesu Herclu za prikupljeni prilog od 54 forinti na židovskom plesu u korist postрадalih od požara.



Skica požara u Dubrovačkoj ulici

Značaj osnivanja Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva za Zemun najbolje se video 14. septembra 1875. godine kada je u samom centru grada u Maloj gospodskoj ulici, današnja Dubrovačka 22, gorela kuća **Jakoba Levi-ja** sa magacinima perja. Zahvaljujući dobroj organizovanosti dobrovoljnih vatrogasaca sprečen je požar širih razmara. Izveštaj o požaru sa skicom sastavio je gradski inženjer, kasnije predsednik Društva Karl Dragutin Kapus. Zahvaljujući dobroj organizaciji, boljem preventivnom delovanju i strogom poštovanju donetih propisa broj požara na godišnjem nivou se

znatno smanjio. Bilo ih je do desetak godišnje i to uglavnom manjih razmera.

Tokom dvadeset pet godina od osnivanja Društva postignuti su izuzetni rezultati. Broj članova popeo se na 208. Od tog broja bilo je 97 izvršnih članova. Počasnih članova bilo je jedanaest. Na čelu Upravnog odbora od deset članova bio je predsednik Društva gradski inženjer Karl Dragutin Kapus. Član Upravnog odbora bio je **Josef Marks senior**. Zabeleženo je da je u „zaštitnom odeljenju“ bio i tadašnji predsednik Jevrejske opštine **dr Isidor Vajs**. Koliko su građani Zemuna poštovali rad Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva najbolje svedoči broj takozvanih „pomažućih članova“. Na 25-u godišnjicu od osnivanja beleži se 90 članova i jedna zadužbina. Na spisku pomažućih članova bilo je više Jevreja: **Moric Binder, dr Isidor Vajs, Samuel Dojč, Gabriel Polgar, Moses Farchy, Marija Hercl, Jakob i Morig Hiršl**.



Gabriel Polgar

Uspon Dobrovoljnjog vatrogasnog društva trajao je sve do početka Prvog svetskog rata. Ratna vremena nisu bila naklonjena radu Društva. To se naročito odražavalo na društvene finansije. Gradska uprava je sve do 1914. isplaćivala Društvu 1000 kruna godišnje. Međutim do novembra 1917. nisu ništa uplaćivali na račun Društva što je značajno otežavalo njihov rad. Takođe i pomažući članovi nisu uplaćivali priloge do decembra 1917. Tada su izmirili svoje obaveze i za protekle godine. Jedini veći prihod Društva u to vreme bila je donacija poznatog jevrejskog industrijalca **Gabriela Polgara** koji je svojom oporukom 12. 10. 1915. zaveštao po 500 kruna Društvu i podružnici u Francstalu.

RAD DRUŠTVA POSLE FORMIRANJA NOVE DRŽAVE

Prve godine posle završetka rata i formiranja nove države Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca, kasnije Jugoslavije, bile su možda najteže od osnivanja Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva. Broj članova je drastično opao. Predsednik Društva u to vreme bio je **Berthold Goldštajn**. Najvažnija aktivnost bila je usmerena na popunjavanje novim članstvom.

Godina 1922. bila je na neki način prekretnica u popunjavanju Društva novim članovima. Na početku godine broj članova je iznosi 75 da bi se već krajem novembra taj broj popeo na 85. Povećanju ugleda Društva kod građanstva doprinela je i veoma uspela vežba za ispitivanje sprava održana novembra 1922. godine. Međutim nedostatak stabilnog finansiranje pravilo je velike probleme u radu Društva.

Da bi popravilo tešku finansijsku situaciju Društvo je organizovalo tokom 1922. godine prikupljanje dobrovoljnih sredstava za rad. Građani Zemuna su se u velikom broju odazvali pozivu i prikupljeno je 54.060,00 kruna.

Jedan događaj je posebno interesantan za nas. Zabeleženo je da je prilikom davanja pomoći odbijen poklon od 200 dinara **Ludviga Zone-nberga** zbog vređanja članova društva sa obrazloženjem da: „Društvo nije tako nisko palo da bi se dalo vredati za 200 dinara“. Njegov potomak **Bela Zonenberg** bio je aktivni pripadnik Društva i stradao je u borbi protiv okupatora u partizanskim jedinicama.

Iako se finansijska situacija uspešno rešavala a i broj članova se stalno povećavao, teška situacija se nastavila i sledeće godine. Bilo je sukoba i trzavica između članova Društva. Tako beležimo da je **Berthold Goldštajn** u januaru 1923. godine dao ostavku na mesto predsednika Društva.

Njegov primer sledi i potpredsednik Josip Turčić. Da bi se prevazišla postojeća kriza rešeno



*Berthold Goldštajn sa sinovima
Oskarom i Ervinom*

je da se 4. februara 1923. godine održi vanredna izborna Skupština. Na toj Skupštini je za predsednika ponovo izabran **Berthold Goldštajn** a Josip Turčić je posle izvesnog vremena isključen iz Društva „zbog njegovog negativnog delovanja suprotnog interesima Društva“. Bez obzira na postojeće razlike i trzavice iz izveštaja podnetog na Skupštini vidi se da je broj članova u međuvremenu narastao na 125, da su vatrogasne sprave dovedene u red i da je od dobrovoljnih priloga sakupljena značajna suma novca.

OSNIVANJE OMLADINSKE SEKCIJE DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASNOG DRUŠTVA

Velike poteškoće sa kojima se suočavalo Društvo tokom 1924. godine nisu ga sprečile da formira omladinsku sekciju.

Najveće zasluge za osnivanje podmlatka imali su omladinci Josip Milinković i **Jakov Čelebi**. Podmladak je trebao da bude baza za prijem novih „aktivnih članova“.



Josip Milinković



Jakov Čelebi

Generalna skupštine održana 14. aprila 1924. godine donela je nova Pravila koja su potvrđena od strane vlasti 1925.

Sve te aktivnosti značajno su doprinele boljoj organizaciji Društva.

Po prvi put su se tačno odredila pravila i dužnosti članova i njihovi zadaci i uloga Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva u životu Zemunu.





Jakov Čelebi je 1924. primljen u članstvo Matrice

Interesantno je da je tokom 1925. godine došlo do sukoba između aktivnih članova i eleva (podmlatka) oko dobijanja zimskih kaputa. Naime tek te godine su dobijeni zimski kaputi, koji su prvo podeljeni podmlatku, na šta su reagovali aktivni članovi koji su zahtevali da se kaputi prvo podele njima, jer su se oni godinama smrzavali na dežurstvima i požarima.

PROSLAVA 56 GODIŠNJICE OD OSNIVANJA

Godina 1926. bila je značajna za budući rad Društva. Društvo je i pored nekih nesuglasica, karakterističnih za rad ovakvih dobrovoljnih društava, u novu 1926. godinu ušlo organizaciono uređeno i sa solidnom bazom članova i vatrogasnih sprava. Te godine odlučeno je da se svim omladincima koji navrše 18 godina dodeli pravo glasa na Skupštini.

Na Glavnoj skupštini održanoj marta 1926. izabrano je novo rukovodstvo. Članovi su birali između dve liste i pobedila je lista na čijem čelu je bio dr Petar Marković, koji je izabran za predsednika. Za nadzapovednika izabran je Karlo Gnus. Za sekretara Društva izabran je Oskar Goldštajn.

To su uglavnom bili članovi uprave još od 1923. koji su značajno doprineli stabilizaciji Društva.

Društvo je bilo veoma tolerantno prema svim narodima i konfesijama ali je često dolazilo pod udar šovinističkih i reakcionarnih novina koje su izlazile u Beogradu i Zemunu. Tako beležimo oštar odgovor koji je Društvo uputilo javnosti na članak objavljen pod naslovom „Glas iz Zemuna“ u kome se između ostalog insinuirala da se Jevreji uvlače u upravni odbor Društva radi ličnih interesa. „*Nije istina da su se u našu upravu uvukli pred slavu neki ambiciozni židovski mladići, nego je naprotiv istina da se članovi naše uprave već godinama mijenjali nisu i da su ti članovi na svojim položajima izabrani od strane Glavne skupštine 24 travnja 1923. godine.*“ Uprava nije dozvolila da se među članovima širi nacionalna i verska netrpeljivost i odgovor završava rečima: „*U našem gradu među građanstvom vlada tradicionalna verska tolerantnost, i naše Društvo nikada nije gledalo na versku pripadnost svojih članova, ali je gledalo da ima obzira prema svima*“.

Ova godina bila je obeležena čestim sukobima između članova i podmlatka, ali i između samih članova podmlatka, što će dovesti do gašenje podmlatka 1928. godine.



Oskar Goldštajn, Zemun 1906.

Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo iz Zemuna imalo je dobru saradnju sa sličnim društvima u Jugoslaviji. Iz perioda rada Društva dvadesetih godina XX veka sačuvana je jedna fotografija sa skupa vatrogasaca održanog u Osijeku 1. avgusta 1925. godine. Na njoj se nalaze članovi Društva iz Zemuna **Josip Elias, Josip Kronštajn i Oskar Goldštajn**, ispod njih sedi Vladimir Goršetić koji je u to vreme bio zapovjednik (vojvoda) u Dobrovoljnem vatrogasnem društvu u Požegi. Osim toga bio je i odbornik u tadašnjoj Hrvatsko-slavonskoj vatrogasnoj zajednici.



Josip Elias, Josif Kronštajn, Ervin Goldštajn i Vladimir Goršetić iz Požege



Muzička sekcija koju je Društvo godinama pokušavalo da ima u svom sastavu bila je stalno predmet sukoba među članovima. Naime, uveliko su se mešali privatni poslovi (sviranje po privatnim zabavama sa inventarom Društva - instrumentima) i obaveze prema Društvu. Zato je u više navrata rad muzičke sekcije bio prekidan. Poslednji put se to desilo 1923. godine. Uprava je tada raspustila muzičku sekciju i obrazovala „muzički odbor“ sa ciljem da se obnovi rad. To se i desilo dve godine kasnije. U zapisniku sa redovne glavne skupštine Društva održane 25. marta 1925. godine navodi se da je: „Osnovana je i nadalje društvena glazba, koja svirajući na našim društvenim instrumentima odlično napreduje“. Rukovodilac muzičke sekcije, kapelnik, bio je **Josip Kronštajn** koji je stradao u partizanskim jedinicama za vreme Drugog svetskog rata.

Pod njegovim rukovodstvom muzička sekcija je imala niz zapaženih nastupa, posebno 1926. godine povodom obeležavanja 56. godišnjice od osnivanja. Već 1927. godine javljaju se novi sukobi i članovi traže da se smeni novi kapelnik Dušan Grujičić jer je zauzet kao vojni muzičar. Konačno početkom 1928. uprava ponovo raspušta muzičku sekciju. Obnovljena je tek nekoliko godina kasnije.



*Dorđe Aćimović, član Matice od 1947.
sa helikonom koga su koristili muzičari
Matrice pre Drugog svetskog rata*

ZAKON O ORGANIZACIJI VATROGASTVA

Donošenje novog Zakona o organizovanju vatrogastva u Kraljevini Jugoslaviji imalo je dalekosežne posledice i na rad dobrovoljnih vatrogasnih društava. Zakon koji je stupio na snagu 15. jula 1933. imao je dosta pozitivnih crta, ali je u suštini išao za centralizacijom vatrogasne službe i umnogome je sputavao rad dobrovoljnih vatrogasnih društava. U vezi sa stupanjem novog Zakona održana je u Zemunu 12. novembra 1933. godine vanredna Skupština Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva. Tada je Društvo dobilo novo ime: **Dobrovoljna vatrogasna četa „Matica“**. Izabrana je nova uprava **Čete**. Na čelu uprave bio je predsednik dr Petar Marković a zapovednik je bio Stevan J. Marković. U upravu su tada bili izabrani Jevreji **Josip Elijas** za tajnika a **Jakov Čelebi** za podzapovednika.



Josip Elijas



Dr Petar Marković



Stevan J. Marković

Novim Zakonom formirane su područne vatrogasne župe. Prvi predsednik vatrogasne župe Beograd – Zemun – Pančevo bio je dr Petar Marković a tajnik **Jakov Čelebi**.

U tom periodu Jevreji su bili veoma aktivni u radu „Maticе“. Među njima su se posebno isticali: **Berthold Goldštajn**, **Ervin (Berthold) Goldštajn**, **Oscar (Berthold) Goldštajn**, **Samuel Majer**, **Jakov Čelebi**, **Bela Zoneberg**, **Josif Kronštajn**, **Adolf Fišer** i **Josip Elijas**.



Adolf Fišer

JAKOV ŽAK ČELEBI

Jakov Čelebi je rođen 20. septembra 1907. kao Salamon B. Jakov od oca Salamona Jakova Davida bugarskog podanika i majke Vide (Lea) rođene 1877. godine u porodici Zaharija iz Zemuna. Otac Jakova Čelebija je rođen u Sofiji 1875. godine od oca Jakova P. Davida, koji obitava u Jerusalimu, udovac (prepis iz matične knjige Jevrejske opštine Zemun). Salomon Jakov David je po zanimanju bio trgovac. Po dolasku u Zemun oženio se 1899. godine sa Leom Zaharijom. Dobili su čerku Simhu. Čerka Sara je rođena 1901. Treću čerku Rahelu (Rachel) dobili su 1904. godine. Sin Masal B. Jakov je rođen 1906. godine i nažalost je umro kao beba. Najmlađa sestra Ester se rodila 1909.



Simha (Soka), Rahela (Rachel) , Sara, Jakov, i Ester

Kada su zvanično počeli da koriste prezime Čelebi nije nam poznato. U matičnim knjigama Jevrejske opštine Zemun prvi put je zabeleženo prezime Čelebi u rodnom listu Sare 1901. godine i to u zagradi. Međutim ni kod Rahele, Masala i Jakova nema pomena o prezimenu Čelebi. Ponovo ga beležimo u rodnom listu Ester iz 1909.



*Salamon Jakov David
(Čelebi)
i
Vida Lea Zaharija,
udata Čelebi*





Lea Vida Zaharija udata Čelebi stoji sa sestrama, ? i Bertom (Buena)

Majka Vida je umrla 1926. a otac Salamon 1930. godine.

Jakov Čelebi je sa samo sedamnaest godina stupio u Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo (1924). Bio je uz Josipa Milinkovića inicijator osnivanja omladinskog podmlatka Društva.

Za Jakova Čelebiju se sa pravom može reći da je ceo život posvetio razvoju dobrovoljnog vatrogastva. Iako je imao stalno zaposlenje može se zaključiti da mu je rad u Dobrovoljnem vatrogasnem društvu bio na prvom mestu.

Jakov Čelebi u svečanoj zimskoj vatrogasnoj uniformi omladinskog podmlatka



Bar micva Jakova Čelebija



Posle odsluženja redovnog vojnog roka u jedinicama Vojske Kraljevine Jugoslavije nastavio je da radi na unapređenju vatrogasne službe u Zemunu.



Jakov Čelebi u sredini na odsluženju vojnog roka u vojsci Kraljevine Jugoslavije



Izborom za člana uprave i postavljanjem na mesto podzapovednika na Skupštini održanoj 1933. godine Jakov Čelebi je pokrenuo niz novih inicijativa za bolji rad „Matice“.



*Izvršujući članovi posle smotre pred prolećne vežbe.
Sede u drugom redu s desna: četvrti Jakov Čelebi, podzapovednik;
peti Josip Elijas, sekretar Društva; šesti dr Petar Marković, predsednik Društva;
sedmi Stevan J. Marković, zapovednik*

Između ostalih, prva inicijativa bila je akcija za obnovu i stvaranje novog podmlatka. Zahvaljujući njemu to se ubrzo i ostvarilo.



*Polaznici vatrogasnog tečaja za lađare sa instruktorom
Jakovom Čelebijem 1937. Zemun*

Njegov rad bio je visoko cenjen u Kraljevini. Zbog toga je Jakov Čelebi bio angažovan na izradi novog Zakona o organizovanju vatrogastva Kraljevine Jugoslavije. Na osnovu njegovog zaloganja u Zakon je ušla odredba da se iz premije osiguranja određeni procenat uplaćuje u vatrogasni fond. Na osnovu njegove zamisli izrađen je vatrogasni znak: ukrštena sekirica i baklja. Kasnije je dodat i vatrogasni šлем i taj znak je i danas u upotrebi.



Posle dolaska nacista na vlast u Nemačkoj, 1933. godine, pokrenute su brojne aktivnosti među jugoslovenskim vatrogascima kako bi se spremili za eventualna ratna dejstva. Kao važan deo tih aktivnosti bile su vežbe koje su izvodili za pasivnu odbranu od ratnih dejstava.

Čelebi je bio veoma aktivan u tim vežbama.



*Grupa članova DVČ i Jakov Celebi u sredini na vezbi
u opštinskom dvorištu Zemun, 1938.*

Jakov Čelebi je pripremio i organizovao izložbu pod nazivom „Vatrogastvo u odbrani od vazdušnih napada“. Ta izložba je obišla sve veće gradove Kraljevine Jugoslavije.

Jakov Čelebi se 19.2.1935. godine oženio se sa Beti (Betty) Rajhberg iz Zavidovića.

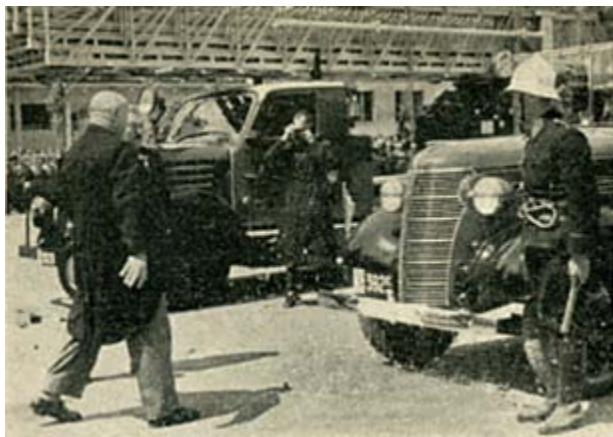
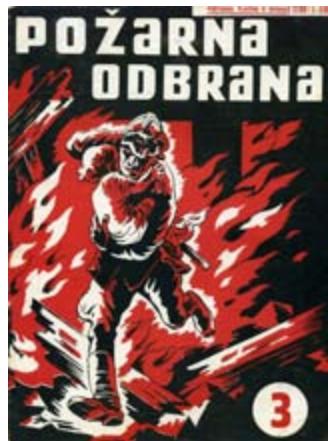


Beti ispred meteo stanice u zemunskom parku i sa Jakovom u šetnji Zemunom

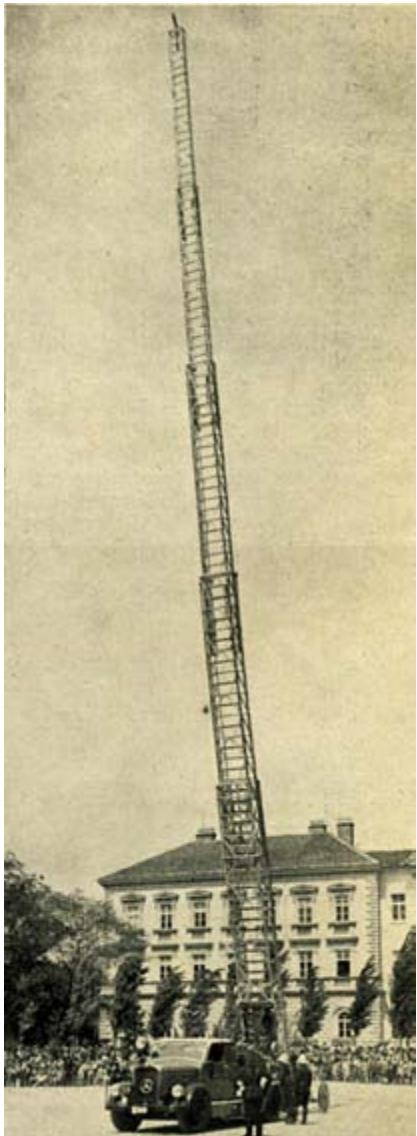
Jakov Čelebi je bio pokretač i urednik „redakcionog odbora“ časopisa „Požarna odbrana – mesečni stručni časopis vatrogasne župe Beograd – Zemun –Pančevo“. Prvi broj je izašao u januaru 1938. godine. U početku nije potpisivao svoje priloge da bi u drugoj godini izlaženja lista (1939.) stavljao inicijale. Pored njega u listu je objavljivao autorske tekstove ili prevode tekstova sa nemačkog i **Ervin Goldštajn**.

Jakov Čelebi je bio vizionar. Značajno je doprineo tehničkom opremanju „Maticе“. Zahvaljujući njegovom zalaganju Zemun je 1939. godine dobio u to vreme najmoderne i najduže vatrogasne automatske lestve na Balkanu, dužine 33,6 metara, firme METZ postavljene na karoseriju „Mercedes Benz“.

Iz dokumentacije lista „Požarna odbrana“ izdvajamo izveštaj sa proslave slave Dobrovoljno vatrogasne čete „Matica“ Sv. Florijana i Sv. Đurđa održane 7. maja 1939. godine. U tekstu Jakova Čelebija navodi se da je proslavi na Dečijem igralištu, iza Narodnog doma Kralja Aleksandra I u Zemunu, prisustvovalo je preko 3000. građana. Domaćin proslave bio je zapovednik čete Stevan J. Marković. Na proslavi je izvršeno osvećenje dva nova vatrogasna auto-tenka sa motornim pumpama domaće fabrike „Brod“ i novih automatskih lestvi METZ. O značaju ovih nabavki svedoči podatak da je spravama kumovao predsednik Senata Kraljevine Jugoslavije dr Anton Korošec.



Predsednik Senata Kraljevine Jugoslavije dr Anton Korošec
kume vatrogasnim vozilima 1939. Zemun



Prisutnima je prikazan rad lestvi koje su se uspravile i podigle na 33 metra za 15 sekundi.

Vatrogasne lestve prikazane na smotri u Gradskom parku u Zemunu 1939.

METZ - LJESTVE

automatske • poluautomatske i obične ljestve iz čelika do 32 m. visine
izradjuje također i ljestve za električne centrale
Sve ljestve izrađene su prema patentiranim automatsko sigurnosnim uređajima
Ponude i prospeske pošaljemo na zahtev besplatno



Na ovoj značajnoj proslavi po prvi put u Jugoslaviji je nastupile ženska vatrogasna ekipa fabrike „Tekstilid“ iz Zemuna.

Na svečanom defileu na čelu ženske ekipe bila je Beti, supruga Jakova Čelebija.



Smotra ženske ekipe pod komandom Jakova Čelebija



Ženska ekipa u vežbi gašenja krova

Iz izveštaja objavljenog 1939. u decembarskom broju „Požarne odbrane“ saznajemo o rezultatima časničkih ispita obavljenih za članove podružnih četa vatrogasne župe Beograd – Zemun – Pančevo.

Od sedam članova „Matice“ koji su položili ispit bila su i dva Jevrejina: **Ervin Goldštajn** i **Samuel Majer**. Sa odličnim uspehom položio je **Jakov Čelebi** za zapovednika u dobrovoljnim vatrogasnim četama.

„Požarna odbrana“ u januarskom dvobroju iz 1940. godine donosi izveštaj sa 70 redovne godišnje skupštine Dobrovoljne vatrogasne čete „Matica“.

Skupština održana 19. januara 1940. izabrala je za tajnika uprave **Josipa Elijasa**, za tajnika zapovedništva **Jakova Čelebija**, za spremištara **Samuela Majera** i za jednog od odelnih vođa **Ervina Goldštajna**.

Na skupštini vatrogasne župe Beograd - Zemun - Pančevo održane 10. marta 1940. ponovo je za tajnika izabran Jakov Čelebi a za zapovednika Stevan. J. Marković.

U Nadzorni odbor izabran je Josip Milinković koji je značajno doprineo spasavanju Jakova Čelebija za vreme Drugog svetskog rata.



*Komandir Stevan J. Marković,
tajnik zapovedništva Jakov Čelebi,
predsednik dr Petar Marković i
tajnik uprave Josip Elijas,
Zemun 1937.*

Inicijativa Za Gradnju Vatrogasnog Doma

U dvobroju „Požarne odbrane“ mart-april 1939. Jakov Čelebi piše. „Po zaključku 68 godišnje skupštine (1938.) ova četa otpočela je akciju za zidanje vatrogasnog doma koji je vitalno pitanje te čete. ...Ova akcija je započela 7. maja kojom prilikom su gospode članice humanih društava u Zemunu skupljale priloge za zidanje vatrogasnog doma i škole za pasivnu odbranu u Zemunu.“



Dobrovoljno vatrogasna četa „Matica“ pokušavala je na sve načine da dođe do sredstava neophodnih za podizanje vatrogasnog doma. Ostao je sačuvan letak kojim Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo poziva građane Zemuna da dođu 5. februara 1938. na VELIKU ZABAVU u hotel Central na kojoj će svirati odličan „DŽES“. Čist prihod bio je namenjen fondu Vatrogasnog doma.



Jakov Čelebi je došao na ideju da se štampaju tzv. CIGLJE koje su namenski prodavane građanstvu za izgradnju vatrogasnog doma. Odziv građana je bio veliki. Međutim sve aktivnosti oko podizanja vatrogasnog doma prekinula je okupacija 1941. godine.

Ulaskom nemačke vojske u Zemun prekinute su i sve aktivnosti Jakova Čelebija u Društvu. Zajedno sa svim Jevrejima, članovima „Matica“ bio je isključen iz njenog rada već 14. aprila 1941. godine. Na osnovu **Zakona o rasnoj pripadnosti** isključeni su iz rada Dobrovoljne vatrogasne Čete „Matica“ svi Jevreji: **Jakov Čelebi, Josip Elijas, Samuel Majer, Bela Zonenberg, Oskar Goldštajn, Josif Kronštajn i Ervin Goldštajn.**

PREZIME I IME			
<i>Elias Josip</i>			<i>Ljubljana 16</i>
Če:	čip: 1. Lipanj Radek	Unaprednja, potvrda, od:	
Očeva ime:			
Zanimanje:	član "Liberatora"		
Stanje:	pravljivo		
Dan rođ. i god. rod.	20. 10. 1899.		
Mesto rođenja:	Kraljevsko		
Ster:			
Bosanska:			
Zemlja:	Rimsko carstvo		
Alma mater:	Zemun		
Dobrovoljno:	Jugoslavija		
Veti:	ničije		
Job na vojsci:	ničije		
Kraj voj.			
Što je u službi:	1912.		
Dobrovoljno pripojen:			
Ime:			
Dobrovoljno: 1912. uključen u armiju, ukratko u vojnu je poslao			
PREZIME I IME			
<i>Goldstein Ervin</i>			<i>Prijestolje Libelijevske k.</i>
Če:		Unaprednja, potvrda, od:	
Očeva ime:	Gertold		
Zanimanje:	član "članice"		
Stanje:	pravljivo		
Dan rođ. i god. rod.	8. IX. 1895.		
Mesto rođenja:	Beograd		
Ster:	U.S.A.		
Bosanska:			
Zemlja:	jugoslavija		
Mesto nadležnosti:	Zemun		
Dobrovoljno:	Jugoslavija		
Veti:	ničije		
Job na vojsci:	ničije		
Kraj voj.			
Što je u službi:			
Dobrovoljno pripojen:			
Ime:			
Dobrovoljno: 1912. uključen u armiju, ukratko u vojnu je poslao			
PREZIME I IME			
<i>Mayer Samuel</i>			
Če:		Unaprednja, potvrda, od:	
Očeva ime:	Levi		
Zanimanje:	član "članice"		
Stanje:	pravljivo		
Dan rođ. i god. rod.	14. XII. 1899.		
Mesto rođenja:	Stari Beograd		
Ster:	Stara Pazova		
Bosanska:			
Zemlja:			
Mesto nadležnosti:			
Dobrovoljno:			
Veti:			
Job na vojsci:			
Kraj voj.			
Što je u službi:			
Dobrovoljno pripojen:			
Ime:			
Dobrovoljno: 1912. uključen u armiju, ukratko u vojnu je poslao			
PREZIME I IME			
<i>Cebi Isak</i>			
Če:	čip: 1. Lipanj Salomon	Unaprednja, potvrda, odlikovanja, karne i sl.	
Očeva ime:			
Zanimanje:	član "članice"		
Stanje:	pravljivo		
Dan rođ. i god. rod.	16. IV. 1897.		
Mesto rođenja:	Zemun		
Ster:			
Bosanska:	čip: 1. Lipanj Bogd		
Zemlja:	jugoslavija		
Mesto nadležnosti:	Zemun		
Dobrovoljno:			
Veti:			
Job na vojsci:			
Kraj voj.			
Što je u službi:			
Dobrovoljno pripojen:			
Ime:			
Dobrovoljno: 1912. uključen u armiju, ukratko u vojnu je poslao			
PREZIME I IME			
<i>Stan: Jasenovac 4 - Beograd 26</i>			
Če:		S T A N :	
Očeva ime:		čip: 1. Lipanj Dorćija	
Zanimanje:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Stanje:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Dan rođ. i god. rod.		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Mesto rođenja:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Ster:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Bosanska:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Zemlja:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Mesto nadležnosti:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Dobrovoljno:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Veti:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Job na vojsci:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Kraj voj.		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Što je u službi:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Dobrovoljno pripojen:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Ime:		čip: 1. Lipanj član	
Dobrovoljno: 1912. uključen u armiju, ukratko u vojnu je poslao		čip: 1. Lipanj član	

Izvodi iz matične knjige Društva

Za sve njih počinju dani teškog terora koje su nad Jevrejima sprovdile nemačke okupacione snage i ustaška vlast. Svim Jevrejima iz Zemuna određen je svakodnevni prinudni rad. Među njima su bili i članovi „Maticе“.

Mnogi od njih se nisu mirili sa tom situacijom. Pokušavali su tokom 1942. godine da se povežu sa partizanskim odredima. Nekoliko članova Dobrovoljno vatrogasne čete „Matica“ je tu nameru i ostvarilo.

Na njihov doprinos oslobodilačkoj borbi podseća spomen ploča koja stoji u holu Vatrogasnog doma u Zemunu. Na njoj su ispisana i imena pet Jevreja, članova Dobrovoljno vatrogasne čete stradalih u Narodnooslobodilačkoj borbi. U Jasenovcu su stradali **Josip Elias**, **Ervin Goldštajn** i **Samuel Majer**. U partizanskim jedinicama stradali su **Josif Kronštajn** i **Bela Zonenberg**.

Jakov Čelebi je takođe bio obavezan da se svakog dana pojavi na prozivci za prinudni rad. On je međutim na sve načine pokušavao da se domogne partizanskih jedinica. Posle višemesečnih priprema, tokom kojih je obezbedio lažna dokumenta, odlučio je da više neće ići na prinudni rad i sklonio se u stan lokalnog domobrana koji u to vreme nije bio u Zemunu. U njegovom spasavanju učestvovao je stari član Matice Mihailo Tomić, zvani čika Mića. Cisternom kojom je upravljao domaći Nemac došao je ispred stana domobrana gde se dan ranije sklonio Jakov Čelebi i po već utvrđenom dogовору одвео ga do dr Nikole Kovačevića u Zemunsku bolnicu где je operisan.

Kada se oporavio otišao je sa lažnim dokumentima u Zagreb. U spasavanju Čelbijia posebno mesto pripada Josipu Milinkoviću koji mu je dao svoju originalnu „poslovnu knjižicu“ Kraljevine Jugoslavije.



Jakov Čelebi, prvi s leva



Poslovna knjižica Josipa Milinkovića sa ubačenom fotografijom Jakova Čelbijia

Knjižica je prepravljena. U knjižici je ostalo originalno ime i prezime ali je dodata fotografija Jakova Čelbijia. Pošto su Jakov i Josip bili veoma slični „lični opis“ nije menjан.

Josip Milinković i Jakov Čelebi su zajedno radili u preduzeću za remont brodova u Zemunu. Poznavali su se još iz dana kada su zajedno

organizovali formiranje vatrogasnog podmlatka u Zemunu, davne 1924. godine.

Takođe je od njega dobio i originalnu „krstnu svjedodžbu“ na ime Josipa Milinkovića. Pored ostalog imao je i „propustnicu“ na ime Josipa Milinkovića za slobodno kretanje na teritoriji tzv. Nezavisne države Hrvatske.



Kasnije se pridružio slavonskim partizanskim jedinicama.

Bio je pripadnik VI Korpusa u Slavoniji.



*Jakov Čelebić, 1945,
kraj Drugog svetskog rata*

Njegova sestra Sara sa mužem i dva sina stradali su u Staroj Gradiški i Jasenovcu.

Sestra Rahela sa mužem je stradala u partizanskim jedinicama.



Najstarija sestra Simha (Soka) bila je u glavnom štabu partizanskih jedinica Hrvatske.

Njen muž je bio u zarobljeništvu kao oficir Kraljevine Jugoslavije.

Sestra Estera je bila u XVII Slavonskoj brigadi. Supruga Jakova, Beti (Betty) rat je provela u Zagrebu pod tudištem imenom. Ujaci, tetke i ostala rodbina su stradali u logorima Jasenovac i Stara Gradiška. Od mnogo-brojne familije posle završetka Drugog svetskog rata u Zemunu se vratili samo Jakov i sestre Simha i Estera.

Posle oslobođenja Jakov Čelebi je dobio prvo zaposlenje 28. aprila 1945. godine u Ministarstvu narodnog zdravlja u Glavnoj upravi za nabavku i raspodelu lekova.



Potvrda o zaposlenju

Međutim on je izrazio želju da nastavi rad u Dobrovoljno vatrogasnog četi „Matica“. Ponovo je primljen na dužnost 5. jula 1945. godine.

U februaru 1946. godine izabran je za tehničkog oficira.

Nekoliko godina je predano radio na poslovima obnove rada „Matice“ da bi se sa suprugom Beti, rođenom Rajhberg, 1951. godine iselio u Izrael.

U Izraelu se takođe bavio poslovima vatrogasne zaštite ali su zbog zdravstvenog stanja supruge odlučili da se vrate za Jugoslaviju.



Jakov Čelebi u kapetanskoj uniformi



Dokumenta Jakova Čelebija iz Izraela: pasoš Izraela i članska knjižica opšte organizacije jevrejskih radnika u Izraelu

Po povratku u Srbiju radio je u Novobeogradskoj toplani ali nije zapostavio ni rad u Dobrovoljnom vatrogasnem društvu „Matica“.



Jakov Čelebi, prvi s desna

Po odlasku u penziju učestvovao je u brojnim aktivnostima koje je organizovala „Matica“.





Za svoj rad posthumno je dobio od Vatrogasnog saveza Beograda „Plaketu za doprinos i naročite zasluge za razvoj vatrogasne organizacije Beograda“.



Odlikovan je ordenom zasluga za narod II reda.



Preminuo je u Zemunu
1993. godine.

Dr Olga Manojlović Pintar: RECENZIJA

Izložba *UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU* i katalog koji je prati, predstavljaju višeslojnu istorijsku vinjetu, koju čini nekoliko koncentričnih krugova. U centru tog složenog istorijskog tkanja su jedno malo građansko udruženje i jedan (ne)običan čovek koji mu je bio predan čitavog života. Kroz ličnu priču Jakova Žaka Čelebija (1907–1993.) i prikaz njegovog rada i angažmana u Dobrovoljnem vatrogasnem društvu Zemun, Nenad Fogel je predstavio proces društvene emancipacije Jevreja na prostoru Balkana i Srednje Evrope, stradanja i otpore fašizmu tokom Drugog svetskog rata, ali i harmoničan život koji je započeo posle 1945. godine.



Izdvajajući Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo kao udruženje koje je od prvih dana osnivanja 1870-te godine pratilo, ali istovremeno i podsticalo procese modernizacije i urbanizacije Zemuna, Fogel je istakao ulogu nekoliko generacija Jevreja koji su obeležili njegov rad. Na taj način, on je posredno ukazao na složene odnose koji su postojali među članovima Udruženja, te na njihove stalne napore da se suprotstave negativnim političkim uticajima i očuvaju jedinstvo. Pored Jevreja, članovi vatrogasnog društva u Zemunu su od prvih dana osnivanja bili Nemci, Česi, Hrvati i Srbi.

Kroz istorijat vatrogasnog društva, autor je uspeo da predstavi i ulogu koju su Jevreji imali u procesu razvoja male dunavske varoši kao što je bio Zemun. On je, na taj način, diskretno otvorio prostor za sagledavanje složenih društvenih odnosa koji su obeležili postojanje Austro-Ugarske carvine, a zatim i Kraljevine i najzad socijalističke Jugoslavije. Tako je Zemun u tekstu prikazan kao simbol liminalnosti – kao prostor preplitanja različitih kulturnih uticaja, verskih, nacionalnih i etničkih grupa.

Nenad Fogel je i u ovom svom radu posebnu pažnju usmerio na sudbinu Jevreja u Drugom svetskom ratu – od prvih dana okupacije kada su uvedeni rasni zakoni po kojima su pripadnici jevrejske zajednice obeleženi, kada im je zabranjen rad u državnim preduzećima i udruženjima i nametnuta obaveza prinudnog rada, do zatočenja i stradanja u zloglasnom ustaškom logoru Jasenovac. Ovoga puta on je osvetlio sudsbine Jevreja – pripadnika Dobrovoljne vatrogasne čete *Matica*. Na osnovu Zakona

o rasnoj pripadnosti iz *Matrice* su bez izuzetka isključeni svi Jevreji. Pored Jakova Čelebija bili su to: Josip Elias, Samuel Majer, Bela Zonenberg, Oskar Goldštajn, Josif Kronštajn i Ervin Goldštajn. Ni jedan od njih nije dočekao kraj rata. U logoru Jasenovac su ubijeni Josip Elias, Ervin Goldštajn i Samuel Majer. Boreći se protiv okupatora u partizanskim jedinicama su poginuli Josif Kronštajn i Bela Zonenberg. Jakov Čelebi je jedini doživeo oslobođenje. Uz pomoć drugova vatrogasaca uspeo je da se priključi Narodno-oslobodilačkom pokretu i da se da se aktivno – sa oružjem u ruci suprotstavi fašizmu i nacizmu.

Nenad Fogel je ovom izložbom izvukao iz zaborava ličnost koju je moguće percipirati kao paradigmu borbe protiv fašizma – nemametljivog i skromnog čoveka koji je branio svoj i živote svojih najbližih. Kao u nekom filmu, prikazan je dramatičan beg Čelebija iz ustaškog Zemuna i njegovo pristupanje jedinicama slavonskih partizana. Najzad, posebnu pažnju je Nenad Fogel posvetio prikazu Čelebijevog života po završetku rata, odlasku u Izrael i konačnom povratku u Jugoslaviju, te ponovnom angažmanu u Dobrovoljnem vatrogasnem društvu *Matica*.

Interesantno zamišljena, bogato opremljena filmom, faksimilima dokumenata i publikacija, fotografijama i razglednicama, izložba ima potencijal da podstakne dijalog i otvoriti prostor za saznavanje novih podataka iz prošlosti koji neminovno i suštinski utiču na stvarnost. Kao i svaka iskrena, ma koliko na prvi pogled mala istorijska slika ona ima snagu da utiče na dalju demokratizaciju društva u Srbiji.

Beograd, 1. jul 2017.

*Dr Olga Manojlović Pintar
Viša naučna saradnica
Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije*

ZAHVALNOST

Jevrejska opština Zemun i autor izražavaju zahvalnost svim donatorima koji su omogućili da se otrgne od zaborava značaj koji su Jevreji iz Zemuna imali u osnivanju i razvoju vatrogastva u Srbiji i Zemunu.

Postavka ove izložbe prvi je rezultat primene novog Zakona o oticanju posedica Holokausta. Pored pomoći koju je Jevrejska opština Zemun dobila od Republike Srbije značajni doprinos realizaciji naše izložbe dalo je Ministarstvo kulture i informisanja Republike Srbije, gradska opština Zemun, JDC iz Njujorka i Ing. Josef Žamboki iz Izraela.

U pripremi izložbe autor je imao veliku pomoć od Đorđa Aćimovića, člana Dobrovoljno vatrogasnog društva „Matica“ iz Zemuna od 1947. godine. Njegova lična arhiva omogućila je da se pripremi sveobuhvatni prikaz delovanja Jakova Žaka Čelebija u radu „Maticе“.

Značajnu pomoć u istraživanju imali smo od profesora Miodraga Dabižića, Jevrejskog istorijskog muzeja iz Beograda i Dobrovoljno vatrogasnog društva „Matica“.

Atelje i galerija Čubrilo, koja je smeštena u Milenijumskoj kuli na Gradošu, omogućila nam je da izložbu predstavimo u prostoru koji je od prvih dana njenog otvaranja 1896. godine Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo koristilo kao osmatračnicu.

ATELJE I GALERIJA ČUBRILLO



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Lična arhiva Đorđa Aćimovića

Arhivska građa DVD „Matica“ Zemun

Arhiva Jevrejskog istorijskog Muzeja u Beogradu

Eng. Nenad Fogel

**THE PARTICIPATION OF JEWS
IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING
IN ZEMUN**

Dedicated to Jakov Jacques Çelebi

Zemun, 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Jews began their organized settlement in Zemun in 1739. Due to the state's policies in force, they were persons on the very margin of social life. The fact that they had to contend the authorities for a very long time in order to be allowed to erect their synagogue is a perfect example of such a state of affairs. Finally, after 110 years, they obtained permission to build an Ashkenazi temple. The building of the synagogue began in 1850. It was sanctified in 1863. The importance of erecting the synagogue as a Jewish cultural center, incorporating a school and community center, was multifold.



The Ashkenazi Synagogue

The synagogue became a place of gathering and besides its religious function, it was the seat for intense talks and discussions on ways to improve living conditions in Zemun and make it a safer place for everyday life, not only for Jews, but all its citizens. The small Jewish Community in Zemun was highly active. A push toward their broader engagement was the Decree brought by Emperor Franz Joseph I in 1868, by which Jews living within the Empire gained equal rights to those of other confessions, i.e. to citizens of all other nationalities within the Empire. From then on numerous restrictions concerning their choice of profession, as well as legal right for their settlement in Zemun, i.e. in the so-called Military Frontier, ceased.

Zemun Jews were always inclined to sanction innovative ideas emerging at the time. They were among the first supporters, if not the actual originators, of the founding of the first Volunteer Fire service. Their contribution to the organization of the first Volunteer Fire Department in Zemun, back in

1870 was considerable. Their aspiration to participate in the founding of the Volunteer Fire Department was also an indication of their social emancipation within the multi-ethnical and multi-confessional environment existing at that time in Zemun. The commitment to establish a Fire Department came from all ethnic groups living at the time in Zemun. Among the signatories of the "Protocol" of the Department were Serbs, Jews, Czechs, Croats, Germans.... The Department was very tolerant toward all nationalities and confessions right up to the occupation in 1941...."and it strived to show equal consideration to all".

Today, when there is not one Jew among the membership of the Volunteer Fire Department "Matica", the cause of this status should be questioned. Many members of the Volunteer Fire Department pass daily beside the plaque to "Comrades deceased in the Peoples' Revolution 1941-1945", placed inside the hall of the Department. However, we believe that only a few are aware that on the plaque the names of the last Jewish firefighters of Zemun are preserved.



Save for Jakov Jacques Çelebi, the single Jewish firefighter who survived the Holocaust. Immediately upon World War Two he once again took to the numerous tasks, prohibited to Jews upon the entry of the German occupation army and by the superseding government of the ISC in Zemun.

The present exhibition is envisaged to shed light on the role of Zemun Jews in the founding and operation of Zemun's Volunteer Firefighting Department, and correspondingly to bring to memory the tragic fate the Jews – fire-fighters met with during the Holocaust.

FIRE AND THE ORGANIZED BATTLE AGAINST CONFLAGRATION

Mankind has during its millennia long history been fascinated by fire. The initial association of ancient men and women with fire was to run away from it. They next related to it by turning it into an entity to be “worshipped”; however the desire to keep it under their control was ever present. Once they realized how fire could be advantageous to them, they sought self ignited forest fires and ways to preserve it. They had no knowledge how to “make” fire and for a long time the “cult” of preserving it persevered. Once they finally “harnessed” it, they soon realized that it could be very dangerous too, especially to their areas of settlement. The history of organized firefighting leads back to ancient Rome and the reign of Emperor Augustus.

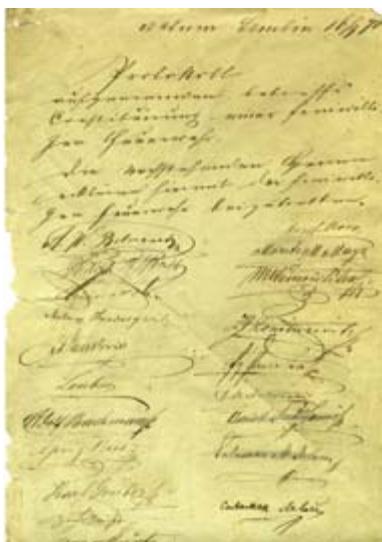
Initial firefighting attempts date back to 1254 and France to the reign of Louis IX the Holy when the “gues bourgeois”, public surveillance was founded by one of his decrees. By the same decree citizens were allowed to organize themselves against fires. In the process of urban expansion, fires of catastrophic effect became frequent occurrences. At first houses made of straw were victims of fire, later those made of timber, leading up to bricks and today’s modern dwellings made of concrete and iron. Great fires that devastated entire cities posed a threat to Zemun too, during the XVIII and XIX centuries. The fire that flared up in Zemun on April 2, 1788, destroyed the entire block of houses in the south part of the city. Warehouses and auxiliary buildings were also wiped out. However, the flames were subdued before they could reach the town center. Only three years later on August 22, 1971, a fire destroyed 58 houses along the path between Oračka and Bežanijska streets.

The fire that caught a house situated on the Magistrate Square on August 16, 1867, completely destroyed the building of the old Magistrate and ten other houses in its vicinity. The next day the fire spread to Sindelićeva Street where many houses succumbed to its flames as did the bell tower of the St. Nicolas church. The entire, so called, “Lower city” was engulfed in heavy smoke and sparks flew in all directions reaching parts of town quite distant from the place of initial ignition. In 1869 the Zemun Magistrate brought a “Decree on fire control”. Within the offices of the Magistrate a “Fire commission” was founded with the task to bring “efficient measures of protection against fires as well as penalties for negligence of such measures”. A group of eminent citizens of Zemun vigorously upheld the Magistrate decision. They instigated necessary steps to establish a Volunteer Fire Department similar to those that were being founded at the time in many cities throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Austria).

The first Volunteer Fire Department founded in the territory of former Yugoslavia was in Varaždin in 1864. After Varaždin, Volunteer Fire Departments were successively founded in Sisak 1865, Metlika 1869, Zagreb, Ptuj,

Ljubljana and in Zemun in 1870. Within the same year when the Decree on fire control was brought some twenty upholders of the idea to form the Volunteer Fire Department held their initial meeting on September 16, 1870. At this meeting they signed a document on their intent to join the Volunteer Fire Department. On the original minutes to the meeting it is said: PROTOCOL drawn on the constitution of a Volunteer Fire Department. The undersigned participants in the Meeting hereby declare their willingness to join the Volunteer Fire Department (translated from German). The signatures of those present were affixed below.

Signatures to the PROTOCOL were affixed by the following Jews: grain merchant **Philip Herzl**, merchants **Leopold Kohn**, **Salamon Levi**, **Moritz Mayer**, printers **Samuel Kohn**, **Asriel Haim**, **Salamon Nisim** and builder **Joséf Marks** whose blueprints were used to build the Sephardim synagogue in Zemun in 1871.



*Protocol on the Establishment of
the Volunteer Fire Department*

1870



The Sephardic temple

Among the founders of the Volunteer Fire Department beside Jews there were also Germans, Czechs, Croats and Serbs. Two weeks later, on October 1st, the second meeting of the founders was held. At the meeting beside the founders there were also present many well to do citizens of Zemun (43) among them three Jews: **Bernard Bilic**, **Moses Wechsler** and trader **Anton Levi**. At the meeting members of three "Committees" were elected. One committee was for "regulating statute procedures" (Matija Mate Ivić, Ferdinand Heinrich and Gojko Teodorović), the second for "attracting new members"

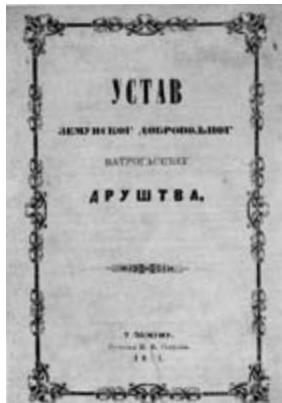
(**Philip Herzl**, Đorđe St. Petrović and Panajot Morfi) and the third for “collecting donations for the Fire Department till” (**Anton Levi**, Anton Bolmanac and **Leopold Kohn**).

The first Volunteer Fire Department in the territory of today's Serbia was founded by the decision brought by its General Assembly on November 1, 1870, in Zemun. The Assembly passed the Statute of the Volunteer Fire Department which was then confirmed by the decision of the “Military Division Command in Varadine” the same year. The elected Commander of the Department was Heinrich Welsch, the treasurer Panajot Morfi and Ferdinand Heinrich was elected secretary. On the basis of the brought Statute (Articles of Association) the Department was divided into the following divisions: climbers, hose men, bucket unit and guards. There was also a trumpeter. At the same Assembly fourteen “climbers” were selected by the Commander. Among them were three Jews: **Salamon Levi**, **Josef Marks** and **Philip Herzl**. The Volunteer Fire Department was founded at the time when Zemun was still part of the Military Frontier so the formal language in use was German, but most of the written material was printed in Serbian Cyrillic.

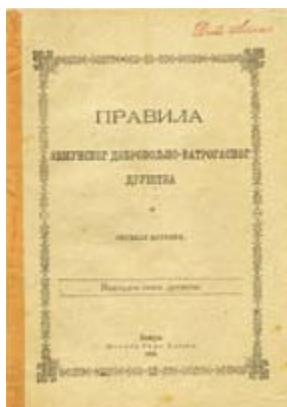
The Statute was printed at the start of 1871 in Cyrillic in the “Pečatnja I. K. Soprona.” printing house. It was also printed in German.

The rules of “The Zemun Volunteer Fire Department and its signals” were printed in 1888 in Cyrillic in “Štampa Sime Pajića” printers.

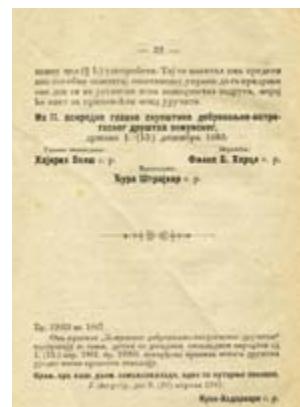
The rules (guidelines) were brought on the second Extraordinary Assembly of the Volunteer Fire Department of Zemun held on December 1 (13), 1885. The rules were signed by the Chief Commander Heinrich Welsch, Secretary **Philip B. Herzl** and President Djura Streicher. The same rules were confirmed on April 6 (18), 1887, by the Home government of the Kingdom of Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, interior division. It was signed by Khuen-Héderváry.



*Constitution of the
Zemun Fire Dept., 1871*



*Rules of the Zemun
Volunteer Fire Dept.*

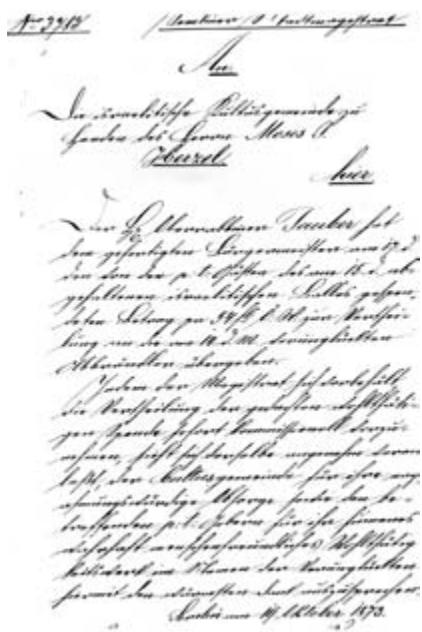


*The rules validated by
Philip Herzl*

Even upon the proclamation of Zemun as a free city and the introduction of a civic administration, the German language remained in use as the official language. The orders of the Volunteer Fire Department were given in German, its minutes, attestations, oaths and all other documents were in German. Beside the crest of Zemun embossed on the Department seal its pertaining lettering was in German and Serbo-Croatian, both in the Cyrillic and Latin alphabet. From 1918 all documents were printed in Serbo-Croatian.

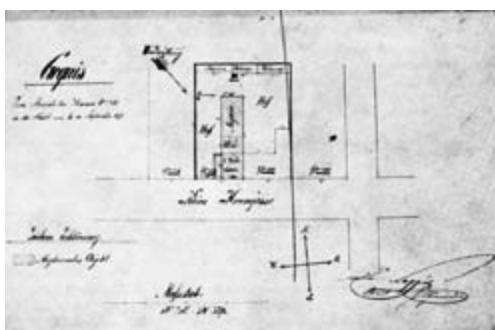
THE OPERATION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT UP TO WORLD WAR ONE

Within the first few years of the Department founding many different activities were undertaken. Primarily the number of its members was increased while simultaneously its material substance and financial basis were consolidated. On June 9, 1872, the Volunteer Fire Department elected from the very elite of the citizenship, its first honorary members. One year later, on June 23, 1873, the first "Firefighters reserve" was established. The 40 subscribed members were divided into three groups. Members of the reserve had the privilege to wear the department fireman uniform on condition that they acquire it themselves. The first doctor of the Department was **Dr. Mavro Rechnizer**.



*The Magistrate's Letter of
Appreciation to the Jewish
Community Zemun for collecting
voluntary contributions*

The Jewish Community in Zemun took an active part in collecting contributions for the Department's operations. Thus we note the gratification note dated October 19, 1873, of the City Magistrate sent to the President of the Community **Moses Herzl** regarding the funds collected at a Jewish dancing festivity, in the amount of 55 forints for victims of fires.



Sketch of a fire in Duvrovacka Street

The importance of forming the Volunteer Fire Department of Zemun was best perceived on September 14, 1875, when in the very heart of the town, in Mala Gospodska Street, today's Dubrovačka 22, the house belonging to **Jacob Levi** caught fire. The house included storage space for feathers. Owing to the perfect organization of the Volunteer firefighters a fire of much greater proportions was deterred. A report on the fire, paired with a drawing, was

made by the city engineer, later President of the Department, Karl Dragutin Kapus. Owing to the enforcement organization, enhanced prevention measures and a strict abidance of the rules, the number of fires on a yearly basis was greatly reduced. There were some ten fires each year and they were mainly of smaller proportion.

During the 25 year period from the founding of the Department exceptional results were achieved. The membership number rose to 208. Of this number there were 97 executive members. There were also eleven honorary members. Heading the Board which had ten members was the Department President, engineer Karl Dragutin Kapus. Josef Marks Senior was also a member of the Board. It is noted that the acting President of the Jewish Community, Dr. Isidor Weiss, was a member of the "protection division". The number of the so-called "assisting members" of the Volunteer Fire Department speaks best of the respect the town folk of Zemun had for it. On the 25th anniversary of the Volunteer Fire Department there were some 90 members and a Charitable Foundation. On the list of the assisting members there were many Jews: **Moritz Binder, Dr. Isidor Weiss, Samuel Deutsch, Gabriel Polgar, Moses Farchy, Maria Herzl, Jacob and Moritz Hirschl.**

The augmentation of the Volunteer Fire Department lasted up to the onset of World War One. The times and tides of war hindered the operation

of the Department. This was particularly evident when it came to Department finances. The City administration had been paying 1000 crowns annually to the Department up to 1914. However, from then on, no funds were paid to the Department account up to November 1917 thus, needless to say, greatly hindering its operation. Furthermore, the assisting members also ceased their payments till December 1917. With that date, they paid up all funds owing for the year and those unpaid for previous years. The single substantial proceeds of the Department at the time was the donation of the well-known Jewish industrialist **Gabriel Polgar** who in his will, dated October 12, 1915, bequeathed 500 crowns each to the Department and the sub-department in Francstal.



Gabriel Polgar

THE OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT UPON THE FOUNDING OF THE NEW STATE

The first years upon the end of the war and the founding of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, later Yugoslavia, were probably the hardest since the founding of the Volunteer Fire Department. The membership number drastically fell.

The President of the Department at the time was **Berthold Goldstein**. The most important task was to once again attain its pre-war membership number by enlisting new volunteers. The year 1922 was in a sense decisive regarding the recruitment of the Department membership. At the beginning of the year there were 75 members which number grew to 85 by the end of November.

The Department merited the respect of Zemun's citizens as a result of a very effective exercise when in November 1922 a demonstration of the Department's equipment was carried out. However, the absence of stable financial funds was a constant problem for the operation of the Department. In order to improve the grave financial situation, collections of voluntary donations required for its operation were organized by the Department throughout 1922. The citizens of Zemun responded to the Department's appeal significantly so that 54,060.00 crowns were collected.

As regards the donations we touch upon an event we regarded as especially interesting for us. It was recorded that at the time the funds were collected, a donation of 200 dinars made by **Ludwig Sonnenberg** was rejected as it came with an insult to the Department membership. In explanation it is stated that "the Department cannot be so degraded to accept a sum of 200 dinars when it came with disrespect."

His descendant **Bela Sonnenberg** was an active member of the Department. He died fighting in one of the Partisan units in a battle against the Nazi occupying forces.

Despite the improvement of the financial situation and the constant increase of membership numbers, the confronting situation still persisted during the following year. Disputes and disagreeable incidents transpired among the Department members. It is noted that **Berthold Goldstein** gave notice to his position of Department President in January 1923.

Next to resign was Deputy President Josip Turčić. With the intention to overcome the ensuing crises it was decided that an Extraordinary Assembly would be held on February 4, 1923, in order to elect a new leadership.

At the Assembly **Berthold Goldstein** was once again elected to the post of Department President, while Josip Turčić was after some time discharged from the Department "owing to his activities detrimental to the interests of the Department." Notwithstanding the existing differences and troubles, the

Report submitted at the Assembly shows that the number of members had in the meantime risen to 125, that the firefighting equipment had been upgraded and was in complete working condition and finally that a considerable sum of money had been collected by voluntary donations.



*Berthold Goldstein with his sons
Oscar and Ervin*

THE FOUNDING OF THE YOUTH SECTION OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The grave difficulties that faced the Department during 1924 did not, however, deter it to found its Youth section. The foremost input that led to the forming of it was made by Josip Milinković and **Jakov Čelebi**. The establishing of a Youth section was perceived as a basis for recruiting new “active members”.



Josip Milinković



Jakov Čelebi

The General Assembly held on April 14, 1924, brought new Rules which were further confirmed by the official authorities in 1925. All these activities resulted in an enhanced organization of the Department. For the first time in its history precise regulations and responsibilities of Department members and their tasks, as well as the duties and role of the Volunteer Fire Department as regards the security of the Zemun's township, were determined.





*In 1924 Jakov Çelebi was admitted
to the Matica membership*

It is interesting to note that during 1925, a dispute among the active members and the “eleva” (youth membership) surfaced regarding the distribution of winter coats. Actually obtained for the very first time during that year, coats were first and foremost distributed to the youths. The reaction of the active membership was their demand to be the first to receive the coats, since they had spent many years freezing in inadequate winter clothing during their time on duty and in actual firefighting incidences.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

1926 was an important year for the future operation of the Department. Despite certain disputes characteristic for this type of volunteer department, a period of organized operation began in 1926 and a solid membership basis together with its implements and equipment was formed. It was the year when the decision was brought that all youths who reached the age of 18 were given the right to vote at the Assembly. At the General Assembly held in March 1926 a new leadership was elected. Two lists of candidates were presented to Assembly members who were given the choice to vote for one of them. The list that obtained the majority of votes was the one headed by Dr. Petar Marković, who was elected President. The elected Chief Commander was Karlo Gnuš. The Department Secretary elected was **Oscar Goldstein**.



Oscar Goldstein, Zemun 1906

Actually they had all been members of the Department leadership since 1923 and had substantially contributed to the stabilization of the Department. The Department was extremely tolerant toward all nationalities and confessions. However, this state of affairs was frequently negatively commented on in chauvinistic and reactionary newspapers printed in Belgrade and Zemun. Thus we note a stern answer addressed to the public by the Department regarding the article printed under the heading "Voice from Zemun", where among other it insinuates that Jews had been making their way into the Department Board for reason of personal gain. *"To claim that some ambitious Jewish youths have edged their way into our Board administration prior to the patron saint's day is fictitious. Contrary to the issue, the truth is that members of the Board have remained the same for a number of years not stepping down from their position since their election at the Assembly held on April 24, 1923."* The Directorate had no intention of putting up with any dissemination of detrimental national and religious acrimony and the response ends by stating: *"In*

our town and among its citizenship a spirit of tolerance regarding religious beliefs has ever been present and our Department has never paid any attention to the religion of its members; it rather looked toward a state where equal consideration is paid to all.

The year in question was marked by frequent disputes among its membership and the Youth section, which extended among the youths themselves, and eventually led up to the termination of the youth's membership in 1928.

The Volunteer Fire Department from Zemun had exceptional contacts with similar Departments in Yugoslavia. Dating from the twenties of the XX century, a photograph has been preserved from a gathering of firefighters organized in Osijek on August 1, 1925. In it are members of the Zemun Department **Joseph Elias, Joseph Kronstein** and **Oscar Goldstein**. Sitting in front of them is Vladimir Goršetić who at the time was Commander-in-Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department of Požega. Beside this function he was also a board member in the Croatian-Slavonia firefighting community of that time.



Joseph Elias, Joseph Kronstein, Ervin Goldstein and Vladimir Goršetić from Požega



The section for music which the Department had for years tried to organize within its midst became a constant source of disagreement among the membership. Private arrangements (playing at private parties on Department inventory instruments) and obligatory playing for Department engagements were constantly at crossroads. This was the reason why the Music section's operation was discontinued more than once. The last occasion that caused such disagreement happened in 1923. The Administration finally disbanded the Music section. A "board for music" was formed with the task to reform and revive the section's work. However, it took two years for this task to be realized. In the minutes of the General Assembly of the Department held on March 25, 1925, it is stated that: "The Department Music section has been reorganized and continues its work; playing on our instruments, it is constantly improving its performance." The leader and conductor of the music section was **Joseph Kronstein** who perished in the Partisan battles during World War Two. Under his leadership the Music section had a series of well-received performances, especially in 1926 at the celebration of the 56th Anniversary of the Department founding. However, already in 1927 new disagreements arose and members asked that the new conductor Dušan Grujičić be given notice due to his engagements in the Army Music division. Finally, at the beginning of 1928 the Administration once again dissolved the Music section. It was reinstated only a few years later.



Djordje Aćimović, a member of the Matica since 1947 holding the helicon used by the Matica musicians before the Second World War

THE LAW ON FIREFIGHTING ORGANIZATION

The passing of a new law on the organization of firefighting in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia had far-reaching effects on the operation of Volunteer Fire Departments. The law that was enforced on July 15, 1933, had many positive characteristics, but in its essence it inclined toward the centralization of the firefighting service, and thus greatly hindered the operation of Volunteer Fire Departments. As a result of the coming into effect of the new law, an Extraordinary Assembly of the Volunteer Fire Department was held in Zemun on November 12, 1933. It was then that the Department attained its new name the **Volunteer Fire Division "Matica"**. At the Assembly a new leadership of the **Division** was elected. Heading the Division was President Dr. Petar Marković, while the Commander was Stevan J. Marković. At the Assembly two Jews were elected as members of the Board administration, **Joseph Elias** as Secretary and **Jakov Çelebi** as Deputy-commander.



Joseph Elias



Dr. Petar Marković



Stevan J. Marković

The new law made provisions for district organization of firefighting on county level.

The first President of the firefighting county of Belgrade – Zemun - Pancevo was Dr. Petar Marković and the Secretary **Jakov Çelebi**.

During this period, Jews were extremely active in the operation of the "Matica". Among them those that were especially prominent were: **Berthold Goldstein**, **Ervin (Berthold) Goldstein**, **Oscar (Berthold) Goldstein**, **Samuel Mayer**, **Jakov Çelebi**, **Bela Soneberg**, **Joseph Kronstein**, **Adolf Fischer** and **Joseph Elias**.



Adolf Fischer

JAKOV JACQUES ÇELEBI

Jakov Çelebi was born on September 20, 1907, as Salamon B. Jakov. His father was Salamon Jakov David, a Bulgarian national and mother Vida (Lea) born 1877, a member of the Zaharia family from Zemun. Jakov Çelebi's father was born in Sofia in 1875. His father was Jakov P. David who lived in Jerusalem, a widower (taken from the registry books of the Jewish Community in Zemun). Salamon Jakov David was in the trading business. On reaching Zemun he married Lea Zaharia in 1899. Their first child was daughter Simha. Daughter Sara was born in 1901. Their third daughter Rachel was born in 1904. Son Masal B. Jakov was born in 1906 but sadly died soon after his birth. The youngest daughter Ester was born in 1909.



Simha (Soka), Rahela (Rachel), Sara, Jakov and Estera

It is not recorded when they officially began to use the surname Çelebi. In the registry of birth of the Zemun Jewish Community the surname Çelebi was first recorded in the birth certificate of Sara in 1901 and it is placed in parenthesis. However, for Rachel, Masal and Jakov there is no reference to the surname Çelebi. It appears once again in the birth certificate of Ester in 1909.



*Salamon Jakov David
(Çelebi)
and
Vida Lea Zaharia,
married Çelebi*





*Vida Lea Zaharia, standing with
sisters, ? and Bertha (Buena)*



Jakov Çelebi's bar mitzvah

Mother Vida died in 1926 and father Salomon in 1930.

At the early age of seventeen, Jakov Çelebi became a member of the Volunteer Fire Department (1924). Together with Josip Milinković he initiated the Department's Youth section.

It can truly be said of Jakov Çelebi that he dedicated his entire life to the development of the Volunteer Fire Department. Although he had steady employment and regular working hours, his engagements in the Volunteer Fire Department came first and foremost.



*Jakov Çelebi in the festive winter
firefighters' uniform of the Youth*

Once he had completed his conscription in the units of the Army of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, he continued working on the improvement of the firefighting service of Zemun.



Jakov Çelebi in the middle during military service in the Army of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia



Upon his election as member of the management and the appointment of Sub-commander, at the Assembly held in 1933, Jakov Çelebi initiated a whole series of developments to enhance the operation of "Matica".



*The members after a parade before a spring practice:
Sitting in the second row from right: the fourth Jakov Çelebi, Deputy Commander;
the fifth Joseph Elias, the Department Secretary; the sixth Dr. Petar Marković, the
Brigade President; Seventh Stevan J. Markovic, Commander*

Among others, the first initiative was to reinstate and form a new Youth section. Owing to his efforts, this was soon achieved.



*Participants of the Fire Fighting Course for shippers
with Jacob Çelebi as their instructor, Zemun 1937*

His work was highly admired in the Kingdom. This is why Jakov Çelebi was engaged in the writing of the new Law on organized firefighting activity in Kingdom Yugoslavia. Due to his efforts the Law contained the provision that a certain percentage of money is paid into a firefighting fund out of insurance policies. Furthermore, based on his idea, a new firefighting logo was created: it represented a crisscross between an axe and a torch. Later, a firefighting helmet found its place in the logo. The logo is still in use today.



Upon the coming into power of Nazis in 1933, numerous measures were initiated among Yugoslav firefighters, so as to be prepared for eventual wartime activities. An important part of such activities were drills of staged incidents of passive defense in conditions of warfare. Çelebi was extremely active in all these drills.



A group of the volunteer members and Jakov Çelebi (in the middle) in a drill at the Zemun Municipality yard, 1938

Jakov Çelebi planned and set up an exhibition named “Firefighting activities employed in contesting air-raids.” The exhibition was staged in all the major cities within the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

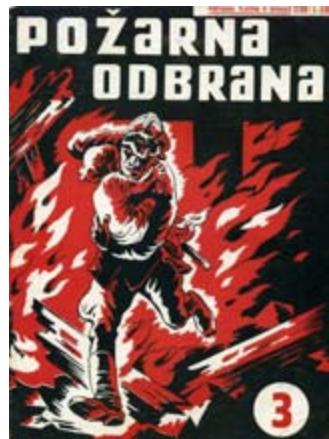
On February 19, 1935, Jakov Çelebi married Betty Reichberg from Zavidovići.



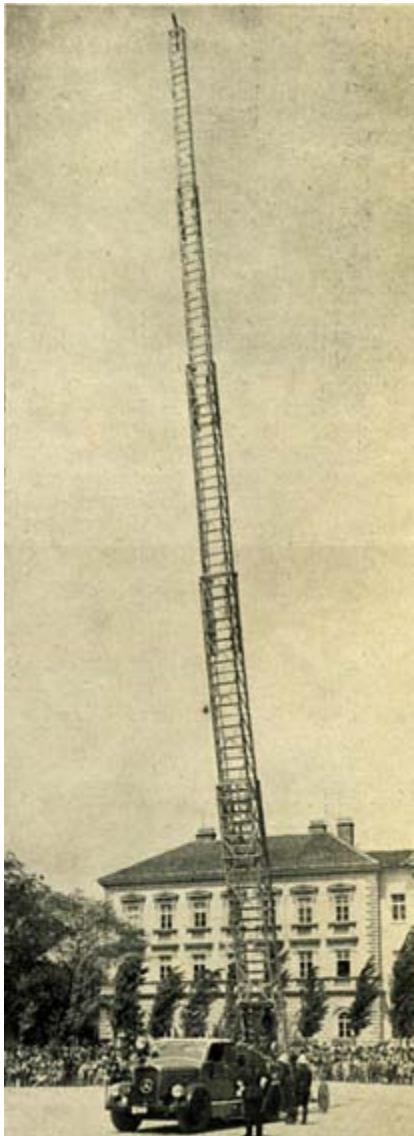
Betty in front of the Meteo Station in the Zemun park and with Jakov walking streets of Zemun

Jakov Çelebi was the initiator and executive editor of the “editorial committee” of the magazine “Fire Defense, a monthly professional magazine of the firefighting county Belgrade – Zemun –Pančevo”. The first copy was issued in January 1938. At first he refrained from signing his articles but in the second year of the magazine’s existence, in 1939, he agreed to affix his initials to his pieces. Beside him, **Ervin Goldstein** was also author to many articles; **Goldstein** also translated articles from German.

Jakov Çelebi was a visionary. He greatly contributed to the technical equipping of the “Matica”. Due to his efforts Zemun obtained in 1939 the latest and longest model of automatic firefighting ladders in the Balkans. They were 33.6 meters long, made by Metz, positioned on the chassis of a Mercedes Benz. From documents belonging to the magazine “Fire Defense” we highlight the report on the celebration held on May 7, 1939, the Patron Saints’ St. Florian and St. George, day of the Volunteer Fire Division “Matica”. In the text by Jakov Çelebi it is recorded that over 3000 citizens were present at the celebration in the Children’s playground in the background of King Aleksandar I Center in Zemun. Hosting the celebration was Division Commander Stevan J. Marković. At the celebration two new firefighting auto-tanks with engine driven pumps made by the domestic factory “Brod”, as well as the new automatic ladders Metz, were consecrated. As testimony to the significance of this acquisition, is the fact that the President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Dr. Anton Korošec, was godfather to these pieces of equipment.



*President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Dr. Anton Korošec
godfather to fire vehicles, Zemun 1939*



All gathered at the event were witness to a demonstration of ladder operation. They were elevated to the height of 33 meters in 15 seconds.

*Fire ladders shown at the show
in the Zemun City Park,
1939*

METZ-LJESTVE

automatske - poluautomatske i obične ljestve iz čelika do 32 m. visine

Izrađuje također i ljestve za električne centrale

Sve ljestve izrađene su prema patentiranim automatsko sigurnosnim uređajima

Ponude i prospeske pošaljemo na zahtev besplatno

FABRIKA VATROGASNIH SPRAVA
CARL METZ
Karlsruhe - Niemacka 8

ZASTUPNIK ZA JUGOSLAVIJU
Ing. KURT HEYMAN
BEOGRAD
CICA LJUBINA 13 TEL. 26-191



At this important celebration a firefighting women's team demonstrated its skills in public for the first time in Yugoslavia. The team was from the factory "Tekstilid" in Zemun. Heading the women's team in parade was Betty, Jakov Çelebi's wife.



Presentation of women's teams under the command of Jakov Çelebi



The women's team in the exercise of extinguishing a roof fire

From a report written in the December 1939 "Fire Defense" edition we come across the results of the officer's examination taken by members of the district divisions of the firefighting county Beograd – Zemun – Pančevo. Among the seven members of "Matica" who passed the exam, there were two Jews, **Ervin Goldstein** and **Samuel Mayer**. **Jakov Çelebi** passed with honors his exam for Commander of Volunteer Fire Divisions.

In its double edition "Fire Defense" published in January 1940 there is a report on the 70th Annual Assembly of the Volunteer Fire Division "Matica". At the Assembly held on January 19, 1940, **Joseph Elias** was elected Board secretary, **Jakov Çelebi** was elected Secretary of Command, **Samuel Mayer** for inventory keeping and **Ervin Goldstein** was elected as leader of one of the sections.

At the Assembly of the Firefighting county Belgrade – Zemun – Pančevo held on March 10, 1940, once again **Jakov Çelebi** was elected Secretary while the Commander was Stevan. J. Marković. Josip Milinković was elected to the Supervising Board; his contribution to the rescue of **Jakov Çelebi** during World War Two was immense.



*Commander Stevan J. Marković,
Secretary of Command Jakov Çelebi,
President Dr. Petar Marković and
Secretary of Administration Josip Elias,
Zemun 1937*

The initiative to build a Firefighting Center

In the double edition of "Fire Defense" March/April 1939 Jakov Çelebi writes: "as regarding a conclusion of the 68th Annual Assembly (1938), this Division has begun activity for the erection of a Firefighting Center which is a question of major importance to the Division... The activity began on May 7, on which occasion ladies of the humanitarian societies of Zemun collected donations for the building of the Firefighting Center and a school for passive defense in Zemun".



The Volunteer Fire Division "Matica" tried in all ways to acquire the funds necessary for the Firefighting Center construction. A leaflet has been preserved by which the Volunteer Fire Department invites the citizens of Zemun to come to a big festivity held in Hotel Central on February 5, 1938, where exceptional "DŽES" (Jazz) will be played. The entire revenue was to be paid into the Firefighting Center fund.



Following an idea presented by Jakov Çelebi, so-called "bricks" were printed and were sold to the public; the money collected was a direct contribution to the building of the Firefighting Center. The response of the citizens was exceptional. However, all activity regarding the Firefighting Center ceased with the onset of the occupation in 1941. Once the German Army entered Zemun, all activities within the Department ended for Jakov Çelebi. Together with all the other Jews, "Matica" members, he was expelled from its operation already on April 14, 1941. Based on the Law on racial descent Jakov Çelebi, Joseph Elias, Samuel Mayer, Bela Sonnenberg, Oscar Goldstein, Joseph Kronstein and Ervin Goldstein were no longer members of the Volunteer Fire Division "Matica".

<p style="text-align: center;">PREZIME I IME</p> <p><i>Elias Zvi</i></p> <p>Če: Županija Očeva ime: Živko Zanimanje: Životinjski predavač Stan: Dobro Datum i god. rod.: 19. 10. 1895. Mesto rođenja: Belgrad Sestr.: Bosnija: Zemlja: Jugoslavija Mesto nadležnosti: Žemun Dobavljanje: Jugoslavija Veti: Jeli bio vojnik: ne Kraj Živ.: Stevilja u društvu: 4972 Dobavljanje prijevoza: Ime: Motivacija: A.C.-B.R. uključujući članak u novosti o životu</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Unaprednja, potvrda, od:</p> <p><i>Rebnička 15</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PREZIME I IME</p> <p><i>Goldstein Ervin</i></p> <p>Če: Berthold Očeva ime: Živko Činovnik Zanimanje: Životinjski predavač Stan: Dobro Datum i god. rod.: 8. 05. 1895. Mesto rođenja: Belgrad Sestr.: Bosnija: Zemlja: Jugoslavija Mesto nadležnosti: Žemun Dobavljanje: Jugoslavija Veti: Jeli bio vojnik: ne Kraj Živ.: Stevilja u društvu: 741</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Unaprednja, potvrda, od:</p> <p><i>Rebnička 15</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PREZIME I IME</p> <p><i>Celebi Jakob</i></p> <p>Če: Županija Očeva ime: Jakob Zanimanje: Životinjski predavač Stan: Dobro Datum i god. rod.: 19. 10. 1895. Mesto rođenja: Žemun Sestr.: Bosnija: Zemlja: Jugoslavija Mesto nadležnosti: Žemun</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Unaprednja, potvrda, od:</p> <p><i>S.T.A.N. Ljubljana 4 - Zagreb, 36</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PREZIME I IME</p> <p><i>Mayer Samuel</i></p> <p>Če: Županija Očeva ime: Živko Činovnik Zanimanje: Životinjski predavač Stan: Dobro Datum i god. rod.: 19. 02. 1899. Mesto rođenja: Štara Banovac Sestr.: Bosnija: Zemlja: Jugoslavija Mesto nadležnosti: Žemun Dobavljanje: Jugoslavija Veti: Jeli bio vojnik: jača Kraj Živ.: Stevilja u društvu: 1000</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Unaprednja, potvrda, od:</p> <p><i>Rebnička 15</i></p>

Copies from the Department's Registry

For all of them the days of merciless terror began. The German occupying forces and the Ustashi began their persecution of Jews. All Zemun Jews were ordered to carry out diverse forced labor tasks on a daily basis. Among them were also members of the Division "Matica". A great many of them could not accept the new state of affairs. During 1942 they tried to get in touch with Partisan units. A few members of the Volunteer Fire Division "Matica" managed to achieve their goal. Their contribution to the Peoples' Liberation War is recorded and preserved with an inscription in the memorial plaque that stands today in the hall of the Firefighting Center in Zemun. On it are written the names of five Jews, members of the Volunteer Fire Division who perished in the Peoples' Liberation War. Division members **Joseph Elias**, **Ervin Goldstein** and **Samuel Mayer** met their death in concentration camp Jasenovac. **Joseph Kronstein** and **Bela Sonnenberg** were killed in Partisan battles.

Jakov Celebi was also duty-bound to appear each day at the role-call for forced labor. He was, concurrently, determined to somehow reach Par-

tisan units making every possible effort to this end. After months of preparation during which he obtained forged documents, he finally resolved that he would not go to forced labor any longer. He hid inside the apartment of a local enemy collaborator who was away from Zemun at the time. An old member of "Matica", Mihailo Tomić, nicknamed uncle Mića, played a part in his rescue operation. In a cistern driven by a local German, uncle Mića came up to the collaborator's flat where Jakov Çelebi had gone into hiding the previous day, and as previously agreed, took him to the Zemun hospital, leaving Jakov with Dr. Nikola Kovačević, who worked at the hospital.

Jakov was operated on at the hospital and after a short recovery he left for Zagreb using his forged documents. In the rescue of Jakov Çelebi a major contribution was made by Josip Milinković who gave Jakov his genuine employment record book, issued by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.



Jakov Çelebi, first on the left



Josip Milinković's Employment Record Book with inserted photo of Jakov Çelebi

The book had, to a certain degree, been modified. In it stood the original name and surname of its owner but the photo was replaced by that of Jakov Çelebi. Jakov Çelebi and Josip Milinković were very similar in appearance, so there was no need to make any alterations regarding the personal description.

Josip Milinković and Jakov Çelebi had worked together in the com-

pany for ship renovation in Zemun. They had known each other since the days when they both worked on the founding of the firefighting youth section in Zemun, back in 1924.

Jakov also obtained from Josip Milinković his original “baptizing document”. Among other papers, he also had a “pass” in Josip Milinković’s name. With the documents received from Josip Milinković he could now move freely within the territory of the Independent State of Croatia.



He later joined the Slavonia Partisan units.

He was a member of the VI corps of Slavonia.



*Jakov Celebić, 1945,
end of the WW2*

His sister Sara, together with her husband and two sons, perished inside Stara Gradiška and Jasenovac death camps. His sister Rachel and her husband were killed in a battle as members of Partisan units.



His oldest sister Simha, (Soka) was in the General Staff of the Partizan units of Croatia.

Her husband was a POW, as an ex-officer of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

His sister Ester was in the XVII Slavonia brigade. Jakov's wife Betty spent the war in Zagreb assuming a false identity. His uncles, aunts and remaining family members all perished in the Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška death camps. Of the multitudinous family upon World War Two the only ones to return to Zemun were Jakov and his sisters Simha and Ester.

After liberation Jakov Çelebi obtained his first employment on April 28, 1945, in the Ministry of National Health within the main Administration unit for the procurement and distribution of medicines.



The Employment Certificate

Nevertheless, he also expressed his desire to continue work in the Volunteer Fire Division "Matica". He was welcomed back and began duty on July 5, 1945.

In February 1946 he was elected to the post of technical officer.

He worked diligently for a few years on the reestablishment of "Matica" operations.

However, in 1951 together with his wife Betty nee Reichberg, he immigrated to Israel.

In Israel he continued his activities in firefighting engagements but owing to his wife's failing health, they decided to return to Yugoslavia.



Jakov Celebi in the Captain's uniform



Jakov Celebi's documents from Israel: Israeli passport and the Membership Book of the Organization of Jewish workers in Israel

Upon their return to Serbia he worked in the New Belgrade heating plant but never set aside his work in the Volunteer Fire Division "Matica".



Jakov Çelebi, first on the right

On retirement he continued to take part in countless activities organized by "Matica".





For his diligent work he was posthumously awarded a "Plaque for contribution and special dedication to the development of the firefighting organization of Belgrade".



He was also awarded the National medal for merit of the II order



He died in Zemun in 1993.

Dr. Olga Manojlović Pintar: R E V I E W

The exhibition *The Contribution of Jews in the Development of the Volunteer Fire Department in Zemun*, and the accompanying booklet represent a multilayered historical vignette composed of a number of concentric circles. The nucleus of this complex historical material is a small civic association and one (extra) ordinary man who dedicated his whole life to it. By telling us the private story of Jakov Jacques Çelebi (1907 – 1993) giving us an insight to his work and engagements in the Volunteer Fire Department Zemun, Nenad Fogel has managed to portray the process of the civic emancipation of Jews in the territory of the Balkans and Central Europe, their annihilation by the Nazis and their resistance against Fascism during World War Two, and lastly the stable life that ensued upon 1945.



By singling out the Volunteer Fire Department as an association which from its first days upon foundation in 1870 caught on to and simultaneously, initiated modernization processes which enhanced the urbanization of Zemun, Fogel underlines the role of generations of Jews who gave substance to the Department's existence. In this manner he unobtrusively highlights the complex relations that existed among the members of the Department and their ceaseless endeavors to contest negative political influences, through which effort they managed to maintain their unity. Beside Jews, the membership of the Zemun Fire Department had from its very beginnings incorporated Germans, Checks, Croats and Serbs.

By depicting the history of the Volunteer Fire Department the author has also effectively presented the role of Jews in meaningful progression processes of a small town sited on the shores of the Danube. By applying this method he has opened a vista to the complexity of social relations which marked the existence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the following Kingdom and finally those of Socialist Yugoslavia. Consequently in this story of Zemun we perceive the town as a symbol of enlightenment, a foreground for the entwinement of different cultural, religious, nationalistic and ethnic inputs.

In recounting the story of Zemun, Nenad Fogel has paid special attention to the fate of the Jews during World War Two from the onset of occupation that engendered new racial laws by which members of the Jewish community were labeled a race to be eradicated. They were forbidden work in state enterprises and associations, coerced to obligatory forced labor, subjected to imprisonment and finally driven to their death in the obnoxious Ustashi death camp Jasenovac. This time he has shed light on the destinies of Jews – mem-

bers of the Volunteer Fire Department Matica. Based on the Law of racial origin, all Jewish members were automatically discharged. Beside Jakov Çelebi, there were also others: Joseph Elias, Samuel Mayer, Bela Sonnenberg, Oskar Goldstein, Joseph Kronstein and Ervin Goldstein. Not one of them managed to survive the war and see it end. In Camp Jasenovac Joseph Elias, Ervin Goldstein and Samuel Mayer met their death. Partisan fighters Joseph Kronstein and Bela Sonnenberg lost their lives in battles against the enemy. Jakov Çelebi was the only one who lived to see Liberation Day. With the help of his firefighter comrades, he managed to join up with the National Liberation Movement and to actively – with a firearm in hand, stand up to Fascism and the Nazis.

Nenad Fogel's exhibition has brought back from oblivion an individual who can be perceived as a paradigm of the struggle against Fascism – a man, unobtrusive and unpretentious, who stood up to defend his own life and the lives of his kinship. Nenad Fogel's recount of the escape of Jakov Çelebi from Ustashi Zemun and his joining up with the Slavonic Partisan units is portrayed in the style of an action movie. Finally, Nenad Fogel has also given space to Çelebi's life upon the war, his departure to Israel and return to Yugoslavia, when Çelebi once again finds a position in the Volunteer Fire Department Matica.

Exceptionally interesting in its concept, enriched by films, facsimiles of documents and publications, photos and postcards, the exhibition has great potential to instigate dialogue and give space to securing new data about the past which unavoidably and substantially influences our reality. Like all honest, although at first glance minute pieces of history, the entire exhibition on show has potent strength to influence and propagate future democratization of Serbian society.

Belgrade, 1. July 2017

*Dr. Olga Manojlović Pintar
Senior Research Associate
Institute for Recent History of Serbia*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Jewish Community in Zemun and the author express their gratitude to all donors who have made it possible to uncover the extent of the commitment of Zemun's Jews in the establishment and development of firefighting in Serbia and Zemun and thus prevent it from going into oblivion. The show on exhibition is the first achievement resulting from the new Law on removing consequences of the Holocaust. Apart from the aid that the Jewish Community in Zemun received from the Republic of Serbia, a notable contribution to the realization of our exhibition was given by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia, the Zemun Municipality, the JDC from New York, and Eng. Josef Zamboki of Israel.

In creating the exhibition the author received copious assistance from Mr. Djordje Aćimović, a long standing member of the Volunteer Firefighting Department "Matica" in Zemun as far back as 1947. His personal archive enabled the compiling of a comprehensive and detailed account of the engagement of Jakov Jacques Celebi in the existence and operation of "Matica".

We received ample support in our research from Prof. Miodrag Dabižić, the Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade and from the Volunteer Firefighting Department "Matica".

The Atelier and Gallery Čubrilo, situated in the Millennia Tower on Gardoš made it possible for us to present our exhibition in the very space that from its founding, back in 1896, was used by the Volunteer Firefighting Department as a surveillance outpost.

ATELJE I GALERIJA ČUBRILLO



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Archives of the Jewish Historical Museum in Belgrade

IZLOŽBENI PLAKATI

EXIBITION POSTERS



UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU



UVOD

Dvadesetak pristalica ideje o osnivanju dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva održali su 16. septembra 1870. godine inicijativni sastanak na kome su potpisali namjeru da pristupe Dobrovoljnom vatrogasnom društvu.

Potpise na PROTOKOL od Jevreja stavili su žitarski trgovac **Filip Hercl**, trgovac **Leopold Kon, Salomon Levi, Moric Majer**, slovoslagač **Samuel Kon, Asriel Haim, Salomon Nisim** i graditelj **Josef Marks** po čijim planovima je 1871. izgrađen sefardski hram u Zemunu.



Prvo dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo na današnjoj teritoriji Srbije zvanično je osnovano odlukom „Generalne skupštine“ 1. novembra 1870. godine u Zemunu. Skupština je donela „Ustav dobrovoljnog vatrogasećeg društva“.



Članovi štaba sa prvim zapovednikom Hajnrihom Velšom. 1886. (fototeka DVD Zemun)



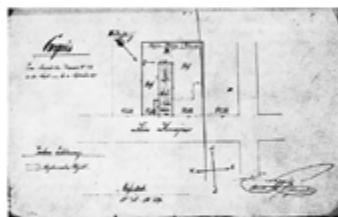
Čim je izgradena Milenijumska kula na uzvišenju Gardoš u Zemunu 1896. članovi Društva počeli su da je koriste kao osmatračnicu za slučaj požara.



UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU

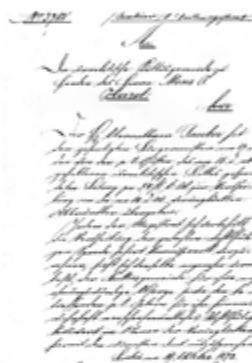


PRVE GODINE RADA



Penjačko odelenje Društva 1886.
(fototeka DVD Zemun)

Na osnovu donetog Ustava Društvo se delilo na odeljenje: penjača, štrcara, vodonoša i čuvara. Imalo je i jednog trubača. Na Skupštini je naimenovano četrnaest „penjača“. Među njima su bila i trojica Jevreja: Salamon Levi, Josef Marks i Filip Hercl.



Značaj osnivanja Dobrovoljnog vatrogasnog društva za Zemun najbolje se video 14. septembra 1875. godine kada je u samom centru grada gorela kuća Jakoba Levija sa magacinima perja. Zahvaljujući dobrovoljnim vatrogascima sprečen je požar širih razmara.

Jevreji su aktivno učestvovali u prikupljanju dobrovoljnih priloga za rad Društva. Gradska magistrat 19. oktobra 1873. godine uputio predsedniku Jevrejske opštine Mozesu Herclu zahvalnost za prikupljeni prilog od 54 forinti.



Članovi Društva 1912.

Tokom dvadeset pet godina od osnivanja Društva postignuti su izuzetni rezultati. Na čelu Upravnog odbora od deset članova bio je predsednik Društva gradski inženjer Karl Dragutin Kapus. Član Upravnog odbora bio je Josef Marks senior. U „zaštitnom odeljenju“ bio je tadašnji predsednik Jevrejske opštine dr Isidor Vajs. Na spisku pomažućih članova bilo je više Jevreja: Moric Binder, dr Isidor Vajs, Samuel Dojč, Gabriel Polgar, Moses Farchy, Marija Hercl, Jakob i Moric Hiršl.



Gabriel Polgar



UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU



RAD DRUŠTVA U NOVOJ DRŽAVI



Prve godine posle završetka Prvog svetskog rata i formiranja nove države Kraljevine Srba, Hrvata i Slovenaca bile su najteže od osnivanja Društva. Broj članova je drastično opao a vatrogasna oprema je bila skoro uništена. Predsednik Društva u to vreme bio je **Berthold Goldstajn**.

Na fotografiji **Berthold Goldstajn** sa sinovima Oskarom i Ervinom.



Stariji vatrogasni simbol

OSNIVANJE OMLADINSKE SEKCIJE DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASNOG DRUŠTVA



Najveće zasluge za osnivanje podmlatka 1924. imali su omladinci **Josip Milinković** i **Jakov Čelebi**.

Generalna skupština održana 14. aprila 1924. godine donela je nova Pravila.



Godina 1926. bila je značajna za budući rad Društva.

Na Glavnoj skupštini održanoj marta 1926. izabrano je novo rukovodstvo.



Dr Petar Marković je izabran za predsednika.

Za sekretara Društva izabran je Oskar Goldstajn (desno).



UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU



RAD DRUŠTVA IZMEĐU DVA RATA

Društvo je bilo veoma tolerantno prema svim narodima i konfesijama ali je često dolazilo pod udar šovinističkih i reakcionarnih novina.

Društvo je 1926. godine uputilo javnosti oštar odgovor na objavljen članak u kome se između ostalog insinira da se Jevreji uvlače u upravni odbor Društva radi ličnih interesa.

*„Nije istina da su se u našu upravu uvukli pred slavu neki ambiciozni židovski mladići, nego je na-
protiv istina da se članovi naše uprave već godina-
ma mijenjali nisu i da su ti članovi na svojim po-
ložajima izabrani od strane Glavne skupštine 24
travnja 1923. godine.“*

Uprava nije dozvolila da se među članovima širi nacionalna i verska netrpeljivost i odgovor završava rečima:



Društvo je godinama pokušavalo da ima u svom sastavu muzičku sekциju.

Rukovodilac muzičke sekcije, kapelnik, bio je **Josip Kronštajn**. Pod njegovim rukovodstvom muzička sekcija je imala niz zapaženih nastupa povodom obeležavanja 56. godišnjice od osnivanja.



Đorđe Aćimović, član Matice od 1947. godine, sa helikonom koga su koristili muzičari Matice pre Drugog svetskog rata.

*„U našem gradu među građanstvom vlada tradici-
onalna verska tolerantnost, i naše Društvo nikada
nije gledalo na versku pripadnost svojih članova,
ali je gledalo da ima obzira prema svima“.*



S leva na desno: Oskar i Ervin Goldštajn,
Josip Elias, sedi nepoznati član Društva.

Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo iz Zemuna imalo je dobru saradnju sa sličnim društvima u Jugoslaviji. Iz perioda rada Društva dvadesetih godina XX veka sačuvana je fotografija sa skupa vatrogasca održanog u Osijeku 1. avgusta 1925. godine.

Na fotografiji levo nalaze se članovi Društva iz Zemuna **Josip Elias**, **Josip Kronštajn** i **Oskar Goldštajn**, ispod njih sedi **Vladimir Goršetić** koji je u to vreme bio zapovjednik (vojvoda) u Dobrovoljnem vatrogasnem društvu u Požegi.





UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU



ZAKON O ORGANIZACIJI VATROGASTVA

Novi Zakon o organizovanju vatrogastva u Kraljevini Jugoslaviji donet je 15. jula 1933. Te godine je Društvo dobilo novo ime: **Dobrovoljna vatrogasnica četa „Matica“**.

Izabrana je nova uprava Čete.

Na čelu uprave ostao je dr Petar Marković a zapovednik je bio Stevan J. Marković.

U upravu su tada bili izabrani Jevreji **Josip Elias** (desno) za tajnika a **Jakov Čelebi** za podzapovednika.



Novim Zakonom formirane su područne vatrogasne župe.

Prvi predsednik vatrogasne župe Beograd – Zemun – Pančeva bio je dr Petar Marković a tajnik **Jakov Čelebi**.



U tom periodu Jevreji su bili veoma aktivni u radu „Matice“. Među njima su se posebno isticali: **Berthold Goldstajn**, **Ervin (Berthold) Goldstajn**, **Oskar (Berthold) Goldstajn**, **Samuel Majer**, **Jakov Čelebi**, **Bela Zoneberg**, **Josif Kronstajn**, **Adolf Fišer** i **Josip Elias**.

Tek	PREZIME I IME
	Fišer Adolf
Drž:	Yahudijev
Okvir imen:	Edmon
Zanimanje:	Prepravnih
Stan:	Zemun
Dan rođenja:	28.11.1892
Mesto rođenja:	Židovska Poljana
Sestr:	
Raspolo:	Domovinske
Zemlja:	Yugoslavija
Mesto nadležnosti:	Beograd
Dopravljen:	Yugoslavija
Vara:	

85

Adolf Fišer,
nažalost preminuo
1936. u 22. godini.

Komandir Stevan J. Marković, tajnik zapovedništva **Jakov Čelebi**, predsednik dr Petar Marković i tajnik uprave **Josip Elias**, Zemun 1937.



UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU



UOČI DRUGOG SVETSKOG RATA



Izvršujući članovi Čete posle smotre pred prolećne vežbe: Stevan J. Marković, komandir sedi 5. s leve strane, predsednik dr Petar Marković 6, Josip Elijas sekretar 7. i Jakov Čelebi podzapovednik 8.



Jakov Čelebi je došao na ideju da se štampaju tzv. CIGLJE koje su namenski prodavane građanstvu za izgradnju vatrogasnog doma.

Ostao je sačuvan i letak kojim Dobrovoljno vatrogasno društvo poziva građane Zemuna na VELIKU ZABAVU u hotel Central. Čist prihod bio je namenjen fondu Vatrogasnog doma.

Poziv Reklamacija Sveti
Dobrovoljna vatrogasna četa „Vatrica“ - Zemun
priredjeno u subotu
5 februara 1938. g.
U „HOTEL CENTRALU“
svetugo rođendanu
**VELIKU
ZABAVU**
za namensko preduzimanje građanstvenih potreba
CRIPKA OJEDINSTVENA CIGLICA
U organizaciji Amerikanske
Dobrovoljne vatrogasne čete u Zemunu
Dobrovoljni vatrogasti u 8 sati zvane
Cet prikaz novina je u hotel VATROGASNI DOMA



U periodu pred početak Drugog svetskog rata DVČ Matica bila je vrlo aktivna. Zemun je 1939. godine dobio u to vreme najmodernije i najduže vatrogasne automatske leštve na Balkanu, dužine 33,6 metra. Lestvama je kumovao predsednik Senata Kraljevine Jugoslavije dr Anton Korošec (gore levo).



Vežba ženske ekipе u zemunskom parku sa vatrogasnim leštvama koje je Četa koristila pre nabavke novih.

Desno Jakov Čelebi pored novih leštvi za čiju nabavku je on bio najzaslužniji.



UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU



DRUGI SVETSKI RAT

1. JELLINEK I. 1940		2. JELLINEK I. 1940	
Elija Josip		Schiff Bela	
Cin:	1. Jellinek	Cin:	2. Jellinek
Ovlasti:	Pravni radnik	Ovlasti:	Pravni radnik
Zanimanje:	Pravni radnik	Zanimanje:	Pravni radnik
Vest:	1. Jellinek	Vest:	2. Jellinek
Datum i god. rod.	1. Jellinek	Datum i god. rod.	2. Jellinek
Mesto rođenja:	1. Jellinek	Mesto rođenja:	2. Jellinek
Datum i mesto prihvata:	1. Jellinek	Datum i mesto prihvata:	2. Jellinek
Odjel:	1. Jellinek	Odjel:	2. Jellinek
Zemun			
Ovlasti:			
Zanimanje:			
Vest:			
Datum i god. rod.			
Mesto rođenja:			
Odjel:			

3. GOLDSTAJN I. 1940		4. GOLDSTAJN I. 1940	
Elija Josip		Majer Samuel	
Cin:	3. Goldstajn	Cin:	4. Goldstajn
Ovlasti:	Pravni radnik	Ovlasti:	Pravni radnik
Zanimanje:	Pravni radnik	Zanimanje:	Pravni radnik
Vest:	3. Goldstajn	Vest:	4. Goldstajn
Datum i god. rod.	3. Goldstajn	Datum i god. rod.	4. Goldstajn
Mesto rođenja:	3. Goldstajn	Mesto rođenja:	4. Goldstajn
Odjel:	3. Goldstajn	Odjel:	4. Goldstajn
Zemun			
Ovlasti:			
Zanimanje:			
Vest:			
Datum i god. rod.			
Mesto rođenja:			
Odjel:			

5. CELEBI I. 1940		6. CELEBI I. 1940	
Elija Josip		Majer Samuel	
Cin:	1. Celebi	Cin:	2. Celebi
Ovlasti:	Pravni radnik	Ovlasti:	Pravni radnik
Zanimanje:	Pravni radnik	Zanimanje:	Pravni radnik
Vest:	1. Celebi	Vest:	2. Celebi
Datum i god. rod.	1. Celebi	Datum i god. rod.	2. Celebi
Mesto rođenja:	1. Celebi	Mesto rođenja:	2. Celebi
Odjel:	1. Celebi	Odjel:	2. Celebi
Zemun			
Ovlasti:			
Zanimanje:			
Vest:			
Datum i god. rod.			
Mesto rođenja:			
Odjel:			

Sve aktivnosti Jevreja članova DVČ Matica prekinula je okupacija 1941. godine.

Svi Jevreji su isključeni iz njenog rada 14. aprila 1941. godine na osnovu Zakona o ravnateljstvu:

Jakov Čelebi, Josip Elijas, Samuel Majer, Bela Zonenberg, Oskar Goldštajn, Josif Kronštajn i Ervin Goldštajn.

Zajedno sa Jevrejima i Srbi su bili proganjeni. Tako je odmah smenjen i predsednik dr Petar Marković koji je 1943. godine zvanično napustio članstvo u Matici.

7. MARKOVIC Petar	
Prezime i Ime: Petar Marković	
Cin: PREDSEDNIK	
Ovlasti: Pravni radnik	
Zanimanje: Pravni radnik	
Vest: 1. Jellinek	
Datum i god. rod.: 19. 12. 1888	
Mesto rođenja: Beograd	
Odjel: Matica srpska	

Za Jevreje počinju dani teškog terora koje su sprovodile nemačke okupacione snage i ustaška vlast.



Jevrejima iz Zemuna određen je svakodnevni prinudni rad. Među njima su bili i članovi DVČ „Matica“. Jakov Čelebi, stoji prvi s leva.



Mnogi od njih su pokušavali tokom 1942. godine da se povežu sa partizanskim odredima.

Na njihov doprinos oslobodilačkoj borbi podseća spomen ploča koja stoji u holu Vatrogasnog doma u Zemunu. Na njoj su ispisana i imena pet Jevreja, članova DVČ stradalih u Drugom svetskom ratu:

Josip Elijas, Ervin Goldštajn, Samuel Majer, Josif Kronštajn i Bela Zonenberg.



Jakov Čelebi
u partizanima



UČEŠĆE JEVREJA U RAZVOJU DOBROVOLJNOG VATROGASTVA U ZEMUNU



KOLAŽ FOTOGRAFIJA JAKOVA ČELEBIJA KORIŠĆENIH ZA BIOGRAFSKI FILM



O velikanu dobrovoljnog vatrogastva u Jugoslaviji Jakovu Čelebiju
pogledajte poseban video prilog

Projekat pomogli



VLADA REPUBLIKE SRBIJE



Republika Srbija

**MINISTARSTVO KULTURE
I INFORMISANJA**



GRADSKA OPŠTINA
ZEMUN



American Jewish
Joint Distribution Committee



SAVEZ
JEVREJSKIH OPŠTINA
SRBIJE

**Ing. Josef Zamboki,
Israel**



Jevrejska opština Zemun
Jewish Community Zemun זמונא יהודית קהילה