

INITIATIVES AND EVENTS HELD IN 2023

JANUARY
2023



International Holocaust Remembrance Day at Temple Beth EL in Casablanca.

This event was held to commemorate the victims of Nazi persecution and genocide during the Second World War, and the need to honor their memory by raising awareness of this tragic period of history among future generations, through the Holocaust education programs currently being implemented. This initiative was also an opportunity for people from different cultures to come together and discuss how to prevent genocide from happening again.

On this occasion, we remembered the late Mohamed V, our Righteous Among the Nations, and his saving action for his Jewish subjects during the Second World War. The day emphasized the unity and harmonious coexistence of Jews and Muslims in Morocco.



JANUARY
2023



Zikaron B'Salon

As a way to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and to raise awareness among the new generations regarding this dark era of History and as part of the Holocaust Remembrance Day event held the day before, Mimouna association organized a ceremony for the screening of an animated film entitled "My father's secrets, by Michel Kichka", which took place at the office in Rabat. The screening was followed by a Q&A session with Michel Kichka, who answered various questions related to his film. He also spoke about his book "Second Generation: The Things I Didn't Tell My Father", and indicated that the book was adapted into this animated movie.

Food Workshop Marrakech

JANUARY
2023



With an emphasis on strengthening the women of the Mellah, Mimouna Association organized a unique cooking workshop that echoed the bustling pulse of cultural interchange right in the center of Marrakech. This amazing project brought together Muslim ladies who were eager to discover the delectable cuisine of their Jewish neighbors. Led by Titi Halioua, a last Jewish Moroccan woman living in Marrakech's Mellah, the workshop transformed into a mingling ground of cultures and customs. Muslim women excitedly threw themselves into the craft of cooking traditional Jewish Moroccan cuisine as Titi gladly shared her knowledge. The session promoted understanding, unity, and a shared appreciation for the rich cultural tapestry that binds the communities beyond the culinary skills exchanged.





FEB
2023



Hebrew Classes For the benefit of Tour Guides, Hotel Staff, and Students

In order to address the demands of tour guides and hotel workers who wished to learn the language and learn about the Jewish cultural legacy of Morocco in order to communicate with Hebrew-speaking tourists, Hebrew classes were launched in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism to aid in their integration into the tourism industry, Mimouna Association provided these young people in various Mellahs of Morocco with Hebrew classes and lessons on Moroccan Jewish culture.

Back to roots documentary Retracing the memory of Jews of Tafilalt

Following the life of Suzanne Harroch a member of the Jewish community of Rabat, the DAKIRA staff visited Erfoud, which was founded in the 1920s by the French protectorate. Moroccan Jews were moved to Erfoud from some surrounding villages (Ouled Ali and Jrana). According to a report written at "La Voix des Communautés" in 1950, there were 8 synagogues in the city. The majority were located near the river, where the majority of the members of the Jewish community lived. Near the city center, the DAKIRA staff visited a ruined synagogue, Slat Nizri. While interviewing the owners of the small shops scattered along the Saharan streets of the city, they asserted that their shops once belonged to the Jews of Erfoud who were either cobblers, silversmiths, or cloth vendors.



FEB
2023



Meeting with Mr. Erik Janowsky, Director of the United States Agency for International Development in Morocco (USAID).

MARCH
2023



The director of the United States Agency for International Development in Morocco paid a visit to the Higher International Institute of Tourism in Tangier during his stay there to meet with the students of the USAID-sponsored and Mimouna Association-operated master's program in Jewish Moroccan tourism. The motivations for these students, who represent the many areas of Morocco, applying for this master's program and learning about the Jewish heritage of Morocco were revealed to Mr. Erik Janowsky.

Mr. Janowsky learned about the effort Mimouna Society is undertaking to preserve the Jewish memory by shooting 360-degree photos and recording with the elderly of the old city and the Tangier's Jewish Cemetery.



Mimouna celebration

APRIL
2023



The Mimouna Association, Essaouira Mogador, Zaoui Kadiria and Bayt Dakira celebrated the feast of Mimouna, a thousand-year-old Moroccan Jewish tradition. Mimouna is celebrated on the night following Passover, to mark the end of the period of fasting and food deprivation. It's an opportunity to get together with family, friends and neighbors, and share traditional sweet dishes such as mofletas, dates, almonds and honey. It's also an opportunity to strengthen ties between the Jewish and Muslim communities.



The Mimouna celebration in Essaouira was marked by a series of cultural events and activities, including traditional music concerts, art exhibitions and tastings of dishes typical of the festival.

This annual celebration reflects the richness of Moroccan culture and the harmony between the country's different communities. The Mimouna Association, Bayt Dakira and Essaouira Mogador and the Zaouia Kadiria have also organized festivities in the streets of Essaouira to invite all Essaouira residents and visitors to join in this unique celebration and share in the joy and camaraderie of the Mimouna.

Re - creation Judaica by Moroccan Muslim Artisans - Exhibition of Judaica in New York and Essaouira

MAY
2023



The opening of the traveling exhibition in Fez in June 2022 was a resounding success, encouraging the Mimouna association to present its exhibition simultaneously in New York, at the Centre for Jewish History in Manhattan, and at Bayt Dakira in Essaouira. These exhibitions were made possible by strong partnerships and a shared vision of preserving heritage and promoting intercultural dialogue. In the near future, the exhibition will embark on a North American tour that will take in Montreal, Toronto, Miami, Los Angeles and Mexico City, thanks to ongoing cooperation with our international partners. These exhibitions mark a crucial step in our mission to promote cultural diversity and harmonious coexistence. Thanks to these inter-institutional and international partnerships, we have been able to train 68 artisans from Fès, Meknès, Sefrou, Essaouira, Asfi, Rabat and Salé, offering them a platform to showcase their skills and share the richness of Moroccan-Jewish culture with the world.



JUNE
2023



Ramadan 1444 & Mimouna 5783



An Interfaith Iftar is a way for people of different faiths to come together, share a meal, and learn about each other's traditions and beliefs. It is an opportunity to promote understanding and harmony among people of different faiths and cultures. In Rabat, 216 of the youth of the Mellah attended the Iftar ceremony and Mimouna celebration organized by Mimouna Association and the Tofola Chaabia movement to highlight the coexistence that the Mellah was known for.

During the event, the youth of the Mellah learnt about the Mimouna celebration through a presentation made by the last Jewish resident of the Mellah of Rabat. The last Jewish woman of the Mellah answered the questions of the youth regarding the significance of Passover, the meaning behind each ingredient on the table of Mimouna, and the history of cohabitation between Jews and Muslims in the Mellah of Rabat.

The Moroccan Jewish Days - Fez

JUNE 2023



This commemorative day marks the 6th edition of the Mimouna association's most symbolic event, since it was with the "Moroccan Jewish Days" that the association began its activities in 2008 on the campus of AL Akhawayn University. This 6th edition was marked by the screening of the documentary film directed by said Belli and previewed at the Sephardic Jewish Film Festival in New York in April 2023, The Guardians of Memory, which is above all a tribute to the Jewish community of Fez, one of the first communities in Morocco to support the Mimouna association in its early days.



The film also illustrates the desire of Rabbi Sebbagh, one of the pillars of this community, to leave a testimony to his story and that of his community.

Book Fair - Rabat

JUNE 2023



Under the banner of the Dakira program, a USAID-funded initiative that is implemented by some Moroccan NGOs, Mimouna Association took part in the International Book Fair of Rabat 2023. Having a booth at the book fair was an opportunity to showcase some literary endeavors and connect with a global audience of book enthusiasts.

Our booth was a vibrant and inviting space, adorned with Moroccan Judaica items, enticing book covers that tell the story of Moroccan Jews, and engaging signage about the work of the organization. It was a hub of activity, with visitors stopping by to browse our collection, engage in conversations, and discover the stories we had to offer.

We had the privilege of interacting with readers from diverse backgrounds, engaging in discussions about the history of Moroccan Jews, their culture, as well as their exodus, and sharing our passion for storytelling about the coexistence between Jews and Muslims in Morocco.



The book fair provided a platform to not only promote the publications that were written about Moroccan Judaism but also to forge valuable connections with students, young professionals, who had multiple questions about the Moroccan Jewish identity. The experience was inspiring, as we witnessed firsthand the power of books to transcend borders and unite people through the love of reading.



JUNE
2023



Mimouna Board attends AJC Global Forum in Tel Aviv

The Board of the Mimouna Association took part in the Global Forum, an annual gathering organized by the American Jewish Community to exchange views on a variety of topics concerning the current international context. The Forum was an opportunity for the Mimouna Association to present its joint projects with AJC and to represent Moroccan civil society.

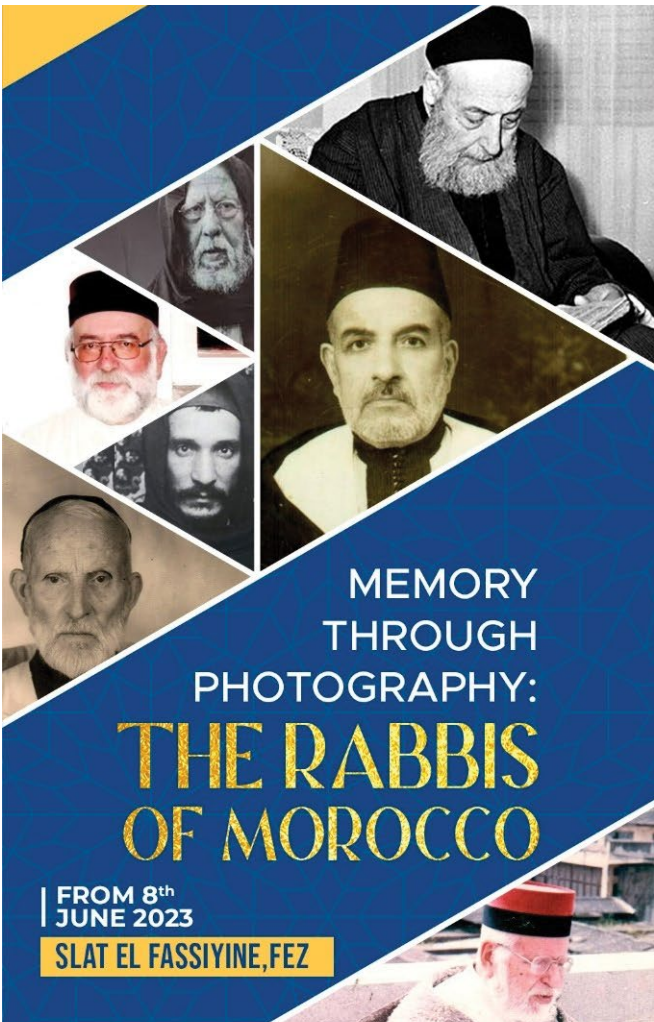
Exhibition of the Rabbis of Morocco

JUNE
2023



An itinerary display has been planned by Mimouna Association and the Casablanca Museum of Moroccan Judaism. The project was created by the exhibition's designer, Dr. Zhor Rehilil, and aims at highlighting the life of some prominent Jewish Moroccan Rabbis to safeguard their memory.

The exhibition's objective is to expose Morocco's rich history of Jewish culture and scholarship to the youth and introduce them to the cultural side of the many notable Jewish Moroccan rabbis who once influenced worldwide Judaism such as Rabbi Yitzhak Alfasi ("Rif"), a leading rabbi in the 11th century who wrote a comprehensive commentary on the Talmud, Rabbi Shlomo Ibn Danan, who served as the chief rabbi of Morocco in the 16th century and was a prolific author and scholar and Rabbi Raphael Berdugo, a 19th-century rabbi who was known for his charitable work and advocacy for the Jewish community.



A meeting between the youth of the Mellah of Rabat & Kivunim

JUNE
2023



To encourage the youth of the Mellah to interact with American youth, the Mimouna Association set up a meeting between the Kivunim, a Jewish gap-year program for North American high school graduates based in Jerusalem, Israel with scheduled field trip visits to 11 nations, and more than 50 cities and villages significant to the historical and modern Jewish global world. The two groups discussed a variety of subjects, including the Jewish-Muslim relationship, recent efforts to forge ties between Moroccans and Americans, and the role of youth in promoting understanding and battling extremism.



Mimouna Association organized a master program field training that benefited the students of the master program. Created in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Higher Education, and the International Higher Institute of Tourism in Tangier, this ground-breaking project sought to fully immerse students in the vibrant cultural heritage of Fez. Participants in the program gained profound insights into the heritage of the Jewish Moroccan community and explored the historical significance of the Mellah, delving into the many layers of Jewish Moroccan culture unique to Fez. The master's program promoted a better respect for the cultural diversity that characterizes Fez in addition to acting as a platform for education, resulting in a comprehensive grasp of Morocco's unique historical and cultural landscape.



Restoration of Leshem Yikhoud synagogue

Mimouna Association, in collaboration with the Moroccan Jewish community of Casablanca and the foundation of Jewish Moroccan Heritage undertook a remarkable endeavor to restore the "Leshem Yikhoud" synagogue in Errachidia, the last standing synagogue in the capital of the Tafilalet region. This restoration project was made possible by the dedicated efforts of Raphael El Maleh, who was the reason behind the restoration of many Jewish sites in Morocco throughout the years.



Unity Through Diversity



Mimouna Association, in collaboration with the American Sephardi Federation, Asor Cultural Heritage Preservation, and Tofola Chaabia movement, organized a unique and engaging event titled "Unity through Diversity." This activity brought together the youth of the Mellah in Rabat, dividing them into four groups to conduct research on the rich Jewish heritage embedded in their neighborhood. The competition aimed to foster a sense of unity by celebrating Moroccan diversity, emphasizing the Mellah's role as a shared space. Through this initiative, participants not only deepened their understanding of their cultural heritage but also promoted a spirit of togetherness within their community. The event demonstrated the value of teamwork in protecting and valuing cultural variety.



The Jews of Tafilalet exhibition

Mimouna Association, in collaboration with, the Museum of Moroccan Jewish Heritage, The American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) and the American Sephardi Federation orchestrated a captivating exhibition to unveil the fascinating history of the Jews of Tafilalet. A group of enthusiastic young Moroccans embarked on a journey through time as they visited this insightful exhibition.

With curiosity and open minds, they explored the curated displays that brought to life the rich cultural heritage and significant contributions of the Jewish community in Tafilalet.



Moroccan Jewish University

OCT
2023 

The Moroccan Jewish University 2023, organized by Mimouna Association, was a remarkable event that brought together over 35 youth from the Mellah of Rabat. This activity, which has been organized by Mimouna since 2015, aimed to educate the participants about the diversity and the togetherness of Essaouira. The youth had the opportunity to attend a Sufi celebration at the Zaouiya Kadiriya, where they experienced the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of this Islamic Mystic school. They also had meaningful conversations with Ms. Ghita Rabouli, the director of Bayt Dakira, learning about the history of coexistence and the importance of safeguarding the heritage. Visiting the synagogue of Rav. Haim Pinto Hagadol, the participants were moved by the story shared by Malika, the Muslim guard who inherited the mission of preserving the Jewish sites of Essaouira from her father. Through this activity, the youth of the Mellah of Rabat gained valuable insights, asked thought-provoking questions, and pondered on initiatives that could be implemented in their own community. This event was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Mimouna Association and The American Sephardi Federation, as part of the "rebuilding our homes" initiative funded by USAID.



Spiritual Tanger

OCT 2023 

In the face of challenging times, Mimouna Association stands strong, unwavering in our commitment to spreading light, hope and peace. In partnership with La Fondation Mémoires pour l'Avenir, Mimouna Association organized the "Spiritual Tanger" exhibition, an activity presented under the banner of the DAKIRA project – a USAID-funded initiative implemented by four Moroccan organizations. Our exhibition shed light on Tanger, the bride of the North, which is a shining example of harmonious coexistence, where mosques, churches, and synagogues share the same space, creating a mosaic of cultures that collectively define our rich Moroccan heritage. The "Spiritual Tanger" exhibition, through a collection of photographs, beautifully captures the history of harmony among diverse communities, showcasing the mosques, churches, and synagogues that have long stood as symbols of unity.



Events
Held

20



Number of
Attendees

+500

MIMOUNA
2023



Number
of Partnerships

6



Mimouna
Team

12