

HaNahar 2026 Jewish Culture Festival

A celebration of humanity and curiosity

Nové Mesto nad Váhom / Trenčín, 27 April 2026

The HaNahar Jewish Culture Festival returns to the Central Považie region after a year's absence to bring a new wave of cultural events. The 6th edition of the festival is centred around two key themes: **humanity and curiosity**. As part of the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) Trenčín 2026 project, the festival presents a programme that reflects European values, seeks connections between tradition and the modern era, and commemorates significant literary and artistic figures.

The centenary of Arnošt Lustig and the search for humanity

The central theme of this year's programme is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Arnošt Lustig, the world-renowned writer who devoted his entire life to the theme of human dignity. The festival will honour him with an engaging evening at the Trenčín Synagogue (11 June), where Eva Lustigová will share serious yet light-hearted memories of her father in the programme *NOMEN OMEN BY ARNOŠT LUSTIG*.

Art with a European dimension

HaNahar 2026 places a strong emphasis on the visual arts. The exhibition *BETWEEN HOME AND EUROPE* (opening 12 June) in Nové Mesto nad Váhom will present a selection from Kamil Benetin's private collection. This is a unique collection of works by Slovak painters of Jewish origin, whose work transcended regional boundaries and became an integral part of European cultural heritage. The festival will also present a project by the academic painter Miro Pogran (Czech Republic) entitled "*HUMAN-I-TY*", which explores the very essence of humanity through exhibitions, guided tours and workshops at Beckov Castle and the Town Tower in Trenčín.

Curiosity as a tool for understanding

"As part of ECOC Trenčín 2026, our theme is curiosity – the courage to ask questions and get to know our neighbours. We believe that culture is a bridge that connects," say the organisers. This dimension is highlighted by the Jewish-Christian gathering *MAN IN GOD'S IMAGE* at the Trenčín Synagogue, attended by Rabbi Misha Kapustin and leading representatives of churches in Slovakia.

*"Curiosity leads us to knowledge, and knowledge to tolerance.
HaNahar 2026 is not just about history, but about a living culture that shapes today's
Europe."*

The HaNahar (*River that Connects*) Festival of Jewish Culture is a multi-genre event that uses art, discussion and education to introduce the public to the richness of Jewish heritage and its influence on contemporary society. It is an integral part of the ECOC Trenčín 2026 project.

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PROGRAMME

Thursday / 11 June

Trenčín Town Tower

17:00 **Miro Pogran "HUMAN-I-TY"**

Opening of the exhibition by academic painter Miro Pogran

curator: Ela Porubánová, the exhibition is open from 9 June to 22 June 2026

M. Rešetka Public Library, Trenčín, Zlatá Fatima Arcade

18:30 **MUSIC ON A PLATE** and **NOMEN OMEN BY Arnošt Lustig**

concert with Jewish cuisine tastings and discussion with Eva Lustigová to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of writer and journalist Arnošt Lustig

Friday / 12 June

M. R. Štefánik Grammar School, Nové Mesto nad Váhom

9:00 **I WANT TO BE A HUMAN BEING**

workshop on the work of Arnošt Lustig and key human values

Exhibition Hall, Nové Mesto nad Váhom Cultural Centre

17:00 **BETWEEN HOME AND EUROPE**

Opening of an exhibition of painters of Jewish origin from Kamil Benetin's private collection

curator: Ela Porubánová, the exhibition runs until 31 August 2026

Považan Cinema, Nové Mesto nad Váhom

19:00 **MALACHI**

A story about the difficult decision of young parents, the boundless love of a surrogate mother, and the journey of a boy searching for his own identity. A film that explores the limits of humanity, the weight of guilt, and the courage to forgive where it hurts the most.

Directed by: Ido Bahat, Noam Demsky, 2025, Israel, documentary, 51 mins, English/Slovak subtitles, MP15+

Saturday / 13 June

Beckov Castle

11:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 16:00 **Miro Pogran "HUMAN-I-TY"**

guided tours and art workshop with the artist

curator: Ela Porubánová, the exhibition runs until 22 June 2026

16:00 **JEWISH EVERYDAY OBJECTS**

exhibition/lecture: Martin Vincurský

Trenčín Synagogue

17:00 **MAN IN GOD'S IMAGE**

Meeting of Jews and Christians attended by leading church representatives and Rabbi Mishu

Kapustin

Sunday / 14 June

Music Pavilion in Piešťany Park

16:00 **KASCHAUER KLEZMER BAND**

concert

Hlohovec Castle

16:00 **MUSIC ON A PLATE**

concert with Jewish cuisine tastings

Advance tickets: Local History Museum in Hlohovec and MKC Hlohovec Information Centre