

# A.R.I.F.

*Association for the Restoration of Jewish Works and Institutions in France*  
*Association pour le Rétablissement des Institutions et Oeuvres*  
*Israelites en France*

FOUNDED NEARLY SEVEN DECADES AGO

The Association for the Restoration of Jewish Works and Institutions in France (A.R.I.F.) provided immediate and tangible aid to Jewish survivors of World War II.

As the organization matured, it dedicated itself to maintaining Jewish life and traditions, providing support for Jewish works and institutions as well as those that help the poor, aged or infirm of all religions.

## TODAY

Today, a great task remains. A.R.I.F. continues to support museums, senior care centers, homes for disabled Jewish adults, Jewish physicians, synagogues and libraries throughout France including the Memorial de la Shoah, Casip-Cojasor, AMIF, and Synagogue de la Paix, among others.

**For further information or to make a contribution to support the work of A.R.I.F., please contact:**

Andrea Baumann Lustig  
*President*  
212.888.8123

ARIF is a 501c(3) organization.  
Contributions are deductible to  
the extent allowed by the tax code.

Excerpts of a letter from the  
Director, Jewish Social Assistance  
Works, Alsace-Lorraine

8 November 1944

*"Devastated by shootings, massacres and deportations, wandering for weeks in the forest, seeking camouflage in caves and abandoned huts—without opportunity to obtain adequate food, under constant terrible fear of discovery by the Germans, our fellow believers are totally impoverished.*

*Entire families have been exterminated or have disappeared.*

*Many ... children saved by clandestine actions of the brave ... are now orphans. Many are the disabled, elderly or the sick abandoned to their fate.*

*We expect 15,000 Jews to seek our help ...*

*A great task lies ahead of us...  
to try to engage a community which has suffered terribly...  
to restore a desire to work, a joie de vivre and, ultimately,  
confidence in a better future."*

# HISTORY OF A.R.I.F.

1943

Well before the end of World War II hostilities, a group of French refugees urgently gathered in New York to try to address the needs of their Jewish brethren in France.

On December 6, 1943, a meeting was held in Baron Edouard de Rothschild's home in New York. Present were:

Baron Edouard de Rothschild  
Rabbi Simon Langer  
Andre Meyer  
Lazare Blum

Baron Robert de Rothschild  
Raymond Baumann  
Edouard Weil

There, they unanimously decided to form an association whose purpose would be to find solutions to the various problems confronting French Jews and Judaism following the war. This provisional Executive Committee of the Association reached out to their French contacts in New York to establish a broader-based Board of Directors.

The Association dedicated itself to the reconstruction of Jewish communities, providing general assistance where needed and helping French Judaism in its work towards spiritual reconstruction. The association would seek to cooperate with existing American associations who had the same purpose.

1944

In May, A.R.I.F. was incorporated in the United States, formally adopting the name: Association for the Reestablishment of Jewish Works and Institutions in France (A.R.I.F.) in June. The first Board of Directors, included President - Baron Edouard de Rothschild, Vice Presidents - Baron Robert de Rothschild, Lazare Blum, André Meyer, Edmond Weil, Treasurer-Raymond Baumann, Secretary-Rabbi Simon Langer.

By October, A.R.I.F. was granted tax exempt status as a religious corporation. Its first fund raising appeal for A.R.I.F. was conducted, raising \$23,000 (equivalent to \$2.8 million today).

1945-  
1972

Following the retirement of Baron Edouard de Rothschild, others take the helm of A.R.I.F. including Baron Robert de Rothschild, Mr. Rene Sacerdote, la Baronne Robert (Lucy) de Gunzburg, and Rabbi Simon Langer.

1972

Mr. Philippe E. Baumann, whose father Mr. Raymond Baumann was A.R.I.F.'s first treasurer, became a member of the Executive Committee in 1972.

1987

Mr. Phillippe E. Baumann was elected President of A.R.I.F. Mr. Baumann, Executive Vice President and Director of Stralem & Co., a New York investment management firm established in 1968, and Member of the Alsatian Union New York, modernized the structure of A.R.I.F.

2012

Before his death in February 2012, Mr. Baumann retired as president becoming chairman and his daughter, Ms. Andrea Baumann Lustig representing the third generation of family involvement, was elected president. Ms. Baumann-Lustig is Vice President of Stralem & Co. The future of A.R.I.F. is therefore assured not only through ongoing annual donations but also by the continued involvement of families who have given life to ARIF since its inception.

Recently A.R.I.F. participated with the World Monument Fund in the reconstruction of the Synagogue in Pfaffenhoffen in Alsace, a building dating back to before the 1800s. Aware of its reconstruction, Mr. Baumann guided by the Grand Rabbi Rene Guttman of Strasbourg visited the city during the reconstruction work. Rabbi Guttman, whose research A.R.I.F. has also supported recently received the French Legion of Honor.

The need for religious, social and cultural support for French Judaism which has been provided by A.R.I.F. for more than a half century is far from fulfilled. While it may evolve in the future, ARIF will remain true to its almost seventy-year-old mission: to provide support for Jewish works and institutions in France.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phillippe E. Baumann,  
Chairman\*

Andrea Baumann Lustig,  
President

Roger R. Baumann  
Nadine D. Grelsamer  
Ivan L. Lustig  
Nicole de Montalette

\*deceased