

Celebration of the 80th birthday of the Nobel laureate Roald Hoffmann in Zolochiv



On July 18, 2017, in Zolochiv, a small town in western Ukraine, a ceremony was organized on the occasion of the 80th birthday of one of the most prominent natives of the town, Nobel Prize laureate in Chemistry (1981), Roald Hoffmann. Zolochiv's residents honored their renowned fellow citizen by inaugurating a commemorative board on the house where Roald Hoffmann lived as a child. The ceremony was followed by a scientific seminar in the Throne Hall of Zolochiv Castle, organized by the Western Scientific Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (WSC), the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Lviv Polytechnic National University, Zolochiv City Council, the All-Ukrainian Jewish Charitable Foundation "Hesed-Arieh", and the Markiyon Shashkevych Institute.

At the beginning of the seminar, Roald Hoffmann himself addressed a few words to the participants *via* a video.

The Mayor of Zolochiv, Igor Hrynkiv, spoke about the multiple relations between Roald Hoffmann and the town of Zolochiv. He informed that a special ceremony had taken place to launch the special stamp dedicated to Roald Hoffmann before the 80th anniversary of the scientist.

In his scientific presentation entitled "Electronic density from X-ray diffraction", the Vice-rector for Science and Research at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Roman Gladyshevskii, presented some important achievements in crystal chemistry, one of the many fields of interest of Roald Hoffmann. The speaker gave an overview of the activities of the scientific school of crystal chemistry at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, a university of which Roald Hoffmann is Doctor Honoris Causa since 2015.

Yevgeniy Zakharchuk (Assistant Chairman of the WSC), under the title "Roald Hoffmann: Native of Zolochiv and Halychyna, a US citizen", talked about the personality of Roald Hoffmann, about his difficult childhood as a Jew during the Nazi occupation, and his extraordinary scientific career.

Olga Lidovska, Head of the Museum of "Hesed-Arieh" (Lviv), provided information also about other famous people who were born, lived and worked on the territory of Zolochiv district.

Roman GLADYSHEVSKII