

1992 Letter sent to Selisher descendents
regarding cemetery restoration
Courtesy of Rita (née SCHNEIDER) POLLACK, USA

סעלישער חברה קדישא קהילת חסד
VINOGRADOV EMIGRANTS
SELISHER CHEVRA KADISHA KEHILAS CHESED, INC.
Under the leadership of Selisher Raa's son, Rav Oizer Klein
1462 56th Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219

77
JANUARY 1992

DEAR SELISHER, VICINITY, AND YOUR FAMILIES: *מקום*

MY WIFE AND I AND A GROUP OF MY RELATIVES VISITED SELISH THIS PAST AUGUST AND LET ME GIVE YOU NOW AN UPDATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS ABOUT THE OLD SELISHER BETH ALMIN (CEMETERY) WHICH WAS SLATED FOR DESTRUCTION BY THE SELISHER CITY AUTHORITIES.

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE CAN REPORT TO YOU THAT THE SELISHER CITY COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION TO PROCLAIM THE BETH ALMIN " AN HISTORIC MONUMENT " , CONDITIONED THAT WE JEWISH EMIGRANTS FROM THAT AREA WILL ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENTIRE BUDGET OF RESTORING AND MAINTAINING IT IN A CLEAN AND ORDERLY FASHION BEFITTING AN " HISTORIC LANDMARK ". IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BETTER SECURITY AND TO SAFEGUARD IT FROM FURTHER VANDALISM , THE CITY COUNCIL REQUIRED US TO CONSTRUCT ABOUT A THREE METER HIGH CONCRETE STONE FENCE ENCLOSING IT FROM ALL AROUND (CIRCA HALF A KILOMETER) AND TO ENGAGE A STEADY ATTENDANT.

SOME VOLUNTEER SELISHER IN THE USA PAID FOR THE COST OF THE INITIAL CLEANINGS, CUTTING OUT OF INGROWN TREES, BRUSH, AND THE REMOVAL OF RUBBISH. IN ADDITION THEY ALSO FURNISHED THE FIRST INSTALLMENT WHICH ENABLED THE SELISHER CITY ENGINEERS TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FENCE. ~~ON~~ OUR RECENT TRIP WE OBSERVED THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS AND WERE ABLE TO TAKE SOME VIDEOS OF SAME. WE ARE PLEASED TO ATTACH SOME COPIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE UPCOMING NEW FENCE.

THE ORIGINAL COST FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT WAS PRESENTED BY THE REGIONAL MINISTRY IN UNGVAR IN THE AMOUNT OF WELL OVER \$ 300.000.00. HOWEVER, AFTER SEVERAL TRIPS TO SELISH BY MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE AND AS A RESULT OF DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS THE CITY AUTHORITIES IN SELISH AGREED TO A MORE FAVORABLE PRICE IN THE VICINITY OF \$ 150.000.00, INCLUDING THE INNER REHABILITATION.

IT SEEMS THAT WE SURVIVORS WERE SELECTED BY DESTINY TO PERFORM NOBLE DEEDS BY ERECTING SYMBOLIC MEMORIAL SITES AND MONUMENTS TO PERPETUATE FOR POSTERITY THE MEMORY OF THE LOST JEWS IN THE HOLOCAUST, AND RIGHTLY SO, BECAUSE UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF THEIR BURIAL PLACES ARE UNKNOWN. HOWEVER, THE SELISHER BETH ALMIN IS NOT A SYMBOLIC ONE, IT IS THE GENUINE ETERNAL MEMORIAL SITE OF OUR SELISHER ORIGINAL ROOTS AND ANCESTORS. CAN WE EVEN IMAGINE A THOUGHT OF ABANDONING IT (AS SOME SUGGESTED) AND LET THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES DESTROY IT AS THEY, ALAS, ALREADY DID SO IN MANY OTHER AREAS ? CHAS V'CHOLILE.

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THEREFORE, IT IS UP TO US TO RAISE ALL THE NEEDED FUNDS WITHOUT ANY DELAY SO THAT WE CAN BRING ABOUT THE EARLY COMPLETION OF THE FENCE AND THE INNER REHABILITATION OF THE BETH ALMIN.

FOR NEARLY FIFTY YEARS THE RUSSIAN REGIME DEPRIVED MANY OF US OF THE ABILITY TO GO FOR KEIVER OVOS AND TO CARE FOR THE BETH ALMIN AS WELL. BUT NOW, PLEASE G-D, WE CAN FREELY TRAVEL TO RUSSIA IT SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION FOR US AND DUTY AT ALL COST AND EFFORT TO PRESERVE AND SAVE THE BETH ALMIN.

WE APPEAL TO YOU TO RESPOND MOST GENEROUSLY AND TO PLEASE CONTACT YOUR OTHER SELISHER AND VICINITY FRIENDS AND OWN FAMILY TO RESPOND LIKEWISE. WE ARE A TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.

IN THE MERIT OF YOUR KINDNESS IN THIS MITZVAH OF GEMILAS CHASODIM IM HAMEISIM (CHARITABLE DEEDS FOR THE DECEASED) MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES BE BLESSED BY HASHEM WITH GOOD HEALTH, WEALTH, AND NACHAS.

MOST SINCERELY YOURS,

V.E.SELISHER CHEVRA KADISHA KEHILAS CHESED, INC.,

Oizer Klein
RABBI OIZER KLEIN
(SELISHER RAV'S SON)

ENCLS:

P.S. MEMBERS OF OUR COMMITTEE IN USA JOINTLY WITH JEWS IN SELISH WERE ALLE IN DECEMBER 1991, TO RECORD (HOPEFULLY) ALL EXISTING GRAVES AND STONES AND ASSIGNING ROW NUMBERS AND GRAVE SITE NUMBERS. ALSO, THANKS TO GREAT EFFORT THE ORIGINAL CHEVRA KADISHA RECORD FROM THE PERIOD OF 1934 TO MAY 1944 , WAS LOCATED AND BROUGHT TO THE USA FOR STUDY. AS SOON AS THIS WORK WILL BE IN PROPER FORMAT YOU WILL BE KEPT POSTED.

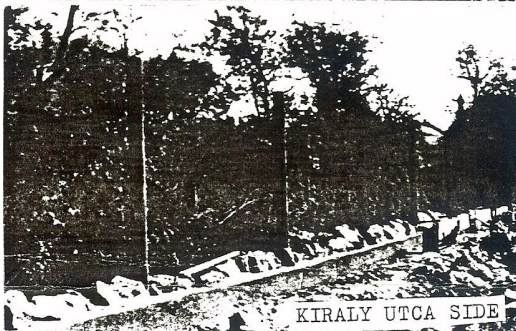
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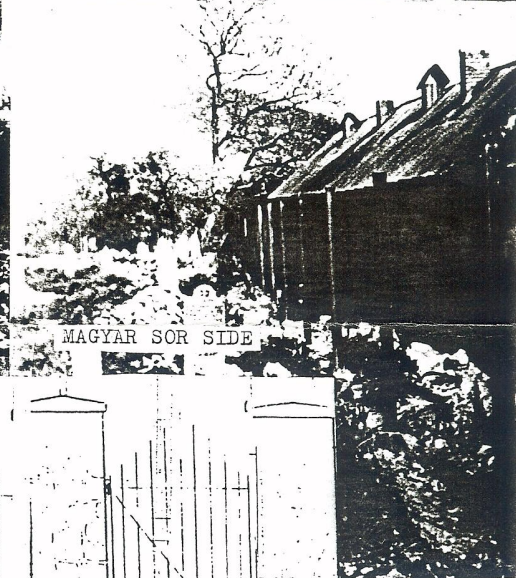
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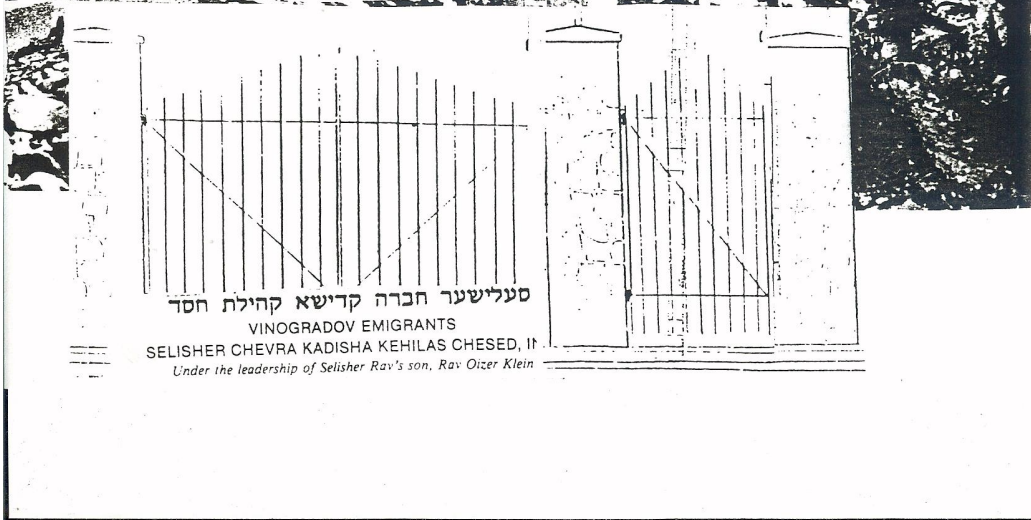
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