

# Rabbis, Cantors, and Kehila

## Chief Rabbis and Spiritual Leaders

- **GETZ**, Rabbi Meir ben Elyakum (1685-1732)  
first chief rabbi of Piotrkow in 1726; also simultaneously rabbi of [Lask](#).
- **GETZ**, Rabbi R. Eliakim (1705-1738)  
dayan for seven years; replaced his father as chief rabbi in 1735.
- **PIOTRKOWER**, Rabbi Nathan Neta, chief rabbi 1763-1766  
died at a young age; son of Rabbi Tzvi Hirsh.
- **MEISELS**, Rabbi Hanania Lipman (?-1811)  
chief rabbi and a great scholar; died without children.
- **PACANOWSKI**, Rabbi Abraham Tzvi (1777-1819)  
chief rabbi for seven years, author of Beit Abraham; son of well-known speaker, Rabbi Eliezer, from Pocarow; descendant of famous rabbis; great-grandson of Rabbi Tzvi Hersh PIOTRKOWER.
- **BROMBERG**, Rabbi David Isaac (?-1827)  
chief rabbi and well-known lamdan; called "The Sharp One"; author of Beth David and Chidushai HaRadak;  
son of Rabbi Reuven; later moved to Ujazd.
- **PIOTRKOWSKI**, Rabbi Moshe (?-1814)  
chief rabbi and well-known lamdan.
- **PIOTRKOWSKI**, Rabbi Aharon (?-1831)  
kabbalist, mathematician and known as very sharp;  
was a dayan in Lask; student of Rabbi Fishel of Strikow;  
son of Rabbi Moshe.
- **PIOTRKOWSKI**, Rabbi Itzak  
followed his father, Rabbi Aharon, as rabbi.
- **KARO**, Rabbi Yakov (1771-?)  
served briefly as chief rabbi,  
then left for Silesia;  
son of Gaon Rabbi Arie Leib of Krotechin.
- **BUCHNER**, Rabbi David Isaac (?-1827)  
famous rabbi; author of Beit David; later served as rabbi in Czestochowa.
- **EDELSTEIN**, Rabbi Dov Berish (?-1831)  
chief rabbi for two years; died in the cholera epidemic of 1831.
- **MEISELS**, Rabbi Aaron Yehuda Jacob (Leibush) (?-1848)  
chief rabbi for a short time, also was rabbi of Kilikov and Zamosc;  
removed as rabbi in 1846 because of a misunderstanding between the Chassidim and Mitnagdim; son of Naftali Hertz MEISELS, father of Gaon Rabbi David of Nashelsk (Nasielsk).
- **MORGENSTERN**, Rabbi Eleazar Shalom, chief rabbi (1858-1867)  
formerly the Rav of Cichow and Shedletz (which gave up their chief rabbi only with the intervention of the police); son of Simcha Zev MORGENSTERN.
- **ROSENBLUM**, Rabbi Baruch Tzvi Hirsh (?-1883)  
elected chief rabbi in 1868, following the death of Rabbi MORGENSTERN;  
formerly the Rav of Radzin (1863) and Wegrow.
- **KACZKA**, Rabbi Isaac  
known as "Yitzhakel Charif"; famous rabbi and great lamdan; chairman of the Beth Din after Rabbi PACANOWSKI's death; grandfather of Rabbi Hanoch KACZKA, publisher of Rabbi Isaac's writings.

- **WAKS**, Rabbi Chayim Elozor (?-1889)  
elected chief rabbi in 1884, following the death of Rabbi ROSENBLUM; in 1886, he, his father-in-law Rabbi Yehoshua TRUNK of Kutno, the head of the Kehila, wealthy Pinchas HOROWITZ and Moshe WALD (sexton of the Bet Hadin) established a colony in Eretz Israel called Chitin, near Tiberias; published the first Hebrew seyfer in Piotrkow, Nefesh Chaya.; born in Tarnograd near Lublin, died of a stroke in Kuzmitz, buried in Kalisz; one son, seven daughters, who married wealthy Chassidim; second wife died in Piotrkow in 1910; grandson Rabbi Isaac KALISH and a great-grandson Rabbi Menachem ZINGER survived the Shoah and lived in the U.S.; some descendants live in Israel as followers of Rabbi Chayim Elozor ALTER (grandson of Rabbi WAKS and nephew of the Gerrer Rebbe); grandson Rabbi Israel Yehoshua AIBESHITZ lived in Israel.
- **ROSENFELD**, Rabbi Simcha Yair (1831-1911)  
elected chief rabbi in 1890 and served until his death;  
a great and famous rabbi and excellent speaker.
- **TEMKIN**, Rabbi Menachem David (1861-?)  
elected chief rabbi in 1913, following the death of Rabbi ROSENFELD; led the Jewish community during WWI; son of Rabbi Michael TEMKIN, grandson of Rabbi David TEMKIN, a leading rabbi of Warsaw; married daughter of wealthy Moshe Natan HALBER of Warsaw; son-in-law was Avraham KOHN, brother of Lodz industrialist, Asher KOHN.
- **SHAPIRA**, Rabbi Yehuda Meir, chief rabbi from 1924-1931  
a member of the Polish parliament (Agudas Israel Party);  
became rabbi of Lublin in 1931 and was founder and head of the Yeshivat Hakhemai Lublin (Yeshiva of the Sages of Lublin).
- **LAU**, Rabbi Moshe Chaim (1893-1942)  
the last chief rabbi of Piotrkow, 1935-1942; educator, established a yeshiva in Prishkov, Czechoslovakia; supporter of the Poalei Agudas Yisroel Party; member of the Piotrkow Judenrat for a time; father of Naftali LAU-LAVIE and Rabbi Yisrael Meir LAU; according to witnesses, prior to deportation to Treblinka in October 1942, Rabbi Lau delivered a sermon on Kiddush Ha-Shem, stating: "Better a living death, than a dead life. Everyone who is killed as a Jew is a saint. I call upon all of you to realize the will of God to die for him with dignity"; then he said his Vidoi --his affirmation of faith-- and the crowd repeated after him crying out "Shema Israel".

## Rabbis

- **BELCHATOWSKI**, Rabbi Tovyte Fabl  
helped to set up the first print shop in Piotrkow and became its owner in 1894;  
the shop became one of the largest print shops in Poland.
- **DREZNER**, Rabbi Raphael (1795-1859)  
Av Beit Din of Piotrkow; buried in old Lodz cemetery; son of Meir. Feiner, Rabbi Yosef (1866-1943), Aleksanderer rebbe;  
chief assistant to Elias Chaim Majzel, chief rabbi of Lodz, from 1901 and arbitrator in the Lodz rabbinic court; born in Piotrkow Trybunalski; killed in September 1943.
- **FRENKEL**, Rabbi Chaim  
helped set up first print shop in Piotrkow.
- **GLAZER**, Rabbi Jakob (d. 1939)  
a leading rabbi of Piotrkow; killed with his family in Sulejow on September 4.
- **HUBERBAND**, Rabbi Shimon (1909-1942)  
born in Checiny, lived in Piotrkow Trybunalski; Holocaust diarist; wrote [Kiddush Hashem](#);  
see also, "The Destruction of the [Synagogues of Lodz](#)"; joined the inner circle of the [Oneg Shabbat Archive in Warsaw](#); his writings,  
apparently from 1941, were found in the hidden archive material discovered after the war in the area that had been the ghetto.

- **LUBLINER**, Rabbi Simcha Ozer  
rabbi during the 1930s; father of Dr. [Michael Lubliner](#).
- **PIOTRKOWER**, Rabbi Hirsh  
wealthy founder of the Bet Hamidrash in 1765; great-grandfather of Rabbi Abraham Tzvi PACANOWSKI.
- **ROTBAJN**, Rabbi Icek (HG"R Yitskhak of Piotrykov) (1834- ca. 1920)  
born in Gora Kalwaria; owned an ironworks factory in the 19th century;  
[The Rotbajn Family of Poland](#).

## Cantors

- **HILLEL**, Cantor Moshe  
cantor in the Piotrkower Shul in 1804.
- **MARCUS**, Cantor Joseph  
cantor in the Bet Midrash in 1804.
- **PERLMUTTER**, Cantor Lazar  
cantor from 1836; from Stawski.

## Kehila Structure in 1804

- Rabbi:  
Rabbi Lipman Meisels
- Intercessor and translator:  
Shmelke (Shlomo) Rappoport
- Two teachers
- Cantors:  
Moshe Hillel and Joseph Marcus;  
Jacob Isaac Flatow, first bass
- Sexton
- Helper of the shul
- Night watchmen:  
Shmuel Feivelovitch and  
Gershon Brandeis  
(and two Gentile watchmen)
- Sarah, the midwife

## Kehila Heads in 1808

- Chaim Segal
- Leyb Berliner
- Reb Josef, son of Jacob
- Reb Zachariah

- Reb Nakhum
- Reb Hirsh Piotrkower
- Avram, son of Mordechai