

“Yotzei Krakow” (From Krakow) - Annual Bulletin, 2003

A Report from the Meeting of the Association’s Directorship

During 2002 there were three meetings of the directorship of the Association in which various subjects were discussed. Thus a new directorship was elected for the year 2003 consisting of members of first generation survivors and of the continuing generations.

The members are as follows: David Reiser - chairperson; Lili Haber - secretary; Aleksandrowicz Sinai – treasurer; Aleksandrowicz Danny, Aleksandrowicz Sinai, Aran Tova, Bossak Josef, Brauner Aryeh, Gross Nathan, Horowitz Chana, Weingarten Yaakov, Weingarten Ella, Wirth Shmuel, Lieberman Shoshana, Dr. Landau Moshe, Laor Yakov, Dr. Meltzer Imanuel, Akavia Miriam, Kopelman-Blodek Chava, Dr. Karai Felicia, Rozenberg Linka, Ramon Eva.

Members of the comptrolling committee: Joseph Busak and Shoshana Lieberman.

Members of the cultural committee: Nathan Gross, Miriam Akavia, Dr. Felicia Karai, Eva Ramon.

Association lawyer: Dr. Raoul Kott.

Association accountant: Chadad-Karmi, Accountants.

The Directorship will assemble at least once a year, at which time a financial report will be presented to them. Committees made up of members of the directorship and other members, as needed, will carry out the current work.

Finances

In the past few years the Association’s income has decreased. There have been significantly fewer donations. Furthermore, several years ago, the Association stopped charging members for fees for events. Meanwhile, the Association’s expenses have increased. A considerable amount of resources are needed for the many cultural activities and the various commemorative events that take place in order to preserve the memory of the Krakow community.

Each cultural event that we arrange costs about N IS 1,500 (this includes invitations, printing, and postage for about 600 members). Expenses for the memorial assembly to commemorate 60 years since the resistance of the youth movements in Krakow came to about NIS 30,000.

We urgently need your assistance. Everyone who values the Association of Krakowians is asked to help. All donations are welcome.

Unification of Organizations of Krakowians and the Stipend Fund

As stated above, there has been a considerable drop in annual donations from the New York Association and from members in Israel. Furthermore, recent applicants for stipends have been mainly third and fourth generation Krakowians. The Association does not have the means to evaluate these applicants. Because the costs of both associations have doubled, the uniting of resources will reduce expenses such as registration, accountant fees, financial management, etc. In short, greatly improved administration of our monetary resources is required.

In view of the above, the decision has been made to unite both organizations and thus enable distribution of stipends according to the current availability of resources. The Association of Krakowians in Israel will award stipends in honor of the Martyrs of the Krakow Community to university students who produce the best papers on Jewish Krakow. Papers may deal with any historical period and any subject, such as Judaica, literature, poetry, architecture, art, documentation, cinema, etc, and will be judged by a panel of academic scholars. The Association's Directorship has approached all Israeli universities to encourage students to submit papers.

Commemoration of the Community

At the request of our longstanding member, advocate Zvi Zimmerman, our directorship has signed a petition to the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Ehud Olmert, to commemorate the fighters of Cyganeria by naming a street after them in the neighborhood of Har Choma.

The association in Krakow has informed the Manor family of its intention to hang a plaque in the Emilia Factory in honor of Oscar Schindler. The association has approached the relevant authorities in Krakow to verify the appropriateness of the wording and its historical accuracy.

Planting Trees in Honor of Cyganeria

In honor of the 60th anniversary of the resistance of the Krakow fighters, the Association in Israel decided to plant additional trees in honor of the martyrs in the forest of the Jewish National Fund, close to the woods of Krakow in the mountains of Jerusalem. The ceremony took place on March 13, 2003, the 60th anniversary of the liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto

Cultural Events

As always, during the past year we organized several cultural events:

In honor of the 100th birthday of Marian Hammer, the late Warsaw poet and satirist and great friend of Israel, an evening of humor, satire and reading of his work took place. An evening in honor of our late member Joseph Bau was organized and carried out by his daughters. Some of his writings and paintings were presented. On the occasion of the

publication of Professor Stendig's poetry book, an evening dedicated to the book and to the memory of the Stendig family took place.

Sixty Years to the Resistance in the Krakow Ghetto

The 60th anniversary of the Resistance in the Krakow Ghetto was celebrated during Chanukah. The evening took place in the Museum of the Diaspora of the Tel Aviv University and was well attended. There was hardly room to sit, but we enjoyed being together!

At another event we called "Let's fight to gain three lines in history," we invited the honorary retired Chief Justice who is now president of "Massua"; Dr. Moshe Bieski, the Israel Ambassador to Poland; Dr. Machei Kozlovski and Jehuda Maimon, who spoke about the action of "Cyganeria"; Simcha Stein, the Director of the Museum at Kibbutz Lochamei Ha'Geta'ot (Warriors of the Ghettos), who delivered a speech about the Jewish rebellion movements in Krakow.

There was also a slide show presentation on Krakow from the beginning of the 20th century, with photographs from the collection of the Museum of the Diaspora. The film "Krakow 1939" was presented. The poem "Cyganeria" by Nathan Gross was read, and the singer Ruth Levine performed Mordechai Gebirtig's songs.

A booklet was issued containing description of the various actions of resistance by youth movements in Krakow during from September 1942 until after the action of "Zyganeria." All those who attended the above evening received a copy. We also distributed the booklet among teachers, as well as leaders of youth delegations to Poland.

Boaz Rosenberg, a third generation Krakowian and the grandson of Linka Rosenberg, videotaped the presentations. The video may be purchased for NIS 50.

Activities of the Second Generation

This year we finally succeeded in establishing a group of second generation Krakowians. Its members have taken it upon themselves to enlist additional recruits, with great success. The group meets regularly and discusses subjects such as Jewish private and communal property in Krakow; tightening relationships with the Ironi He High School; and researching the history of the Jews of Krakow. There have also been joint activities between this group and the founders.

Cooperation with Ironi H

This high school has adopted the community of Krakow descendants, and cooperation between the two is ongoing. During the past year we met with the school's Board of Directors, headed by Dr. Dov Orbach (from Zamocz), and the decision was made to increase our collaborative efforts. As part of the "personal commitment" project, juniors

and seniors will interview about ten of the founding members and document their experiences. One student is doing her final project on children and youth in the Krakow ghetto. The Association has donated five copies of each book it has published to the school's library. The Association will assist those students who are interested in becoming youth delegates to Krakow but cannot afford travel expenses.

The school's Board of Directors, together with the PTA, have decided to revive the room in the school dedicated to the study of Krakow. In addition to other resources, it will contain multimedia stations that will provide digital information on Krakow and its Jews.

Cooperation with the Association of New York

We remain cooperative with the New York Association. As always, this year the New York Association contributed to our Stipend Fund. We have also approached them with a request for a special donation for the documentation of Jewish cemeteries in Krakow.

The Krakow Fund of the Hebrew University

The Krakow Hebrew University Fund was established about twenty years ago at the initiative of the late Dr. Reuven Wolf. The late Dr. Joseph Haubenstock and the late Dr. Asher Wiener, as well as other contributors base the Fund on donations. The Fund's main purpose is to publish literature related to Jewish Krakow.

After two decades, Meyer Balaban's book The History of the Jews of Krakow and Kazimierz, 1304-1868 has finally been released in Hebrew translation. It was published by the Magnes Publishing Company and consists of two volumes totaling 1,000 pages. An evening in honor of the book's publication was held in May at Tel Aviv University. Presentations were made by David Reiser, the Chairperson of our Association; Dr. Mascei Kozlovski, Poland's Ambassador to Israel; Professor Yakov Goldberg, Professor Israel Bartal, and Professor Elchanan Reiner.

Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries in Krakow

A publishing company headed by Mr. Benjamin Yaari, in conjunction with the Association of Krakow Descendants, will soon issue a book on Jewish cemeteries in Krakow. The book will appear in Hebrew, English and Polish. It will focus on headstone inscriptions in the Remu cemetery at 40 Szeroka St. and the cemetery at 55 Miodowa St.

Jewish Institutions and Friends of Israel in Krakow

The Krakow Municipality

The mayor of Krakow, Mr. Jacek Majchrowski, who was elected in November 2002, has established a public relations department for the purpose of international cooperation. Mr. Boguslaw Sonik is head of this department. The address of the municipality is: Plac Wszystkich Swietych ¾. Telephone: 4220800-12.

The Jewish Community of Krakow Today

The Community chairperson is Tadeusz Jakubowicz. The Community's address is: Skawska 2, telephone 4295735-12; Mr. Jakubowicz' telephone is: 42100581-12. The Community's rabbi is Rabbi Sasza Pakeric. His position is financed by the Lauder Foundation.

The Center for Jewish Culture (Centrum Kultury Żydowskiej)

The Center was established in 1991 and began functioning in 1993. Its goals are: conservation of the heritage of Jewish Kazimierz, and of Jewish life in Poland, in cooperation with Polish neighbors; Jewish cultural education for the younger generation of Poles; and creation of a platform for a dialogue between Jews and Poles. The Center is directed by Mr. Jaachim Russek. The Center's address is: Rabina Meiselsa nr 17, telephone 12-4306449. They can also be reached by e-mail at info1@judaica.pl. Website <http://www.judaica.pl/>

Jewish Cultural Festival

The annual Festival has become world famous. It takes place for one week at the end of June. The Festival's director is Mr. Janusz Makuch, address: Josefa nr. 36. Telephone: 12-4311517. E-mail: office@jewishfestival.pl.

Museum of National Remembrance under the Eagle Pharmacy of Tadeusz Pankiewicz

The Orlem Apteka pod Museum has been constructed on the site of the old pharmacy of Tadeusz Pankiewicz. The square where the pharmacy stood was called Plac Zgody and served as an "Umschlagplatz" in the Krakow Ghetto. Pankiewicz, a pharmacist, was the only Pole living in the ghetto. In addition to helping the Jews by providing medicine, Pankiewicz and his Polish employees used the pharmacy as a place for meetings, contacts and hiding. The museum houses a permanent exhibit on the Krakow Ghetto and the Plaszow Concentration Camp. Pankiewicz documented his experiences in his book A Pharmacy in Ghetto Krakow, which has been translated into Hebrew by Miriam Akavia and published by both the Association of Krakowians in Israel and Yad Va'Shem. With the help of Department of Public Relations Director Boguslaw Sonik, the mayor plans to invest additional funds in the museum and the square to convert them into a memorial site.

The Museum's director is Anna Piore. The address is: Plac Bohaterow Getta 18. Telephone: 12- 656-5625

Synagogues

OLD SYNAGOGUE, 24 Szeroka St.:

The Old Synagogue was built in the mid-15th century in the Gothic style. The Nazis destroyed the synagogue, but it was later reconstructed in the style of the Renaissance. Today the building serves as a museum for the history and culture of the Jews of Krakow, and houses a permanent Judaica collection.

REMUH SYNAGOGUE, 40 Szeroka St.:

The Remuh Synagogue was erected in 1553 by Israel ben Josef, father of Rabbi Moses Isserles, who was known as the ReM'A. It was destroyed during WW2 but rebuilt in its original style. It is now open on a daily basis to the Jewish community of Krakow, as well as visitors from abroad.

HIGH SYNAGOGUE, 38 Josefa St.:

Built between 1563 and 1556, this synagogue is named for its second-floor prayer hall. One enters this hall from an adjacent building at 40 Josefa St. Though the synagogue was demolished by the Nazis, in 1966 it was replaced by an architectural studio.

IZAAK SYNAGOGUE, 16 Kuppa St,

The Izaak Synagogue was built in 1638 by Isaac Jakubowicz, one of Krakow's wealthiest Jews of his time. Destroyed during WW2, it was rebuilt in 1983 as a museum of the history and culture of the Jews of Poland, especially of Krakow.

SYNAGOGUE WOLF POPPER (BOCIAN), 16 Sceroka St.:

Constructed by the wealthy Wolf Popper (Zev Bocian) of Krakow, this synagogue was demolished during WW2 and reconstructed after the German occupation. Today the building is a local cultural club.

KUPA SYNAGOGUE, 8 Jonathan Warshauer St.:

The synagogue was built in the second half of the 17th century, funded by the local Jewish community. Having been destroyed during WW2, it was later re-erected as a Matzah factory, as well as a warehouse and workshop facility. The Jewish community and municipality have recently begun further reconstruction of this site.

REFORM TEMPLE, 24 Miodova St.:

Erected between 1860 and 1862 by the progressive local community and enlarged several times during the 19th and 20th centuries, the temple was used as a stable during WW2 by the Germans, who were deliberately defiling it. Remodeled after the war, it now hosts prayer services for larger audiences and celebrations for festive occasions.

SPITALNA ST. SYNAGOGUE:

During WW2 this building became a Pravoslav church. It was never returned to the Jewish community.

Other Important Addresses

Directors of Synagogue Museums

Eugeniusz Duda, e-mail: eranet@synagogaizaaka.pl Dominik Dybek

Society for Conservation of Majdanek and Plaszow

(Tow. Opieki na Majdankiem i Plaszowem) Mrs. Iwona Raubenbauer-Slowara directs the society. Address: 16 Wawrzynca St.

Institute for Jewish History at Jagellonian University

Prof. Josef Gierowski is director of the Institute. Address: 12 Batorego St.

Jagellonian Univ. staff connected to Jewish culture

Prof. Leszek Hondo, lecturer at the Jagellonian University of Krakow, is an expert in Jewish cemeteries and Hebrew inscriptions. Mrs. Anis Pordes who studied at the Tel Aviv University has written a screenplay about Krakow Jews entitled "Their City" (Miasto Ich). E-mail: anis@if.uj.edu.pl Dr. Eugenia Prokopow-Janiec is researching Yiddish and Hebrew literature and has studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Psychiatric University Center in Krakow

The late Josef and Janina Haubstock of Krakow established the Center. Today, the acting psychiatrists are: Dr. Maria Orwid, Dr. Jacek Bomba and Dr. Aleksandrowicz.

Education

Numerous teachers of various Krakow schools are actively cooperating with efforts to conserve Jewish Culture. Among them are Eva and Edita at the school on Brzozowa St., where the Jewish Gymnasium was located. Janina Gocz includes Hebrew language in her school curriculum. Teachers from the school named after Marie Sklodowska-Curie were guests of the Association of Krakowians in Israel.

Nobel Prize winners

Two Nobel Prize winners in literature and residents of Krakow, Wislawa Szymborska and Czeslaw Milosz, are today friends of Israel.

Humanists and artists

The following are just a few of Krakow's residents who are friends of Israel: Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Penderecki, Ewa Lipska, Slawomir Mrozek, Stanislaw Lem and Jerzy Jarczyk.

The Krakow Archives

The generation of survivors is slowly decreasing. We are concerned about locating and preserving the thousands of documents and other significant items in their possession. Therefore, we request that anyone with original items from before WW2 or the Holocaust period that are connected to the Jews of Poland, and particularly of Krakow, please contact us and we'll see to it that they are transferred to the appropriate archive.

Expanding membership of the second generation

The importance of expanding our membership is self-evident, and we require your assistance to make this possible. We ask you to send us contact information for your children (name, address, telephone, and e-mail) so that we may invite them to participate in our activities. If you know a descendent of a Krakow Jew anywhere in the world, please forward to us information regarding that person and his or her offspring. We plan to approach the Krakow organizations abroad and suggest that they do the same.