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## UNVEILING OF A MEMORIAL PLAQUE

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On August 11, 2016 local officials led by Rozkishna village head Vasily Porhun and with the participation of the members of the Stavyshche Jewish community and local villagers solemnly unveiled and consecrated a memorial plaque at the gate of the Jewish cemetery which is located in the village of Rozkishna of Stavyshche district, Kyiv region as a token of their profound gratitude to those who generously financed the fencing of the Jewish cemetery last year.

This was done under the auspices of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad which was represented by Commission member Richard Weisberg and his family. Professor Weisberg was instrumental in raising the funds for the project. His ancestors were natives of the town of Stavyshche who immigrated to the US in 1904.

The honored guests at the ceremony were Richard Weisberg himself along with his wife and his cousin Rosalyn Doggett and her daughter Laura. They came to their ancestral town along with the Chief Rabbi of the Communities of Progressive Judaism in Ukraine Olexandr Dukhovny and the Educational Coordinator of the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative Natalia Videneeva.

In his short speech Richard Weisberg (see photo 1) told the audience about his work on the project which is engaging in the preservation of Jewish cemeteries and about his family's history including those of his ancestors who once lived in Stavyshche. Rabbi Oleksandr Dukhovny reconsecrated the cemetery (see photo 2). The participants paid tribute to those who were buried in the cemetery. A member of the Stavyshche Jewish community Mila Divynska responded with words of gratitude (see photo 3). A local TV



station filmed the moment of the unveiling of the memorial plaque.

After the ceremony a group of Americans visited the Stavyshche museum as well as the places where their ancestors once lived.

## From the Editor

Upon receipt of this information we became interested in the personality of Richard Weisberg who was born and achieved success in the US but who never forgot the small Ukrainian town which was the home of his ancestors. He is a professor of constitutional law at the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York City and is a leading scholar on law and literature. He graduated from Brandeis University in 1965, received his doctorate from Cornell University in 1970 and his law degree from Columbia University in 1974. He is the author of many articles and books on legal matters. He taught at many undergraduate institutions in the US, at law schools around the country and in France, Denmark and China, where he is an honorary professor of law at Wuhan University.

Weisberg has been a Guggenheim Fellow and in 2008 was awarded the Legion of Honor by French President Nicholas Sarkozy and in the same year was appointed a member of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad by US President Barack Obama. He has helped litigate successfully in American federal courts on behalf of Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

Richard Weisberg has three sons and his grandson Owen Fievel was named after his father Fievel Weisberg, a native of Stavyshche.