



KOMITET OPIEKI NAD ZABYTKAMI KULTURY ŻYDOWSKIEJ W TARNOWIE
ROK ZAŁOŻENIA 1988
COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE JEWISH HERITAGE IN TARNOW
SINCE 1988

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Report of activities
Committee for the Protection of the Jewish Heritage in Tarnow
for the year 2013

The Committee for the Protection of the Jewish Heritage in Tarnow, established in 1988, its headquarters being the Museum of the Region in Tarnow, Rynek 20-21. The purpose of this Committee is to take care of the Jewish cultural monuments in the area of the former Galicia. The Committee also popularizes the knowledge of the history and culture of Polish Jews, striving towards closeness between Poles and Jews, supports and organizes research and educational projects in connection with culture and Jewish monuments in the region of Tarnow. Members of the Committee participate voluntarily without compensation for their work.

Just like in previous years, the most important annual events are organized by the Committee (since 1996) in celebration of the memorial days of the Jews of Galicia.

*** **Galicjaner Sztetl.** In 2013, the Committee participated in the 70th anniversary of the final liquidation of the Tarnow ghetto (September 1943), and this anniversary was associated with several other events, taking place from June to September. For the commemoration, the Tarnow theater participated as well as several schools. Partnering in the program was Tarnow's city office, the city of Bobowa and the city of Dabrowa Tarnowska. Last year, this project was financed primarily from funds provided by the city of Tarnow (6,000 zł.) and the province of Malopolska (10,000 zł.) In the scope of the project, the following events took place:

*9 June 2013

Bobowa. The reenactment of the historic wedding of the daughter of the tzaddik, Benzion Halberstram, to Moses Stempel, the Talmudic scholar from Krakow. The wedding had taken place in March of 1931 and was a media sensation at that time. The reenactment, in the form of an outdoor spectacle, was performed by the Tarnow theater and students from the Bobowa school using Tarnow's retro train. The wedding procession of local actors went from the train station to the synagogue (also local townspeople) on horseback, with guests being brought on chaises. The ceremony took place in the synagogue's courtyard, performed by Professor Jonathan Webber, according to Hasidic ceremonial tradition.

*20 June 2013

Zbylitowska Góra. Prayer at the site where Jews from Tarnow had been killed, with the participation of a Jewish delegation, youths from local schools, representatives from the armed forces, and a Catholic priest.

*** Concerts

*8 June. "Concert under the bimah", in Tarnow, performed by a klezmer band from Sejny Borderland Foundation.

*19 June. "Concert under the bimah", in Tarnow, performed by Yale Strom (San Diego) and Peter Stan (NY),

*27 June. "Concert under the bimah", in Tarnow, performed by Cantor Yakov Motzen (Toronto),

*29 June, concert performed by Dina Group from Budapest in the synagogue in Dabrowa Tarnowska.

*** Photographic Exhibition

"Hassids – Return", author Wojciech Kobylanski, and exhibition showing Lezajsk during a Hasidic pilgrimage to the grave of the tzaddik, Elimelech from Lezajsk.

*** Cemetery Projects

- Throughout the year in the cemetery, prisoners worked without pay in accordance with the contractual agreement with Tarnow-Moscice Prison . From May to October 2013, 3 workers were based there. The costs related to the prisoners' employment (protective clothing, tools, drinks, bus tickets, insurance) were covered by the Jewish community of Krakow.
- The removal of the branches and other trash that was collected by the prisoners was taken care of by the Muzeum in communication with the Office of the City.
- At the request of the neighboring Committee of the cemetery, the firm, ELTAR, cut down over a dozen trees, which branches had posed a threat to the fence.
- The Oliver Klein family from Belgium commissioned the restoration of the destroyed symbolic monument, installed by the family after the war. A prayer ceremony took place with the family meeting to remember their murdered family members.
- Elizabeth Szancer from the USA (NY) commissioned the restoration of the extremely destroyed plots of the Szancer family quarter.

*** Other Activities

- Collaboration was maintained with several high schools in Tarnow (meetings, lectures, excursions to Jewish monuments).
- In September, there was participation in the 70th anniversary of the liquidation of the ghetto in the organized performance, "Here was a ghetto". Along the former border of the ghetto, there was a line painted on the street with the design of barbed wire marking the area of the closed ghetto (3, 5 km). On September 26th, students and passersby formed a live chain surrounding the area of the last ghetto to be liquidated

(about 1000 m). A group of about 90 youths from Israel took part in the performance with the President of Tarnow and the bishop of Tarnow, Wieslaw Lechowicz.

- December 6th the celebration of the lighting of the second candle took place at the bimah. Participating in the ceremony was a whole group of Jews from Krakow with Professor Jonathan Webber and the new rabbi from Krakow, the chief plenipotentiary and Polish rabbi, Avi Baumol. Tarnow was represented by the president of the city and the Tarnow bishop, Andrzej Jez. Youths from the neighboring towns of Brzostek and Kolaczyce also took part.
- In connection with the Tarnow theater spectacle, "In time before God" (follow relations to Mark Edelman, the last leading commander of the Ghetto), there were over a dozen lectures on the subject of the martyrdom of the Jews from Tarnow which were organized for the youths watching the spectacle.
- Committee members take an active role in all of the celebrations, the debates, and the events in connection with the subjects related to the memory of the Jews and the history of the Jews in Poland.
- There are increasingly more numerous requests for information on genealogy and financial matters, all done voluntarily. Some require a great amount of archival research ,and oftentimes there is a need to search for information in the archives of Tarnow, Krakow, and elsewhere.

We would be very gratefull for next donations

Adam Bartosz, president

Tarnów 28 02 2014