

**Activity Report
of the Committee for the Protection of Jewish Heritage in Tarnow
for 2015**

The Committee for the Protection of Monuments of Jewish Culture in Tarnów was founded in 1989, with its headquarters at Regional Museum in Tarnów, Rynek 20-21. The goal of the Committee is the protection of the monuments of Jewish culture located in the former Galicia region. Moreover, the Committee engages in popularizing the knowledge about the culture of Polish Jews, strives for friendly relations between Poles/Christians and Jews, supports and organizes research and academic undertakings related to Jewish culture and monuments in the former Galicia region. The work of the members of the Committee is community service, and they do not receive any remuneration for their efforts.

As in previous years, the most important event undertaken by the Committee (since 1996) are the annual Remembrance Days of Galician Jews "Galicjaner Shtetl".

I. Galicjaner Shtetl

(11-18 June 2015) Project financed primarily by the city of Tarnów (19 000 PLN). The following events were parts of the project:

June 17th (Thursday)

- *A prayer* at the place of execution of Tarnów Jews in Zbylitowska Góra.
- *A screening of Simon Target film "A Town Called Brzostek" (Miasto Brzostek)* about bringing back the memory of local Jews.
- *A concert at the Bimah*, Eliezer Mizrachi – the songs of Sephardic Jews.

June 18th (Friday)

- *Rabin from the poster (Rabin z plakatu)*. Promotion of the book by Adam Bartosz *Galiczyjskim sPLNakiem chasydów (On the Galician trail of the Hasidim)* with participation of reb David Singer from New York, depicted on the cover.
- *Shabbat*. Shabbat meeting, attended by the President of Tarnów Roman Ciepiela, and other invited guests [<http://jewishtarnow.blogspot.com/2015/06/szalom-szabat.html>]

June 19th (Saturday)

- *Morning prayer*. Shacharit at the Bimah.
- *Żydowska Street* - a project with young volunteers. Pre IIWW children games, cheder – learning to write names in Hebrew
- *A concert at the Bimah*. Klezmafour Band [phot.1.]
- *Hawdala* – a ceremonial ending of the Shabbat, celebrated by reb David Singer after the concert.



June 20th (Sunday)

- *Otwarta Brama Cmentarza (Open Cemetery Gate)* – a guided tour of the Tarnów Jewish cemetery.

June 16th (Tuesday)

- *Księga Dębicy (The Book of Dębica)*– meeting with the authors Ireneusz Socha and Arkadiusz Więch.

Jorcajt. The Hasidim pilgrimages – opening of photo exhibition by Michał Gąciarz.

June 18th (Thursday)

- *Poza lasem – Żydzi w Europie Wschodniej 2004–2012 (Beyond the Forest – Jews in Eastern Europe 2004-2012)* – opening a photo exhibition by Lola Kantor.

- *A concert at the Bimah*. Magda Brudzińska with the Klezmer Trio Band.

Ca 2 500 person – took a part in Galicjaner Shtetl events.

II. Works done at the Tarnów cemetery

- Since June, two inmates have been working at the cemetery, cutting the grass, removing dry branches, etc. [phot. 2-3.].

- The Kraków Jewish Community renovated the western and northern parts of the cemetery wall.

- Electricity and water were provided at the cemetery (at the expense of the Jewish Community in Kraków).

- Tarnów Art High School renovated two tombstones, including the symbolic tombstone for the director of Gimnazjum Herbrajskie (Hebraic High School) Maksymilian Rozenbusz and lawyer Emil Wider, murdered in Auschwitz (the necessary materials – costing 2000 PLN – were paid for from the Committee funds and we are looking for a way to receive reimbursement) [phot. 4.].

- While preparing the area for the new cemetery wall on the northern side, the ELTAR company, located right next to the cemetery, removed at its own expense 19 trees growing on the border and cleaned up the cemetery area from its side.

- The young people from the AntySchematy2 Foundation, working together with the Committee, spent two days cleaning the area and cataloguing the tombstones.

- A cost estimate of works at the cemetery planned in the near future has been prepared (see: Plan for 2016).





III. Works in other cemeteries:

- **Jaślicka cemetery.** Build and raise a monument commemorating the 624 murdered Jews from Jasienica and neighboring settlements, funded by Moshe Parnes from the USA [phot.5].

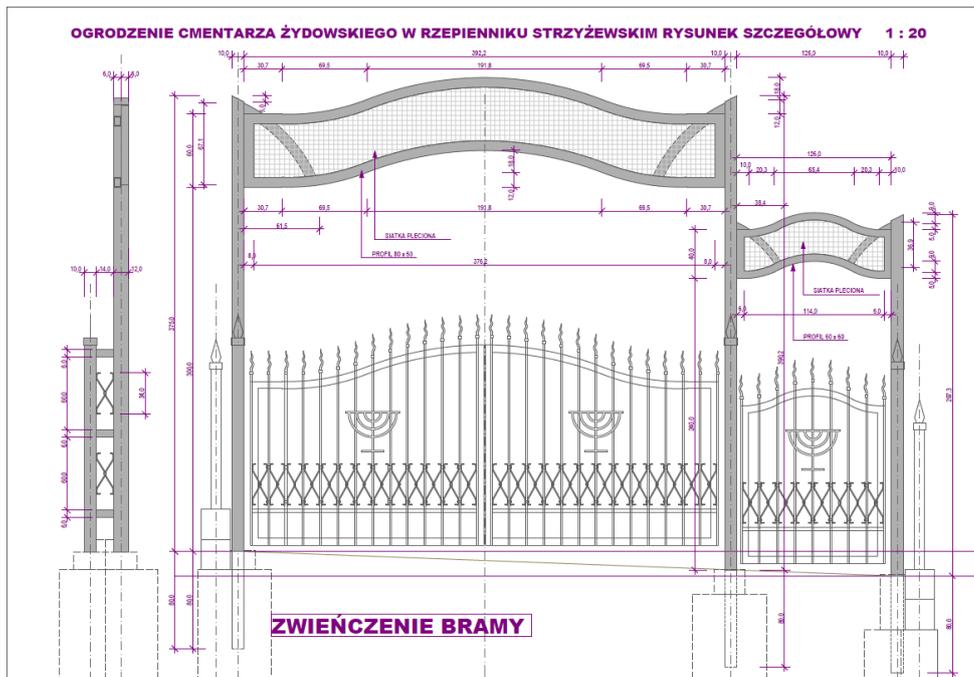


- **Gorlice cemetery.** Renovating the ohel, in which, among others, Rebbe Baruch Halberstam – the son of Diwrei Chaim from Sanz is buried. The initiator of the renovation is Reb Dawid Singer, and it is funded by the family of Rebbe Baruch [phot. 6-9].





- **Rzepiennik Strzyżewski cemetery.** Commissioned by Dawid Dembitzer from New York, a descendant of the Rzepiennik Jews, a full documentation of construction of the fence has been prepared [phot. 10-11.].



- The mass grave of 364 Jews from Rzepiennik and the surrounding area murdered in the Dąbry forest. A full documentation of the grave's renovation was prepared at the request of D. Dembitzer [phot. 12.].



IV. Mezuzahh – an education project financed by the European Union. During this project, taking place from March 2015 to April 2016, the following actions were performed:

- **Educational talks** "Porozmawiajmy o tolerancji" (Let's talk about tolerance) – classes for upper secondary school pupils about the history and culture of Tarnów Jews, and tolerance: 21 classes, 392 attendants.

- **Creating an anti-racist mural** at Plac Starej Synagogi (Old Synagogue Square) in Tarnów [phot. 13.].

- **Ulica Żydowska (Jewish Street)** – organization of a cultural event animating the pre-war children's games, arranging the cheder.

- **Monitoring the hate speech** on the street of Tarnów: creating a map of wall writings contain hate speech, painting them out [phot. 14.].

- **Cleaning the Jewish cemetery.**

- **Klezmer music musical workshops:** 8 attendants, pupils of Szkoła Muzyczna (Music Art School in Tarnów). The final was a concert by the attendants together with the Klezmafour band during the concert at the bimah; watched by ca. 700 people.

- **Było sobie miasto (Once there was a city)** – in elementary schools we conduct classes for children about the history and culture of Tarnów Jews. 17 classes, ca. 200 attendants

- **Seminar for the students** of Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa w Tarnowie (State Higher Vocational School in Tarnow) called „Swój-obcy” (Friend-Stranger): 45 attendants

- **Zapomniane Archiwum (The Forgotten Archive)** – exhibition, displayed in four schools. It is an exhibition of documents chronicling the lives of Tarnów Jews, which can be called "help yourself" exhibition. The exhibition is presented as a desk filled with documents. In the desk drawers can be found, among others, pre-war school reports with photographs attached, the protocols about murdered family members, accounts of the extermination of Tarnów Jews; passes allowing the Jews to work in Tarnów workplaces, companies, and workshops, lists of items taken from Jewish flats, and other documents on Jewish flats.



22. volunteers take part in Mezuzah project [phot. 15-16.].



V. **Hannukah** – a ceremonial lighting of the third candle on December 9th. In attendance, the President of Tarnów Roman, Mr Ciepiela [phot. 17.] and the rabin of the Reform synagogue from Kraków, Mrs. Tanya Segal [phot. 18].



VI. Genealogical services etc. Throughout the year we provided answers and information for many questions, requests, etc. about the genealogy of Jewish families, family histories, etc.

VII. Plans for 2016

- Galicjaner Shtetl. Time: June 9th – June 12th.
- Within the additional grant for the Mezuzah project a visit to project's partner in Norway: Norwegian Center Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities w Oslo (24-29 01 2016, Adam Bartosz, Kamila Jasiak, Natalia Gancarz).

- Renovating the Beit Tahara building – cost ca. 31 000 PLN: 8 200 USD [phot. 19].



- Renovating the central monument (finishing the work started in 2014). – cost ca. 20 000 PLN: 5 200 USD [phot. 20-21].





- Renovation of the information boards at the cemetery – cost ca. 3000 PLN: 800 USD [phot. 22.].



- Building a fence around the Rzepiennik Strzyżewski cemetery – cost ca. 200 000 PLN: 52 000 USD.

- Renovating the mass grave in the Dąbry forest near Rzepliennik Strzyżewski – cost ca. 30 000 PLN: 7 800 USD.
- Raising the funds for preparing a list of graves at the Tarnów cemetery.
- Raising the funds for publication of the English version of Adam Bartosz's book *Galicyskim sPLNakiem chasydów*.

VIII. Summary of the sources of funding:

The work of the committee has been funded from the European grants, by the City of Tarnów, companies and private citizens. Small amounts of money have also arrived as gifts. In all, we received:

- City of Tarnów	14 000 PLN
- European Economical Area	180 000 PLN
- Ministry of Culture and National Heritage	23 200 PLN
- Małopolska Vivodeship	9 500 PLN
- <u>Stefan Batory Foundation</u>	<u>20 700 PLN</u>
Totally	[ca. 62 000 USD] 247 400 PLN

The amounts listed above are spent exclusively according to their specified goals, i.e. for educational projects (EOG/EEA, the Ministry of Culture, the Małopolska Voivodeship government), Galicjaner Shtetl (the City of Tarnów, EOG/EEA), a visit to Norway in January 2016 (Batory Foundation).

From private citizens and others:

- ELTAR construction company ¹	2 500 PLN
- Zrzeszenie Właścicieli Nieruchomości w Tarnowie	380 PLN
- Felicja Graber	362 PLN
- Elizabeth Kujawski-Szancer	6 800 PLN
- Zdzisław Siemianowski	710 PLN
- David Dembitzer	360 PLN
- Janusz Bystrzonowski	400 PLN
- David Singer	1 000 PLN
- Eloine Szmerling	357 PLN
- Joan Salter	280 PLN
- Marek Biernat	250 PLN
- Harold Graber	367 PLN
- E. Szenkel	370 PLN
- Janusz Kozioł	1 400 PLN
- Unknown Person from Australia ²	277 PLN
- <u>Unknown Person from USA</u>	<u>921 PLN</u>
Totally	[ca. 4 000 USD] 16 740 PLN

The amounts listed above were spent on things needed for tasks funded from grants and other minor necessities (transportation, books, office supplies, candles for the monument, flowers, accessories for the exhibitions, etc.)

¹ In addition, the ELTAR company provided us with a new computer (notebook)

² Difficult to read name on the check

Additionally, the funds for tasks requested by various people, for example the renovation of ohel in Gorlice, preparing the documentation of the Rzepiennik Strzyżewski cemetery, etc., also go through the Committee account.

The amount remaining in the account 16 000 PLN = ca. 4 000 USD

We would like to thank all our donors and we hope for further financial support to our activities.

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*Chairman Adam Bartosz
V-ce Chairmen Jerry Bergman, Janusz Koziol*