

**Management report of the
Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Cultural Monuments
in Tarnów for the year 2018**

The Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Culture Monuments in Tarnów was established in 1988, its seat is the Regional Museum in Tarnów, Rynek 3. The aim of the Committee is to take care of Jewish cultural monuments in the area of the former Galicia. The Committee also promotes knowledge about the history and culture of Polish Jews, seeks to bring Polish / Christians and Jews closer together, supports and organizes research and scientific projects related to the Jewish culture and the historical monuments in former Galicia as well as the history and culture of other minorities living in the region.

Since January 1st, 2019 the Committee now has its own new premises - the Committee Office - at Plac Rybny no. 5, with its windows overlooking the Old Synagogue Square, where there is a historic bimah, the remains of the Old Synagogue destroyed by the Germans.

The most important undertaking of the Committee in 2018 was the implementation of the grant ***Renovation of the historical Jewish cemetery in Tarnów***, financed by the EU funds (RPMP.06.01.01.01-12-00152/16). According to the cost estimate, **the total value of the Project amounts to PLN 2,992,685.06 (ca. USD 880,000)**. The subsidy amounts to 75% of the costs - PLN 2,244,513.76 (including: subsidy from the EU - PLN 2,094,879.50; State subsidy - PLN 49,634.26). The remaining 25% of the project costs - PLN 748 171.30 - the Committee must contribute in the form of its own contribution. As the Committee incurs additional costs which were not included in the project during the execution of the task, **the amount necessary for the full implementation of the Project, which we have to collect is about 800 000 PLN (235 000 USD)**.

The agreement with the Grantor was signed in March 2017, and with the contractor selected by tender - in August. The deadline for the completion of the task was set for the 31.12.2018.

During the execution of the task, we found that we are not able to collect an adequate amount of our own contribution within the deadline set for the completion of the Project. At the request of the Committee, the Grantee agreed to extend the Project implementation deadline to 31st of June 2019.

Our friends, especially Jill Leibman, Elizabeth Szancer, Dan Oren and Gerald Vineberg, have been very actively involved in the fundraising process. Krzysztof Chuderski, the owner of the "Jewish" restaurant, also proved to be very helpful.

In 2017-2018 we managed to collect almost PLN 600,000 from various sources (Minister of Culture - PLN 271,000; City of Tarnów - PLN 50,000; donors - 142,000 PLN in 2017 and 138,000 PLN in 2018 = 280,000 PLN). This calculation shows that about PLN 200,000 is still needed to complete the Project.

Information about the donors and the amount of the donations can be tracked at www.kirkut-tarnow.pl. There we also publish current information about the state of works at the cemetery. By the end of 2018, a new fence wall was built on the northern side, a metal fence on the side of ul. Słoneczna was renovated, the Main Monument was renovated as well as 90 out of a 100 tombstones that were planned to be renovated. In addition: a ramp/access to the east wicket for wheelchairs was made; external works at the funeral building were completed; paths were prepared to be hardened; fragments of the original wall on the side of ul. Słoneczna were secured; several trees growing in the line of the new fence were cut down. A separate task was taking the inventory of the surviving tombstones, which came to the documentation of about 5000 inscriptions.

The following works still remain to be carried out: renovation of the fence wall on the eastern side (ul. Starodąbrowska); renovation of paths; lighting installations; completion of tombstones renovation; historical exhibition in the funeral building; preparation of information materials and making them available in printed and electronic form. In general, it is possible to determine the progress of works to be at about 2/3-3/4 of the plan.

People working on the project ***Renovation of the Jewish cemetery*** answer hundreds of inquiries sent by e-mail, Facebook etc. concerning the genealogy of Jewish families, property, family history, etc. This is one of the biggest problems for our office, the excess of correspondence, questions, visits, etc, which requires a strengthening of our small team with an additional person. In 2018, two trainees were recruited for periods of more than six months.

Regardless of the priority task of renovating the cemetery, the Committee carried out traditional activities, which included the following projects and tasks:

1. Galicianer Shtetl. Days of Remembrance of Galician Jews. As part of the Project, financed by the City of Tarnów (PLN 35,000), the following events took place on the 14-17 June:

- A prayer meeting in the Buczyna Forest (Zbylitowska Góra) - a place of extermination of Tarnów Jews,
- A March of Remembrance - from the former Magdeburg Square (a place of concentration and deportation of Jews) to the Cemetery,
- Opening of the photographic exhibition by Dariusz Kobylański *Szachrit. Morning prayer at Bima*,
- Opening of the Gate of the Cemetery - guided tour of the Jewish cemetery,
- Concerts at the Bima - performed by: *TaShma Orchestra* (NY), *Klezmafour* (Kracow), *Porto Meskla* (PL), *Sejny Theatre Klezmer Orchestra* (Sejny, PL);
- The Klezmer Orchestra of the Sejny Theatre also performed in Dąbrowa Tarnowska.



2. Work on the other cemeteries

- In 2018 The Committee consulted the documentation of the restoration of the Jewish cemetery in Przemyśl and supported the attempts to recover the area of the Jewish cemeteries in Jaślica and Mielec.
- In 2017 The Committee brokered in the renovation of successive tombstones, commissioned by families of those buried in our cemetery.

3. Bima Guards

Project financed from the budget of the City of Tarnów (PLN 10,000). From June to September, two volunteers were on duty at the Bima, making the residents of Tarnów and tourists aware of the seriousness of the

place, distributing leaflets with information about the Old Synagogue and collecting funds for the renovation of the cemetery. The square has been marked with pictograms recommending appropriate behaviour (no dogs allowed, playing football not permitted, drinking alcohol not allowed. . .).



4. International Roma Caravan of Memory

23rd edition of the project organized by the Regional Museum in Tarnów. Project financed by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration (PLN 30,000). This was a Project promoting the history and culture of the Roma.



5. *Rudi im Krieg*. Release of a German version of Natalia Gancarz's "Mietek at war" book, financed by the Austrian Embassy in Warsaw (translation), the Austrian Minister of Education, Auschwitz-Birkenau Victims Memorial Foundation and the City of Tarnów (PLN 9,500).

6. *Sukkot*. 30th September. A one-day event at the Bima, financed by "Stara Łaźnia" restaurant and "The Nosh" café.



7. Hanukkah. 3rd of December. One-day event at the Bima, financed by the City of Tarnów (PLN 2,500) and "Stara Łąźnia" restaurant.

8. Christmas Eve at the Bima. Christmas Eve organized for the homeless and random passers-by, financed by "Stara Łąźnia" restaurant.

Plans for 2019

- Continuation and completion of the renovation of the cemetery.
- Galicianer Shtetl. Days of Remembrance of Galician Jews - in June.
- International Roma Memorial Camp - in July.
- The Righteous of Tarnów. Conference - in October.

We would like to thank all the donors and we are counting on further donations for our activity.

President of the Management Board Adam Bartosz

Vice Presidents Jerry Bergman, Janusz Bogacz

