

Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Tarnów Activity Report for 2019

Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Tarnów was founded in 1988. The goal of the Committee is to look after Jewish heritage sites in former Galicia. The Committee also promotes knowledge about the history and culture of Polish Jews, seeks to bring Poles/Christians and Jews closer together, supports and organizes research and scientific projects related to Jewish culture and heritage in former Galicia, as well as the history and culture of other minorities living in this region.

From January 1, 2019, the Committee has had its new premises - Committee's Office - at Plac Rybny No. 5, with windows overlooking the Old Synagogue Square, where there is a historic bimah, a remnant of the Old Synagogue destroyed by the Germans.

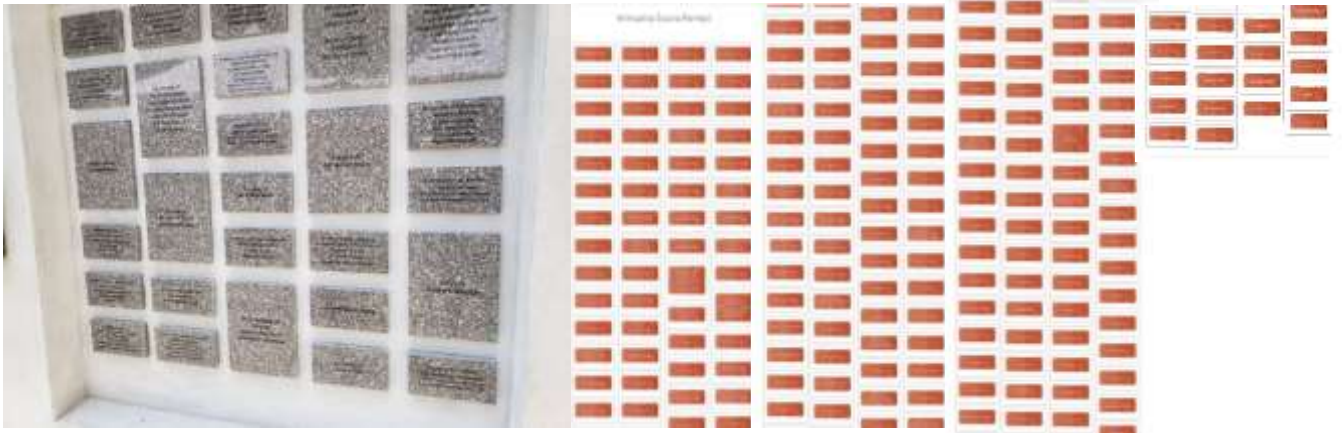
The most important undertaking of the Committee in 2019 was the implementation and completion of the grant *Renovation of the historic Jewish cemetery in Tarnów*, financed by EU funds (RPMP.06.01.01-12- 00152/16). According to the cost estimate, the value of the whole Project is **2,992,685.06 PLN (ca \$ 880,000)**. The Committee received a subsidy which amounted to 75% of the costs, i.e. 2,244,513.76 PLN (\$ 591,299) (including: UE subsidy - 2,094,879.50 PLN (\$ 551,879); Polish national subsidy - 49,634.26 PLN (\$ 13,075)). The Committee had to gather the remaining 25% of the project costs, i.e. 748,171.30 PLN (\$ 197,099) as its own contribution. Since the Committee incurred additional costs during the implementation of the task, which were not included in the project, including the cost of the maintenance of our office, ultimately **the amount necessary for the full implementation of the Project which we collected** amounted to **1,006,000 PLN (\$ 265,000)**.

The contract with the Grantor was signed in March 2017, and contract with the contractor selected in a tender was signed in August 2017. The deadline for completing the task was set for December 31, 2018.

During the implementation of the task, it turned out that we were not able to collect the appropriate amount of own contribution within the time limit specified by the project end date. At the Committee's request, the Grant agreed to extend the project implementation deadline to December 31, 2019.



Our friends who were involved in the fundraising process included: Elizabeth Szancer, Jill Leibman, Dan Oren, Joseph Teitelbaum and Gerald Vineberg. The owner of the "Jewish-style" restaurant Krzysztof Chuderski and local friends who asked to remain anonymous also provided a lot of support. Persons and institutions that supported our project with at least \$1000 were honored with symbolic plaques placed on the wall of the cemetery, on the wall of Beit Tahara and on benches. We have prepared more plaques to honor donors.



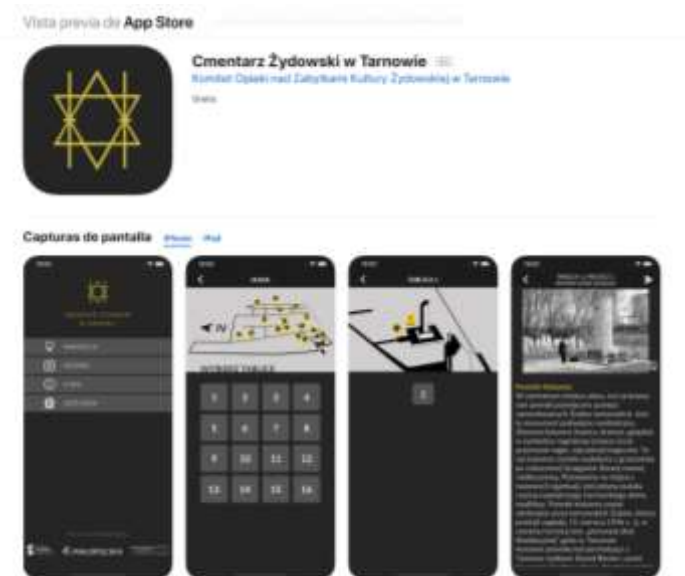
The works carried out within the *Cemetery renovation project*... included: a new fence wall was made along the northern edge of the cemetery and a fragment of the wall from the west (near the gate) was also rebuilt. Restored parts of the cemetery fence included also the metal fence along ul. Słoneczna, and the wall along the eastern edge. A pedestrian gate, the trace of which was discovered during the renovation of the wall, was built next to the main gate. The curbs were marked along the outline of 2 mass graves identified near the Main Memorial. The Beit Tahara building was renovated and an exhibition illustrating Jewish funeral customs was organized inside.



A ramp with a gate for persons on wheelchairs was made in the north-east corner of the cemetery. All paths were hardened and a path lighting (25 lamps, including 4 solar) was set up,

25 benches and litter bins were also installed along the paths. A portable toilet was installed and technical facilities were provided for the caretaker. The Main Memorial and 120 gravestones were renovated (the original plan included the renovation of 100 gravestones).

Creating an inventory of the remaining gravestones was a separate task, which was completed by documenting over 5000 inscriptions. 16 information boards forming the information trail were made and installed (with text in Polish and English versions), a cemetery guidebook authored by Adam Bartosz was published (Polish version: 3000 copies; English version: 1000 copies), and a multimedia version of the guidebook, an app entitled "Jewish Cemetery in Tarnów", was created in both languages, available for download at [GooglePlay for Android](#) and at the [App Store for iOS \(Apple\)](#).



Apart from the Project, at the end of 2019 we obtained additional funds from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to mark one of the three mass graves which had been identified in the northern part of the cemetery and to install 4 CCTV cameras at the entrance to the cemetery (grant from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage - 19,000 PLN (\$ 5,000)) .

The official completion of the renovation of the cemetery was organized on June 26, 2019 as part of the annual Galicianer Sztetl project (implemented since 1996 in cooperation with the District Museum in Tarnów). It was an opportunity for the First Meeting of Tarnów Jewish Families. Over 30 people representing families from many countries met for this occasion. We agreed that we would like to organize such meetings annually. The final completion of the renovation (last invoice) took place in November 2019. We have time until the end of March 2020 to settle the project. For the next 5 years we are obliged by the Grantor (EU) to maintain the state of the cemetery and employ a guide. This is another very important challenge for our humble team.





People working on the *Cemetery Renovation* project respond to hundreds of inquiries sent via email, Facebook etc. regarding the genealogy of Jewish families, property, family histories, etc. This is one of the biggest problems of our Office - excess correspondence, questions, visits, etc., which requires strengthening our small team with an additional person. Staff shortages are our most serious problem in the coming year.



Regardless of our priority task, i.e. the renovation of the cemetery, the Committee conducted its traditional activities, which included the following projects and tasks:

1. Work at other cemeteries

- The Committee consulted the documentation of the renovation of the Jewish cemetery in Przemyśl and also supports attempts to recover the cemetery in Mielec.
- The Committee prepared documentation for erecting a fence at the Jewish cemetery in Ołpiny, powiat Tarnów (marking the borders, financial estimate for building the fence) at the request of families from Ołpiny.
- A matzevah dedicated to rabbi Dov Berish Frommer, which was erected at the cemetery in Oświęcim, was made at the request of David Singer.

- The Committee was an intermediary body in case of the renovation of other gravestones, commissioned by families of those buried in our cemetery.

2. Galicjaner Sztetl. Galician Jews Remembrance Days. As part of this Project, financed by the City of Tarnów (32,000 PLN (\$ 8,430), the following events took place between June 25 and July 14:

- *A prayer meeting at the Buczyna Forest (Zbylitowska Góra)* – site of extermination of Tarnów Jews.

- *Open Gate to the Cemetery* – guided tours around the Jewish cemetery.

- *Night Mysteries* – a nighttime guided tour around the Jewish cemetery.

- *Jewish Tarnów on photographs* – a meeting with Marek Tomaszewski, Stara Łaźnia Restaurant.

- *Poles and Jews.* A meeting with Konrad Dulkowski from the Center of Monitoring for Racist and Xenophobic Behaviors, Stara Łaźnia Restaurant.

- *Jewish Tarnów.* Theatre performance of the disabled *Under the Bimah.*

- *The Under the Bimah Cinema, An Unfinished Talk/Niedokończona rozmowa* directed by Igal Burstein, 1988

- *Kabalat Szabat - Shabbat Dinner* – The Nosh - A Kosher Cafe & Mina's Art Gift Gallery

- *Shabbat breakfast* under the Bimah.

- *Hawdala* – a ceremony of the end of Shabbat.

- *Melawe Malka* – extended time of the Shabbat.

- *Concerts Under the Bimah* - the following music bands had their concerts: Nadav Malkieli & Friends, Israel; Wojtek Jackowiec; Zuzanna Ogorzelec and Maciej Marcinkiewicz.

- *Galician Sunday* - The final concert: Basia Kawa Music; Romano Ilo; Urszula Makosz with her Band.



3. Purim. March. A project financed by the City of Tarnów (3,000 PLN (\$ 790))

4. International Roma Remembrance Caravan. 20th edition of the project organized in cooperation with the Regional Museum in Tarnów. Project financed by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration (30,000 PLN (\$ 7,903) to promote the history and culture of the Roma.

5. Studia Romologica, volume 11/2018. Romology Journal published in cooperation with the Regional Museum in Tarnów, financed by the City of Tarnów (12,000 PLN).

6. Around the Jewish New Year: Rosh Hashana, Jom Kippur, Sukkot, October 14-20 2019. Project financed by the City of Tarnów (15,000 PLN (\$ 3,957)).

For the first time we celebrated this special week - we built a beautiful sukkah (which will be used in the following years), whose interior was decorated by children from Occupational Therapy Workshops in Wola Rzędzińska and Galeria Aniołowo and whose exterior was decorated by the painter from the Painters' House in Zalipie. Inside the sukkah there were lectures and workshops on topics related to the Great Holidays (Magda Michal Bartosz, Inga Marczyńska, Gerry Vineberg). In conclusion, we featured a concert of Baruch Band from Belarus (October 20, 2019).



7. Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of Burning the Tarnów's Synagogues: November 9

8. Hannukah. December 22-30. Lighting the last Hannukah candle under the Bimah on December 29.

9. Descendants of the Polish Chassidim - common heritage and future. Photographic documentation of modern Hasidic life in the world. Project implemented by an outstanding expert on Hasidic communities and photographer Agnieszka Traczewska (grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - 111,000 PLN (\$ 29,287)).



10. Renovation of a Romani wagon from the Roma collection of the Ethnographic Museum in Tarnów (a subsidy by the Ministry of the Internal Affairs and Administration – 20,000 PLN (\$ 5,277))

Personal Matters

The Committee officially consists of 20 people. And this is a satisfactory number for us, because in practice it turns out that only a few people are directly involved.

In 2019, the election of the new Management Board took place. Currently, the Management Board consists of:

Adam Bartosz – President of the Board

Janusz Bogacz – Deputy President

Natalia Gancarz – Deputy President

Bogdan Lada – Treasurer

Magdalena Chuderska – Secretary

Marcin Zaród – member of the Board

Jerry Bergman was also elected to the Board, but in August he was removed from the list of Committee members for falsely accusing the Committee of fraud.

The Management Board of the Committee met five times for recorded meetings, and meetings are held as needed.

Board members work for free. Only Natalia Gancarz is employed part time (½ of full-time - with monthly salary of approx. 1000 PLN), which gives us the opportunity to recruit employees delegated by the Labor Office and various foundations cooperating with the Committee (condition of delegating an employee to us - at least one person employed at the Committee). In 2019, we employed 3 people as interns/unemployed for several months. In addition, one person was employed as part of a public prosecutor's referral for social work. This person performs minor cleaning work in the office and around the bimah. We also employed 3 people sentenced to social work in the cemetery. Supervision over such employees requires a lot of attention, but we also treat it as a form of assistance to persons lost in the legal system. All in all, 3 people volunteer real work on the Committee. Financial matters are dealt with by a qualified accountant paid unsystematically, only within the framework of implemented grant projects

The Committee has been renting premises from the City since 1 January at a preferential price (701 PLN / month), which in total costs around 13,000 PLN (\$ 3,430) (including utilities).



Settlement of the Cemetery Renovation Costs

Total cost	3,250,000 PLN/\$ 856,186 [EU grant + own contribution (25%) + additional renovation costs + cost of office maintenance]
EU grant	2,245,000 PLN/\$ 591 427
Additional costs	1,006,000/\$ 262,022 [including 750,000 PLN/\$ 197,580 as the compulsory own contribution for the grant]
Covered from:	
- Ministry of Culture and National Heritage	271,000 PLN/\$ 71, 390
- The City of Tarnów	50,000 PLN/\$ 13, 170
- <u>donations</u>	<u>665,000 PLN/\$ 175,190 [including approx. 350,000 PLN from <i>Friends of Tarnów</i>]</u>
Deficit for the end of 2019	20,000 PLN/\$ 5 270

Designated Subsidies

– for the implementation of ongoing research, educational, publishing and conservation projects:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs	111,000 PLN (\$ 29,242)
The City of Tarnów	62,000 PLN (\$ 16,333)
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration	50,000 PLN (\$ 13,172)
Ministry of Culture and National Heritage	14,000 PLN (\$ 3,688)
<u>Voivode</u>	<u>6,000 PLN (\$ 1,580)</u>
Total	242,000 PLN (\$ 63,752)

Obtaining Funds

Since mid-2019, the Committee operates based solely on finances obtained from the so-called designated subsidies, i.e. from grants. Because we implement projects which are not only limited to Jewish-related matters, from each grant we can plan small sums for maintaining our office and for accounting as well as for other necessary expenses, such as small purchases, postal services, parking fees for our guests, office materials, utilities, Internet. We also try to collect small donations from people visiting Tarnow: three money boxes are located, respectively, at our office, in the Nosh cafe and in the Stara Łaźnia restaurant (we have a special permit for this). During organized events, we sell old books from our book collections (in 2019 Józef Kapustka gave us a large family library), we collect free donations for showing visitors around Tarnów's monuments, for using our toilet by tour members visiting the Bimah and



consumers of Nosh and Stara Łaźnia restaurants, etc. This year, we had to give up collecting money on All Saints Day in Catholic cemeteries (for the renovation of the Jewish cemetery) for fear of unfavorable comments addressed to us after the president of the Jewish Community in Cracow had made public false allegations about the Committee.

To implement these projects, we had to add 13,000 PLN (\$ 3,424) in own contribution and 17,000 PLN (\$ 4,478) as the equivalent of volunteers' work.

Plans for the year 2020

1. Continuation of work at the cemetery in Tarnów. The most important things we plan to implement include:

- Successively complete the database of names read on gravestones.
- Mark designated parts of the cemetery and paths with information boards.
- Mark the last 2 mass graves in the northern part of the cemetery using curbs.

2. Publication of the English version of A. Bartosz's book: *The Galician trail of the Saczer and Bobower Hasidim*.

3. Implementation of educational and memorial projects.

- The Grove of the Righteous. The official opening of the memorial site at Plac Rybny (Rybny Square) and Old Synagogue Square (near the Bimah) - March 5.
- Galicianer Sztetl. Days of Remembrance of Galician Jews - 23-28 June.
- International Roma Remembrance Caravan - end of July.
- The Tarnów's Righteous. Conference - October.

We are planning other projects but at this stage we are not sure what funds we will receive for 2020.

We would like to thank all donors and look forward to further payments for the Committee's operations.

Adam Bartosz – Chairman

Janusz Bogacz – v-ce Chairman

Natalia Gancarz – v-ce Chairman

Tarnów 2020 – 01 – 15



