

## Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Tarnów Activity Report for 2020

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.

Since 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.

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The year 2020 was a special year. The pandemic ruined most of our plans. We were forced to give up the implementation of a significant part of the planned projects and limit our activity. However, some projects, sometimes in limited form, were successfully implemented. The pandemic was also one of the reasons for the bankruptcy of Gerry Vineberg, who cooperated with us, who left Poland in September, still being indebted to the Committee. The committee became a party representing the group of owners of the equipment and goods left by Vineberg in the liquidated Nosh cafe against the owner of the premises, who seized his property against the debt.

In March, the Commission representing the Marshal's Office carried out a detailed audit of the Project implementation (RPMP.06.01.01-12-00152/16) **Renovation of the historic Jewish cemetery in Tarnów**, co-financed by the European Union funds under the Regional Operational Program of the Małopolskie Voivodeship. It is worth recalling that **the value of the whole Project amounted to 2,992,685.06 PLN (approx. 880,000 USD)**, and the Project was scheduled to be completed on December 31, 2019. The overall result of the audit is successful for the Committee. However, due to the formal negligence of the company implementing the main part of the Project, which went bankrupt before the completion of the works, the Committee was obliged to complete a large amount of documentation necessary for the formal settlement of the funds spent. The last documents were submitted to the Commission before the end of the year and the matter of the final settlement of the Project will probably be closed at the beginning of 2021.

The last invoice issued by the contractor for works at the cemetery, paid in 2019, included the sum of 310,000 PLN. This amount was covered thanks to loans from the Committee's President Adam Bartosz - (110,000 PLN/29,730 USD) and from the from the bankruptcy trustee of bankrupt Przedsiębiorstwo Wielobranżowe ELTAR - (200,000 PLN/54,054 USD). During the year, the Committee repaid some of its liabilities towards the trustee - (48,000 PLN). As for December 31, 2020, the Committee's liabilities amount to 262,000 PLN/70,810 USD. We are currently awaiting final settlement and refund of the amount of 289,118.25 PLN/78,140 USD (75% of the last invoice paid at the end of 2019).

### Implemented Projects

In 2020 we were able to implement the following projects financed from external sources:

- **Marking of the Jewish cemetery sectors** - a project financed by the Ministry of the Interior 15,260 PLN + Stowarzyszenie Żydowski Instytut Historyczny (Jewish Historical Institute Association) 3000 PLN,
- **Jewish Cemetery Guardians**, exhibition of artistic photographs of the Tarnów Jewish cemetery - project financed by the City of Tarnów, 6,000 PLN,
- **XXI International Roma Memorial Caravan and II Caravan Conference**, Scientific conference devoted to the current problems of romology in Poland - project financed by the Ministry of the Interior, 15,000 PLN,



## Publications:

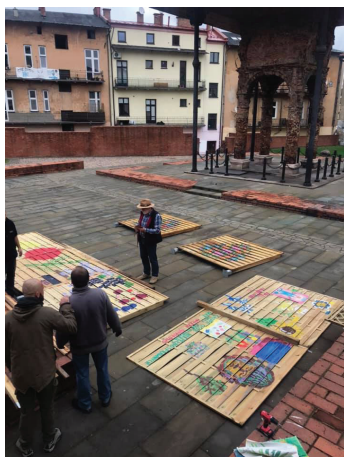
- Natalia Gancarz, **Na bister / Nie zapomnij / Do not forget**, an album edition of the results of research on sites commemorating the Roma victims of Nazism, Tarnow 2020, 120 pages, project financed by the Ministry of Education, 32,500 PLN
- Agnieszka Traczewska, **A Rekindled World**, an album documenting the contemporary life of Hasidim around the world (the result of expeditions to Hasidic centers in Israel, Europe, South America, the USA, Canada), Tarnów 2020, 110 pages, 120 photographs, project financed by the Ministry of the Interior, 100,000 PLN
- **Studia Romologica**, volume 12 of a scientific yearly journal devoted to the Romani Culture around the world, Tarnów 2020, 200 pages, project financed by the City of Tarnow, 10,000 PLN.

**In total, to implement the aforementioned projects, we acquired the amount of 181,760.00 PLN (49,124 USD)**

+ 7,000.00 PLN from the ORLEN Foundation for making the framing for the implementation of the frames of mass graves under the grant program WE REMEMBER! WE WATCH !. The works and expenses will be carried out in the first half of 2021.

+ 20,000.00 PLN for Galicjaner Sztetl (this amount was assigned to the Committee, but had to be returned due to the inability to hold the event due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

In addition, we organized the celebration of Sukkot, the Anniversary of the Burning Down of Tarnów Synagogues and the Second Day of Hanukkah.



Our friends from the USA - Dan Oren, Jill Leibman and Elizabeth Szancer are very active in raising funds from donors from the Diaspora. The highest support from an individual we received this year was from Artur Süskind from Berlin. We are also supported by the owner of the „Stara Łaźnia Restaurant” in Tarnów, Krzysztof Chuderski, and local friends who do it anonymously.

**Donation income (in PLN):**

1.	donations in USD	34,324.33 PLN
2.	donations in EUR	53,543.99 PLN
3.	donations via pay-pall	1,915.05 PLN
4.	bank transfer donations from small donors	2,279.11 PLN
5.	donations from moneyboxes*	2,663.34 PLN
<b>TOTAL donation income:</b>		<b>95,097.58 PLN</b>

\*Donations left in money boxes in the Committee’s office and at the cemetery came from tourists visiting our city and from the campaign to sell used books, various small items brought from our homes and obtained from friends, which we conducted in front of our office in the summer season.

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In 2020 14 plaques were added on the Memorial Wall to honor our donors.

In addition, the Committee used financial assistance under the Anti-Crisis Shield 3.0 for exemption from social security contributions from Natalia Gancarz’s salary in the period from March 1 to May 31, 2020 in the amount of PLN 1,565.01. The above exemption constitutes state aid granted through state aid measures to support the economy in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic (EU Journal of Laws c 91 I from March 20, 2020).

## Personal Matters

The Committee officially consists of 21 people. And this is a satisfactory number for us, because in practice it turns out that only a handful of people are directly involved.

Since the beginning of 2019, the Management Board has included the following persons:

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

The Management Board of the Committee met twice 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 nett salary of 987,42 PLN, i.e. gross cost of her employment is 1,611.90 PLN, which amounts to the yearly gross salary of 19,342.80 PLN), which gives us the opportunity to recruit employees (interns) 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 2021, due to the increase in the minimum wage, the cost of employing Natalia Gancarz will amount to 1,064.81 PLN net, and 20,931.72 PLN gross annually.

In 2020, we temporarily employed 3 previously unemployed people as interns, including one person employed at the cemetery. 3 people volunteer real work for the Committee. Financial matters are dealt with by a qualified accountant paid unsystematically, only within the framework of implemented grant projects

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## Report on the implementation of the plan for the year 2020

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

- Supplementing the database of names read on the tombstones (not completed).

- Marking quarters and paths with plaques (**completed**).

Marking the last 2 mass graves in the northern part of the cemetery with curbs (not completed).

2. Publication of the English version of the book by A. Bartosz, The Galician Trail of the Hasidim from Nowy Sącz and Bobowa (not completed).

3. Implementation of educational and memorial projects.

- The Grove of the Righteous. Official opening of the memorial site at Rybny Square and Old Synagogue Square (not completed).

- Galicianer Sztetl. Galician Jews Memorial Days (**partially completed**).

- International Roma Memorial Caravan (**completed**).

- The Righteous from Tarnow. Conference (not implemented).



## Plans for 2021

Filed applications for the following projects:

- Studia Romologica, volume 14, 2021	(Ministry of Internal Affairs, 30,000 PLN)
- Renovation of a Roma wagon	(Ministry of Internal Affairs, 30,000 PLN)
- Publication of a book by Natalia Gancarz, Wisardzi /Wyrzucona/The Outcast	(Ministry of Internal Affairs, 15,340 PLN)
- Ongoing activity of the Committee	(Ministry of Internal Affairs, 105,000 PLN)
- Strefa Pamieci / Memory Zone	(Ministry of Culture, 129 314 PLN)
- Ulica Żydowska / The Jewish Street	(Norwegian Fund, 322 000 PLN)
<b>Total: 631,654.00 PLN (170,717.30 USD)</b>	

### The Committee incurs the following fixed costs for the maintenance of its premises on a monthly basis:

1. rental of premises from the Commune of Tarnów City at a preferential price	670.00 PLN
2. electricity	80.00 PLN
3. internet	45.00 PLN
4. minor renovation and maintenance works per month according to the agreement with the City of Tarnow	125.00 PLN

**TOTAL per month: 920.00 PLN**  
**yearly cost: 11,040.00 PLN**

## Challenges

For the next 5 years, we have the obligation towards the European Union Fund to maintain the condition of the cemetery and employ 2 people there 1,5 time (paying them at least the official minimum gross wage. The annual 60 671,52 PLN per year = 16 180,07 USD.

We still do not have an updated agreement signed with the Krakow Jewish Community, allowing us to more freely dispose of the area and thus raise more funds for the maintenance of the cemetery and the implementation of educational programs there. The talks are under way.

People working for the Committee (volunteers) answer hundreds of inquiries sent by e-mail, on FB and other Internet portals, especially regarding the genealogy of Tarnów Jewish families, property or family histories. It is one of the biggest burdens of our office and requires strengthening of our small team.

*Adam Bartosz – Chairman of the Board*

*Janusz Bogacz – Deputy Chairman*

*Natalia Gancarz – Deputy Chairman*

Tarnów, January 01, 2021