

Committee for Preservation of the Jewish Heritage in Tarnów

Activity Report for 2024

The 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.

**In 2024 we filed applications for projects/grants for the total
sum of 261 475 PLZ (approx. 000 USD)**

We did not receive funds for all projects. However, further grants were obtained during the year.

As a result, the following externally financed projects were implemented in 2023:

- 1. Galicjaner Sztetl (29th edition)** project financed by the Ministry of Interior Affairs and Administration
20 000PLZ

the Municipality of Tarnów	20 000PLZ
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total:	40 000PLZ
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Within the above project the following events were organized

between: June 13th-27th 2024:

- Celebrations in Zbylitowska Góra (place of murder of approximately 6,000 Jews),



- Concert Under the Bimah: Mojse Band from Slovakia
- Concert Under the Bimah: "You Have Got Something For Me - Most Beautiful Jewish Songs" – Najmniejsza Scena Świata
- Concert Under the Bimah: "Ciche łzy"/Silent Tears performed by Olga Avigail Mieszczuk - vocal (Poland/Israel) accompanied by Payadora Tango Ensemble (Canada), Produced by: Dan Rosenberg (Canada), co-financed by Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council,
- Concert Under the Bimah, Cantor Israel Rand (Israel), concert sponsored in 90% by Michael Steinman from USA (5000 USD),
- Publication of Adam Bartosz's guidebook "In the Footsteps of Tarnow's Jews" in Polish (110 pages)
- Tour of Jewish Tarnow with a guide.
- Exhibition of photos of Joanna Sidorowicz "On Chassidic Trail" – the Gallery on the Fence (Żydowska Str, Tarnow)
- Open Gate of the Cemetery – a project carried on by the Committee for several years allowing you to visit the Jewish cemetery on Sunday, with a guide or on your own, this year (like in 2023), the project was joined by caretakers of several other cemeteries in Malopolska and Podkarpacie (Mielec, Brzesko, Grybow, Czarny Dunajec)

2. Grove of the Righteous – the light of the Tree of the Righteous financed by FJHP

5200PLZ

3. XXV International Roma Memorial Caravan and V Caravan Conference - Scientific conference devoted to the current problems of romology in Poland - project financed by the Ministry of the Interior

55,000 PLN



4. Studia Romologica, volume 17 of a scientific yearly journal devoted to the Romani Culture – project financed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration
36 000 PLN

5. ‘Grove of the Righteous’ – 40 min film, four stories of Poles helping Jews during IIWW ((premiere screening planned for January 27, 2025, International Holocaust Remembrance Day)

50 000PLZ

6. Inventory of tombstones/matzevas – continuation of the project, financed by Jewish Historical Institut – 10 000PLZ and FJHP – 2000PLZ

12 000PLZ

7. Na Bister/ Do Not Forget/ Nie Zapomnij - a board exhibition (24 boards), documentation of commemorated places in Europe dedicated to the martyrdom of the Roma during IIWW

18 000PLZ

8. The Leaves Have Fallen – an album of photos by Jerzy Dorożyński from the set of the documentary Before the Leaves Have Fallen directed by Władysław Ślesicki (1964) about the last wandering Gypsies in Poland, 100 photos + commentary

35 000PLZ

9. Maintenance of the Committee's office - Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration (approx.. half of the total yearly cost)

24 000PLZ

10. Preparation of the scientific legacy of A. Bartosz - continuation of the project

39 000PLZ



11. Publication of the guide Adam Bartosz, In the Footsteps of Tarnów Jews,
110 pp., circulation 1000 copies – financed by the Norwegian Fund

14 475PLZ

12. Private (Michael Steinman from the USA) donation of USD 5,000 for a concert
by Israeli cantor Israel Rand (total cost of the concert – USD 5,500 = approx. PLN 23,000)

23 000PLZ

**In total, to implement the aforementioned projects, we acquired the
amount of (ca 88 000 USD) 351 675PLN**

**In addition, we have implemented several projects and events without our own
costs or with reimbursement of costs incurred during their implementation:**

**13. Development of some entries for a city game implemented by a scientific unit of
the Jagiellonian University, referring to the Jewish heritage in Tarnów.**

**14. Rededication of the Jewish cemetery in Jaśliska (Podkarpackie Province) after
renovation. The Committee played a significant role in regaining the cemetery area from
private owners. President Adam Bartosz was awarded the Golden Shofar by Jakob
Schwartz, the initiator of the renovation and chairman of the Committee for the Renovation
of the Jewish Cemetery in Jaśliska.**

**The following project planned for this year was not implemented (due to
ongoing conflict with the Jewish Community of Krakow:**

**15. Zone of Remembrance I – uncovering the outlines of mass graves in the
northern part of the cemetery.**



Works on the cemetery

*Funeral of the contents of the genizah. On June 7, a ceremonial burial of religious books and periodicals took place at the Jewish cemetery. The large pit dug at the request of Rabbi Yitzhak Eliezer Yakov will serve as a place for further similar burials.

*Cleaning work. Current cleaning work was carried out at the cemetery, as well as the extraction of matzevas overgrown with earth. The latter work was carried out (very effectively) in May and then in November by a man sentenced to community service. Another man sentenced to community service also worked at the cemetery for two months.

All work at the cemetery, very limited due to the conflict with the Jewish Religious Community in Krakow, was associated with great emotional effort and stress.

The campaign to raise funds from donors from the Diaspora is very actively led by our friends from the US - Dan Oren, Jill Leibman and Elizabeth Szancer. The highest support we received from an individual this year was again from Artur Süskind from Berlin.

Donation income (in PLN):

1. Bank transfer donations (PLN)	12 698, 00 PLN- FJHP
2. Bank transfer donations (EUR)	46 785, 50 PLN - Artur Süskind
3. Donations from individual donors	3 842, 00 PLN
4. Donations from moneyboxes*	2 243, 35 PLN

TOTAL donation income 65 568.85 PLN



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

Human Resources

There are 22 people on the list of Committee members. In practice, only a few people are directly involved.

From the beginning of 2021, the Management Board has consisted of:

Adam Bartosz – president of the Management Board

Natalia Gancarz – vice-president

Bogdan Lada – member of the Management Board

The Committee's Management Board meetings are held on an ongoing basis as needed.

Members of the Management Board work for free. Only Natalia Gancarz is employed on a half-time basis, which allows us to recruit temporary workers (interns) delegated by the Labor Office and various foundations cooperating with the Committee (the condition for delegating an employee paid by the Labor Office to us is that at least one person is employed full-time). An additional condition for employing an intern is that they be employed for at least 1 month after the end of the internship on a 1/2-time basis.

This year we have accepted an intern from the Employment Office for the period July-December. As part of the contract, we have to provide her with employment for at least 3 months (January-March 2025), at least ½ time (practically PLN 2,500/month). We will try to secure funds for her continued employment for the following months. This is conditioned by our financial situation.

Magda Michal Bartosz works under the volunteering agreement. In addition, we have employed two people sentenced to community service for a total of 5 months for physical work at the cemetery.



People working for the Committee respond to hundreds of inquiries and requests sent by e-mail or via FB, the vast majority of which concern the genealogy of Tarnów Jewish families, property, or family histories. This is one of the biggest challenges, but unfortunately also the burden of our office, which urgently requires strengthening our small team.

Plans for 2025

By the end of 2023, we have submitted the following grant applications to the Ministry of Interior and Administration as part of *the Roma Social and Civic Integration* program

- *XXVI International Roma Memorial Caravan and VII Caravan Conference - project devoted to the Roma minority in Europe** **64 480 PLN**
- *Studia Romologica (18/2025) - scientific yearly journal** **45 700 PLN**
- *Galicianer Shtetl – yearly Jewish culture festival** **80 000 PLN**
- *Maintenance of the Committee's office** (including part of the accountant's remuneration, rent fees, Internet, electricity) **41 000 PLN**
- * Mietek at War**, English translation of Natalia Gancarz's book about the memories (fiction) of a Roma boy from the Birkenau camp; the publication was published (each edition of 1000 copies) in Polish in 2013 and 2022, in Lithuanian (Esu Karolis) in 2017, in German (Rudi im Krieg) in 2018 **26 780 PLZ**
- * A mural dedicated to a distinguished Roma woman Maria Andrasz** **85 000 PLZ**

The total amount of grants already approved	342 960 PLN
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By the end of the year, applications for the above-mentioned grants had not been decided.

Further applications will be submitted throughout 2025 as recruitment announcements are made in various programs, foundations and ministries.

Adam Bartosz – *President of the Board*

Natalia Gancarz – *Vice-President of the Board*

Tarnów, December 31, 2024.

