

Dear Monika, Marcin and the FODZ team:

Kol HaKavod on your brilliant work. You have seized opportunities and used them to their fullest extent in preserving Jewish memory. Your work is a living organic Ner Zikaron which certainly has ignited the individual candles burning inside the hearts and memories of the children of Israel, as well as in the children of Poland, who participated in the program in Siedlce as well as in the other commemorative projects you have supported. I saw the youngsters in Sieniawa last week when the plaque was placed on their school and the mayor of the town passionately instructed them never to forget that this was a shtetl and that the great synagogue stood where they now studied. The preparation they had was provided by a FODZ educational undertaking to which they proudly referred. Later that day, I saw the 250 Polish people huddled in a light and cold rain for two hours that Purim eve, listening to the reading of the Megillat Esther in Tarnow, outside from this bima for the first time in 70 years.

It is clear to me that FODZ has grown into something far greater than first envisioned by many when we sat together through many meetings reconciling competing ideas and emotions over ten years ago in Warsaw. The FODZ team has ensured that preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland goes beyond ground and structure and includes the precious memories of where our people called home for centuries. I see this as both an act of remembrance as well as an important element of Jewish continuity as well as a most eloquent way of reminding our friends and any would-be adversaries that "Am Yisrael Chai".

Thank you and your colleagues in all aspects of FODZ for what you all do.

Michael