



FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF JEWISH HERITAGE IN POLAND

Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland was established by the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland and the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO). Our mission is to protect and commemorate the surviving monuments of Jewish cultural heritage in Poland.

- Aims:
- Reclaiming the properties which before WWII were owned by Jewish Religious Communities and other Jewish legal entities (based on the Law on the Relationship between the State and the Union of Jewish Religious Communities of 1997), and providing legal services for the regulatory procedure.
 - Managing returned properties.
 - Protecting properties bearing special religious or historical significance.

ABRAHAM HEARD THE LORD SAY TO HIM:
"THY REWARD SHALL BE EXCEEDINGLY GREAT". HE UNDERSTOOD IT IN A SENSE OF MATERIAL REWARDS, AND HE PLEADED FOR A SON TO INHERIT THEM. AND THE LORD EXPLAINED TO HIM:
"IT IS NOT MATERIAL WEALTH WHICH YOU SHOULD DESIRE AS AN INHERITANCE FOR YOUR SEED. LOOK UP TOWARDS HEAVEN, AND THINK OF CELESTIAL RICHES. SUCH SHOULD BE THE HEIRLOOM YOU TRANSMIT TO YOUR SON". AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED, NAMELY, HE BECAME CONVINCED.

Rabbi ELIMELECH OF LIZENSK'S COMMENT CONCERNING THE TEXT OF GENESIS 15:5,6

ACTIVITIES

CEMETERIES

Cemeteries renovation and commemoration has always been for us an issue of particular importance. In turn, we cooperate regularly with the Rabbinic Commission in the field of cemeteries' upkeep.

As a result of our cooperation with local organizations and private allies, as of the end of 2005 we have succeeded in restoring the cemeteries in Kolno, Koszalin, Kozienice, Różan, Strzegom and Zakopane. We continue to coordinate projects in Bodzanów, Dubienka, Frampol, Iłża, Iwaniska, Kłodzko, Mszczonów, Narol, Przasnysz, Sochaczew, Zielona Góra and Ziębice.

PARTNERSHIPS, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, REVITALIZATION

Jewish monuments are an integral part of the cultural heritage of Poland. We strive to make these monuments a factor of local development, acquiring new cultural and economic functions to bolster the local communities. Sustainable regeneration proceeds only in a strong local partnership with local authorities and NGOs. As such, it is the focal point of our strategy to build these partnerships.

We are restoring the Zamość synagogue – a premier example of renaissance architecture north of the Alps and one of the most splendid monuments of the Jewish heritage in Poland. Together with local authorities, NGOs and the Zamość Jews from all over the world we aim to establish a centre for local NGOs devoted to culture and education in the synagogue. We plan to establish the Museum of Jews from Zamość and the Area within the synagogue, in cooperation with the Museum of the Polish Jews and the Jewish Historical Institute.

We have rebuilt the Rimanov Synagogue, together with the Rimanov Chassids. For the first time since WWII a synagogue in Poland was rebuilt for religious purpose. The synagogue will serve pilgrims visiting the tzaddik Menachem Mendel's ohel. This project is an example of a monument of Jewish material heritage that will regain its religious function.



EDUCATION

We believe education activities to be crucial support for effective and successful heritage preservation. For this reason, the Foundation has started the "To Bring Memory Back" educational programme for Polish schools. It encourages young people to discover the multicultural history of their region and to bring their discoveries and knowledge back to the larger public. Voluntary upkeep of the local cemeteries is an integral part of the project.

"To Bring Memory Back" Programme is sponsored by the Netherlands Embassy MATRA/KAP Programme.

ANTISEMITISM

We monitor and inform appropriate authorities about all recognized anti-Semitic incidents and acts of vandalism directed against the Polish Jews' historical heritage. The list of our reports of these incidents can be found at our website www.fodz.pl

PLANS

"THE CHASSIDIC ROUTE"

The aim of the project is to create an international heritage-focused tourist route, called the "Chassidic Route", that will join the monuments of Jewish culture and religion in Poland and Ukraine. Longer term, it will encompass the greater Central European region, to include Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Czech Republic as well. The focal point of the tourist route will be the Zamość Synagogue.

The first part of the project is supported by the EU INTER-REG III A Programme.

"JEWS IN POLAND" WEB PORTAL

Project aims to create a web portal presenting history of Jews in Poland. The portal will include information about c.1200 Jewish communities, their Holocaust and material heritage. The first stage of the project will include the completion of information on communities in two voivodships of South-Eastern Poland: Podkarpackie and Lubelskie.

The first stage of the project is supported by the Task Force, Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture.



CONTACT

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CONTRIBUTION

Should you like to contribute to the efforts and our success in maintaining the Jewish heritage in Poland, you can do so by directing funds to one of two bank accounts – one for Polish Zloty and the other for US dollar based contributions. Let us inform that the Foundation files a yearly financial audit with the Polish Ministry of Internal Affairs, the report of which is publicly available with the Ministry.

Bank Accounts:
PLN: PL 23 1030 1508 0000 0005 0294 3006
USD: PL 98 1030 1508 0000 0005 0294 3014



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