

Report — 2023



ASSOCIATION OF
THE JEWISH HISTORICAL
INSTITUTE OF POLAND

In 2023 we observed the 80th anniversary
of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising



The Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland has been working since 1951 to commemorate the history and culture of Polish Jews and their contribution to world culture, raising funds and supporting numerous important initiatives. The Association founded and co-financed POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. It also supports the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, as well as dozens of local organizations working to preserve and commemorate the legacy of Polish Jews.

Annual Report of the
Association of the Jewish
Historical Institute
of Poland — 2023

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Dear Friends,

“Thou shalt not be indifferent” was Marian Turski’s appeal on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In 2023, 80 years after the start of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, speaking at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, he expanded on this thought: “J’accuse! I accuse those who are indifferent to evil. People! Be alert! Hate is the easiest way to recruit henchmen. [...] That is why I accuse – J’accuse – the sowers of hate.” Hearing these words, this cry of someone who was miraculously rescued from the Holocaust, I understood how much the world is not listening. How it’s still not only indifferent, but in fact plunged into a spiral of hatred.

Two years ago, we received the reports of the massacre in Bucha; in 2023 we saw the images of the brutal murders carried out by the Hamas terrorists on our brothers and sisters in Israel. These are the crimes with which we have the closest emotional connection, but they’re not the only ones. All of these shocking events could undermine our belief in the meaning of what we do. On the other hand, where would the world be without organizations and institutions whose main purpose is to educate, to raise better generations and to develop platforms for interpersonal dialog? It would surely plunge even deeper into the spiral of hate: “Hate is the easiest way to recruit henchmen.” To stop it, we have to work even harder. To remind people of history, and to educate. The Association’s primary mission is to support people who, by spreading knowledge of Jewish history, educate and build mutual understanding between people. Just as in previous years, we focused on supporting POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, as well as local activists, organizations and municipalities as part of our Grants Program. Here I would like to thank all of our partners for the work they do every day to build a better world.

I would also like to thank everyone who supports us and our partners in this mission – both financially and through their knowledge and experience, and their words. I am confident that together we can do more, and reading this report shows that our common efforts are helping build a better future.

PIOTR WIŚLICKI

President, Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

Piotr Wiślicki with Marian Turski, Board Member of the Association





Part I

The Association

History of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

01.

The Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland is the successor of the Central Jewish Historical Committee, established in 1944 as part of the Central Jewish Committee in Poland. After many years of effort, it was finally registered in Warsaw in 1951. The Association's statutory goal is to preserve and commemorate the history and culture of Polish Jews and their contributions to world culture. The Association works with organizations with similar goals in Poland and around the world.



For more than 70 years, the Association has supported and promoted scholarly research on Jewish culture and history, educational activities, and worked to foster tolerance.



EMANUEL RINGELBLUM JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

For years, the Association provided a legal structure for the Jewish Historical Institute, which in 1994 was finally separated from the Association as a state institution, overseen by a cabinet minister. For many years of its operations, the Association maintained one of the world’s largest collections related to the history of Polish Jews. These include materials from as early as the mid-17th century; a library of about 80,000 volumes; and extensive collections of paintings, prints, posters, photographs, sculpture, and artifacts. One of its most valuable holdings is the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto, also known as the Ringelblum Archive, which UNESCO has included in its Memory of the World Register in recognition of its importance to humanity. In the moral sense, this legacy is the property of all Jews, and the Association serves as its guardian.

In accordance with the idea that cooperation between government and charitable organizations can deliver tangible effects in the protection of Jewish heritage, the Association has made available its collections, together with the historic building at 3/5 Tłomackie Street in which they’re stored, free of charge to the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute. The Association also works with the Institute on numerous joint projects, the most important of which is currently the multiyear project of translating the full Ringelblum Archive into English.



POLIN MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS

The Association initiated the Museum of the History of Polish Jews as a project in 1993, forming an international team of experts to plan the institution and develop its core exhibition. The Museum was to be a space for open discussion, dialog, and mutual respect – a place that would unite, not divide. The idea has been supported by successive Polish presidents and governments, along with dozens of organizations, countless individuals around the world, and our donors. Thanks to this massive support, the Association was able to lead this project as an independent initiative.

On 25 January 2005, the Association, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the City of Warsaw established a joint cultural institution, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. According to the founding agreement, the public institutions would finance the construction of the Museum building, while the Association would finance and manage the creation of the Core Exhibition. With the support of almost 600 donors from around the world, the Association raised PLN 145 million between 1993 and 2014 for the design and production of the Core Exhibition. Additionally, the Association raised PLN 20 million for the Museum’s public and educational activities in 2005–2014. Since the opening of the Core Exhibition, the Association has continued to support the Museum; since 2015 we have raised more than PLN 50 million for this institution.

GRANTS PROGRAM AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

The third important field of operations for the Association is the Grants Program. Through it, every year for more than 10 years, the Jan Jagielski Grants Committee has awarded funds to dozens of local organizations working to preserve the cultural and material heritage of Polish Jews, all over the country. The projects include commemorations, cemetery preservation, publications, educational initiatives and cultural events.

The Association also supports a variety of other initiatives. Since 2022 it has co-organized the presentation ceremony for the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Medal, awarded since the 1990s by the Association of Jewish Veterans and Victims of World War II. The JHI Association is also engaged in the mission of commemorating the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Oneg Shabbat group in Warsaw’s urban space, in partnership with other organizations. In 2021, the Ringelblum Archive Monument was set up at 28 Nowolipki Street, and in 2023 a symbolic grave for the members of the Oneg Shabbat group was set up at the Jewish cemetery on Okopowa Street.



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Reverse of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Medal

As of December 31 the Association had 256 members, including people connected with the worlds of academia, education and culture, as well as those who work in various fields of business.

On Sunday May 21 2023, the Annual Meeting of Association Members was held, during which a new Management Board and Audit Committee, as well as a new body, the Peer Tribunal, were appointed for the 2023–2027 term.

We congratulate the new members of the Management Board, Audit Committee and Peer Tribunal, and we are confident that their term in office will be a time of further development for the Association and active collaboration with partners.



Governing Bodies of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

02.

MANAGEMENT BOARD



Piotr Wiślicki
President



Joanna Fikus
Vice President



Jan Ordyński
Secretary



Marek Nowakowski
Treasurer



Dr. Kamila Dąbrowska
Member



Dr. Zuzanna Hertzberg
Member



Dr. Maciej Kozłowski
Member



Agnieszka Markiewicz
Member



Prof. Dariusz Stola
Member



Marian Turski
Member



Kristof Zorde
Member

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Internal audit and assessment on all activities of the Association,
both substantive and financial



Zbigniew Sztranc
Chair



Justyna Kobos
Vice Chair



Robert Supel
Secretary



Maciej Antosik
Member



Piotr Kowalik
Member

JAN JAGIELSKI GRANTS COMMITTEE

Preparation of the Association’s Grant Program principles and evaluation
of applications and reports on the implementation of financed projects



Joanna Fikus
Chair



Prof. Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska
Member



Dr. Kamila Dąbrowska
Member



Grzegorz Kołacz
Member

PEER TRIBUNAL

Resolving disputes between members of the Association according to its statute



Stanisław Krajewski
Chair



Małgorzata Wołyńska
Vice Chair



Jarosław Szczepański
Secretary



Jacek Kozłowski
Member



Andrzej Krawczyk
Member

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supporting the Association’s Management Board in investing financial resources,
in particular the Endowment Fund



Przemysław Schmidt
Chair



Robert Koński
Member



Andrzej Malec
Member



Andrzej Rojek
Member

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Raising funds, donor relations, communication and reputation activities,
production of fundraising materials



Bartosz Dymarek
Development Director



Agnieszka Dulęba-Wołodkiewicz
Deputy Development Director



Anna Szcześniak
Senior Development Specialist

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Managing and overseeing the organization’s finances, the grants policy, human resources,
coordination of the work of all bodies that operate within the Association



Michał Majewski
Operations Director



Anna Moniewska
Office Manager

We would like to offer our thanks
to the outgoing Management Board
and Audit Committee, which set
the direction for the Association’s
operations and development over
the past four years.



GOVERNING BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL
INSTITUTE OF POLAND THROUGH MAY 18, 2023:

MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Piotr Wiślicki – President
- Marian Turski – Vice President
- Joanna Fikus – Secretary
- Marek Nowakowski – Treasurer
- Dr. Kamila Dąbrowska – Member
- Dr. Zuzanna Hertzberg – Member
- Dr. Maciej Kozłowski – Member
- Agnieszka Milbrandt – Member
- Alicja Mroczkowska – Member
- Prof. Dariusz Stola – Member
- Dr. hab. Jolanta Żyndul – Member

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Maciej Antosik – Chair
- Krzysztof Czajka-Kalinowski – Vice Chair
- Justyna Kobos – Secretary
- Zbigniew Sztranc – Member

JAN JAGIELSKI GRANTS COMMITTEE

- Joanna Fikus – Chair
- Prof. Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska – Member
- Dr. Kamila Dąbrowska – Member
- Grzegorz Kołacz – Member



The Association's diverse membership is bound together by a common mission - to preserve the thousand-year heritage of Polish Jews for future generations.



Association Management Board members are volunteers. They not only represent the Association, direct its operations and set new directions for its work, but most of all they devote their time and energy to achieving the Association's mission of protecting Jewish heritage in Poland.



Part II

Statutory Activities

Thanks to its collaboration with the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute, POLIN Museum can continuously develop its educational, cultural and scholarly program. The largest joint undertaking last year was the temporary exhibition *Around Us a Sea of Fire: The Fate of Jewish Civilians During the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*, which along with a program of related events contributed to the commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. It was seen by more than 130,000 people, making it undoubtedly one of Poland’s most momentous cultural events in 2023.

ZYGMUNT STĘPIŃSKI
Director of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews



POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

01.

Since its founding, the Museum has been recognized internationally, receiving numerous awards for its programming activity to promote the history of Poland’s Jews and to carry out projects that build an open and tolerant society. The foundation for its activities is the Core Exhibition, which was prepared by an international team of scholars, designers and educators, operating under the auspices of the Association. Thanks to the Core Exhibition, visitors come to know the thousand-year history of Jews in Poland.

The year 2023 was dominated by the observances of the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, POLIN Museum began the observances with a year-long program, *Thou Shalt Not Be Indifferent*, whose title recalls the memorable words Marian Turski spoke three years before during a commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz. The program included special artistic activities, podcasts, workshops and meetings, and its centerpiece was the exhibition *Around Us a Sea of Fire: The Fate of Jewish Civilians During the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*.

326,000
visitors to the Core Exhibition



4,400,000
attendees of in-person
and online programs

136,469
visitors to the temporary
exhibition

POLIN Museum projects carried out in 2023 thanks to the support of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland and private donors recruited by the Association

THE CORE EXHIBITION AND COLLECTIONS



Donors’ support of the Show Your Love! program helped make it possible for the Museum to buy a new object for the collection in 2023: a 19th-century silver case for a scroll of the book of Esther.



The Show Your Love! program and the purchase of an object for the museum’s collection

POLIN Museum’s collection numbers more than 17,500 objects related to the thousand-year history of Polish Jews: artworks, photographs, documents, everyday items and objects used in religious worship. The Show Your Love! program allows people to become patrons, in their own name or on behalf of someone else, of one of their chosen objects in this rich collection.

Processing, digitizing and providing access to Jewish heritage collections

POLIN Museum is processing and digitizing 1,150 museum and archive objects that attest to the culture and history of Polish Jews and are found in the collections of POLIN Museum, the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland and seven partner museums. The collections will be made available through a portal presenting collections of Jewish heritage from partner institutions all across Poland. The portal, being prepared by POLIN Museum, will be the largest online sources of information on these collections in Poland.

The project was co-financed by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage from the Culture Promotion Fund – a state-earmarked fund – and using funds from the Association

The position of Chief Curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum

Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum, is engaged in all the Museum’s projects related to development of the Exhibition. Additionally, she supports Museum programs such as temporary exhibitions, GEOP and the TISH Festival, and fundraising efforts on behalf of POLIN Museum.

DONOR FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF CURATOR OF THE CORE EXHIBITION AT POLIN MUSEUM:
· Ronald S. Lauder



*Around Us a Sea of Fire: The Fate of Jewish Civilians
During the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*

April 18, 2023–January 8, 2024

This is the first exhibition telling the story of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising from the civilian perspective. The creator of the exhibition concept, Professor Barbara Engelking, and curator Zuzanna Schnepf-Kołacz based it on diaries and journals written during and after the Uprising. The heroes of the exhibition spent the Uprising in bunkers and hideouts, defying the German system of deportations and mass murder.

Rather than lining up for the transports, they hid. Their quiet resistance was just as important as the armed kind.

PROJECT DONORS:

- Jankilevitsch Foundation
- With assistance from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany | Sponsored by the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” | Supported by the German Federal Ministry of Finance
- The David Berg Foundation
- The Citi Handlowy Leopold Kronenberg Foundation
- The Heinrich Böll Foundation
- The Konrad-Adenauer Foundation
- The Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation

The exhibition *Around Us a Sea of Fire* was based on the diaries and journals of the civilians. Words are all that has survived, the only trace left of these people.





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(post)JEWISH... *Shtetl Opatów Through the Eyes of Mayer Kirshenblatt*

May 17–December 16, 2024

In another temporary exhibition, (post)JEWISH... *Shtetl Opatów Through the Eyes of Mayer Kirshenblatt*, the Museum uncovers the traces of the Jewish residents of Opatów, who before the war made up 60 percent of the population. The painter Mayer Kirshenblatt will serve as our guide to the town. In recalling the shtetl of his youth, he restores the memory of people, events, daily life and customs in a particularly vibrant way. In pictures full of colors, imagination and humor, we see a world that is no more, and through them we learn their common, forgotten history. The curators of the exhibition are Dr. Justyna Koszarska-Szulc and Dr. Natalia Romik, in cooperation with Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett.

PROJECT DONORS:

- Taube Philanthropies
- The CBRAT Foundation in loving memory of Joseph and Miriam Ratner
- Jankilevitsch Foundation
- Marek Roeﬂer with family

↗

Publication of the Polish version of Mayer Kirshenblatt’s book *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust*

The exhibition (post)JEWISH will be accompanied by the first Polish publication of Mayer Kirshenblatt’s memoirs. Published in English in 2007, the book is an exceptional account, using both images and words, of the everyday life of the Jewish community in Opatów before World War II. Alongside the publication will be an educational program including workshops on the IWitness portal operated by the USC Shoah Foundation, as well as training courses for teachers.

PROJECT DONORS:

- The Azrieli Foundation
- Taube Philanthropies



Marian Berland, *Days as Long as Centuries*

In cooperation with the KARTA Center, the Museum published *Days as Long as Centuries*, Marian Berland’s account of life in hiding, from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising to the start of the Warsaw Uprising. The book is one of the most important Polish-language Holocaust accounts. Berland was one of the heroes of the exhibition *Around Us a Sea of Fire*.

PROJECT DONORS:

- Kancelaria GESSEL
- Dr. & Mrs. Bradley A. Connor

A Question of Character: Women fighters from the Warsaw Ghetto, edited by Monika Sznajderman and Sylwia Chutnik

The Wydawnictwo Czarne publishing house and POLIN Museum in April 2023 collaborated in publishing the book presenting the fate of Jewish women who took part in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. This is the first Polish book which acts as an introduction to recovering the memory of these fighters.

PROJECT DONOR:

- The MagoVox Foundation



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The album *What the Others Cannot See. Photographic Testimonies from Both Sides of the Warsaw Ghetto Wall 1943*

During the preparation of the exhibition *Around Us a Sea of Fire*, unique, never-before-published plates with photographs from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising were discovered. The photographs were collected in two albums, published in a single box titled *What the Others Cannot See. Photographic Testimonies from Both Sides of the Warsaw Ghetto Wall 1943*. The album by Zbigniew Leszek Grzywaczewski contains photographs from the center of the Ghetto during the Uprising, in which the photographer worked as a firefighter. The album by Rudolf Damec contains photographs taken during the Uprising along the outside of the Ghetto wall.

PROJECT DONORS:

- Ruth and Michael Fletcher
- The Neubauer Family Foundation – Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer and Joe Neubauer
- Marina and Andrew Lewin



POLIN Music Scene

From the beginning, the Museum has run its original Music Scene, which explores the heritage of Jewish music and Jewish composers.

In February 2023, the POLIN Music Festival was held once again, featuring Polish premieres of works, and the launch of outstanding albums. The Sinfonia Varsovia orchestra opened the festival, under the baton of the Crimean-born Margaryta Grynivetska. The second day featured an evening of album premieres, and two ensembles took the stage: the Silesian String Quartet and the Bastarda Trio. On the final day, audiences were treated to music from the Polish-Jewish-American composer Karol Rathaus, presented by the pianist and chamber musician Aleksandra Hałat and her Karol Rathaus Ensemble,

and in the evening, the Polish Radio Orchestra, directed by Michał Klauza.

In April, to mark the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the Museum held the *Remembering Together* concert series in, among others, Warsaw and Tel Aviv. In Warsaw, Sinfonia Varsovia, conducted by Anna Duczmal-Mróż, performed works including the premiere of Hania Rani's *For Josima* piano concerto, inspired by the music of Josima Feldschuh, a teenage composer from the Warsaw Ghetto. In Tel Aviv, at the home of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Polish conductor Łukasz Borowicz led the group in a gala concert for almost 2,500 people.

PROJECT DONORS:

- Jankilevitch Foundation
- The Azrieli Foundation

Since 2015, POLIN Museum, in cooperation with the Association, has presented the POLIN Award to individuals, organizations and institutions who work to protect the memory of Polish Jews.



The POLIN Award

The recipient of the ninth award was Mariusz Sokołowski, who is engaged in restoring the memory of the Jews of Wasilków and Białystok. Honorable mentions were awarded to Ewa Paul, an activist in Bełchatów and Sulmierzyce, and to the Saga Grybów Association. POLIN Museum Director Zygmunt Stępiński presented a Special Award to Andrzej Folwarczny and the Forum for Dialogue team.

PROJECT DONORS:

- Jankilevitch Foundation
- Tomek Ulatowski
- The Odette and Nimrod S. Ariav Foundation
- Wiktor Askanas and Ewa Masny-Askanas
- Anonymous donor



EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

The richness and diversity of the Museum’s educational activity, whose goal is not only to promote knowledge of the history and culture of Polish Jews, but also to shape attitudes of respect and understanding for diversity, today reaches thousands of schoolchildren and hundreds of teachers, educators and activists.



Renovation of POLIN Museum Educational Center’s classrooms

High participation rates and the growing expectations of young people who effortlessly use the latest technology mean that the Center’s space, opened in 2014, needed an urgent and comprehensive modernization. To bring it up to the latest standards, renovations were carried out, the multimedia and IT devices were replaced and the classrooms received new equipment.

PROJECT DONOR:
· The Odette and Nimrod S. Ariav Foundation



POLIN Museum’s educational program for Lublin-region schoolchildren

The goal of the second edition of the program for schoolchildren of all grades was to propagate knowledge of the history and culture of Polish Jews in Lublin-region schools, taking the local context into account. By teaching them about the region’s multi-ethnic past, the Museum also attempted to awaken in the youth an interest in the world’s diversity, engage them in the process of gaining knowledge and to encourage questions and independent, critical thinking. The students discussed both the history of Polish Jews and contemporary challenges.

The specially tailored educational program comprised online meetings, workshops using the *Museum in a Box* kit, a series of workshops titled *Let’s get to know each other: Jewish traces in the Lublin region* and participation in the social-educational Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Campaign. It enjoyed great popularity: hundreds of people took part in each activity. The project was carried out in collaboration with specialists from the Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre.

PROJECT DONOR:
· The Odette and Nimrod S. Ariav Foundation



SCHOLARLY, EDUCATIONAL
AND AWARENESS-RAISING WORK



↑ ↗

Global Education Outreach Program (GEOP)

The Museum’s scholarly activities are organized as part of the Global Education Outreach Program (GEOP). In 2023, in cooperation with the University of Wrocław’s Taube Department of Jewish Studies, the Museum concluded the eighth series of doctoral seminars; in collaboration with the Jewish Women’s Archive it delivered the highly popular online course *Women and Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto*; and together with Polish and international partners it organized three academic conferences:

- *Studies on Hunger Disease in the Warsaw Ghetto*: Almost 100,000 people died of hunger and disease in the Warsaw Ghetto. In 1942, a group of doctors carried out innovative research on hunger disease. The team’s accomplishments were commemorated by an academic conference organized in March 2023 by POLIN Museum. An open lecture

was delivered online by Martín Caparros, author of the acclaimed reportage *Hunger*.

- *European Jews Facing the Imminence of the Holocaust*: This conference, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, was organized in partnership with the Polish Center for Holocaust Research, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences; the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow; and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The purpose of the conference was to identify and describe the Jewish experience of life in the face of the imminent threat of destruction during the Holocaust. How did information about the mass murders spread? How did Jews adapt to extreme conditions? What did day-to-day life look like in these conditions? What were their experiences and emotions, and their awareness of their fate?



- *East Central Europe at the Crossroads: Jewish Transnational Networks and Identities*, jointly organized with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; Columbia University; the University of Buenos Aires; Tel Aviv University’s Institute for the History of Polish Jewry and Israel-Poland Relations; the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow; the Institute for Jewish Studies & Slavic Institute, University of Potsdam; Taube Department for Jewish Studies, University of Wrocław; and the Faculty of History of Warsaw University. The conference aimed to present the latest research on Jewish history, addressing the subjects, broadly understood, of transnationalism, intersectionality and cross-border exchange from the modern period to the present day.

- PROJECT DONORS:
- William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation
 - Taube Philanthropies

The Comprehensive Program to Study and Combat Antisemitism in Poland

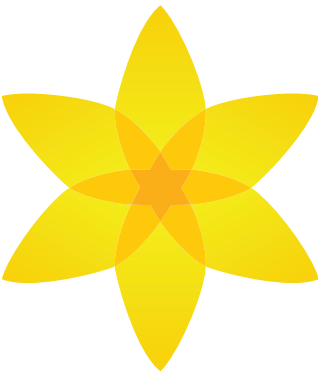
In 2023, a report was produced, in both Polish and English, as part of the Comprehensive Program to Study and Combat Antisemitism in Poland. The report summarized a research project commissioned by the Museum to create a map of the most important cultural codes shaping the image of Jews in contemporary Polish culture, as well as an analysis of the threats associated with them.

POLIN Museum will use the results of the research in an educational program for MPs, local politicians, law enforcement, other security services, lawyers, journalists and educators.

- PROJECT DONORS:
- Sills Family Foundation
 - Andrzej Rojek
 - Tomek Ulatowski

PROMOTION OF POLIN MUSEUM

Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, used to receive a bouquet of yellow daffodils from an anonymous person every year on April 19. He would lay them at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes in memory of those who fought and died. The paper daffodils, which people wear on this day, are inspired by this custom.



The global Remembering Together campaign

On the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, POLIN Museum, in partnership with the City of Warsaw and the World Jewish Congress, sent 150,000 paper daffodils to Jewish communities around the world as part of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Campaign.

Project financed by the POLIN Museum Development Fund, established by the Association

Promotion of POLIN Museum in the U.S.

In March and April 2023 Zachary Mazur, POLIN Museum’s chief specialist for promotion and cooperation with the Diaspora, delivered a series of lectures and held meetings about POLIN and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Campaign in the U.S. and Canada. Almost 700 people took part in them.

Project financed by the POLIN Museum Development Fund, established by the Association



The Ringelblum Archive is housed in the historic building at 3/5 Tłomackie Street, which belongs to the Association; the Association allows the Institute to use the building free of charge. Originally part of the Great Synagogue complex on Tłomackie Street before the war, this building once housed the Main Judaic Library and the Institute of Judaic Studies. It is here that the Oneg Shabbat group (Hebrew for Joy of Shabbat), which formed the underground archive, would meet in secret during the war. The building, which survived the destruction of the Great Synagogue at the end of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, still bears traces of fire on the historic main hall's floor, a memorial to those tragic events.

Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute

02.

The Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute is a world-renowned research center dedicated to the history of the Jews who lived for centuries in Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. For more than 70 years it has been fulfilling its mission of collecting, documenting and disseminating knowledge about the history and legacy of the thousand-year Jewish presence on Polish lands, with particular emphasis on events related to the Holocaust and its consequences. One of the Institute's most important tasks is to care for the Jewish legacy preserved in its archive: first and foremost, through comprehensive preservation of the Association's collections, including the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto, known as the Ringelblum Archive.

The Institute is also home to Poland's largest team of scholars working on Jewish heritage and the Yiddish language. Various divisions conduct research, work with the collections in the archive and the library, and write about Jewish history and culture. The Institute engages in cultural projects, organizes seminars and educational meetings, runs a publishing house, creates thematic exhibitions (artistic, photographic, historical and related to Jewish holidays), as well as open-air exhibitions. In 2017, the Institute and the Association created the Oneg Szabat Program, whose mission is to increase awareness of the Ringelblum Archive around the world. The heart of the program is the exhibition *What We've Been Unable to Shout Out to the World*, dedicated to the Ringelblum Archive and the Oneg Shabbat group.



The Oneg Szabat Program’s activities carried out in 2023 thanks to the support of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland and private donors recruited by the Association

ENGLISH TRANSLATION
OF THE RINGELBLUM ARCHIVE



New translations of the Ringelblum Archive into English

The English version of the Ringelblum Archive was expanded this year by another two volumes. Volume 8, *Diaries from the Warsaw Ghetto*, edited by Eleonora Bergman, Katarzyna Person, Michał Trębacz and Zofia Trębacz, is a collection of texts and records from various authors. These include the diary of Abraham Lewin, as well as Dawid Graber and Nachum Grzywacz’s accounts of the hiding of the materials

from the Archive, forming an exceptional account of life in the ghetto and a chronicle of the Holocaust. Volume 9, *Letters on the Shoah*, edited by Eleonora Bergman and Maria Ferenc, included the farewell letters of Jews in ghettos in Polish cities and towns, which show the Holocaust from the perspective or ordinary people, completely defenseless in the face of what they would experience.

PROJECT DONOR:
· Taube Philanthropies

ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

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The banner of the Union of Jews Participants of Combat for Polish Independence – branch in Toruń – one of the digitized objects



Digitization

In 2023, the Institute digitized more than 6,000 objects: historical memorabilia, archival materials, library collections and photographs. One of the most important platforms on which the collections are made available is Delet; this year it was enriched with additional digitized materials.

PROJECT DONOR:
· Taube Philanthropies

Archivization

Almost 700 archival searches were carried out in response to inquiries from a wide variety of organizations, institutions and individuals, and physical access to the Archive collections was granted to more than 500 people, including students, scholars, journalists and filmmakers.

PROJECT DONOR:
· Taube Philanthropies



This exhibition is in some sense a moral victory for the group called Oneg Shabbat. I am convinced that they would have preferred to survive, that they would want to see their grandchildren. But they told themselves that the archive, which they created and hid, was more important than life. That's why we're here.

Wichtiger als unser Leben Das Untergrundarchiv des Warschauer Ghettos (More Important Than Life: The Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto)

June 29, 2023–January 7, 2024

For the Institute, 2023 was marked by numerous international collaborations. One of the most important was the opening of the exhibition *Wichtiger als unser Leben Das Untergrundarchiv des Warschauer Ghettos* (More Important Than Life: The Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto) in the NS-Dokumentationszentrum in Munich, co-curated by Piotr Rypson of the Institute's Art Department. The exhibition was the first presentation of documents from the Ringelblum Archive on this scale outside Poland; it invited visitors to look at the Ghetto from inside, from the Jewish perspective. At its center was the Archive: the documents and photos could speak for themselves, showing a diverse picture of life, suffering and death in the Ghetto.



MONIKA KRAWCZYK
Director of the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute





There are various motivations of people who turn to us for help: from Jews from all over the world who want to learn about their family history, people who write memoirs, loved ones organizing family matters after the death of a parent or going on a trip to the country of their ancestors, to people living in Poland looking for their Jewish roots.

For more than 30 years, the Jewish Historical Institute’s Genealogy Department has been providing assistance free of charge to people uncovering their family history and Jewish roots. In 2023, Department employees continued searches begun in earlier years, and almost 1,800 people contacted them for the first time, to begin exploring their history.

PROJECT DONOR:
· Taube Philanthropies

On March 19, 2024 Dr. Michał Trębacz was appointed for the position of acting director of the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute. In recent years, he was the head of the Research Department of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, supervising the Global Education Outreach Program project. We wish Dr. Trębacz much success in his new position.



We would like to thank all of the activists who are working to change the world, making it a better place. I encourage everyone thinking of doing something similar to apply to the Grants Program.

JOANNA FIKUS
Chairwoman of the Jan Jagielski Grants Committee



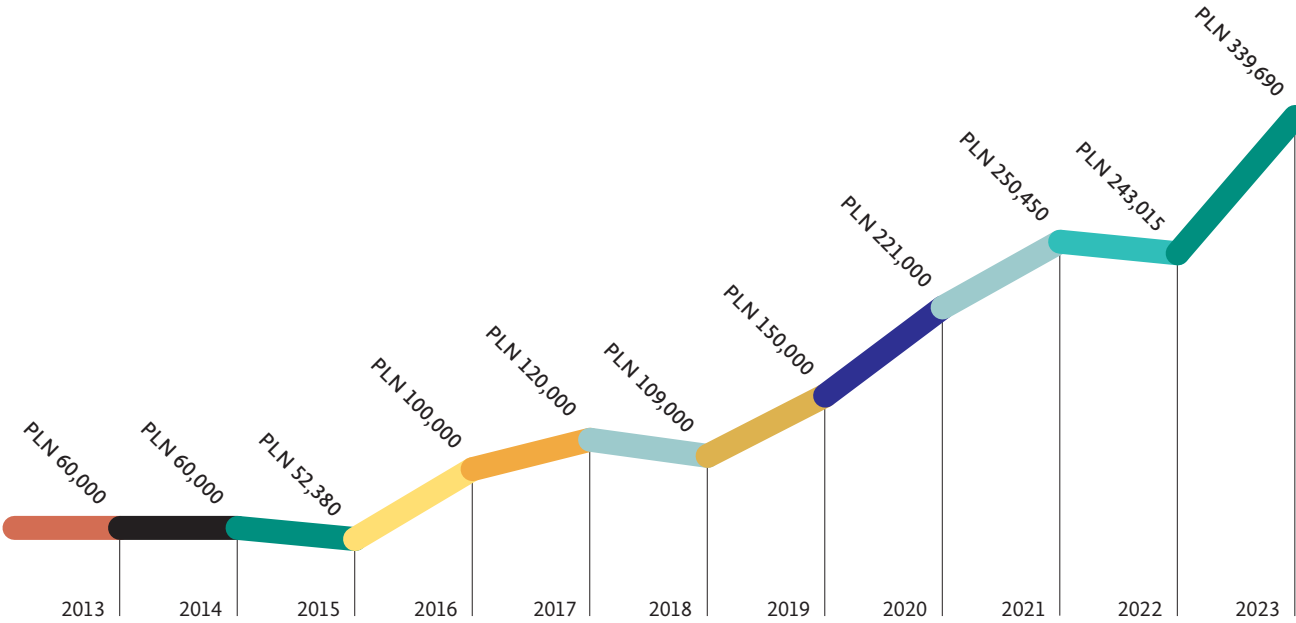
Grants Program of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

03.

The Association's Grants Program supports projects that aim to record and preserve the memory of Jewish history and culture and to protect this heritage, with particular consideration for local actions that engage communities in the area. The fundamental goal is to help people – most often operating far from the big cities – who are striving to preserve, and most of all to restore, the memory and knowledge of a vanished world. We believe that financial support for their activities makes it easier for them to carry out these plans. The effects are visible on a nationwide scale.

Support is awarded by the Jan Jagielski Grants Committee, made up of Chair Joanna Fikus, Prof. Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, Dr. Kamila Dąbrowska, Grzegorz Kołacz. Zuzanna Radzik from Forum for Dialogue, was advising the Committee last year.

We would like to thank our partners who support the Grants Program: Przemysław Schmidt, Urszula and Wiesław Żyznowski and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw. We are sincerely grateful for your support.



During its 11 years, the Program has awarded almost 270 grants, providing a total of nearly PLN 1.8 million.

This year, from among a record 149 applications, the Grants Committee selected 44 projects, across which it provided a total of PLN 339,940.

1	<i>Sefer Falenic</i> – linguistic and content consultation on translations from Yiddish to Polish organization: Europejski Instytut Kultury Foundation
2	Publication in Polish of <i>Sefer Zikaron Volomin – The Memorial Book of Wołomin Jews</i> organization: Zikaron Foundation
3	Fighters in the Będzin and Sosnowiec ghettos organization: The Cukerman's Gate Foundation
4	The prewar Jewish community in Wińsko: learning local history from the pages of Rita Steinhardt-Botwinick's book <i>Wińsko 1933–1946</i> organization: The Wińsko for Education Association
5	Przysucha's Jewish heritage: the cemetery, stage III organization: Jewish Przysucha
6	Cleanup of the Jewish cemetery in Mińsk Mazowiecki organization: Association of Friends of Mińsk Mazowiecki
7	The Bunker of Memory Lapidarium: a commemorative/ educational project organization: The Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation
8	Matzevahs return to the Jewish cemetery in Milejczyce organization: Municipal Cultural Center in Milejczyce
9	Documentation of gravestones at the Jewish cemetery in Brzesko organization: Association “Memory and Dialogue. Common History”
10	Rescue from oblivion: the Jewish funeral home in Czarnków organization: Association of Czarnków History Enthusiasts
11	Finalization of work to protect the former Jewish cemetery organization: Municipal Public Library in Brody
12	Well of Memory: the Wąchock Stereoscopic Theater organization: Municipal Cultural Center in Wąchock
13	Plaque to commemorate Jews deported from the Sokołów Podlaski train station to the Treblinka extermination camp organization: Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński Municipal Public Library in Sokołów Podlaski
14	Apt, the town that is no more organization: Society of Friends of the Opatów Region
15	Marking the boundaries of the Otwock ghetto organization: Municipal Cultural, Tourism and Sport Center in Otwock

16	Rawicz Synagogue Square: commemorating the Rawicz Jewish community organization: Museum of the Rawicz Region
17	Synagogue organization: Municipal Public Library in Rogowo
18	A journey to the past: permanent exhibition on the fence of the Jewish cemetery in Warta organization: The Ireneusz Ślipek Association for Polish-Jewish Dialogue in Warta
19	Restoring the memory of the former Jewish community in Płońsk: educational workshops in the Płońsk Memorial House organization: Municipal Cultural Center in Płońsk
20	Memory Lessons: a series of youth meetings organization: The Tygodnik Powszechny Foundation
21	Cataloguing matzevahs from the former Jewish cemetery in Widawa organization: Association of the Center for Jewish Studies
22	The Jewish Open University: a program of educational events organization: Ester Rachel and Ida Kaminska Jewish Theater's Center for Yiddish Culture
23	Streets enchanted with history organization: Talent Creative Activity Society
24	Slippery Slope: The tragic fate of Sosnowiec Jews during World War II, part II organization: Bliżej Marzeń Foundation
25	11 th Zbliżenia Jewish Culture Festival organization: Zbliżenia Cultural Foundation
26	Despite It All – Shalom organization: EDM Foundation
27	Shtetl Falenica – Otwock Line Jewish Culture Festival, first edition organization: Ner Tamid – Eternal Light Foundation
28	Party at Mietek Wajnberg's: revitalizing the building at ulica Żelazna 66, third edition organization: Mieczysław Wajnberg Institute
29	Remembering the Tuszyn Jewish community organization: Atelier of Skills Foundation
30	Against prejudices: 85 th anniversary of the Polenaktion deportation organization: TRES Foundation

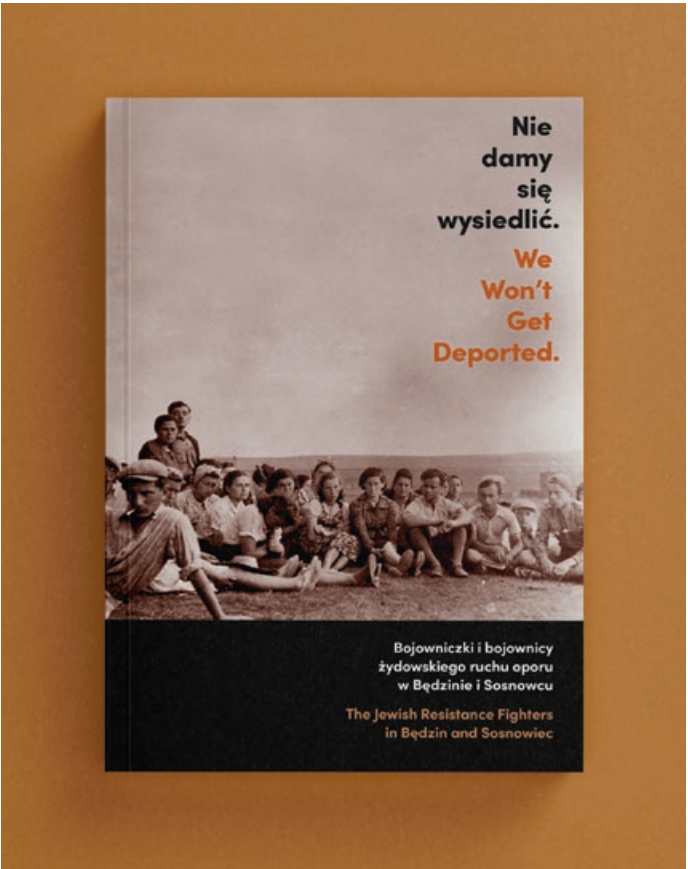


31	Disturb the silence organization: Kalanter Foundation
32	Szenwicz: one family's story organization: Nobiscum Foundation
33	<i>Motl, Pysi the Cantor's Son</i> : exhibition of work by children from the I.L. Peretz School organization: Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre
34	<i>Shtetl</i> dance show organization: Koniński Teatr Tańca – Konin Dance Theatre
35	21 st Camera of David Warsaw Jewish Film Festival organization: Kamera Dawida Foundation, wjff.pl
36	Common heritage: Jewish social organizations in Białystok organization: “SocLab” Laboratory of Research and Social Action Foundation
37	Pardes Festival – Encounters with Jewish Culture: Kazimierz Dolny, Zamość organization: Spichlerz Kultury Foundation

38	Jewish Culture Days organization: The Max Kopfstein Association
39	Meetings with Jewish Culture Festival organization: Wiktor Ambroziewicz Museum of the Chełm Region
40	They lived here for centuries: actions to promote knowledge about Kcynia's Jewish community organization: Jan Czochralski Primary School in Kcynia
41	Cultural program centered on an exhibition on Breslauer Jews organization: Akcelerator Obywatelski Spark Foundation
42	The Golden Palm: a Jewish house in the center of Wrocław organization: Tadeusz Mikulski Lower Silesian Public Library in Wrocław
43	Truly this was a house of God: the synagogue in Tarnowskie Góry organization: The Tarnowskie Góry Museum
44	We were from Grodzisk: The Gryc and Wencel families organization: Nowa Kultura i Edukacja Association

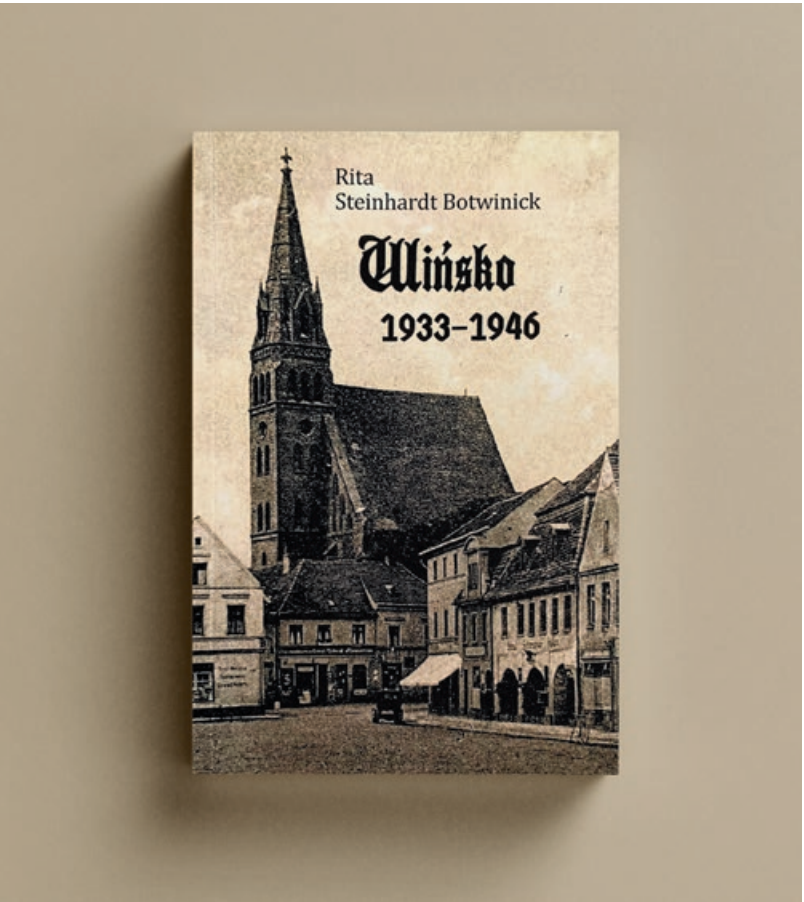
PUBLISHING

The publication *Nie damy się wysiedlić. We Won't Get Deported*, prepared for the 80th anniversary of the liquidation of the ghettos in the Dąbrowa Basin, recalls and restores the names of 170 fighters, female and male, from the ghettoes in Będzin and Sosnowiec, who were responsible for the organization and operation of the Jewish resistance movement in the Basin.



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Fighters in the Będzin and Sosnowiec ghettos

The Cukerman’s Gate Foundation, in cooperation with the Silesian Library Publishing House, published the book *Nie damy się wysiedlić. Bojowniczk i bojownicy żydowskiego ruchu oporu w Będzinie i Sosnowcu. We Won't Get Deported. The Jewish Resistance Fighters in Będzin and Sosnowiec*, edited by Tomek Grząślewicz and Karolina Jakoweńko.



Publication in Polish of *Sefer Zikaron Wolomin – The Memorial Book of Wołomin Jews*

The Zikaron Foundation is publishing, in physical and electronic form, *The Memorial Book of Wołomin Jews (Sefer Zikaron Wolomin)*, published in Yiddish in Tel Aviv in 1971, and in English in New York in 2022. The book is an exceptionally valuable collection of memories of the rescued Jewish residents of the town of Wołomin, where Jews made up almost half of the prewar population. The Memorial Book is a treasure-house of knowledge about the life of Jewish Wołomin: schools, political parties, organizations, key figures in religious, political and economic life. It is also a record of the tragedy of the Holocaust and the difficult history of the community after 1945.

Wińsko 1933–1946 is the memoirs of Rita Steinhardt-Botwinick, a Jewish woman who was born in the town of Wińsko and lived there before World War II.

←
The prewar Jewish community in Wińsko: learning local history from the pages of Rita Steinhardt-Botwinick’s book *Wińsko 1933–1946*

The 100th anniversary of Rita Steinhardt-Botwinick’s birth was in 2023, and the Wińsko for Education Association decided to celebrate it by renewing a book that until now has been unavailable in local libraries and unknown to most residents. The Association set itself the goal of introducing the prewar fate of the Wińsko Jewish community to current residents, both by making copies of the book available to schools and libraries, and by organizing an accompanying program designed primarily for school-age youth.

Sefer Falenic – linguistic and content consultation on translations from Yiddish to Polish

For several years, the Europejski Instytut Kultury Foundation has been translating a memorial book from the town of Falenica. Work on the translation is now drawing to a close, and the goal of this project is to provide linguistic, historical and content consultation on 300 pages of translation from Yiddish to Polish, which will allow the entire memory book to be published online.



Cleanup of the Jewish cemetery in Mińsk Mazowiecki

The purpose of the Association of Friends of Mińsk Mazowiecki was to clean up the Jewish cemetery, one of just a few physical traces of the Mińsk Jewish community. For several years, the cemetery has been used primarily as the main site of the city’s observances of the anniversary of the liquidation of the local ghetto, and the cleanup made the space available to residents and descendants of Mińsk’s Jews.

Finalization of work to protect the former Jewish cemetery

The Municipal Public Library in Brody’s project aims to protect the Jewish cemetery by rebuilding the back part of the fence. The library will also organize lectures, exhibitions, visual arts activities and artistic and musical events to promote the region’s Jewish heritage.

Matzevahs return to the Jewish cemetery in Milejczyce

In 2020, several dozen matzevahs were discovered in the foundations of a German stable in Milejczyce; only some of them were taken to the Jewish cemetery. The Municipal Cultural Center in Milejczyce will transport the remaining matzevahs to the cemetery, clean up the grounds and restore the plaque at the gate with the list of Milejczyce’s Jews.



Rescue from oblivion: the Jewish funeral home in Czarnków

Over the course of history, Czarnków has been a city of three faiths. Its earlier multiculturalism is attested to by historic structures that still stand today, one of which is the Jewish funeral home from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, built next to the Jewish cemetery that dates from 1819. The building is not only one of just a few such historic structures still remaining in Wielkopolska province, but also one of the most important structures in the Jewish history of Czarnków. It needs cleanup and preservation work, which will be performed by a group of volunteers organized by the Society of Czarnków History Enthusiasts.

Cataloguing matzevahs from the former Jewish cemetery in Widawa

The Jewish cemetery in Widawa was destroyed during World War II; until recently only a single grave marker remained in place. Matzevahs from the wartime and postwar periods were used as building materials in and around the town – including in a sidewalk around the mill in Wola Kleszczowa, from which 138 matzevahs were recovered and transported to the Widawa cemetery grounds in 2020. As part of the project, Stowarzyszenie Centrum Badań Żydowskich (the Association of the Center for Jewish Studies) plans to catalog the matzevahs, publishing a list with photos and translations of their inscriptions.

Przysucha’s Jewish heritage: the cemetery, stage III

The goal of the project is to carry out the third stage of clean-up work at the cemetery in Przysucha, which began in 2022. Thus far the Jewish Przysucha Association has managed to clear away a majority of the overgrowth and uncover the fence, and made plans to paint it. Even though the cemetery is exceptionally important for the history of the Jewish community in Przysucha, it remains neglected, and so the project’s goal is to thoroughly clean and tidy the area, removing the overgrowth to allow visitors to walk around freely. A lapidarium project is also being planned.

Documentation of gravestones at the Jewish cemetery in Brzesko

The Association “Memory and Dialogue. Common History” plans to read and translate the inscriptions from about 400 matzevahs found in the cemetery in Brzesko, to complete the database it created with full information about each of them: the texts of the Hebrew inscriptions with translations into Polish and English, and photos of the grave markers. The database will help residents of Brzesko better understand the history of their town, and descendants of Brzesko Jews, with whom the Association maintains contact, to find more graves of their ancestors.

The Bunker of Memory Lapidarium: a commemorative/ educational project

The cemetery in Oświęcim was almost completely destroyed during the war. After it ended, thanks to the efforts of a handful of Survivors, only some of the matzevahs were restored to the cemetery. One of the remnants of the war period is a concrete bunker. In 2023, the concept was developed of converting it into a commemorative/ educational project, the Bunker of Memory. On its walls the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation placed 36 fragments of gravestones that had been preserved. The installation/lapidarium is a continuation of earlier activities around the bunker, and additional matzevahs found during the cleanup work at the cemetery will be set in concrete plinths.



Rawicz Synagogue Square: commemorating the Rawicz Jewish community

In 2008 and 2018, during archeological work and a restructuring of the layout of Rawicz, the foundations of the town’s synagogue were discovered, along with rubble from its walls and fragments of matzevahs from the cemetery. These discoveries inspired the Restoring Memory Together campaign, coordinated by the Museum of the Rawicz Region, which aims to preserve elements of Jewish heritage in the town. The goal of the Rawicz Synagogue Square project was to commemorate the Rawicz Jewish community by marking the place where until 1941 the synagogue stood. The commemoration is accompanied by educational projects, comprising lectures and walking tours showing the Jewish history of Rawicz.



Apt, the town that is no more

The installation *Apt, the town that is no more* refers directly to places from the work of Mayer Kirshenblatt, a self-taught painter who was born the city that’s known as Opatów in Polish, and Apt in Yiddish. In 1934, Kirshenblatt emigrated to Canada, where many years later he decided to immortalize on canvas the world of his childhood, which had disappeared forever. The Society of Friends of the Opatów Region plans to recreate this world in the form of three-dimensional structures with elements of the paintings and a mural, and illuminations on the wall of a building in Opatów.

Marking the boundaries of the Otwock ghetto

The ghetto in Otwock was the second-largest in Warsaw district; in less than two years, more than 14,000 people passed through it. The ghetto was liquidated on August 19, 1942, and Otwock’s Jews were deported and murdered in the Treblinka extermination camp. The goal of the project was to mark, in the public space, the boundaries of the ghetto with plaques, commemorating in this way a tragic chapter in the town’s history.



Synagogue

The goal of the project was to commemorate the place in Rogowo where the synagogue stood until 1936. The Rogowo Library’s collections include a digitized copy of the sale contract for the synagogue, and an original Star of David from it, which was placed on a commemorative stone along with a plaque in Polish and Hebrew.

Plaque to commemorate Jews deported from the Sokołów Podlaski train station to the Treblinka extermination camp

The purpose of installing a plaque commemorating Jews deported from Sokołów’s train station to Treblinka is to restore the memory of the people for whom the station marked the start of the road to death. The ceremonial unveiling will take place on September 22, 2024, the 82nd anniversary of the liquidation of the Sokołów ghetto.

Well of Memory: the Wąchock Stereoscopic Theater

The Municipal Cultural Center in Wąchock will commemorate the town’s Jewish community by showing prewar photos in a stereoscopic theater. It will be set up on the market square at the site of a well, where at one time all residents drew water regardless of ethnicity or faith.



During workshops for children in the Płońsk Memorial House, the history of the pre-war Płońsk cap makers and shoemakers was discovered, and the traditions of Purim were presented.

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Restoring the memory of the former Jewish community in Płońsk: educational workshops in the Płońsk Memorial House

The Municipal Cultural Center in Płońsk is holding a series of educational workshops for residents about the city’s Jewish community. The workshops are held in a historic residential building, restored for the use of the Memorial House, where in 2023 a permanent exhibition on Płońsk’s Jews opened.



Streets enchanted with history

The primary goal of the project is to interest residents of Białystok and the Podlasie region in physical evidence of the presence of Jews in Podlaskie province. The organizers wish to highlight the beauty of both secular and sacred Jewish architecture in the region. To do so, they will organize a photography competition covering the entire province, culminating in an exhibition, a walking tour exploring traces of Jewish heritage in Białystok, as well as a series of educational meetings for children on Jewish culture and religion.

Slippery Slope: The tragic fate of Sosnowiec Jews during World War II, part II

The Bliżej Marzeń Foundation wants to distribute *Slippery Slope*, a film it produced on the tragic fate of Jews from the city of Sosnowiec during World War II, to an audience with visual impairment that restrict their access to the visual arts, and thus their level of cultural activity. For this purpose, audio descriptions and typhlographs will be produced for the film. The Foundation will also organize educational workshops and a guided tour for visually impaired children and youth, and educational materials will be made available to secondary and tertiary schools.

The Jewish Open University: a program of educational events

The Jewish Open University offers interdisciplinary activities related to Jewish culture: lectures, workshops and meetings for everyone who’s interested in Jewish history and culture and wants to deepen their knowledge of philosophy, theater, literature or visual arts. The goal of the activities is education on Jewish culture, with regard both to its traditional dimension and to modern culture and contemporary Jewish heritage. In 2024, two JOU semesters are planned, made up of about 70 lectures.

A journey to the past: permanent exhibition on the fence of the Jewish cemetery in Warta

The Ireneusz Ślipek Association plans to place information boards on the outside of the cemetery fence, with photos and information on the most important events and places related to the history of the cemetery and Warta’s Jews. They will make up a permanent educational exhibition allowing a type of journey into the town’s past, both for residents of Warta and for visitors. On the inside, the Association plans to post information about the former Jewish cemetery in Błaszki: a lapidarium made up of pieces of matzevahs from the cemetery, found several months earlier during the building of a local road, is currently found in Warta.

Memory Lessons: a series of youth meetings

The Tygodnik Powszechny Foundation is organizing a series of 10 educational events in cultural centers in Małopolska province for secondary-school students, during which historians and people working to recover the memory of Polish Jews conduct “Memory Lessons.” The events are intended to interest youth in an often ignored part of their local history and encourage them to look for traces of the Jewish community in their area. The events open with a screening of the documentary film *Edge of Light*, directed by Wojciech Szumowski, which describes the restoration of the Jewish cemetery in the town of Czarny Dunajec by the athlete Dariusz Popiela. The film provides a starting point for a discussion with young people about how they can help build awareness and social sensitivity in their area.

PROJECT DONORS:
· Urszula and Wiesław Żyznowski



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11th Zbliżenia Jewish Culture Festival

The Zbliżenia Jewish Culture Festival is Pomerania’s biggest Jewish cultural event, and has been held since 2014. The 11th edition included exhibitions, concerts, lectures and culinary workshops, popularizing Jewish cultural traditions. Many festival events took place in the New Synagogue in Gdańsk, helping maintain the memory of this historic place.



Disturb the silence

The project is intended to familiarize the residents of Limanowa with the culture and heritage of the Jewish community from the surrounding area. The artists Andrzej Ciepliński (clarinet), Piotr Zimnik (double bass) and Piotr Przedbora (guitar) will present a program of arrangements of original prewar sheet music belonging to Jews from Limanowa and Nowy Sącz. The transcriptions of traditional melodies, sheet music notebooks of Jewish music students, and materials from the collections of ensembles that operated in Limanowa and Nowy Sącz will also be presented to Limanovans in a multimedia format during the lecture preceding the concert. It will be the first event of its kind in Limanowa.

Szenwic: one family’s story

The Nobiscum Foundation prepared a temporary exhibition presenting the Szenwic family, which had ties to Płock, and whose members included distinguished members of the local community. They included Chaskiel Szenwic (1906–1943), an engineer who worked on the Płock power plant; Dawid Szenwic (1890–1920), one of the heroes who fell defending the city during the Polish-Soviet War; and Feliks Szenwic (1891–1936), a lawyer and professor of Roman law.

Shtetl Falenica – Otwock Line Jewish Culture Festival, first edition

The Ner Tamid Foundation organized the first Otwock Line Jewish Culture Festival. The program included exhibitions, film screenings, meetings, workshops and walking tours. The festival’s goal was to spread knowledge and maintain the memory of the Jewish community in Falenica and along the rail line that stretches southeast from Warsaw through Otwock, as well as promotion of traditional and contemporary Jewish culture.

PROJECT DONOR:

- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw

Common heritage: Jewish social organizations in Białystok

Prewar Białystok was full of dynamic Jewish organizations. Not many people are aware of how rich Białystok’s social life was before World War II; in fact, many prewar initiatives could serve as a model for NGOs today. The “SocLab” Laboratory of Research and Social Action Foundation brought their history to light through an open-air exhibition. The prewar organizations were shown in the context of the concepts of civil society and civic activism, while Białystok residents were reminded of a little-known page in their city’s history.

PROJECT DONOR:

- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw

Meetings with Jewish Culture Festival

The Meetings with Jewish Culture Festival aims to remind the residents of Chełm about the centuries-long presence of Jews in their city. One important aspect of the event is collaboration with the descendants of Chełm Jews: the festival will start with a joint Shabbat meal for them and local residents. There are also guided tours, concerts and discussion panels planned.

PROJECT DONOR:

- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw

Against prejudices: 85th anniversary of the Polenaktion deportation

The year 2023 marked the 85th anniversary of the Polenaktion, the deportation of Polish Jews from Germany to Zbąszyń. For the local community, this event was hugely significant. The town of 4,000 people took in about 8,000 deportees overnight. This anniversary also has great significance for the living descendants of the rescued Jews, who visit Zbąszyń to seek traces of their families’ time there. Since 2008 the TRES Foundation has maintained zbaszyn1938.pl, a bilingual portal with a searchable database of documents related to the deportees’ stay in Zbąszyń. The goal of the project was to add new documents to the database and the publication of a bilingual catalog for an exhibition mounted in the old train station. The anniversary was also accompanied by workshops for youth, a show and an educational session for teachers and educators.



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21st Camera of David Warsaw Jewish Film Festival

The Camera of David Warsaw Jewish Film Festival has carved out a place for itself in Warsaw's cultural calendar. Every year, as part of the festival we can enjoy a selection of films on Jewish subjects from around the world. During the 21st edition of the festival around 25 films were presented.

Shtetl dance show

The Konin Dance Theatre's show *Shtetl* / שטעטל tells the story of the Konin Jewish community based on Theo Richmond's book *Konin: A Quest*. The interpretation of the work, presented through movement, words and gesture, is a journey in search of people who are no longer with us. The purpose of the production is to celebrate the prewar life of the local Jewish community and to make Konin residents aware of what a significant role Konin's Jews played in the development of the city's economy and infrastructure.

Remembering the Tuszyn Jewish community

The Atelier of Skills Foundation organized a series of events aimed at increasing Tuszyn residents' awareness of the history and culture of their towns' Jews, and thus restoring the memory of the community. The program included a historical walking tour of Jewish Tuszyn; a ceremony at the Jewish cemetery, during which the names of members of the prewar Jewish community were read out; and a concert by the CLIL Jewish choir.

The 8th Jewish Culture Days were devoted to the cultural heritage of Jews in Upper Silesia, and the main theme was the restoration of memory.



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Jewish Culture Days

Through presentations of the history of Upper Silesia's Jews, the Max Kopfstein Association wanted to show how great their influence was on the region's culture, industry, scholarship and social and political life. This work is particularly important in the context of acts of vandalism that occurred in Upper Silesian Jewish cemeteries in 2023. The event comprised a range of activities, including meetings with authors, workshops, guided tours, pervasive games that followed the traces of Upper Silesia's Jews, and weekend seminar for teachers.

Despite It All – Shalom

The EDM Foundation has for many years cultivated the memory of Orla's Jewish residents and of its synagogue. As part of the Jewish Culture Days, organized in 2023, visitors could take part in events including lectures, culinary workshops and concerts.

Pardes Festival – Encounters with Jewish Culture: Kazimierz Dolny, Zamość

The Pardes Festival is restoring the memory of the multicultural heritage of the cities and towns: Kazimierz Dolny, Zamość and Lublin. The 12th edition of the festival, planned for September 2024, will be yet another opportunity to take part in a range of events: tours, concerts and meetings with artists devoted to the history of Jews in the Lublin region.

Motl, Peysi the Cantor's Son: exhibition of work by children from the I.L. Peretz School

The Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre partnered with Lublin's Youth Culture House to prepare an exhibition of more than 30 drawings illustrating the Sholem Aleichem book *Motl, Peysi the Cantor's Son*. The works were created before World War II by students from the I.L. Peretz School, a Yiddish-language secular Jewish institution in Lublin. The location of the exhibition was also significant: 11 Grodzka Street, the former site of a Jewish home for orphans and the elderly, which functioned in Lublin until 1942 and is now the home of the Youth Culture House.

PROJECT DONOR:
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw

Cultural program centered on an exhibition on Breslauer Jews

For many residents of the city of Wrocław, the history of the prewar city – previously known as Breslau – including the fate of the local Jews, remains an area that is not spoken about; it's taboo. The Akcelerator Obywatelski Spark Foundation seeks to break down this barrier, showing Wrocławians that less than 100 years ago there was a sizable Jewish community here, which is told of in the exhibition *Putting Things Back / Odkładając rzeczy na miejsce*. The goal of the cultural program is to allow visitors to better and more enduringly take in the exhibition. The plans include guided city tours, visits to the exhibition with curators and experts, and meetings with the descendants of Jewish residents of prewar Breslau.

The Golden Palm: a Jewish house in the center of Wrocław

The Lower Silesian Public Library is found in the Golden Palm House, which was owned by the Priebatsch family – assimilated Wrocław Jews. The project aims to spread knowledge about the building, the lives of its owners, and the merits of other Jewish-built buildings in downtown Wrocław. The project comprises a lecture, artistic workshops on similar buildings in Wrocław, a historical walking tour and an exhibition devoted to the architecture of Jewish-built apartment houses.

They lived here for centuries: actions to promote knowledge about Kcynia's Jewish community

Kcynia's Jewish community lived in the town from the beginning of the 16th century. Currently, the only material traces of its existence are the matzevahs collected at the Jewish cemetery, which the Jan Czochralski Primary School plans to inventory and publish a brochure devoted to them with translations of inscriptions and photographs. Lectures for students will also be organized, combined with workshops on the symbolism of matzevahs and Jewish funeral customs.

Truly this was a house of God: the synagogue in Tarnowskie Góry

The Tarnowskie Góry Museum plans to organize a temporary exhibition where artifacts discovered during archeological research in 2021, at the site where the synagogue stood from 1864 to 1939, will be presented to the public for the first time. The exhibition will be accompanied by images of the now-destroyed house of prayer, Judaica from the Tarnowskie Góry Museum's collections and other institutions, as well as photographs from the archeological work and a 3D visualization of the synagogue from the collections of the Gliwicka 66 Association.

→

Party at Mietek Wajnberg's: revitalizing the building at 66 Żelazna Street, third edition

Party at Mietek Wajnberg's is an open-air event organized since 2021. Every year, Varsovians are invited to the residential building at 66 Żelazna Street in their city's Wola district, where in 1919 the outstanding composer Mieczysław Wajnberg came into the world. Once a year, the abandoned and neglected house changes into a place full of life: a stage for music and a site for meetings, discussions and dance. The third edition of the event focused on the theme of prewar Warsaw entertainment spots, where the teenage Wajnberg worked. This year's Party recreated the atmosphere of the evenings Varsovians spent in fashionable locales, listening to exceptional artists and dancing the foxtrot, the Charleston and the shimmy.

We were from Grodzisk: The Gryc and Wencel families

The Nowa Kultura i Edukacja Association plans to prepare an exhibition about the Gryc and Wencel families, who had their origins in Grodzisk Mazowiecki, and founded the Grodzisker Mutual Aid Society to help fellow immigrants after moving to the U.S. This is another stage in a project that aims to present to the local community historically important figures and families of Jewish origin.





From left: Piotr Wiślicki, Krystyna Budnicka, Marian Turski, Aleksander Skotnicki, Joanna Fikus, Wojciech Ornat, Henryk Skarżyński, Marian Kalwary, Hanna Machińska, Jacek Leociak, Ewa Budek, Róża Król, Andrzej Folwarczny, Konstanty Gebert

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Medal

The Association of Jewish Veterans and Victims of World War II brings together the oldest generation of Jews: those who survived the Holocaust. For many years, the JHI Association has helped fund the organization's ongoing operations. Since 2022 the Association has co-organized the presentation ceremony for the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Medal, awarded to individuals for services to Polish-Jewish dialog and engagement in commemorating the history and culture of Polish Jews.

In 2023, to mark the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the new Medal was designed by Prof. Hanna Jelonek, and produced by the Mint of Poland. For the occasion a short film dedicated to the process of creating the medal was created, available via this QR code.



During a ceremony, the Medal was awarded to 12 people: Ewa Budek, Krystyna Budnicka, Andrzej Folwarczny, Konstanty Gebert, Jan Tomasz Gross, Róża Król, Jacek Leociak, Hanna Machińska, Wojciech Ornat, Aleksander Skotnicki and Henryk Skarżyński. A Special Award was presented to Marian Kalwary, the longtime president of the Association of Jewish Veterans and Victims of World War II.



From left: Roselyne Chroman Swig, POLIN Museum donor and Member of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, Starlet "Star" Jones Lugo, Chair of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and Natalia Romik, SENNA Kolektyw designer

Symbolic grave of the Oneg Shabbat group

In cooperation with the Jewish Community of Warsaw, the Association unveiled a symbolic grave for the members of the Oneg Shabbat group at the Jewish cemetery on Okopowa Street in the Polish capital. The monument, designed by the SENNA Kolektyw (Natalia Romik, Sebastian Kucharuk, Piotr Jakoweńko, Maciej Czeredys), is Warsaw's first site honoring the Oneg Shabbat heroes by name. Of the dozens-strong group, only three survived the war. With the symbolic grave, the Association and the Jewish Community pay honor to the members of the group whose final resting place is unknown. The unveiling of the monument was preceded by a panel discussion jointly organized with the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, during which the SENNA Kolektyw

designers, Beata Chomątowska and moderator Bogna Świątkowska discussed the subject of invisibility and visibility in Polish commemorations.

The unveiling was also accompanied by the launch of a short film, available via this QR code.



- PROJECT DONORS:
- U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad
 - Tramiel family
 - Donors to the Ringelblum Archive Commemoration



Part III

Fundraising

Looking back at 2023, we see the generous supporters and engaged partners who stand behind every important moment, every reason to celebrate. We are grateful to everyone who has supported us in continuing our mission.

BARTOSZ DYMAREK
Development Director



Fundraising

The Development Department is responsible for the Association’s fundraising activities and maintains contact with a large group of Polish and foreign donors, both individual and institutional. Additionally, the Department coordinates the Association’s image-building activities.

In 2023, we raised a total of more than PLN 9.2 million, including:

more than
PLN 1.2 million
for other statutory activities**

more than
PLN 7.5 million
for POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews*



more than
PLN 500,000
for the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute

* Includes funds received in the account of American Friends of POLIN Museum.
** Includes funds designated for fundraising.

WE REMEMBERED TOGETHER: 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING



←
Marian Turski speaking during the official observances

→
From left: Michèle Taylor – United States Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council, Starlet “Star” Jones Lugo – Chair of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad and Ellen Germain – the U.S. Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues

The official observances of the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising provided a special opportunity to meet with numerous members of the community of our donors and friends from Poland and around the world, who had come to Warsaw to honor the heroes and victims of the Uprising with us. Along with them, many special guests and delegations arrived in the city, including two groups organized by foreign-based committees of support for POLIN Museum.

A special anniversary delegation organized by American Friends of POLIN Museum, in cooperation with the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, POLIN Museum and the Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning, brought together 21 outstanding individuals, led by two members of the American Friends board, Elizabeth Szancer and Shana Penn. The five-day program for the group was rich in

uplifting and touching moments, which our visitors will certainly remember for a long time. The American Friends delegation helped build new relationships and financial support for POLIN Museum and the Jewish Historical Institute. The group continues to stay in touch with the Museum both online and at meetings in New York and San Francisco.

We are exceptionally grateful to the members of the American Friends of POLIN Museum Board of Directors who visited Warsaw for the anniversary observances to join us in this historic event.

An eight-member delegation of the European Committee for the Support of POLIN Museum, under the leadership of Distinguished Benefactor Corinne Evens, had an equally intensive program during their several-day visit covering the most important anniversary events.

→
From left: Katarzyna Jordan-Kulczyk, POLIN Museum Distinguished Benefactors Grzegorz Jankilewicz and Robert Wereda, Zygmunt Stępiński



↑
With representatives of the Claims Conference – donors of POLIN Museum’s temporary exhibition *Around Us a Sea of Fire*. From left: Małgorzata Quinkenstein, Bartosz Dymarek and Rüdiger Mahlo

←
From left: Shana Penn – Executive Director of Taube Philanthropies, Piotr Wiślicki, Ronald S. Lauder – President of the World Jewish Congress and First Donor of POLIN Museum, Elizabeth Szancer – Board Member of the American Friends of POLIN Museum and Sean Taube – Distinguished Benefactor of POLIN Museum



The American Friends delegation helped build new relationships and financial support for POLIN Museum and the Jewish Historical Institute. The group continues to stay in touch with the Museum both online and at meetings in New York and San Francisco.



Members of the American Friends delegation with representatives of POLIN Museum and the Association

American Friends of POLIN Museum Board Members laying a wreath at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes. From left: Elizabeth Szancer, Roman Rewald, Shana Penn



Marian Turski and Irene Kronhill Pletka – POLIN Museum Distinguished Benefactor



From left: Zygmunt Stępiński, Andrzej Rojek – President of the American Friends of POLIN Museum and Marek Nowakowski – Member of the Association's Board

Igor Tartakovsky and Anita Friedman – President of the Koret Foundation, POLIN Museum Distinguished Benefactor



Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Olaf Scholz and Minister of Finance, Christian Lindner in a conversation with Holocaust survivors Margot Friedländer and Marian Turski

Thanks to the efforts of Marian Turski, just before the observances of the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising we received from representatives of the German government an official confirmation of their intention to donate €1 million for POLIN Museum’s educational activities in 2024. This support is crucial: it will allow the Museum to continue its educational program after the Norwegian grant runs out.

The Donors Council was created in 2015 at the initiative of nine Distinguished Benefactors of POLIN Museum, who became its first members. The Council sets itself the goal of advising the Association Management Board on POLIN Museum’s fundraising strategy.



The Distinguished Benefactors support the Association in its contacts with Jewish communities abroad, opinion leaders and potential new donors. Since 2016 the Donors Council has financed the Association’s fundraising activities. This support is key to our efforts in this area.

MEMBERS OF THE DONORS COUNCIL:

- Tad Taube
- Sigmund Rolat
- Anita Friedman
- Irene Kronhill Pletka
- Ygal Ozechov
- Corinne Evens
- Andrzej Rojek

DONORS AND VIP VISITS

From left: Clara, Victor and Monika Markowicz – POLIN Museum Distinguished Benefactors



Visit of First Lady of Poland, Agata Kornhauser-Duda and Cheryl Fishbein



With the Museum donors: Jamie, Genevieve, Liliana and Stephen Kusmierczak



From left: Wolf Blitzer – CNN journalist, Mark Brzezinski – Ambassador of the United States to Poland and Marian Turski

David Zaslav – CEO, Warner Bros. Discovery during the ceremony of including Warner brothers in the Legacy gallery at POLIN Museum



BIDDING FAREWELL TO A DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR



With great sorrow, in 2023 we bid farewell to Nimrod S. Ariav, a Friend and Distinguished Benefactor of POLIN Museum. With a connection to Bełżyce, where he worked tirelessly to preserve the memory of the Jewish community, he leaves behind a tremendous legacy of many years of work for wise, mature education and Polish-Jewish relations. Since late 2014, he supported the Museum’s educational program, including Polish-Israeli cooperation and local activities in the Lublin region. Along with his family, he was one of the donors of monetary prizes for the annual POLIN Award.

The goal of American Friends of POLIN Museum is to find donors for POLIN Museum programs and its broad promotion in the U.S. and Canada.



ANDRZEJ ROJEK
President, American Friends of POLIN Museum

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF POLIN MUSEUM

In 2023, two new members joined the Board of American Friends of POLIN Museum – Hilda Chazanovitz and Stuart Schear.



HILDA CHAZANOVITZ

Holding executive marketing roles, Hilda’s career includes the launch of National Geographic Channel in the US. Her media and technology expertise has supported Viewer’s Choice, The Disney Channel, Viacom and clients abroad. Hilda’s successful consulting practice of 25 years included nonprofits: YIVO, Lord Cultural Resources, The Anti-Defamation League, The Jewish Museum, UJA-Federation of New York, and The Gordon Parks Foundation. She is a well-respected public speaker, facilitator, coach and writer.

The daughter of Holocaust survivors, Hilda has been restoring the Jewish history in her ancestral city of Radom since 2014 with local partners and the Forum for Dialogue in Warsaw.



STUART SCHEAR

Stuart has served in national and global leadership roles in communications, marketing and grantmaking for some of the most highly regarded foundations and non-profits, including American Jewish World Service, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

He has long had a strong interest in the history and culture of the Jews of Poland and Eastern Europe. As an undergraduate, he studied Yiddish language and literature and Jewish history at Columbia University and the YIVO Institute. In the 1980s, he served as the researcher for the documentary *A Different World: Poland’s Jews 1919–1943*, part of the TV series *The Struggles for Poland*. More recently, he served on the board of the YIVO Institute and has traveled to Poland several times to pursue his own research.

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Andrzej Rojek – President
- Sigmund Rolat – Co-Chair
- Victor Markowicz – Co-Chair
- Roman Rewald – Treasurer
- David Goldman – Secretary (through March 2023)
- Samantha Rolat Asulin – Member
- Hilda Chazanovitz – Member (from July 2023)
- Anita Friedman – Member
- Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett – Member
- Izabela Grocholski – Member
- Cantor Joseph Malovany – Member
- Irene Kronhill Pletka – Member
- Shana Penn – Member
- Stuart Schear – Member (from November 2023)
- Rabbi Arthur Schneier – Member
- Elizabeth Szancer – Member
- Jerzy Warman – Member



↑

Special event in partnership with Christie’s

After the success of the auction of the Ewa Juszkiewicz painting in 2022, American Friends of POLIN Museum continued cultivating its relationship with the New York branch of Christie’s auction house, joining forces to organize a meeting with Natalia Romik, a scholar, architect, curator of POLIN Museum temporary exhibitions and member of the Association. The meeting was held at Christie’s and intended for the community of POLIN Museum friends and donors in and around New York.

Series of meetings in cooperation with the
Stephen Wise Free Synagogue

In 2023, at the initiative of American Friends Board Member Elizabeth Szancer, we initiated a series of three virtual meetings for the community of New York’s Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, to which we also invited other friends of POLIN Museum. The first meeting, with Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Professor Pamela Nadell, took up the crucial subject of the role of museums in the fight against antisemitism, based on POLIN Museum’s example. A further two meetings are planned for 2024.

In 2023 POLIN Museum received an exceptional gift: a collection of memorabilia of Helena Rubinstein, the Kraków-born pioneer of the cosmetics industry who is also known for her boldness and incisiveness in collecting works of art, her homes’ interior decoration and her fashion choices.



↑

Collection of memorabilia of Helena Rubinstein

The donor of this outstanding connection was Rubinstein’s step-granddaughter Suzanne Slesin. This gift would not have been possible without the engagement of Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and American Friends of POLIN Museum, which commissioned the cataloguing of the entire collection before it was transferred to the Museum.

LIST OF ASSOCIATION
DONORS IN
2023*

SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATION’S STATUTORY ACTIVITY	
Koret Foundation	Stuart Shear
Jakub Gruszczyński	Jacek Strzelecki
Adam Kwiatkowski	Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies
Wojciech Libner	U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad
Andrzej Ożyło and Bernadeta Olbrycht-Ożyło	Piotr Wiślicki
Irene Kronhill Pletka	60 donors who contributed 1.5% of their Polish income tax payment
Andrzej and Małgorzata Rojek	
SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATION’S GRANTS PROGRAM	
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Warsaw	
Two anonymous donors	
Przemysław Schmidt	
Anna Tanalska-Dulęba	
Urszula and Wiesław Żyznowski	
SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATION’S STATUTORY ACTIVITY IN THE FORM OF PRO BONO SERVICES	
DeBenedetti Majewski Szcześniak Kancelaria Prawnicza Sp.K.	
Kancelaria prawnicza Kochański & Partners	
Weil, Gotshal & Manges	
KPMG	

* All donors of PLN 500 or more supporting the Association’s statutory activities.

SUPPORT FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH POLIN MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS	
D O N O R	F R I E N D S
Anonymous donor	Anonymous donors
	Wiktor Askanas and Ewa Masny-Askanas
	The Odette and Nimrod S. Ariav Foundation
Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”	“To się uda” Foundation and 215 donors on the zrzutka.pl portal
German Federal Ministry of Finance	Kyryl Golobrodskiy and Iryna Filatova
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany	Kancelaria GESSEL
Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies	Marina and Andrew Lewin
	Małgorzata and Grzegorz Markowski
	Merida Sp. z o.o.
The Azrieli Foundation	Anna Joanna Michalczuk
The David Berg Foundation	Ministry of Culture and National Heritage from the Culture Promotion Fund – a state-earmarked fund
Ruth and Michael Fletcher	Agata Młynarska-Schmidt
The Citi Handlowy Leopold Kronenberg Foundation	The Neubauer Family Foundation – Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer and Joe Neubauer
The Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation	Adriana Niecko and Dariusz Nalepa
Heinrich Böll Stiftung	Marek and Agnieszka Nowakowski
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung	Magdalena Opacka
	Monika and Tomasz Skrok
	Hieronim Sokółski
	Tomek Ulatowski
	Aleksandra Wilczura
	Wydawnictwo Czarne
SUPPORT FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH THE EMANUEL RINGELBLUM JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE	
D O N O R	F R I E N D S
Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies	Anonymous donor
	Bartosz Ogrodowczyk



Part IV

Financial Report

Last year, the Association increased both our income and our expenditures, not only maintaining financial stability but also achieving gains, the majority of which are designated for joint projects with our partners in future years. This would not be possible without the help of our donors.



MICHAŁ MAJEWSKI
Operations Director

Financial Report

Last year the Association’s financial situation remained very good. Not only did we manage to gather funds that guarantee stability, but we also ensured funding for joint projects with our partners in future years. The Association continued its policy, concentrating on the following areas:



Supporting POLIN Museum’s activities by carrying out joint projects



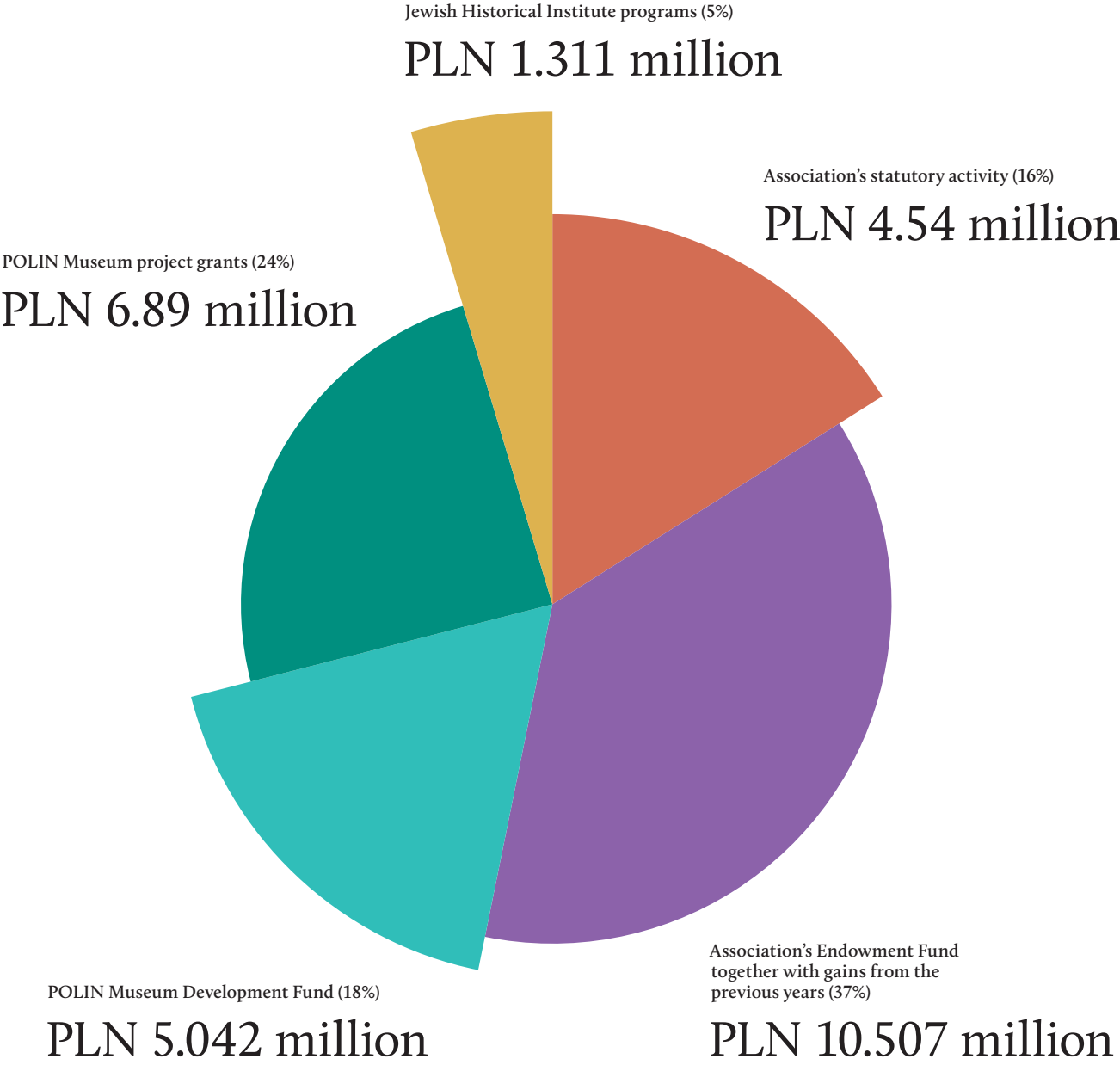
Supporting the activities of the Jewish Historical Institute by carrying out joint projects



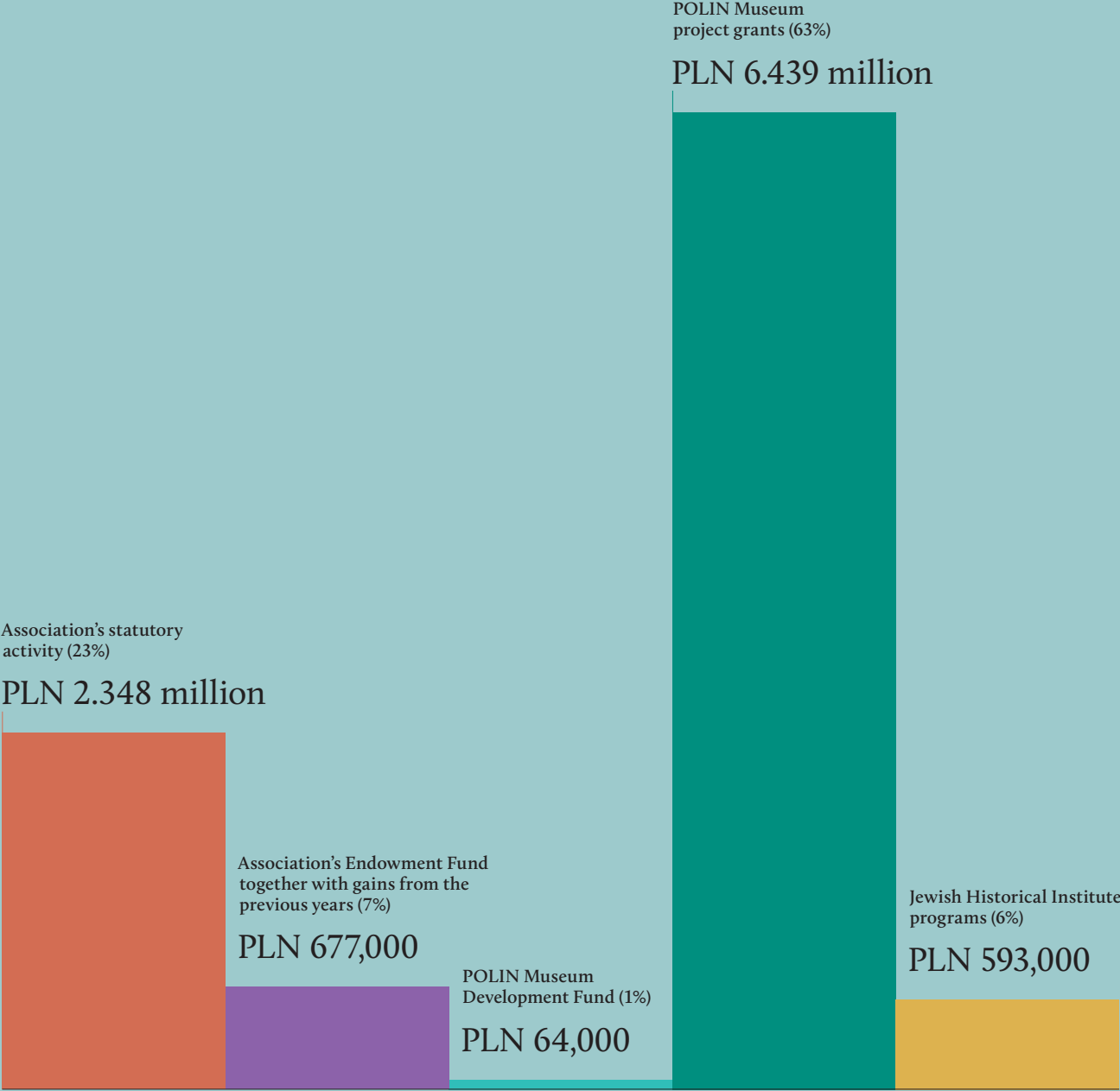
Supporting the activities of other organizations within the Grants Program and special projects

These fields of activity are reflected in the financial statements presented on the following pages.

Funds on the Association’s accounts as of January 1, 2023: PLN 28.29 million

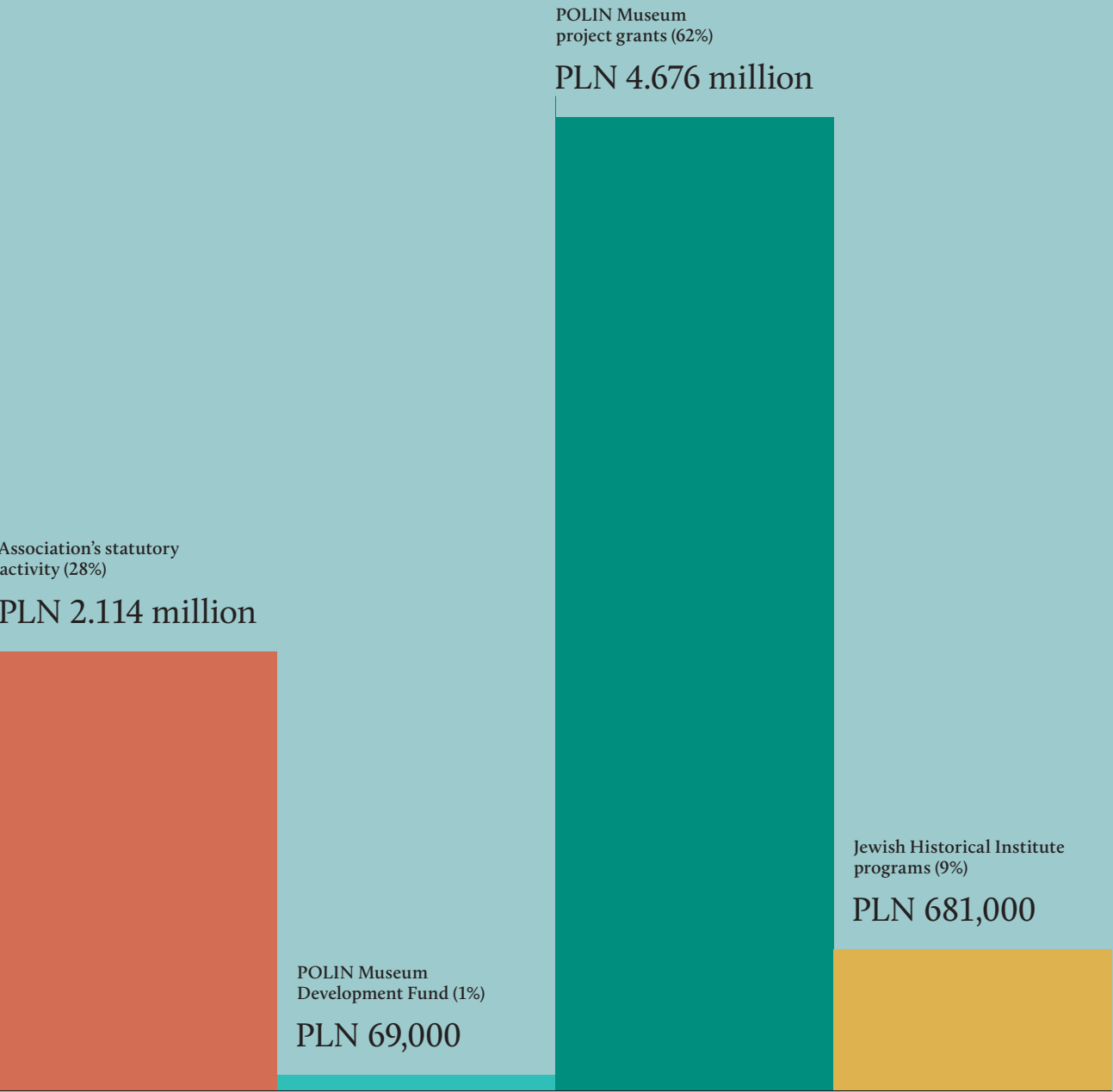


REVENUE IN 2023



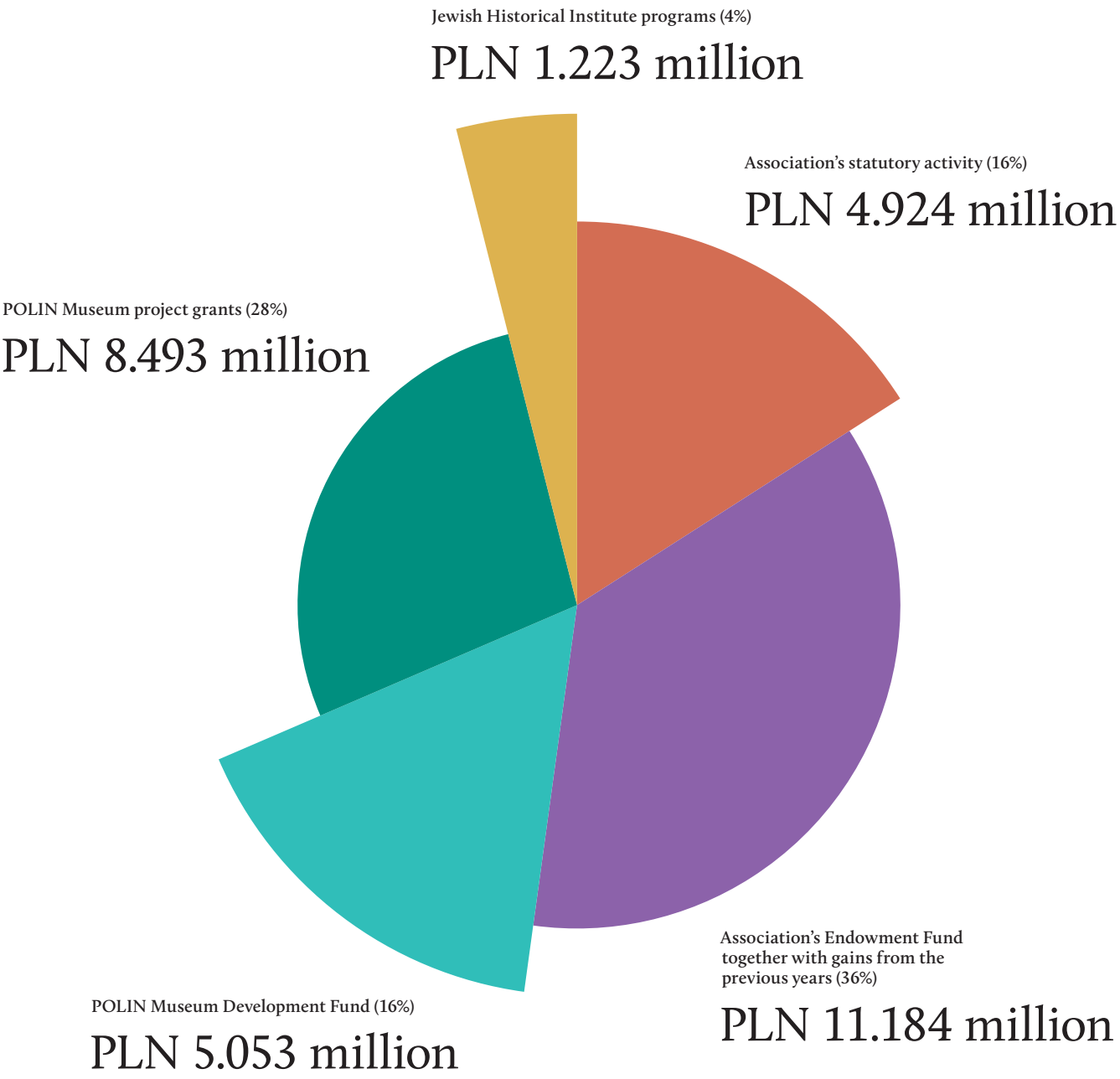
Monetary donations from Poland and around the world are the Association’s main source of revenue. Additionally, the Endowment Fund’s bank deposits and investments have generated gains that we can designate for our statutory activity. Total revenue was PLN 10.121 million.

EXPENSES IN 2023



The Association’s greatest expenses are the costs of joint projects carried out with our main partners, POLIN Museum and the Jewish Historical Institute, as well as support for smaller organizations through the Association’s Grants Program. Such expenses totaled PLN 7.54 million.

Funds on the Association’s accounts as of December 31, 2023: PLN 30.877 million



The Endowment Fund was established in 2022 by a decision of the Annual Meeting of Association Members and designated for long-term investments, with the gains to finance the Association’s statutory goals. It is managed by mBank and the Franklin Templeton Investment Fund, based on an investment policy developed by the Association’s Finance Committee and accepted by the Annual Meeting.

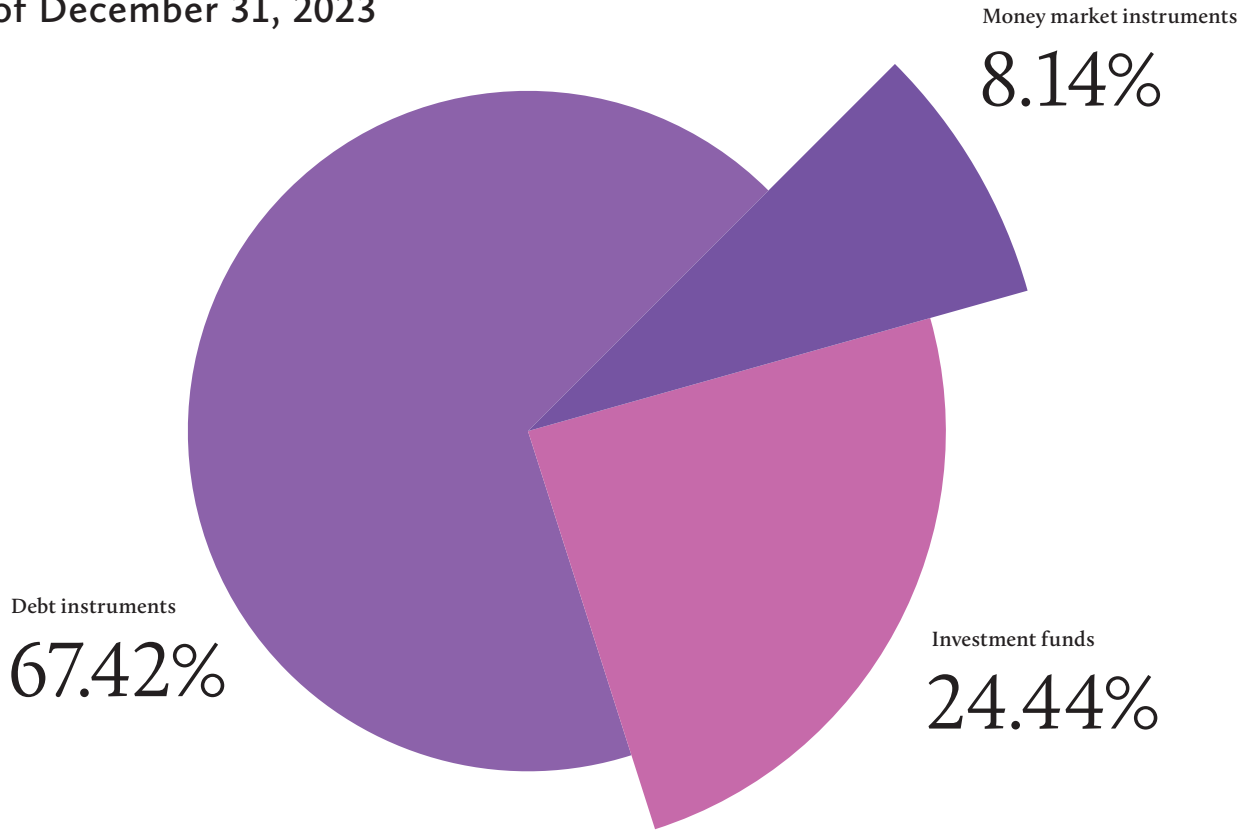


mBank is a leading Polish bank and a champion of advanced IT solutions, and its brokerage house has received numerous awards, including from *Forbes*, for having the best research. mBank’s controlling shareholder is Commerzbank.



Franklin Templeton is a leading American fund management organization with 75 years of history. It manages investments worth more than \$1.6 billion, in more than 200 funds.

Endowment Fund investment portfolio
as of December 31, 2023



Capital structure

Endowment Fund

PLN 10.2 million



Gains in 2022 (3.47%)

PLN 307,000

Gains in 2023 (6.67%)*

PLN 677,000



* Gains obtained after converting all financial instruments into PLN.
Gains from financial instruments invested in currencies are: USD – 4.15%; PLN – 8.05%.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 2023 (PLN)

	Opening balance on 1.01.2023	Income*	Expenditures*	Balance on 31.12.2023
	A	B	C	D = A + B – C
I. Association statutory activities (excluding points II, III and IV)	4,539,820	2,348,151	2,113,294	4,774,677
1. Operating costs of statutory activity	.	0	497,288	.
2. Grants Program	.	57,342	349,288	.
3. Support for other organizations	.	87,856	189,707	.
4. Fundraising and promotion	.	581,003	876,146	.
5. Other income and expenditure	.	1,621,949	200,866	.
II. Endowment Fund	10,507,002	676,652	0	11,183,654
III. Support for POLIN Museum's activities	11,932,587	6,502,809	4,745,632	13,689,764
1. POLIN Museum Development Fund	.	63,576	69,594	.
2. POLIN Museum project grants	.	6,439,233	4,676,037	.
IV. Support for the Jewish Historical Institute's activities	1,310,924	593,389	680,624	1,223,689
TOTAL	28,290,333	10,121,002	7,539,551	30,871,784

* Includes transfers between categories as agreed with partners, and returns of unused funds.
1 USD = 3.935 PLN (rate as per December 29, 2023)

The annual financial and operational reports and the audit results are available at:

www.szih.org.pl/en/about-us/reports/

Legal services for the Association were provided by the DMS law firm. In the area of tax law the Association was also supported by the law firm Kochański & Partners, and in the area of American law by Weil, Gotshal & Manges.

Financial statement audits and tax advice were provided by KPMG.

I. EXPENSES RELATED TO THE ASSOCIATION’S OTHER STATUTORY ACTIVITY
(UNRELATED TO SUPPORT FOR POLIN MUSEUM AND JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE):

- 1. OPERATING COSTS OF STATUTORY ACTIVITY**
Daily functioning of the Association office, including wages, legal and financial services and audits, and costs of meetings and correspondence with Association members.

2. GRANTS PROGRAM
In 2023, the Jan Jagielski Grants Committee awarded 44 grants for projects related to the history and culture of Polish Jews as part of the Grants Program. See pages 48–65.

3. SUPPORT FOR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
In 2023 the Association supported projects of other organizations. See page 66–67.
- 4. FUNDRAISING AND PROMOTION**
Promotion of the Association, POLIN Museum, and the Jewish Historical Institute; fundraising; reports. The Donors Council finances the Association’s fundraising and promotion budget in the form of designated gifts. See pages 70–83 about the Association’s fundraising activities.

5. OTHER INCOME AND EXPENDITURES
Income designated for the Association’s statutory activity, interest on bank deposits and also the costs of foreign-exchange conversion and other expenditures not elsewhere classified, including transfers between categories.

II. ENDOWMENT FUND. Funds from the return of value-added tax and interest on bank deposits, which by a decision of the Annual Meeting of Association Members as of June 12, 2022 were transformed into the Endowment Fund.

III. EXPENSES RELATED TO SUPPORT OF POLIN MUSEUM’S PROGRAMMING ACTIVITY:

- 1. POLIN MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT FUND**
Financing through the POLIN Museum Development Fund of contributions to projects carried out by POLIN Museum and jointly by the Association and the Museum, co-financed with public funds, and support for projects carried out by POLIN Museum in cooperation with Jewish organizations, as well as projects related to modernization of the Core Exhibition. The projects are described on pages 26–39.
- 2. POLIN MUSEUM PROJECT GRANTS**
Support for POLIN Museum’s programming financed from designated funds raised by the Association for specific projects. The projects are described on pages 26–39.

IV. EXPENSES RELATED TO SUPPORT FOR THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE’S PROGRAMMING, INCLUDING THE ONEG SZABAT PROGRAM. Projects carried out jointly with the Jewish Historical Institute within the Oneg Szabat Program for which the Association received designated grants. The projects are described on pages 42–47.

We invite you to support the Association. Every donation is of great importance to us.

ASSOCIATION OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF POLAND

Account No. for PLN: PL 87 1240 6247 1111 0000 4975 6324
Account No. for USD: PL 15 1240 6247 1787 0000 4980 0838
Account No. for EURO: PL 92 1240 6247 1978 0000 4976 9920

BANK INFORMATION

Bank Pekao S.A. 53/57 Grzybowska St. SWIFT code: PKOP PL PW
00-950 Warsaw, Poland

Donations made in the USA are tax deductible.

For more information, please go to www.szih.org.pl/en/how-to-support available through the QR code or contact: development@szih.org.pl



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Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

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00-090 Warsaw, Poland biuro@szih.org.pl

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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היסטארישער HISTORICAL
אינסטיטוט INSTITUTE

WARSAW
2024

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