

Report ——— 2020



ASSOCIATION OF
THE JEWISH HISTORICAL
INSTITUTE OF POLAND



This year's Annual Report features the works of Abraham Neumann* in the collection of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland. "Girl in the room," the painting on the cover, is on deposit at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

* A painter and landscape artist, Abraham Neumann (1873 Sierpc – 1942 Kraków ghetto) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Kraków and Académie Julian in Paris, traveled in Europe and United States, and lectured at the Bezalel School of Arts and Design in Jerusalem.



Report of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

2020

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ASSOCIATION OF
THE JEWISH HISTORICAL
INSTITUTE OF POLAND

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. The Association founded and cofinanced POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and supports the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute.

Marian Turski and Piotr Wiślicki ↓



Dear Friends,

In January 2020, the Association Management Board discussed plans for the year. We analyzed the various scenarios prepared by our team, reflecting more and less optimistic assumptions. The worst-case scenario showed what would happen if none of our plans came to fruition. That was not an option. And yet, two months later the world came to a halt, the streets emptied, and people locked themselves up at home. Fear was staring us in the face. We had to answer the question: Should we limit some of our operations? Was there any chance of implementing any of the scenarios? What would the world look like after the pandemic?

Today we know that this fear was not exaggerated. We doubled our efforts and modified our plans so that we could continue to support our partners and grantees, who often found themselves in a much worse situation than ours. Our Association has the good fortune to be surrounded by wonderful people, and they do not give up easily. Here we would like to thank them publicly. These people are, first of all, our donors, who despite their own fears, did not abandon us. Indeed, their ranks even increased over the past year. Our staff were fully engaged in meeting all the challenges they faced. The members of the Management Board, the Audit Committee and the Grants Committee all devoted their personal time to work for the Association. Thanks to all of them, we not only accomplished most of the goals that we set out in January 2020, but also took on many new challenges. Our success confirmed once again that with solidarity and passion for our mission, we can change the world — together.

Thank you for being with us. We still have much to do.

PIOTR WIŚLICKI
President

MARIAN TURSKI
Vice President
Chair, POLIN Museum Council

The Association



← Market square in Kazimierz Dolny

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

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

Former Main Judaic Library, 3/5 Tłomackie Street, 1960s ↓



History

01
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The Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland is the successor to the Central Jewish Historical Commission, established in 1944 as part of the Central Jewish Committee in Poland. After many years of effort, the Association was finally registered in 1951 in Warsaw. The Association's statutory goal is to preserve and commemorate the history and culture of Polish Jews and their contributions to world culture. For more than 70 years, the Association has been supporting and promoting Jewish cultural and historical research, educational programs, and activities that encourage mutual understanding and respect. The Association works with organizations with similar goals in Poland and around the world.

The Association initiated the Museum of the History of Polish Jews as a project in 1993. It formed an international team of experts to plan the institution and develop its Core Exhibition. The Museum was to be a space for open discussion, dialogue, and mutual respect — a place that would unite, not divide. Each succeeding Polish president and government and each Mayor of Warsaw backed the idea, as did dozens of organizations, countless individuals around the world, and our donors. Thanks to this massive support, the Association could 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 for the design and production of the Core Exhibition, and additional PLN 20 million for the Museum's public and educational activities. The Association has continued to support the Museum since its opening, having raised more than PLN 24 million for the Museum's projects and programs during the last six years.



Temporary exhibition "Here Is Muranów" at POLIN Museum ↑

As a guardian of the material and spiritual legacy of Polish Jews, the Association is also responsible for supporting the preservation and accessibility of a vast archive, which contains 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 Ringelblum Archive, also known as the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archive, which UNESCO inscribed in its Memory of the World Register in recognition of its importance to humanity. In a moral sense, this is the legacy of all Jews.

The Association recognizes that cooperation between government and charitable organizations can deliver measurable effects in the protection of Jewish heritage. That is why it has made available its collections, together with the historic building at 3/5 Tłomackie Street where they are stored, to the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute free of charge. The Association also works with the Institute on numerous joint projects, the most important of which is the Oneg Szabat Program. As part of this program, the permanent exhibition about the Archive and its creators, *What We've Been Unable to Shout Out to the World*, opened at the Institute in 2017.

The Association also supports a variety of other activities, awarding couple dozen grants each year to organizations devoted to preserving the cultural and material heritage of Polish Jews.



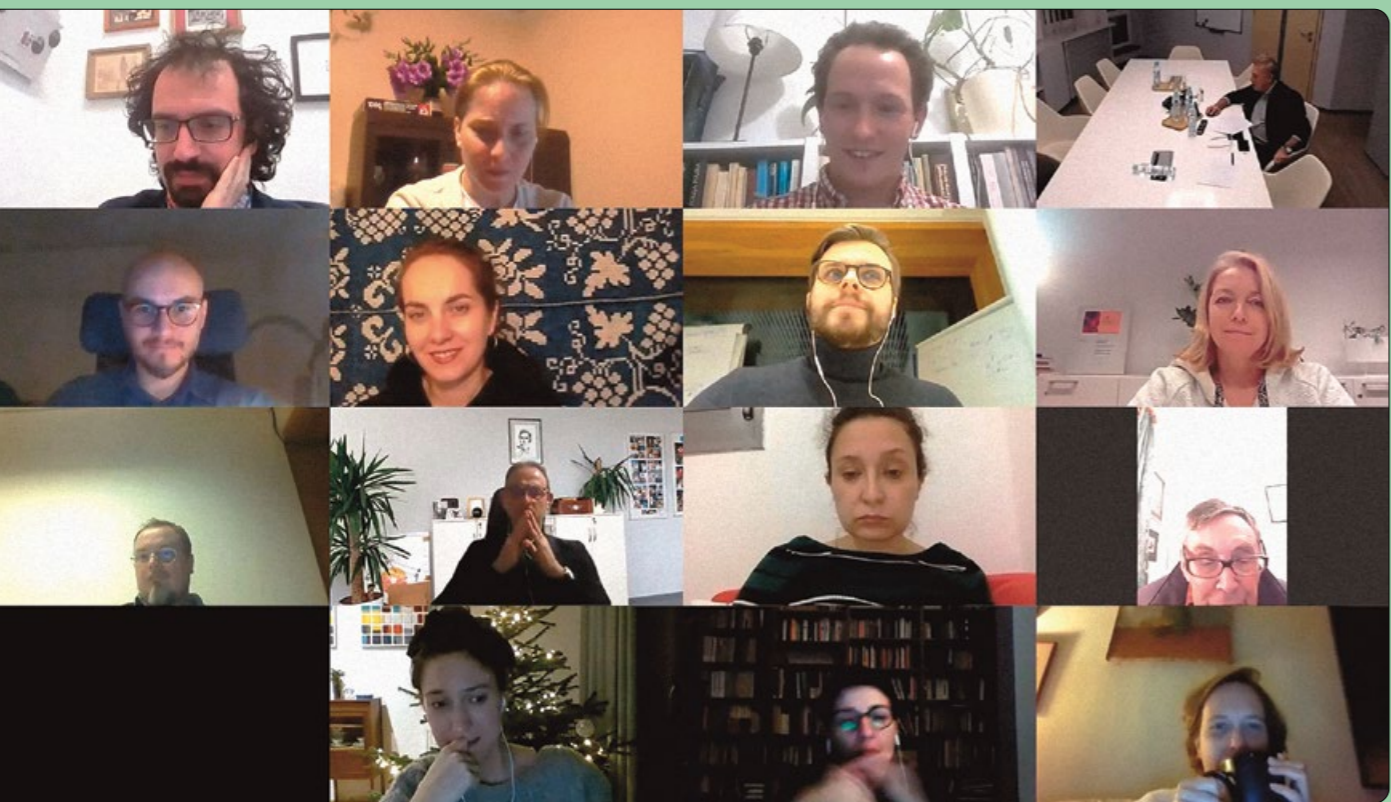
↑ Workshops in Orla. Funded by the Association

Diverse people, a common mission.
We work to preserve the thousand-year history
of Polish Jews for future generations.

Summer Academy visit to the permanent exhibition at the Jewish Historical Institute ↓



Association Management Board members are volunteers. They not only represent the Association, direct the work and provide strategic leadership, but most of all they devote their time and energy to achieving the Association's goal of protecting Jewish heritage in Poland.



One of many virtual meetings of the Association's Management Board ↑

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

02

MANAGEMENT BOARD



Piotr Wiślicki
President



Marian Turski
Vice President



Joanna Fikus
Secretary



Marek Nowakowski
Treasurer



Dr. Kamila Dąbrowska
Member



Dr. Zuzanna Hertzberg
Member



Jan Jagielski
Member



Dr. Maciej Kozłowski
Member



Agnieszka Milbrandt
Member



Alicja Mroczkowska
Member



Dr. hab. Jolanta Żyndul
Member

AUDIT COMMITTEE



Sławomir Różański
Chair (until 15 Dec 2020)



Maciej Antosik
Vice Chair



Krzysztof Czajka
Secretary



Justyna Kobos
Member

GRANTS COMMITTEE



Joanna Fikus
Chair



Dr. Kamila Dąbrowska
Member



Grzegorz Kołacz
Member



Dr. hab. Artur Markowski
Member

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Raising funds, donor relations, communication and cultivation,
production of fundraising materials



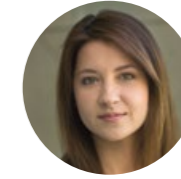
Bartosz Dymarek
Acting Director of Development
(from 1 Nov 2020, previously Deputy
Director of Development)



Anna Miszewska
Director of Development
(until 31 Oct 2020)



Agnieszka Dulęba
Deputy Director of Development
(from 1 Nov 2020)



Aleksandra Maj
Senior Fundraising
Specialist

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Conducting and managing the organization's finances, grants policy,
HR matters, coordination of the work of the Management Board,
Audit Committee, and Grants Committee



Michał Majewski
Director of Operations



Anna Moniewska
Office Manager

Annual Meeting of the Association (September 2020)

The Association brings together 252 members, including people associated with the worlds of academia and culture, and various areas of business. Each of them makes a contribution to our mission: preserving the thousand-year history of Polish Jews.



The Association's Annual Meeting in September was held accordingly to pandemic restrictions ↑

In 2020, the Management Board held **21 meetings**, adopted **52 resolutions**, and convened one Annual Meeting of Association Members.

As of 31 December 2020, the Association had **252 members**.

In 2020 we observed the 70th anniversary of the General Meeting of the founding members of the Association. The history of the Association is an integral part of the rebirth of Polish Jewry after the Holocaust. Those who founded the Association, from the first moment after the war, rescued from oblivion as many individual stories as they could.



70.

“Thou shalt not be indifferent, whenever you see the past being misused for current political purposes. Thou shalt not be indifferent, whenever any kind of minority is discriminated against ... Remain faithful to the Eleventh Commandment: Thou shalt not be indifferent.”

— FROM MARIAN TURSKI’S SPEECH ON THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ



Events in 2020

03
—

JANUARY

27 January. We observed the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. To mark the occasion, Marian Turski delivered two important speeches. The first was at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, where he called for the kind of interpersonal solidarity that made it possible for him to survive the Holocaust. Five days later, as part of the official ceremonies at the site of the former concentration camp, he delivered a moving appeal:

“Thou shalt not be indifferent, whenever you see historical lies. Thou shalt not be indifferent, whenever you see the past being misused for current political purposes. Thou shalt not be indifferent, whenever any kind of minority is discriminated against. The essence of democracy lies in the rule of the majority. But democracy itself lies in the fact that the rights of minorities must be protected. Thou shalt not be indifferent, whenever any government violates already existing, common social contracts. Remain faithful to the Eleventh Commandment: Thou shalt not be indifferent.”

The speech had an impact around the world, and was reported widely in the international media.

The day after the ceremonies at Auschwitz, Mr. Turski was named an Officer of the Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg by Prime Minister Xavier Bettel. This honor is awarded for outstanding achievements in the fields of culture and social activism. In his speech, Prime Minister Bettel stressed Mr. Turski’s engagement on behalf of tolerance and cooperation between the peoples of the world. Preceding the ceremony, Mr. Turski and the Prime Minister visited the Jewish cemetery in Warsaw together.



FEBRUARY

11 February. Professor Dariusz Stola announced that even though he had won the competition for director of POLIN Museum, he was ready to withdraw his candidacy on condition that all three POLIN Museum founders agree on the selection of a new director. After consulting a broad group of Jewish organizations, the Association chose as its candidate Deputy Director Zygmunt Stępiński. The Mayor of Warsaw and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage accepted this proposal.

Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator of POLIN Museum's Core Exhibition, an Association member, and our ambassador in the United States, was honored with the Dan David Prize for Cultural Preservation and Revival. This is one of the world's most prestigious awards for outstanding achievements, given in the categories Past, Present, Future, in Israel.

Professor Adam Daniel Rotfeld has for many years supported the Association in creating POLIN Museum. The Management Board honored him for this engagement with a copy of *Bilder Pentateuch von Moses dal Castellazo Codex 1164*, the so-called Warsaw Codex, a richly illustrated Pentateuch created in medieval Venice. The presentation ceremony crowned the final *jour fixe* of our Association.

Dariusz Stola and Zygmunt Stępiński in 2014 ↓



MARCH

12 March 2020 will long be remembered by the Association employees. A few days after the first case of Covid-19 was discovered in Poland, a complete lockdown was imposed. When we closed the doors to our office, we thought we would return after a short time — a few days, a week or two — and that the pandemic would pass quickly. We experienced fear and uncertainty about the future. The scenes of empty streets and emergency personnel in protective gear were depressing. Even so, this became a period of exceptionally intense work as we switched the entire operation of the Association to remote work, and sought new tools and methods for communicating with our collaborators, friends, and donors. Today, with the benefit of hindsight, we can see that despite the isolation and social distancing, this was a time of deep integration for the team, which never doubted what we were doing. We reopened the Association office in June.

MAY

Professor Dariusz Stola, an outstanding historian, POLIN Museum's fearless director from 2014 to 2019, and member of the Association, was honored with the Irena Sendler Memorial Award by Taube Philanthropies. He was recognized for his visionary management of POLIN Museum, a prestigious, world-class public institution. "Dariusz Stola is the most outstanding scholar and museum director we could ever hope to have lead the new museum in its first five years, which is a critical time for any major cultural institution," said Tad Taube, President of Taube Philanthropies and Poland's Honorary Consul in San Francisco. "He has been responsible for all of POLIN's stellar achievements, at every conceivable level."



SEPTEMBER

Following all safety protocols, the Association held the Annual Meeting of all members to confirm the 2019 financial and operations reports. For many people, this was the first opportunity in months to meet other members. Convened almost exactly 70 years after the first General Meeting of Founding Members of the Association, it was a wonderful occasion for discussions and overview of the current situation, while also planning forward.

Agnieszka Dulęba, an art historian and University of Warsaw graduate, joined the Association's team. In 2015–2020 she worked in POLIN Museum's Research Department as head of the Global Education Outreach Program, whose purpose is to support Polish-Jewish studies in Poland and around the world. She has also been involved in the work of NGOs in the fields of research and higher education, collaborating with Warsaw museums and cultural institutions, including the National Museum in Warsaw and the Museum of Warsaw.

During the 14th annual Superbrands Polska gala, Marian Turski received the Superbrands Honorary Award, presented every year to outstanding personalities who have a positive influence on Poland's image abroad. In his acceptance speech, he called on people to show mutual respect. Professor Dariusz Stola wrote and delivered the presentation speech.

JUNE

Piotr Wiślicki, President of the Association Management Board, received the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany from German Ambassador Rolf Nikel for his deep engagement in the fight against antisemitism and xenophobia and his contribution to building dialogue and understanding among Jews, Poles, and Germans. The Order of Merit is the only honor awarded by the German federal authorities. Since 1951 it has been presented to German citizens and foreigners for their service to the German state through political, economic, social, and scholarly activities, including efforts to promote interreligious and intercultural understanding.

Michał Majewski, the Association's Director of Operations, participated in the Annual Meeting of the Donors Council, representing the Association, which is a member. This is Poland's largest association of NGOs that award grants and stipends. Although each member has its own goals, priorities, and rules for granting support, all are united by their desire to improve their skills and spread good practices in awarding grants. Through its operations, the Council attempts to create friendly, transparent conditions for the development of grant-giving operations. Mr. Majewski has been a member of the Donors Council since 2019.

JULY

Marian Turski wrote a letter to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, which was published in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, calling for Facebook to ban posts denying the Holocaust or lying about Auschwitz. In October Mr. Zuckerberg announced an update to Facebook's policy classifying Holocaust denial as hate speech.



OCTOBER

POLIN Museum received a Sybilla award, Poland's most renowned award for museums, for managing genealogical resources in the POLIN Museum Resource Center. In 2017–2019, in partnership with Polish and Ukrainian archives, the Museum scanned 190,000 passport and citizenship documents from 1918–1939 needed for genealogical research. This served as the basis for a genealogical index numbering 31,600 personal records, which is available in the genealogy section of the Virtual Shtetl portal.

POLIN Museum also won a distinction in the Temporary Exhibitions category for *In King Matt's Poland: The 100th Anniversary of Regaining Independence*. All of these projects were made possible by the support of our Association.

NOVEMBER

Bartosz Dymarek became Acting Director of Development and has been managing the work of the Association's Department of Development since November. He is responsible for the functioning of the department, setting fundraising priorities, and preparing the multiyear development strategy; communication; and promotion of the Association among partners and donors. He also maintains contact with international collaborators and partners of the Association in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Israel. Mr. Dymarek has been affiliated with the Association and POLIN Museum since 2009. As part of the Capital Campaign, he coordinated projects such as the design and production of the complex recognition wall in the Museum building honoring the Distinguished Benefactors.

DECEMBER

The term of the director of the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute ended on 31 December. Professor Paweł Śpiewak had held this position for almost ten years, during which the Institute went through deep changes, including the creation of a state-of-the-art digitization studio, a bookstore, a new permanent exhibition and a new temporary exhibition every few months. Thanks to the Association's collections, which the Institute manages, the Institute has been able to build one of the world's largest Jewish digital libraries. Monika Krawczyk became Director of the Institute effective January 2021. We wish her all the best!



In 2017–2019, in partnership with Polish and Ukrainian archives, POLIN Museum scanned 190,000 passport and citizenship documents from 1918–1939, which serve as the basis for a genealogical index numbering 31,600 personal records.

Statutory Activity



← *Street in Paris*

Dear Friends,

The last twelve months have been one of the most difficult periods in the life of POLIN Museum since its inception. For most of 2020, we remained closed to the public, lost a large share of our income, and suffered a precipitous decline in attendance even when open, due to the impact on tourism.

But the Museum did not give up. First of all, our team did not give up: in just a few weeks we moved almost all of our operations online. And here I am thinking not only (though primarily) about POLIN Museum programs, but also about less spectacular but important processes like organizing remote work, circulating documents, and internal communication. This was no easy task, because POLIN Museum is a formidably large institution.

We would not have made it without the support of our founders. The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage extended a helping hand, as did the Ministry of Sport and the City of Warsaw. The Museum's ability to get through the worst of this period without any notable turbulence is also thanks to our friends from the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland. With their help we were able to carry out several projects that are of utmost importance to us, first and foremost, the temporary exhibition *Here Is Muranów*



and the addition to the Core Exhibition of the long-awaited *Legacy* gallery. I would also like to thank the authorities and all the members of the Association who work with our Museum for their day-to-day support, for all the discussions, and for their advice and assistance in solving the most difficult problems.

When I was preparing to write this letter, POLIN Museum was again open to the public. However, I knew that could change at any moment. When I sent it to the Association, museums in Poland were closed again. I hope that by the time you read my message, POLIN Museum will once again be open and welcoming guests. Uncertainty is certainly one of the most difficult challenges of the pandemic. Not only professionally: after all, in our private lives we are also struggling with mood swings, with fear for ourselves, for our loved ones. So I would like to wish all of us endurance, and to give you some words of hope. We have truly passed along a difficult path together. The road ahead is steep, slippery, and full of pitfalls. But we have bravely conquered the most difficult stage. It's not yet "all downhill from here," but we'll make it together. Of that I'm certain.

I look forward to seeing you before long.

ZYGMUNT STĘPIŃSKI

Director, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews





We thank Dariusz Stola for five years of excellent cooperation. POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews had an exceptional director in him, gifted both with vision and management skills. Under his leadership, the Museum received the title of the best museum in Europe, among many other prestigious awards. We are happy that he stays with us as a member of the Association.

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

01

From the beginning, POLIN Museum has been recognized and honored in the international arena, receiving numerous awards for its exhibitions and programs, use of the latest technologies, and setting of the highest standards for historical museums around the world. The foundation of POLIN Museum is the Core Exhibition, a multimedia narrative experience, dedicated to the history of Polish Jews. The exhibition was prepared by an international team of scholars, designers, and educators under the auspices of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland. The exhibition explores the thousand-year history of Jewish coexistence in Poland.

Core Exhibition

The Core Exhibition has been the basis for educational programs for the hundreds of schools in Poland, Israel, and across Europe who visit the Museum. By the end of 2019, almost 2 million people had visited it. Themed tours of the Core Exhibition, special tours for families, and city tours have been particularly popular. With the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and closure of the Museum in March 2020, Museum had to quickly reorganize its operations. The global lockdown and related restrictions became the catalyst to find new methods and tools to reach the public. POLIN was one of the first cultural institutions in Poland to bring a range of its operations so fully into the digital world.

Community Council

The Community Council was created in 2015 at the initiative of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland and serves as an advisory body for the director of POLIN Museum. Council members include representatives of the Jewish community and organizations who cherish the idea of preserving and promoting the culture and history of Polish Jews as a legacy for future generations. The Council fosters discussion and exchange of experience. It also fulfills a dream of the Museum's creators that the Museum would be a place of dialogue and community created by representatives of Jewish groups. During the pandemic, the Council could only meet online. The meetings focused on the challenges facing POLIN Museum and other Jewish organizations during the pandemic.

POLIN Museum projects carried out in 2020 in collaboration with the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland and with the support of the Association and private donors recruited by the Association

I. CORE EXHIBITION and COLLECTIONS



Natan Spiegel, Still life, POLIN Museum purchase funded by the Association ↑



Zygmunt Stępiński and Kamila Radecka-Mikulicz enter the Museum after it reopened in June 2020 ↑

“Here Is Muranów” exhibition ↓



POLIN Museum’s main strategic goal in 2020 was to attract 400,000 visitors to the Core Exhibition annually. To that end, POLIN Museum developed new tours and programs for individuals and groups, including a special tour and audio guide for families with children. Unfortunately, barely 48,000 people had been able to visit the Core Exhibition by the time POLIN Museum had to close due to the pandemic. After the Core Exhibition reopened on 1 August, observing all COVID safety protocols, more than 18,000 people toured the exhibition, which represents just 18% of the number who visited in the same period of the previous year.



↑ A highlight of 2020 was the design and production of the new *Legacy* gallery, a considerable feat given all the restrictions during the pandemic. Visitors were finally able to visit the gallery in February 2021. Featured are 26 individuals representing many fields: literature, art, music, theatre, cinema, science, politics, business, and education, among others. Twenty-six is the numerical value of the letters in the Hebrew word *kavod*, which means “honor.” This constellation of distinguished individuals forms a collective portrait of Polish Jews in all their diversity. This gallery is appropriately located in a ceremonial space on the main floor of POLIN Museum overlooking the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes. The exhibition is accompanied by a book, *Legacy of Polish Jews*, a collection of essays devoted to the fields in which Polish Jews distinguished themselves. A rich online program includes “Meet the Family,” a series of conversations with the descendants of distinguished Polish Jews, educational films, and educational tours, among other activities.

PROJECT DONORS

Association Européenne du Musée de l'Histoire des Juifs de Pologne POLIN, Sigmund A. Rolat, David Berg Foundation, Linda Frum and Howard Sokolowski Charitable Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation

The Holocaust gallery, which focuses on the Warsaw ghetto, was enriched with a new section devoted to other ghettos. The Germans created more than 600 ghettos in occupied Poland. They established the first one as early as 8 October 1939 in Piotrków Trybunalski. The one that lasted the longest, until the end of August 1944, was in Łódź. Jews in these ghettos, whether large or small, walled or open, shared traumatic experiences of isolation, constant fear for their lives, and concern for their loved ones. Located on the mezzanine of the Holocaust gallery, this new section explores those experiences through personal documents, including diaries, letters, journals, drawings, and mementos.

PROJECT DONOR

Koret Foundation



↑ A new gallery, *Polish Jews in the World*, forms an epilogue to the thousand-year story presented in the seven historical galleries of the Core Exhibition. This gallery extends the geography of that history to the many places in the world where Polish Jews immigrated, what they took with them, the lives they created in their new homes, their connection to the places where their families once lived, and the importance of the legacy of Polish Jews to them today. This gallery is appropriately located at the very heart of the Core Exhibition, in the central circulation space.

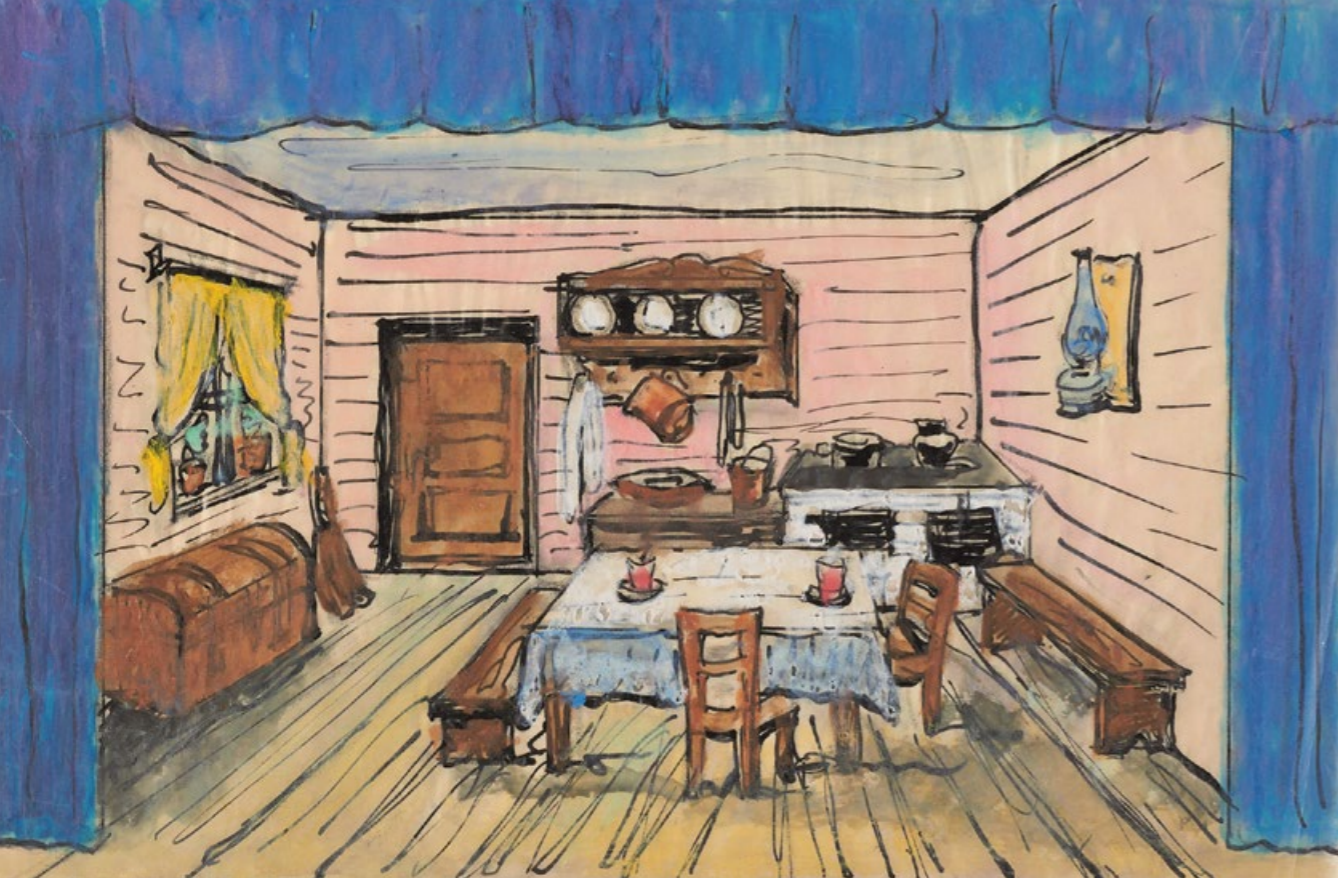
Poland’s leading exhibition designers have created a magical mirrored space that expands infinitely, just as Polish Jews have spread across the globe. As a visitor approaches the mirrored wall, a video

window begins to play a story related to one of the many places where Polish Jews are living today. There are seven such “windows,” each of them featuring short films that were commissioned during an international competition.

In 2020, the Association received a large grant from the Koret Foundation to support completion of the design of this gallery in preparation for its production in the coming year.

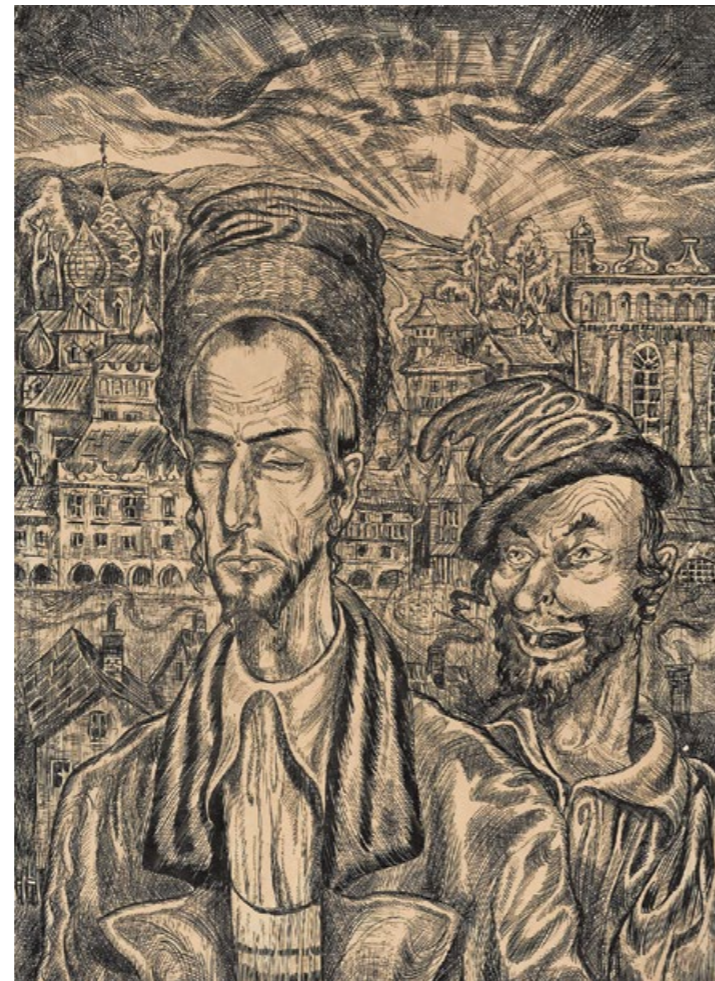
PROJECT DONORS

Taube Philanthropies, Friend Family Foundation, Eric A. Benhamou, Koret Foundation, John z”l and Jill Freidenrich, Stuart and Josie Shiff, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Cathy and Jim Koshland, Roselyne Chroman Swig, Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund



↑ Scenography for the Ester-Rachel Kamińska State Jewish Theater in Łódź by Bolesław (Beniamin) Pacanowski

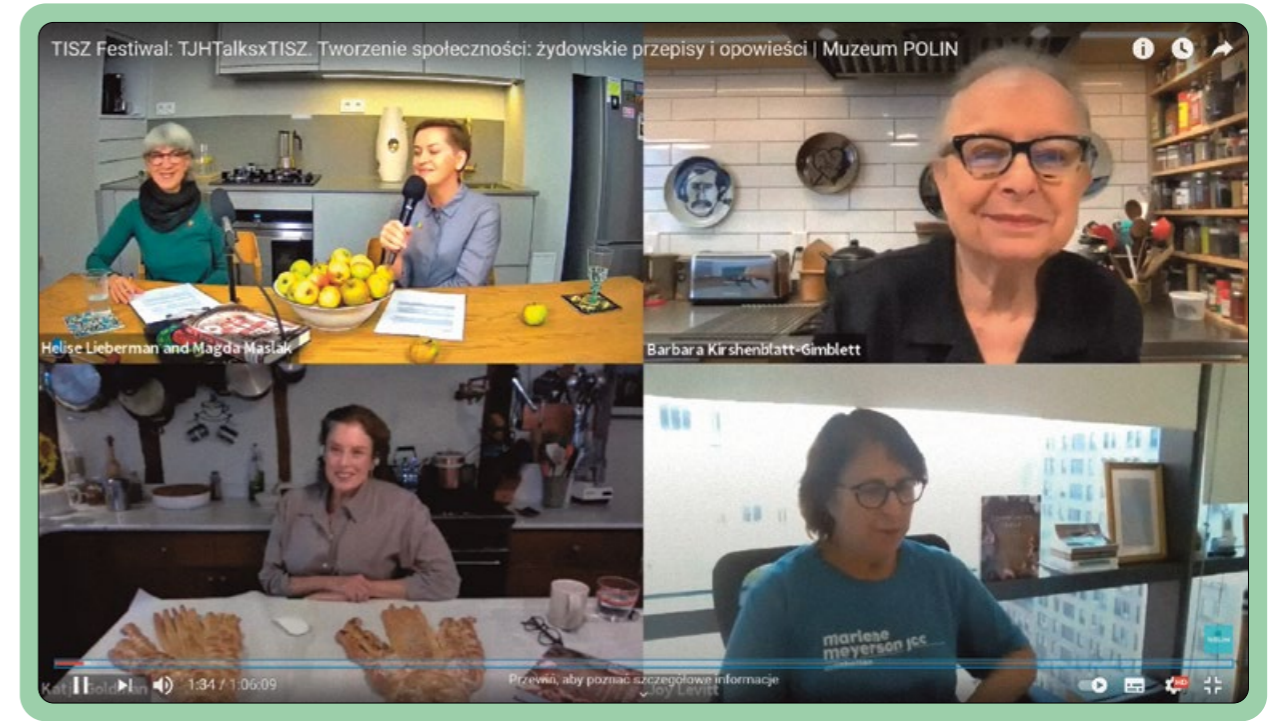
↓ Drawing from the “Hershele Ostropole” series by Fryderyk (Fryc) Kleinmann



↑ The Association supports the development of POLIN Museum’s collection. In 2017–2019 POLIN Museum searched for and acquired original objects related not only to the spiritual and religious life of Polish Jews, but also to modern Jewish culture, including important works of art. Purchases finalized in 2020 include several dozen works by Józef Gabowicz, Fryderyk Kleinmann, Beniamin Pacanowski, and Natan Szpigiel. The Association also supported the conservation of the Museum’s collection.

PROJECT DONORS

Koret Foundation, grant in honor of Tad Taube;
Lynne E. Goldberg and David M. Gross;
Ronald S. Lauder



↑ Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett was appointed Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator of POLIN Museum’s Core Exhibition. She is engaged in projects related to the development of the Core Exhibition, including the two new galleries, the *Legacy* gallery and the *Polish Jews in the World* gallery. She also supports other POLIN Museum programs, including the Global Education Outreach Program GEOP and the TISH Jewish Food Festival, promotes POLIN Museum internationally through lectures and publications, and supports the Association’s fundraising efforts on behalf of POLIN Museum. This position was established with the support of the Association and a generous donation from Ronald S. Lauder.

DONOR SUPPORTING THE POSITION OF CHIEF CURATOR OF POLIN MUSEUM’S CORE EXHIBITION
Ronald S. Lauder

In preparation of *Here Is Muranów*, a temporary exhibition at POLIN Museum in 2020, the Association supported the conservation of several thousand objects excavated during preparations for the construction of POLIN Museum. The objects were cleaned, repacked, catalogued in detail, and deposited at POLIN Museum in accordance with the decision of the Province Conservator of Monuments. These archeological artifacts represent remarkable traces of Muranów, Warsaw’s prewar Jewish neighborhood, its residents, and their lives, and of the Warsaw ghetto. They were shown to the world for the first time in *Here Is Muranów*.

Financed from the POLIN Museum Development Fund

II. TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS



↑ *Gdynia-Tel Aviv* (September 2019 to February 2020) is the first comparative exhibition of its kind in Poland or Israel. Although there are many publications about each city, they have never been compared until now. The exhibition and catalogue explored the role of these two cities, both of them new seaside metropolises. Tel Aviv was founded in 1909, in anticipation of a future Jewish state. Construction in Gdynia began in 1919 in newly independent Poland. Both of them projected a vision of the future in their modernist architecture. About 44,600 people visited the exhibition, which was created in cooperation with the Gdynia City Museum.

PROJECT DONORS

Jankilevitch Foundation, Sills Family Foundation, Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, Chris J. Frackiewicz

During 2020, POLIN Museum's Exhibition Department prepared a new temporary exhibition dedicated to the work of Wilhelm Sasnal, Poland's leading contemporary artist. They selected the curator, developed the exhibition concept, scenario, list of objects, and design, and began work on publications that were to accompany the exhibition. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic the opening of the exhibition was postponed until June 2021.

PROJECT DONOR

Jankilevitch Foundation



↑ *Here Is Muranów*, a temporary exhibition at POLIN Museum, tells the story of the neighborhood where POLIN Museum is located. Muranów, Warsaw's northern district, was home to Europe's largest Jewish community before the Holocaust. It is also where the Germans created the Warsaw ghetto. The exhibition, which spans 300 years, conveys the vibrancy of Jewish life before the Holocaust, the devastating conditions in the Warsaw ghetto, the deportations from the Warsaw ghetto to the Treblinka death camp, the Warsaw ghetto uprising, after which the

Germans razed the entire area, and the rebuilding of the neighborhood on acres of rubble after the war. Today Muranów is home to people from all corners of Warsaw, Poland, and the world. Due to the pandemic, the exhibition opened on June 26, rather than on April 16 as originally planned. Despite repeated closures of the Museum, 22,335 people managed to visit the exhibition, which closed on March 22, 2021.

PROJECT DONORS

Joseph Feingold, POLIN Museum Development Fund

III. CULTURAL EVENTS



This year's POLIN Music Festival kicked off with *The Women's Orchestra of Birkenau*, a moving concert commissioned for the festival. Conductor Marta Kluczyńska prepared a program based on the repertoire of the camp orchestra. Patrycja Dołowa's libretto, based on recollections and interviews, was a symbolic restoration of the voices of members of the camp orchestra — female prisoners in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Six musical events were held during the three evenings of the festival (February 28–March 1): a chamber concert featuring works by 20th-century Jewish composers; a premiere concert by the Bastarda trio, with their program *Nigunim*; and *Jewish Tango*, performed by the NFM Leopoldinum Orchestra, violinist Michael Guttman and bandeonist and composer JP Jofre.

A special concert accommodated the sensory sensitivities of families with children with autism. The festival's concerts drew an audience of 1,600. POLIN Museum also published *Hebrew Polish Tango*, a richly illustrated history of Jewish tango composers in prewar Poland, together with two audio CDs of Hebrew-language Polish tangos released by Syrena Rekord for distribution in the Yishuv, the Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel. The albums won critical acclaim from critics on Polish Radio Program III, the portal Onet.pl, and Culture.pl, among others.

PROJECT DONORS

Jankilevitch Foundation, Canadian Embassy, Association Européenne du Musée de l'Histoire des Juifs de Pologne POLIN



ONCE UPON A TIME (polonaise)

↑ Pianist and composer Marcin Masecki and three-time Grammy nominated mandolin virtuoso Mike Marshall teamed up on 14 December to perform a work commissioned by POLIN Museum in honor of the prewar Jewish mandolin orchestra from Góra Kalwaria, known in Yiddish as Ger. They were accompanied by the Ger Mandolin Orchestra — an international group established to commemorate the prewar ensemble. The mandolin plays a particular role in the history of Polish and Jewish musical culture:

mandolin orchestras did not just play for dancers, but also accompanied the first workers' demonstrations. The educational program in Yiddish schools often included the mandolin, and amateur mandolin orchestras were popular. The mandolin was also one of the few means of musical expression available to women in prewar Jewish communities.

PROJECT DONOR
Jankilevitsch Foundation



↑ Since 2015, the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland and POLIN Museum have been honoring individuals and organizations devoted to protecting the memory of the history of Polish Jews with the POLIN Award. This year's winner, Paweł Kulig, has been caring for the New Jewish Cemetery in Łódź for eight years, and serving for a year as President of the Guardians of Remembrance association, which is dedicated to protecting the Jewish cultural and historical heritage of Łódź. He received a cash award of PLN 20,000.

The jury also awarded PLN 10,000 prizes to Justyna Biernat and the Krotochwile Association. Biernat, a native of Tomaszów Mazowiecki, has for years been protecting the memory of the

city's Jews, working in the fields of culture and scholarship. Biernat publishes texts on Tomaszów's Jewish history in two languages on the website of the Spaces of Memory Foundation, which she founded.

The Krotochwile Association, which works in Wielkopolska province, raises awareness of Jewish history and culture through educational projects for youth and adults. In 2020, the Krotochwile Association began the first stage of an inventory of the cemetery in Koźmin Wielkopolski.

PROJECT DONORS
Jankilevitsch Foundation, Tomek Ulatowski, Odette and Nimrod S. Ariav Foundation, anonymous donor

IV. EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



↑ When King Matt's Family Education Area was open to the public (until March 12 and in the summer months), 3,114 children and their chaperones visited this area, 286 people took part in nine family workshops, and the same number in a special Purim event, which included a performance and workshops. Due to the pandemic, the Area's programs had to be moved online and new projects developed to meet the needs of families,

children, and teachers confined to their homes. They could view 13 films in the Jewish Stories series. Almost 500 people took part in 23 online workshops on Jewish culture and holidays, Children's Day, and a Family Hanukkah program, which were part of the Museum's Jewish Cultural Heritage project.

PROJECT DONOR
Parasol Family Foundation

V. ACADEMIC and EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS, POPULARIZATION



↗ The Global Education Outreach Program GEOP promotes the study of the history and culture of Polish Jews internationally by supporting research and scholarly exchange in collaboration with academic and research organizations in Poland, Europe, North America, Israel, Russia, and Australia. Thanks to these activities, POLIN Museum has become a dynamic center of knowledge and scholarly debate.

The program supports scholars at various stages of their careers and in a wide range of fields — history, political science, literature, art history, musicology, theatre, philosophy, religion, sociology, anthropology, and law among others — by subsidizing research trips, seminars, guest lectures, conferences, and workshops.

During the pandemic in 2020, the program was carried out almost entirely online, including nine meetings of the doctoral seminar for

PhD students in Poland and an international conference, *In the Radiance of the Vilna Gaon: History of Lithuanian Jewry*, which drew 100 participants from eight countries. For safety reasons, the international conference *What's New, What's Next? Innovative Methods, New Sources, and Paradigm Shifts in Jewish Studies* was postponed until October 2021, and a series of online events addressed related topics in the months leading up to the conference. Eight podcasts in the series *What's New, What's Next? Jewish Studies in the Time of Pandemic*, available on Spotify, explored Jewish responses to epidemics past and present and how they have been studied. Five discussions of important new books in Jewish studies took place online.

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



„... WIADOMOŚĆ TA
SPADŁA JAK GROM”
80. ROCZNICA
ZAMKNIĘCIA GETTA
WARSZAWSKIEGO



↑ POLIN Museum’s Resource Center assists those interested in genealogy and the history of Jews from their hometown. The Center’s experienced staff can search online databases in multiple languages, identify materials in local archives, explain how to care for precious photographs and documents, and provide historical guidance. During 2020, the Resource Center served 567 visitors, responded to 652 email queries, and provided access at the Museum to 15,000 genealogical records from the Virtual Shtetl portal and the JRI-Poland database and 4,400 recordings from the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. Preparations also began for paid online genealogical services.

PROJECT DONORS
Tomek Ulatowski and Ygal Ozechov,
Taube Philanthropies, William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation

Marian Turski donated his impressive library of 15,000 books to POLIN Museum. This comprehensive library of scholarly, popular, and artistic works on Jewish history and culture, some of them rare, was amassed over a lifetime. The Halina Paszkowska and Marian Turski Library will be an outstanding resource at POLIN Museum in support of all of its activities on a daily basis and for the Museum’s scholarly programs. The library is being transferred to POLIN Museum in stages to allow for conservation and cataloguing, after which readers will have access to the collection. About 7,000 books will be given to other research institutions and museums dealing with Jewish and related subjects.

PROJECT DONOR
Irene Kronhill-Pletka

↑ 6 November 1940 marks the closing of the largest ghetto in occupied Europe. To commemorate this day, POLIN Museum organized an academic conference entitled “... the news came like a bolt from the blue.” With the closing of the Warsaw ghetto, armed guards were posted at the ends of the streets leading to the “Jewish residential district” created by the Germans. Leading Polish Holocaust researchers, including Jacek Leociak and Szymon Rudnicki, explored the creation of the Warsaw ghetto in relation to the Germans’ shifting plans and actions, dilemmas of the Jews who were to be confined there, and how Jews and the Polish world outside the ghetto perceived ghettoization.

Financed from the POLIN Museum Development Fund

The latest edition of the Greenberg Family International Internship program, which had been planned for 2020, could not take place due to the pandemic. However, university students will be able to take part in the 2021 edition, an eight-week program between June 1 and October 31, 2021. Interns will work on projects related to their interests and qualifications and to POLIN Museum’s needs in the Education, Research, and Communications departments. Each participant will receive a PLN 10,000 fellowship to cover travel and accommodation in Warsaw.

PROJECT DONOR
Foundation for the Preservation of the History of Jewish People in the Pale of Settlement

VI. PROMOTION of POLIN MUSEUM



↑ With its doors closed during the pandemic, POLIN Museum moved its operations online. To increase awareness of the Museum's online presence and bring attention to the rich online offerings it developed specifically for a homebound public, the Association designated funds for promoting POLIN Museum online.

Far-ranging campaigns and prominent positioning of POLIN Museum in the most popular Internet browsers brought the Museum vast new audiences, tens of thousands of people, who would be unreachable in person.

Financed from the POLIN Museum Development Fund and a Google grant for non-profit organizations



↑ The Association prepared the Common Roots campaign for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This informational and educational campaign was dedicated to the thousand-year history of Polish Jews and the Polish roots of the State of Israel. The Association produced five video tours of POLIN Museum's Core Exhibition, one video tour of places in Warsaw important to Israeli visitors, and a spot introducing the campaign. The videos drew 409,000 views on YouTube and Facebook. The campaign also included educational meetings with three groups online, due to the pandemic. The first meeting was for 30 Israeli middle school principals who are responsible for preparing programs for their students' visits to Poland. The webinars focused

on the most effective way to educate Israeli youth on Polish-Jewish history. The second meeting was for Israeli guides who bring groups of youth to Poland. A total of 49 Israeli guides, almost twice as many as expected, took part in webinars dealing with themes from POLIN Museum's Core Exhibition from the point of view of a contemporary Israeli. The third group was made up of youth from Poland and Israel. They discovered points of commonality and formed international friendships as a result of the webinar.

Financed from the POLIN Museum Development Fund and cofinanced by the Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the Public Diplomacy 2019 competition



Paweł Śpiewak led the Jewish Historical Institute into the new era of groundbreaking research, publication, and digitization. We thank him for years of cooperation during which we worked together to develop the institution that serves as the depository of our most precious treasure — the Ringelblum Archive.

Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute

02
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The Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute is a leading research center dedicated to the history of Jews who lived for centuries in Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. It was established 70 years ago to collect, document, and disseminate knowledge about the history and legacy of the thousand-year Jewish presence in Polish lands, with particular emphasis on the Holocaust and its consequences. One of the Institute's most important tasks is to care for its archive — first and foremost the comprehensive conservation of the Association's collections, including the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archive, 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. Drawing on the Institute's archive and library, they undertake research and publish articles and books on Jewish history and culture. The Institute organizes cultural projects, seminars, and educational meetings; operates a publishing house; and mounts exhibitions based on its collections of art, artifacts, photography, and documents both in the building and outdoors. 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*, which is dedicated to the Ringelblum Archive and the Oneg Shabbat group, which formed it.

The Jewish Historical Institute and the Ringelblum Archive are located in a 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 (Heb: Joy of Sabbath) group used to meet in secret. The building, which survived the destruction of the Great Synagogue after the Germans suppressed the Warsaw ghetto uprising, still bears traces of fire on the historic main hall's floor, a memorial to those tragic events. The building was refurbished in 2016, and "Main Judaic Library" was inscribed on its facade, in Polish and Hebrew. The complete renovation of the historic portion of the building was achieved in cooperation with the Association in 2017.

Dear Friends,

All institutions that work on Jewish issues, in Warsaw or anywhere else in Poland, require great effort and engagement: memory continues, despite only a token presence, in quantitative terms, of a Jewish community. With this greater engagement, the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, the successor to the postwar organization and simultaneously a state cultural institution, meets its goals through commemoration, education, historical research, and disseminating knowledge about this community.

Remembering the murdered nation is for us a commandment and a mission. We carry it out thanks to the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage, and Sport, and other organizations that support our activities. We're grateful to all of our individual donors and the institutions that see a purpose in strengthening knowledge about Jews in Poland. Here we must stress the role of Taube Philanthropies and the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, thanks to whose support the Institute's activities are much broader and have greater educational reach.

Looking at the Institute's achievements over the past few years, first and foremost I would like to express our appreciation to the founders and the team of the Oneg Szabat Program, who for more than three years have been carrying out the mission of promoting the Ringelblum Archive through a range of scholarly, exhibition, educational, publishing, and other projects. Thanks to their endurance and engagement, the legacy of Emanuel Ringelblum, the Jewish Historical Institute's namesake, is reaching a global audience.

We have already done a great deal, but much still remains to be done. That is because the role of this program does not stop with preserving, editing, and making the documents from the Archive available; the program is very significant for educating the younger generation, fighting antisemitic attitudes, and supporting scholarly research on the Holocaust. All of this is an obligation and a motivation for even greater efforts in the coming year.

Translating the full edition of the Ringelblum Archive into English is our priority. In 2020 we presented the publication *OyNEG Shabes: People and Works*, and we are continuing our work on further volumes. The Institute also published a popular edition of Ringelblum's *Polish-Jewish Relations During the Second World War*; a guide to the permanent exhibition, *What We've Been Unable to Shout Out to the World*; and a popular scientific publication — *The Archive More Important Than Life: The Fate of Polish Jews During World War II in the Documents of the Oneg Shabbat Clandestine Group* in Polish and English.

Despite the pandemic, we haven't slowed our educational projects down: the Institute hosted several more editions of the Oneg Szabat Academy, two-day seminars for teachers in our building. We are continuing the multiyear, interdisciplinary scholarly project of developing an online encyclopedia of the Warsaw ghetto; we are holding online seminars and workshops; and we are developing the Delet educational portal, whose features include access to successive volumes of the full edition of the Ringelblum Archive in Polish and English, archival documents, and the Polish dictionary of Judaica. We have also launched a series of podcasts about the Archive and the Oneg Shabbat group for international listeners.

With gratitude to all the people who have been involved, as well as to my predecessors, I would like to encourage you to work on spreading the word about the achievements of the Jewish Historical Institute. This is our great common mission.

MONIKA KRAWCZYK
Director, Emanuel Ringelblum
Jewish Historical Institute



ONEG SZABAT PROGRAM



The Oneg Szabat Program was created in 2017 by the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland and the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute to continue the mission of Emanuel Ringelblum and his team: to reveal to the world the fate of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and occupied Poland. In 2020 we celebrated the Program's third anniversary with two international webinars on the role of the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archive in preserving memory of the Holocaust and by translating the full archive into English. We also launched a series of podcasts on the Archive and the Oneg Shabbat group in English. The series premiered with a podcast about Emanuel Ringelblum, followed by one about Rabbi Kalman Shapira.

The program is still developing. New contributors are joining the work of preservation and promotion of the Ringelblum Archive. The Institute continues research, archiving, and conservation; organizing cultural events; and providing online access to documents and studies devoted to the creators of the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archive.

I. EXHIBITIONS



↑ The permanent exhibition, *What We Were Unable to Shout Out to the World* continues to attract visitors despite the Covid-19 pandemic and temporary closure of the Institute: about 25,000 people have seen it. Last year we prepared an audio guide in Polish and English for the permanent exhibition, using the Explainit application, which will soon be ready for visitors, and are planning a Hebrew version. We also published a guide to the permanent exhibition.



We are pleased to announce the signing of an agreement with NS-Dokumentationszentrum München for an exhibition dedicated to Oneg Shabbat, which will open in 2022 in Munich. With this agreement, we are launching a travelling exhibition, which will spread the ideas that guided Emanuel Ringelblum and show “the history of the Holocaust from zero hour.”

PROJECT DONOR
Koret Foundation

II. PUBLICATION of THE RINGELBLUM ARCHIVE

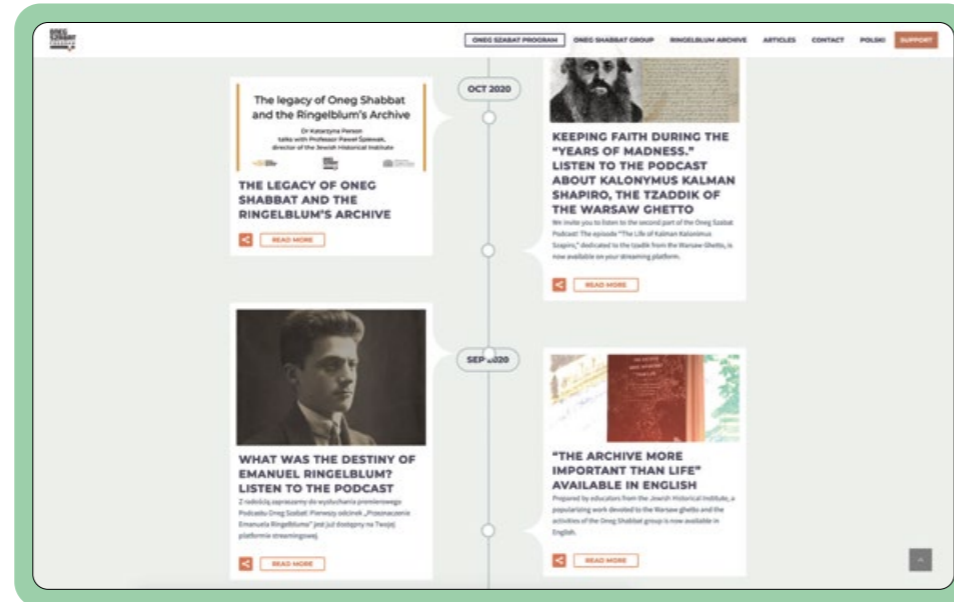


↑ Translation of all volumes of the full edition of the Ringelblum Archive into English and publishing them online is an exceptionally important element of the Oneg Szabat Program. Scholars and researchers from across the globe are collaborating on translations from the original languages — Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew, and German. At the start of 2020, we published the third volume, *Oy neg Shabes. People and Works*, and prepared additional volumes for publication: *Children — Clandestine Education in the Warsaw Ghetto* and *The Last Stage of Resettlement Is Death: Pomiechówek, Chełmno on the Ner, Treblinka*, while continuing to work on further publications. Two volumes of the Polish edition appeared: *Uzupełnienia. Dokumenty, rejestry, aneksy* (Supplements: Documents, Registers, Annexes) and *Wykaz sygnatur dokumentów z Archiwum Ringelbluma* (List of Document Numbers from the Ringelblum Archive).

PROJECT DONOR

Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies

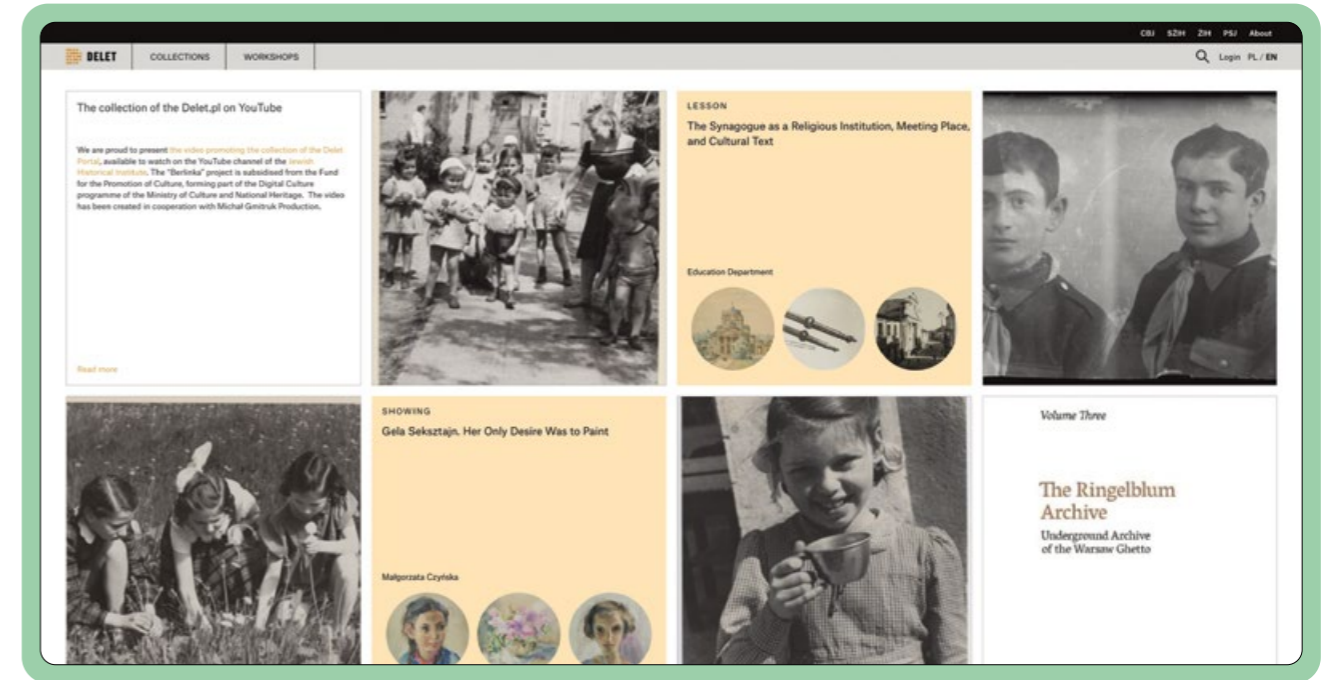
III. RINGELBLUM ARCHIVE ONLINE



↑ New content has been systematically added to the website www.onegszabat.org, which provides information about the Oneg Shabbat group and the Ringelblum Archive and raises funds for the program. It enjoys great popularity — regular publications in Polish and English draw interest from readers all over the world. There are biographical articles about members of the Oneg Shabbat group, entries related to the history of the Archive's creation, presentations of books related to the Archive, and descriptions of Program activities. The articles include long excerpts from original Archive texts, some of them translated into English for the first time.

PROJECT DONOR

Koret Foundation



The Jewish Historical Institute continues to prepare an online encyclopedia of the Warsaw ghetto, a multiyear interdisciplinary scholarly project. The encyclopedia, a compilation of all work on the full edition of the Ringelblum Archive, will also draw on other archival collections at the Institute, published sources, and testimonies related to the Warsaw ghetto and the Holocaust. Outstanding researchers were invited to discuss the preliminary list of entries, which will number about 2,000. The encyclopedia will be accessible on the Delet portal. More than 500 entries have been written to date.

Financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education within the National Program for the Development of Humanities



↑ The iconography archive of the prewar Jewish Museum in Berlin, known as Berlinka, has been placed on deposit with the Jewish Historical Institute. We are digitizing 3,000 pages from this collection and will add these materials to the Delet online educational portal. This collection, one of the most intriguing and cherished in the Association's possession, consists of several dozen cardboard boxes containing reproductions and photographs, as well as original works of art, accompanied by brief descriptions. In 2020 we completed a two-year project of digitizing the Berlinka collection.

Financed from the Association's funds and cofinanced by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage within the Digital Cultures 2019 program

IV. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

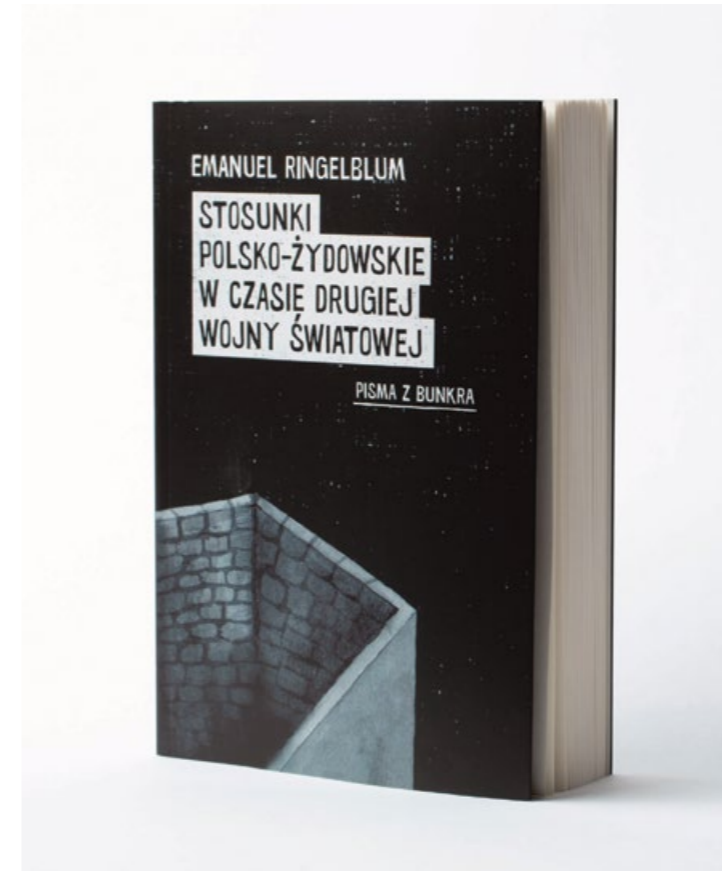


The Oneg Szabat Program stresses education, particularly for youth. We try to reach as many primary and secondary school students and teachers in Poland and abroad as possible. Our mission, as the direct inheritors and guardians of the Ringelblum Archive, is not only to transmit knowledge about the Oneg Shabbat group and the testimonies they gathered, but also to find among young people — representatives of the new generation — ambassadors for this great mission, who will work with us to spread knowledge of the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archive.

The Jewish Historical Institute hosted additional editions of the Oneg Szabat Academy for teachers — two-day seminars for educators and local activists involved in projects related to Jewish subjects, multiculturalism, and tolerance; educational workshops, lectures, and walking tours; and an online meeting with representatives of Argentina's March of the Living, during which the principles of the Oneg Szabat Program were presented.

↑ We published a popular scholarly book on the Oneg Shabbat group in two languages, in print and as e-books: *Archiwum ważniejsze niż życie. Losy Żydów polskich w czasie II wojny światowej w dokumentach konspiracyjnej grupy Oneg Shabbat* and *The Archive More Important Than Life: The Fate of Polish Jews During World War II in the Documents of the Oneg Shabbat Clandestine Group*.

V. GENEALOGY



↑ We also published a guide to the permanent exhibition as well as Emanuel Ringelblum's book *Polish-Jewish Relations during the Second World War*.

PROJECT DONOR
Koret Foundation



↑ The Jewish Historical Institute's Genealogy Department has been working on the history of Jewish families in Poland for more than 20 years. Thanks to their years of experience and access to the Association's collections on deposit at the Institute, the Genealogy Department staff helps the public recover lost fragments of family histories and connect with relatives living today in various parts of the world.

PROJECT DONOR
Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies

VI. COLLECTIONS



➤ In 2020 work began on the construction of a new storage facility for the Ringelblum Archive and modernization of the ventilation system of the remaining archival storage spaces. These storage facilities will now meet the highest world safety standards and contribute to the security of all documents and materials collected by the Oneg Shabbat. These renovations will also improve the technical standard of the former Main Judaic Library building. This is the first step in a broad renovation program planned for the coming years.

Financed by Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies and cofinanced from the Association's funds

The Association, in keeping with its relationship to the Institute, supported its statutory activities, including work related to the archival and library collections gathered in the former Main Judaic Library building at 3/5 Tłomackie Street in Warsaw and their digitization. This priceless resource is made up of collections that are part of the heritage of the Jewish people: archives, some dating back to the mid-17th century; a collection of more than 80,000 books; and numerous paintings, graphics, posters, photographs, sculpture, and artifacts. The greatest treasures include the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archive, known as the Ringelblum Archive, inscribed by UNESCO in the Memory of the World Register in 1999. This heritage is in the moral sense the property of all Jews.

PROJECT DONOR
Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies

DONORS TO THE ONEG SZABAT PROGRAM:

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- Jewish Federation of Canada — UIA
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- Hermione Foundation
- Claims Conference
- 61 donors who supported the project in memory of Halina Paszkowska-Turska
- Anonymous donors



Dear Friends,

The past year, 2020, brought all of us many new experiences and changes. First and foremost, it made us aware of our own fragility, it made a mockery of our plans. Many of us found ourselves in very difficult circumstances. I remember the first responses to the news of the COVID-19 pandemic: disbelief and fear for ourselves and loved ones. At the time I thought: how will all of these wonderful, bold, engaged people manage, those who ensure that in small local communities the memory of their Jewish neighbors is kept alive? In such circumstances, how will they organize Jewish culture festivals, educational projects, clean up and mark cemeteries, and commemorate Holocaust sites? Will people who are now concentrating on themselves and their families, full of fear about contact with others, want to involve themselves in these projects?

Well, it turned out that you are all extraordinary people! In 2020, the Grants Committee of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland had the largest fund in its history, PLN 220,000, which allowed us to support 46 projects. You completed almost all of them — lighting fast and also wisely, adjusting to the new situation. Some are still waiting to be completed. Many of the activities went online, and it turned out that this allowed many of you to reach a significantly broader audience — all over Poland and across the globe. You brought back names and faces; you enriched landscapes with people who are no longer here.

I would like to express to you my deep gratitude. You're changing the world, making it better. I would also like to encourage all of you who are thinking about similar activities to apply to the Grants Committee through our competitions.

JOANNA FIKUS
Chairwoman, Grants Committee



Grants Committee

03

The Grants Committee awards financial support to organizations in Poland devoted to preserving the cultural and historical heritage of Polish Jews. Our priority is to support and honor people, generally far from big cities, who are restoring the memory and knowledge of a lost world against all odds, and who engage other inhabitants to join them. We believe that financing their activities through the Grants Committee makes it easier for them to realize their plans. The effects are visible on a national scale.

We organized two competitions in 2020 and reviewed 72 grant requests. We awarded PLN 220,000 to the 46 most interesting and valuable projects. Due to the pandemic, we were able to respond in real time so that grantees could redefine and modify their projects to meet their goals under exceptionally difficult conditions.



↑ Map of the projects supported in 2020

Projects awarded by the Grants Committee in 2020

I. PUBLISHING



↑ *Sara Schenirer: A Graphic Novel* is dedicated to the woman who revolutionized the education of religious girls. Born into a Hasidic family at a time when there were no schools for Orthodox girls, she created the Beys Yankev school system for them. Her schools combined religious and secular subjects. Working with graphic designers, artists, and historians, the Mifgash Foundation and Hillel Poland are creating a graphic novel based on Schenirer's life. Their goal is to raise awareness of this exceptional woman among both youth and adults. After all, comics are a medium that connects generations.



↑ *Falenica Memorial Book* is being translated into Polish by the European Institute of Culture. For its inhabitants, Falenica is a special place. There is probably no other town so small with so many religious sites. Indeed, it could be said that Falenica lacks nothing. Yet, there is the feeling that something is missing, a gap created by the absence of Falenica's Jews. Although nothing can ever fill this gap, translation of the *Falenica Memorial Book* will restore the memory of the Jews who were once a vital part of this town.



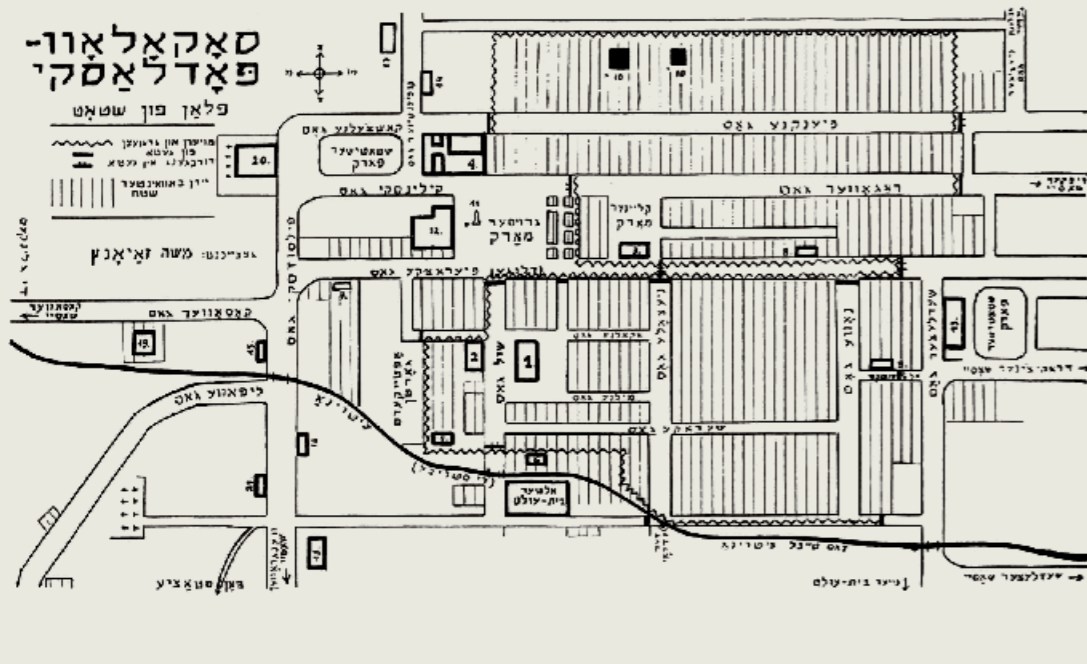
↑ Tomasz Żukowski, *Under Pressure: What those we silence say about the Holocaust* (Wielka Litera) addresses difficulties in confronting the Holocaust in Poland. We are witnessing efforts to suppress discussion of the Holocaust. With increasing knowledge of the reality, questions about the participation of Polish society in the German genocidal efforts arise. In response, narratives defending an idealized Polish self-image become ever stronger. This deadlock has its roots in a culture of exclusion that shapes the majority's story about itself (confirming its superiority) and the discreet silence of the subordinated minority.



↑ Krzysztof Bielawski, *The Annihilation of Jewish Cemeteries* (Towarzystwo Więż). This book is the first in-depth study of the destruction of Jewish cemeteries in Poland. Bielawski describes how and why this happened, identifies the perpetrators, and describes the reactions of Jews and Poles to the destruction. The book won several awards and distinctions in 2020.

Memorial Book of the Jewish Community in Tomaszów Mazowiecki (Tel Aviv, 1969) is being edited and republished by the LOGTV Foundation. This 700-page volume, in Yiddish and Hebrew, chronicles the history of this community from as early as 1789. It includes biographies of rabbis, *tsadikim* (Hasidic leaders), and local celebrities, describes Jewish life in all its aspects, and deals with the Holocaust and post-Holocaust period, including the activities of Tomaszów *landsmanshaftn* (hometown societies) across the globe. Publication of the *Memorial Book* will raise awareness of how the Jewish community of Tomaszów Mazowiecki arose and developed from its inception to its destruction.

II. COMMEMORATIONS and MEMORIAL SITES



Plan of Sokołów Podlaski from the "Sokołów Podlaski Memorial Book" ↑

↑ *Sokołów Podlaski Memorial Book* (Tel Aviv, 1962) was translated from Yiddish to Polish by the Gzarim Foundation. This book, the most comprehensive record of Sokołów Jewish memories, describes how generations of Sokołów Jews lived, including religious and secular Jews, workers, intelligentsia and village idiots, their dreams and happy, carefree days and the trauma of torment and terror. The Gzarim Foundation has been commemorating the Jewish history of Sokołów Podlaski for several years.

Marek Szajda explores the fate of the Jewish population of Jelenia Góra after 1945 in a book published by the Remembrance and Future Center. The book explores the history of one Lower Silesian community, Jelenia Góra, which became an important center of Jewish settlement after World War II. It was one of two cities where German Jews also attempted to establish a community and remain in their ancestral lands.

Studia Judaica, which appears semiannually, has been published since 1997. The current editor is Professor Marcin Wodziński. A publication of the Polish Association for Jewish Studies (PTSŻ), *Studia Judaica* is devoted to scholarship in Jewish and Judaic studies, broadly understood, including history, literature, linguistics, archeology, culture, and religious studies. In 2020 the Association supported the publication of volumes 45 and 46.

Forgotten Jewish Neighbors: The Fate of Jews from the Village of Doleck, Today's Nowy Kawęczyn summarizes a search for the town's forgotten Jewish neighbors. The book is based on archival research and meetings with witnesses to history, who for many years remained silent. With this book, the Common Memory Association of Historical Seekers aims to raise awareness of local Jewish history among younger inhabitants who have no knowledge of those who were once their neighbors.



Ziębice Jewish Train, a walking tour route marked by special tiles placed in the sidewalk, will call attention to the buildings and places where the Jewish inhabitants once lived, worked, relaxed, and prayed. Przede Wszystkim Ziębice Association has created this route in memory of the Jewish community that lived here for centuries and that is an integral part of the history of Ziębice.

↑ Stolpersteine at the Oppenheim House in Wrocław commemorates the Herz family. The building dates from 1894, when Ludwig Herz opened a shoe store there, advertising the products with the slogan "With heart and sole." The shop soon gained world renown. By embedding the Stolpersteine, memory stones, in the sidewalk, and other forms of commemoration in public space, the Op Enheim Foundation aims to raise awareness of this family and this place.



↑ A plaque on Plac Trzech Krzyży in Warsaw will commemorate the cigarette sellers identified with this spot during the Holocaust. Their story is one of the few and perhaps the only one about a group of children aged 6 to 16 who escaped from the Warsaw ghetto and survived through sheer cunning, luck, and solidarity. They slept in the bushes or in vacant buildings, selling newspapers and cigarettes on the street by day. Members and supporters of the Jewish Community of Warsaw initiated this project in their memory.

Two information boards in the places where synagogues once stood and three “memory stones” set in the ground in front of buildings where Jews lived before the war recall the Jewish community of Słupsk. This is a project of Jewish Traces in Our City, whose mission is to commemorate the Jews who lived in Słupsk before World War II and raise awareness of today’s residents of the city about its Jewish history. An educational component for secondary schools introduces today’s youth to the former residents of their city.

A plaque on the main square bears a town map showing the most important places related to the history and culture of Warta’s Jews. This map offers an educational route for both residents and tourists. This plaque, a project of Traces of Jewish Warta, continues activities that students of the local primary school undertook under the patronage of the Ireneusz Ślipek Foundation on behalf of Polish-Jewish dialogue in Warta. These activities led to the creation of a folder, *Traces of Jewish Warta*, which serves as a guide. Members of the Foundation, together with local school students and residents, are also cleaning the local Jewish cemetery and will place new information boards there.

↑ *Book of Names*, a database of victims of the Treblinka death camp, is a project of the Memory of Treblinka Foundation, which has been fighting for years to identify the victims in the world’s largest cemetery of citizens of Poland: Polish Jews. Even today hundreds of thousands of victims remain anonymous because the German tried to obliterate all traces of them in an effort to leave no evidence of their existence. The *Book of Names*, which brings together fragments of information from various institutions around the world, may be accessed here: www.pamiectreblinka.pl/ksiega-imion/baza-osob.

III. CEMETERY and GRAVESITE PROJECTS



↑ A third monument, this one bearing the names of the murdered residents of Czarny Dunajec, was raised by the People, Not Numbers project, which operates in the Sądecki region. Dariusz Popiela, who initiated the project, and a group of local activists are committed to remembering Holocaust victims by restoring their names.



↑ A monument in the Orla Jewish cemetery, a tombstone bearing the words “To our neighbors,” is a project of the Futurum Foundation. As part of this commemoration, local activists involved with this project organized artistic and educational events for those living in Orla today. The goal of this project is to change the image of Podlasie, a region identified with troubled Polish-Jewish relations and with the Jedwabne pogrom in particular.



Restoration of the Jewish cemetery in Skępe has included cleaning, documentation, and signposting. The Ari Ari Foundation, together with local residents, have restored this place and incorporated it into the cultural space of the town in memory of the Jewish community of Skępe. The Jewish cemetery in Skępe is now not only a physical presence. Thanks to this project, it also recalls the many Jews who once lived in this town.

Renovation of a monument on the site of a mass grave of about 300 Jews represents the first stage of the City of Łańcut’s efforts, in cooperation with the Association, to honor the memory of Jews who lived and died there. A second grant from the Association to the City of Łańcut supports additional cleaning of the local Jewish cemetery.

↑ Wooden matsevahs were set up to mark 24 graves, anonymous and forgotten, based on information that the Zapomniane Foundation has been gathering for many years. Traces of the Holocaust include not only monuments at former death camps, mass graves, and ghettos, but also thousands of forgotten graves of individual victims scattered across Poland. Whatever memory of them remains is only local, and for today’s inhabitants, these are often cursed places, places to which you do not go.

Restoration of the Jewish cemetery in Reńska Wieś involved not only cleaning, but above all fencing and signposting. Three tombstones were found and rescued in the process. Supported by the local government, such projects not only help preserve the heritage of Polish Jews, but equally importantly they offer an opportunity to confront a more complete local history.



↑ Signposting individual sectors of the Jewish cemetery in Tarnów, one of the best preserved Jewish burial sites in Poland, makes the site easier for visitors to find family graves. This project is the culmination of years of effort by the Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Tarnów, which had previously cleaned the cemetery and inventoried the tombstones.

Renovation of the tombstone of Chilus (Yekhiel) Mendelssohn in Pszczyna in Upper Silesia, a project of the Municipality of Pszczyna, brings back the memory of this forgotten figure. This Lublin rabbi was a social and religious activist who in 1890, already in poor health, moved to Pszczyna, where he lived out his final days. Today the only physical trace of Mendelssohn is his ruined tombstone, bearing this sentence: “His community and the sons of his country counted him among the greatest of their people. He was counted by his people as a seedling among fine cedars.”

A new memorial restores dignity to Holocaust victims from Chodaczów, Dębów, Białoboki, and Gać whose remains were exhumed after the war and laid to rest in the Military Cemetery for Victims of Nazism in Jagieła-Niechciałki, Podkarpackie province. Today, they lie in common graves, marked only by rusty plaques on which are just the numbers of the exhumation records. The new memorial — stone blocks on which are inscribed the names of victims — is a project of the Polish Center for Holocaust Research. In addition to supporting the work of distinguished scholars, the Center is dedicated to remembering the forgotten victims of the Holocaust.

IV. EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS



↑ The annual International Summer Seminar in Yiddish Language and Culture, organized by the Shalom Foundation, took place online this year due to the pandemic. This is an excellent example of how moving activities

online could broaden the reach of a project. From June 29 to July 17, almost 100 participants took part in 360 hours of language instruction, 17 lectures, virtual tours, and theatre performances.

V. CULTURAL and SCHOLARLY EVENTS



↑ The Festival of Hipolit and Ludwika recalls two great Jewish philanthropists, long forgotten, Hipolit (1843–1901) and Ludwika Wawelberg, Polish patriots who made great contributions to education, scholarship, and social welfare. Volunteers brought together by the Association of Residents and Friends of the Wawelberg Colony have been organizing an outstanding series of events during the last five years, a highlight on Warsaw's cultural calendar.

To commemorate local Jewish history, the Society of Friends of the Kutno Region and the Jerzy Dunin Borkowski Museum in Krośniewice are organizing an exhibition of Judaica from the Museum's collection, an accompanying publication, and related lectures, walking tours, and cleaning of the local Jewish cemetery.



↑ An exhibition of replicas of Jewish attire at the House of History is a project of the Nomina Rosae Foundation. The discovery of original textiles from the 1930s in prewar Jewish apartment buildings in Nowy Sącz was the inspiration for replicating ten outfits, based on iconographic sources, including photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries. Since the pandemic limited the number of people who could visit the exhibition in person, the organizers created a virtual tour and published a catalogue — *Talesy, kapoty, załóżki* (Taleysim, kapotes, brusttukhn).



↑ *At the Heder and the Elementary School*, an exhibition of photographs and documents, presents life in the small town of Orla during the interwar years. Organized by the EDM Foundation, the exhibition explores how Jews and Christians lived together.

→ Ester Rachel Kamińska with actors
from the Warsaw Jewish Artistic Theater



↑ *That's Where the Synagogue Stood: A Story of Jewish Katowice* features 15 stories about the Katowice Jewish community, based on months of research by the Film and Photography Foundation. They made these stories available online, sent them to many primary and secondary schools, and received wide media coverage locally.

An interactive theatre performance based on stories about Jews in Łódź is a response to a recent rise in antisemitism and open hostility to people of different cultures. The performance is inspired by Hasidic dance and songs. The goal of the Living Space Theatre Association in producing this work is to increase understanding and appreciation of Jewish culture.



The Israeli Breakfast during the 22nd SIMCHA Jewish Cultural Festival offered Wrocławians and other inhabitants of Lower Silesia opportunities to learn about Jewish culture. This year Professor Marcin Wodziński, world expert on the history of Hasidim, answered questions about this religious movement.

↑ A sound project using voices, music, and other sounds will raise awareness of the richness of Jewish culture. A project of the Orion Foundation, this sound landscape will include historical figures, such as Ester Rachel Kamińska, known as “the mother of Yiddish theater,” as well as fictional characters, their speeches read by actors. This sound work will immerse listeners in the scene and take them inside the Jewish theatre community of the early 20th century.

An exhibition commemorating the local Jewish community in Tuczno aims to raise awareness of the history this community among those living there today. A project of the Stowarzyszenie Miłośników Natury “Leśna Przystań,” the exhibition will present documents and photographs of places and objects connected with the Tuczno Jewish community.



↑ The Warsaw Jewish Film Festival, a highlight on Warsaw's cultural calendar, moved online and reached a much wider audience than ever before. We were overjoyed to see Marian Turski, the Association's vice president, receive an award from the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival for "his invaluable contribution to the renewal of Jewish life in Poland, the rebuilding of social capital in Poland, and the fight against xenophobia and antisemitism."

↑ The history of trees in Muranów, Warsaw's prewar Jewish neighborhood, is the starting point for the Stacja Muranów Association project to raise local awareness of the neighborhood's history through the lens of a particular witness, nature, including the legendary mirabelle plum tree, which miraculously survived the Warsaw ghetto uprising. Workshops and walking tours not only inform, but also promote respect and intercultural appreciation.

The Zbliżenia Jewish Culture Festival in Gdańsk, now in its ninth year, features cultural and educational activities that celebrate national minorities and promote integration. The latest edition, "Roots," which will take place in 2021, includes a workshop, lectures, literary meetings, and concerts, as well as *In the Shadow of the Great Synagogue*, a film about the Jewish community of Gdańsk.

↑ Nathan Mośkiewicz, the last Jew in Koźmiń Wielkopolski, is the focus of a project organized by the Krotchwile Association, which has been restoring the memory of local Jewish communities for many years. After the war, Nathan and his son Hugo returned to their house. Years later Hugo emigrated, but Nathan remained in his hometown until his death in 1969. He was the only worshipper at the synagogue, which was dismantled only after his death. In accordance with his wishes, his Polish neighbors buried him in the Jewish cemetery, alongside his parents. The stories of older residents who still remember their Jewish neighbor will also be collected.

VI. PRESERVATION



↑ Conservation of a chest belonging to Anna and Erich Schwarz is a project of the Museum of the City of Łódź, which is located in the Poznański Palace. The chest was found in the attic of a Łódź apartment building in the former area of the ghetto and entered the Museum's collection in 2004. The married

couple had been deported from Vienna to Łódź on 29 October 1941, where they were registered at 35/11 Brzezińska Street. She worked as a seamstress, and he as a technician. On 14 May 1942, they were transferred to the death camp at Chełmno nad Nerem, where they were murdered.

VII. SPECIAL PROJECTS



↗ The Association supported *Holocaust: Studies and Materials*, volume 15, a publication of the Polish Center for Holocaust Research, which focuses exclusively on the Shoah. They address their publications to Holocaust researchers, students, and anyone interested in the subject. The editorial staff, directed by Professor Dariusz Libionka and Professor Barbara Engelking, is made up of outstanding Holocaust historians.

PROJECT DONORS

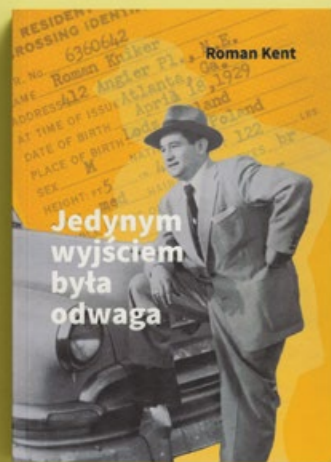
Irene Kronhill-Pletka, Alina Molisak,
Stanisław Zaręba, Marta Hyży, Jacek Strzelecki,
Peter Levi, Wojciech Lemański, Mieczysław Trzcinka

The Association of Jewish Veterans and Victims of World War II brings together the oldest generation of Jews: those who survived the Holocaust. The Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland has for many years sought to support this organization's operations from its own funds.

Supported with the Association's funds

Jewish History Quarterly publishes articles on the history of Jews in Poland and other countries and on Jewish culture and literature by both Polish and international authors and in Polish, English, and German. *Jewish History Quarterly* is a continuation of the *Jewish Historical Institute Bulletin*, a scholarly publication that first appeared in 1949. The electronic version of this journal is available in CEEOL (Central and Eastern European Online Library). *Jewish History Quarterly* was placed on the Master Journal List maintained by the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia in 2011.

Supported with the Association's funds



↑ *Courage Was My Only Option*, Roman Kent's autobiography, is a project of the Marek Edelman Dialogue Center in Łódź. "In this story there are no superheroes, only ordinary men, women and children," Roman Kent writes. "Maybe some of them had more luck, others less. There is no single model of a survivor. Each of them is unique and each has their own story, which must be heard." The Marek Edelman Dialogue Center in Łódź, in cooperation with the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, published this autobiography. Roman Kent, a survivor of the Łódź ghetto, was a very important figure in the memory and history of both Łódź and Poland, and in Polish-Jewish relations. *Courage Was My Only Option* shows the fate of a Polish Jew, who — even though he left the country immediately after the war — always felt a connection to Poland and never severed those ties.

PROJECT DONORS
International Auschwitz Committee

↑ "The Great Synagogue Restores Memory," a multimedia reconstruction of the Great Synagogue on Tłomackie Street, was projected on the facade of the Blue Tower, which stands on the site today. This event took place on 26 September to mark the 142nd anniversary of the opening of the Great Synagogue, which the Germans destroyed after suppressing the Warsaw ghetto uprising in May 1943. The event included an archival recording of Gershon Sirota, a cantor at the Great Synagogue, who died in the Warsaw ghetto, and selections from the poem "Bashert," read by its author, Irena Klepfisz, daughter of Michał Klepfisz, a soldier of the Jewish Combat Organization. In previous years, this event was held in April to mark the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, which was not possible this year due to the pandemic. Artist Gabi von Seltmann designed and produced this projection. The Open Republic Association organized the event and also streamed it live.

PROJECT DONORS
David and Lucille Gildin Family Foundation



↑ The Association, together with Stacja Muranów, began work on a monument to commemorate the Ringelblum Archive on the site in Muranów where two parts of the Warsaw Ghetto Underground Archive were buried and unearthed after the war. Łukasz Mieszkowski and Marcin Urbanek designed the glass monument, which will contain a copy of the last will and testament of David Graber. This young man risked his life to help bury the Archive in the ruins of his school at 68 Nowolipki Street (today 28) in 1942. This small project has become the impetus for other activities commemorating the Archive.

PROJECT DONORS
Oscar Kazanelson, Neocity Polska, Sigmund A. Rolat, RONSON DEVELOPMENT, Piotr Wiślicki, Alster brothers, Sigrid and Borno Janekovic, Mark Katzenelson, Keemple Polska, Marek and Agnieszka Nowakowski, Rick Parasol, Andrzej Rojek, Juliusz Windorbski, White Stone Development, Krzysztof Zorde, and many other donors (full list on page 96)

Fundraising



← Peysage — Kalwaria Zebrzydowska

Dear Friends, Dear Donors,

Events of historic significance — the current global pandemic is certainly one of them — present those who experience them with exceptional challenges. The year 2020 changed the lives of millions of people. All of us had to come to terms with the need to limit direct interpersonal contacts. This affected relationships in families and among friends, but also our professional lives.

The everyday rhythm of our operations was interrupted; our work suffered, because it is based on direct contact with both current and prospective donors. Meetings in POLIN Museum or at the Jewish Historical Institute were always the key to success. The pandemic stripped us of our tried and true primary fundraising tool. This was a challenge we had to tackle. But such situations are also opportunities. They motivate us to take a fresh look at our work and to adjust. Thanks to the Association team and good relationships with our partners, we managed to adapt to the new circumstances.

Good financial result is very satisfying. Of course, we realize that this success would not have been possible without our donors. Many of you have been supporting us for years. You were with us when we made our common dream of building POLIN Museum a reality. And you have stayed with us now, in our greatest hour of need. For that you deserve our deepest thanks.

In November 2020, I took over the responsibilities of Director of Development from Anna Miszewska. I would like to thank Anna for more than a year of fruitful collaboration in my role as her deputy, and wish her success.

BARTOSZ DYMAREK
Acting Director of Development



Fundraising Report

01
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The global Covid-19 pandemic forced us to revise not only our plans, but also our operations. We had to replace direct meetings with donors, long a key element of our fundraising strategy, with online communication. Maintaining regular contact with our donors in Poland and abroad continued to be of the utmost importance, despite the limits imposed by the pandemic. The steps we took include:

- intensifying online communication of news about the ongoing situation to supporters of the institution through newsletters and mailings
- applying for grants and administering them
- oversight of donor recognition in many forms — in print, online, and on donor walls in POLIN Museum
- identifying potential donors and developing proposals related to their interests
- producing promotional materials in print and online, including presentations, brochures, videos, invitations, and reports, and managing the Association website and Facebook page.

Agnieszka Dulęba, who worked at POLIN Museum for five years, joined the Department of Development as Deputy Director of Development in September.

Anna Szcześniak joined the Department of Development as coordinator of relations with the Jewish Historical Institute in March 2021.

WHAT WE RAISED IN 2020

Funds raised in 2020: over PLN 7,5 million

POLIN MUSEUM

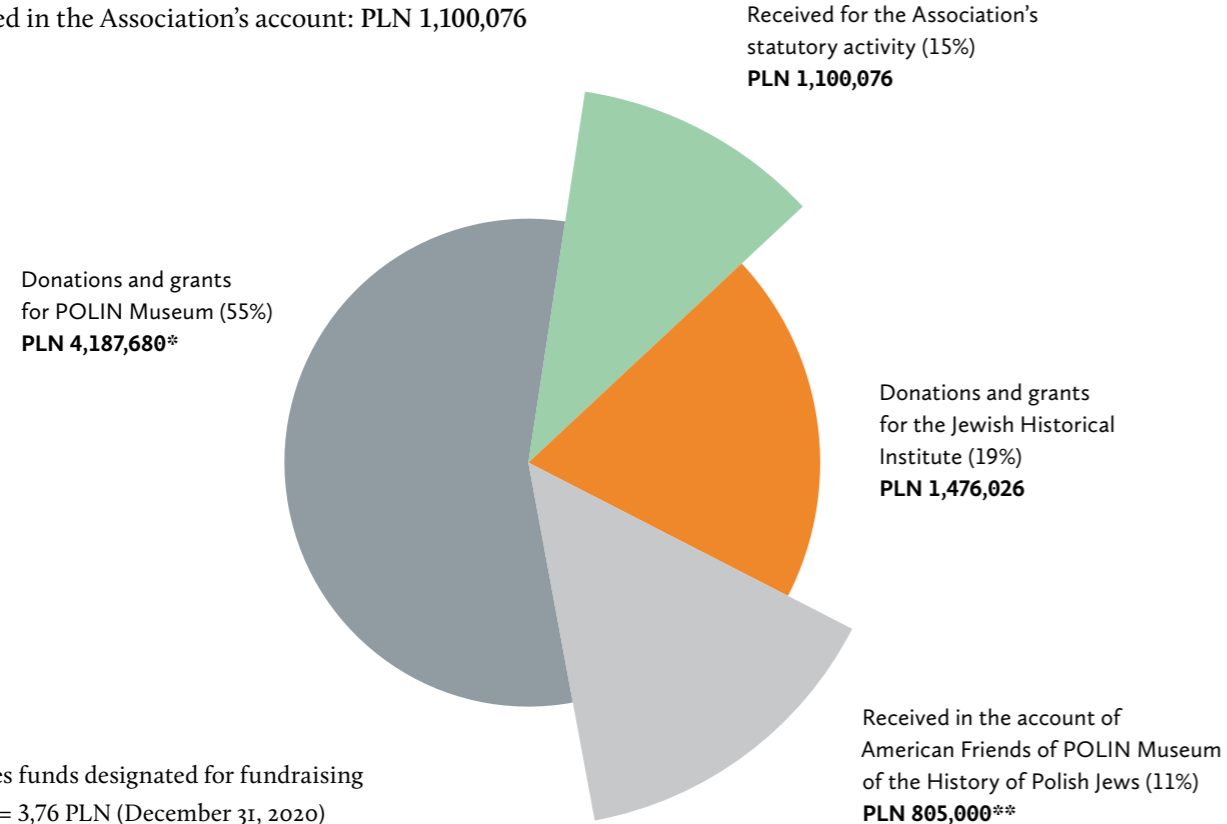
- received in the Association's account: **PLN 4,187,680***
- received in the account of American Friends of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and used in the United States for fundraising and promotional purposes for POLIN Museum: **about PLN 805,000****

EMANUEL RINGELBLUM JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

- received in the Association's account: **PLN 1,476,026**

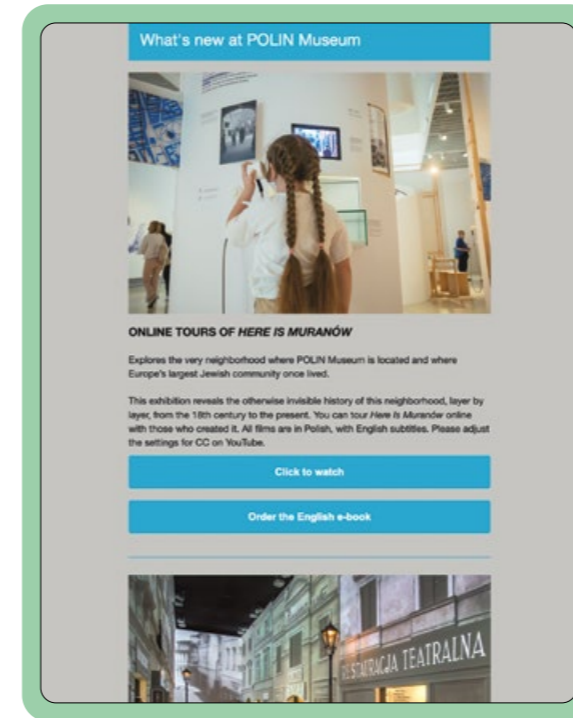
OTHER STATUTORY ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- received in the Association's account: **PLN 1,100,076**



* includes funds designated for fundraising
 ** 1 USD = 3,76 PLN (December 31, 2020)

HOW WE COMMUNICATE



↑ **Emailings and electronic newsletters for donors and members.** During the pandemic, electronic newsletters became more important than ever for informing our international donors about the current situation of the organizations we support and important events. In 2020 we produced and distributed 66 newsletters and emails dedicated to POLIN Museum (up from 22 in 2019) and 14 newsletters about the Jewish Historical Institute and the Oneg Szabat Program. We also sent 22 mailings to Association members.

Website. The Association website provides essential information about our activities and announces important events related to our mission. The website is useful for Association members, grantees, and donors. We encourage you to check it regularly: www.szih.org.pl/en



↑ **2019 Annual Report.** The Association publishes its Annual Report in separate Polish and English editions. It is an effective fundraising tool. The transparent presentation of our finances and report on our statutory activities builds confidence among donors and attests to the effectiveness of the Association and its proper management.

Social media. The Association's official Facebook page is the main source of news about our activities for many people. In 2020, we increased the number of friends and reached them in 42 countries. We also co-organized eight events on Facebook and reached almost 100,000 people with information about these events.

Electronic holiday greeting cards: Hanukkah, Rosh Hashanah, Purim, Passover.

DONORS COUNCIL



The sixth annual meeting of the Donors Council was held in June 2020 as a videoconference. The main subject was POLIN Museum's difficult financial situation as a result of the pandemic. We presented a report on fundraising in 2019 and plan for the POLIN Emergency Fund Campaign. As always, our discussions were constructive. We received not only much practical advice, but also concrete assistance.

The decision to financially support our operations attests to the confidence of the Donors Council in the Association and institutions we support. This investment enabled us to raise almost PLN 35 million since 2015. We would like to thank all current and former Council members for their engagement and support.

The Donors Council was created in 2015 at the initiative of nine Distinguished Benefactors of POLIN Museum, who became its first members. The Council set itself the goal of advising the Association's 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. The Donors Council finances the Association's fundraising activities. This support is essential to our efforts.

DONORS COUNCIL MEMBERS IN 2020

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

SPECIAL PROJECTS

In addition to advancing projects begun in previous years, we initiated the POLIN Museum Emergency Fund Campaign to address the Museum's shortfall resulting from the pandemic. We also celebrated the third anniversary of the Oneg Szabat Program.

POLIN Museum Emergency Fund Campaign. The immediate goal of the campaign was to raise PLN 2,5 million to support POLIN Museum's operating budget in the face of a precipitous loss of income during the lengthy lockdown. We wanted to protect POLIN Museum staff from layoffs. Museum's experienced, talented, passionate and exceptionally engaged team is its greatest treasure. The Association carried out the campaign in collaboration with POLIN Museum and American Friends of POLIN Museum. Our common efforts, the support of public partners and private donors allowed us to secure the Museum's budget. We raised almost PLN 400,000. We are grateful to all those who supported our campaign at this difficult moment.

CAMPAIGN DONORS

Sills Family Foundation, Corinne Evens and Association Européenne du Musée de l'Histoire des Juifs de Pologne, Louis and Anna Abrons Family Foundation, Joel Citron, Lambert Family Foundation (donation in 2021), Patricia Kenner (donation in 2021), Stephen Kusmierczak (donation in 2021), Małgorzata and Adam Weiss, Julian Bussgang, Ira Handelman, David Chesluk, Marian Kornilowicz, Stephen D. Carls and Alice Catherine Carls, Marlene Pitkow, Lynne Azarchi, Melissa Freedman, anonymous donors



↑ Third anniversary of the Oneg Szabat Program. The Association and the Jewish Historical Institute prepared a special newsletter about the last three years for project partners and donors, two webinars in English, and a series of podcasts about the Ringelblum Archive and the Institute's activities.

Donation stations inside POLIN Museum will allow guests to make quick donations using debit and credit cards or cash. In 2020, we completed the formalities and detailed design. Installation, which was postponed due to the pandemic, is planned for 2022.



↑ Commemorating the Ringelblum Archive. More than 40 donors supported the Ringelblum Archive Monument. Our goal was to reach the largest number of new donors in Poland. Members of the Association's Management Board were a great help in reaching new people, including several entrepreneurs from Israel with operations in Poland. This project is a first step in building lasting relationships with our new donors.

PROJECT DONORS — PATRONS CATEGORY
Neocity Polska, Oscar Kazanelson, Piotr Wiślicki, Sigmund A. Rolat, RONSON DEVELOPMENT

PROJECT DONORS — BUILDERS CATEGORY
Alster brothers, Sigrid and Borno Janekovic, Mark Katzenelson, Keemple Polska, Marek and Agnieszka Nowakowski, Rick Parasol, Andrzej Rojek, Juliusz Windorbski, White Stone Development, Krzysztof Zorde

We would like to thank all donors in Poland and abroad. Those who gave PLN 500 or more in 2020 are listed on page 96.

Dear Friends,

It is difficult for us to evaluate 2020 without taking into account the difficulties we had to overcome. The global pandemic brought a new reality. We worried about our families, our friends — about the people around us, but also about those who live each day far away from us. Like many other institutions, POLIN Museum also had to manage a financial crisis. This was an enormous challenge. Together with POLIN Museum and the Association we launched the POLIN Museum Emergency Fund Campaign. I am grateful and proud of how openly and eagerly supporters of American Friends of POLIN Museum responded to our appeal and supported POLIN Museum in a time of such need. Thanks to the successful campaign, POLIN Museum endured the lockdown with a stable budget.

I am also proud of POLIN Museum's effective operations in the face of a new and exceptionally difficult situation. The Museum's rich online offerings reached viewers in Poland and abroad despite the enforced distance and impossibility of travel. The process of adapting to the pandemic was not easy, and going forward, there is always room for improvement, but I am confident that the Museum's team will be equal to the challenges.

I would like to thank our donors, friends of the Museum, and the Museum team for achieving success in a year as difficult as 2020. I await 2021 with joy, knowing that the solidarity that allowed us to come through this year will strengthen the collaboration between POLIN Museum, American Friends of POLIN Museum, and the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland.

ANDRZEJ ROJEK
President, American Friends of POLIN Museum
of the History of Polish Jews
Member of the Association of the Jewish
Historical Institute of Poland
POLIN Museum donor



Work with American Friends of POLIN Museum

02
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Our close collaboration with American Friends of POLIN Museum took place in the shadow of a global coronavirus pandemic. The key task for both organizations was to maintain interest in the Museum's program, which was quickly moved online. Regular working meetings between the Department of Development and representatives of American Friend ensured a good flow of information and coordination of joint activities.

American Friends of POLIN Museum co-organized the POLIN Museum Emergency Fund Campaign, whose goal was to support the Museum's dedicated, experienced team by strengthening the operating budget, which was threatened by the pandemic. Our joint activities bore fruit — a dozen new donors in the United States contributed to the campaign.

We would like to thank our partners from across the ocean for their help during this period, in particular American Friends President Andrzej Rojek, American Friends Board Member Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, and Rebecca Schaeffer-Moldovan, Director of American Friends.

AMERICAN FRIENDS BOARD

- Andrzej Rojek — President
- Sigmund A. Rolat — Co-chair
- Victor Markowicz — Co-chair
- Roman Rewald — Treasurer
- David Goldman — Secretary
- Samantha Rolat Asulin — Member
- Anita Friedman — Member
- Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett — Member
- Cantor Joseph Malovany — Member
- Irene Kronhill-Pletka — Member
- Shana Penn — Member
- Sylvia Safer — Member
- Rabbi Arthur Schneier — Member
- Elizabeth Szancer — Member
- Jerzy Warman — Member



The American Friends Board met in May and September. Representatives of the Association and the Department of Development took part in both meetings.

ASSOCIATION DONORS IN 2020*

SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATION'S STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

(H.SM) special project — publication of *Holocaust. Studies and Materials*

(RA) special project — Ringelblum Archive Monument

- Alster brothers (RA)
- Jolanta Czczeko (RA)
- Victoria Dorosz (RA)
- Dina and Ron Drori (RA)
- Rolf Johann Ellmers (RA)
- Fundacja Koszer Polska (RA)
- Piotr and Aneta Fromowitz (RA)
- Marek Gerkowicz
- Daniel Gutenberg (RA)
- Marta Hyży (H.SM)
- International Auschwitz Committee
- Małgorzata Iwaszuk (RA)
- Sigrid and Borno Janekovic (RA)
- Joseph and Fay Geliebter Philanthropic Fund (RA)
- Mark Katzenelson (RA)
- Oscar Kazanelson (RA)
- Keemple Polska (RA)
- KPMG
- Marcin Korman
- Wojciech Lemański (H.SM)
- Peter Levi (H.SM)
- Andrzej Malec (RA)
- Katarzyna Markusz (RA)
- Alina Molisak (H.SM)
- David Mouille and Katherine Penaloza (RA)
- Neocity Polska (RA)
- Marek and Agnieszka Nowakowscy (RA)
- Stanisław Nowakowski (RA)
- Rick Parasol (RA)
- Irene Kronhill-Pletka (H.SM)
- Nella and Barbara Poznanski (RA)
- Waldemar Prokop (RA)
- Jeff Ratner (RA)
- Yoram Reshef, Blue City (RA)
- Adam Ringer (RA)
- Marek Roefler (RA)
- Andrzej and Małgorzata Rojkowie (RA)
- Sigmund A. Rolat (RA)
- Marcin Rywin (RA)
- RONSON DEVELOPMENT (RA)
- Paul Goldner and Sandy Soifer
- Jacek Strzelecki (H.SM)
- Mieczysław Trzcinka (H.SM)
- Anna Tanalska-Dulęba
- White Stone Development (RA)
- Juliusz Windorbowski (RA)
- Piotr Wiślicki (RA)
- Magdalena and Maciej Zabojszczowie (RA)
- Stanisław Zaręba (H.SM)
- Kristof Zorde (RA)
- 57 donors who sent 1% of their income tax under a Polish government program (under PLN 500)

PRO BONO SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF STATUTORY ACTIVITY

- DeBenedetti Majewski Szcześniak Kancelaria Prawnicza Sp.K.
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges

SUPPORT FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

- Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies
- Koret Foundation
- Bolesław Skorupski

SUPPORT FOR JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH POLIN MUSEUM

BUILDERS

- Corinne Evens and Association Européenne du Musée de l'Histoire des Juifs de Pologne POLIN
- Koret Foundation
- Odette and Nimrod S. Ariav Foundation
- Jankilevitch Foundation
- Ronald S. Lauder
- William K. Bowes, Jr. Foundation

PARTNERS

- Irene Kronhill-Pletka
- Carmit and Ygal Ozechov

SUPPORTERS

- Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
- Konrad Adenauer Foundation
- Parasol Family Foundation
- Andrzej and Małgorzata Rojek
- Sigmund A. Rolat
- Sills Family Foundation
- Tad Taube and Taube Philanthropies

FRIENDS

- Anonymous donors
- Fay and Julian Bussgang
- David Chesluk
- Yoel Citron
- Foundation for the Preservation of the History of the Jewish People in the Pale of Settlement
- Jay Geller
- Doris P. Haims
- Ira Handelman
- Hochberg Family Foundation
- Marian Kornilowicz
- Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation
- David Lubarsky
- Ruby Family Foundation
- Roselyne Chroman Swig
- Tomek Ulatowski
- Małgorzata and Adam Weiss
- Rodney Zimmel

* all donors of more than PLN 500 who supported the Association's statutory activity through direct payments or through American Friends of POLIN Museum

Financial Report



← *Landscape in the vicinity of Kazimierz, Fields*

Dear Friends,

For the rest of my life, I'm sure I'll remember this one short sentence: "See you in two weeks," as I left for home in mid-March 2020 when the lockdown began. In response, I heard the hopeful refrain that "the lockdown definitely can't last more than two weeks." At that time, it was still possible to believe that everything would go back to normal soon. But of course, it turned out differently.

Since then, a year has passed — an exceptionally difficult time for all of us: full of fear, uncertainty, forced isolation from friends, abandonment of plans and dreams, and most painfully, a time when some of us lost loved ones.

It is difficult to come to terms with the effects of the pandemic, with the way it has affected our daily lives. But the worldwide shutdown that ensued may have given us something, taught us something. We came to appreciate relationships with our loved ones, those for whom we did not always have enough time. We re-examined ourselves; took the opportunity for reflection and revaluing our choices until now. Each of us felt the importance of social responsibility, support for our fellow humans, and also philanthropy and solidarity, broadly understood, in the face of a threat.

This was also an incredible time of intense common work for the Association. I would like to thank our entire team. Their great efforts guided the Association through the most difficult moments of the pandemic, as we reviewed our previous activities and planned new projects. Our decisions have had outstanding effects on our organization's work, both on the number of projects we support, and on our overall financial results. We supported 74 projects: 18 of them were carried out jointly with POLIN Museum and four with the Jewish Historical Institute; 52 were selected by the Grants Committee for support or were special projects.

We are facing another year of the pandemic. We are entering it with unwavering hope that the crisis will end.

MICHAŁ MAJEWSKI
Director of Operations



Financial Report

01

The financial condition of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland remained very healthy in 2020 thanks to significant cost savings and moving operations online. The Association continued to focus on the following objectives:

- supporting the activities of POLIN Museum by carrying out joint projects
- supporting the activities of the Jewish Historical Institute by carrying out joint projects
- supporting other organizations, including financing from the Grants Committee.

These areas are reflected in the financial statements presented below.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges and the law firm DMS provided legal services.

KPMG provided financial statement audits and tax advice.

↓ Magdalena Małocha

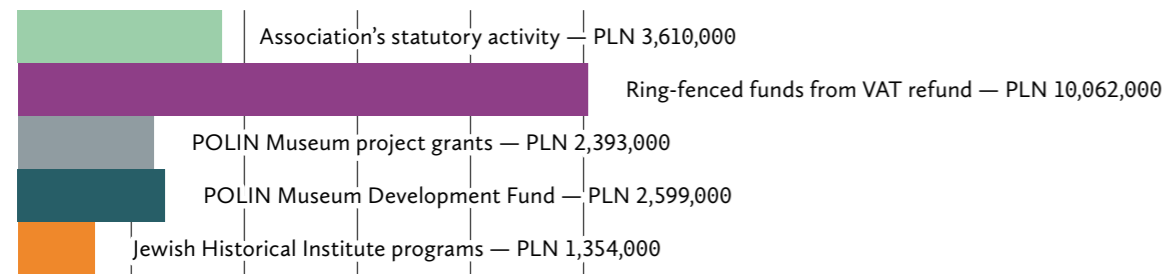


↑ Roman Rewald

FUNDS IN THE ASSOCIATION'S ACCOUNTS AS OF 1 JANUARY 2020
PLN 20,018 MILLION, INCLUDING:

- PLN 3,610,000 for the Association's statutory activity
- PLN 10,062,000 of ring-fenced funds from VAT refund in 2018, with interest on short-term bank deposits of these funds
- PLN 4,992,000 for support and joint execution of POLIN Museum programs, including:
 - PLN 2,393,000 for POLIN Museum project grants
 - PLN 2,599,000 for the POLIN Museum Development Fund
- PLN 1,354,000 for support and joint execution of Jewish Historical Institute programs.

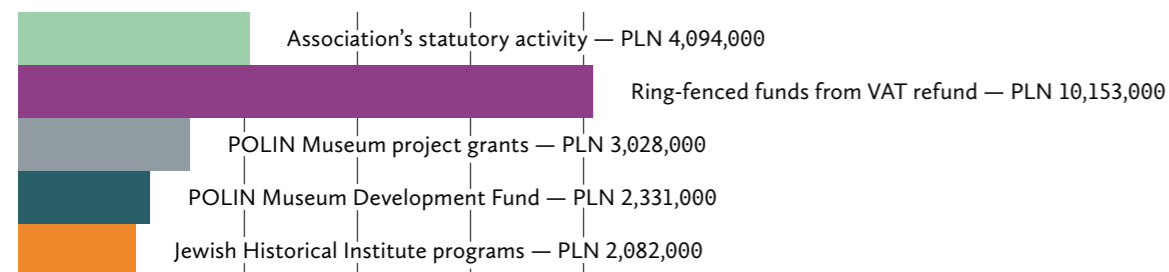
Funds as of January 1, 2020



FUNDS IN THE ASSOCIATION'S ACCOUNTS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2020
PLN 21,668,000, INCLUDING:

- PLN 4,094,000 for the Association's statutory activity
- PLN 10,153,000 ring-fenced funds from VAT refund in 2018, with interest on short-term bank deposits of these funds
- PLN 5,359,000 for support and joint execution of POLIN Museum programs, including:
 - PLN 3,028,000 for POLIN Museum project grants
 - PLN 2,331,000 for POLIN Museum Development Fund
- PLN 2,082,000 for support and joint execution of Jewish Historical Institute programs

Funds as of December 31, 2020



INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 2020

	Opening balance on 1 Jan 2020 (PLN)	Income (PLN)	Expenses (PLN)	Balance on 31 Dec 2020 (PLN)
I. Statutory activities of Association (excluding pts. II, III and IV)	3,609,746	1,880,850	1,423,154*	4,093,920
II. Ring-fenced funds from VAT refund	10,062,050	90,819	0	10,152,869
III. Support for POLIN Museum's activities	4,991,598	3,412,217	3,045,055	5,358,760
IV. Support for Jewish Historical Institute's activities	1,354,177	1,988,582*	1,260,440	2,082,319
TOTAL	20,017,571	7,345,930	5,867,402	21,687,868

* Includes transfers between categories as agreed with partners and returns of unused funds

As a result of the pandemic, the Association's revenues shrank. By moving many projects online and reducing spending, we managed to achieve a positive financial result. The Association is in a healthy and stable financial situation for yet another year.

↓ Anna Moniewska, Office Manager



Superata Sp. z o.o., an accounting agency specializing in servicing non-government organizations, provided accounting services.

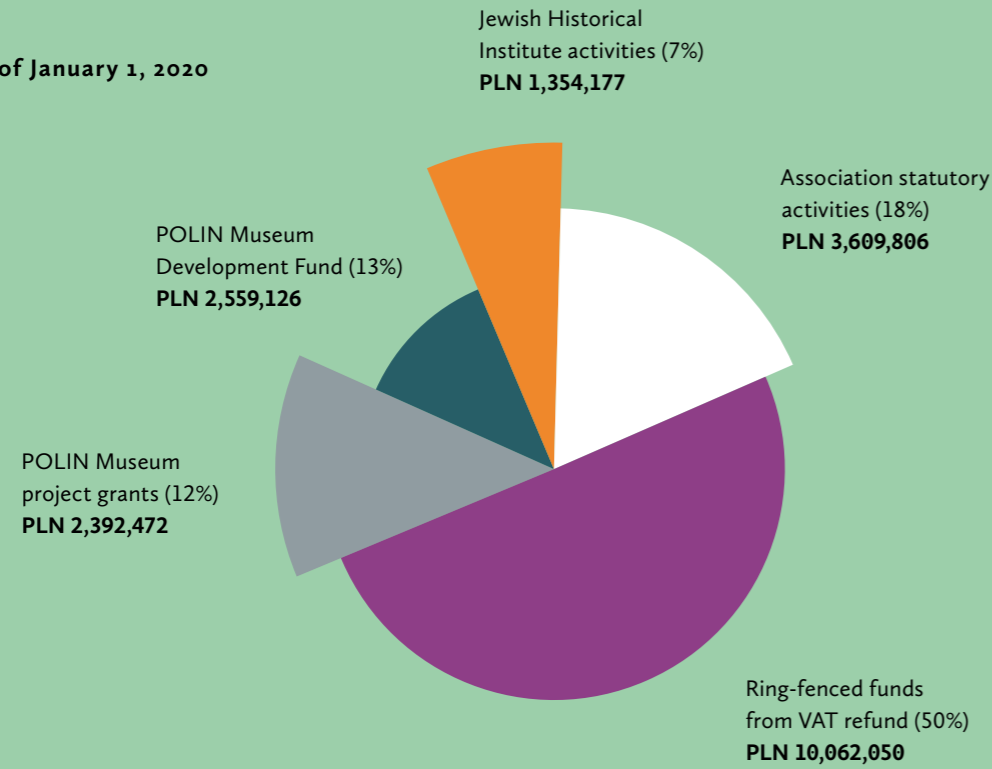
Currency exchange for 2020:

1 USD = 3,76 PLN

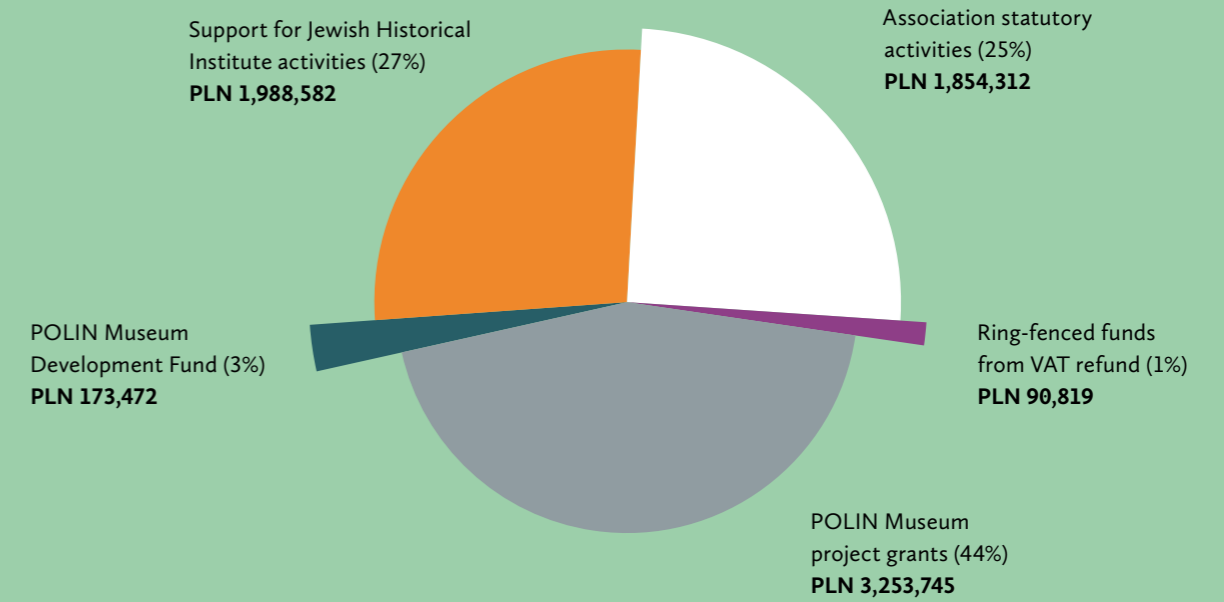
1 EURO = 4,61 PLN

FINANCIAL CHARTS

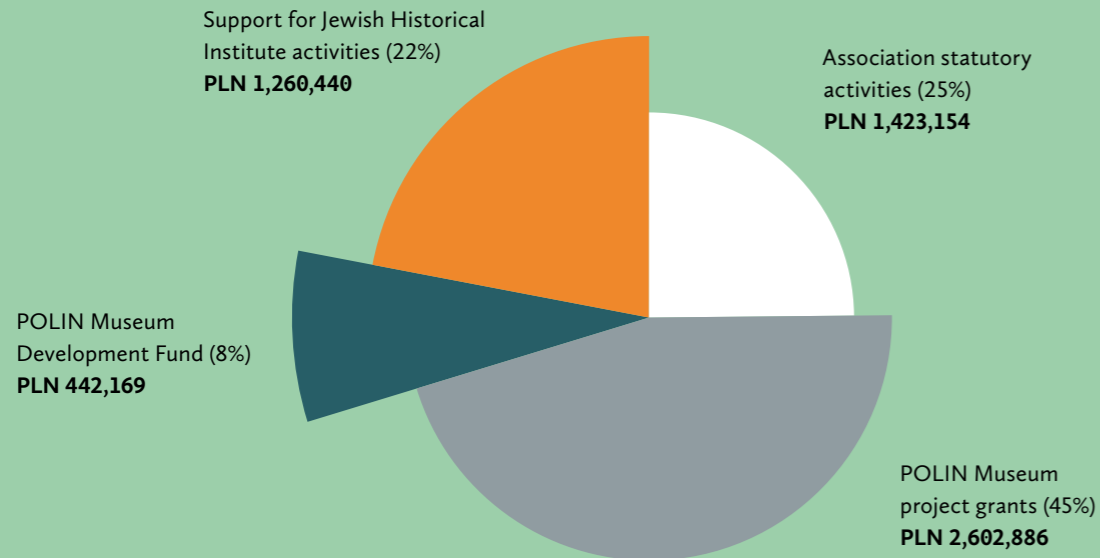
Balance as of January 1, 2020



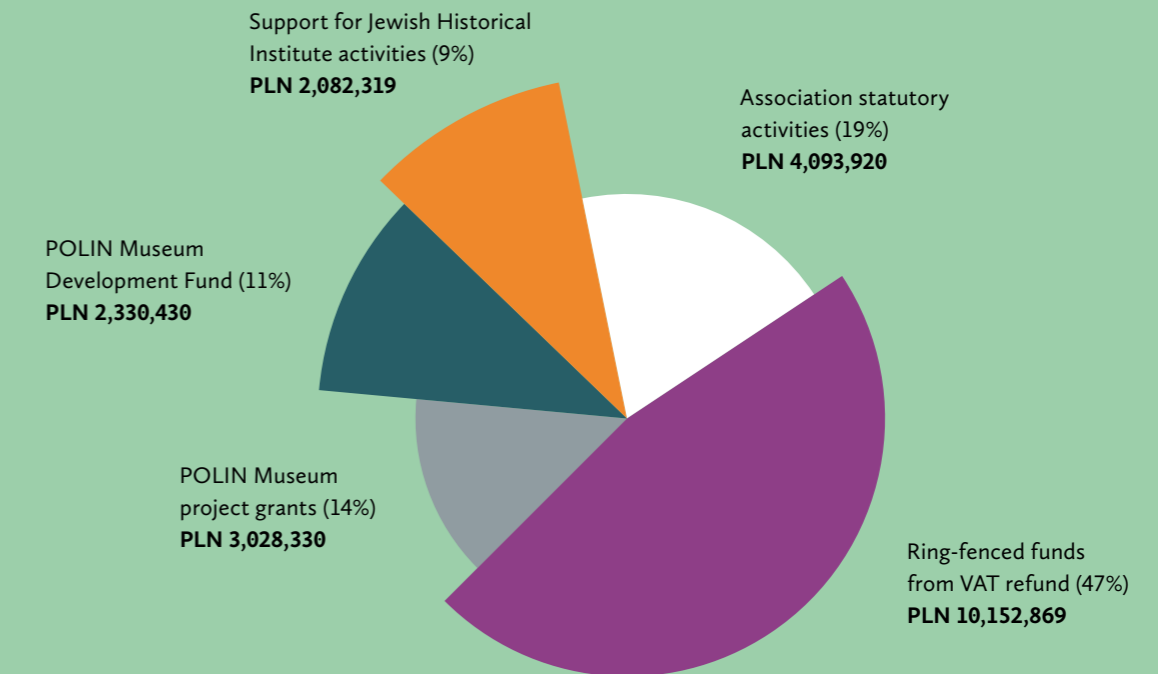
2020 Income



2020 Expenses



Balance as of December 31, 2020

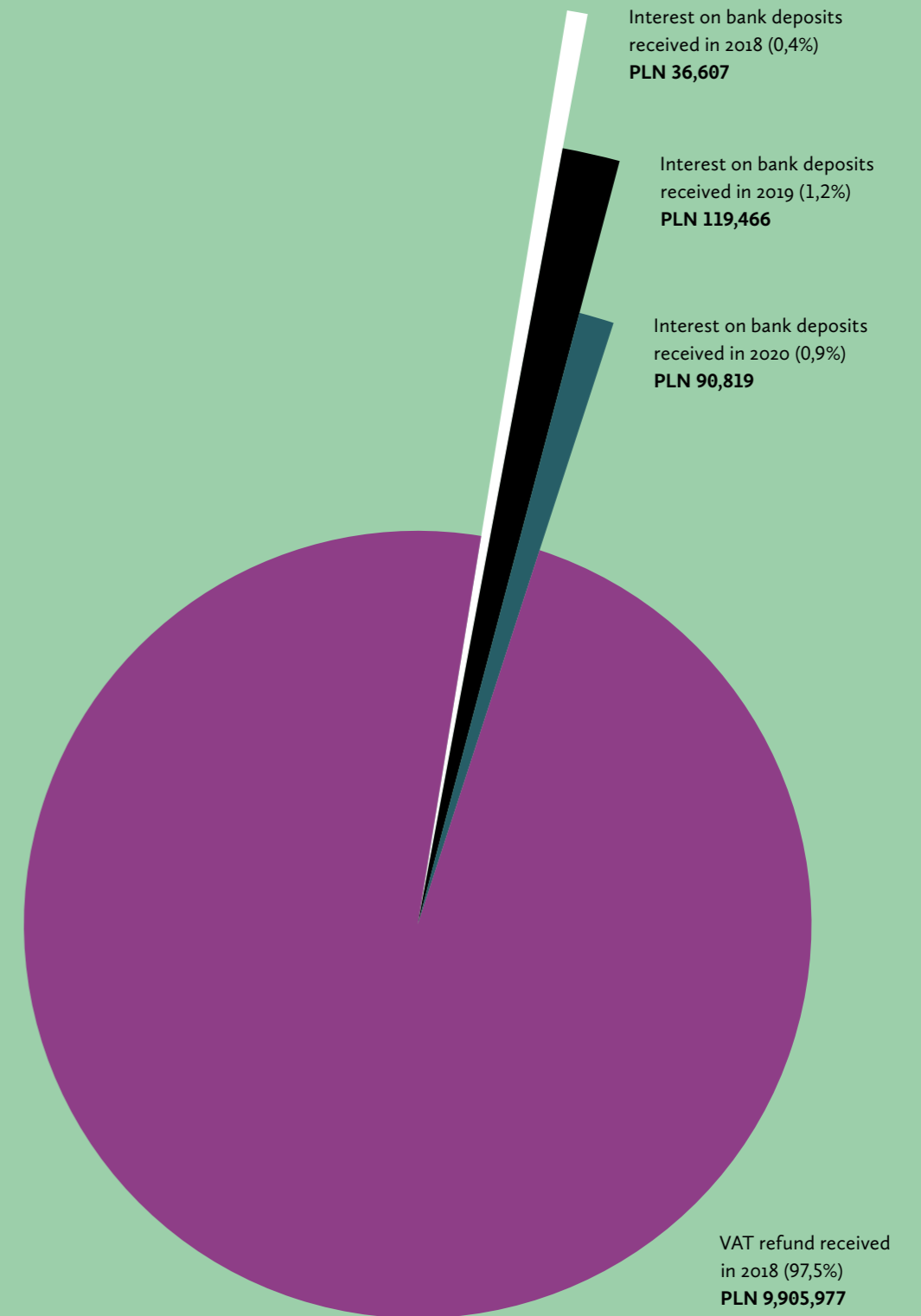


LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SECURITY of the ASSOCIATION

In 2020 we completed the endowment fund concept, based on the VAT refund. We conducted extensive consultations with law firms and other NGOs with similar funds as the basis for a plan that would guarantee the maximum security of the endowment, the interest from which would be designated for the Association's statutory activities. Due to the pandemic and restrictions on organizing the Association's Annual Meeting, it was not possible to gather a large enough number of members, a requirement for changing our statute and formalizing the creation of the endowment. Given the National Bank of Poland's interest-rate cuts, creating the Fund is a priority for 2021. Until the endowment is formally established, the VAT refund is in a ring-fenced bank account, which earns interest, thereby increasing the amount that will be the basis for the endowment.

KPMG, which was selected in 2015, conducted receipt of the VAT refund.

Income and Expenditures



INCOME and EXPENDITURES

	Opening Balance on 1 Jan 2020 (PLN)	Income (PLN)	Expenditures (PLN)	Balance on 31 Dec 2020 (PLN)
	A	B	C	D = A + B - C
I. Association statutory activities (excluding points II, III and IV)	3,609,806	1,854,312	1,423,154	4,093,920
1. Operating costs of statutory activity	.	.	316,694	.
2. Grants Committee	.	3,000**	218,000	.
3. Support for other organizations	.	350,814	147,687*	.
4. Fundraising and promotion	.	942,318	690,094	.
5. Other income and expenditures	.	558,180	50,679	.
II. Ring-fenced funds from VAT refund	10,062,050	90,819	0	10,152,869
1. Interest on bank deposits	.	90,819	0	.
III. Support for POLIN Museum's activities	4,991,598	3,412,217	3,045,055	5,358,760
1. POLIN Museum projects supported by grants from public funds, expanding the Core Exhibition, and cooperation with Jewish organizations	.	173,472	442,169	.
2. POLIN Museum project grants	.	3,238,745**	2,602,886 zł	.
IV. Support for Jewish Historical Association activities	1,354,177	1,988,582	1,260,440	2,082,319
1. Programs implemented with public grants	.	230,000*	230,101	.
2. Programs implemented with project grants	.	1,758,582**	1,030,339	.
TOTAL	20,017,631	7,345,930	5,728,649	21,687,868

* Including transfers between categories

** Including refunds of unused funds

I. Expenses related to the Association's other statutory activity (unrelated to 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 Committee

In 2020 the Grants Committee awarded 46 grants for projects related to the history and culture of Polish Jews. See pages 64–80.

3. Support for other organizations

In 2020 the Association supported projects of other organizations. See pages 81–83.

4. Fundraising and promotion

Promotion of the Association, POLIN Museum, and Jewish Historical Institute; fundraising; reports. The Donors Council finances the Association's fundraising and promotion budget in the form of designated gifts. See pages 85–93 about the Association's fundraising activities.

5. Other income and expenditures

Income designated for the Association's statutory activity, interest on bank deposits, costs of foreign-exchange conversion, and other expenditures not elsewhere classified, including transfers between categories

II. Ring-fenced funds from the VAT refund and accrued interest. Funds from the refund of value-added tax, interest on bank deposits**III. Support for POLIN Museum's activities:****1. POLIN Museum projects:****Financed by the Association and public funds**

Projects carried out by POLIN Museum, solely or in cooperation with the Association or with Jewish organizations — financed by the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute's POLIN Museum Development Fund or by public funds. The projects are described on pages 32–37.

2. POLIN Museum projects:**Financed with designated funds**

Designated funds raised by the Association for specific POLIN Museum projects. The projects are described on pages 38–49.

IV. Expenditures related to Jewish Historical Institute's programs, 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. These projects are described on pages 54–61.

The annual financial and operational reports and the audit results are available at:
www.szih.org.pl/sprawozdania

Currency exchange for 2020:
1 USD = 3,76 PLN
1 EURO = 4,61 PLN

We invite you to support the Association. Every gift is very important to us. Your donation allows us to support the programs of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, and other Jewish organizations whose goal is to protect and promote the heritage of Polish Jews.

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 contact: development@szih.org.pl

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היסטארישער HISTORICAL
אינסטיטוט INSTITUTE

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