

2012 Henryk Sławik Award



Left to right: Chin Tan Chairman of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, Krystyna Duszniak, Lucyna Artymiuk, Nina Bassat, President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

The 2012 recipients of the Henryk Sławik Award are Ms Krystyna Duszniak and Ms Lucyna Artymiuk, both from Melbourne.

At a ceremony immediately following the ASPJ AGM, 13 November, Ms Nina Bassat, President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, presented the award to Ms Artymiuk, whilst Mr Chin Tan, Chairman of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, presented to Ms Duszniak.

The annual award recognises individuals or organizations for services towards the betterment of Polish-Jewish relations and combating of stereotypes that hamper these relations.

Ms Duszniak is a respected historian, who writes and lectures about the Holocaust and Genocide and Modern Jewish and Polish History. Her research explores Jewish life in an Eastern Polish town before the war, and has contributed greatly to better understanding of interrelationships between the two communities.

Ms Artymiuk helped more than 700 Polish Jews apply for the ghetto pension and continues to be a regular visitor to the Holocaust Centre, where she has formed close friendship with survivors and their families. She was the Vice President of Polish Council of Australia/ Victoria and is currently a Director of the Kresy-Siberia foundation, which is uncovering the

deportation of Polish citizens, amongst them many Jews, to Siberia.

Both women are Associate Members of the ASPJ and founders of "Dialog", a second-generation Polish-Jewish dialogue group in Melbourne, to better understand each other's family experiences, historical realities, and closely held stereotypes.



Left to right: Zygmunt Bielinski, President, Dom Polski Rowville, Izi Marmur, President ASPJ and Andrew Korab, President, Dom Polski Albion



Nina Bassat, President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and Lucyna Artymiuk

See page 3 for more pictures.

From Anti-Semitic Skinhead to Orthodox Jew



Pawel Bramson

Our next guest speaker from Poland (Sunday 9 June 2013) tells a fascinating story of personal transformation and brings a rare insight into the mind of the racist skinhead.

As a teenager, Pawel Bramson ran with a soccer-hooligan, skinhead gang and was immersed in its virulent anti-Semitic, racist, and homophobic culture. When his wife of four years delved into family history, she discovered a hidden mutual Jewish ancestry via their respective maternal grandmothers.

Thus began the twelve-year transformation of a Catholic raised youth to a deeply religious Jewish man. What sort of a journey was it? How did he come to terms with his youthful prejudices? How did his former friends react? What drives the hatred of the skinheads?

To hear more about Pawel's journey to the other side of anti-Semitism, join us on Sunday, 9 June at Glen Eira Town Hall.

See page 2 for more information about this event.

Australian Society of Polish Jews and their Descendants Inc.
invites you to

FROM SKINHEAD TO COVERED HEAD



Meet and hear
the amazing
story of
**PAWEŁ
BRAMSON**

Once, an anti-Semitic skinhead who discovered his Jewish roots and who now, more than twelve years later, leads the life of an observant Hassidic Jew.

We will also screen "THE MOON IS JEWISH", a fascinating documentary about Paweł's life transition, which was shown last year on Polish television.

Sunday 9th June 2013

2.30pm, Glen Eira Town Hall Auditorium.

Enter via Glen Eira Road entrance.

Afternoon tea will follow.

Members: \$20 Non-Members: \$25

All enquiries and bookings, please email:

lfizzman@bigpond.net.au

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Australian Society of Polish Jews
and Their Descendants Inc.

The Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants, previously known as the World Federation of Polish Jews (WFOPJ) is an organisation founded by Jewish Holocaust survivors from Poland. Their aim was to create a self-help group which would look after the physical, emotional and cultural needs of the remnants of a once expansive, diverse and vibrant community decimated by the Holocaust.

The Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne, a world-renowned institution dedicated to combating anti-Semitism and any form of prejudice wherever it occurs, is a living testament to the vision and legacy of the founders of the WFOPJ.

Two generations on, the children of Polish Jews who sought a safe haven in Australia feel the need to better understand the rich and complex history of Jews in Poland. We feel an urgency to ensure that the unique and dynamic contribution by the Jewish community to Polish culture and identity is never forgotten by Poles and Jews alike, including those Poles who live in the Polish diaspora. And, finally, we wish to contribute meaningfully to the new emerging Jewish community in Poland and to Poland itself.

Our aim is:

- To educate and promote an understanding of Polish/Jewish relations throughout history
- To instil within future generations an understanding and an appreciation of their heritage
- To engage in dialogue with Polish Communities, both within Australia and internationally
- To promote an understanding of modern Poland and Jewish life within it
- To support the Jewish community within Poland
- To host relevant speakers, exhibitions, cultural and educational events
- To co-operate with organisations with similar aims and objectives.

ASPJ Elects New President

Izi Marmur was unanimously elected as ASPJ's President, at ASPJ Board of Management meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting, on Tuesday 13th November.

Outgoing President, Bernard Korbman was ineligible for re-election under the ASPJ constitution, which limits the term of service to three consecutive years.

Izi thanked Bernard for his efforts to revive the dormant organisation and for his visionary leadership to establish the ASPJ as a respected voice within the Jewish and Polish communities here and in Poland.

Bernard Korbman remains active as joint Vice President with Andrew Rajcher.

From the New ASPJ President



Dear friends,

I am honoured to have been elected as President of the Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants. Following Bernard Korbman in that position, I'm aware of the high standards set by him and am reassured by the knowledge that he will continue to offer his support and guidance.

Over the past three years, our organisation has made good progress in advancing our goals. We've developed strong ties between the Polish and Jewish communities

in Australia and Poland, especially in Melbourne. There have been several functions in partnership with various Polish organisations, attended by members of both communities.

The inroads made by the ASPJ to date have created new friendships and have opened opportunities for further dialogue. We found, within Polish community organisations, many individuals whose goals, inclinations and intentions are similar to our own. Their cooperation is much appreciated.

Our hope is to continue to reach out and engage in a meaningful and respectful dialogue, not only with like-minded people, but also with those who think differently. This goal will surely be more challenging. Therefore, the active participation by more people in our community will be very important.

We have many activities planned in the new year. Our website and our newsletter keep members of both communities informed of developments both here and in Poland. Yours suggestions are always welcome.

Izi Marmur

2012 Henryk Sławik Award Night



Left to right: Cheryl Korbman, Bernard Korbman, George Luk Kozika, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland, Denise Luk Kozika, Izi Marmur, Esther Marmur, Lena Fiszman



Andrew Rajcher, treasurer ASPJ



Krystyna Duszniak

News From Poland

Eight New Polish Righteous Honoured in Warsaw



Another eight Poles have been honoured, posthumously, as Righteous Among the Nations by Israel's Yad Vashem.

The official ceremony took place on 4th December 2012, in the office of the Polish Prime Minister.

Medals and certificates were accepted by the children or grandchildren of those who were recognised for their efforts in aiding Jews during WWII.

During the ceremony, the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, Zvi Rav-Ner, spoke of Israel's continuing obligation to honour those who had helped Jews during the War. The event also featured an address by Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, a Righteous Gentile and an Honorary Citizen of Israel.

Chanukah Celebrated at the Presidential Palace



The fourth day of Chanukah was celebrated this year, at Belvedere, the home of the President of the Republic of Poland.

President Bronisław Komorowski took part in the ceremony, together with Poland's Chief Rabbi, Michael Schudrich and the Israeli Ambassador to Poland, Mr Zvi Rav-Ner.

President Komorowski said that the closeness of Chanukah and Christmas was possibly done on purpose by a higher authority in order to remind us that we are all the children of one G-d.

Among those to participate in the ceremony were members of the Jewish community, together with Righteous Among the Nations and members of the Children of the Holocaust Association.

The event received considerable coverage in the Polish press, radio and television.

70th Anniversary of Żegota Commemorated



A ceremony took place on 4th December 2012, in front of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of Żegota – the Polish Council to Aid Jews, the only state organisation in Europe to help Jews during World War II.

Żegota provided help primarily to Jews in hiding on the so-called Aryan side, but also tried to help, where it could, those in ghettos and camps. Jews in hiding were provided with food and financial aid as well as false papers. Many children were placed in care facilities or with Polish families.

Żegota's last surviving member, Professor Władysław Bartoszewski, spoke at the ceremony. Candles were then lit, followed by the laying of wreathes at the Żegota monument.

MEMBERSHIP

Even though the name of our Society is indicative of our general identity, our membership policy is intended to be as inclusive as possible.

Naturally, we encourage all Jews, whose roots lie in Poland, to become a Member and join in our activities.

However, even if you are not Jewish but are interested in Polish-Jewish relations, history and/or dialogue, we also encourage you to join us and invite you to apply for Associate Membership.

Even though Membership is open to Jews aged sixteen years and over, we also encourage young members under the age of sixteen, who are interested in their heritage and history, to become an Associate Member.