

HAYNT



Australian Society of Polish Jews
and their Descendants

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF ASPJ HAYNT NEWSLETTER

PRESERVE
EDUCATE
PROMOTE

SPRING 2017 ISSUE 1

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to introduce this first edition of the ASPJ *Haynt* newsletter. We intend to make it a tri-annual publication and in this and all future editions we shall be showcasing articles on cultural, social and political themes. *Haynt* will keep you in touch with news and developments which are of interest to the Polish and Jewish communities both in Australia and Poland

We chose our newsletter's name in recognition of the important part the original *Haynt* played, and contribution it made, to Jewish life in pre-Second World War Poland.

Founded and published in Warsaw between 1908 and 1939, *Haynt* (Today) was one of the two longest running and most important Yiddish daily papers published in Warsaw, the other being *Der Moment*. Both newspapers played a vital role in positioning Warsaw as one of the centres of modern Jewish culture in the 20th century until the Holocaust, and were a critical resource for day-to-day news about the Jews of that time and place.

Haynt continued to be published even during the first few days of the German invasion of Poland. The final issue appeared on the eve of Yom Kippur September 22, 1939, just days before Warsaw surrendered.

We hope that readers will enjoy the new *Haynt*, find it of interest, and use it as a useful source of information. It will be available on our website, as well as emailed to our members. Hard copies will be available on request.

Shana Tova.

Izydor Marmur



(Above) *Haynt* Newspaper. September 1939

(Below) *Haynt* Newstand. Warsaw



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On behalf of the Polish Community Council of Victoria, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants on the inaugural publication of the first edition of *Haynt* newsletter.

I strongly believe that *Haynt* will be very successful and bring joy to many Jewish families.

Publishing *Haynt* here in Melbourne brings a piece of Jewish history from pre-war Warsaw, where daily newspaper *Haynt* was the longest running and the most important Yiddish paper in the years 1908-1939.

Taking the opportunity, I would like to express how pleased I am with the very favourable development of relations between our two organisations.

Dialogue, better understanding and closer ties between Poles and Jews are bearing the desired fruit. By working together on a number of projects we can overcome the unfounded stereotypes which have not yet been eradicated in our societies. This allows us to look to the future with optimism. We are joined together in our belief that history is more than just a series of events. We're moving forward and we're doing so in practical ways.

I congratulate president Izydor Marmur and his team and wish him all the best on this new endeavour.

Marian Pawlik OAM
President
Polish Community Council of
Victoria

On behalf of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), I am delighted to congratulate Izi Marmur and the team at the Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants (ASPJ) on the launch and publication of their *Haynt* newsletter.

This is an important milestone in the progress and significant step in the journey of the ASPJ in its excellent work representing the interests of and serving our Polish Jewish community.

The ASPJ is a very important and valued affiliate of the JCCV, and plays a vital role in the community's cultural, social and inter-faith landscape. The Polish Jewish community in Victoria has played a large and enriching role in the growth and development of Victoria's Jewish community and Victoria generally. The ASPJ helps ensure that the dynamic impact of the Polish Jewish community to be recognised and the legacy of our Polish Jewish immigrants and their descendants continued.

This is a tremendous and very welcome initiative, and we wish Izi and his team every success!

Best wishes,

David Marlow,
Executive Director
Jewish Community Council of
Victoria (JCCV)

I was delighted to hear that the ASPJ is to begin publication of a regular community newsletter to be called *Haynt*.

This news is indeed exceedingly welcome. Few things bind a community as durably or as effectively as an informative newsletter or bulletin.

Your choice of title for your publication carries particular historical and emotional significance inasmuch as it is to be identical to the name of the once famous Yiddish-language Warsaw daily. Your decision offers a direct indication that the new *Haynt*'s editors intend to emulate its esteemed forerunner in producing a much-needed quality publication. The new *Haynt* is undoubtedly destined to become an invaluable source of information on Polish-Jewish relations both in Australia and in Poland.

On behalf of myself, as well as of the entire AIPA membership, I would like to warmly congratulate you on this excellent initiative and wish you every possible success with it. Like all AIPA members and many people involved in Polish-Jewish dialogue in Australia, I eagerly look forward to reading its first issue.

Adam Warzel
President
Australian Institute of Polish Affairs
(AIPA)

MEYN GEDANKEN (MY THOUGHTS)

Bernard Korbman
CEO, ASPJ

Our clearly defined dictum of "Preserve Heritage, Educate and Promote" is prominently displayed on all our published material. Two questions arising from these bywords are, what are we preserving, educating about and promoting, and is it worth it?

The near one thousand year relationship between Jewish Poles and non-Jewish Poles is so intricately entwined and conjoined that Polish identity cannot be defined, one without the other. The fact that some in the Polish and Jewish communities would like to maintain a line of separation between the two, our times of closeness and our times of enmity have moulded our cultural character and distinctiveness.

It is therefore important for the descendants of Polish Jews to be aware of their cultural and historical heritage. It is imperative that non-Jewish Poles know about and acknowledge the contribution of so many Jewish intellectuals, composers, and literary figures who have enriched, enlightened and helped to form the soul of Poland.

We ourselves must learn more about our history in Poland, so that we can preserve our proud contribution in the fight for Polish independence, for taking part in many battles to defend and then to

liberate Poland from Nazi aggression. And, we must ensure that all Poles recognise that Jews, like all members of Polish society, were also great patriots.

We have never shied away from discussing the "hard" topics of pogroms and the Holocaust with our Polish brethren, and we have found, especially since the creation of "modern Poland", that the gap in understanding one another's historical narrative is certainly narrowing. It is also paramount that we Jews are educated about the situation faced by Poles during the Nazi regime, so that our attitudes and sentiments towards Poland are based on facts and not only on the tragic experiences of some of our family members.

Finally, we must remember that today there is a small yet burgeoning Jewish community in Poland, with all the institutions and infrastructures in place to attend to the needs of this proud and vibrant community of Jews. It is incumbent upon us to be supportive of our brothers and sisters in Poland, as they are the key to preserving the heritage of a unique, profound and dynamic manifestation of Judaism, which was physically decimated by the Nazis but which continues to live on and evolve in our religious and spiritual practices.

We hope that you will find *Haynt* both informative and thought provoking.

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2017 HENRYK SŁAWIK AWARD



(l-r) Izydor Marmur, President ASPJ; Natalie Suleyman MP; Sue Hampel OAM, co-president JHC; Frances Prince; Marian Pawlik OAM, President PPCV

Izydor Marmur President, ASPJ

The Henryk Sławik Award is presented in honour of the man who saved over thirty thousand lives in occupied Hungary, five thousand of those being Jews. The Board of Management of the ASPJ has decided to present the award to individuals or organisations that have worked towards enhancing mutual respect and understanding between the Polish and Jewish communities.

This year's recipients of the award were Sue Hampel OAM and Frances Prince.

Among her many activities, Sue Hampel OAM is Co-President of Melbourne's Jewish Holocaust Centre and an educator. Frances Prince is a long-time educator and a member of the Executive of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, chairing its Multicultural & Interfaith Affairs Committee.

Both Sue and Frances have shown great commitment, working hard to establish the "Student March of the Living Australia". In the beginning, there was little goodwill, and sometimes much opposition, to taking Jewish children to the place where so many of our people perished. Sue and Frances managed to convince our community of the importance of the March of the Living.



David Krycer and Lionel Mrocki of "Klazmania" entertaining the audience



Katrina Kolt



Natalie Suleyman MP and David Prince

They emphasised the importance of preparing the students for their trip to Poland, so that the March Of The Living will be a journey of discovery and respect for the memory of those murdered in the Holocaust, as well as an opportunity for a deeper and more accurate understanding of history. They wanted the students to know the facts – that the genocide of the Jews in Poland was planned by the German occupiers; that there were no "Polish death camps", but German death camps on occupied Polish land.

They ensured that students were aware of the positive side of Polish-Jewish relations in Poland post the communist era, and that Jewish students met with Polish young people in order to establish a better understanding and better relations between them.

Sue Hampel befriended the late Irena Sandler and informed the students about the courageous Righteous Gentiles who saved many Jewish lives at risk of their own and that of their families.

This year's Awards were presented to Sue and Frances by Victorian State MP Natalie Suleyman and President of the Polish Community Council (PCCV) of Victoria Marian Pawlik OAM. A short video on "Jewish Life in Today's Poland" was followed by Klezmer music from David Krycer and Lionel Mrocki, two members of the Melbourne's well-known klezmer band "Klazmania".

CAN WE TALK ABOUT POLAND?

An exhibition long overdue at the Jewish Museum of Australia

Rebecca Forgasz

Director & CEO, Jewish Museum of Australia

Feelings about Poland run deep in the Melbourne Jewish community – feelings that are polarised and deeply ambivalent. For many Jews in Melbourne, Poland was the beloved land of their childhood, home to their ancestors for generations. At the same time, it was the place where so many of their family members were murdered during the Holocaust, and where many felt betrayed by their friends, neighbours, countrymen and women. It was a place to which many vowed never to return.

With such a large proportion of Polish Holocaust survivors and their descendants constituting the Melbourne Jewish community, the subject of Poland was an exhibition waiting to happen for the Jewish Museum of Australia. Over the years, the Museum has held exhibitions on the history of Jews from South Africa, Russia, Vienna and more. But this exhibition, presented at the Museum March-July 2016, was to be quite different. The focus was not to be simply on the history or migration stories of Australian Jews of Polish background, but rather on the complex psychological dynamics of their relationship with their homeland in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

Framed by an overview of the 1,000 year history of Jews in Poland – too often tendentiously overshadowed by the terrible events of the Holocaust – and the “revival”

of Jewish life in Poland today, a central theme of the exhibition was the idea of “going back” to Poland – exactly what so many survivors vowed they would never do. For many second and third generation survivors, Poland is central to their own Jewish identity, and they want to see it for themselves. The exhibition featured photographs by Arnold Zable and Lindsay Goldberg, Melbourne Jews who “returned” to Poland in the early 1980s and 2013-15 respectively, as well as contributions of objects, photographs, videos and stories from community members, reflecting on their relationship with Poland.

The exhibition was originally conceived as being primarily for the Jewish community. We gave it the title *Can we talk about Poland?* as a deliberate provocation – because it is a subject that has long been swept under the carpet, a taboo topic at the proverbial Shabbat dinner table. But as it developed, it became clear that the exhibition was also a call for dialogue with the local Polish community. We were delighted to work closely with our exhibition partner, the Australian Institute of Polish Affairs, as well as the ASPJ and numerous other community organisations, to deliver a diverse array of public programs to Polish and Jewish audiences alongside the exhibition.

I am of Polish-Jewish heritage myself, and was therefore particularly proud that the Museum presented this important and timely exhibition. I believe it truly connected with our community, stimulated discussion, touched hearts and changed minds.





HONOURING THE POLISH RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS

Andrew Raicher

Board Member & Treasurer, ASPJ

Around 150 people from Sydney's Polish and Jewish communities filled the "Backyard Opera Gallery", in the Sydney suburb of Tempe, for the Official Opening of the POLIN Museum's exhibition "They Risked Their Lives – Poles Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust".

The event was co-hosted by the Polish Consulate-General in Sydney and the Australian Society of Polish Jews & Their Descendants (ASPJ). It was the first major event, in Sydney, to pay tribute to the Polish Righteous Among the Nations. Master of Ceremonies was Polish Vice-Consul General Marta Gubala-Kiec.

As first speaker, ASPJ Treasurer and long-time POLIN Museum volunteer translator, Andrew Rajcher, sincerely thanked the Sydney Polish Consul-General and her staff for agreeing to co-host the exhibition in their city. He told the audience that this event honoured not only those Polish Righteous as recognised by the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem, but also those Poles who were killed by the Nazis, along with the Jews they were helping, and about whom we may never know.

Consul-General, Regina Jurkowska, welcomed everyone to the event and spoke at length about the 1,000 year long

co-existence of Poles and Jews on Polish soil. Others to speak included the NSW State Justice Secretary David Clarke, who recalled his visit to Yad Vashem, and the son of Polish Holocaust survivors, Rabbi Dr Dovid Slavin, who stated that we cannot imagine the courage it took to risk the life of one's family to save others.

A memorial candle was lit by State Member of Parliament, Robert Borsak, in memory of both the rescuers and the rescued – those who survived the War and have passed away since, as well as those who perished while trying to rescue or help Jews during the War.

Memorial prayers were then recited by Father Kamil Życzynski and Rabbi Dr Dovid Slavin.

A short concert then followed by Polish artist Marek Ravski, who entertained the audience with songs in both Polish and Yiddish.

This is the third time that this exhibition, produced by the POLIN Museum in conjunction with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has gone on display in Australia. The first two showings were in Melbourne, at the Beth Weizmann Jewish Community Centre and at Dom Polski "Syrena". Upon its return to Melbourne, the exhibition will go on display for a fourth time in Australia at the Albion Polish Club.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

Elysheva Elsass

Marketing and Communications Manager
Australian Jewish Museum

The Jewish Museum of Australia was established in 1977 by a group of passionate and dedicated volunteers, led by the visionary Rabbi Ronald Lubofsky AM (1928-2000). During the Museum's first years of existence, the Committee organised exhibitions at the Myer gallery and the Tramways Board building, started to acquire objects for the Museum's collection, and searched for premises for the museum.

In 1982, under the patronage of Sir Zelman Cowen (1919-2011), the Museum opened its own temporary premises in the disused classrooms of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, South Yarra. Over the next 13 years at that location, the Jewish Museum of Australia presented over forty wide-ranging exhibitions, several of which travelled nationally. The Museum attracted significant communal support and won several prestigious industry awards.

In 1992 the Jewish Museum of Australia purchased a building in Alma Road, St Kilda opposite one of Melbourne's most beautiful synagogues, the St Kilda Hebrew Congregation. On 20 August 1995, the then Governor General, Bill Hayden, officially opened the Jewish Museum of Australia, Gandel Centre of Judaica, named in honour of the Museum's lead benefactors, John and Pauline Gandel.

The Jewish Museum of Australia is the only museum in Victoria that explores and celebrates the breadth of Australian Jewish life, culture and history. We bring it to life through our unique temporary and permanent exhibitions, school education programs and short courses, as well as through our vibrant calendar of events, including talks, creative workshops, family and children's activities, live music, and guided walks.

We welcome visitors from all cultural and religious backgrounds. For Jewish people who wish to connect

with, explore and celebrate their culture, the Museum provides innovative exhibitions, creative educational programs and unique social events. Unlike many other community organisations, we embrace a pluralist approach to Judaism. We offer an open, welcoming and family-friendly environment for visitors to learn, enjoy and discover both historical perspectives and contemporary insights.





photo by Pawel Puton

UNVEILING OF “THE TRACE – THE JEWISH TRAIL IN RADOM”

Zbigniew Wieczorek
Leader of Dialogue in Radom

On August 5th, marking the 75th Anniversary of the Liquidation of the Radom Ghetto and near total annihilation of Radom’s Jewish community, the city unveiled “The Trace – the Jewish Trail in Radom.” The Trail, which includes the twelve most significant places in Radom’s Jewish past, is a realization of a dream shared by three people very close to Forum: Friends of the Forum, Sharon Grosfeld and Hilda Chazanovitz, whose families came from Radom, and Zbigniew Wieczorek, a local Leader of Dialogue. After having met only briefly during a Study Visit in 2015, these three amazing people managed in 2016 to coordinate, across language barriers and an ocean, the first Passover Seder in Radom in decades.

This year, together they witnessed another milestone in the process of remembering the Jews of Radom in Poland.

The events surrounding the opening of the Trail continued between August 3-6, and included exhibitions’ openings, concerts, movie screenings, presentations, workshops and presentation of the first Polish edition of “The Book of Radom: The Story of a Jewish Community in Poland Destroyed by the Nazis”, a Radomer Yizkor book.

The story of how this Polish version came to be is a touching example of how connections made over time bear amazing fruit. During the 2014 Leaders of Dialogue National Conference, Andrzej Folwarczny presented Zbigniew Wieczorek an English version of “The Book of Radom.” It was given to the Forum by our Friend, Irving Kempner, whose family on the mother’s side came from Radom. Touched by the gesture and aware of the importance of the publication, Zbigniew Wieczorek promised that he will create the Polish edition of this Radomer Yizkor and he kept his word.



Zbigniew Wieczorek talking to a guest at the exhibition opening

DIALOGUE OF CULTURE

ETZ CHAIM SCHOOL IN WROCLAW

<http://www.etzchaim.pl>

Translated article and photos taken from the Etz Chaim Dialogue School website

The Etz Chaim Culture Dialogue School is located at a historic site and is of special significance for the Jewish community in Wrocław.

The building was built between 1907 and 1908 by the Jewish Community of Breslau, as a facility for poor Jewish children in need of special help.

In the years 1920-1939 there was a Universal Jewish School at the site. The school's activities ceased during the Second World War.

In 1946/47, after major repairs paid for by the postwar Jewish community, the Jewish primary school was reopened.

In 1949, the school was nationalized. Jewish high school and primary school functioned in this building until after the Six-Day War in June 1967. The Six-Day War was the starting point for the anti-Jewish strike in Poland. In the school year 1967/68, the first non-Jewish school classes and "mixed" classes were held.

By the year 1969/70 the school was no longer functioning as a Jewish school.

The school had a normal state school curriculum, but there were two extra subjects: from the second year of primary school, Yiddish and from fifth grade, the history of the Jews.



1957

In the mid 1980s the school moved to Krucza Street.

In 2004 the building was returned to the Jewish Community. It began its activity as Jewish primary school Lauder – Etz Chaim .

Lauder School Etz Chaim owes its beginnings to its founder, the then Jewish President of Wrocław, Jerzy Kichler, who in July 1997 held a meeting with Rabbi Michael Schudrich and the representatives of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation. In July 1997 the decision was made to set up a Jewish school in Wrocław.

The residence of the famous Jewish film director and painter Jakob Rotbaum was the first location for the new school. Over time, the Lauder Elementary School – Etz Chaim outgrew the location and it became necessary to move.

In 2004, the Jewish community acquired the building on Żelazna Street and in December 2004 the school moved to the new address.

In 2011, ZGWŻ (Union of Jewish Religious Communities in the Republic of Poland) in Warsaw, after consultation with the Municipality of Wrocław and the Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich, the decision was made to entrust the Jewish Culture Foundation Etz Chaim with the running of the Jewish school .

Since 2011, under the auspices of the new governing body and the Jewish Community represented on the Foundation Board, the primary school operates under the name of the Dialogue of Culture Etz Chaim.



2016

THIS HIGH HOLIDAY SEASON, HELP JEWISH LIFE IN KRAKOW

Jonathan Ornstein
Executive Director
JCC Krakow

As we celebrate the Chagim and embark on a new year, we take stock of the year that was: what we did well and not so well, the Simchas and the sadness.

Our Krakow community went through many years when there was not much happiness to look back on. The Holocaust and 45 years of communism almost ended Jewish life in Krakow. But our community has been blessed as of late.

This year, thanks to you, our friends around the world, we have made great strides in rebuilding Jewish life in Krakow. We opened our Hillel club so our students, many of them only recently aware of their Jewish identities, have a place to be together. We opened FRAJDA, Krakow's first Jewish preschool since before the Holocaust, to serve our growing community of young families. We increased programming for our 70 Holocaust survivors who spend time in their warm, welcoming space in the JCC six days a week from morning till night.



Please consider helping us help them this year – the survivors, their children, and their grandchildren. And now their great-grandchildren.

This community has a lot of sadness to look back on. Now you can help them look forward to some joy.

Shana Tova U'Metukah

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THE POLISH MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

Lucyna Artymiuk
Development Officer

The Polish Museum and Archives was established in 1991 as an initiative of several first- and second-generation Polish Australians who saw the importance of collecting and preserving historical materials that document social history and community life of Polish immigrants living in Australia.

The goals of the organisation are to:

- organise, facilitate and operate a Museum for the collection and protection of historical items and artefacts of the Polish community in Australia;
- provide information and advice about Polish and Polish-Australian history;
- research, document, publish and provide resources and community contacts about the history of Polish settlement in Australia;
- conduct interviews and education programs about Polish history and the history of Polish settlement in Australia;
- develop and conduct programs, public information campaigns, sessions and seminars to promote and preserve Polish history and the history of the Polish community in Australia, and
- maintain and promote Polish heritage, and preserve Polish traditions through Museum activities.

Collections:

Though based in Melbourne, the Polish Museum and Archives seeks objects, documents and photographs that relate to the story of Polish migration experiences from around Australia. It seeks to document Polish contribution to the multicultural mosaic of Australia.

Oral History Project:

The post-war Polish migrants are today our senior citizens. For many years the Museum has collected

oral testimonies of post-war migrants which document the experiences and memories of these early settlers. It is vital that these stories be recorded and passed down to future generations of Polish Australians.

Exhibitions:

To date, the Museum has prepared and presented a number of exhibitions including the Polish explorer Paweł Strzelecki, the experiences of Polish Siberian deportees, the 1944 Warsaw Uprising and the legacy of the Polish Australian violinist Stanisław de Tarczyński.

Our current project focuses on the Polish ex-servicemen migration program to Australia in 1947/48 and the experiences of these soldier-migrants.

Heritage and Education programs:

The Museum conducts heritage and genealogy workshops around Australia, assisting with genealogical research and follow-up trips to Poland. Research groups have been established in Melbourne and Sydney which focus on research and writing family histories. For example, monthly meetings of the Polish Writers Group are held in Melbourne, at which people discuss and seek advice about their research and writing.

For further information please contact the Museum

Email: polishmuseumarchivesaustralia@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.polishmuseumarchives.org.au/>

Phone: 0403 655 044

The Museum is located at Millennium House, 1st Floor, 296 Nicholson Street Footscray VIC. 3011

It is open to the public:

Every 1st Saturday of the month: 10 am to 2 pm

Every 3rd Sunday of the month: 10 am to 2 pm

Or by appointment.

Closed - Easter, Christmas and 1st January

EXHIBITION
REPORT "X"

*Captain
Witold Pilecki*

*The Only Volunteer
To KL Auschwitz*

German Concentration and Extermination Camp



Pilecki formed a resistance network inside the camp, gathered intelligence and reported about the Holocaust to the outside world.



*Warsaw Uprising 1944
Polish and Australian
World War II
Brothers in Arms*

The exhibition recalls the tragedy of the Warsaw Uprising and commemorates the heroism of the Australian airmen, soldiers helping Polish Home Army insurgents in their tragic 63-day struggle to liberate Warsaw from the German occupation.

Lest We Forget

*Sunday 5th (Official Launch of the Exhibition at 15:00pm) - Friday 10
NOVEMBER 2017 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM*

*AT THE KADIMAH
JEWISH CULTURAL CENTRE AND NATIONAL LIBRARY*

7 SELWYN STREET, ELSTERNWICK 3185



Polish Community
Council
of Victoria Inc.

