

Gazeta

Newsletter of the American Association for Polish Jewish Studies

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August 1993

1583 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, (617)547-7701

Fay and Julian Bussgang

Letter from the President:

August 1993

Dear Members,

We have had a most active spring. On March 27, we held a dinner at the Union Club of Boston in honor of the Polish Ambassador to Washington, Kazimierz Dziewanowski and Mrs. Dziewanowski. More than fifty people attended and enjoyed the talk of the Ambassador as well as the food and drinks that the Club provided for us.

On March 28th, we held a meeting at my home at which the Ambassador told us of the economic and political situation in which Poland finds itself today. He spoke frankly about the problems in the transition to democracy and stressed his commitment to improving Polish-Jewish and Polish-Israeli relations. Again, the afternoon was oversubscribed.

On May 16th, Stanisław Barańczak read his and other poets' writings at a meeting held at Boylston Hall, Harvard. He read in Polish, and a student followed with an English translation. Anna Barańczak took care of the reception that followed. It was a most stimulating and enjoyable evening.

Mrs. Shirley Szabad died a few months ago, and all of us would like to express our deepest felt sympathy to her husband George. Both he and Shirley have been long-time supporters of our organization.

I want to welcome David Gordis, also one of our original board members, who has recently moved to Boston to become President of Hebrew College in Brookline. It is great to have him here, and we look forward to a close association with Hebrew College.

We did not dread the tax man this April because Alexandra Hawiger, our treasurer, prepared our tax returns and saved us the expense of an accountant.

On October 24, Boruch "Bill" Frusztajer and his wife Olga will host an afternoon with Felek Scharf who will visit us from London. Felek is a man who knows and

remembers more of the life of Jews in Poland than anyone I can think of. He speaks and writes beautifully, and I am sure everyone who attends will be fascinated by him and what he has to say.

On December 2nd, Alexandra Watkins has arranged a panel at the Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel, composed of four or five of our members who will discuss various aspects of the life we Jews led in pre-war Poland. We hope to attract as many students as possible.

On May 18th, we will have a theater party at the Loeb Theater for the opening night of Isaac Bashevis Singer's play "Schlemil the First".

Star Market will give us 5% of what members and their friends spend in any of its stores on the following dates: September 21-23; November 16-18; December 7-9, 1993. Please save your large shopping for those days.

If there are any members who have not yet received **POLIN** volume 7, please let us know. Editor Antony Polonsky has Volume 8 ready to go to the publishers, so your dues and special contributions will be greatly appreciated.

Irene Pipes, President

AAPJS Panel at Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel

A panel discussion "Witnesses from the Lost World" has been scheduled for December 2, 1993, 7:30 P.M., at Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel in Cambridge. Speakers will include Dr. Halina Nelken, Dr. Julian Bussgang, Dr. John Saunders, and Professor Ihor Szewczenko. The moderator will be Professor Anthony Polonsky. Our members are invited to attend.

The speakers will describe the Jewish community of pre-World War II Poland and recount some of their personal wartime experiences. The program was organized by Mrs. Alexandra Watkins, Chairperson of the Outreach Committee of the AAPJS

Opening of the United States Holocaust Museum

AAPJS Board Member Jana Prot attended the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington and gives us a first-hand report.

Yom Ha Shoah, the Day of Remembrance, coincided this year with the 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In Washington, April 19-23 was filled with different observances culminating in the opening of the United States Holocaust Museum.

The ceremony, "Tribute to Liberators and Rescuer of Victims of the Holocaust" was held at the Arlington National Cemetery on April 21. Amid warm sun, mild breezes, and trees in full bloom, the presentation of the colors and of the Flags of the Allied Forces Liberating Division, along with the singing of the National Anthem and the Partisan's Hymn, were very beautiful and touching.

A welcome and presentation to rescuers was given by Miles Lerman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. John Eisenhower read the following passage written by his father, General Dwight Eisenhower, describing the concentration camp in Ohrdorf: "We are told that the American soldier does not know what he is fighting for. Now, at least, he will know what he is fighting against." Harvey Meyerhoff, Chairman of the Council presented Eisenhower Liberation Medals.

The merits of American troops liberating concentration camps were strongly emphasized in all speeches and presentations. While the Allied Forces helped enormously, supplying the liberated prisoners with food and medications, helping them to find families, and assisting them to return to life, some of us survivors still have doubts and questions. Why is it that the railways and camps, above all Auschwitz, were not bombed by Allied bombers? Is it true that no military action was possible before millions of Jews were turned to ashes? Is it not possible that liberation of the camps was simply a by-product of an advancing army?

The dedication ceremony of the Holocaust Museum was held in the square before the Museum now named Raoul Wallenberg Place. The land was donated by the American Government, but the museum was built from private contributions, mostly by the Jewish community.

The ceremony began on April 22 at 11:00 AM. The weather was horrible - rain and very cold wind; everyone was holding big umbrellas. The speeches were shown on a large screen; nevertheless, it was difficult to see anything.

Master of Ceremonies was Ted Koppel, a child of parents who fled the Holocaust. Among the speakers were President Bill Clinton, Chaim Herzog, President of Israel, and Harvey Meyerhoff of the Memorial Council. The public had the greatest appreciation for remarks by Elie Wiesel who spoke about the indifferent and impassive attitude of the White House, the Pentagon, the Allied Forces, and the Vatican toward the fate of Jews. "The painful, disturbing question... I don't believe there are answers, .. and this museum is not an answer; it is a question mark." He spoke of the bloodshed in Yugoslavia and declared, "We must do something to stop it."

One of the rescuers, Mrs. Burzminski (a member of our Association), told how she successfully hid thirteen Jews in her apartment in Przemyśl. Her remarks were received with applause.

At the conclusion, President Clinton, Harvey Meyerhoff, and Elie Wiesel lit the Eternal Flame.

On April 23, the Museum opened to invited guests. The architecture of the museum reflects the construction of concentration camps. From outside, it looks a little like a bunker with a watchtower. Inside there are naked brick walls, unfinished wood, and iron rails.

The number of documents gathered is enormous - photos, films, videos, written documents, and artifacts from camps and perished villages, including an authentic Gypsy caravan. The learning possibilities are endless. There is a library, a computer-based learning center, a theater and auditorium, and a Hall of Remembrance to be used for public ceremonies.

There are orientation programs for different groups of visitors. There is a special program for children eight years old or older. Although the Guide for Families states that most Museum programs are suitable for visitors eleven years or older, I don't agree. The cruelty, violence, suffering, and indifference portrayed in the Museum are not appropriate for young people.

The question arises - what is the difference between the U.S. Holocaust Museum and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem? Yad Vashem is, above all, a monument, while the Museum is, above all, a learning institution. Which one is more shocking and horrifying? I don't know. An interesting, controversial, and provocative article on the subject is Philip Gourevitch's "Washington's Holocaust Theme Park", *Harper's Magazine*, July 1993.

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Special Supplement

August 1993

Fay and Julian Bussgang, Editors

A Letter from Your Editors

Your editors, Fay and Julian Bussgang, spent three and a half months in Warsaw from the beginning of February to the middle of May. Julian worked as a volunteer with the International Executive Service Corps (IESC) of Stamford, CT. The IESC sends retired executives worldwide to work on projects sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (A.I.D.).

Our stay in Warsaw coincided with the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Thus, we had an unusual opportunity to attend the associated events before, during, and after the week-end of the Anniversary.

We have dedicated this special supplement to reporting the events in which we were privileged to participate during this historic time.

Fay and Julian Bussgang

50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Polish Minister Andrzej Zakrzewski, Head of the Commemoration Committee, issued a statement on behalf of President Wałęsa during the planning of the April 19 ceremonies. He said that President Wałęsa hoped that the 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising would be the next step in Polish-Jewish reconciliation and a move towards ending the negative stereotyping of Poles and Jews.

Invitations to attend the ceremonies on April 19 were sent out to many Jewish organizations in Israel and throughout the world. Special invitations were extended to Mark Edelman, the last surviving leader of the Uprising, other ghetto fighters, and members of the Resistance Movement who assisted the insurrectionists from outside. This is undoubtedly the last time such a large gathering of participants and survivors will take place, since they are all getting older.

On the morning of April 19, Jewish combatants from all over the world laid wreaths at the Monument to the Heroes of the Ghetto. In the evening of that day, high officials of Poland, Israel, and the United States gathered again at the Monument to the Heroes to pay

official tribute to the fighters. In the large crowd of onlookers were many citizens of Warsaw, as well as Jewish delegations and visitors from all over the world.

Speakers included Albert Gore, Vice President of the United States, Lech Wałęsa, President of Poland, Itzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, and Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress.

In his speech, Wałęsa emphasized that the Anniversary of the Uprising was an occasion to recognize the many years of Jewish history in Poland. Poland had been hospitable to Jews when they were chased from other lands, and Jewish culture flourished here. Jews were Polish citizens who lived side by side with their Christian neighbors and contributed to Polish literature and culture. There were periods when relations were troubled, but he hoped that these ceremonies would move forward the attempt at reconciliation between the two peoples.

A guest cantor intoned the Kaddish prayer for the dead. Six giant sticks were lit to represent the six million martyrs. The sounds of the Yiddish partisan song "Es Brent" filled the air. This song, "It is Burning", had been written before the war after Jewish homes had been set on fire in a local pogrom. This call of Jews to action became a rallying cry of the ghetto fighters. When silence followed the prayers, simulated sounds of air raid sirens, of enemy aircraft, and of the trains which led people to their deaths in the extermination camps pierced the air.

Groups of young people handed out candles with paper shields, and thousands of people lit these candles as if in vigil. The atmosphere was somber and reverent.

Many Polish people who did not attend the ceremonies watched them on television in their homes.

The Just Among the Nations of the World

The next issue of Gazeta will report on a significant conference which took place in Warsaw in July, dedicated to people who assisted Jews during the war.

Opening of the Ringelblum Archives

On April 19, in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Commemoration, the Jewish Historical Institute opened to the public a special exhibit of the Ringelblum Archives saved from the Warsaw Ghetto. This exhibit was made possible through the cooperation of the Polish Government and the generosity of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation of New York.

Emanuel Ringelblum, a Jewish historian, headed a group of volunteers in the Warsaw Ghetto known as the "Oneg Shabbat" Group. Its members undertook to chronicle the life in the Ghetto and to document the horror of the events that were taking place all around them. They preserved diaries, letters, photographs, drawings, notices of cultural events, ration cards, German proclamations, execution notices, etc. One of the members of this group was Abram Lewin, whose Warsaw Ghetto Diary, edited by Antony Polonsky, was published in English under the title *A Cup of Tears*.

During the final destruction of the Ghetto, the Archives were hidden inside milk cans buried in the ground. Ringelblum and almost all his collaborators perished. After the war, a surviving member of the group helped locate one of the milk cans containing documents. A few years later, another can was found.

Speaking at the opening ceremonies of the exhibit were Professor Michał Friedman, Chairman of the Board of the Jewish Historical Institute, Professor Daniel Grinberg, Director of the Institute, Grażyna Pawlak, Administrative Director of the Institute, and Ronald Lauder, Head of the Lauder Foundation.

This is the first time the contents of the Ringelblum Archives have been on display. It is hoped that the exhibit may eventually travel to other countries.

From the Perspective of Half a Century

Jewish historians from many countries gathered in Warsaw in March for an important international conference organized by the Jewish Historical Institute. It was entitled "Fifty Years After the Holocaust".

Session topics included the history of the Holocaust and the ghettos, the role of the Judenrat, the lack of response from Allied leaders and Jewish communities in the West, the moral dilemma of resistance or compromise, recent research concerning the Holocaust, etc. Afterwards, participants were invited to a reception by the Mayor of Warsaw in his office at the City Hall.

Warsaw Museums Honor Jews

Concurrent with the 50th Anniversary, several museums in Warsaw had exhibits in April to honor Polish Jews.

The Museum of the City of Warsaw in the Old City presented a large exhibit entitled "Present in Our Midst". This exhibit featured prominent Jews of Poland in the arts, the sciences, commerce, and industry. A section was devoted to Jews who fought for Poland in various wars.

The Museum of the Polish Army opened an excellent exhibit entitled "The Warsaw Ghetto Fights".

The National Museum in Warsaw placed on display its large Judaica collection.

Television Coverage of the Ghetto Anniversary

Polish Television had extensive coverage of the ceremonies commemorating the Anniversary of the Ghetto Uprising. There were also live interviews with many survivors and witnesses. In addition, movies with Jewish themes were featured prior and during the Anniversary.

The movie production studio "Logos" created a program based on Edelman's book *The Ghetto Fights On*, Jerzy Tomaszewski's book, *The Recent History of Jews in Poland*, and the album *Polish Jews* by Mark Roztworowski were both featured on the day of the Anniversary.

A special new play shown for the first time on Polish television was a flashback to General Anders and Prime Minister Begin. The author of the script on which the production was based is Attorney Harvey Sarnet of Chicago, IL and California, a supporter of our Association.

"Fiddler on the Roof" Touring Poland

During its 1992/93 season, Opera Nova of Bydgoszcz has been successfully touring Poland with the Polish language production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The two-act musical in the Polish language is called *Skrzypek na Dachy*. Translation into Polish is by Antoni Marianowicz. The director is Artur Hofman, and musical direction is by Vadim Perevosnikov.

Jewish Life in Poland Today

Although extremely small by pre-war standards, there is a very vital, active Jewish community in Warsaw today.

The restored Nożyk Synagogue now has a full-time rabbi, Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Joskowicz. Social and Cultural Activities take place in the Jewish Club, located in the Yiddish Theater building. There is a kosher restaurant. There is also a popular café run by the Polish-Israeli Friendship Society. Kosher vodka, the latest craze, is available in many stores.

Despite the exit in 1968 of Actress/Producer Ida Kamińska, the Yiddish Theater, with largely Polish Christian actors, has continued. It is led by a Jewish Director and coached in Yiddish by a Jewish scholar. The theater is equipped with earphones at every seat, so that Polish translations of Yiddish may be provided.

The Jewish Historical Institute (*Żydowski Instytut Historyczny - ŻIH*) has operated continuously since the end of World War II, but it has recently incorporated new functions. Its holdings include a large collection of Judaica, books on Jewish topics, papers, manuscripts, paintings, and photographs. It houses the Ringelblum Archives, the chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto. It has first-hand accounts of war-time experiences, survivor's lists, and pre-war synagogue records of various communities. It engages in scholarly research, documents Jewish monuments, cemeteries and synagogues, organizes exhibits, and sponsors lectures and conferences. It has an education program which instructs teachers about the Holocaust so that they may teach their students. A major renovation and remodeling project with money given by the German Government is in process.

The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation of New York has had a great influence in Poland. It has provided funds to restore monuments, sponsor exhibits, and support Jewish institutions. Its Warsaw activities are led by a young American rabbi, Rabbi Michael Shudrick. The Foundation has helped establish a Jewish pre-school, a Youth Group, and Torah study. It sponsors holiday events such as Purim parties and a community seder. Wherever possible, it tries to help promote Jewish life in Poland.

The Joint Distribution Committee plays an important role in Poland by giving financial support to Jewish Survivors who are in need. It also supports religious and cultural activities.

In 1991, a group called *Dzieci Holocaustu* (Children of the Holocaust) was formed. It is composed of Polish Jews who were children during the war, no older than fifteen when the war ended. Some had been deported to the USSR and later returned to Poland; others are survivors of labor/concentration camps. Most were in hiding. Many were raised by Catholic families or hidden in convents or boarding schools. Some did not even discover that they were Jewish until later in life. Since many are intermarried and have Polish names, they also did not know each other. The organization holds monthly meetings. Participants find comfort in getting together and sharing their experiences with each other.

Many members of this group contributed personal accounts about their experiences during the war to a recently published book called *Dzieci Holocaustu Mówią* (Children of the Holocaust Speak).

There is such a plethora of organizations which has sprung up, that a new group was formed to coordinate them. It is called the Jewish Forum. The Forum is composed of relatively young people who are interested in establishing a vital Jewish presence in Poland. They meet regularly and go on monthly retreats to a house in the country which was donated to them. Some of its members are active in organizations which reach out to Jews in other nations such as the Polish-Israeli Friendship Society or the American Jewish Committee.

In addition to all these, there is a non-Jewish organization called the Edyta Stein Society which has programs which often pay tribute to well-known Jews. It is run by a Polish actor who deplors the manner in which Jews were treated by Poles during the war and wants to build bridges between Jews and non-Jews. The organization is named after Edyta Stein, a Jewish woman who converted to Christianity, became a nun, and was killed in Auschwitz. She was later beautified, the first step toward becoming a saint.

Recent programs of the Society honored Dr. Anna Braude-Heller, Director of the Children's Hospital in the Warsaw Ghetto and Ida Kamińska, actress and Director of the Yiddish Theater. Both evening programs were extremely well done and well attended.

Ghetto Anniversary Stamps

The Polish Post Office and the Israeli Post Office joined in issuing virtually identical stamps dedicated to the memory of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

A Meeting of Dzieci Holocaustu (Children of the Holocaust)

Israeli Ambassador Miron Gordon was the featured speaker at the May meeting of the *Dzieci Holocaustu* Support Group in Warsaw. Gordon said that as his tour of duty is winding down, he has been thinking about his stay in Poland. He feels that it is time for individual Jews and the Polish Jewish Community to take public stands if they are offended by something in politics or in people's attitudes towards Jews. They should speak out against things, to say, "Enough is enough." The new political climate in Poland permits it.

He said that when he gives talks, people invariably come up to him privately afterwards and tell him stories about how they have had to endure anti-Semitism. He doesn't want private comments afterwards. He thinks that people should speak up in public. He says that aside from certain well-known Jewish writers like Dawid Warszawski, pen-name of Konstantyn Gebert of the daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*, or Marian Turski, editor of the weekly *Polityka*, he never sees a letter to the editor signed by anyone willing to speak out as a Jew.

He said that everybody knows that he, Gordon, is Jewish because he is the Ambassador from Israel, and yet Polish people have treated him well. He has spoken at schools and to non-Jewish groups. He was born in Vilno, and his parents taught him to be proud to be a Jew. Any Jew, even one who did not advertise himself as a Jew, should have been brought up this way.

Several women reacted with much feeling. They said he doesn't understand under what circumstances they were brought up during the war and what they have been through. Many had been brought up in Catholic families and did not know they were Jewish until much later. They had heard bad things against Jews from an early age. They find it hard to tell their children that they are Jewish because of the things they have heard. Others remember being in hiding and terribly afraid that someone would discover they were Jewish. Some do not remember their parents and feel he should not chide them for how they were brought up.

A woman said that it was easy for him. He lives among Jews in Israel or as a foreign diplomat in Poland. They, on the other hand, live here with their friends and families who are not Jewish. They have lived in a repressive atmosphere where Jews were persecuted. They experienced years like 1968 when "anti-Zionism" caused Jews to lose their jobs. It isn't so easy to change now that society is a little more open and democratic.

They have only recently discovered each other and had a forum in which they can express themselves. Feelings have been kept deep inside them until now, and it is not easy for people to bring them up. It has already been a big step for them to identify with the others in the room as Jewish and "Children of the Holocaust" and to attend these monthly meetings. He should have more sympathy and understanding of the people who come to speak to him privately.

A man said he was proud of his Jewish heritage, but he didn't really know what it meant to be a Jew. He has not had any opportunity to learn. He travels to Warsaw from out of town once a month to meet with the other child survivors and learn with them so that he can explain it to his sons.

One woman said that she has friends and family in Israel and in the United States. They all give her a hard time, saying how could she stay in Poland after all that has happened. They tell her she should emigrate. She says she doesn't want to emigrate. This is her home, and she wants to be a Jew in Poland.

Another woman added that not everyone was allowed to emigrate before, and now, they are older and have their lives here, their Polish husbands, and, in many cases, Polish children and grandchildren.

Julian got up and said a few words. He said that when he was a child, many Jews were assimilated into Polish life and identified themselves as Poles who happened to be of the Mosaic faith, but they definitely felt Polish. He feels that Jewish Poles who are left here are the guardians of the Jewish history and tradition that flourished in Poland. They fulfill a very important role for all of World Jewry. He said that he has been coming to Poland for the last several years and that on his first visit, he felt very sad that no Jewish life was left in Poland. He has seen a definite re-emergence of Jewish life, and people like the Children of the Holocaust should be commended and encouraged rather than found wanting. He felt the Ambassador's comments were too negative. Several people applauded when he sat down.

It was very moving to see how people spoke from the heart. They feel under attack, not only from Poles about being Jews, but from other Jews about being Poles. Polish Jews need support from World Jewry, not criticism, for their aim to be Jews in Poland.

Notes from a Journey:

Reflections on Auschwitz by Rafael F. Scharf

Continued from the January 1993 issue:

Now, consider the problems of the physical preservation and restoration of the site and its contents. Through the ravages of time and weather, the fabric of the camp is threatened; it disintegrates, rots, and crumbles. How is one to deal with it? The watch towers around the camp, for instance, the most well-known feature of that bleakest of landscapes, have been completely rebuilt with new materials, thus losing their "authenticity." Was this wrong? They would have otherwise disappeared. Is this a precedent to be followed or avoided? What about the most telling and poignant exhibits in their showcases; the human hair, the mounds of shoes, the suitcases with their names; they change color, mold, rot. What is to be done?

What is to be done with the pile of bricks which are the ruins of the gas chambers and crematoria, dynamited by the Germans? Rebuild them in their original shape? Conserve them as they are at the moment? Let nature take its course? Half of the original wooden barrack at Birkenau has been removed and taken to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington. It would have disintegrated if left on site, so the argument runs, and the Holocaust Museum needs genuine relics; they have a better home now. Is this an act of piety or cultural vandalism?

The Conference came up with many constructive suggestions. To implement them, even some of them, will cost money, a lot of it. The Polish Government will give some, but, for obvious reasons, not much can be expected from that source. It has been suggested that help should be sought from UNESCO; Auschwitz-Birkenau is listed as part of World Heritage, but it is only one of many competing causes. However, millions of dollars are spent on the Holocaust Museums in the United States; new ones are planned all the time. Would not a moment of rational thought make clear where such funds should go in the first place?

The Carmelite Convent controversy sent jarring echoes around the world. The Church authorities have given way to pressure and have built an alternative accommodation outside the camp's perimeter for the nuns to occupy. The nuns have finally left, and some have settled in this building which is a part of a center established by the Catholic Church for reconciliation and dialogue. Let us hope that it will provide the opportunity

for both Poles and Jews to reflect on those aspects of the human personality that made Auschwitz possible.

Not everything in the Polish-Jewish relationship is so emotionally charged as Auschwitz and the question of how to assess Polish behavior towards the Jews during the Second World War. A vigilant observer of the scene cannot remain unaware that among the intelligentsia, there is a widespread and genuine interest in the common Jewish past which manifests itself in the many books, publications, films, television programs, and conferences devoted to the subject.

A particularly noteworthy event is the annual Summer Course organized by the Research Center on Jewish History and Culture at the University of Kraków, under the heading of "Tracing the Jewish Heritage in Poland". A number of students from abroad are offered a course of lectures and seminars on a wide variety of topics. The participants are taken on an extended tour of Southeastern Poland, visiting "the world of the shtetl", places of important pre-war Jewish settlements. They end with a stay in Auschwitz-Birkenau, meeting with survivors, members of the Museum staff and with the staff of the International Youth Center located nearby.

The course lasts four weeks and is expensive. For students interested in Eastern European Jewry, it provides a unique opportunity of total immersion in these matters, in the territory where that history took place.

Ed. note: For course details, please write : Zakład Historii i Kultury Żydów w Polsce (Research Center on Jewish History and Culture in Poland), ul. Batorego 12, 31-135 Kraków, Poland, tel. 33-70-58, fax 34-45-93.

New Conference Center in Kraków

The Center for Jewish History and Culture of the Jagiellonian University is establishing a conference center in Kazimierz, the Jewish quarter in Kraków. Funding has been provided mainly by the Project Judaica Foundation of Washington, D.C., headed by Mark Talisman. The building, originally a Jewish House of Study, is undergoing major renovations to become a modern gathering place where people from all over the world can study Polish Jewish History and Culture. Dr. Joachim Russek, Administrative Director of the Center, is very pleased with the results to date but notes that they are \$200,000 short due to rising construction costs. Contributions to the Project Judaica Foundation, 300 "I" Street NE, Suite 108, Washington, D.C., 20002, would be most welcome.

Volume 7 of *POLIN* Available

Volume 7 of *POLIN* has been distributed to all qualifying members of AAPJS. In honor of the Ghetto Uprising Anniversary, much of this volume was devoted to life in Nazi-occupied Warsaw.

POLIN is obtainable directly from the offices of the AAPJS in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Earlier copies may still be available. Please contact the AAPJS office if you wish to complete your *POLIN* set.

We hope that you enjoy receiving our newsletter. We welcome your comments and suggestions. We would like to remind those of you who have not yet renewed your membership to do so; the Association needs your support to continue its work. Members in the categories of Subscribing Member and above automatically receive the latest volume of *Polin*. To join, check off the appropriate category of membership, and send your name and dues by a check to:

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