

Jewish Heritage Initiative in Poland



TAUBE
FOUNDATION
for Jewish Life & Culture

A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM OF
THE TAUBE FOUNDATION FOR
JEWISH LIFE & CULTURE

POLAND'S JEWISH HERITAGE BELONGS TO ALL OF US.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It was once a land of more than 3.3 million Jews. It was once the lodestar of Jewish religious and secular movements. And it was from there that so many of our own families emigrated, bringing to America the heart and soul of East European Yiddishkeit. That land is Poland.

We are all aware of the massacres of Jews and Poles carried out by Nazi Germany on Polish soil; we know that some Poles were complicit in these crimes. We also witnessed Poland's Communist governments use anti-Semitism whenever they wished to deflect their own miserable failings.

But to see the past 17 years since Communism's collapse solely through the prism of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust is to sadly miss the point. Something remarkable is going on in Poland today, and the Jewish Heritage Initiative is helping nurture it.



WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AS WE RECLAIM IT.



While Poland has begun creating a dynamic market economy, become a member of NATO, established diplomatic ties with Israel and joined the European Union, younger Jews in Poland have been rebuilding Jewish life, and non-Jewish Poles have been filling Jewish studies courses, researching community archives and delving into all aspects of Jewish culture.

The Jewish Heritage Initiative isn't inventing something new; we're simply responding to the facts on the ground, ready to support these exciting cultural and educational activities. We invite you to join us in preserving and celebrating our heritage.



TAUBE
FOUNDATION
for Jewish Life & Culture

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tad Taube".

TAD TAUBE
TAUBE FOUNDATION
FOR JEWISH LIFE
& CULTURE





MISSION & GOALS

The flourishing world of Jewish life in Poland received a near mortal blow during the Holocaust. Then, during the Communist decades, Jewish schools were shuttered, public programs on Jewish culture were forbidden, and only a handful of elderly historians were allowed to study the archives of Polish Jewish history.

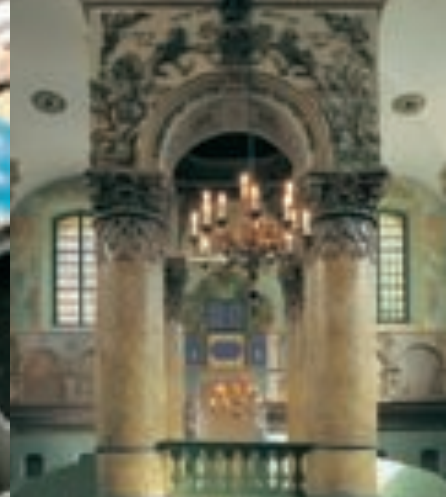
All that has changed dramatically, and the Jewish Heritage Initiative is supporting institutions and individuals — in Poland as well as in the United States — who are helping preserve Jewish heritage or are enriching the cultural and intellectual landscape today.

OUR MISSION IS TO:

- Support the ongoing revival of Jewish culture in Poland
- Further awareness of this resurgence among Jews and non-Jews
- Foster positive interest in Polish Jews and Poland among American Jews, most of whom have Polish roots

WE ARE THE
ONLY AMERICAN
JEWISH FOUNDATION
WITH AN OFFICE
AND ONGOING
PRESENCE IN
POLAND.





To carry out these aims, we have established a base of operations in Warsaw. In fact, the Jewish Heritage Initiative in Poland is the only American Jewish foundation with an office and ongoing presence in Poland. The reputable journalist Konstanty Gebert, the founder-publisher of *Midrasz* magazine, is our Associate Director. He and program coordinator Magdalena Matuszewska, a Hebrew Studies doctoral student, coordinate activities with JHIP Director Shana Penn, author and visiting scholar at the Graduate Theological Union's Center for Jewish Studies in Berkeley, California.

RECOVERY CONTINUITY CONNECTION





BUILDING CULTURE

The Warsaw office performs crucial functions. An on-the-ground presence enables us to keep abreast of current events and participate in important programs; strengthen relationships with the Polish government, church leaders, pertinent nonprofits and international groups; provide technical assistance to grantees; conduct outreach activities; and meet and greet visitors.

The Jewish Heritage Initiative is proud to help American Jewish families as they seek ways to reclaim their Jewish heritage in Poland.

Whether it is creating a fellowship for historians to study an ancestral shtetl or naming a cultural program in honor of a loved one, the Jewish Heritage Initiative provides support and creative energies to a variety of projects.

The Jewish Heritage Initiative aims to build a two-way street of cooperation, and that means we remain in contact with other foundations and agencies working in Poland, such as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the American Jewish Committee and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Equally important, our dedicated staff in Warsaw cooperate with Polish federal ministries to promote Poland as a location for serious research of Jewish history.





BUILDING BRIDGES

The programs we support encompass the legacy of our great civilization, which continues to be influential in shaping the culture, religious practices, politics and demographics of today's Jewish world.

OUR FUNDING PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Institution Building
- Heritage Preservation and Scholarship
- Jewish Education and Spiritual Life
- Traveling Exhibitions
- Arts and Media
- Cross-Cultural Exchanges

The flowering of Judaism has gone hand in hand with the flowering of democracy. Jews have historically suffered where democracy suffers and thrived where democracy thrives. This has been the historical model for hundreds of years. What is happening now in Poland is a replay of conditions that have benefited Jews and Judaism historically. It is exciting to see the interest of non-Jewish Poles in things Jewish. On the Taube Foundation's visit to Poland we literally saw crowds of non-Jews eager to study Judaism. If we can contribute to the rebirth of the Jewish community alongside the rebirth of democracy, this is a very good bet.

— DR. ARNOLD EISEN, CHANCELLOR-ELECT,
JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY;
TFJLC ADVISORY BOARD



We aim to nurture as many cultural re-entry points as possible. There have to be Jewish museums, archives and young people's groups. There have to be multiple entry points to allow Jews to come out of the woodwork.

— SHANA PENN, JHIP DIRECTOR

BUILDING INSTITUTIONS

In Poland today, world-class Jewish cultural institutions—archives, museums, day schools, synagogues, cultural and community centers—directly touch the lives of thousands of individuals each month.

Some of these survived Nazism and Communism, then reinvented themselves after 1989. Others were newly created after Poland threw off the shackles of Communism and joined the free world again. Help us ensure a sustainable future for these important institutions.

PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw
- Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow
- Judaica Foundation/Center for Jewish Culture in Krakow
- Capital Campaign of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw
- Lauder Morasha School in Warsaw
- Jewish Community of Warsaw and Lodz



Dr. Eleanora Bergman and Professor Dr. Feliks Tych, Jewish Historical Institute



Exhibition designs for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews



Exhibition floor plans for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Simon Peres with Dr. Joachim Russek at the Judaica Foundation



*Our mission is to promote and provide sound knowledge.
It is an inspiring challenge, which makes us look hopefully to the future.*

– PROFESSOR DR. FELIKS TYCH, JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

HERITAGE PRESERVATION & SCHOLARSHIP

Unique in the world of Jewish philanthropy, we are supporting myriad projects that address the critical issue of historical preservation. Over the past few years, we have targeted those institutions that have displayed both serious scholarship and a flair for curatorial creativity.

PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- Centropa Oral History & Photography Collection
- Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland
- Lauder Genealogy Project
- POLIN Anthology
- Osher Fellow in Yiddish Studies
- Research Fellowships at Jewish Historical Institute
- University-based Jewish Studies Programs
- YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

JHIP FELLOWSHIPS, SUCH AS
THE OSHER FELLOW IN YIDDISH
STUDIES, SUPPORT IMPORTANT
ARCHIVAL RESEARCH AT THE
JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.



Family, from the Centropa Collection



Archivist at the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw



Passports and identification cards, Lauder Genealogy Project



YIVO materials returned from Europe, courtesy of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



Prewar map of Poland, in Yiddish, courtesy of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



What would American Jewry be without Poland, where all important religious and secular achievements, from the Yeshiva to Zionism, flourished? We American Jews are the inheritors of Polish Jewish culture today. We have the rare opportunity to give back to the descendants of those who enriched our American Judaism.

– RABBI MICHAEL SCHUDRICH, CHIEF RABBI OF POLAND

JEWISH EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL LIFE

During the Communist period, there was no Jewish education of any sort in Poland—for adults or for children. The Jewish Heritage Initiative is currently underwriting programs so that children and their parents can avail themselves of quality Jewish education. Whether it is purchasing a bank of computers for a school, helping fund textbook publication, providing for video and audio-visual equipment or sending teachers to international conferences to study best-practice methods. Our collective contributions can greatly improve the quality of Jewish learning throughout Poland.

PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- Beit Warszawa Reform Congregation
- Chief Rabbi of Poland, Nozyk Synagogue
- Lauder Morasha Schools
- Moses Schorr Center for Adult Education



Rabbi Michael Schudrich,
Chief Rabbi of Poland, in
the Nozyk Synagogue,
Warsaw



Beit Warszawa classroom



Lauder Morasha
Schools



Every community has its own momentum, its own texture. In Poland, the Jewish community is using every tool at its disposal, from religious observance to the arts, to explore Jewish identity. People need a variety of forums to express themselves.

—THEODORE BIKEL, PERFORMER; TFJLC ADVISORY BOARD

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

The Jewish Heritage Initiative underwrites highly acclaimed traveling exhibitions that challenge our perceptions of Jewish history in twentieth-century Poland. From paintings and photography to artifacts of prototypical shtetl life, these exhibitions of rediscovered artists or historical narratives are designed to travel throughout Poland and across the United States.

PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- Sculptor Elie Nadelman Retrospective
- Justice Illuminated:
“The Art & Activism of Arthur Szyk”
- Found Treasures of the Jewish Historical Institute
- “Scream the Truth at the World:
Emanuel Ringleblum & the Hidden Archive
of the Warsaw Ghetto”
- “They Called Me Mayer July:
Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland”
- “Traces of Memory: A photographic exhibition in
tribute to the Jews of Galicia”





Catalogue for
 "Traces of Memory:
 A photographic
 exhibition in tribute to
 the Jews of Galicia"

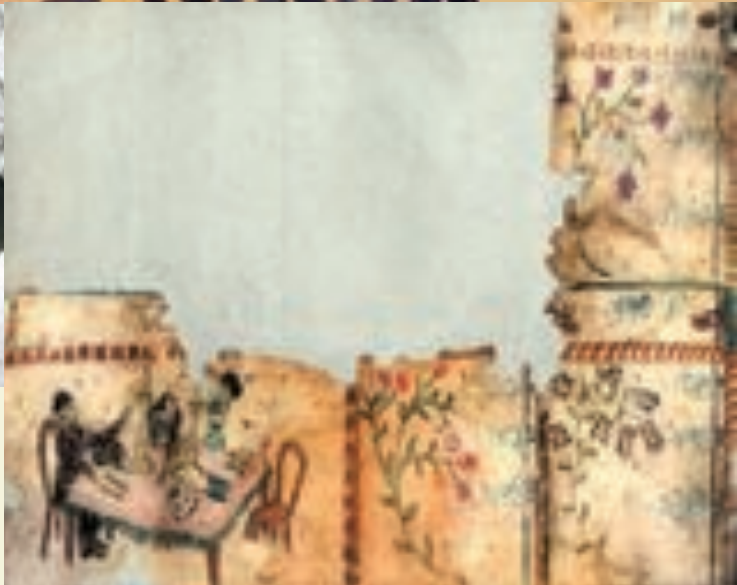


"They Called Me Mayer
 July: Painted Memories
 of a Jewish Childhood
 in Poland"

"Justice Illuminated:
 The Art & Activism of
 Arthur Szyk"



▲ "Scream the Truth at the World:
 Emanuel Ringleblum & The Hidden Archive
 of the Warsaw Ghetto"
 Courtesy of the Jewish Historical Institute



Songs and stories are portals to explore what it means to be a Jew. Music reports our people's daily reality, and Yiddish songs in particular provide wonderful pictures of daily life and the life cycle.

– TAMARA BROOKS, CONDUCTOR; TFJLC ADVISORY BOARD

ARTS & MEDIA

The written word and Polish Jewry are two terms that came together and fell in love centuries ago. From commentaries written about sacred texts to the brilliant portrayals of daily Jewish life in secular Yiddish literature, Polish Jews have proven to be the masters of the book. Today, Polish Jews are also the masters of the magazine, the literary website, the screenplay and the book festival.

PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- I.B. Singer Festival, Shalom Foundation, Warsaw
- *Midrasz* Magazine
- Myslenice Culture Festival
- Simcha Festival, Wroclaw
- Sopot Jewish Culture Festival
- "Of Poles and Jews" Weekly National Radio Program
- Warsaw Jewish Book Fair



NEW PUBLISHING PROGRAM

The JHIP now offers seed grants to help support the writing and publishing in Poland of nonfiction works of Jewish interest. The seed grant program also partially funds translations of books by Polish authors for publication abroad and, as well, the translation of important texts into Polish.



Klezmer Cruise circles
Krakow performing
Jewish music

Midrasz Magazine



Jewish Culture Festival poster, Krakow



Dance workshop, Kazimierz



“Do not underestimate the significance of this endeavor on the non-Jewish world. This is a model for knowing one’s own religious identity.”

– DR. JAMES DONAHUE, PRESIDENT, GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION;
TFJLC ADVISORY BOARD

CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGES

The Jewish Heritage Initiative, together with the institutions we support in Warsaw and Krakow, has created a program called Cultural Encounters in Poland. During these tailor-made visits, our historians take American Jews off the tourist track and into cities, shtetls and villages, where we discuss Jewish history, meet local historians and Jewish community leaders, and discover rarely seen synagogues, cemeteries and other historical sites.

PROGRAMS WE SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- American Jewish Committee
- Birthright Poland
- Forum for Dialogue among Nations
- Shalhevet Jewish High School
Student Tours of Poland





Children's art workshop,
Jewish Culture Festival



Taube Foundation luncheon at Beit Warszawa



Above: Stephen Dobbs,
Irving Rabin, Sean Taube,
Shana Penn, Tad Taube,
Taube Advisory Board
Tour of Krakow
& Warsaw



Irvin Ungar of the Arthur Szyk Society
leads services at Beit Warszawa,
October 2005



Dr. Arnold Eisen and Dr. Joachim Russek, Krakow



Anyone familiar with contemporary Poland can see that Poles have assumed the moral duty to remember the crimes of the Holocaust and to preserve the history of Jews in our country. We want honest knowledge of the past to serve as the basis of a strong Polish Jewish future.”

– HIS EXCELLENCY ALEKSANDER KWASNIEWSKI, PRESIDENT OF POLAND, 1995-2005

2006 HIGHLIGHTS

FORMER PRESIDENT'S VISIT AS TAUBE FELLOW AT HOOVER

On the weekend of September 10-11, 2005, Tad and Dianne Taube and the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture hosted the President and First Lady of Poland, Aleksander and Jolanta Kwasniewski, on the first state visit by a President of Poland to California.

Former President Aleksander Kwasniewski was a Taube Distinguished Fellow at the Hoover Institution in May 2006.

Dianne and Tad Taube, Aleksander and Jolanta Kwasniewski



Above: Tad Taube, Sigmund Rolat, Bozena Pancer, Rick Parasol, Jolanta Kwasniewska, Gunna Parasol, Aleksander Kwasniewski



Christopher Kerosky, Polish Honorary Consul in San Francisco, Krystyna Tokarska-Biernacik, Polish Consul General in Los Angeles, President Kwasniewski, Tad Taube, Juddson Taube

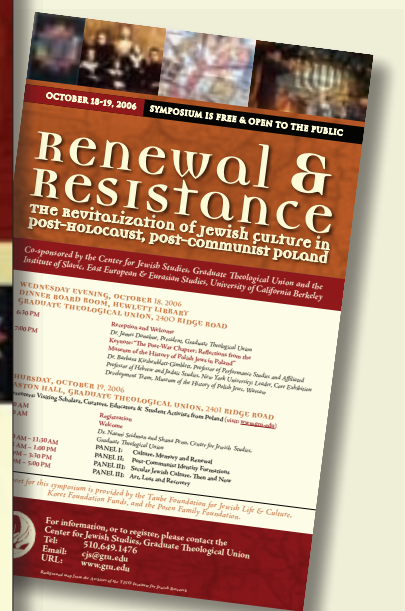


WHERE WE COME FROM: OUR JEWISH HERITAGE IN POLAND—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OCTOBER 18-27, 2006

The ten-day series of cultural offerings engaged the Bay Area community in the remarkable developments underway to revitalize Jewish life in Poland. Eight Polish grantees traveled to California to meet and dialogue with American Jews on issues of common concern regarding cultural identity and renewal and the place of East European Jewish heritage in our Jewish futures.

The Polish grantees represented the Jewish Historical Institute, Jewish Culture Festival, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, *Midrasz* Magazine, Galicia Jewish Museum, Centropa, Lauder Genealogy project, and the Krakow Jewish Student Union “Czulent.”

Participating Bay Area grantees included the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, Graduate Theological Union, Judah L. Magnes Museum, Taube Center for Jewish Studies and Hillel at Stanford, Jewish Family and Children’s Services of San Francisco, the Jewish Music Festival, and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.



Before going with the Taube Foundation to Poland, I didn't know if I could handle the emotional response to visiting Auschwitz. My images of Poland were of ghettos, concentration camps and pogroms. Now, because of the trip, I see Poland as a cradle of Jewish life.

– IRVING RABIN, MAGNES MUSEUM BOARD CHAIR; TFJLC ADVISORY BOARD

2006 HIGHLIGHTS

“POLAND: AN ALLY OF ISRAEL” A NEW MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT

The JHIP, with a generous lead grant by Rochelle and Newt Becker of Los Angeles, launched *Midrasz* Magazine's project to monitor coverage of Israel by Poland's main dailies and TV news programs. Though still in the pilot phase, the program's early findings tend to support the position that coverage of Israel is much more balanced in Poland than in comparable Western European media.

Outright anti-Israeli distortion of news is uncommon and tends to be corrected, as is mixing information with comment. Comments overtly critical of Israel are rarer than comments overtly critical of adversary movements and states.



Problems, as such exist, are rather due to lack of in-depth knowledge of the region and its history. While the above is true of mainstream media, biased anti-Israel articles appear in some of the politicized left- or right-wing newspapers.





YIVO AND HOOVER INSTITUTE



This year, TFJLC initiated an important initiative to enhance the Judaica-related archival collections of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and the YIVO

Institute for Jewish Research, the preeminent academic center for the study of East European Jewry, through a joint documentary exchange program. The first phase of the program, currently underway, is to survey each institution's archival holdings to identify collections appropriate for photoduplication.

Courtesy of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

I am a builder, and in Poland, I hope to build a small bridge over the torrent of terrible events in the Shoah, about which too many young Poles know too little.

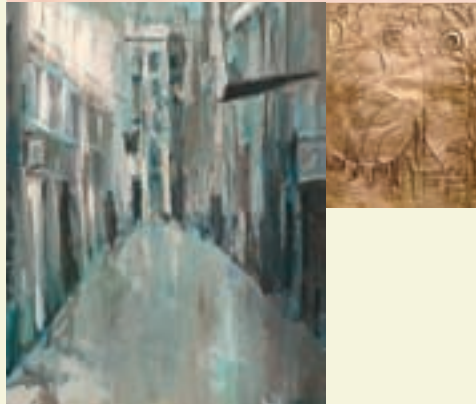
– SIGMUND ROLAT, CZESTOCHOWA/NEW YORK; TFJLC ADVISORY BOARD

2006 HIGHLIGHTS

CZESTOCHOWA CURRICULUM RECOGNIZED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Grantee Anna Maciejowska, the principal of the School of Fine Arts in Czestochowa, was raised Catholic. In her adulthood she began to realize, “I feel a Jewish heart beating here.” She went on to discover that her grandmother was Jewish. Her father did not want to tell her of her heritage and did not want her to pursue her interest in her roots.

But it is now safe to be interested in Jewish culture. Anna created a Jewish-themed fine arts curriculum, which was recently approved by the Ministry of Education. TFJLC board member Sigmund Rolat, born in Czestochowa, is the program’s lead patron.



Featured works from
the Czestochowa
2006 art competition



ARTHUR SZYK EXHIBIT TOURS POLAND

The Arthur Szyk Society's traveling exhibit, "Justice Illuminated," toured in Warsaw, Krakow and Lodz, the artist's birthplace. These were the first showings of Szyk's work in his native Poland in 70 years.

The occasion was celebrated by members of the Szyk Society, the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture, and Szyk's descendants, including his daughter Alexandra Szyk Bracie, who remembered Tad Taube's arrival in New York soon after his family emigrated from Poland in 1939.



Alexandra Szyk Bracie, (center) with family and Szyk Society members



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ASSISTANT EDITORS: ANNA GOLDBEIN AND NICOLE LAWRENCE



WHO WE ARE

JEWISH HERITAGE INITIATIVE IN POLAND

Tad Taube, Founder

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE LOANED US THEIR PHOTOGRAPHY: PAWEL MAZUR AND THE JEWISH CULTURE FESTIVAL ■

*Centropa, Vilja Fussell, Thomas Gibbons, Jewish Historical Institute,
Chris Schwarz, Galicia Jewish Museum, Edward Serotta, Irvin Ungar,
Arthur Szyk Society, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research*

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Jewish Heritage Initiative in Poland



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