



"Having survived, I owe something to the dead, and anyone who does not remember, betrays them again." —Elie Wiesel

NEWSLETTER

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70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BARDEJOV'S WWII LIBERATION

On January 19, 1945, Bardejov was liberated by the Soviet army and the Czechoslovak army. On January 19, 2015, which marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation, Peter and Pavol Hudák took part in the ceremony by putting a wreath in front of the Memorial in the Slovak National Uprising Square, on behalf of the Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee.



Peter & Pavol together with a soldier carrying the wreath with a note: "Na počest osloboditeľov, Bardejovský výbor na zachovanie židovského dedičstva" (In memory of the liberators - the Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee).



MAYOR OF BARDEJOV VISITS THE MEMORIAL

Following the official Liberation Ceremony, Mayor Hanuščák, (fifth from right), together with a group of dignitaries, visited the new Bardejov Holocaust Memorial and placed a bouquet of flowers in honor of the Jewish victims.

EMIL A. FISH RECEIVES THE BARDEJOV MAYOR'S AWARD

The Mayor's Award is given each year on January 19th to individuals and organizations for their special contribution to the development of the city of Bardejov.

This year one of the recipients of the Award was Mr. Emil A. Fish, "as an expression of thanks, appreciation and respect for his contribution to the creation of the

Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee and the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial, which honors the Jewish victims of Bardejov and also stands against all forms of racial, religious, and political intolerance."

At a special ceremony that took place in Bardejov City Hall, Peter and Pavol Hudák received the award on behalf of Mr. Fish, who was unable to personally attend.



Peter Hudák (left) and Pavol Hudák holding Emil A. Fish's Mayor's Award.

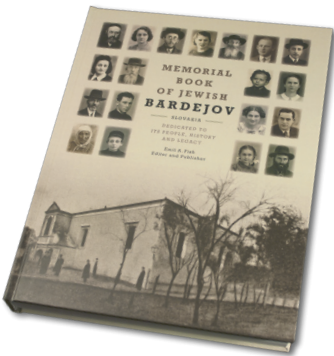
DEDICATION OF THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



Mr. Norman Thatcher Scharpf, Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, delivers his speech at the dedication ceremony, which was attended by more than 450 people—Bardejov citizens, dignitaries, and guests from around the world.

The dedication ceremony of the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial took place on Tuesday, June 24th, 2014. The ceremony included musical performances by Bardejov children, lighting of memorial candles in front of each of the fourteen Name Tablets, and speeches. Ms. Lesley Weiss, Chair of the U.S. Federal Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, came from Washington, DC and delivered a powerful speech. Her presence dignified the ceremony and the efforts to preserve Jewish heritage. Her speech was preceded by Mr. Fish, who spoke both in English and Slovak, and was followed by Mr. Norman Thatcher Scharpf, Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava. Mr. Boris Hanuščák, the Mayor of Bardejov, acknowledged the atrocities of the Holocaust and that it must not happen again. Prior to the memorial’s dedication, he accepted responsibility, on behalf of the town of Bardejov, for the maintenance of the memorial. The Righteous of Bardejov—those individuals from Bardejov and vicinity who risked their lives and provided assistance for the survival and protection of Jews and Jewish places—were acknowledged. The ceremony concluded with *El Maleh Rachamim* and the *Kaddish*, followed by “Hatikvah,” Israel’s national anthem, as the Israeli flag was waving on the big screen.

THE MEMORIAL BOOK OF JEWISH BARDEJOV



This special publication by the Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee is the most extensive historic information about the Bardejov Jewish community compiled to date. A comprehensive 496-page publication, it features new scholarly and archival research as well as personal stories, rare family photos, and family histories dating from the 1700s, when Jews first arrived in Bardejov, to the present. It also includes the names of 3,327 Holocaust victims from Bardejov, as well as a list of 1,523 family units—and short narratives—from Bardejov and the surrounding villages. **If you are interested in getting a copy of the Memorial Book, please email us at info@bardejov.org.**

SUBURBIA UPDATE

The Old Synagogue in the Jewish Suburbia—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—will be completely restored by 2016 thanks to a generous grant of 517,000 Euros awarded by the EEA and Norway Grants (www.eeagrants.sk). The synagogue, built in 1836 and now owned by UZZNO, is one of the oldest Jewish sites in Eastern Slovakia. The grant—intended for cultural monuments that have been inscribed in the register of the National Cultural monuments—is administered by the Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic. There were 50 applications for the grant. The Bardejov Old Synagogue Restoration Project ranked the highest among all other applicants.



BJPC representative, Peter Hudak (first from right), participates in a Press Conference that was held on Jan. 20, in Bardejov, to announce the beginning of the restoration project.

NEWS FROM THE BARDEJOV JEWISH PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

UPDATES FROM THE HUDAKS

MEETING WITH THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR



Peter Hudák (right) with Ambassador Alexander Ben-Zvi.

On October 14, in a community Sukkah in Piestany, Slovakia, Peter Hudák, BJPC Communications and Research Associate, met with H.E. Alexander Ben-Zvi, the Israeli Ambassador in Slovakia. Mr. Ben-Zvi appreciated our efforts to preserve Bardejov’s Jewish heritage and expressed his wish to visit the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial.

SYMPOSIUMS AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Peter Hudák attended a symposium in Rome, Italy, on December 15, 2014. Over 150 participants from Europe discussed strategies and challenges in building a European teaching network on Holocaust education.

As a representative of BJPC, Peter Hudák participates in a special E-learning course called “The Holocaust as a tool for education.” Sessions are lead by historians, psychologists, and sociologists and deal with themes such as anti-Semitism vs. anti-Judaism, prejudices, and stereotypes.

Pavol Hudák has been leading local student groups as well as other groups and individuals who visit the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial (see back page).

INTERNATIONAL TOUR GUIDE DAY

On February 21st, Pavol Hudák helped organize a walking tour for International Tour Guide Day, which is a yearly event. The tour started in Bardejov’s historic town center and continued to the Holocaust Memorial where Pavol led a discussion about the Holocaust and the Memorial’s significance for the local community.



WALLENBERG AWARD

On January 17, 2014, Pavol and Peter Hudák received an honorary award from the Raoul Wallenberg Association in Budapest, Hungary. It is the first time that this award was given to individuals who are not from Hungary.

CALIFORNIA HEADQUARTERS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BARDEJOV JEWISH PRESERVATION COMMITTEE’S DONORS, WITHOUT WHOSE SUPPORT THE MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

We have moved!
Our new address is:

150 S. Los Robles Avenue
Suite 480
Pasadena, CA 91101

Please note that you can still reach us
at the same phone numbers and emails:

T: 626-773-8804 E: info@bardejov.org
E: ostieglitz@bardejov.org
Website: www.bardejov.org

Take a look at our Facebook page if you haven’t already! We are constantly posting updates about the BJPC and about interesting and important events happening in Bardejov. You can find us on Facebook as **Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee**.



OUR NEXT PROJECT

Jewish Bardejov in Pictures: Before, During, and After the Holocaust will be a book with more photos than text (similar to “Vienna Stories”- a CENTROPA publication). We will include old and new photos. Any stories and/or pictures that you can share with us will be greatly appreciated. We will have dedication pages to honor family members and friends. We are also looking for sponsors to support this important and valuable project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ISRAEL: On Thursday, May 28, 2015, a plaque commemorating the Bardejov Jewish community will be dedicated in the Forest of the Martyrs (Hebrew: Ya’ar HaKdoshim) in Israel. The forest—in the outskirts of Jerusalem—is a memorial to those who died in the Holocaust and includes six million trees, planted since 1951. The ceremony is organized each year, in May, by the Forum of the Jews from the Former State of Czechoslovakia Residing in Israel—“Hitachdut Yotzei Czechoslovakia in Israel,” in the Slovak/Czech section of the forest. Survivors from former Czechoslovakia and their descendants, as well as dignitaries from Israel, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, attend the ceremony. Representatives from the Bardejov Jewish Preservation Community (BJPC), including founder Mr. Emil A. Fish, are planning to attend.

For more information please email malka.pelleg@gmail.com

BARDEJOV: On Tuesday, June 2nd we will hold a ceremony in the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and a year since the dedication of the Memorial.

HERITAGE TOUR: In conjunction with the dedication in Israel and the ceremony in Bardejov, we are thinking of organizing a Heritage Tour to Poland or the Czech Republic. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested, so that we can plan ahead (Kosher food will be provided).



We regret to inform our Bardejovers' community of the recent passing of

Otto (Erwin) Wahrmann, a Holocaust survivor from Bardejov. Otto was born on May 12, 1927. He died on January 16, 2015 in Montreal, Canada.

Gidi Nachshon, the son of Bardejov Holocaust survivor Moritz (Moshe) Kupferstich. Gidi was born on July 6, 1947. He died on February 15, 2015 in Victoria, BC, Canada.

May God comfort the Wahrman/Lazar and the Nachson/Fogel families and friends, during the time of their bereavement, amongst the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

BARDEJOV HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL NEWS

On February 1st, the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial was entrusted to the City of Bardejov. The Cultural and Information Center in Bardejov is now in charge of scheduling regular visiting hours, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the Holocaust Memorial.



L to R: Mr. Gmitter- City of Bardejov; Mrs. Petejová-Olejar Architects Inc.; Mr. Lysý- Construction Supervisor; Mr. Hudák- BJPC; Mr. Tribus- Cultural and Info. Center.

Since our dedication event in June 2014, more than 500 individuals and groups have visited the Memorial. Visitors came from Hungary, Poland, Israel, Japan, and Slovakia and included local citizens, visitors from neighboring communities, tourists, dignitaries, and Bardejov school children of all ages. Pavol Hudák has been educating the visitors about the Bardejov Jewish community and the construction of the Memorial by the BJPC.



Local highschool students, lead by Pavol Hudák (right) commemorate the 70th anniversary of the death of Samuel Grussgott, leader of Bardejov's Jewish community.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Support our new projects:

- New publication:
Jewish Bardejov in Pictures: Before, During, and After the Holocaust
- Cultural and Educational Center in Bardejov's Jewish Suburbia.

Please look for our e-mail updates and check our website for sponsorship opportunities.

MEMORIAL INFORMATION

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Dlhý Rad 30
Adjacent to the Jewish Suburbia
Bardejov, Slovakia

BARDEJOV TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

Radnicné námestie 24
085 01 Bardejov
Tel.: 054 / 474 40 03 *Local*
(+421 54 474 40 03) *From Abroad*
E-mail: tikbardejov@proxisnet.sk

BARDEJOV



JEWISH PRESERVATION COMMITTEE