



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

NEWSLETTER

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF BARDEJOV HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL



Emil A. Fish and Orit Stieglitz with Mayor Hanuščák and Bardejov city officials in front of the Holocaust Memorial.



The participants of this year's high school essay contest received certificates of merit from Mr. Fish during the ceremony.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015, we commemorated the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII at the Holocaust Memorial in Bardejov and the one year anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial.

Prior to the ceremony, Emil A. Fish and Orit Stieglitz placed a bouquet of flowers in the Slovak National Uprising Square together with Mayor Boris Hanuščák and city officials.

The commemoration ceremony in the Holocaust Memorial began with lighting Memorial Candles in front of the Name Tablets. Eighty-three new names were inscribed on Tablet 13 before the ceremony—a result of new research and information from family members. We will continue to add names to Tablets 13 and 14 as they are verified.

Speeches were delivered by Mayor Hanuščák and by Mr. Fish. Children from the art school ‘Sukromne hudobne a dramaticke konzervatium’ sang the hymn of the Jewish Partisans in Yiddish, the language in which it was originally written.

As part of the commemoration event, the participants of this year's high school essay contest received certificates of merit and the three winning authors were also awarded a cash prize. The topic of the essay was “70 years since the end of WWII: the fate of our Jewish neighbors”. The *Memorial Book of Jewish Bardejov* was presented to Mr. Jarina – head of Bardejov Community Foundation – and Ms. Leskova – Holocaust educator from ‘Gymnázium Leonarda Stockela’ high school – who partnered with BJPC in coordinating the essay competition.

The ceremony, which was attended by a few hundred Bardejov local citizens and public officials, concluded with moving music played by students from the art school.

SLOVAK PRESIDENT IN BARDEJOV

President Andrej Kiska visited the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial on March 19, 2015. He is the first Slovak president to visit the Bardejov Jewish Suburbia and the Holocaust Memorial.



President Kiska inside the Memorial with Peter (left) and Pavol Hudák (right).



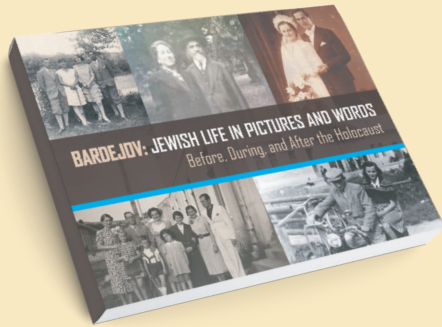
VISIT BY ISRAELI AMBASSADOR

Ambassador of Israel in Slovakia, H.E. Alexander Ben Zvi, visited Bardejov on June 26th. Pavol Hudák gave him a tour of the Holocaust Memorial and the Jewish Suburbia.



Israeli Ambassador in the Memorial (left) and in the Old Synagogue (right).

OUR NEW BOOK PROJECT



The Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee (BJPC) has embarked on a new project: a book publication focused on pictures and documents that tell the stories of Jewish Bardejov before, during, and after the Holocaust.

We are interested in documenting life in Bardejov from the prewar years to the years after the war, as Bardejov survivors rebuilt their lives all around the world.

BJPC has a growing collection of materials that was given to us by Jewish 'Bardejovers' and by local Bardejov citizens. We are seeking more pictures, stories, and documents to include in this unique book.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATED IN ISRAEL

During the yearly commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust in the Forest of the Czechoslovak martyrs at Ya'ar Hakdoshim in Israel—on May 28th—a memorial plaque honoring the Jewish Community of Bardejov was unveiled. The ceremony included speeches by the Slovak and Czech ambassadors in Israel and other distinguished guests. Orit Stieglitz and Giora Solar represented the Bardejov Jewish Preservation Committee and described the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial. The 'plaque project' was initiated by Malka Pelleg, daughter of Eta Landau-Rubin from Bardejov, who put countless efforts into its production and into contacting the Israeli Bardejovers who came from all over Israel to attend the ceremony.



Malka Pelleg and her family near the new Plaque - a replica of the Star of David Monument in the Bardejov Holocaust Memorial.

RECENT MEETINGS IN BARDEJOV

We are excited to report about recent developments regarding the Bardejov Jewish Suburbia:

The Old Synagogue restoration project has begun and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2016. The project cost, 617,000 Euros, was made possible by the EEA and Norway Grants, which allocated 517,000 Euros for the complete restoration of the synagogue including new floors, electrical and heating systems, and restoration of the interior walls and *Bimah*. The project is managed by the Central Union of Jewish Communities in Slovakia (UZZNO) – the legal owner of the site.

During our June event in Bardejov, Emil A. Fish, Orit Stieglitz, Giora Solar, Peter Hudák and Pavol Hudák met with, Mr. Kornfeld, CEO of UZZNO, Mr. Pálka, project manager on behalf of the EEA and Norway Grants, Mr. Lupták, restorer, and Mr. Krcho, architect. Productive discussions were held regarding the Synagogue project and the next steps in the restoration of the whole Jewish Suburbia.



Evaluating Beith Hamidrash inside the Jewish Suburbia complex.

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BARDEJOV



JEWISH PRESERVATION COMMITTEE