

**Public chat record from "Restoring Jewish Cemeteries of Poland: The Task Ahead
Opieka nad cmentarzami żydowskimi w Polsce–zadania, perspektywy" conference on 18 Aug 2020**
conference.fjhp.org konferencja.fjhp.org

- 01:55:45 Edward Janes: Thank you Dan. That is a very moving introduction to this conference
- 02:35:02 Andrzej Rusewicz: Is the data mentioned by Mrs. Zdoliński-Romańczuk publicly available online? If so, how can we access this data?
- 02:36:39 Robert Kobylarczyk: Can you give us the online address for the data, Mrs. Ewa, please?
- 02:37:03 Przemek Panasiuk: As a followup to question above: If this data is available, do we also have information about the owners of those cemeteries?
- 02:37:03 Jeff Miller: Rabbi Schapira mentioned mass burial sites - and commemorating these - what information is available on this?
- 02:37:56 Alon Goldman: How do you deal with the challenge of cemeteries that are in cities where there is no significant Jewish community left and no one claim ownership and as a result there is a big problem in carrying out maintenance, cleaning and conservation work, cemeteries that are exposed to ongoing vandalism and antisemitic activities?
- Why is the Konsewator Zbitkow not actively active in the preservation of cemeteries that have been defined as historic sites for preservation and are under his supervision?
- 02:40:20 Krzysztof Bielawski: NID published its reports on
https://www.nid.pl/pl/Dla_specjalistow/Wydawnictwa/wydanie.php?ID=374
- 02:40:57 Edward Goldberg: Can I be sent contact information for Eva Zdolinska_Romanczk at the Ministry of Culture and Heritage? regoldga@yahoo.com
- 02:41:41 Jeffrey Cymbler: Jan Jagielski at ZIH used to keep a log and info of all Polish cemeteries. do you have access to all his materials?
- 02:41:52 Ewa Zdolińska-Romańczuk: dane o oznakowanych cmentarzach są na stronie www.zabytek.pl
- 02:43:33 Rabbi Michael Schudrich: For more on mass graves in Poland, please go to zapomniane.org where more than 100 different mass graves which have been surveyed and researched and some dozens have been commemorated (Matzeva and fenced)
- 02:45:33 Ruth Gruber: Some historic memory....I think it's worth recalling that the first large-scale postwar inventory of Jewish heritage sites in Poland, including cemeteries, took place in the early 1990s, on behalf of a US government commission — the US Commission for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage Abroad. It identified - at that time - 1008 Jewish cemeteries (and 278 synagogues), with information including threats. Already restoration work was being carried out by individuals, NGOs, Jewish groups etc. The survey was undertaken "to encourage government and private strategies to protect and preserve" this endangered historic and cultural heritage. The report can be found online at
http://www.heritageabroad.gov/Portals/0/Reports%20and%20Surveys/survey_poland.pdf?ver=2016-02-24-124133-190
- 02:49:15 Ruth Gruber: Jan Jagielski and Lena Bergman were the coordinators in Poland of the US survey. Much if not all of the Commission's report information was donated to the IAJGS Jewish cemetery project. (there's also of course much information on the Virtual Shtetl portal and Krzysztof Bielawski's Jewish cemeteries web site)

02:50:23 Michael Traison: Ruth thank you for reminding us that there have been valuable projects in the past and the work from thirty years ago is a valuable resource.

02:53:40 Donna Kanter: I'd love to hear a reply to Przemek's question about inclusion of information on ownership/representatives of identified cemeteries. Thank you.

02:54:29 Krzysztof Bielawski: Answering Donna Kanter's question: NID has a list of all cemeteries, including its owners.

02:55:21 Andrzej Rusewicz: Is this list publicly available? If so, how can one access it?

02:57:31 Piotr Puchta: This will be available once we initiate the Coalition of keepers of the Jewish cemeteries in Poland.

02:58:15 Andrzej Rusewicz: Is there a date you could quote? Even an approximate one.

02:58:22 Steven Reece: Right click and select all and copy

02:58:40 Steven Reece: I believe that will work

03:04:14 Krzysztof Bielawski: In the coming days my book Shoah of Jewish Cemeteries will be published. This is a historic book, the first synthesis showing destruction of Jewish cemeteries in Poland, including the destruction done by Germans as well as the postwar Polish state and local population. I hope the book will also inspire local activists and authorities to take care about these places.

03:05:09 Rabbi Michael Schudrich: Where can she purchase your book? VERY important work!!

03:06:16 Michael Traison: Bielawski's new book will be invaluable.

03:08:29 Michael Traison: engaging non-Jews and engaging and recognizing the work of Poles preserving Jewish memory in Poland is critical. we welcome nominations of individuals to be honored at our 24th consecutive annual ceremonies in June.

03:08:29 Krzysztof Bielawski: It will be available on www.wiez.pl
The book is Polish-written but I hope to find a publisher in USA.

03:09:09 Ruth Gruber: The involvement of non-Jews in caring for Jewish heritage, in Poland and in other countries, is not new. (I wrote extensively about this in my 2002 book "Virtually Jewish.") Since 1998, the Preserving Memory awards (initiative by Michael Traison) has honoured nearly 300 non-Jewish Poles for caring for Jewish heritage.

03:09:27 Piotr Puchta: I would like to answer question by rabbi Isaac Schapira before the break, if possible.

03:29:52 Ruth Gruber: I hope in the second half there is more "hands-on" discussion. Much of what we have been hearing so far are ideas that have been voiced many times over the years. How are they being implemented? How can they be implemented? Restoring or conserving or documenting or even just cleaning a cemetery needs funding, coordination, sustainability, coordinating, etc. How to do it? How is it being done, onsite? Marla's new web site will be a valuable resource (even outside eastern Galicia)

03:30:44 Dan Oren: Ruth: Your questions are great. And we are saving time at the end for people to address them.

03:31:59 Dan Oren: Contacts and resources: info.fjhp.org

03:32:18 Dan Oren: Info about speakers: conference.fjhp.org or konferencja.fjhp.org

03:32:46 Dan Oren: Please after the conference is over evaluate the conference at evaluate.fjhp.org or oceniac.fjhp.org

03:33:20 Ruth Gruber: Bill Brostoff's guide is also a great resource — <https://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/cemeteries/best-practices/for-descendants-guide/>

03:34:59 Hatte Blejer: You are all welcome to join our Facebook Group which has several hundred descendants and supporters of the Przerosl Jewish Cemetery Project. We have worked three summers there, bringing together descendants from multiple countries, townspeople, and the city and county officials.

03:37:25 Hatte Blejer: Also www.przerosl.com is an older website that gives more background on the Jewish community of Przerosl.

03:37:26 Teresa Klimowicz: <https://www.facebook.com/studniapamieci/>
https://issuu.com/stowarzyszeniestudniapamieci/docs/poradnik_20-20ogrodniczy_20pamieci

03:42:45 Bill Brostoff: Cleaning vegetation is more than just cleaning greenery. There are documented "endangered species" in some cemeteries and some plant species which only occur in Jewish cemeteries in Poland. This is published in the peer-reviewed technical literature.

03:44:06 Mike Weinroth: How serious a problem is the vandalism of cemeteries that have been newly restored?

03:44:40 Lidis Wociór-Abutbul: Thank you Teresa for mentioning it. Destroying bushes, grass, etc. and the whole ecosystem in Jewish cemeteries should be stopped. In Poland much too much green areas is being destroyed. I wholeheartedly believe it would be better to keep these places green with greenery.

03:45:04 Michael Traison: the comments about identification with these sites by local inhabitants is important and perhaps a sine qua non of preservation into the future

03:46:32 Bill Brostoff: This isn't an either-or question. Some of these decisions can be made in the context of regional environmental management with a range of stakeholders.

03:50:02 Alon Goldman: How to turn a cleaning project into an educational project for Polish students in Czestochowa
<https://www.czestochowajews.org/cemetery-clean-up-underway/>
<https://www.czestochowajews.org/world-society-vice-president-alon-goldman-co-ordinates-major-cemetery-clean-up/>

03:50:11 Lidis Wociór-Abutbul: Lublin voivodship is the most deforested region in the whole Poland. Jewish cemeteries are the great habitat of many species.

03:51:25 Michael Traison: students from zaborow and Wysokie maz under supervision of their high school teacher# have cleaned the Wysokie cemetery for years for example. engaging high school kids is multi beneficial

03:51:55 Ruth Gruber: When the ESJF fences and cemetery cleans it — do you also make sure there is someone onsite to keep it clean in the future? Do you forge relations with locals to do this or just send around your own people? Behind some of those cement fences, cemeteries can also remain invisible, and vegetation can take over

03:53:47 Monika Tarajko: The other problem is that there are a lot of old, sick trees that will soon start falling down, sometimes destroying graves or fences

04:03:55 Teresa Klimowicz: Podręcznik dotyczący cmentarzy żydowskich z omówieniem aspektu estetycznego oraz wskazówkami dotyczącymi odczytywania inskrypcji w wersji do pobrania:
https://www.academia.edu/35408587/Ogrodniczy_Pamieci_cmentarze_zydowskie_przewodnik_small_pdf

04:07:37 Ewa Wziątek: Bardzo wartościowa publikacja dla nauczycieli, którzy realizują wraz z młodzieżą projekty edukacyjne nt. upamiętniania lokalnej społeczności żydowskiej i porządkowania cmentarzy żydowskich (co można, a co jest zakazane w takim miejscu)
https://biblioteka.ceo.org.pl/sites/default/files/publikacja_sefer1.pdf

04:11:35 Teresa Klimowicz: A question to Łukasz Machałowski: who is the owner of the local cemetery in your city? What are the tools in the hands of local authorities (samorząd) that allow them to preserve the cemetery (how to direct the money towards the preservation)?

04:16:48 Donna Kanter: What is Rabbis Schudrich and Schapira's approach to economic and political support of Jewish cemetery restoration and preservation at a time when national efforts appear to diminish or distort Holocaust memory and, if reports are correct, schools no longer teach Holocaust history? This is part and literally parcel of restoring cemeteries overlooked during and after WWII? Thank you.

04:18:57 Teresa Klimowicz: Would it be possible to share email addresses of everyone participating?

04:22:08 Dan Oren: If you wish to share your email address with others in this conference, please give us permission by sending an email to: rsvp@jewishheritagepoland.org

04:22:49 Adam Bartosz: <http://kirkut-tarnow.pl/en/donors/> Our private donors

04:23:45 Adam Bartosz: https://cemetery.jewish.org.pl/list/c_98

04:27:23 Alon Goldman: If you are looking for help mapping your cemetery, they can help - - The GIDONIM from Jerusalem <http://www.gidonim.com/>

04:28:33 Alon Goldman: <http://www.gidonim.com/galleries/galleries-2/cemeteries/czestochowa-cemetery/>

04:36:20 Teresa Klimowicz: A question to Mr Puchta: how many cemeteries are currently in the process of restitution? is this information published somewhere?

04:36:47 Ruth Gruber: Is this cemetery database online?

04:37:16 Alon Goldman: If you are asking me - YES

04:37:17 Patryk Piotr Antoniak: <https://cmentarzydowskie.org>

04:37:36 Patryk Piotr Antoniak: English version: <https://cmentarzydowskie.org/en/>

04:37:59 Patryk Piotr Antoniak: This is website of Coalition of guardians of Jewish cemeteries in Poland

04:39:24 Michael Traison: one of the best things to happen in our efforts to remember restore and preserve was the engagement of Piotr Puchta in the process. He's made a tremendous contribution even in a short time. He believes in cooperation. We're lucky to have him as CEO of FODZ.

04:39:27 Teresa Klimowicz: What legal changes that are necessary did Mr. Puchta have in mind? is Mr. Puchta optimistic about the negotiations of such changes?

04:40:11 Alon Goldman: http://szkolakamienskiemlyny.edu.pl/1_21_59_porz-dkowanie-cmentarza-ydowskiego-w-cz-stochowie.html

04:45:16 Piotr Puchta: data are available on: www.cmentarzydowskie.org

04:46:20 Dan Oren: evaluate.fjhp.org — oceniac.fjhp.org

04:47:40 Alon Goldman: Stay safe

04:47:52 Donna Kanter: Thank you, Rabbi Schudrich! and all!

04:48:09 Patryk Piotr Antoniak: Thank you!

04:48:11 Ewa Wziatek: Thank you

04:48:34 Marek Jezowski: Shalom everyone!

04:48:39 Sandra Gogel: Thank you very much!

04:48:49 Adam Bartosz: Thank you All - Adam, Magda & Natalia

04:48:53 Monika Tarajko: thank you

04:49:01 Adam Grajewski: Thank You