

New Cracow Friendship Society



50 Years of Achievement



וְאִילוּ, הָאֶחָד שֶׁיִּפּוֹל, וְאֵין שֶׁנִּי לְהַקִּימוֹ.

Woe to him who is alone and falls with no companion to raise him.

- Ecclesiastes 4:10

May 2015

EXPLANATION OF COVER

The New Cracow Friendship Society is the house within which my grandparents found the strength and support that only the bonds of true friendship could provide. This cover is dedicated to those bonds that have now been passed down to the second and third generation survivors. The thirteen silhouetted figures represent all the members who have been a continuous source of community and blessing throughout the years.

-Anna Hilfstein Scheumann



50th Anniversary



**וְאֵילֹוֹ, הָאֶחָד שֶׁיִּפּוֹל,
וְאֵין שֶׁנִּי לְהַקִּימוֹ.**

קהלת ד:י

**Woe to him who is alone
and falls with no
companion to raise him.**

Ecclesiastes 4:10

The 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Journal Chairperson

Steven Radwan

Journal Committee

Alvin Lewis, Simone Hilfstein Scheumann and Bernice Slutzman

Journal Finance Committee

Jack Gingold and Bernice Slutzman

Dinner Committee

Susan Krul Caren, Bonnie Kantor and Simone Hilfstein Scheumann

President

Leon Hilfstein

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www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE JOURNAL COMMITTEE

We proudly present to you the fourth journal published by The New Cracow Friendship Society. Its predecessors included the first, published only three years into the Society's existence, which proved to be a Herculean effort to cover the destruction of Jews from Krakow in Krakow itself, and then the trials and tribulations of the survivors to emigrate. The initial effort became an unfinished symphony. The second part was never completed. The journal became a memorial to those who perished. The second part, what happened to the survivors, was never completed.

In 1990 we published the second of our efforts celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the organization. It was almost a prequel to the original publication. The history of Polish Jewry prior to the Shoah was chronicled. It also included many written contributions by the members who shared their memories as youths in Krakow.

Fifteen years later, on the Fortieth Anniversary, came the third effort. It was unique in that all contributions were by the Second and Third generation. The journal's purpose was to honor parents and grandparents.

Now, ten years later, we bring to you the Fiftieth Anniversary Journal. In this opus we have chosen to honor the Society itself. The accomplishments of the organization since its inception have been tremendous and meaningful. One may wonder if the founders envisioned how much good would be done and how many lives, worldwide, would be enriched when their dream became reality.



**MESSAGE FROM
STEVEN RADWAN**

Journal Chairperson

When I accepted this position, I was very much aware of the difficult job I was undertaking; fifty years of newsletters, photos, letters, documents, etc., the list of responsibilities goes on and on. So, why did I accept this challenge? The answer, in my thinking, was simple. Putting this journal together, for me, was a "Labor of Love".

It was the love and respect for my parents, Henry and Genia Radwan, who, from the Society's founding, were dedicated to the success of The New Cracow Friendship Society. This is especially true of my mother who, in 1967, became the first woman on the Executive Board and had a say in shaping the foundation on which The New Cracow Friendship Society was built. It was the love and respect for the founders of the Society, most of whom I knew all my life, and whose vision made The New Cracow Friendship Society a reality. And it was the love and respect for all the first generation members of the Society who supported and sustained it through its growth. While I was doing the research for this journal, I cannot express in words the swelling of pride I had for all that The New Cracow Friendship Society and its members have achieved. Lastly I have to acknowledge with admiration and respect, the second and third generation members, who took on the task of continuing the Society into the future. I am proud to say that I, too, am one of those second generation members.

This journal has a little different look and feel to it than the three previous publications. Firstly, even though Cracow (Krakow), the Ghetto, and Concentration Camps are mentioned in this journal, it is not about memories of that time period. It is a history of the Society from its founding in 1965 until today, 2015. Fifty years of greatness.

Another difference is the way the journal is written with a mix of original pictures, letters, documents, and articles that chronicled the events as they happened. The narrative was provided by the writers. The reason we used this format for putting this journal together is because we wanted this work to have the "voice" of the original members and their response to the events as they occurred. This method was used to tie 50 years of individual achievements together as an

undisputed 50 year history. The accuracy of the materials that make up this journal can be used as a history textbook and encyclopedia, which can forever be used as a reference tool. To steal a quote from one of the previous journals, this book was "Written through the eyes of those who lived it" by both the first and second generation members.

This work did not miraculously come together by itself. I have many people to thank for their help and support in this endeavor. I will start with the three surviving founders, (listed alphabetically) Elias Friedman, Manek Werdiger, and Larry Zellner, who allowed me to intrude on their hospitality, and were so gracious with their time in allowing me to interview them. If that was not enough, both Larry and Manek provided me with invaluable photos, speeches, and other documents, which were very useful resources for creating this journal. I would also like to thank all the members of the Society who sent or gave me photos that could, whenever possible, be used in this work.

Most of this effort could never have become a reality without the members of the Journal Committee, whose dedication to this task was equal to mine, and I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge them by name:

Simone Hilfstein Scheumann for the many photos and Newsletters she provided, and imparting valuable advice on this journal;

Al Lewis who saved the day by finding a treasure trove of material that included the first ten years of photos and Newsletters. He also was in charge of the section on *How The New Cracow Friendship Society Affected Our Parents/Grandparents*, and was instrumental in contacting all of the contributors;

Bernice Slutzman who not only provided numerous resources for the journal, but also was an editor, a mentor to me, collector of all the funds for the sponsorships, contact person with the printer, as well as typing and formatting all the material, making all of it ready for the printer to publish the Journal you now possess. I will forever be in debt to all of you, and I can't thank you enough for a job exceptionally well done. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

I also wish to thank Anna Hilfstein Scheumann, for lending her artistic talent and creativity in designing the cover for this Journal;

It is my fervent hope that after reading this Journal, you, the members, will feel the same sense of pride for what was, is, and will continue to be The New Cracow Friendship Society.



FROM LEON HILFSTEIN

President

Seventy years ago saw the fall of the Third Reich in Germany, the end of World War II and the liberation of the remainder of Jews and others from the murderous grip of Nazi Germany and its allies. Seventy years later survivors of those terrible times from the ancient city of Krakow, Poland continue to celebrate life and perform good works. This journal, celebrating fifty years of the founding and continuity of our Society, is a testament to the founders' vision to assist in rebuilding the Nation of Israel, to supporting those survivors in need and in promoting friendship and good will.

It is a great honor for me to be the current president, during which time this publication comes forth, as I follow in the footsteps of all previous leaders who gave so much to the success of the Society. While our members and officials toiled in their private lives to rebuild family and relationships in their adopted homeland, they always had time for Society business whether fundraising for Israel, purchasing emergency vehicles for Israel, establishing a firm financial basis, providing extra health and accident insurance, purchasing cemetery plots for members' final resting places, providing support for the needy here and abroad, and regularly celebrating joyous occasions through social events.

In these pages you will find much love and history of Jewish survivors from the Krakow, Poland area. This journal is a labor of love and hard work. I want to recognize Steve Radwan for leading the committee responsible for the preparation of this publication. Countless hours were spent poring over the Society's journals and publications, interviewing survivors, gathering photos, and developing the format and theme. I want to thank members of the Journal Committee for their considerable contributions to this timeless work.

Our Golden Year Journal documents the lives of our members and their families through remembrances, personal stories, anecdotes and tributes which affirm our history for future generations.

New Cracow Friendship Society
FOUNDERS
1965



Richard Abrahamer ז"ל



Elias Friedman ז"ל



Ben Geizhals ז"ל



Roman Gunz ז"ל



Max Hilfstein ז"ל



Victor Lewis ז"ל



Zigmund Morrow



Steve Morrow ז"ל



Emil Siegman ז"ל



David Twersky ז"ל



Manek Werdiger



Sam Wertheim ז"ל



Larry Zellner

INTERVIEWS WITH OUR THREE REMAINING FOUNDERS, PLUS ONE

INTRODUCTION

I had the great pleasure of interviewing the last three remaining founders of The New Cracow Friendship Society for our 50th Anniversary Journal. To listen to their insights in the forming of our society was enlightening and fascinating. They had no hesitation in accepting my intrusion into their homes and lives. In the case of Elias Friedman, Bernice Slutzman accompanied me. To have had this wonderful opportunity is beyond description.

The interviews that you will read in the pages of this section of the Journal are all the words, ideas, and thoughts of the individual founder interviewed. Are any of the interviews a word for word document? The answer is no.

While every word was recorded, not all of it could be used. Words were not always clear, or relevant to the question asked. Also, the way people speak is not the same as when they write. When we speak none of us worry about punctuation, paragraphs, or proper grammar, so I had to edit what was said. I can say that over 90% of what was written was the words, ideas, and thoughts of the founder I interviewed.

I also included a mock interview with Steven Morrow written in the same format as my actual interviews with the surviving founders. In order to accomplish this I used the article he wrote for the 25th Anniversary Journal 'A DREAM THAT CAME TRUE'. The only changes made to the article were the removal of all references regarding the 25th Anniversary, and the changing of one or two 'We's' to 'I'. This was done to make the interview sound current for use in a 50th Anniversary Journal. Every word is on record, except for the few changes made, as words written by Steven Morrow.

For the last question asked in the interview, I have to thank Al Lewis. It is the one that asks the question: "Why do we spell the name of the city of their birth with a 'C' instead of 'K'?" It was an actual question Al Lewis asked Steven Morrow. Due to Steven's answer, you will find the spelling of the city either with a "C" or "K" throughout this Journal.

It was truly an honor to be able to interview these men.

Steven Radwan



ELIAS FRIEDMAN

Question: How did you become involved as a founder of the Society?

Answer:

My wife and I were very close to Steven and Barbara Morrow. We met in the Kabel Factory outside the Plaszow Concentration Camp. Steve was driving the wagon from the factory and I was sitting next to him when I said, "It would be nice to overturn the wagon here, so we can fight the SS men and escape." We didn't do it and when we got to the camp, we were chosen to be killed because two Jews had escaped from the camp and we were chosen to die in their place. Fortunately for us, there was an officer who was from Vienna who let us loose. In doing so he saved our lives. At that time, Steve turned to me and said, "If we survive we should start a society of survivors from Krakow."

We did survive and one day Steve called and said it's time to start a society. So Steve called some people, and I called some people, and those people became the founders. As we explored what was needed to organize a society, we found out one had already existed. The original society was founded before the war and was not a survivor organization, but a social one made up of people from Krakow. Unfortunately, the old society no longer existed and we decided to use the word, "new" in ours, so we became The New Cracow Friendship Society. The founders worked day and night to form this society. We all were younger then, and not only were we full of energy, we had a purpose.

Each one of us could do nothing alone, but together, we built the Society. We came up with the idea that we needed a cemetery. We were young and we said, "What for do we need a cemetery?" One of our founders answered, "Let's do it now. The ground is cheap, so let's do it now."

The main thing is that we were very close, and we met weekly. All came up with different ideas. Ben Geizhals, בן גיזאלס, was instrumental in the organization because of his political connections here and his connection to the Israeli Consul, who often was a guest speaker. We had General Membership Meetings once a month and the success of the Society was that we loved each other and all that we shared: our religion, our surviving the Holocaust, our love of Israel and coming from Krakow, Poland.

One of the early ideas of the Society that did not succeed was establishing a community in Florida. At that time we were young and who thought of the future as far as retirement was concerned. At that time we could buy a brand new house for \$20,000. Julius Ross and Steve Morrow went to Florida and returned with brochures and prices but few of our members bought and the idea fell through.

Question: What do you think the greatest achievements of The New Cracow Friendship Society were?

Answer:

I think they are that we sent bulletproof ambulances to Israel, the support of the veterans' hospital and the international reunion of Jews from Krakow that we sponsored in Florida.

Note: This interview took place at the end of 2014. Sadly, Mr. Friedman passed away in June, 2015



MANEK WERDIGER

Question: How did the idea of The New Cracow Friendship Society come to be, and how did you become a founder?

Answer:

About 50 years ago I lived in Kew Garden Hills in a two family house. I lived upstairs and Steven Morrow, ל"ר lived downstairs. One weekend my wife Ilona's cousin, Morry Pillar, came to visit and he was recounting his journey from Krakow, Poland, (the city and country we came from), to the USA. During our conversations he mentioned that there was a Krakow society in New York. I found this interesting and I called Steven Morrow, ל"ר, to come to our apartment with his wife Barbara. Steven and I started asking Morry questions about the Krakow Society and he told us that he knew a member of the society. Steven and I were very interested in getting more information and I told Morry that I would call him in a few days for the name and number of the person he knew. When I received the information, I called the man and was told that they had liquidated the society and it no longer existed. He knew the lawyers who represented the old Krakow Society. The lawyers were Greenbaum and Greenbaum on Madison Avenue. I called and made an appointment for Steven and me.

We went to see the lawyer and we talked and learned many things about the original society. At that time while the idea for a society for the survivors of the Holocaust from Krakow may not have been new, it was then the reality of The New Cracow Friendship Society was born. We asked Mr. Greenbaum if he would represent us. After he said yes, he told us we had to be incorporated and we asked how much he would charge us. He said \$500. Well, fifty years ago that was a lot of money and I turned to Steven and asked him, "How are we going to raise that much money?" and he said he didn't know. We told Mr. Greenbaum we would get back to him.

I got in touch with my lawyer, Mr. Kapel, who represented my business. We met in Steven's apartment with Mr. Kapel who prepared all the papers and we named the new society The New Cracow Friendship Society because there already was a Krakow Society, even though it no longer existed. We felt that if we kept the original name people would mix up our new society with the

original society, and to show future members that we were a new entity. Then we started to talk to people and collect lists of names and telephone numbers of people from Krakow, and much to our amazement, we collected a few hundred names of people from Krakow living in the New York area.

We next approached David Twersky, ל"ו, who at that time was president of the Kew Gardens Jewish Center. We told him what we were trying to accomplish. We needed a large hall to hold a meeting. He arranged for the use of their hall and a few hundred people showed up and socialized. It was a very informal gathering. We talked about the society and we started to enroll members. In the beginning our society was strictly social. I arranged our first meeting at the Hotel Statler. Over 600 people showed up and it was very successful. The next gathering was arranged by Sigmund Morrow, ל"ו, and the next by Sam Wertheim, ל"ו. By this time we knew that the NCFS would be a success and we started to meet on a monthly basis.

Ben Geizhals, ל"ו, who was politically involved, realized that we needed a more formal structure to the society and was instrumental in setting up our By Laws, the need for some kind of board of directors, and various committees and introduced *Robert's Rules of Order* for all meetings. Originally there were no formal elections and we tried to keep things between those of us who were the most active within the origins of our Society. These were Steve, myself, and Steve's brother Sigmund. We next invited Victor Lewis, ל"ו, Ben Geizhals, ל"ו, David Twersky, ל"ו, and I can't recollect how the others were picked, but it turned out to be thirteen people and we called them "founders."

We elected Steve Morrow, ל"ו, as President and the others in various positions on the Executive Board.

The rest of the original 13, and a few other members that showed interest, became Board Members. We next decided on committees and who would chair them. We also unanimously decided that the Society would support Israel and Jewish charities, as well as help those from Krakow that needed help. That is how the Society started.

Question: What do you think are some of The New Cracow Friendship Society's greatest achievements?

Answer:

The fact that we were able to start this Society that grew into an organization recognized with such respect, prestige and high esteem that was made up of people from Krakow who shared a common background is a great achievement in itself. Other achievements I can think of are: raising money for AKIM and Beit Halochem, helping Jewish [Israeli] war veterans by building an auditorium for them, scholarships to Israeli students, our trips to Israel and to Poland, and cemetery plots for our members. There were so many other achievements over the years that I could go on for hours, but the ones I mentioned are the ones that I remembered first.



LARRY ZELLNER

Question: As one of the founders of the Society, how did the Society begin? How did you get involved as a founder?

Answer:

It was actually word of mouth. There were about seven friends; one of them was Steve Morrow, ז"ל, who was a major agent. He started talking about it among our group. Then these friends started talking to friends and relatives. When we had our first meeting at the Kew Gardens Jewish Center in March 1965, we were astonished that 650 people attended. Of course seeing so many people, the emotion was indescribable, it was palpable. People were crying, they met people they hadn't seen for decades. It is hard to describe the feelings and emotions, the enthusiasm of the people.

Steve Morrow, ז"ל, our first president started it all. We started to talk about meeting together to organize the Society. I don't remember when we had our first meeting, but at the meeting everything started to come together. Ben Geizhals, ז"ל, who had political connections, was instrumental in getting us tax-exempt status, which was very helpful. This first meeting was held in Steve Morrow's house in Kew Gardens Hills. At this meeting thirteen people attended and they, including myself, became the founders of our Society. At subsequent meetings hosted by different founders, at which every one contributed, slowly but surely the workings of how the Society should be structured came together. An executive board and board of directors were put together by us.

After a while, we formed committees. Victor Lewis, ז"ל, was essential in forming and chairing the Membership Committee, which was the first one we formed. I will describe the other committees later. Each meeting was very important and we started talking about a cemetery committee to buy plots for our members. At that time most of us were in our 40's and very few of us thought about this topic, and even less actually owned plots. The idea of finding our final resting place at that age was the furthest thing from our minds.

The second committee we created was the Welfare Committee to help the needy survivors who lived in Krakow and Israel. We started this committee with very little, because we didn't have a

lot of money then. As time went by, we were becoming a more cohesive group and formed more committees. These committees included a Scholarship Committee to give scholarships to children in Israel whose parents were from Krakow, who were in need of assistance in paying for high school (at that time high school in Israel wasn't free). Other committees were: the Social Committee, Sunshine Committee, AKIM Committee, (which helps disabled children in Israel and we are very, very active in this effort), Public Relations, Clubhouse, Blood Bank, Second Generation, Commemoration and Newsletter Committee. We had fifteen committees altogether which was a tremendous amount. As a matter of fact, our Society stood out in terms of accomplishments and activities as one of the finest organizations of its kind. I am so proud of our Society because of these accomplishments and the friendships we have made because of the Society. It was a fantastic organization for so many years and my wish is that it continues to do good deeds in the future.

Question: What do you feel are some of the greatest achievements of the NCFS?

Answer:

I feel it was our partnerships with Krakow societies in other countries throughout the world, especially with the Irgun Yotzei Krakow in Israel. Natan Gross, נטן, who was an international author and educator wrote extensively about Krakow. Not only was he an active member of the Irgun Yotzei Krakow, he was an active regular contributor on various topics concerning Krakow and mostly Israel, to our Newsletter.

There are also our various charities, mostly in Israel, and a few in Krakow, Poland. There is our unfailing support of Israel to which we also donated a bloodmobile and many ambulances. One of our greatest achievements was raising \$400,000 for Beit Halochem for disabled Israeli war veterans, which has a plaque in Jerusalem in honor of our Society. Actually we did so many things over the last fifty years, I can't even recall all of them. No society of our kind could equal what we, as a society, did and we are very proud of our accomplishments.



STEVEN MORROW

Question: How did The New Cracow Friendship Society Begin? How did you become a founder?

Answer:

Many of our friends did not agree with the concept. Some were even laughing at the idea of a Krakow Society. But there were those who believed and were ready to establish a new organization. These thirteen people are known as the Founders of the Cracow Society in the United States. Because of them, all of us are winners.

The year 1965 was a historical year for Krakow Jews. It was the beginning of a new era. For it was on March 13, 1965 that The New Cracow Friendship Society was established. By sheer coincidence, on that very date 22 years earlier, in 1943, the Krakow Ghetto was liquidated. It required many months of hard work, and long meetings. Finally, the program for the initial meeting was set. Over one thousand friends attended that emotional meeting. The founders were given a mandate to run the Society for one year.

It was my great privilege to become the Society's first President. But all thirteen founders, working together, conceived the grand plan and set the course that would guide the Society's development. The founders established the Bylaws, and created the committees.

Question: What do you consider The New Cracow Friendship Society's greatest accomplishments?

Answer:

The Society made a significant contribution to our social and cultural lives. Because of the Society many families were reunited; many groups of friends were created, and all this made our Society as strong and effective as it is today. Hopefully, it will stay this way for many years to come.

I am very proud of the Society's great accomplishments. I am especially proud that we have memorialized our loved ones who perished in the Holocaust. The auditorium at Beit Halochem,

Tel Aviv, will be a permanent memorial for all the future generations to see.

I hope and pray that The New Cracow Friendship Society will continue its success for many years to come. May her members remain in good health, so we may look forward to celebrating our Society's 50th Anniversary.

Question: I have just one more question. The city in Poland is spelled Krakow, and we spell it Cracow. Why does the Society spell it differently?

Answer:

We are from Krakow but the Poles treated us horribly. So we don't want to use their spelling. We'll use a "C" as a protest, and our people will know what that means.

Thank you for this interview, and your vision of the future.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS THROUGH THE DECADES

The people listed below have served The New Cracow Friendship Society
in various capacities over the last fifty years.

Presidents

Richard Abrahamer
Ben Geizhals
Leon Hilfstein
Max Hilfstein
Milton Hirschfeld
Michael Kluger
Steven Morrow
Bernice Slutzman
Roman Weingarten
Larry Zellner

Vice Presidents

Richard Abrahamer
Al Bukiet
David Forster
Halina Frotiner
Esther Geizhals-Rosen
Roman Gunz
Max Hilfstein
Simone Hilfstein Scheumann
Milton Hirschfeld
Marian Keren
Michael Kluger
Victor Lewis
Sigmund Morrow
Steven Morrow
Julius Ross
Eric Schneider
Bernice Slutzman
Arthur Spielman
Henry Tenenbaum
David Twersky
Roman Weingarten
Sam Wertheim
Manek Werdiger
Henry Wiener
Larry Zellner

Treasurers

Jack Gingold
Milton Hirschfeld
Eva Silberstein
Larry Zellner

Secretaries

Norbert Friedman
Simone Hilfstein Scheumann
Milton Hirschfeld
Sigmund Morrow
Eugenia Radwan
Erna Rosner
Julius Ross
Bernice Slutzman
Maria Stoeger-Helfman
Henry Wiener

Comptrollers

Elias Friedman
Ben Geizhals
Max Hilfstein
Marian Keren
Victor Lewis
Oskar Matzner
Henry Schreiber
Roman Weingarten
Manek Werdiger
Henry Wilner

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 11, 2014

I am pleased to join in celebrating your 50th anniversary.

In America, history is not only made by presidents and generals. Change often comes when caring and engaged individuals join together to build a brighter, stronger future for themselves and for the generations to come.

For years, you have carried forward a proud tradition. By daring to imagine the world as it could be and working tirelessly to realize that vision, you are helping America reach a better tomorrow.

Congratulations on your anniversary. As you reflect on your years of service to your community, I hope you take pride in what you have achieved. I wish you all the best for the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, consisting of a large 'B' and 'O' with a horizontal line extending to the right.



ראש הממשלה
Prime Minister

December 3, 2014
י"א כסלו, תשע"ה

Dear Friends,

I congratulate the New Cracow Friendship Society on its 50th anniversary.

Over the years, NCFS has taken on the twin tasks of both preserving the memory of those murdered in the Holocaust and caring for the survivors. In addition, you have been staunch friends of the State of Israel, providing needed support for many worthwhile projects and organizations in the Jewish state.

I wish you many more years of success.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Netanyahu

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:

BANKING
DEMOCRATIC POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

May 15, 2015

Dear Friends:

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate The New Cracow Friendship Society Inc.'s 50th Anniversary. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the fine work of The New Cracow Friendship Society on this occasion.

The success The New Cracow Friendship Society has grown and is measured by the dedication of all its members and leadership. I would like to recognize the hard work of New Cracow Friendship Society's leadership and its members, whose relatives survived the Holocaust and with resolve made a new start in America.

By utilizing its resources and collaborating with members of the community, The New Cracow Friendship Society continues to transform the lives of Jewish people and Holocaust victims everywhere. Through the spirit of cooperation and faith I want to take a moment to applaud the commitment and dedication you have provided to our community and the moral and social teachings needed to become productive members of our society.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Polish community in New York and Holocaust survivors. I know The New Cracow Friendship Society will continue to serve as a pillar of strength in New York for many years to come. Best wishes on your 50th Anniversary!

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK



UNITED STATES SENATOR

October 23, 2014

Dear Friends of the New Cracow Friendship Society,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to send greetings to each of you attending the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the New Cracow Friendship Society.

I am humbled by the experiences of the founders of the society, who left their home country of Poland after experiencing the horrors of the Holocaust to begin new lives in the United States. New generations, who embody the hopes of the survivors, have come from these families. It is important for us to remember these monumental moments of our history. For the many who gather here today, together we celebrate the past history of our ancestors. As we recognize the past, let's look forward to the future and continue working together to make New York and the world a better place to live.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event and many happy and successful years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Gillibrand".

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

PETER T. KING
SECOND DISTRICT
NEW YORK

September 29, 2014

New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc
3905 Arthur Avenue North
Seaford, New York 11783

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate the New Cracow Friendship Society on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary. The dedication, commitment, and contributions you have made are exemplary.

I am proud to extend my best wishes to all involved in the New Cracow Friendship Society especially its original members, the handful of survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation. Your outstanding contributions to the Jewish community are truly commendable.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter T. King", written over a horizontal line.

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

May 17, 2015

New Cracow Friendship Society
3905 Arthur Avenue North
Seaford, NY 11783

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to congratulate the members and guests of the New Cracow Friendship Society on the auspicious occasion of this 50th Anniversary Gala Party.

The atrocious, unspeakable events of the Holocaust permeated all of humanity – those who perished, those who bore witness, and those who learned of the horrors from a distance – in a manner unlike any event in the history of our world. The people of New York value the importance of promoting a greater understanding of the Jewish experience and, therefore, welcome the opportunity to join in celebration of the founding of the New Cracow Friendship Society and to honor the survivors of the Holocaust and their descendants.

In February of 1965, just 20 years after the liberation of a small group of Holocaust survivors from the City of Cracow and the surrounding area, 13 men came together to form the New Cracow Friendship Society. Their purpose was to reunite Jewish Polish survivors and offer moral support, to perpetuate the memories and teach the lessons of the Holocaust, to help the poor and needy through philanthropic endeavors, and to promote patriotism for America, their new land which nurtured their new lives and new hopes.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I congratulate the New Cracow Friendship Society on this milestone anniversary for your ongoing efforts to advance the world's tolerance, cultural understanding, and mutual respect. I join in a deserving tribute to the survivors, their children, and grandchildren, and gratefully acknowledge the unwavering commitment and generous support of everyone affiliated with the Society. While we continue to face difficult challenges to this day, we are reassured that the legacy of the Holocaust and the inherent strength of the human spirit can offer us the hope and promise for a brighter future.

With warmest regards and best wishes for a memorable evening.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE * INTEGRITY * PRIDE



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

May 17, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to welcome everyone to the New Cracow Friendship Society's 50th Anniversary Jubilee Gala and Yom Ha'atzmout Celebration.

In order to provide a brighter, more hopeful future for people of all backgrounds and beliefs, we must continue to educate ourselves on the history of crimes against humanity and honor the memory of those who endured so much to live freely and with dignity. Since 1965, the New Cracow Friendship Society has brought together Holocaust survivors from Cracow, Poland and their families for times of remembrance and to reach out to others in need. By strengthening ties within the global Jewish community and providing assistance to people in Israel and beyond, the Society has remained committed to building a better world for new generations. As you come together to reflect on all this organization has done over the past 50 years, I applaud the Society's members and supporters for ensuring these incredible stories of survival and the strength of the human spirit are never forgotten.

On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for a memorable evening.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

ארגון נכי צה"ל – המרכז

Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization - Beit Halochem

עמותה רשומה מס' 58-005-272-8 Charity Reg. No.

בית הלוחם, רד" שמואל ברקאי 49, אפקה, תל-אביב, ת"ד 39262 מיקוד 6139201, טל' 03-6461600, פקס' 03-6421316

49, Shmuel Barcay St., Afeka, Tel-Aviv, P.O.Box 39262 Code 6139201, Tel. 972-3-6461600, Fax. 972-3-6421316

E-mail: lrgun@inz.org.il

homepage: <http://www.inz.org.il>



October 2014

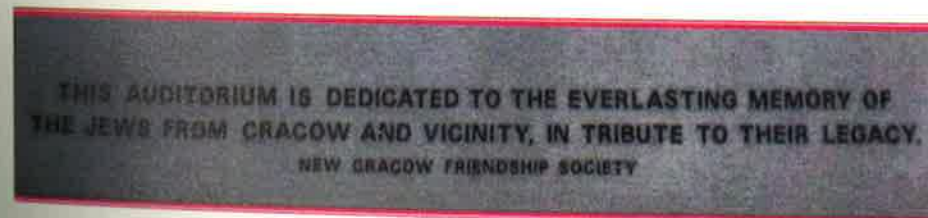
Our ref: 106395

New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.

Shalom Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the New Cracow Friendship Society on behalf of the Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization and its Fund on celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Your dedication to Jews and to Israel for half a century is testament to the victory of will and determination over adversity. We too witness the triumph of the spirit of Israel's disabled heroes in their daily battles on their long road to rehabilitation. Unfortunately, following the recent war, many hundreds of newly disabled veterans are joining our organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the New Cracow Friendship Society for its support in donating funds for building the Auditorium at the Beit Halochem Center in Tel Aviv. Through the generosity of our donors we are able to offer our disabled veterans a better life.

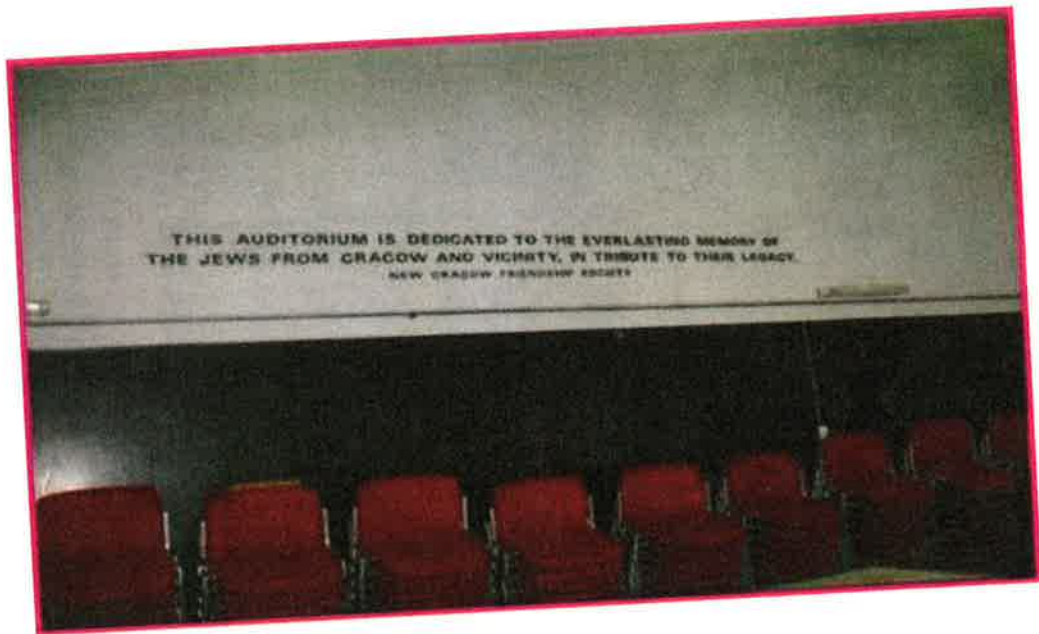


Plaque in the auditorium of the Tel Aviv Beit Halochem

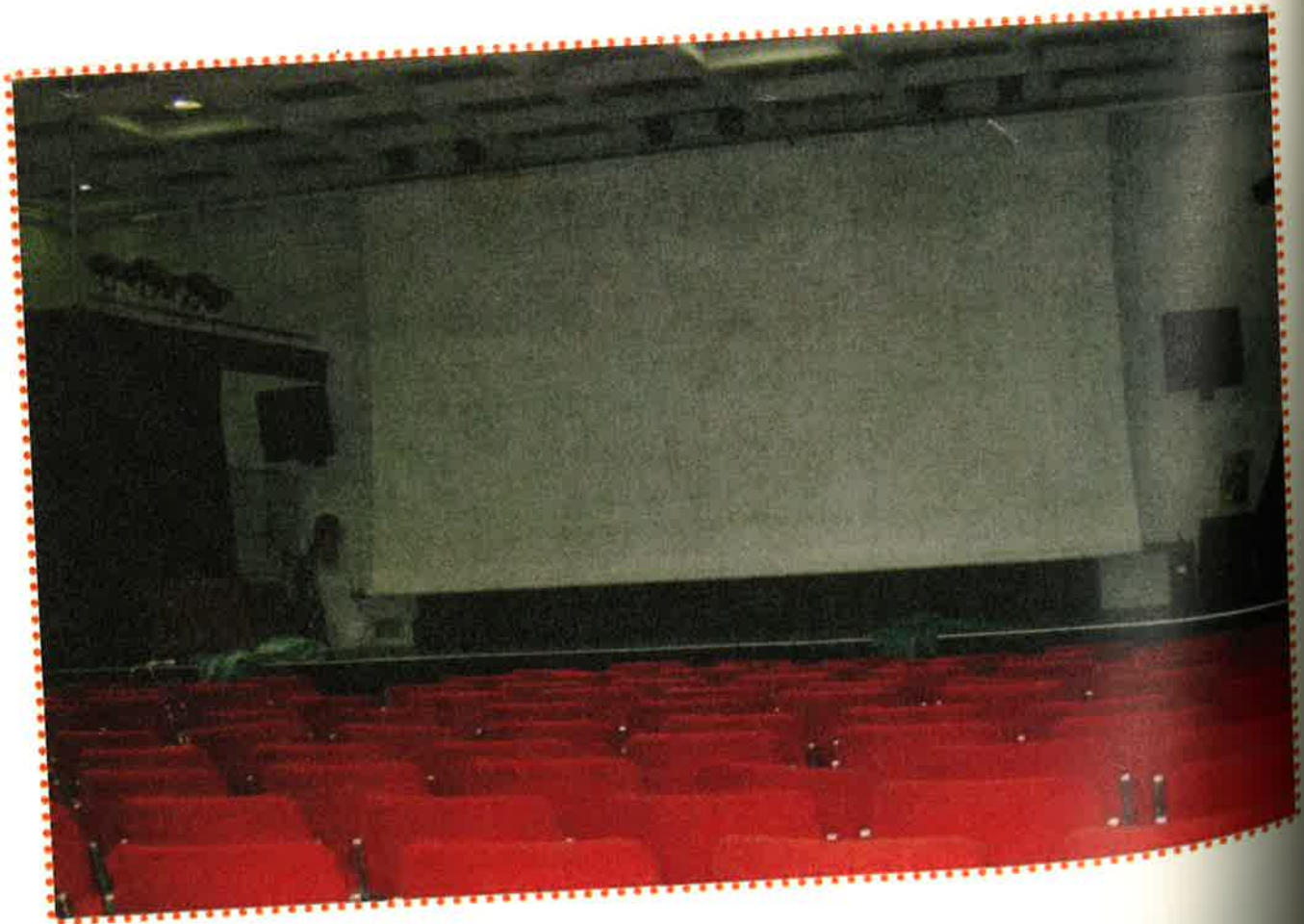
We are honored to offer our thanks and blessings on this occasion and wish all your members good health and a long life. May you continue your wonderful work for Israel and Jews everywhere.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Shlomo Batsia
ZDVF Executive Director



THIS AUDITORIUM IS DEDICATED TO THE EVERLASTING MEMORY OF
THE JEWS FROM CRACOW AND VICINITY, IN TRIBUTE TO THEIR LEGACY.
NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY





In The Beginning

1965 – 1970



The Society's journey began back in February 1965 when on the 7th of that month, the first founders' meeting took place in the home of Steven Morrow. As a result of that historic meeting, The New Cracow Friendship Society was born and just sixteen days later, the Certificate of Incorporation of the New Cracow Friendship Society was created. It all became official on March 15, 1965 when the Honorable Anthony M. Livoti, Justice of the Supreme Court of the 11th Judicial District approved the Certificate of Incorporation.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, Inc

Pursuant to the Membership Corporations Law.

We, the undersigned, for the purpose of forming a Membership Corporation, pursuant to the Membership Corporations Law of the State of New York, hereby certify -

1. The name of the proposed corporation shall be NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, Inc.
2. The purposes for which it is to be formed are: To promote good fellowship; to promote cultural and social activities among its members, all without pecuniary gain of any of its members, officers or directors. To do any other acts or things incident to or connected with the foregoing objects or advancement thereof, but not for profit.

The specific purposes and powers enumerated herein, shall not be deemed to limit or restrict the general powers of the corporation and the enjoyment thereof as conferred by the Laws of the State of New York upon corporations organized under the provisions of the Membership Corporations Law.

3. The territory in which its operations are principally to be conducted is New York City, New York.
4. That the City in which its principal office is to be located is the City of New York, County of Queens.
5. The number of its directors shall be not less than three nor more than eight.
6. The names and addresses of the Directors until the first annual meeting are:

ROMAN GUNZ	141-01 73rd Terrace, Flushing, N.Y
VICTOR LEWIS	141-20 77th Road, Flushing, N.Y.
STEVEN MORROW	147-23 78th Road, Flushing, N.Y.

7. That all of the subscribers to the Certificate are of full age; that at least two-thirds are Citizens of the United States; that at least one of them is a resident of the State of New York, and that of all the persons named as Directors at least one is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.

8. That the time for holding its annual meeting is the second Tuesday in February.

9. That the meetings of the Board of Directors are to be held only within the State of New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have made, subscribed and acknowledged this certificate this 15 day of February 1965.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Richard Abrahamer	141-44 72nd Drive Flushing, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
ELIAS FRIEDMAN	2903 Mott Avenue Far Rockaway, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
ROMAN GUNZ	141-01 73rd Terrace Flushing, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
MAX HILFSTEIN	1523 Dwight Place Bronx, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
VICTOR LEWIS	141-20 77th Road Flushing, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
STEVEN MORROW	147-23 78th Road Flushing, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
EMIL SIEGMANN	144-37 77th Road Flushing, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
DAVID TWERSKY	147-15 68th Road Flushing, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
DAVID WERDIGER	144-19 77th Road Flushing, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
SAM WERTHEIM	63-10 108th St. Forest Hills, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>
LARRY ZELLNER	85-70 188th Street Jamaica, N Y	<i>[Signature]</i>

STATE OF NEW YORK }
COUNTY OF QUEENS } SS:

RICHARD ABRAHAMER, ELIAS FRIEDMAN, ROMAN GUNZ, MAX HILFSTEIN, VICTORY LEWIS, STEVEN MORROW, EMIL SIEGMANN, DAVID TWERSKY, DAVID WERDIGER, SAM WERTHEIM and LARRY ZELLNER, each being duly sworn, depose and say, and each for himself deposes and says that he is one of the persons described in and who executed the foregoing Certificate of Incorporation, and that he is of full age, a citizens of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.

[Signatures of witnesses]

Sworn to before me this 15 day of Feb. 1965

[Notary Signature]
KATHLEEN H. RUCK
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 15,78100
Qualified in the County of Queens
Expires 12/31/1968

STATE OF NEW YORK }
COUNTY OF QUEENS } SS:

On this 30th day of July, 1965,
before me personally came RICHARD ABRAHAMER, ELIAS FRIED-
MAN, ROMAN GUNZ, MAX HILFSTEIN, VICTOR LEWIS, STEVEN
MORROW, EMIL SIEGMANN, DAVID TWERSKY, DAVID WERDIGER,
SAM WERTHEIM and LARRY ZELLNER, to me known and known
to me to be the same persons described in and who executed
the foregoing Certificate of Incorporation and they there-
upon severally duly acknowledged to me that they executed
the same.

Kathleen H. Buck
Notary Public
KATHLEEN H. BUCK
Notary Public, State of New York
My Comm. Expires March 30, 1968

I, *John J. ...*
a Justice of the Supreme Court of the 1st Judicial
District, hereby approve the foregoing certificate of
incorporation of the New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.
Dated, *July 30, 1965*

John J. ...
Justice of the Supreme Court

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Edited by JACOB HALPERN

147-23 78TH ROAD, FLUSHING, N.Y. (212) OL 8-7260 OL 7-3575

<p>BOARD OF FOUNDERS:</p> <p>CHAIRMAN: STEVEN MORROW CO-CHAIRMAN: DAVID TWERSKY RICHARD ABRAHAMER</p> <p>RICHARD ABRAHAMER ELIAS FRIEDMAN BEN GEIZHALS ROMAN GUNZ MAX HILFSTEIN VICTOR LEWIS (LESERKIEWICZ) STEVEN MORROW (MOROWITZ)</p>	<p>COORDINATOR OF COMMITTEES: ROMAN GUNZ</p> <p>ZYGMUNT MOROWITZ EMIL SIEGMANN DAVID TWERSKY DAVID WERDIGER SAM WERTHEIMER LARRY ZELLNER</p>
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EDITORIAL

DEAR MEMBERS:

"MAZAL TOV" IS THE GREETING WE OUGHT TO WISH EACH OTHER ON THE OCCASION OF OUR FIRST OFFICIAL GET-TOGETHER ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1965. MANY OF US HAVE NOT SEEN ONE ANOTHER FOR OVER TWO DECADES AND PARTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HOLOCAUST IN OUR OLD TOWN CRACOW, DURING THE WAR YEARS. BY NOW IT WAS HIGH TIME THAT WE RENEWED OLD FRIENDSHIPS AND ENDEAVOR TO STRENGTHEN THEM INTO A BOND OF GENUINE COMRADESHIPS - IN THE SPIRIT OF "CHADESH YAMENU KEKEDUM".

TO FULFILL THE ABOVE, WE HAVE SET OUT TO ORGANIZE THE SOCIETY. A LIST OF NAMES WAS COLLECTED AND A FIRST MEETING WAS CALLED. WE WERE MOST PLEASANTLY SURPRIZED AT THE INTEREST SHOWN, BY THE FABULOUS ATTENDANCE OF OVER 700 PEOPLE WHEN WE EXPECTED ONLY ABOUT 150 (JUDGING BY THE ACCEPTED NORMS OF USUAL RESPONSE TO A MAILING WITH NO FOLLOW UP.) MANY OF YOU CAME IN RESPONSE TO A CALL FROM A FRIEND, WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED AN INVITATION AND WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT YOU JOINED US. THE ATTENDANCE PROVED THAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION IS A NECESSITY AND IS LONG OVERDUE.

THIS NEWSLETTER COMES TO YOU AS A BEGINNING ACTIVITY AND ORGAN OF EXPRESSION AND NEWS OF THE DOINGS AND PROGRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION. WE, THEREFORE, ASK YOU TO READ IT IN ITS ENTIRETY. RETURN ALL QUESTIONNAIRES SENT TO YOU, WRITE TO US GIVING SUGGESTIONS, JOIN AS A MEMBER, IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY. SUBMIT NEW NAMES OF FRIENDS THAT MISSED OUR FIRST MEETING. WE PROMISE TO READ AND CONSIDER EACH AND EVERY COMMENT.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAKE THE "NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY" A LIVING AND PLEASANT EXPERIENCE WHICH WILL ENRICH OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OUR DEAR ONES.

SINCERELY,
THE FOUNDERS

-PAGE ONE-

On March 14th the first meeting of Jews from Krakow took place in the Jamaica Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills. Only 150 -200 people were expected due to the number of invitations sent out. Word of mouth and telephone calls swelled the attendance to between 700 - 800 people. What a fantastic and unbelievable response! It was at this meeting that the founding members were given a mandate to form a working board and establish certain committees.

The very first issue of the Newsletter, #0, was published that month under the stewardship of Jacob Halpern who was the first editor.

The front page proudly proclaimed how successful the first meeting which was held on March 14, 1965 was. It also introduced the Newsletter as a publication which would serve as a link to the membership informing them as to the workings of the Society. The paper listed the 137 families who essentially were the charter members as of March 20th. Plans for upcoming events were also listed.

The organization was off to a running start, full of aspirations for great things. In April, the first "official" Newsletter came out: Issue #1. At that time a fully catered supper dance cost only \$15 a couple.

Additional committees were added and dues were only \$10. Membership in the Society had grown to 200 families in less than a month.



NEWSLETTER

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, INC.

147-25 70th St., Flushing, N.Y. 212-OL 8-7260 OL 7-3575

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

R. ABRAHAMER
M. DOLINSKY
E. HILFSTEIN
S. MORROW
D. WERDIGER
H. WOLF

EDITED BY:

J. HALPERN

FIRST MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

COME AND BECOME A MEMBER

SUNDAY, MAY 2nd 1965 at 2 P.M.

In the Fraternity Club House
140 W. 48th St. New York

RESERVE DATE!!!

SUPPER-DANCE AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

MAY 29th 9 P.M.

at the JEWISH CENTER OF KEW GARDENS HILLS
Main St. & 72nd Avenue
Kew Gardens Hills (Queens, N.Y.)

A wonderful time is assured.

Sale of tickets will start at Membership Meeting.

\$7.50 per person (everything included)

The first official General Membership Meeting took place on May 2, 1965 at the Fraternity Club in Manhattan. At that meeting the first Board of Directors was elected. The boards, as there was no distinction between Executive and Directors at that time, consisted of fifteen people, all men.

They were:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Comptroller

Sol Dreier

Louis Fagen

David Fishman

Elias Friedman

Ben Geizhals

Max Hilfstein

Victor Lewis

Sam Wertheim

Steven Morrow

Richard Abrahamer

Roman Gunz

David Twersky

Larry Zellner

Sigmund Morrow

Henry Schreiber

Leo Liebgold

Simon Mandelbaum

Dr. Richard Ores

Julius Ross

Edward Steiner

Emil Siegman

Manek Werdiger

The first installation was held on May 26, 1965 at the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills. Press releases were sent out and as a result letters and

telegrams were received congratulating the Society and the incoming board. A special expanded issue of the Newsletter reprinted the messages from Senator Jacob K. Javits, Governor Rockefeller, Robert F. Kennedy, Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Yeshiva University and The Jewish Theological Seminary. As you can see the organization had a very prestigious start.

<p>CLASS OF SERVICE This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.</p>	<p>WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM</p> <p>W. P. MARSHALL, President</p>	<p>SYMBOLS DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter INT=International Letter Telegram</p>
<p>The time shown in the time line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination.</p>		
<p>438P EDT MAY 26 65 SYA297 RB165 WF225 WW SNA 126 GOVT NL PD SN WASHINGTON DC 26 SIGMUND MORROW NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, DLR MAY 29 8 PM JEWISH CENTER OF KEW GARDEN HILLS 7125 MAIN ST FLUSHING NY</p>		
<p>IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEND GREETINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ON THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS. I AM SURE YOUR SOCIETY WILL HELP ENRICH OUR MATERIAL LIFE WITH THE COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO THE TRADITIONS OF THE JEWISH CULTURE DISPLAYED BY JEWS OF CRACOW. PLEASE EXTEND MY REGARDS TO ALL PRESENT AND CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR NEW OFFICERS JACOB K JAVITS US SENATOR.</p>		

<p>CLASS OF SERVICE This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.</p>	<p>WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM</p> <p>W. P. MARSHALL, President</p>	<p>SYMBOLS DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter INT=International Letter Telegram</p>
<p>The time shown in the time line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination.</p>		
<p>620P EDT MAY 28 65 SYA390 BE376 N VU90 PD 1 EXTRA VU NEW YORK NY 28 403P EDT SIGMUND MORROW, SECRETARY, JACOB HALPERN COORDINATOR ✓ DLR MAY 29TH 7PM NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CARE KEW GARDENS HILLS JEWISH CENTER 71-25 MAINST FLUSHING NY</p>		
<p>I WISH TO EXTEND HYPERSONAL AND OFFICIAL GREETINGS TO THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AND MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THOSE WHO WILL BE INSTALLED AS THE OFFICERS IN THE SOCIETY. THIS NEW ORGANIZATION CERTAINLY APPEARS TO BE A MOST MEANINGFUL GROUP COMPOSED AS IT IS OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS WHO WERE BORN IN CRACOW, POLAND. I WISH YOU THE GREATEST SUCCESS IN YOUR NOBEL GOALS. ALL BEST WISHES. SINCERELY ROBERT F WAGNER MAYOR CITY OF NEW YORK (45).</p>		

<p>CLASS OF SERVICE This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.</p>	<p>WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM</p> <p>W. P. MARSHALL, President</p>	<p>SYMBOLS DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter INT=International Letter Telegram</p>
<p>The time shown in the time line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination.</p>		
<p>1212P EDT MAY 26 65 WYU935 RBO67 WC115 WW NFA040 GOVT PD NF WASHINGTON DC 28 1128A EDT SIGMUND MORROW, SECRETARY JACOB HALPERN COORDINATOR NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ING BANQUET JEWISH CENTER OF KEW GARDENS HILLS 71-25 MAIN ST FLUSHING NY</p>		
<p>I HOPE YOU WILL CONVEY MY GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, TO MR STEVEN MORROW AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ON THE PROUD OCCASION OF YOUR FIRST INSTALLATION BANQUET. YOU HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR ADOPTED COUNTRY, AND AMERICA IS THE STRONGER FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION, WITH ALL BEST WISHES ROBERT F. KENNEDY (33).</p>		

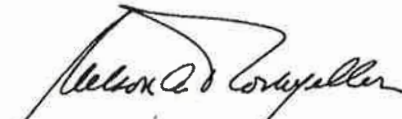


STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER
GOVERNOR

It affords me great pleasure to send cordial greetings to all present at the first installation banquet of the New Cracow Friendship Society.

My congratulations to Mr. Steven Morrow, your new president and to the 25 distinguished gentlemen who will be installed as your board of directors on this auspicious occasion.



Governor

May 14, 1965

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA
NORTHEAST CORNER, BROADWAY AND 132ND STREET
NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

CABLE ADDRESS: "SEMINARY", NEW YORK

May 14, 1965

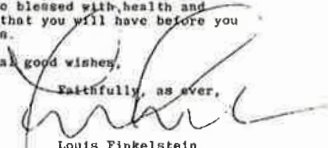
Dear Friends:

I should like to extend my greetings and good wishes to all the members of the New Cracow Friendship Society Incorporated, and to the officers and Board of Directors on the first installation of this organization.

I am sure that the spirit which binds you together will find its expression in true friendship and good works. I pray that you will each be blessed with health and happiness, and that you will have before you many happy years.

With cordial good wishes,

Faithfully, as ever,



Louis Finkelstein



50th Anniversary

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
AMSTERDAM AVENUE & 186TH STREET
NEW YORK 33, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 17, 1965

New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.
147-23 78th Road
Flushing 67, New York

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Yeshiva University, I extend warmest greetings to the New Cracow Friendship Society on the occasion of your first installation of officers and Board of Directors.

Your membership consists of the survivors of Jewish martyrdom during the past generation. You are the heirs and representatives of a great and noble tradition, carrying forward the ideals and values of a venerable and historic Jewish community.

Yeshiva University, which is dedicated to the preservation of our Torah heritage, salutes you and joins in the fervent prayer that all of you may enjoy, in good health, the blessings of American freedom and that you may make a significant contribution to the development of Jewish life on our blessed shores.

Sincerely yours,



Samuel Belkin
President

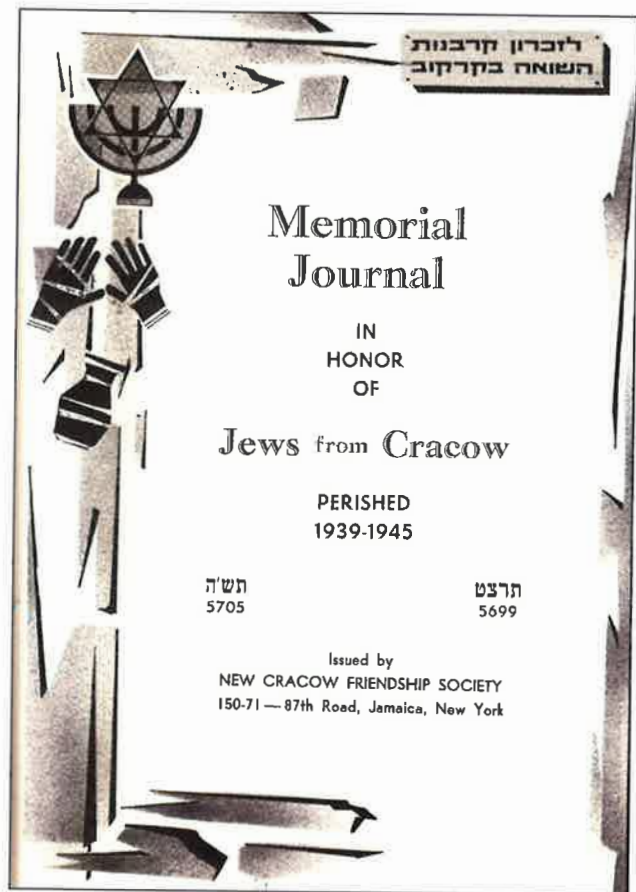
Three months after the creation of the Society, the idea of a memorial journal in honor of Jews from Cracow who perished between the years 1939 and 1945 was proposed and unanimously ratified. The following is an excerpt from issue #2 of the Newsletter published in June 1965.

The New Cracow Friendship Society conceived an idea to publish a Memorial Journal in honor of our departed loved ones. This Journal, if properly edited, is not a remote monument but a publication which can dispel the Big Lie. It will always be at hand to use and to remember, and, for generations to come, be a potent weapon against hate, bigotry and ignorance. I wish to express sincere thanks to Roman Gunz and his lovely wife for their untiring effort in building this living Memorial Journal and to congratulate them for the good job they are doing.

Beno Sonnenschein

The call went out to all members requesting articles and pictures depicting different phases of the past history of the Cracovians in regard to times before and during the war.

The Journal came to fruition three years later in 1968.



Our Boat Ride

The boat ride on July 29, which was enjoyed by about 200 people, was a most pleasant summer social event.

We sailed very smoothly up the Hudson River to the accompanying melodies of band music on a colorfully decorated boat. The night lights from Manhattan and the George Washington Bridge glittered in the moonlight and created scenes of great beauty. The dancing was made more romantic by the rhythmic motion of the boat

The cold cuts and bagels with lox were enjoyed by everyone.

We are very thankful to the committee for sponsoring this excursion as well as for buying the food and preparing the sandwiches. We mention particularly: Henry and Irene Schwartz

With the growth of the Society, space was rented

The first year of the Society's existence saw a flurry of activity which, of course, included the expansion of the number of committees to fifteen. They were [in alphabetical order]: Clubhouse, Emil Siegman; Culture, Richard Abrahamer; Finance, Larry Zellner; Investment, Henry Schreiber; Israeli, Sigmund Morrow; Journal, Roman Gunz; Membership, Victor Lewis; Newsletter, Jacob Halpern; Public Relations, Leon Liebgold; Religious, Simon Laufer; Social, Sam Wertheim; Sport, Sunshine, Manek Werdiger; Teenagers; and Welfare, Manek Werdiger. In that same year membership rose to 225 and they participated in ambitious activities sponsored by the organization. The summer months of 1965 were not a time of hiatus as evidenced by a July boat ride on the Hudson. This was one of the first activities of the Society that included not an iota of Society business. Members had only to relax and enjoy. It was described in the September 1965 Newsletter, issue #5.

in what would become known as the "Club House" at 150-71 87th Road in Jamaica. Issue #5 of the Newsletter proudly announced:

Due to the rapid growth of our Society and the need for a central point for meetings and the necessity for an office, our Society has rented quarters, an entire floor of rooms, in a house adjacent to the Jamaica Jewish Center at 150th St. & Parsons Blvd., Jamaica. Any committee of the Society may use these quarters at any time they please... dates to be cleared with the house committee.

A Ladies' Column was included in the same issue. It contained information on which the author felt the women of the Society would have an interest.

LADIES' COLUMN

Welcome Back

The hot summer is over and the beautiful autumn is here. As our carefree days come to an end, we have to resume daily routines even though it's difficult for us to make this sudden change.... That's life. SO with a smile and new attained energy, let's go ahead.

This coming season will have many things in store for us, for example, the very active Steve Morrow and his staff have been busy preparing new programs. There will be something pleasant for everyone. Dear ladies, do not be too upset about the few pounds you gained on vacation. Remember those charming girls on the Cultural Committee? They will be only too happy to help us regain our beautiful figures and get us in shape again for the gala ball.

FREE BOOKLET FOR WEIGHT WATCHERS

If you're overweight by 5 pounds or more, three effective, sensible approaches are open to you:

Decrease your food intake by 500 calories a day if you can't or won't exercise; increase your exercise so that you burn up an extra 500 calories a day (check with your doctor first), or decrease food intake 250 calories a day and increase your physical activities to an equal extent.

In each case this adds up to 3500 calories less each week which is equivalent to one pound of fat (yours).

This information plus weight tables for men and women, an analysis of an adequate but leanness inducing diet, an energy output chart and a listing of the caloric value of more than 100 everyday foods are included in a new booklet, "Facts About Figures" just published by the N.Y. State Dept. of Health. To obtain a free copy, write to the Office of Public Health Education, State Health Dept. 84 Holland Ave., Albany, New York 12208

HOW TO KEEP YOUR EYES BEAUTIFUL

With the use of "Fennel Tea" you too, can have beautiful eyes. Purchased at any drugstore just boil one heaping teaspoon of tea in a cup of water and allow to simmer down. Soak two pieces of cotton in the liquid and apply to closed lids in a lying down position, if possible. Change often or as soon as cotton becomes cool... approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Resting during the process gives the best results.

The year closed out with a gala Hanukah Ball held at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Roosevelt in Manhattan. (The observance became an annual activity until many of the members reached retirement and became snow birds.) Invitations were not sent out but rather a letter was mailed to the membership which numbered 400 family members. It's hard to imagine as you read these lines that a ball in a prestigious New York City hotel with a ten piece orchestra would cost only \$30 per couple. Charging the lowest price possible for first class events had become a tradition. The Society continues to always be mindful of how costs affect its members, and had even, on occasion, given lower rates to second and third generation members.

ואילו, האחד
שיפול, ואין
שני להקימו.

קהלת ד"י

New Cracow Friendship Society Inc.

147-23 78th ROAD - FLUSHING 67, N. Y.

Dear Friend:

As you already know, we have been successful in obtaining the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Roosevelt at 45th St. & Madison Ave., N. Y. C. for our Hanukkah Gala Ball which will be held on Saturday night, December 11, 1965, at the cost \$30.00 per couple.

This affair is going to be tops on our list. We have hired a 10 piece band -- one of the best in New York City. The catering, which will include smorgasbord and a full course dinner, is also being done by one of the most famous caterers. There will be plenty of surprises and we are certain that everyone will have a most enjoyable evening. We would also like to mention that the Grand Ballroom is on one level so that everyone will be seated together.

We have taken the liberty of enclosing a reservation card. We would appreciate hearing from you at once as to how many tickets you will need and also with whom you would like to sit, so we will be able to provide all necessary arrangements to everyone's satisfaction. Please fill out the enclosed card and mail together with your check to the above address and upon its receipt we will send you the tickets.

We are forced to set a time limit for offering tickets to our members, OCTOBER 15. After that date we will sell them to our friends. Teenagers are cordially invited.

Please cooperate with the committee by sending in for your tickets as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

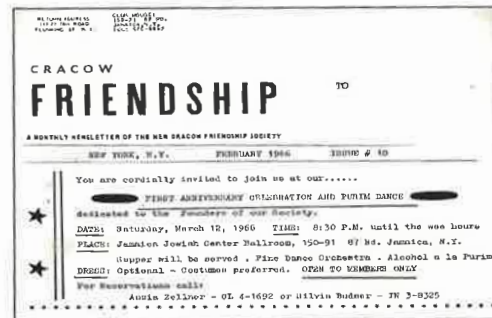
Social-Committee
Chairman: Sam Wertheim
Co-Chairman: Alex Gruenberg

P. S.
For further information call
BO 8-7696 or OL 8-7269.

Ever present on the minds of the founders was the idea of bringing the next generation into the fold. Attempts were made as early as 1966 to create programs of interest for the youths who were the second generation. At that time they ranged in age from preteen to seniors in high school. The first activity arranged by the Youth Program was a trip to see the newly released motion picture, *Cast A Giant Shadow*, about Colonel David "Mickey" Marcus. The Society even tried to serve as an employment agency for teens seeking summer employment. These were publicized in the February 1966 Newsletter, issue #10.

Also appearing in the Newsletter was the first *News From Israel* column written by Sigmund Morrow. That column later developed into a regular feature, submitted regularly by Natan Gross, who would give news as to what our sister organization, The Irgun Yotzei Krakow in Israel, was doing, as well as political information.

The first anniversary of the Society was celebrated together with the festival of Purim. The Purim Party was to become an annual event. The Newsletter was used to issue the invitation.



May of the Society's second year saw the inauguration of the annual celebration of Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, combined with the installation of the Society's leadership. The issue of the Newsletter promoting the event (May 1966, #12) also showed the premiere of the Society's emblem. The emblem was later corrected to reflect the year of the founding, 1965.



The second Board of the Society was made up of the following members:

<i>President</i>	Steven Morrow
<i>Vice President</i>	Richard Abrahamer
	Roman Gunz
	Manek Werdiger
<i>Treasurer</i>	Larry Zellner
<i>Secretary</i>	Sigmund Morrow
<i>Comptroller</i>	Henry Schreiber
Tola Dizenhaus	Victor Lewis
Sol Dreier	Simon Mandelbaum
Elias Friedman	William Rosner
Ben Geizhals	Julius Ross
Max Hilfstein	Beno Sonenschein
Ann Kandel	Dr. Albert Tilles
Roman Klinger	Sam Wertheim
Dr. Naum Wortman	

The calendar year ended with a New Year's Eve Ball at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Manhattan.



In 1967 a new committee was added to the list: The Cemetery Committee. Although the leadership of the Society was still only what one would call middle aged, the recognition of the inevitable led to the purchase of 102 cemetery plots at the Beth Moses Cemetery in Pinelawn, Long Island. The committee report appeared in issue #18 of the Newsletter.

were awarded to students at the Municipal Secondary School #5 in Tel Aviv. The school had "adopted" the City of Krakow and The New Cracow Friendship Society. Originally the awardees were descendants of Shoah survivors. The giving of such scholarships became annual traditions. They were usually awarded in memory of departed members of the Society. In

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE HAS PURCHASED AND IS ALREADY IN POSSESSION OF 102 INDIVIDUAL PLOTS. ONE PLOT PER FAMILY WILL BE RESERVED WITHOUT CHARGE. AT ITS LAST MEETING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH BY THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE WHEREBY MEMBERS INTERESTED IN A SECOND PLOT MAY PAY \$100 OUTRIGHT OR \$25 YEARLY FOR FIVE YEARS, OR A TOTAL OF \$125.

THE COMMITTEE HAS CONSUMATED A CONTRACT WITH A REPUTABLE FUNERAL HOME WHEREBY THEY ARE OBLIGATED, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, TO ARRANGE AND CONDUCT A DIGNIFIED ORTHODOX FUNERAL AT A TOTAL COST OF \$300 TO \$600. FAMILIES CHOOSING A MORE ELABORATE FUNERAL WILL BE GIVEN A 10% TO 15% DISCOUNT BY OUR FUNERAL DIRECTOR ONLY.

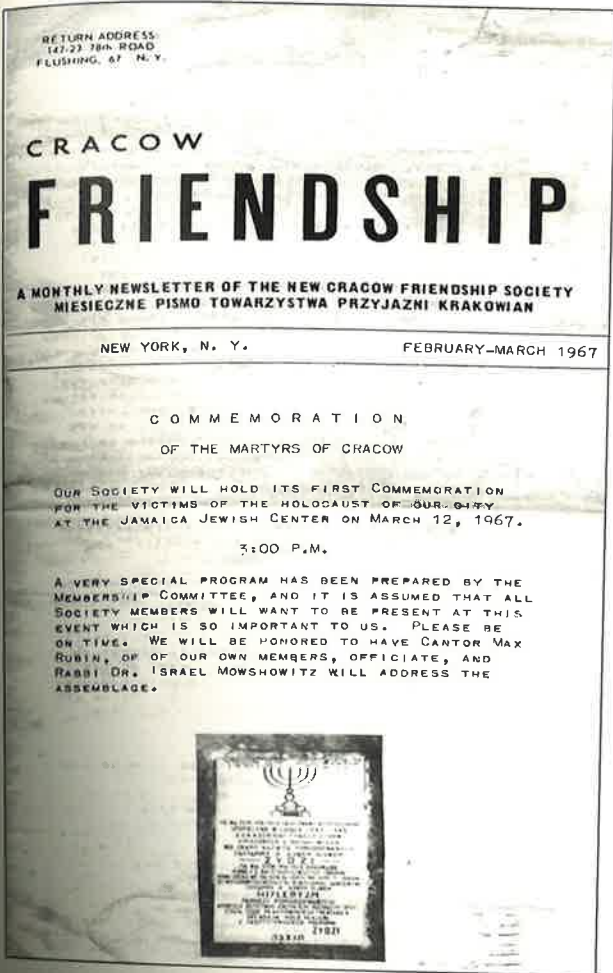
THE NEXT PROJECT OF THE CEMETERY COMMITTEE IS TO FIND A REPUTABLE AND RELIABLE MONUMENT MAKER AND WORK OUT A REASONABLE AGREEMENT BENEFICIAL TO OUR MEMBERS.

In its continuing effort to take care of the needy, in addition to the already existing Welfare Committee, a Gemilat Chesed Committee was created. Unlike the Welfare Committee which supported the needy through regularly issued stipends, Gemilat Chesed offered loans to be paid back. Shortly thereafter the two committees were combined.

One month later, in March, ten scholarships

1968 they became funded through the sale of raffles. In that same year a complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica and a 16mm projector were donated to the school.

Never forgetting the horrors of the Shoah, the liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto took place at the Jamaica Jewish Center on March 12, 1967.



The spring of 1967 saw the installation of the 3rd Board of Directors of The New Cracow Friendship Society. It was the first with a woman holding an Executive Board position.



In late May the organization mobilized in support of Israel, and two emergency meetings of the Executive Board were held. Excerpts from those meetings showing action to be taken appeared in issue #19 of the Newsletter.

Because of the unexpected developments in the Middle East and the grave situation in Israel, special Executive Board Meetings were called for May 25th and May 31st. The main decisions made at these meetings were:

1. *To relocate \$10,000 from the savings account to Israeli Bonds, with the provision from the Israeli Bond Office that we can redeem these bonds at any time upon 30 days notice.*
2. *To appropriate \$1,000 for a donation to the Israeli Government.*
3. *To launch an intensive fund raising campaign.*
4. *To urge the members to send letters to President Johnson and other high United States officials to take action and prevent this impending calamity.*
5. *To call an emergency meeting of the entire membership of the Society.*

Genia Radwan, Secretary

The Society rallied behind Israel not only with monetary contributions but also in demonstrations

in support of Israel and an extensive letter writing campaign.

With the start of what is now known as the "Six Day War", The New Cracow Friendship Society rallied in support of Israel and its fight for survival against almost insurmountable odds. Members of the NCFS individually contributed money to support Israel. The total amount members sent exceeded \$17,000. The members also unanimously voted to authorize the Board of Directors to implement the

decisions made at the emergency meetings. All of the authorized expenditures came from the organization's treasury.

Members of the NCFS also wrote letters to their congressmen, senators, and most of all they flooded President Johnson's desk with letters asking the United States to lead the way in brokering a peace treaty between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
103-25 68th Ave. Forest Hills, N.Y.

CRACOW FRIENDSHIP

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
MIESIECZNE PISMO TOWARZYSTWA PRZYJAZNI KRAKOWIAN

N.Y. N.Y.

JUNE 1967

ISSUE 19.

OUR SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE REPORT THAT MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY HAVE SUPPORTED THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND ITS PEOPLE SOLIDLY. THIS SOLIDARITY COULD BE FELT AND SEEN THROUGH THE ENTIRE EPISODE OF THE ARAB PREPARATIONS AND MOBILIZATION TO ANNIHILATE OUR BRETHREN IN ISRAEL, RIGHT THROUGH THE WAR OF A WEEK AGO INCLUDING THE TIME OF VICTORY FOR THE ISRAELI FORCES.

WITNESS TO THE ABOVE IS THE WONDERFUL ATTENDANCE THAT OUR SOCIETY MEMBERS MUSTERED ON THE SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE ON MAY 28 WITH JUST ONE NOTICE; THE FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY OUR MEMBERS TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL (OVER \$16,000) IN A FEW DAYS; IN ADDITION TO THIS PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT EACH ONE MADE THROUGH HIS SYNAGOGUE OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS; IN ADDITION THE BONDS PURCHASED BY OUR SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS; THAT IN ADDITION TO CLOSE TO \$70,000 RAISED FROM OUTSIDERS BY BENEK GEIZHALS AND JACOB HALPERN WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A FEW PEOPLE IN BOTH FAMILIES. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THIS SMALL CAMPAIGN CATAPULTED INTO A FUND THAT TOTALS WELL ABOVE \$300,000 WHICH WENT INTO THE COFFERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO BE USED FOR DEFENSE OF THIS TINY STATE WHICH IS OUR PRIDE AND JOY.

WE MAY BE PROUD OF OUR PEOPLE, THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, WHEREVER THEY ARE AND WHEREVER THEY MAY BE FOUND AND, IN PARTICULAR, OF ALL OF US SURVIVORS OF THE TERRIBLE HOLOCAUST WHO STAND UP SOLIDLY BEHIND THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WHO ARE HELPING US KEEP OUR HEADS HIGH AND PROUD. THEY HAVE PROVEN TO US AND GIVEN US NEW HOPE THAT NEVER AGAIN SHALL THERE BE ANOTHER HITLER, AND NEVER AGAIN WILL WE BE THE PERSECUTED ONES WITHOUT TAKING PROPER REVENGE FROM THOSE THAT HAVE PLANNED OUR DESTRUCTION.

LET US CONTINUE TO BE UNITED WITH THE REST OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN ALL OUR NOBLE PURPOSES AND IDEALS THAT WERE OUR HERITAGE FROM THE PAST AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUR LIGHT IN THE FUTURE.

"תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל"
... LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE ...

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 10, 1967

Dear Friend:

I am grateful that you shared your thoughts and feelings with me during the difficult and anxious days of the crisis in the Middle East.

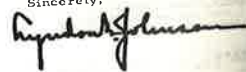
We worked hard to bring about a cease-fire.

We shall work with all our capacity to try to bring lasting peace to the area.

I enclose copies of my statement of May 23 and my letter to Senator Mansfield of June 8 so that you will know the policy of your President and your government during the crisis and in the days ahead.

Your understanding and support will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



The Society was now definitely no longer just a friendship organization. Involvement in political affairs, especially in the case of Israel and world wide

Jewry became the order of the day as evidenced by the press release reprinted in the Newsletter of September 1967, issue # 20.

PRESS RELEASE

In a letter to the Polish Ambassador to the United States, a group of six Polish American organizations demanded the recantation by Premier Gomulka and the Polish Government of the harsh condemnation of Israel delivered in a speech by the Polish Premier before the Trade Union Congress in Warsaw last month. After several meetings and conferences, the following organizations joined together in a joint statement attacking Mr. Gomulka's speech in which he described Polish Zionists as a fifth column in Poland:

Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (Wagro)
Jewish Nazi Victims Organization of America
New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.
Lodzer Young Men's Benevolent Society, Inc.
Federation of Jewish Underground Fighters Against Nazism
Fraternal Order of Bendin-Sosnowicer

Speaking through their chosen representatives, Joseph Tekulsky of Wagro and Ben Geizhals of the Cracow Society, these Jewish Polish American organizations reminded the Polish Government of the heroism and patriotism of Polish Jews in the death struggle with the Nazis in 1939. "The attack upon Israel today is a rejection of the heroism of those valiant Polish Jews who gave their lives for the freedom of Poland."

A promise of economic boycott was made unless the Polish Government recants and retracts their obvious "political decision" to condemn Israel for its action recently taken against the Arab states. "During the past twenty years excellent trade relations and other economic advantages have strengthened the ties between our former homeland and our newly adopted country and perhaps even more so as trade flourished between Poland and Israel. We Polish Jews in America have been an instrument in support of such sound economic relations and would now cast them aside in the name of freedom for world Jewry in face of this harsh, searing attack by the Polish Premier on world Zionism and world Jewry."

The several organizations upon whose behalf this letter was sent have banded to form a committee to wage economic war against the Government of Poland unless there is recantation of the anti-Israel position of the Government of Poland. The steps taken to effect this economic boycott await the reply of the Polish Government.

The following year the Society took on *Life* magazine.

The fallacy of reprisals

The Israeli commando raid on Beirut airport, which destroyed 13 Lebanese civilian planes as well as hangars and oil storage tanks, was too mildly described by Dean Rusk as "excessive retaliation." As response to an Arab terrorist attack on an El Al plane in Athens, the Beirut raid was outrageous on at least three counts: the scale of 13 planes for one; the fact that it was an official act by Israeli government forces in reprisal for an act by private terrorists; and the fact that it opened a new front between Israel and Lebanon, the least provocative of Israel's neighbors.

The following is a letter written in response to the editorial of January 17, 1969 in *Life Magazine*. Editor.

January 19, 1969.

Gentlemen:

I wish to refer to your editorial in *Life's* issue of January 17, 1969, "The fallacy of reprisals".

In your editorial of November 22, 1968, "Reappraising the Middle East", you contended that "we...should not commit ourselves to any and every adventurism that Israel might be tempted to." This time you continue criticizing Israel for its retaliation on Beirut Airport for a wonton attack by Lebanese terrorists, based in Lebanon, on an El Al plane, during which one human being was killed. Of course, to give more credence to your outrage, you failed to mention that fact. How can a respectable magazine, as I am sure you consider yourselves, print half truths? Can it be that because you value material things higher than human lives?

You carefully mentioned that the Israelis had destroyed 13 Lebanese planes, but failed to include the fact that the Israeli attack was carefully organized, at the risk of their own lives, to prevent casualties. The fact remains, gentlemen, that there were no human injuries at the Beirut attack, while the Lebanese terrorists took one human life, and that by sheer luck, no more were killed. The intention of the attackers in Athens was to destroy the plane and kill all the passengers. Yet you chose to overlook this fact and instead you compared 13 planes against human life as an outrageous punishment.

Your editorial continues to express the outrage on three counts:

- 1) "the scale of 13 planes for one", to this I say that there are many Arab countries supported by Russia without reservation as to weapons, technical know-how and money, against a tiny Israel. If they were to retaliate one for one, what chance would they stand, or would you permit them to retaliate 2 for one?
- 2) "the fact that it was an official act by Israeli government forces in reprisal for an act by private terrorists"

What are private terrorists? I submit that all Arab terrorists are subsidized, trained and helped in any possible way, by the respective Arab countries.

- 3) "the fact that it opened a new front between Israel and Lebanon." Suddenly you are concerned for Israel having a new front! However there is no need for concern, I am sure that they will manage.

Roman Weingarten

When the plight of Soviet Jews became better known, the Society participated in a mass motorcade from Queens to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations on March 30, 1969. Two months later a letter

writing campaign was begun to protest Germany's High Court's order to grant an extremely early release to the Nazi war criminal, Herman Heinrich, from prison. The following appeared in issue #35

AN OPEN PROTEST TO GERMANY

We, the 350 members of the organization of the survivors of the city of Cracow, Poland, living in the vicinity of New York City, are surprised, disappointed and appalled at the release of Henry Heinrich from prison. A higher court ordered the release of this convicted murderer after his having served only a short time of his sentence.

There is no need to repeat the atrocities and murders committed by Heinrich, they were all recounted at his trial and indeed, led to his conviction. The German people found this man to be guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced him to serve in prison. But how can we trust the German people and the German government when we see that justice has been reversed? By releasing a man who has been put into prison, the German court is legitimizing and legalizing the act that that man committed. Children, in Germany and around the world, see a man who murdered his fellow man released from punishment for his acts.

This is not a case of doubt. We are not dealing with whether or not a man committed murder. These questions have been dealt with and Henry Heinrich was found guilty! The world has watched the trial of Heinrich and has witnessed the decision of the German court which tried him. The release of Heinrich can be understood as nothing but a justification of his crimes.

The memories of Germany are heavily laden with guilt and this guilt has become a conscious part of German youth. The conviction of war criminals is a mitigation of that guilt, but the Heinrich release is the creation of new guilt for it is the justification of the destruction of human life.

We appeal to you, in the name of all of humanity, to see justice carried out and not to turn the timetable back to the 1940's. Let no person be able to point to the Heinrich incident as an example and say, "He got away with it!" He is a CONVICTED MURDERER, convicted by a German court, let his sentence be carried out and let him pay for his crimes.

In January of 1968 The New Cracow Friendship Society Charitable Trust was established, the purpose of which was, to accept tax deductible donations for charitable distributions limited to and including any charitable, scientific, educational, literary, or religious institution or organized charity.

The New Cracow Charitable Trust.

Declaration of Trust made as of the day of January, 1968, by Richard Abrahamer, 103-25 68th Avenue, Forest Hills, New York; Victor Levin, 141-20 77th Road, Flushing, New York; David Weidiger, 144-15 77th Road, Flushing, New York; Larry Feller, 85-70 188th Street, Jamaica, New York; Roman Weingarten, 67-05 Woodside Avenue, Woodhaven, New York; and Sigmund Morroff, 63-62 Saunders Street, Rego Park, New York, who hereby declare and agree that they have received from New Cracow Friendship Society Inc., as Donor, the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) and that they will hold and manage the same, and any additions to it, IN TRUST, as follows:

FIRST: This trust shall be called "The New Cracow Charitable Trust."

SECOND: The trustees may receive and accept property, whether real, personal, or mixed, by way of gift, bequest, or devise, from any person, firm, trust, or corporation, to be held, administered, and disposed of in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of this Declaration of Trust, but no gift, bequest or devise of any such property shall be received and accepted if it be conditioned or limited in such manner as shall require the disposition of the income or its principal to any person or organization other than a "charitable organization" as for other than "charitable purposes" within the meaning of such terms as defined in Article Third of this Declaration of Trust, or as shall, in the opinion of the trustees, jeopardize the Federal income tax exemption of this trust pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as now or here or hereinafter amended.

on any statements of fact certified by anyone who appears from such original documents or from such certified copy to be a trustee under this Declaration of Trust. No one dealing with the trustees need inquire concerning the validity of anything the trustees purport to do. No one dealing with the trustees need see to the application of anything paid or transferred to or upon the order of the trustees or the trust.

TENTH: This Declaration of Trust is to be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of New York.

Richard Abrahamer
Trustee

Victor Levin
Trustee

David Weidiger
Trustee

Larry Feller
Trustee

Roman Weingarten
Trustee

Sigmund Morroff
Trustee

In that same month, the Young Adults of the New Cracow Friendship Society was formed with Steven Radwan as President, Leon Hilfstein as Vice President and Bernice Weingarten as Secretary. They immediately began to plan activities designed to bring the older sons and daughters of the members together. The following is what appeared in the February 1968 issue of the Newsletter.

The first function of the Young Adults of the New Cracow Friendship Society took place on Sunday, April 14 at the Forest Hills Inn.

Music for the dance was supplied by our own Leon Hilfstein and his band the Love Ins. All those who attended will attest to the "in" sound of the Love Ins. They have just recorded and we are sure that they will make the charts with a good rating. We were surprised at the number of people who attended. All who were there really has a good time. The Inn lent itself beautifully to our Psychedelia.

We were sorry that those who had to return to schools out of town were not able to come.

We hope to see them at our next function which we hope will be just as successful and as much fun.

Bernice Weingarten
Secretary Y.A.N.C.F.S.

YOUNG ADULTS MEET

On February 9, 1968, the first meeting of the founders of the Young Adults of the New Cracow Friendship Society took place. The founders include Steven Radwan, Ann Dizenhaus, Ella Tyras, Bernice Weingarten, Leon Hilfstein, and Samuel Schenker.

The goal was to organize a young adult organization consisting of the sons and daughters, 18 and over, of the Society's members. As a result of the founders' meeting, the Board of Directors approved the various functions proposed.

During the Passover Recess, a Get Together Dance will be held to help members get acquainted. Throughout the entire week, functions ranging from skating to swimming parties will be held. It is hoped, however, that young adults 18 years old or older will contact Steven Radwan at TW6-2090, or Bernice Weingarten at 899-1996, before the dance arrives.

Definite dates for the functions will be set in March. Until then, prospective members are invited to The New Cracow Friendship Society's Club House on Friday nights for dancing and just plain talk.

*Steven Radwan
Bernice Weingarten*

Many of them became actively involved in the workings of the Society by making contributions to the Newsletter and speaking at events held by the Society.

The first social of the Young Adults was held at the Forest Hills Inn in Forest Hills Gardens, N.Y. The event was free of charge thanks to the gracious generosity of the Society's Board of Directors who authorized the funds for the event. The social included food and beverages and a live rock band, "The Love Ins", led by our own Leon Hilfstein.

Part 1 of a continuing series of articles on "Mental Health and the College Student" by Steven Radwan was published in the March 1968 edition of the Newsletter. The topic was very timely and meaningful for the high number of young adults already in college, or nearing college age. It was also very important for their parents, so that they would

have a better understanding of what their children would face in a college atmosphere.

MENTAL HEALTH AND THE COLLEGE STUDENT

Today, the matter of mental health in our Colleges and Universities is receiving more attention than ever before. The programs in operation generally are far from adequate and much remains to be done. As of now it has been estimated that 30% of all college students need advice on problems in their own personality.

Attention to mental health is a comparatively recent development. One of the earliest presentations of the possible role of mental hygiene in college was made at the first meeting of the American Student (now college) Health Association in 1920. Four reasons were given for mental health programs, and these are still valid today.

1. The conservation of the student body, so that intellectually capable students need not be forced unnecessarily to withdraw.

2. The forestalling of failure in the form of nervous and mental diseases, immediate or remote.

3. The minimizing of partial failure in later mediocrity, inadequacy, inefficiency, and unhappiness.

4. The realization of a large individual usefulness by giving to each a fuller use of the intellectual capability he possesses, through widening the sphere of conscious control and thereby widening the sphere of social control.

It was estimated at the time that 10 to 15 per cent of college students suffer from some emotional or personality difficulties serious enough to impair their effectiveness and happiness. With the increased stresses of college activity, the percentage of disturbed students has doubled.

Almost all the members of the Young Adults of The New Cracow Friendship Society are in college. It is this reason and the facts that I have stated before, show the need for such an article.


Starting in the next issue of the Newsletter, there will be a separate section for the Young Adults. In it will appear the continuation of the article on Mental Health and the College Student. In future issues we will try to bring to all the members of the New Cracow Friendship Society, many of the problems that pertain to all people who have children. These problems pertain to all children, no matter what their age. We hope that the members of the New Cracow Friendship Society will take interest and support us in our new endeavor.

Steven Radwan

In June, due to the efforts of Max Hilfstein, a proposal to create a blood bank for and by members of the organization was put forth.

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
103-25 68th Ave. Forest Hills, N.Y.

CRACOW
FRIENDSHIP



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
MIESIĘCZNE PISMO TOWARZYSTWA PRZYJAZNI KRAKOWIAN

New York City June 1968 Issue 27

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DAVID TWERSKY
MANEK WERDIGER
SAM WERTHEIM
LARRY ZELLNER

Honorary President
STEVE MORROW

Dear Member:

If you were in attendance at the Jamaica Jewish Center last Sunday evening, June 23, 1968, you know doubt listened with interest to Mr. Jack Stillman, a representative of the American Red Cross who explained many facets of the Greater N.Y. Blood Program in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

If you were not at the meeting perhaps this letter will appeal to your community spirits and the needs of your organization, particularly the blood needs of our membership.

Provided enough members show an interest in donating blood, we will be able to schedule a bloodmobile visit to a specific location with designated hours of operation.

Your contribution of 1 pint of blood can mean the difference between life and death to accident victim - a mother hemorrhaging in childbirth - someone facing major surgery - open heart, etc. - members of your family or group who need blood can be certain that the blood will be available at the time needed and the blood type (very important) in the proper amount.

Bear in mind, this program can be successful if the members show the proper spirit of enthusiasm and encourage others to join in this worthy endeavor.

We anticipate the having of this blood bank early in the fall - therefore it is imperative that we hear from you as quickly as possible.

Blood Bank Chairman -
Mr. Max Hilfstein
1523 Dwight Place
Bronx, New York
Tel. 542-2224
OR7-9946

"תחי מדינת ישראל ועם ישראל"
... LONG LIVE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE ...

September 1968 saw the first inclusion of members of the Young Adults of The New Cracow Friendship Society at Executive Board Meetings due to the illness of Genia Radwan, the Executive Secretary of the organization. The two Young Adult members were Steven Radwan and Bernice Weingarten.

The Society continued the activities begun in 1965 through the subsequent years. By March

of 1969, the Society was able to donate the first of several ambulances through American Red Magen David for Israel. After the 26th Anniversary Commemoration of the Liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto ceremony, which had an attendance of over 300 people, the first ambulance was presented. It was given in memory of Mr. Leon Shirdan who had been killed by Arabs in their murderous attack on an El Al airplane at the airport in Athens, Greece.



80 WEST 87TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 PL 7-1827



American Red Magen David for Israel

SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S OFFICIAL RED CROSS SERVICE
 Mr. Jacob Tenenbaum
 Chairman, Israeli Affairs
 New Cracow Friendship Society
 171-03 68th Ave.
 Flushing, N. Y.
 March 19, 1969

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum:

It was indeed a distinct privilege to participate in the 26th Annual Commemoration of the tragic destruction of the Cracow Ghetto.

By constantly re-kindling our memory of the tragic events of the past we serve to assure our brethren and all peoples of the world that such events shall never again mar the history of mankind.

By their gift of a fully-equipped ambulance to Magen David Adom, the members of the New Cracow Friendship Society have renewed our people's resolve to never again permit a holocaust. The New Cracow Friendship Society, through its magnificent Gift of Life to our beleaguered brethren in Israel, stand side-by-side with them in their titanic struggle for freedom, security and dignity.

The memory of Leon Shirdan, a son of Cracow who was so brutally murdered at Athens Airport, shall be perpetuated in the life-giving work of Magen David Adom, as will the memory of all the martyrs of Cracow.

The Society's ambulance, being a 4-wheel drive model, will be assigned to Israel's frontiers where it will serve to ease the suffering of those who still live under the bombardment of terrorists and infiltrators and thus be closely associated with the gallant defenders of Israel.

Mr. Tenenbaum, in behalf of the steadfast men, women and children of Israel, we extend our everlasting gratitude to the officers and members of the New Cracow Friendship Society.

With warmest regards,

Cordially,

 Roger N. Rosengarten
 Administrative Director

RNR:ark
 ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN RED MOGEN DOVID FOR ISRAEL ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



Your support is the cement that binds the bricks together

"Magen David Adom is one of the corner stones on which the State of Israel solidly stands."
 HON. ZALMAN SHAZAR
 President of Israel

Haifa, 9/III/69.

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum,
 Would you please convey my daughter's and my heartfelt thanks to the members of the New Cracow Friendship Society of New York for presenting an ambulance to Magen David Adom in memory of my late husband.

We shall find comfort not only in the knowledge that the name of my late husband is thus being perpetuated, but also in the feeling that our country is not alone in its struggle for security and peace. In these crucial days of tension and murderous attacks on civilian Israelis everywhere, we rely on the support of the Jewish people abroad, who are our only true allies.

With gratitude for your generous action, I am

Yours sincerely
 S. Shirdan

Our Society was not alone. There were two sister organizations – The Irgun Yotzei Krakow in Israel and the Krakower Society in Montreal, Canada. The latter was invited to attend the April 26, 1969 Installation of Officers and Yom Haatzmaut Celebration Ball. The text of the letter from the Montreal group appears below.

KRAKOWER SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

15803 Cote Des Neiges. Suite 101

Montreal. P.Q.

Tel: 739-0667

May 5, 1969

Dear Friends,

First of all we feel it is our duty and I consider it a great pleasure to express our thanks to you for inviting us to your Yom Haatzmaut celebration ball. It was a great occasion and we are grateful to you, that you made it possible for us to participate in this most memorable event and giving us an opportunity to appreciate from first hand and personal observation your good and devoted efforts. It was all very inspiring to us and we shall always endeavor to dovetail our ideas jointly with yours.

You have chosen the right evening for installation of your new Board of Directors and we take this opportunity to congratulate you sincerely and to wish all of you newly elected officers strength and perseverance in your work for the good of the organization in the coming year.

Getting to know you during our last visit with you, there is no doubt in our minds that you will accomplish a great deal and carry with honor and pride the banner of the organization. We fully agree with you and we repeatedly emphasize that our main purpose in Canada, as well as in the United States, is to promote the social and financial welfare of our landmen and their families in Israel when they are in need of our help. We brought your friendly greetings and message to our members in Montreal and we can assure you, that we shall save no effort to continue with our noble task and realize the

great idea of assistance to Israel.

We hope that you made some progress regarding the coming July Convention in Lake Placid, and we are expecting from you some news in this respect.

Best regards from all of us to all of you

SHALOM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

KRAKOWER SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

J. Lieberman

B. Goldstein

L. Margulies

J. Sterngast

We continued our association with the Montreal group in a reunion in Lake Placid in the summer of 1969. Richard Abrahamer welcomed all in an address on July 4th.

Dear Friends, Officers, Members of our Societies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to welcome all people who have gathered here and to congratulate the committee who is responsible for making this marvelous reunion possible. Due to reasons beyond our control, the number of members attending this weekend is not exactly what we had expected. But, I wish to assure you that those of us who have defied the threat of heavy traffic and the long drive and have succeeded are representative of the 350 family members on our membership rolls.

This event signifies a very important step in the goals and purposes of our society. Our society's guideline is to be in contact with our brothers throughout the world and particularly in Israel. Apropos, Israel, I would just like to mention that we are striving to do the most that is possible. We established permanent scholarships for able students in Tel Aviv, we donated an ambulance to Magen David Adom and have also sent a television set, projector and a set of Encyclopedia Britannica to various institutions.

Our efforts also branch out in helping our own Cracow people with welfare assistance if they may be here, in Israel, Germany, Poland or Italy. Our accomplishments are many, but I do not intend to go into lengthy

speechmaking here.

I hope that this event will be the beginning of strengthening ties and cooperation with our dear friends from Canada. At this point, we wish to invite you to the unveiling of our monument on September 7th. I wish to express to you the deep feelings from our Board of Directors and from our President, Ben Geizhals, who is now in Israel. Have a wonderful time and enjoy your vacations.

A full report of the event was given in the Newsletter of September, issue 36 by Regina Lewis.

REUNION IN LAKE PLACID

Our reunion with the Canadian Cracow Society proved to be one of the most heartwarming moments of my life. It is difficult to believe what a tremendous impact one can experience just by rejoining those who we may have or may not have necessarily been acquainted with in our old home town. The sentiment there was one which no wealth can ever substitute. It was something that many of us needed; something that some of us wanted. I feel sorry that many of our members did not even attempt to attend this reunion which was held in Lake Placid on July 5, 1969. All I can say is that to all of us who were there, I am sure that it will be a most everlasting memory.

I found this time to be a very exciting and touching moment, for it was here that I met some of my friends who I had not seen in over thirty years. It was through some friends in Canada that I was introduced to a man who was a colleague of mine in school in Cracow. At first, I sense that he did not recognize me. But then I noticed the signs of recognition in his face, my heart began to beat uncontrollably, filled with emotion. It was really marvelous to be reunited with one who I had so much in common from former childhood years.

We met many people there, some who we had already seen once before, or maybe twice or more. Some I had not seen since Plaszow and it was to my surprise to find them still alive. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Maciek Biederman (from Cracow) who presently reside in Brazil.

After Sabbath prayers on Saturday, we lunched together in one of the Olympic Arena rooms. The evening was spent dining to the background of beautiful music. The atmosphere was outstanding, and we were all happy to be together. Sunday was spent in continuing the search for familiar faces and upon meeting, there was so much talking, talking and more talking to do. Upon leaving the reunion, I only hoped that I had not passed by someone who I might have known many years ago and not recognized today.

Speakers at the event were Mr. Jacob Lieberman, President of the Canadian Cracow Society, and Mr. Margulies from Canada. Richard Abrahamer delivered a short speech as representative of our society, informing our friends in Canada about our organization and its activities and our wish to cooperate with them. Mr. Nathan Borell, one of our members from Boston, submitted a proposition that we establish our present society as a major headquarters and have other chapters in various cities work in cooperation with it.

I feel that my message is rather lengthy, so in closing I wish to express my regrets that more of you had not been present to share the emotions along with so many of us.

Regina Lewis

As can be seen, the Society's activities continued throughout the calendar year.

In the fall the unveiling of the Society's first of three monuments took place at the Beth Moses Cemetery in Pinelawn, N.Y. Buried in the foundation of the monument is soil from Płaszów and Auschwitz labor/concentration camps. Dola Polland wrote an eloquent piece describing the need for the matzevah.





OUR MONUMENT

According to Webster's Dictionary, a monument is a building, pillar or stone, erected in memory of the dead; or a remembrance of a person, event, or action.

One had heard of cities that disappeared, about hidden villages in unknown valleys. They were discovered, existed, and then vanished. But never before was a prosperous, healthy, well functioning Jewish community destroyed without any reason or purpose. Very much alive, busy with everyday life, striving to reach its goals; living, moving, laughing and crying. All this is gone. No more people full of life and purpose, no more familiar houses with friends and relations waiting for, and wanting you. All this that was close to heart, warm and familiar was destroyed.

And so the small group that survived erected a monument. To the loved ones, the young lives that did not have a chance, to the elders who could not enjoy a quiet sundown to their toils. To a whole mode of life which was destroyed and will never be again. Our monument has become a symbol of all that could be but is not anymore. And a reminder that we are the inheritors of a vanquished community.

And so our responsibility is clear - to keep the monument in our hearts and minds.

There is still space and time till April 15, 1970, to inscribe names. Anyone interested, please contact the Monument Committee.

Dola Polland

The Editorial of the Newsletter published after the unveiling described the ceremony.

Editorial

Long endeavors and planning on the part of the Monument Committee were crowned with success on September 7th when the magnificent monument was unveiled at the Beth Moses Cemetery. Throngs of members came out to witness the ceremony. Chaplain Dicker, who was the first speaker, pointed out the significance of the three part monument. He called it the "Chut Hamshulosh", The binder with a three-fold meaning. The center stone is devoted to the memory of the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust, and while not losing our identity as Jews from Cracow, we have inscribed the names of our departed families on the two side stones to be enshrined in an everlasting memorial. The monument as a whole, bears witness to our determination to stay together as a group and yet to be identified with the rest of the Jews.

The Honorable Michael Lazar praised the achievements of our organization in the short time of its existence as magnificent and beyond expression. Ben Geizhals, who was the third and last speaker, broke down when he said that our loss was so great that the numbers were so large that no memorial or monument could give meaning to the loss that we have suffered at the hands of the Nazis. However, looking at the monument he felt a sense of accomplishment, a sense of fulfillment in that we could give meaning and that we could memorialize our closest brethren: our mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, without getting lost in the vast numbers. And to that end, the monument is an accomplishment. It is a Matzavoh for those who have no Matzavoh, and to us it is a reminder never to forget.

Summing Up The First Five Years 1965 - 1970

The first five years of the Society's existence could be compared to the growth of a child from newborn through toddler. During those formative years, the amount of knowledge and accomplishments are tremendous. So too, were the formative years of the organization. The many innovations begun in these first five years became the basis upon

continue to build. Much of what was begun then is still continued to this day, fifty years later.

The first five years of The New Cracow Friendship Society went by like a speeding bullet. What the organization achieved in such a short period of time is unheard of. There were no "baby steps" in the Society's infancy, only broad and active "giant steps." Some may ask, "How could the Founders, Board Members, and Committee Members do so much in such a short time?" The answer is simple; they just kept swimming. The question

should be "What caused them to jump right in?" This question has more than one answer and just a few will be listed.

The first answer is obvious. When about 100 people are invited to a meeting which was really no more than a social gathering to assess the interest in forming a society and it turns into a gathering of between 700-800 people there is a definite impetus to keep the momentum going. This outpouring of people who shared so much in common, and were still looking for links to pre-war Krakow, immediately turned the "idea" of The New Cracow Friendship Society, into the "need for, reality, and creation" of The New Cracow Friendship Society.

The second answer is, in part, due to all of their common experiences during the Holocaust. They had a shared desire to make sure the words "NEVER FORGET" collectively become a **SHOUT**, rather than an individual *whisper*. This was evident by how early after their incorporation they notified many local, national, and international political and religious leaders of their existence; the early start of a Commemoration Service, the priority of a publication of a journal to commemorate the memory of those who perished in the Cracow Ghetto, and the concentration camps; the monument erected at the cemetery; the letters sent to the German Government to protest the early release of Herman Heinrich. These are just a few examples of The New Cracow Friendship Society saying to all who would listen, **"HERE I AM, AND I'M NEVER GOING TO LET YOU FORGET I'M HERE AND WHY."**

The third answer lies in the Society's unflinching support of the State of Israel. The organization started slowly with projects such as *News From Israel* in the Newsletter, and scholarships for students entering high school in Tel Aviv. What really galvanized The New Cracow Friendship Society were the events leading to, during and after the Six Day War. This was the greatest test for a fledgling society. The members of the Society came to life to rally quickly and efficiently, in not just a common cause, but in an urgent, emergency situation. The conflicts between Israel and her Arab neighbors kept the Society busy with projects throughout the first five years of its

existence.

The final answer is the cultural and religious priority of giving *tzedakah*, charity, in which the vast majority of the members were already engaged, made the raising of money for many of the early projects of The New Cracow Friendship Society much easier to attain. This ability to successfully raise money to fund projects, kept the organization from reneging on their obligations. Any failure of these projects which the Society undertook, would have greatly delayed the rapid growth and success that the Society attained in five short years.

These four answers, while not all, were, instrumental in keeping the Society vibrant and so busy that there wasn't time to make many of the mistakes that can cause a new endeavor to falter. They also gave the Society a direction for prioritizing any of its future projects. These priorities were like insurance that the Board would minimize the chances of making mistakes that could endanger the future success of The New Cracow Friendship Society.

What was not as obvious as the four reasons given for the success of the Society which were already mentioned is the involvement of women in the organization. An anonymous letter bemoaning the lack of participation of women in the Society was printed in the Newsletter of May 1966, an excerpt of which is printed below.

Our ladies, sorry to say, don't show too much interest. How about a fashion show (with a few models from size 10 to 20, and up)? How about a hat show or rummage sale? These could bring in a nice income for the society.

Where are our active ladies who say that they have had experience in other organizations? How about doing something for your own Society? We are sure that we have a few Gregory Pecks and Sophia Lorens who could put on a stage show.

With summer coming up and picnics and outings to be arranged, let's show our "leaders" that we, the members, are interested in working with them with our own ideas, and I am sure we will be able to get their support.

Signed...A Member

In the present day and age, one could take umbrage at the contents of the letter especially since they are not accurate. In researching information for this publication, it was found that the total number of women working for the organization was 32. This easily equals the number of men involved in the workings of the Society. While it is true that in the first year and a half of the organization's existence, only four women of the "32" were either on the Board of Directors or Committee Chairpersons, the others were not idle. They hosted meetings and Society social functions. They also worked as committee members and contributed articles to the Newsletter. Women's voices were far from quiet in the Society's infancy.

Even though the letter above underestimated the role of women in the Society, their numbers and their roles rapidly increased. By 1967 Tola Dizenhaus and Sabina Ehrlich were elected to the Board of Directors and Genia Radwan was the first woman elected to the Executive Board. By the end of the first five years of the Society's existence, the number of women with active roles in the activities of the organization grew to a total of 59. They were very much the equal partners in the molding of The New Cracow Friendship Society's first five years.

The important roles women took on during those first five years could be easily thought of today, in an age of "Equal Rights for Women", as "no big deal." Today, the fact that women work at men's jobs is normal. In the 1960s it was a far different story. At that time the vast majority of women stayed home, watched the children and cooked dinner so it would be ready for the men when they came home from work. The role of the women of The New Cracow Friendship Society was different than the women's roles in society at large.

A home of "survivors" was not the same as the "average American household." In those homes, men and women were truly very much equals. Not just love, but respect for each other was a given. They shared the same sorrows, went through the same tortures, and both had the same fortitude and inner strength to survive those years of hell. Another reason

a university education was more accessible. Many women members of the Society took advantage of that opportunity. They also were partners in building a new life in their adopted country. Together they learned a different language, adapted to a new culture, and raised families. So for the founders to accept women as equals in the shaping of the Society was a simple transference of the high regard they held for their wives and family members to any women who were survivors.

Concerning the second generation, there are two observations to be made. The first involves the Young Adults of The New Cracow Friendship Society. In the achievements of the decade the establishment of the Young Adults was listed, but it was unfortunately disbanded in December 1968 and absorbed into the Parent Society. What caused its decline in activity? Could anything have been done differently? There was nothing that could have been done differently, nor was the commitment lacking. The answer is simply that the timing was way off for establishing a Young Adults branch to the Society.

In 1968 there were roughly 100 or so of the children of Society members who were either in college or recently graduated. Those in college were attending schools throughout the five boroughs, in upstate New York, or in other states. They were a group of people who, while having strong feelings for their parents and what they overcame, had very divergent interests affecting their lives. In neighborhoods they had strong ties to friends. In college, many belonged to sororities or fraternities and were busy with various college functions and the friends made as part of college life. Also they were at an age when most of them were actively dating. In some cases, the oldest of them was already engaged and preparing for marriage. These are not the conditions in which young adults would have the interest to broaden their social circle and assemble on a regular basis with relative strangers. No one can successfully start an endeavor such as the Young Adults of The New Cracow Friendship Society under those obstacles.

Although the separate entity of the Young Adults did not succeed, many young adults did contribute

to the Newsletters and Journals. They participated in commemoration ceremonies, donated money and continued to remain active in the Society. It is no coincidence that Bernice Slutzman was the Executive Secretary of the Young Adults and holds that position with The New Cracow Friendship Society, as well as having held other positions previously. Leon Hilfstein was Vice President of the Young Adults and now serves as President of the Society.

Now, to the second observation; in reality the Young Adults of the Society would never have been a blip on the Founders' minds with all the things they needed to do and the time it took to do them. Add to that the projects that were already ongoing. Why was the creation of a young adults entity so important to them? The answer again involves growing up in a home of survivors. To the Founders, the vision they had for The New Cracow Friendship Society was a society that would grow from within and survive from generation to generation. That was the foundation for the creation of the Young Adults of The New Cracow Friendship Society.

The respect given Steven Radwan, Bernice and Leon by the entire Executive Board and Board of Directors cannot be described. They truly listened to that which was said and never once said no to any idea put forth. Their support was without end, and they really embraced the young adults as equal partners in the creation of that branch of the Society. This respect from them was foreign to most American relations between generations.

A little history lesson is needed here. The 60s were the years of the Vietnam War. It was a time that often tore families apart. This is not meant to describe the young men that went to fight, but the ones who came back, refused to go and wanted the war ended. It was the hippie, free love and drugs decade. The famous saying of the time was "You can't trust anyone over 30." Children rebelled against their parents and parents thought of their children as the enemy.

This, by a vast majority, was not the case with children of survivors. Yes, there was rebellion, but not against the parents. It was against the war, and it was for support for civil and women's rights. Make no mistake, the second generation wasn't composed of angels, but they knew what their parents went through was far worse than the problems this great country was facing. Although there were disagreements, everyone's opinions were respected.

To sum up the first five years, the most important reason why The New Cracow Friendship Society was so successful was the moral, intellectual and common sense of the Founders and all the members of the Society. These qualities ran through all the members. It didn't matter if they were Founders, Board Members, Committee Members, or just the Membership at large who, while not active, voted for the slate of officers, donated to charity, and supported the projects that affected the future of The New Cracow Friendship Society.





The First Decade After

1970 – 1980



The start of 1970 was one full of turmoil in the Middle East between Israel and her Arab neighbors, Egypt in particular. The Soviet Union was sending pilots and missile crews to Nasser. Much to the dismay of Jews the world over and The New Cracow

Friendship Society in particular, the United States started to maintain a neutral stance.

The Society did not sit by silently on this important issue. The Newsletter reprinted many articles regarding the situation.

NEW YORK POST, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1970



Even-Handed Rogers

CLAYTON FRITCHEY

WASHINGTON.

Secretary of State Rogers justifies the Administration's new policy of arms-length relations with Israel on the grounds that "we have to conduct our foreign policy in a way that we think is best for our national interests."

Quite so, but this seems to suggest that the previous U. S. policy on Israel had to be altered because it was *not* in our national interests. This will come as news to most Americans, who for years have thought our long friendship with a democratic and resolute Israel was the best thing—perhaps the only thing—the U. S. had going for it in the troubled Middle East.

Putting aside other considerations, where would the U. S. be in that area if Israel collapsed, and the whole region was taken over by the hostile Arabs and their great patron, Soviet Russia? The answer suggests that our ties to Israel rest as much on self-interest as on anything else.

Reliable friends like Israel, willing and able to defend themselves without the help of U. S. troops, don't grow on trees, and no government should know this better than our own. If we had only been able to find more allies in Asia as dependable as Israel, we would not have had to send armies to Vietnam and Korea.

* * *

Rogers talks of being "even-handed" toward Israel and the Communist-backed Arabs. He is being *even-handed* at the wrong time, the wrong place, and with the wrong countries. The place for even-handedness was Asia, but instead the U. S. was getting American troops to win wars the Asians couldn't win themselves.

What have Chiang Kai-shek, Syngman Rhee, Ngo Dinh Diem or Nguyen Van Thieu ever done for the U. S. or the cause of democracy? Nobody in the Administration is talking about being even-handed toward South Vietnam or Taiwan.

The only silver lining is that Russia's record of embracing ineffectual and expensive proteges is almost as disastrous as ours. At least the U. S. is not yet stuck with Nasser. The Soviets have invested untold billions in him; they re-equip his armies as fast as Israel destroys them; they let him drag them into humiliating and compromising situations. And after all these years they have little to show for it; they can only look forward to further costly rescue operations.

Russia's effort to establish a secure foothold in the Middle East through the quicksand of make-believe Arab governments may be as fruitless in the long run as America's effort to establish itself on the Asia mainland through equally untrustworthy satellites.

For once, in Israel, the U. S. has a friend it can depend on—a democratic nation which is devoted to peace, but has the courage to fight its own battles. Yet now the Administration wants to cultivate Nasser, despite his long record of being anti-American and pro-Russian. Just how this translates into a policy that is "best for our national interests," is something Rogers needs to explain more clearly.

* * *

It may be that the U. S. should not be in the Middle East at all, but as long as it is, it has a stake in Israel's security. If the U. S. forces Israel to give up its key defense positions, American troops some day may have to do the fighting that Israel itself would otherwise be in a position to do.

Who else can we depend on in the eastern Mediterranean? Greece? It is a good bet that the Fascist generals who now tyrannize that poor country, would turn on the U. S. at any time if it suited their purposes.

If the Administration wants to promote peace in the Middle East, it should back Israel's desire for direct negotiations with the Arabs.

Members were urged to start a letter writing campaign protesting pro-Arab leanings by major American concerns such as Chase Manhattan Bank.

We urge all of our members to follow the example of the president of the Tensor Corporation.

Tensor Corporation no longer "has a friend at Chase Manhattan"

An Open Letter to the American Public:

It would appear that our neighborhood banker, who goes to great pains to tell us that he is our friend, has a rather narrow (mercenary) definition of the word friendship.

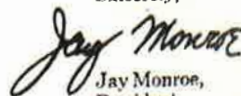
As reported in the December 22 issue of The New York Times, David Rockefeller, president of The Chase Manhattan Bank, and John McCloy, its former president, have warned President Nixon that U.S. policies in the Middle East are resulting in a loss of political and economic influence in the Arab world.

One must wonder how much Chase Manhattan's considerable economic interests in the oil-rich region figured in the decision to urge a new policy which would mollify the Arabs. Certainly world conditions do not indicate that such a change is in order. Israel is a truly democratic state, a modern oasis surrounded by feudal baronies. With the support of cynical Communist countries, the Arab chieftains have attempted to destroy Israel. With the moral support and material help of Americans, Israel has survived, so far.

Now Mr. Rockefeller has apparently decided it is best to put his mouth where his money is. I feel that turnabout is fair play. Accordingly, Tensor's account is being withdrawn from the Chase.

Ours is not one of the corporate giants, and no doubt Chase Manhattan will carry on very nicely without Tensor's business. But if others—small depositors and giant corporations alike—join in this protest against a "dollar diplomacy" based on oil interests, our former friends at Chase may learn that free men do not live by oil alone.

Sincerely,



Jay Monroe,
President
Tensor Corporation



January 1970 also saw the Society taking action to care for Israeli soldiers who were injured in various clashes with her enemies. The Tel Hashomer Hospital received three air conditioners and two water coolers to be installed in wards for soldiers recovering from serious burns. In September an additional five air conditioners were donated.

Despite the ongoing tensions, our civilian programs in Israel continued. On January 17th the annual distribution of scholarships took place at Municipal High School #5 in Tel Aviv. The fruit of our efforts was seen when we received a letter from a graduate of the school who had benefited from a scholarship given by the Society years earlier.

[In the years to follow some of our scholarships were awarded in memory of departed members, included among them were: Gisela Wortman, '71, Genia Radwan, Henry Radwan, '73, Fela Weingarten, '84.]

After a gala celebration in April marking the 5th Anniversary of the Society and the 22nd Anniversary of Israel's statehood, the organization again turned its attention to Israel's defenders. June 1970 saw a contribution of \$2,500 to buy a room in the Soldiers' Rest Home in Beersheva. It was the "beginning of a beautiful friendship" with Israel's soldiers through The Association for the Welfare of Soldiers in Israel - Vaad LeMaan Hechayal.

To the New Cracow Friendship Society,
New York.

Yoram Sivan
16 Zamenhof St.
Tel Aviv.

I, Yoram Sivan, graduate of the Municipal Secondary School No. 5, Tel Aviv, now a student of the Medical School of the Tel Aviv University, would like to express my deep appreciation for your activity destined to renew and deepen the consciousness of Jewish Cracow among the youth of Israel.

I graduated from the school in 1968 and during my studies I dedicated a considerable part of my time to the activity of pupils' study groups devoted to the commemoration of Jewish Cracow, activities which included meetings, discussions and lectures given by Cracow born personalities in Israel. The results of these may be seen by the publications of the Commemoration Pages of the Jewish Cracow Community. (1969).

This way, we, the pupils learned to know and respect the community, its past culture and achievements. Another activity which took place was our participation in the annual meetings of the Cracow Israel Society on the remembrance Day of Cracow's Ghetto Liquidation. This exciting and moving gathering where Cracow people come together from all over the country to our school hall gained a significance by the active participation of our pupils.

On this occasion the past came alive again in song, in melody or drama. Here was expressed the common factor which united all those present- the friendship, the brotherhood and the atmosphere of Jewish Cracow before the period of the Holocaust. This feeling was also strengthened by the knowledge that far away, overseas, far from the eye but near to the heart, the past Jewish Cracow Community is commemorated by its New York Society.

The establishment of the scholarship fund by your society is one of the most important factors in the close relationship between the two centers of Cracow Jews, in the U.S. and Israel. Granting these scholarships to the sons and daughters of Cracow Jews and to pupils active in the Cracow study groups has an important significance and meaning. It helps greatly the Israeli student who cannot afford to pay full tuition fees and encourages him to continue his studies.

I personally do appreciate immensely because your scholarship enabled me to concentrate on my intensive studies at the medical school.

We have to consider the difficulties of the Israeli Government which has to devote the biggest part of its budget to the war effort and there are not sufficient funds to help students at the higher educational institutions.

Your scholarship fund has also contributed much in strengthening the pupils' interest in Jewish Cracow History, its culture and personalities and that is the most important goal of our activity.

Therefore, do let me express again my gratitude for this scholarship fund and I hope that your activities will be intensified so that many others will be able to enjoy this support.

In this way the bonds between us will become stronger and the concept of Jewish Cracow will be manifested and glorified in the land of Israel.

May God Bless You,

Yoram Sivan Graduate of Municipal
Secondary School "5".

By September, against the backdrop of the women's movement, minority issues and other turbulent events at home, the Society tried to grapple

with the "Generation Gap" within the organization. There was actually controversy, albeit short lived, in the issue of the Newsletter #43.

Public Relations

There are few among us who do not think about the future and who do not try to provide for a "rainy day". We try to make the autumn and winter of our lives more secure by many means: we save, buy insurance policies, build retirement funds, etc. Yet those who think that all that is enough live in a fool's paradise. How well I remember how quickly the Nazi regime managed to annihilate all that we struggle to attain: social position, money, retirement plans and ultimately, even life itself.

When I look around me, frankly, I begin to worry about the future. Obviously, no amount of effort on my part may assure me a secure future if our young generation, the leaders of tomorrow, will not grow up to be healthy, both mentally and physically. And with the ever growing use of narcotics, with the spread of the Hippie movement, with the frequent, to put it mildly, unrest in schools and colleges, those chances are minimal.

Please don't get me wrong: I have nothing against long hair, bare feet, rock music and healthy criticism of our government. But long hair may be kept neat, feet may be bare in bed or in bath, rock music does not have to be injurious to one's hearing and disagreement with the government's policies does not have to be accompanied by rock and bottle throwing or time-bomb planting invarious public places.

A few years ago we still were able to console ourselves by saying that only a small segment of our young generation presented a danger to our society. Now, when the use of drugs has spread to all strata and age groups of our society, even elementary school children are "mainlining", now, when the college sit-ins are turned into vicious destruction of life and property, we cannot console ourselves anymore in that way. The malady which destroys our youth, and through them our and our country's future, reached an epidemic proportion.

The question which troubles me is why is our youth so rebellious and insecure? It is perhaps our own fault? Upon reflection I believe that it is. We are guilty of paying too much attention to our babies and neglecting our adolescents. Every mother practically smothers her infant with "love". Diapers are getting fancier and fancier and baby food tastier and tastier. Mothers spend sleepless nights when a baby refuses to finish the whole jar of food or shows a distaste for the daily feeding of the jumbo or the double yolked egg. Each new tooth is eagerly awaited and celebrated. But the situation changes when the babies grow up. No longer the center of attraction, the children often wonder whether parents care for them at all. To be sure they get nice clothes, pleasantly furnished rooms and substantial allowances. The parting of the ways,

however, stemming from the lack of interest in doing things together ensues. Very often the youngster waits impatiently for the opportunity to leave the house and be on his own.

Yet parental neglect is only partially responsible for our youth's alienation from society. We have become a sex-oriented society to a degree which may be termed unhealthy. I observed the behavior of women in a fashionable hotel in the Catskills recently. This hardly the place to discuss it, but let me say this, Sodom never had it this good. The air which our children breathe is polluted in more ways than one.

Quite often in the past I suggested to the members of our society to bring their children to our meetings and functions. Needless to say my suggestion had proven to be highly unpopular. Quite often I was told that: "This organization is good enough for me but not for my child. He/She has his own friends and takes part in the functions of his own organizations." Unfortunately, at times those organizations are SDS and even Black Panthers.

Granted that often our meetings and our functions may be found boring by our children. But their participation and their presence could make them more interesting. Only by sharing with our children the wholesome activities may we bridge the "Generation Gap" and pave the way to mutual happy relations and to a secure and happy future.

Max Hilfstein
Chairman

Generation Gap

by John Wolfe

By now the words Generation Gap exist to justify everything from bad television programs (The Mod Squad, etc.) to National Guardsmen murdering children in the street. At every turn we are informed that profound differences exist between the generations. From every magazine cover from nearly every film the message is the same: there is a war going on between old and young.

But it is all a very dangerous lie. There is no generation gap. There is no war of the generations. Father and son, mother and daughter, are being manipulated into believing they can't communicate, into believing that their gap is somehow more vast, more ominous than that gap which has existed ever since Abraham agreed to sacrifice Isaac.

But Abraham did not slay Isaac. And the generation gap exists on that same level of experience.

Young people and their parents must not fall susceptible to the influence of the media and the official interpreters of American culture. They must not allow themselves to be maneuvered into a

position where they cannot even speak to each other. Because the so-called generation gap is a state of mind imposed upon Americans for very special reasons. For we know it has always existed, this gap, but never before has it been used so insidiously and for so evil a purpose.

It has become necessary to convince American parents that their children are criminal, radical drug-fiends beyond any kind of redemption. Your children and children just like your children were murdered and those murders have gone unpunished in the name of the generation gap.

Yes there is a generation gap, there is a war, in America, but it is not going on between father and son. It is a war between those who wage war and those who are against it.

Parents must put an end to the lie of the generation gap and join their children in the struggle that is just beginning. Parents and children must come together and see what has been happening to this country. Because at its root the generation gap is an expression of the great sickness of this country.

In Israel, it is said, there is no generation gap. Parents and children live together, visit together, respect each other. They are bonded close by their peril; by the very realization that they have enemies who would as soon see them all killed. What we in America have to realize is that their situation is ours. We have enemies, very dangerous enemies, who are out to destroy us and our families. Those enemies are not the Black Panthers. They are not the SDS. They are not the anti-War young. Those enemies are the people who send the young off to die in Asia. Those enemies are the people who use the lives of Jews in Israel on their international chessboard as pawns in their evil power games. Those enemies are the people who heard the cries of murdered Jews in Europe and turned deaf anti-Semitic ears.

For those of us who are the children of the ghetto have a special birthright because we are among the few who survived the fascists and their ghetto. And when we bear witness to the fascists rising in our midst, when we see the ghettos outside our neighborhoods, our response is simple: Never again!

We learned our lesson in 1943 and 1942 and 1939. There is no generation gap. We are all in it together. Our families died together once: old and young, babies and grown-ups. We survived that not to fall victim to fascist lies again. We have learned. We must know better.

Continually mindful of the precepts upon which the organization was founded, the leadership organized bond drives for Israel which would become annual events. The November Israeli Bond Drive raised \$45,000 in bonds purchased by the members.

As had been seen at the beginning of the year,

Aid for Soviet Jews

Let me give you the compelling reason which prompted me to write this article, or, I would rather call it an appeal.

One Sunday afternoon when I went to pick up my daughter from her Cultural Encounter Class, conducted by Rebbitzin Esther Jungreis, the renowned radio personality, lecturer and columnist of the Jewish Press, I could not help but notice a large group of teenagers stuffing many cartons. Rebbitzin Jungreis undertook the task of lecturing every Sunday to groups of youngsters (about 60 of them) on the subject of religion, morals, etc. Her lectures are so impressive and inspiring that she is successfully turning the youngsters on to religion to the point where they find their identification and are proud of it. I was so impressed with her achievements that I decided to help, if only in a very small measure, by bringing her activities to the attention of our membership.

After 4 hours of lecture, the students sort and pack cartons for shipment to Israel and, I might add, with great enthusiasm. The Cultural Encounter Youth Group under the auspices of Congregation Ohr Torah and direct supervision of Rebbitzin Jungreis is continuously shipping packages to Israel. In addition as an innovation, a decision was made to also send packages to Russia to the relatives and friends of the Jews convicted in the trials in Leningrad.

Your aid is greatly needed in achieving the goal of sending as many packages as there are recipients. I believe I do not have to stress the importance of this matter due to the well known fact that our brethren in Russia are in dire need of our financial and moral support, particularly those who risk their liberties, if not their very lives, by signing petitions or applying for exit visas.

Let me enumerate the food and clothing allowed to be mailed to the U.S.S.R. Clothes must be NEW or else they will be rejected by the Russian authorities. If possible, the price tags on the articles should have lower figures since the recipient pays a tax for the item according to its value.

pencils	shoes	dresses
pens	shirts	underwear
notebooks	overcoats	table cloths
stockings	suits	sheets
gloves	handbags	coffee, tea
soap		

To assist in this worthwhile project, kindly send money and/or merchandise to one of the following addresses:

Rebbitzin Esther Jungreis	Victor Lewis
c/o Congregation Ohr Torah	147-13 78 Road
410 Hungry Harbor Road	Flushing, NY.
No. Woodmere, N.Y. 11581	OL 7-3575
(516) 791-2346	

Emil Mandelberger
48 Parkville Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230
871-7699

Barbara Morrow
492 Winchester Ave.
Union, N.J.

I have no doubt that the response will be overwhelming and immediate. Any member having family or friends in Russia should forward their addresses. Packages will be shipped with your best regards if requested.

- Your donations will serve a dual purpose:
1. It gives our teenagers a sense of accomplishment by working for and contributing to a Jewish cause instead of joining a lunatic fringe.
 2. It will give our brethren in Russia material and above all, a spiritual lift and assurance that they are not forgotten.

DON'T LET THEM DOWN.

Julius Ross

the United States had been maintaining a "hands off" policy in the Middle East. With another letter writing campaign, the Society, along with other pro-Israel minded organizations and major celebrities,

successfully pressured President Nixon to change the government's policy. The plight of Soviet Jewry also was in the forefront of the Society's activism.

Newsletter articles on that issue had increased to the point where they were on a par with those supporting Israel.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 19, 1971

Mr. Richard Abrahamer, President
New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.
64-49 Ellwell Crescent
Rego Park, New York 11374

Dear Mr. Abrahamer:


Thank you for your recent communication concerning the plight of the world's second largest Jewish community, that of the Soviet Union. I know that I do not need to tell you how much I share the deep concern which prompted you to write as you have.

The Soviets are denying to their citizens of Jewish faith fundamental religious and cultural rights which are guaranteed them by Soviet law itself. Protests such as yours serve constructive purpose helping to persuade the USSR to relent so that Soviet Jews might survive as a cultural and religious group.

You may be sure that I shall continue my own efforts here on behalf of the Jewish people of the USSR. Experience has shown that world wide protest has an effect of at least amelioration and must be maintained.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jacob K. Javits, U.S.S.

LESTER L. WOLFF
3d DISTRICT, New York

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS
NEAR EAST

OFFICES:

424 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

158A MAIN STREET
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK 11050

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 11, 1971

Mr. Richard Abrahamer, President
New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.
64-69 Ellwell Crescent
Rego Park, New York 11374

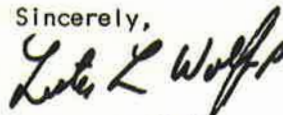
Dear Mr. Abrahamer:

This is in response to your recent letter with reference to the trial of the Jews in the Soviet Union. I fully share your concern about this travesty of justice.

As you so aptly put it, Jews should be permitted both their own cultural heritage and the right to emigrate to other lands. Therefore, please be assured that I will continue to lift my voice in the Congress to keep this vital matter before our government and the people. I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of a news release which gives the text of my recent letter to the President about this most pressing matter, along with a copy of a Resolution which I co-sponsored that was passed overwhelmingly in the House on December 31, 1970.

Thank you very much for taking the time to write, and I do hope that you will not hesitate to contact me again on this or any other matter which is of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Lester L. Wolff
Member of Congress

By 1971 The New Cracow Friendship Society had developed a reputation among Jewish organizations. Five members were invited as delegates representing the organization at the 70th Anniversary of the Jewish National Fund held on January 17th and 18th. Tola Dizenhaus, Saba Erlich, Max Hilfstein, Emil Mandelberger and Roman Weingarten were our representatives. The latter wrote a report of the proceedings.

It was a great pleasure indeed to participate in a nationwide event celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Jewish National Fund.

At the outset, all delegates gathered in the Hilton Room to listen to opening speeches of prominent people, all of whom were connected with the JNF. A general account was given as to the activities of the Fund since its founding 70 years ago by Ziv Herman Schapiro, a rabbi and professor of mathematics. The

Jewish National Fund shall be the inviolate possession of the Jewish people. It must be devoted only to the purchase of land in Palestine. This was the underlying thought and was to become the strict policy of the JNF. And so in November 1917, the historic right of the Jews to return to their ancient land was recognized in the Balfour Declaration. For a land where old Jews came to die, Palestine was transformed into a land where young Jews came to live. And they did come to live on the land acquired by the JNF.

At the assembly, this part of the program was called Retrospect and Prospect; Prospect for the future; this is where the next part of the program for action came in.

The program for action consisted of five workshops. Our delegation managed to participate in three of them: Youth and Education, Blue and White Box, and Resolutions. In Youth and Education, as the name implies, the emphasis was on how to get youth interested in the work of JNF and a resolution was passed and sent to the Resolution Workshop to the effect that in the future, all youth organizations should be approached to send delegates not only to the National Assembly, but also as permanent members to the National Board of Directors of the JNF. The task is not going to be easy.

The Blue and White Box Workshop was attended by Max Hilfstein and Tola Dizenhaus. It concentrated its efforts on working out plans to accelerate the placement and collection of the traditional blue and white boxes. The aim is 70,000 boxes to commemorate the Jubilee Year. It is the same box that has for generations symbolized Zionist ideology in the hearts and minds of Jews all over the world. As I look back, there was hardly a home in Cracow without a KKL Tzudko[sic] pishke. Through its collections it has been possible to reclaim and redeem the soil of the Jewish homeland. (The underlying importance of these acquisitions will come to light later on in this report.)

The Resolution Workshop, attended by Emil Mandelberger and myself, had the task of working our resolutions to be passed on to the assembly for approval.

I will bring you the highlight of the two, in my opinion, most important resolutions. A resolution was worked out concerning Soviet Jewry. The substance was to send

condemning the rulers of the Kremlin for the way they treat Jews of Russia; to implore them to let those who want to emigrate go and to allow those who stay a Jewish education and a place to worship if they so desire; to stop discrimination and to stop anti-Semitism instead of nourishing it. The second very important resolution dealt with a matter which should be very close to every Jew's heart.

Rumors were circulated in Israel lately, in government circles, that there were plans to sell the land acquired by the JNF to private citizens. The main reason was to remedy the precarious financial position of the government. The overall sentiment however, was not to let this happen. This resolution was worded very strongly in favor of keeping all the land acquired during the 70 years of the existence as the property of the JNF, and at the same time as the property of all the Jews all over the world.

The first day of the assembly was concluded with a festive gala public celebration featuring a galaxie [sic] of outstanding personalities. The main speakers were the Hon. Robert Taft, Jr., the Hon. Hubert H. Humphrey, Ambassador Tsur and others. It was reassuring to listen to them talk about how they felt about Israel, and I heard Senator Humphrey say, "Israel must be strong and independent and as long as I live I will work to that end."

The theme of the evening and the spirit of the assembly in general were to hold on and develop the land with special emphasis on Restore the Arava. The Arava is a stretch of land 120 miles long from the southern tip of the Dead Sea to Eilat. The first farming efforts in the Arava took place in 1948. Today there exist eight settlements along the border between Israel and Jordan. The ambition of the JNF is to build 30 more settlements in the Arava within the next five years. And, with a little bit of effort on the part of every Jew in the world, be it through buying JNF trees, or by taking home a box (KKL pushke) and sure enough, they will do it.

I am sure that I have covered but a small portion of the events of the assembly, but I was proud to have been a part of it.

With the arrival of March came the annual... again the membership of

The New Cracow Friendship Society stepped up and a third ambulance was presented to Magen David Adom. This vehicle was dedicated to the People of Israel in Memory of All the Heroes who sacrificed their lives while defending their homeland. (Less than one year later, on February 2, 1972, a fourth ambulance was donated.)

In the spring, the Society participated, for the first time, in the Salute to Israel parade. We would do so again in 1973 with our own float which depicted the gate of the ghetto.



Manek Werdiger and Son

In September, the organization, through the recommendation of the Ladies Auxiliary and Israeli

Committee, adopted Project AKIM. The Editorial in the November 1973 issue explained it all.



50th Anniversary

Akim

Akim is not a name to an exotic island or a tropical land, it is the name of the Israel Association for the Rehabilitation of the Mentally Handicapped. This institution is an old established organization in Israel where the handicapped children are cared for by a large staff of counselors comprising professional teachers and social workers in the field of retardation preparing them to be able to care for themselves offering them a feeling of social belonging. Akim is well known and respected outside Israel. The organization was represented at an International Congress of Mental Retardation held in 1972 in Montreal, Canada where it was praised for its bold approach responsive to the needs of the mentally retarded.

At its September meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously accepted project Akim on the recommendation of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Israeli Committee as the organization's project for the next two years. The project as outlined in an exchange of letters between Akim and the Israeli Committee will consist of the following items: The New Cracow Friendship Society will provide 50% of the cost not to exceed the sum of \$75,000 to build a kindergarten for handicapped children on the land donated for that purpose by the municipality of Natanya. The balance of the cost of the project will be provided by the government of Israel. Once the structure is put up and ready for occupancy Akim will provide the staff to run the institution in the same manner as other 35 branches are run. For our organization this is a project of very large dimensions and it will absorb all our energies to bring it to a successful realization in 1975. Toward that end we had two very significant starts. First there was the 25th Anniversary of Regina and Pincus Peterseil. (Regina is chairperson of the Ladies Auxiliary) It seems that their daughters had the brilliant idea to give them a surprise anniversary party asking the invited guests for checks rather than gifts. The result was one giant step toward realization of project Akim. Regina and Pincus turned over to our treasurer the sum of \$2,735 for the immediate purchase of Israel Bonds to be eventually utilized for project Akim. This noble deed is an excellent example of spirited fund raising that could serve as an inspiration to be followed by others. The second start was the Bazaar. The event was the first venture of its kind by our organization. It was conceived, planned and executed with much cooperation by the Ladies

Auxiliary. The ladies led by their resolute, resourceful and very energetic chairperson displayed endurance and self discipline above and beyond the call of duty. The results of the Bazaar and how much closer we came to realization of project Akim may be found in the report of the chairperson of the Ladies Auxiliary of this Newsletter.

World events, however, did not cooperate with our efforts.

October 1973 caught us by surprise when on Yom Kippur, Israel was attacked and drawn again into war protecting herself against her Arab neighbors. As a result plans for Project AKIM were temporarily put on hold in November. Still, the Society was not dissuaded in trying to get this project back on track.

**Woe to
him who is
alone and
falls with no
companion
to raise him.**

Ecclesiastes 4:10



אגודה לקימום מפגרים / המרכז, תל-אביב
 ISRAEL ASSOCIATION FOR REHABILITATION OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED
 116 ALLENBY ST., TEL-AVIV 65017 PHONE 524252 11605 רח' אלנבי 116, תל-אביב 65017

אקים
AKIM

29th November, 1973.

Mr. H. Tenenbaum,
 Chairman, New Cracow Friendship
 Society Inc.,
 64-49 Ellwell Crescent, Rego Park,
 New York 11374. U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum,

Further to Mrs. Riebenfeld-Zur's letter of
 23rd October, I feel that it is my duty to keep you
 posted with regard to progress on our joint enterprise.

Despite the situation prevailing as a result of
 the war, we have already succeeded in meeting with the
 Government authorities and also with the people in
 Netanya and explained to them the terms which you have
 laid down for the agreement.

You will realise that in the present circumstances
 it is not easy to get all the parties together but we
 are giving this matter top priority and I hope that we
 shall soon be able to make further progress in the
 matter and advise you accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

A.M. Arbib.

בתסוה:

גב' רחל שזר
 גב' מרים אשכול
 מר אבא אבו - שר החוץ
 ד"ר יוסף בורג - שר הפנים
 מר מיכאל חוני - שר הסעד
 ד"ר יצחק קיסטר
 שופט בית המשפט העליון
 מר זמב יהודאי - שופט
 פרופ' ארנסט סימון
 האוניברסיטה העברית
 פרופ' הרמן זונדק
 גב' אירנה גסטר
 גב' אה מיקאליס שטרן

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מר מנחם יצחקי
 יושב ראש האגודה
 מר א. מ. ארביב
 יו"ר הועדה לקשרי חוץ
 מר יצחק שמר
 גזבר הליגה הבייל

[By March of the following year the fight by
 the organization to re-start Project AKIM was won
 when the Government of Israel agreed to put up
 their matching share of funds and grant the necessary
 permits to begin the project.]

The year 1974 was filled with the continuing
 activities begun by the Society so many years earlier.
 In April, the Society purchased an additional 159
 plots on Block 28 at Beth Moses Cemetery with
 space for a second monument.

November, the month for the annual Israel
 Bond Drive, saw a shift in the presentation of the

drive. The Israeli Committee started a tradition
 of honoring individuals at testimonial dinners as
 a means for selling bonds. It opened the drives to
 people outside the Society who wished to pay tribute
 to the honorees. The first person so honored was
 Founder and second President of the Society, Ben
 Geizhals.

The 10th Anniversary was marked with a special
 anniversary issue of the Newsletter in June and
 in July, 90 members celebrated the event in Israel
 combined with the 30th Anniversary of Liberation
 from the Concentration Camps. With two sister
 organizations in Israel, they jointly proclaimed the

creation of a "World Federation of Jewish Survivors From Cracow." The following are excerpts from the Anniversary Newsletter and highlight of the Israeli trip.

EDITORIAL

Our Tenth Anniversary

History, according to a definition expressed by Abba Eban is "What one generation finds mostly of record in the achievements of another." But according to a more common definition, history is a recorded systematic account of the past.

During the last ten years it became clear that although numerically we were bound to stay small, our goal was to develop and preserve an intensive vitality in spirit and deed.

While the outlines were clear, and a comprehensive vision of the shape of things to come was beginning to emerge, the technical questions were momentarily unresolved. The founders of the Society, on whose shoulders the managerial responsibilities rested, were for the most part inexperienced in matters of organization. Gradually they were joined by others who contributed their skills, knowledge and imagination to make the Society what it is today. On the other hand, the Society developed the constructive and creative potential of those individuals. It became a two way proposition of give and take. To prove that point, this issue of the newsletter is filled with detailed accounts of purpose and fact by the chairmen of all active committees. Another point to support our contention of close cooperation between "Society" and "Membership" is the fact that one out of seven member families has been at one time or another represented on the Board of Directors.

In our attempt to appraise the significance of the last ten years, we must reflect on its bearing on the lives of the Society's members. Typical of an organization of this nature, the membership of this Society is comprised of people with the same background. We could hardly hope to attract all Jews from Cracow living in New York and particularly the extreme orthodox Chasidic Jews. It is safe to say that we have a fair representation of all segments except the Chasidim. Most significantly the ten

years of the Society's life have added new dimension to the private lives of the members. It has broadened their horizons; through its Welfare activities it has instilled in them a deeper sense of responsibility toward each other; through its involvement in Israeli affairs it has awakened a heretofore dormant love and affection for Israel; through its social programs it has brought the people closer together.

The ten years can be divided into three major periods symbolized by three major events. The first was the time of the Memorial Journal. For more than two years most of the Board of Directors' meetings were dominated by this paramount undertaking. The Journal Committee that in various stages included Roman Gunz, Jacob Halpern, Beno Sonenschein, Max Hilfstein, Henry Schreiber, Max Steif, Lydia Wolf and Giza Wortman, has produced a monumental epic to the memory of Cracow Jewry. Under a meaningful cover it contains not only the names of our loved ones in memory, but it also contains the history of the destruction of the Jewish Community in Cracow, from the day of German occupation, through the Ghetto and concentration camp until the day when Cracow became "Judenrein."

The second period was dominated by the acquisition of cemetery plots and the subsequent creation of an impressive monument in everlasting memory of our beloved departed. Here the Monument Committee, including Victor Lewis, Richard Abrahamer, Sigmund Morrow and Julius Ross displayed the ability to fulfill a desire of all of us to simulate conditions of Kaiver Avot, where we gather once a year to say Kaddish after the departed. These Yizkor services are nourishment for our souls.

The third period, and time-wise, it overlapped the second, can be assigned to the period of the 1967 War when priorities shifted in favor of Israel. The Society then reassessed its values and while not neglecting any of its responsibilities toward the membership, concentrated its efforts on the behalf of Israel.

The success or failure of any group of people is greatly dependent upon its system of communication. Our way of communicating is through personal meetings. This is accomplished through three general membership meetings a year giving members the opportunity to find out first hand about all that has transpired or is

about to transpire. A second more efficient method of communication, because it reaches all members, is the Newsletter.

At first the Newsletter was envisioned as a means of information regarding Society activities. Had it stayed that way it would have served its purpose. However, during the ten years of publication, it took on the character of a small magazine inasmuch as the contents were not confined to just information. Over the years the Newsletter has printed numerous articles by talented members on the subject of the Holocaust as well as Israel. The editorial part of the Newsletter has assumed the responsibility alongside with the reporting and interpretation of current events to also interpret the meaning of holidays as seen from a contemporary point of view. The accumulative contents of the Newsletter have the value of a history book of the Society and it rates high among other proud achievements.

TEN YEARS OF THE ISRAELI COMMITTEE

The establishment of the Israeli Committee can be traced back to the first year of the existence of the Society. The original duties assigned to this committee were to establish contact with people in Israel and to bring Israeli culture to our members. The first major achievement in that department came during the anxious days in May of 1967 when on the recommendation of the Israeli Committee, the Society purchased Israel Bonds in the amount of \$10,000 and contributed \$1,000 to the Department of Defense of the State of Israel.

By coincidence that very year the first considerable Israeli project was conceived, namely the establishment of a scholarship fund to support needy high school students in Tel Aviv. The first scholarship check in the amount of \$2,000 went to Israel in 1968 and has since been increased to \$4,000 yearly. Approximately 180 students, mostly of Cracow origin, have so far benefited from that scholarship. The distribution of the scholarships in the Municipal High School #5 in Tel Aviv takes place with great fanfare during the Commemoration services for the liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto in the presence of big crowds. In fact, this event is being vigorously publicized in Israel and contributes to the good name of our Society.

Having tasted the satisfaction of accomplishment, more projects started to roll off the assembly line. And so an inspiration caught fire at our annual New Year's Eve Party ushering in the year of 1969 that resulted in our first ambulance for Israel to be followed by three more in that many consecutive years.

Prior to the first ambulance, three air conditioners and two water coolers were sent to the Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv to alleviate the suffering of some of the Israeli soldiers wounded in the struggle of life and death with the enemies of Israel.

Of course, no matter what the cause, it is much easier to spend funds than to collect them. Out of necessity the raffle idea was born. Along with the decision to set up a scholarship fund also came the decision to raise funds through the sale of raffles with the first prize to be round trip to Israel for two. As it turned out our members participated generously in the purchase of raffles. However, the bulk of the sales were handled by a few individuals without whose help these ambitious projects would not have become a reality.

As our activities grew and diversified it became apparent that the Israeli Committee had to be expanded and the responsibility divided. The President then appointed two new chairmen, one to head the Israel Bond Drive that since 1970 became an annual event; the other in charge of the Vaad Lemaan Hechayal, an organization to provide recreation and rest homes for soldiers on furlough or short leave. The Society, by the way, has donated \$2,500 to the Vaad.

Henry Tenenbaum
Chairman

THE HISTORY OF THE WELFARE COMMITTEE

Actually there is no separate history of the Welfare Committee outside the overall history of the Society. However, because of the confidential character of this committee, it developed a semi-autonomous status.

The Welfare Committee was created almost immediately after the Society became a reality. It was one of the first fulfillments of the letter of the Preamble to the By-laws

that says: "The Society has taken on itself the mission of promoting the principles of philanthropy." The basic meaning of philanthropy is "love of Mankind." However a second and more general meaning has developed which connotes the concrete expression of such love in the form of contributions to support practical works of mercy and compassion to help ease the burdens of those in need.

Like in all beginnings the start was slow. The budget for the first year was \$500 but was increasing rapidly with every passing year. Very soon the Welfare expenditures came to over 60% of the overall revenues the Society realized from membership dues. This situation could not be allowed to persist and ways had to be found to raise funds for welfare. Raising dues was not an attractive alternative. It was then decided to ask for voluntary contributions along with the dues. This idea proved to be very successful inasmuch as the generosity of the members exceeded our expectations.

Another fundraising source is the annual Yizkor at the cemetery that was instituted by the Society under auspices of the Welfare Committee soon after the erection of the monument. Hence the sole responsibility of planning and preparing the Yizkor rests with the Welfare Committee.

Yet another source of Welfare revenue is the ancient tradition of giving tzedaka, charity, no matter what the occasion, happy or sad, a Jew has the need to express his joy or sorrow by giving charity. It is a way of thanksgiving on joyous occasions and a way of praying when the occasion is sad. Above all, charity, besides being a humanitarian deed, is considered to be one of the greatest mitzvot in the Jewish religion.

The distribution of funds and how it all started.... The first distribution of Welfare funds came about when the just formed Welfare Committee was approached with

a request to extend financial assistance for a family originally from Cracow and now living in New York. This was followed by several other requests concerning families living in Israel and in Cracow. It soon became apparent that the responsibility for distributing public funds outweighed the necessity for charitable activities. This prompted the establishment of an investigative body within the committee (type of social workers) whose task it would be to visit, if possible, every prospective recipient in his or her home to get a first hand picture of the conditions they were in. With regard to recipients living in Israel or in Cracow, the committee had to rely on information furnished by friends living in the respective countries.

It took a great deal of effort and hard work to arrive at where we are today. Today the Welfare Committee is in constant touch with all recipients. A system of periodical reporting has been set up. This system is by no means a source of humiliation to the recipients. On the contrary, it serves as a bridge for better understanding between the committee and the recipients. In addition, it contributes to the efficiency and expediency of this committee's task.

Roman Weingarten
Chairman

Closing out the year, in December the Society helped to finance the building of a monument at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery in Tel Aviv. As was done with the first monument erected in the United States at Beth Moses Cemetery, ashes were brought from Poland. This time they came from the cemeteries of Miodowa and Podgorze as well as from Auschwitz. (Auschwitz was built near the town of Oswiecim.) Of the 8,000 Jews living there before 1939, none survived.

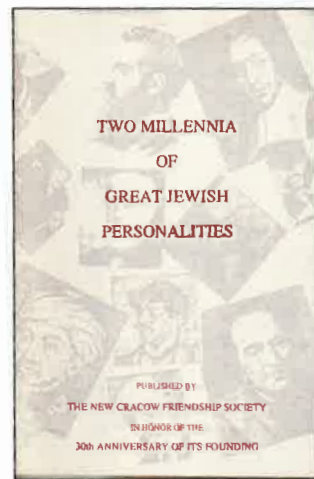
אל תמנע טוב מבעליו בהיות
לא-ל ידיך לעשות.

משלי ג:כ"ז



The monument was dedicated seven months later on July 15, 1976. It is represented by a group of half broken matzevot, reminiscent of those taken from very old graveyards. A translation, from the Hebrew, of the inscription on the highest stone reads: In Memory of the Community of Cracow. The stone which lies on the bottom of the matzevah is inscribed: Ashes of the Martyrs of the Community, Victims of the Holocaust.

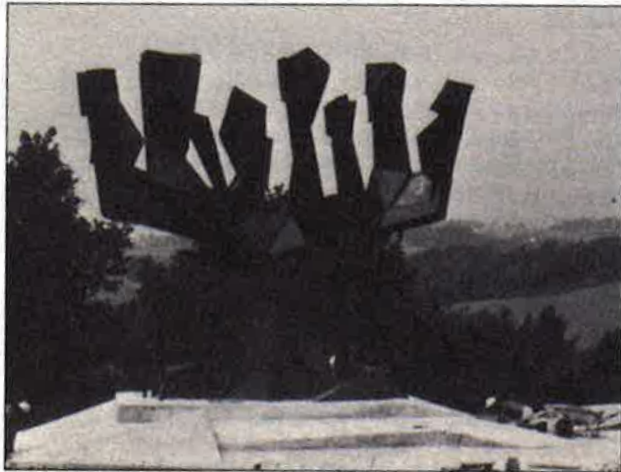
began publishing a series of very interesting and informative articles profiling the lives and thoughts of Great Jewish Philosophers. These articles were later compiled into a book which was published under the title *Two Millennia of Great Jewish Personalities* edited by Roman Weingarten in 1995. [The title is still listed at Amazon.com although not available through that retailer. Copies are available however, through the Society.]



The bicentennial of the nation during 1976 was a busy year in the existence of the Society. In addition to the annual programs begun in the preceding years, new strides were made. The April Newsletter

On June 20, 1976 the dedication of the Mauthausen Monument dedicated to the Memory of Jewish Martyrs who perished in the Mauthausen Concentration Camp took place in the town of

Mauthausen, Austria. The New Cracow Friendship Society had supported that project. Many of the members were survivors of that horrific camp. They gave monetary support as well as input in the planning of the monument.



A third reunion was held at Lake Placid, New York with our Canadian counterparts during the weekend of July 12-14, 1976.


The second monument at Beth Moses Cemetery was unveiled at Block 28 on September 18, 1976 on the occasion of the annual Yizkor held during the Days of Awe.

After almost twelve years into the Society's existence and the members now twelve years older, a plan called "Blue Horizon" was conceived. The plan called for the purchase of a foreclosed development of garden apartments in the Fort Lauderdale area in Florida. Its purpose was to become a retirement village for New Cracow Friendship Society members. It was intended to meet all the needs of society members, including an on site synagogue. The purchase price was to be from \$20,000 to \$25,000 per unit. The plan, however, did not come to fruition.

With numerous failed attempts by the leadership and the members to have the second generation become members of

an article written by a second generation member. Susan Fran Graf implored the second generation to become members of the Society. The leadership was so impressed with her article that they subsequently appointed her as a special liaison between the Young Adults and the Membership Committee.

Once again the Society sprang into action when in February, Professor Arthur Butz wrote *The Fabrication of a Hoax*, one of the first of many books declaring that the Holocaust was a fabrication. The Society's leadership called for law suits to be filed against the author for slander and distortion of the facts. A letter of protest was drafted, addressed to Northwestern University, employer of Professor Butz and publisher of the book. The letter called for the ouster of the professor and condemned the University for defending him and publishing the work. It was reprinted in the Newsletter to encourage other members to follow suit and write their own letters of protest.



New Cracow Friendship Society Inc.

99-72 - 66th Road Forest Hills, N.Y. 11374

Feb. 8, 1977.

Mr. Robert H. Strotz, President
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Sir:

We read with dismay and outrage about the publication of a book "The Fabrication of a Hoax" by Mr. Butz a faculty member of Northwestern University. We do not pass judgement on his professional knowledge as an electrical engineer but we have great reservations about his abilities in historical and social research.

Our organization consists exclusively of survivors of Nazi concentration camps and everyone of us lost almost his entire family during the Holocaust. If Mr. Butz became so interested in that period of history he could have obtained, without pains, eyewitness testimony from us, although would certainly reopen our wounds, never to be healed.

What we are deeply angered by is your reported defense of Mr. Butz's tenure. Tenure is not a privilege to slander and distortion of facts. Highest integrity and moral standards are required and expected from those who are entrusted with teaching and guiding younger generations.

In the name of our martyred brethren whom we have seen tortured, burned and killed in the concentration camps and other institutions of German civilization, we plead with you to speak out and have the tenure of Mr. Butz reviewed. A individual capable of perpetrating such a hoax in the name of education and research has no place in an institution of learning.

Sincerely yours
Richard Abrahamer

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Editors Note:
The above letter has been reproduced here in order to encourage our members to write similar letters, either using this as a sample or making up their own.

On March 13, 1977, thirty four years to the day of the liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto, an event took place during the commemoration which established the Lake Success Jewish Center as the permanent venue for that event. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Seaman, members of the Society, donated two stained glass windows to the sanctuary dedicated to the memory of Cracow's Jewish community and in honor of The New Cracow Friendship Society.

The first pane depicts the Jewish Community in Cracow before the war. The second shows flames destroying the lives of our loved ones in several death camps and at the top, the redemption with the creation of the State of Israel. The New York Times even covered the commemoration.



Survivors Recall Cracow Ghetto in Memorial to Those Who Died

By ARI L. GOLDMAN

LAKE SUCCESS, L.I., March 13—The survivors of the Jewish community of Cracow, Poland, gathered here today to remember. But they found that the candles and the hymns and the speeches and the murals were inadequate memorials to that day—March 13, 1943—when hundreds of Jews were murdered by nazis in the Cracow ghetto and thousands more were loaded into trucks bound for the death camps.

The real memorials today were in the tears of the fathers who saw and the sons who have only heard.

"Our wounds will never heal," said Richard Abrahamer, president of the New Cracow Friendship Society. "We must never forget."

In a special ceremony today at the Lake Success Jewish Center, the society dedicated two stained-glass windows. One depicts in bright colors the glory that was Cracow—the great synagogues and houses of Learning. The second, in red, shows the destruction of that community with flames lapping up through barbed-wire fences with the names Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Treblinka, Matthausen and Bergen-Belsen.

"For those of us who were there, there is no need for pictures," said Milton Hirschfeld. "We see the winding streets of old Cracow, we see our parents and brothers and sisters. We see our happy youth."

"We also see and remember in sharp colors how our loved ones died. We see our youth destroyed. We see a flourishing city that became hopeless. For us, there is no homecoming."

"But our task is not only to remember," he added, "we must also teach our people and the entire world must never forget."



The New York Times
Detail of stained-glass window at Lake Success Jewish Center showing flames destroying Jewish community in Cracow, Poland.

There were 65,000 Jews in Cracow before World War II. About 3,000 of them are alive today, only 250 of them still in the Polish city.

Cantor David Werdyger, a Cracow survivor, and a choir of men from the city, sang "Ani Maamin," a Hebrew hymn sung at the death camps, and "Es Brent," a Yiddish song that tells of the ghetto burning. Six women who survived the camps lit a menorah in memory of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

Rabbi Seymour Baumrind said that the Lake Success Jewish Center had been chosen as the home for the new stained-glass windows because the synagogue stands across the street from the original site of the United Nations. It was there on Nov. 29, 1947, he said, that the organization approved the Palestine Partition Plan, which led to the birth of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948.

The windows were donated by Herbert Seaman, a member of the synagogue, who was an American soldier on hand for the liberation of the concentration camps after the war. The windows were created by Joseph Bukiet, Cracow survivor who now lives in Clifton, N.J.

Several speakers talked of what they called recent "threats to Jewish existence." They cited the siege last week of the B'nai B'rith office in Washington and of Fred Cowan, a Nazi follower who killed five people in New Rochelle.

Among the speakers was Uri Ben Ari, the consul general of Israel. Mr. Ben Ari said that when he first came to New York from Israel he was warned not to use the slogan "never again" too often. "Never again" was the cry of the radical Jewish Defense League.


"After the events of the last few weeks," he said, "I say it loud and clear 'never again'."

"Never again will we bow to anybody else. Never again will we beg for human rights. And ever again will we fight for our freedom."

THE TWO COMMEMORATIVE WINDOWS AND THEIR DESCRIPTION



One year later, the Society rallied with others writing letters of protest against a planned Nazi march scheduled for April 20th, not coincidentally the birthday of Adolph Hitler, in Skokie, Illinois. The suburb of Chicago was populated with a majority of Jewish survivors. Letters were written to President Carter and the Israeli Consulate in Chicago.



New Cracow Friendship Society Inc.

67-05 Woodside Avenue, Woodside, N. Y. 11377

March 7, 1978

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LARRY ZELLNER

Honorary President
STEVE MORROW

Israeli Consul
111 East Wacker Dr.
Chicago, Ill. 60601

Honorable Consul Dan Kyran:

I am writing to you as secretary of the New Cracow Friendship Society. We are an organization of 375 families of survivors of the Nazi holocaust.

At our board meeting of 2/28/78, it was unanimously and enthusiastically voted and approved that we express our striking disapproval of the Nazi march and demonstration scheduled to take place on 4/20/78 in Skokie, Ill.

At this point, we are prepared to take any steps or measures to exhibit our opposition to the march. Or, on the other hand, if taking no action would serve to make the Nazi display less effective or "more of a failure," we would consider taking your advice on that point.

Your suggestions are solicited as to how we might act most efficaciously. Should you suggest it, we are prepared to charter a bus and present ourselves physically in Skokie.

Kindly advise us as to how we can best marshal our forces in an effort to abhor this blatant effrontery to humanity.

Sincerely yours,
Julius Ross
JULIUS ROSS
Secretary


New Cracow Friendship Society Inc.

67-05 Woodside Avenue, Woodside, N. Y. 11377

CRACOW

FRIENDSHIP

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY
MIESIECZNE PISMO TOWARZYSTWA PRZYJAZNI KRAKOWIAN



NEW YORK CITY

MAY - JUNE 1978

ISSUE 109

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STEVE MORROW

THE BAR MITZVAH ISSUE

CELEBRATING THE 13th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE FOUNDING OF THE

NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY


1965 - 1978

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

STATE OF ISRAEL

ON ITS 30th BIRTHDAY

עם ישראל חי!



Long Live the State of Israel and the Jewish People ...

The Society celebrated its Bar Mitzvah year with a special edition of the Newsletter.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Society encouraged the adoption of the Hedera branch of AKIM and so it was done in July. Funds for that endeavor were to come from member donations and the proceeds from the Society's annual bazaar. The following September members of the Board of Directors, representing all Society members, went to Hedera, Israel. They took part in the unveiling of a temporary plaque to be replaced later, on the building which formally dedicated the Residence for Handicapped Adults in The Memory of Cracow Jewry and The New Cracow Friendship Society.



Ending out the decade, in June 1979 the Society purchased an additional 240 cemetery plots at block 30 on Beth Moses Cemetery. In November, the Society received a plaque from Israeli Bonds. It was presented by the Executive Director of the Israel Bond Office in recognition of the outstanding support the Society rendered to the State of Israel through the purchase of bonds.

SUMMING UP THE DECADE

The decade of the 70s was a very satisfying and successful one for The New Cracow Friendship Society. When the new decade had arrived, the Society did not miss a step in continuing the great successes of the first 5 years of its existence. The 70s were also a turbulent time posing many problems for Israel and Jews everywhere. The New Cracow Friendship Society never lost its drive and commitment to help in any way it could to fight these injustices; through letter writing campaigns, vocal and monetary

support for Israel, and other causes closer to home. The decade was also one with many successes by the Society, which greatly increased its recognition, prestige, and respect among Jewish organizations of its kind, as well as establishing a footprint in the State of Israel.

The decade was one in which the world, on the whole, turned away from the support of Israel. Even the United States, while not actually supporting the Arab side, took a hands off policy in the Middle East. The United Nations took vote after vote in favor of the Arabs, often adopting resolutions condemning Israel. The fate of the Jews in the Soviet Union was of great concern to members of the Society. The ugly head of anti-Semitism was raised world-wide, surprisingly having its impetus, in of all places, the State of Illinois. Starting with the book declaring the Holocaust as a hoax, published by Northwestern University, and followed up a year later by a proposed Nazi march in the Illinois town of Skokie. Major financial institutions stopped lending money to Israel. No one can forget "The Yom Kippur War." Ironically, in the Arab world it was called the "Ramadan War."

While all of these events were happening, The New Cracow Friendship Society did not stand by quietly. For every event, the Society rallied its membership to make their loud voices heard through letter writing campaigns, generous donations, and Israel Bond purchases to help Israel recover from the economic aftermath of the war. At times, these actions taken by the Society were successful. The greatest successes were:

1. Imploring the United States to change its policy of "Hands Off Diplomacy", leading to strengthening of the United States support for Israel. The switch eventually led to the Camp David Accords
2. Helping lending institutions take a second look at their stance on lending money to Israel. This was attained by letting these institutions become more aware of the fact that other than the United States Treasury Notes, and ATT Stock, Israeli Bonds came next on the list of the Strongest Monetary Instruments.

3. Donating money to "Operation Exodus" which helped Israel absorb Jewish immigrants from both the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

4. Most importantly for the Society was helping Israel's economy through increased donations and the amount of Israel Bonds purchased per year. The amount purchased often reached more than 4 times the amount of bonds purchased before 1974. Of course The New Cracow Friendship Society was not solely responsible for these successes, but by taking the lead role, they influenced other Jewish organizations to follow.

Let us digress and revisit the huge difference in Israel Bond purchases starting in 1974. It was in that year that the previous policy of holding Bond rallies which netted purchases that averaged about \$35,000 a year was changed to honoring society members at Israel Bond testimonial dinners. Under the previous method, only members were urged to purchase bonds. By changing to a testimonial dinner, the purchase of bonds and attendance at the drive was no longer limited to members, but was opened up to the honorees, non-member families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. This greatly increased the number of people who purchased Israel Bonds. Ergo the increase in bonds purchased. Amounts in the Newsletters from the 70s were not always complete and in some cases the amount purchased per honoree was unavailable. However, it is known who the honorees were. The amount of bonds purchased proved how effective the change was.

The list of honorees, starting in 1974, and where available, the amount of bonds purchased:

1974	Esther and Ben Geizhals	
1975	Rega and Victor Lewis	
1976	Cecile and Edward Mosberg	\$175,000
1977	Fela and Roman Weingarten	\$110,000
1978	Belle and Al Bukiet	\$180,000
1979	Selma and David Forster	

Because the purchase of Israel Bonds increased so quickly and passed the \$1,000,000 mark, The New Cracow Friendship Society received recognition of outstanding support rendered to the State of Israel.

The Society's other successes over the decade are numerous and some are recapped below:

1. The donation of their second, third and fourth ambulance to Israel
2. The donation of eight air conditioners and two water coolers to the Tel Hashomer Hospital in Israel
3. Continuing the annual tradition of giving scholarships to students at the Municipal High School #5 in Tel Aviv which totaled 110 for the decade
4. The Society celebrated its 5th and 13th anniversaries
5. The Society contributed \$2,500 to buy a room in the Soldiers' Rest Home to be built in Beersheva
6. The Society participated in the Salute to Israel Parade celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the nation with its own float
7. There were three successful reunions with the Krakower Society of Montreal
8. The Ladies Auxiliary and Israeli Committee adopted Project AKIM and successfully completed and dedicated the project. This was accomplished even though many difficulties and delays were encountered due to economic difficulties as a result of the Yom Kippur War
9. The purchase of plots and the erection of a second monument at Beth Moses Cemetery, as well as the purchase of 240 plots for a third section
10. Two very successful 10 year celebrations were held. One in Israel and one in Queens, NY. A 10th Anniversary issue of the Newsletter was published.
11. Along with two sister organizations in Israel, the creation of a "World Federation of Jewish Survivors From Cracow" was jointly proclaimed

It's not a bad list, and these are just a sample of the achievements of The New Cracow Friendship

Society during this decade.

Before concluding the summing up of the 70s, there is one more topic that cannot be ignored. It is the continuing refrain throughout the decade that the second generation was not involved enough in the organization coupled with the fear that they had to learn more about the Holocaust and the history of Cracow. This was not a true assumption by some of the leadership of the Society. In reality they did not have to learn any more about the Holocaust, or the Cracow Ghetto since they had the best teachers any one could have had. They learned from their parents. The second generation heard about the grandparents they never had, as well as aunts, uncles, and at times brothers and sisters. It was never what they didn't know, or feel. They knew and felt just as deeply as their parents. It was just not their time yet to become as active as their parents were in the Society. When The New Cracow Friendship Society was founded many of the founders were in their late 30s and early to mid 40s. Their careers were mostly established and their oldest children were already in their teens and fairly independent.

In the 1970s the second generation was just starting careers and families and did not have the time needed in order to be active participants in the Society. All of the second generation, are nothing less than a reflection of their parents. Steven Morrow, had a vision of a Cracow Society in the Kabel Factory outside the Plaszow Concentration Camp, yet the Society was founded 20 years later. The article below is a letter that was published in the Newsletter that accurately reflected this problem.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION SPEAKS OUT!

As a member of the younger generation I take great exception to the article by Max Hilfstein in which he accuses us of being indifferent to our heritage.

It is true that I have other interests and activities which occupy my time, not to mention my family. What seems to be forgotten by the "older" generation is that we have married people who have no ties with Cracow at all. The society does not really have anything to offer these people. However just because we have not actually joined the society does not mean that we have turned our backs on our heritage. By heritage I do not mean a European city in Poland called Cracow. Our heritage lies in our Jewishness; in remembering our ancestors and how they died, not necessarily in attending functions of a social nature.

Having attended the Commemoration in March of this year I know that the young generation is profoundly interested in perpetuating the memory of your loved ones. Many of us carry their names, and do so very proudly. Not belonging to the society has not made us any less proud. In our own way we commemorate as we have been deprived of actual memories. You can be sure that we know from our parents and elsewhere what happened and that OUR own children will also know.

Bernice Weingarten-Slutzman

In conclusion, it, at times, seemed that so much happened in the 1970s that The New Cracow Friendship Society never had time to eat or sleep. But the Society met all these events, good or bad, with such purpose and dedication that they could only come out on top.





**Moving Towards The
20Th Anniversary
And Beyond**

1980 – 1990



The second decade of the Society's existence, although not as eventful as the years preceding, saw the Society's continuing efforts on the social action front. An advisory group was set up to assist the ever increasing number of members who were retiring and needed assistance in purchasing or renting apartments in Florida.

In January, the Society waged a somewhat successful campaign against CBS-TV's scheduled showing of *Playing For Time* which starred Vanessa Redgrave. The actress was an active and vocal supporter of the PLO. (She was cast despite the objections of Fania Fenelon, the survivor she portrayed.) The Society's actions, along with other Jewish organizations, caused CBS to postpone the airing. The organization's efforts to completely prevent the showing, however, were unsuccessful as the drama aired on September 30, 1980.

In the spring, a fund raising campaign was begun to raise \$50,000 for the UJA-Israel Fund. The second generation truly started becoming more active with the election of Simone Hilfstein Scheumann as the first second generation person to serve on the Board of Directors.

The Bond Drive in November raised \$120,000 in Israel Bonds in honor of Richard and Judy Abrahamer. This brought the total of bonds purchased since the Society began honoring members to over \$1,250,000.



Pictured are Judy and Richard Abrahamer and Steve Morrow

That same month, due to rising inflation in Israel and Poland, the Society increased the amount of the monthly stipends sent to its Welfare recipients. It was now at \$15,000 per year. At the same time the number of recipients increased to 68 families, most of which were in Poland.

The following year, in 1981, more than 100 members of The New Cracow Friendship Society participated at the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Jerusalem. They were privileged to participate in several events and hear words from the President of Israel Yitzhak Navon, Elie Weisel, and Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

While the group was in Israel, representatives of the Society and the Irgun Yotzey Krakow met at a closed meeting. The topic was the creation of a Cracow Foundation at the Hebrew University in

Jerusalem. The foundation was to be set up and devoted to research and the encouragement of publications on the history and civilization of the Jews of Eastern Europe.

On January 31, 1982 the Society began a tradition of honoring its members during UJA testimonial receptions in order to raise money in support of Israel.

In February, the Second Generation of The New Cracow Friendship Society was resurrected under the leadership of Simone Hilfstein Scheumann with a wine and cheese party as its first event. This branch of the Society revived due to 29 second generation people joining the organization as members in their own right.

At the annual Bond Drive in November, Henry

and Lola Tenenbaum were the honorees and \$180,000 in bonds was sold.



Pictured are Richard Abrahamer, Al Bukiet, Lola and Henry Tenenbaum, David Forster and Victor Lewis

With December around the corner, the Board of the Society decided to eliminate what had been the annual New Year's Eve Ball in favor of keeping the Hanukkah Ball as an annual event. The decision came about due to the larger attendance at the latter.

In 1983, in March, the exact day of the month, the 13th, the Society gathered to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto. On that occasion, Helen Tilles contributed a rather lengthy article to the Newsletter detailing the different types of resistance that took place 40 years earlier.

**Do not withhold
good from those
who deserve it
when you have the
power to do it.**

Proverbs 3:27

MARCH 13, 1943 - MARCH 13, 1983

Helen Tilles

40 years since the ghetto in Cracow ceased to exist, 40 years since life as we knew it was no more. 40 years - a long time to remember an event so finely etched in our memory, memory that will stay with us for the rest of our lives, memory - stuff of nightmares, unspeakable horrors, unshed tears, memory that never gets dim, memory that never lets us forget.

It became popular within the last few years to either question the very facts of the Holocaust or to wonder, with a dash of contempt thrown in for good measure, why the Jews did not resist, or resisted so little.

Painful as these statements are, they must be answered, we know we did resist, we know the facts, but we are so few left and in another generation there will be nobody to set the record straight.

40 years - a long time, did we resist? Yes.

The exact number of Jews who fought with partisans or underground units will probably never be determined, but we know that close to 20,000 served in partisan formations under Soviet command alone. Another 10,000 or so fought with the partisans in the Baltic states, Poland, Slovakia, and Yugoslavia. There were also Jewish partisans in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and the Low Countries. In France, Jews were among the founders of the Resistance and in the early days accounted for between 15% and 20% of its effective strength.

In Poland, despite patriotic calls to rally against Nazism, anti-Semitism remained alive and well and self proclaimed patriots would often betray Jewish resistance fighters to the Nazis. There were numerous cases of Jewish partisans being hunted down and murdered by Polish guerillas, who afterwards looted their victims for weapons and possessions. Everybody knows the story of the heroic Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Very few know about resistance in our city, Cracow.

Many of our young people were ardent Zionists, as was I, and we were part of a Zionist Youth Organization called Akiba, named after the sage of Mishna times, who combined piety with assertive nationalism. It was an active, vibrant organization with a goal of preparing its young members for a life in Palestine, for settling and working the land and building a Jewish homeland in what was then a British mandate territory in Palestine.

Immediately after the German invasion of Poland a core group of Akiba members organized and vowed armed resistance in any form, shape and way possible. Contacts with Jewish resistance groups elsewhere were established, weapons were bought wherever available and from whom ever was ready to sell. Akiba's first arsenal consisted of six pistols. Ten of Akiba's inner circle were chosen as the spearhead of more active resistance. Within the ghetto they lived in an apartment which became the base for all underground activities.

In August 1942, Akiba took the war into the streets of Cracow. One German

corporal was killed, then an SS officer, two gendarmes and a senior German official. There followed a series of sabotage operations. The Germans were getting distinctly nervous. Cracow was the focus of German authority in conquered Poland and as the attacks continued the Germans stepped up their countermeasures. All the time actions in the ghetto continued. In one action, 6,000 Jews were sent to the Belzec extermination camp.

Together with the active resistance of the Akiba group there was a different kind of resistance in the ghetto, no less important, no less heroic, resistance we the survivors can and should be proud of. It expressed itself in continued efforts to educate the children, to take care of the orphans, the sick and the old, in providing soup kitchens for the ever increasing numbers of the hungry, hospital for the ill and the old, burials for the dead.

The Judenrat ruled the ghetto and provided many needed services, but it also had to carry out the Germans' edicts and this is again where resistance comes in. Some Judenrats cooperated with the Germans in hope of saving their own and the lives of their families. Some did not. Let us remember with pride the name of Dr. Rosenzweig, president of the Judenrat in 1942. Dr. Rosenzweig, well known attorney in Cracow before the war, a man of integrity and courage was given an order in the summer of 1942 to provide the Germans with a list of people for so-called "resettlement to the East."

Dr. Rosenzweig refused and was told by the SS liaison with the Jewish community that if he continued to refuse he would be the first one to lead the group to the trains, together with his wife and children. And that is exactly what happened. There was no list provided and Dr. Rosenzweig marched in the first row of people going to Belzec. With him was his wife and two young children. A quiet hero, a short, slightly built man, but a giant in spirit, whose memory will live forever in the annals of resistance to the Germans during World War II. As we know, there were others, many others. Mothers, who went with their children when they knew that alone they could save their lives, daughters and sons who would not leave their elderly parents, but would go with them to certain death, this was resistance in the fullest meaning of the word. Starving people sharing their last piece of bread with a friend, the people who baked matzot in the concentration camp because without a calendar they somehow seemed to know that Passover was coming and they risked their very lives in order to preserve a tradition, those who went to their deaths on the gallows spitting in the faces of the German guards, they were the resisters, the heroes, the martyrs of our people.

Akiba resisted actively, fought with weapons, bombs, grenades, whatever was available. In one attack on the famous coffeehouse Cyganeria, popular with the Germans, 7 German officers were killed by Akiba members dressed in a German officer's uniform.

The reprisals were swift. Resistance fighters were rounded up with the help of informers and most of them were either

executed or died by their own hand. The leader of Akiba, Dolek Liebeskind was tracked down and cornered in a hideout outside the ghetto. With no way out he and a friend trapped in the hideout committed suicide and thus ultimately escaped their German pursuers.

With Dolek's death the Akiba group was to all purposes destroyed, many were captured and executed, but individuals still resisted and some fought to the very end. Szymek Draenger and some other prisoners escaped from their guards while being transferred to the Plaszow concentration camp. His wife Gusta also escaped and, reunited, they still carried on the struggle the best way they could. They published a weekly paper, the last periodical to be published by the Jewish resistance in Poland.

Early in November 1943 they were both captured and executed. A few of the Akiba group survived, among them Eva Liebeskind, Dolek's wife and a few others, very few indeed. Dolek's sister Minka also active in the resistance, was captured and killed in Radom.

The Jews did resist, the Jews did fight back, proportionately in greater numbers than the rest of the populace of conquered Europe. They resisted in spite of lack of arms, lack of military training and lack of a tradition of fighting as well as no help whatsoever from the surrounding population.

The question of rebellions within the camps has come to public attention not long ago and while it is generally conceded that there were no rebellions in Nazi camps by other groups, three Jewish uprisings took place in Treblinka, Auschwitz and Sobibor in October 1943. The revolt in Auschwitz of the Sonderkommando, the men made responsible for the burning of the gassed victims was documented by the dramatic appearance of a lone survivor at the Auschwitz trial which took place in Frankfurt.

Active, but unarmed resistance, intended to foil the Germans was considerable. It included rescue attempts, smuggling Jews across borders, providing of false documents, finding hiding places outside the ghettos, espionage and sabotage activities.

Passive resistance was widespread too. Large numbers of Jews with no means of resisting went to their deaths with dignity. Among them were Orthodox Jews with prayers on their lips, fully conscious of their approaching deaths as acts of Kiddush Hashem of Jewish martyrdom. Jews in talits and tfillim went to their deaths cursing their murderers. It is incumbent upon us, the survivors, to dispel the myths that Jews did not resist, that Jews went to the gas chambers like lambs to the slaughter. It is incumbent upon us to keep the memory of our Kedoshim alive, to declare with pride that we did not sink to the level of the murderers of our people, that yes, we remained human in a sea of inhumanity.

Not to let any Holocaust event go by without Society involvement, 220 members joined others in a gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Washington, D.C. in April.

On November 6th, the Bond Drive, honoring Mark and Wanda Reiman raised \$142,000 in purchased bonds.



Pictured are Roman Weingarten, Wanda and Mark Reiman, Sally Delson and David Forester

The Society continued in all its main activities throughout 1984. The month of May saw several members of the Second Generation of the Society participate in the First International Conference on Children of Holocaust Survivors. The conference took place in New York City over the course of three days.

Closing out the year, more than \$130,000 in Israel Bonds was purchased at the drive honoring Milton and Irene Hirschfeld.

The year 1985 was a milestone for The New Cracow Friendship Society as well as for the world. It was now 20 years since the founding of the organization, but there was no let up in the various activities in which the Society was involved.

In January, a contribution of \$6,000 was made to operation Wings of Eagles the effort to airlift Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Continuing its tradition of supporting Magen David Adom, a sixth ambulance was donated in March. It was dedicated in Memory of Cracow Jewry. The ambulance was sent to a moshav in the Negev, Beit Yatir. It brought life saving access to health care for a village in need of support in the way of hospital care.

May 23, 1985 בית יתיר

Mr. Roman Weingarten
President
New Cracow Friendship Society
647 Dogwood Avenue
West Hempstead, New York 11552

מושב שיתופי בע"מ
ביקר 44989 דרום הר חבוני
טלפון 901977-02

Dear Mr. Weingarten,

I write to express sincere thanks and gratitude for the fruitful efforts of the New Cracow Friendship Society, which has provided the village of Beit Yatir with its first new ambulance. As you saw, this ambulance will serve not only Yatir but the neighboring population - Jews and Arabs alike.

It is your unwavering commitment which made all this possible. I am sure that you will be happy to learn that the day after Yatir received its first ambulance - it was immediately put to use - increasing Yatir's population with the birth of a baby boy and girl.

We were delighted with your visit to our moshav, but regret that due to the short notice alerting us of your visit we could not be as hospitable as we would have liked.

Once again, please extend our heartiest thanks to the members and we sincerely hope that you will be regular visitors at Yatir.

Ronit Hager
Ronit Hager
on behalf of the Community
Beit Yatir

In April, a petition signed by members of the Society, as well as a letter by then President Roman Weingarten, was sent to President Ronald Reagan. The purpose was to urge President Reagan to cancel his planned May 5th visit to the Bitburg Cemetery in Germany to commemorate the Waffen SS buried there. Almost the entire Jewish community of the United States also expressed dismay in the President's plans. As a result, a visit to Bergen-Belsen was added. It is considered to be one of the major blunders of the Reagan Presidency.

On May 1st 126 members of the Society participated in the Assembly to Commemorate 40 Years Since the Defeat of Nazi Germany and Its Satellites. The event was held in Israel and the members of the organization also celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Society's Founding.

Following the summer, on October 20, 1985, the Society celebrated, for a second time, the organization's anniversary. At the reception, 72 past and present Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairpersons were honored. Those present received a minted medallion commemorating the event.





Pictured: Standing: Zygmund Morrow, David Twersky, Elias Friedman, Max Hilfstein Ben Geizhals, Sam Wertheim and Emil Siegman Seated: Larry Zellner, Steven Morrow, Betty Gunz [widow of Roman], Richard Abrahamer and Victor Lewis

The November Bond Drive raised \$150,000 in honoring Michael and Rose Kluger.



Pictured: Henry Tenenbaum, Rose and Michael Kluger and Roman Weingarten

The year 1986 again saw the organization turn its attention overseas. A \$6,000 grant was sent to AKIM. It was earmarked for the AKIM Center in Hedera, Israel. The Center was built with the help of funds raised by the Ladies Auxiliary with the annual bazaars.

A Yiddish typewriter was presented to Dr. Michalski in Poland on the initiative of Max Hilfstein. Dr. Michalski was endeavoring to create a Polish-Yiddish and Yiddish-Polish dictionary.

The publication would enable young Jewish-Polish scholars to learn Yiddish and therefore study Jewish contributions to Polish culture and education which were published in Yiddish.

In June, The New Cracow Friendship Society contributed \$2,500 towards the publication, in English, of *The Pharmacy in the Cracow Ghetto* by Tadeusz Pankiewicz. [*Apteka w Cecie Krakowskim*]

With November came the Bond Drive. The honorees were Manek and Ilona Werdiger and the sum of \$203,000 in bonds was purchased.



Pictured: Sam Mindel, Ilona and Manek Werdiger and Roman Weingarten

As the decade wound down, the Society continued to be revved up. During the week of February 15 – 21, 1987 The New Cracow Friendship Society hosted the International Reunion of Holocaust Survivors from Cracow. This momentous event was held in Florida with close to 600 attendees, all of Cracovian descent. The attendees came not just from different parts of the United States, but from Israel, Australia, England, Germany, parts of South America, Costa Rica and Canada.

At this reunion, an International Committee unanimously adopted Beit Halochem in Jerusalem. The committee, led by The New Cracow Friendship Society, pledged \$500,000 to be raised over 5 years to build a rehabilitation center in Jerusalem for disabled Israeli war veterans. The building would serve as a living memory of Cracow Jewry. The Society started off the fund raising with a pledge of \$75,000 to be taken from the organization's own treasury. Before the reunion had ended, the pledges from the Society along with promises from the other attendees totaled \$285,000. This gesture by all those assembled for this International Reunion was a showing of "True solidarity among survivors from Cracow" as stated by Steven Morrow.

The Bond Drive of November 1987 raised \$296,000 in purchased bonds thus honoring Samuel and Edith Wertheim.



Pictured: Joe Bukiet, Edith and Sam Wertheim, Roman Weingarten and Ambassador Johanan Bein of Israel

The year 1988 flew by as the Society continued its many philanthropic and social activities. In

September of that year, the organization contributed funds to restore two walls of the entrance to the Remu Shul in Cracow. A commemorative plaque was placed there which read "Dedicated in Memory of and in Tribute to the 60,000 Jews who lived in Cracow, whose lives were violently destroyed by the Nazis during the years 1939 – 1945". With the end of the war, approximately 10,000 survivors returned to Cracow from the camps and the Soviet Union.

The Bond Drive held that year in October honored Joe Bukiet. It was a most auspicious occasion, as the beginning of consistent years of "million plus" purchases of bonds. The total amount that year was \$1,550,000.



Pictured: Roman Weingarten, Al Bukiet, Joe Bukiet, and Sam Mindel

The Society closed out the 80s with trips to Poland and Israel. Early in 1989, members of the organization were informed of the opportunity to add a plaque to the newly installed "Commemorative Corner" at the Hedera branch of AKIM.



pilgrimage. As a survivor he has worked tirelessly to keep a Jewish presence in Poland. I admire and respect Mr. Nissebaum for his single-minded approach in restoration efforts at many of these sites.

Would I return to visit Poland again one day? I respond to this question by stating a resounding YES! I would like to spend more time looking into the nature of my homeland that never was. I would like to show my children and wife the land of my ancestors. Was I glad that I went, and did I think it was worthwhile? I was proud to stand where so many had stood before. In ways that defy explanation, I am different upon my return home.

In May, 168 members attended the Convention of Jewish Survivors from Cracow held in Tel Aviv. During the trip, Society members attended the dedication of the new auditorium at Beit Halochem for which the Society had raised a majority of the funds for the project. The inscription on the entrance to the auditorium reads: *THIS AUDITORIUM IS DEDICATED TO THE EVERLASTING MEMORY OF THE JEWS FROM CRACOW AND VICINITY, IN TRIBUTE TO THEIR LEGACY.* Beit Halochem is an institution that provides rest and rehabilitation services to veterans who fought in Israel's wars.

While in Israel the Executive Officers met with two of our sister organizations and reaffirmed their commitment to the existence of the *World Federation of Jewish Survivors From Cracow.* The New Cracow Friendship Society Newsletter became the outlet for disseminating news from any member organization in order to facilitate a link between all members of the Federation.

Twenty-four years into its existence, the Society had 18 active committees. A third monument was unveiled at Beth Moses Cemetery at the annual Yizkor Service.



The annual Bond Drive honored Idek and Celina Rosenblum. Almost \$2,000,000 in bonds was sold.

Looking ahead to the 90s, in November 1989 the Board of Directors decided to publish a Silver Anniversary Journal.

SUMMING UP THE DECADE

The decade of the 80s was one full of many achievements. This was the decade that truly put The New Cracow Friendship Society in the major leagues as far as their giving of tzedakah, fund raising, influence and respect. The Society took "Giant Steps" in growing into the leading regional Jewish organization of this kind anywhere in the world. Below is a "Top Ten" list of the multitude of achievements that elevated The New Cracow Friendship Society to the Mount Everest of organizations.

1. The New Cracow Friendship Society contributed \$6,000 to help in the effort to airlift Ethiopian Jews to Israel.
2. The Cracow Jewry Foundation was created, located in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
3. The Society started a fund raising campaign to raise \$50,000 for the UJA-Israel Fund
4. It participated and played a significant role in the World Gathering of Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust in Israel.
5. 220 members of the Society participated in a gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in



Washington, D.C.

6. An ambulance, the 6th so far, "In Memory of Cracow Jewry" was donated to a Moshav in Israel.
7. The Society celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Founding of the organization.
8. The Society took the lead role among all Cracovian societies by hosting the first International Reunion of Holocaust Survivors from Cracow.
9. 168 members attended the Convention of Jewish Survivors from Cracow that was held in Tel Aviv. This trip also included the dedication of the new auditorium at Beit Halochem.
10. Last but not least, is the purchasing of almost \$5,000,000 in Israel Bonds in this decade alone. In the previous 15 years of the Society's existence, Israel Bonds purchased by the organization totaled a little over \$11,250,000

Why was the 1980s such a break out decade for the Society?

Over the years the Society never wavered from its beliefs, the strong support of Israel and any issues that affected Jews from all corners of the world. The world view towards Jews, no matter where they were from is shown in many ways: the money donated to airlift Ethiopian Jews, the monetary support of Cracow's Jews, the hosting of the World Gathering

of Jewish Survivors from Cracow, the plight of Soviet Jewry and the ability to unite all Jews from Cracow in common causes. All of these issues continued to be primary concerns of the Society and its members.

Over the years, the members of the Society became more successful in their careers and were able to contribute more money to the many projects in which the Society was involved. Even though the organization made pledges in amounts in the hundreds of thousands, the Society always met or surpassed the amounts pledged. As the number of members nearing retirement, or retired increased every year, especially nearing the end of the decade, members of the organization were able to participate in large numbers at the three events held in Israel, the reunion in Florida and the gathering in Washington, D.C. When Society members show up at such functions in large numbers, other survivor organizations notice.

We also cannot forget the impact The New Cracow Friendship Society Newsletter had as a conduit to all the other Cracovian and Jewish societies. Printing articles and letters from concerned Jews in every part of the world galvanized all these societies into a stronger voice against events that affected them. Taking social and political issues head on, the Society Newsletter found its way to many academic institutions, libraries and members of other Jewish survivor organizations.

In closing, when you have reached the level of success that The New Cracow Friendship Society achieved in its nearly 25 years of existence, it brings with it a certain confidence that no task is impossible.





**A Happy 25th Anniversary
And Getting
Stronger Every Year**

1990-2000



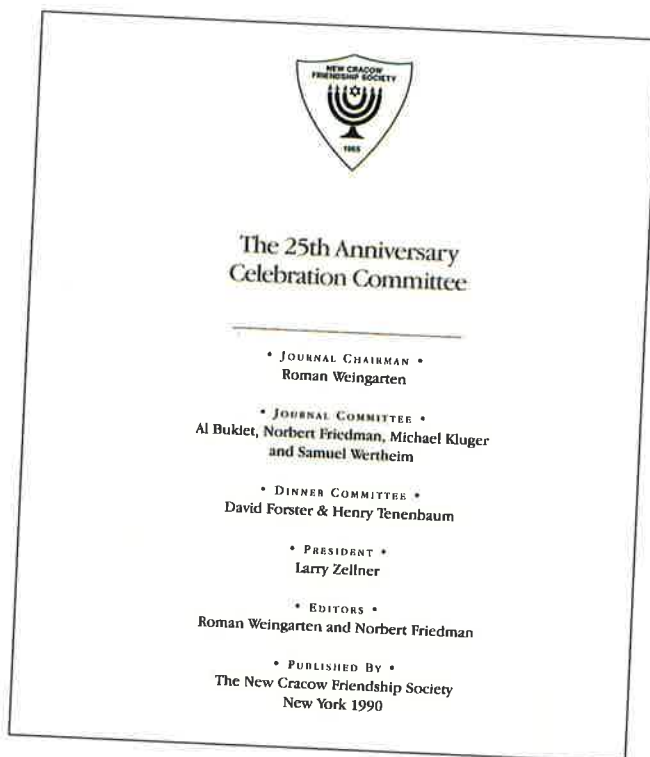
The year 1990 started with a bang when the Welfare expenditure was raised to \$20,000 a year. It was wonderful that the Society was able to afford the expenditures but also sad that there were so many of our brethren in need. It was also the year when the membership in the Society reached a new high of almost 400 member families due to the increase in second generation members.

When the Holocaust memorial created by Kenneth Treister was dedicated in Miami Florida, the Society was represented and its members helped in the ceremony on February 4, 1990.

As the decade progressed, contributions to the Newsletter by second and third generation members increased. The annual commemorations in March were now in the capable hands of the second generation taking care of the event in the background. The more visible aspect of their participation was in their addressing those assembled.

With more émigrés from the Soviet Union going to Israel, the Society contributed \$10,000 to "Operation Exodus/Israel" to help defray the cost of the Israeli efforts to absorb the new immigrants. [An additional \$10,000 was sent in November.]

On October 28, 1990 the organization held a 25th Anniversary celebration at the Great Neck Synagogue. The second journal published by the Society was distributed. In addition, over one hundred copies were sent to various prestigious universities and colleges, religious organizations, libraries and museums in the United States, Israel and Poland. They were added to their permanent collections on the Holocaust and Survivors.



The message from the Journal Chairmen, Roman Weingarten and Norbert Friedman read as follows:

We approached the serious task of assembling this journal with a great deal of soul searching and considerable hesitation. However, as we progressed with the processing of the excellent material received from many contributors, our anxieties gave way to feelings of gratitude and even jubilation.

It is therefore with great sincerity that we wish to express thanks to all literary contributors for their cooperation. It was through their efforts that we were able to put together the mosaic of reminiscences which grace the pages throughout the journal.

Just as a geographic map helps the traveler to find his way, we hope that the journal will help the reader who is familiar with the history related here with his recollections. For the others, it will be like a journey into the unknown. Whatever the case, we are grateful for having had the opportunity to make the attempt.

We also wish to acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of numerous congratulatory messages from luminaries of the government of Israel, the government of the United States and from many prestigious intuitions and organizations. Their praise for the Society and their good wishes are accepted with gratitude and humility.

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of The New Cracow Friendship Society, we are proud to present to you this anniversary journal, hoping that it will find its proper place in your homes as well as in your hearts.

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Larry Zellner, President

As I stand here before you on this rostrum, celebrating a historic milestone, the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of The New Cracow Friendship Society, I feel extremely fortunate to be the President of this eminent organization at this juncture. Needless to say, that I consider it a great "zchus", a privilege, to have served the Society in various capacities since its inception. I can sincerely and unequivocally say that it is and was a labor of love throughout all those years.

During the past 25 years, our organization has produced a terrific record of achievements in so many areas of charitable endeavor, that it is now considered one of the most prominent and accomplished societies working on behalf of its fellow Jews.

In 1965 when this society was conceived the State of Israel was 17 years young and Europe was covered by the Iron Curtain. Twenty-five years later with the fall of the Iron Curtain, we bear witness to the most revolutionary and unexpected events taking place in Eastern Europe. While in the Middle East, the world finds itself once more on the brink of disaster.

The unprecedented influx of Soviet Jews to Israel carries historical dimensions, causing a tremendous burden on Israeli resources. Our society promptly and correctly responded to "Operation Exodus" with a substantial contribution to UJA marked for the purpose. I personally feel that despite the explosive pace of change in almost every sphere of human endeavor – one principle remains firm, namely that as Jews we are responsible for one another. "Kol Yisrael Aravim Zeh Lozeh."

We of The New Cracow Friendship Society are resolutely dedicated to the best of our abilities to the welfare of Jews everywhere, but especially to those in the State of Israel; for their well-being bears directly on the well-being of Jews everywhere.

As I said at the beginning, I feel fortunate and proud to be serving as President of this Society at this significant point in time. But I would not be able to make this statement to you were it not for a small group of most devoted and committed members who form the committee responsible for today's event. Under the dynamic and inspiring leadership of its chairman, Roman Weingarten, they labored selflessly and with total dedication. For a full year they gave of themselves, their time and their talents. They have successfully brought to fruition this event, and I wish to express my sincere thanks to all involved in this Herculean assignment, a monumental task which they crowned with the edition of our Silver Anniversary Journal.

As you later hold that journal in your hand, please consider its symbolic emblem adorning the cover, a pictorial message especially designed to convey our most fervent hopes and desires; that of leaving a legacy, of handing over the torch of commitment to Jewish values, of continuing the chain of attachment to our roots. All our work and efforts, noble as they may have been, will pale with the passage of time and dilute into faint recognition unless this symbolic handing over of our trust and commitment to the next generation becomes a functioning reality. All our efforts will become terminal, our quest to perpetuate the splendor, glory and legacy of a world that once was, will fail, and with the purpose of significance of our existence.

Only though the involvement of our children and their pledge to continue our work, will our memory survive. I urge the second generation present here to use tonight's event as a springboard to form friendships and relationships at your tables, and to resolve, as we did 25 years ago, to build and extend this organization into the future, and then, and only then we will be able to call the fruits of our endeavors a meaningful success.

May God grant us good health so that we may celebrate together many more anniversaries yet to come.

OPENING REMARKS AT THE 25TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Joe Bukiet, Dinner Chairman

Today we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our organization where we are giving kavod [honor] to the Founders of The New Cracow Friendship Society for

their foresight in creating this organization and we pay tribute to our past and present presidents who have guided this group from its infancy all the way to the present time.

How many of us ever dreamed that we would be here today? We are a different breed, we are survivors. We all are relatives, though not by blood, but by a stronger bond. We share a bond which is forged out of the memory of the history of our people. Though we might have our differences, we still are very close to each other in emotions. If one of us suffers a loss, we all suffer. However, if anyone of us has a simcha, it gladdens all of our hearts.

Our children have uncles and aunts with whom they have a mutual love and admiration though they are not blood relatives. The naches that we have from our children and grandchildren is a delight and pleasure to all of us.

The younger generation, some of whom are here, and all of whom we hope will be involved in the future, are the apples of our eyes. The young men and women have a great legacy to carry forward. I, for one, have little doubt that they will do a great job so that our Society will be able to continue and flourish for many, many more years.

RESPONSE OF BEHALF OF THE FOUNDERS

Victor Lewis

Today is also the anniversary of my second chance at life. Forty-eight years ago, my brother and I escaped from a train loaded with several thousand of our people, leaving my family behind.

The train's destination was a God forsaken place named Belzec. I mention this because today is an occasion for remembering, and we all have a lot to remember. October 28, 1942 we should never forget!

The founders of our Society have asked me to say a few words during the 25th Anniversary celebration. I am glad to see such a beautiful crowd. This gives me and the other founders a great feeling, and confirms in my mind, that our Society has been a success.

Twenty-five years have passed since a group of 13 people, all from Cracow and all Holocaust survivors, began to

organize what eventually became The New Cracow Friendship Society. The Society was conceived with duty and obligation to remember the tragic past, the horror of the war, and the suffering of our people.

These 13 founders discussed the needs and benefits of our Society, what the Society would do, and whom it would serve. Letters were mailed to inform interested parties that a first general membership meeting would beheld on Sunday afternoon, March 14, 1965, at the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills. Steve Morrow was appointed the first President.

We expected 200 people to show up. But when over 700 people attended the meeting, the overwhelming response provided a vote of confidence that the Society was needed.

Credit has to be given to the founders who without any past experience, organized the Society and provided it with by-laws. With only minor revisions, these by-laws still govern the Society today. We are proud of our Preamble which calls for devotion to Israel and help for the needy. What better guidance can we give to our future generations?

Today our Society is the best known and most acknowledged among similar societies in the United States and Israel. I would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of those who contributed and shared in the Society's growth and accomplishments.

The founders of The New Cracow Friendship Society are grateful and appreciative of your continued participation.

In the name of the founders, I thank all of you.





Scene at festivities

Joe Bukiet Dinner Chairman



Steven Morrow

Scene at Sanctuary during ceremony



THE FOUNDERS



Pres. Larry Zellner



Roman Weingarten, Journal
Chairman



THE JOURNAL COMMITTEE



Sam Mindel washing hands
before benediction over challa



Victor Lewis



Ben Geizhals



Richard Abrahamer, receiving
Founder's pin

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Program of Jewish Studies
תוכנית ללימודי היהדות
David I. Owen, acting director

360 Rockefeller Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-2502

December 20, 1990

Mr. Roman Weingarten
New Cracow Friendship Society
647 Dogwood Avenue
West Hempstead, NY 11552

Dear Mr. Weingarten:

Thank you very much for sending us a copy of your Silver Anniversary Volume. It is a beautifully produced and moving tribute to your society and to the memory of the Cracow community. It will find a fitting place in our growing library of publications on the Holocaust. Our Program of Jewish Studies is making major efforts to introduce a broader range of courses on the Holocaust and we now offer six courses (see below) which reach some hundreds of students each year. Cornell University has embarked upon a five year, endowment campaign for Jewish Studies the result of which will make such courses a permanent feature in our curriculum. Publications such as yours will help to enrich our resources for these courses.

Sincerely,

David I. Owen
David I. Owen



January 15, 1991

Mr. Roman Weingarten
New Cracow Friendship Society Inc.
647 Dogwood Avenue
West Hempstead, New York 11552

Dear Mr. Weingarten:

On behalf of the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College of the City University of New York, we wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the New Cracow Friendship Society on the occasion of your 25th anniversary.

Our Center and the Jewish Studies Program is dedicated to the study of all aspects of Jewish civilization and that of course includes the heritage of East European Jewish communities in modern times.

It is indeed gratifying that your society published the highly commendable journal providing testimony of past horrors and dedicated to survival, liberation and rebuilding. The Holocaust survivors from Cracow, Poland through this journal leave a legacy to be cherished by future generations as a symbol of courage, perseverance and triumph over evil.

We wish to thank the leadership and the individual members of the Cracow Friendship Society for their contribution of a glorious chapter in the history of the survival of the Jewish people. We wish you many more years of health and continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Isaac Akeras
Professor Isaac Akeras
Director
Jewish Studies

The City University of New York - 65-30 Kissena Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11367-0004 - Telephone: (718) 520-7406, 7320

LA/es

At the annual Bond Drive in November, Max and Tola Dizenhaus were honored together with Alex and Helen Finder. It was very successful indeed as \$400,000 in Israel Bonds was purchased.



Pictured are Sam Mindel, Alex and Helen Finder, Max and Tola Dizenhaus and Larry Zellner

Time moved on and the Society continued with its good works and annual observances in 1991. On May 15, 1991 The New Cracow Friendship Society members joined 5,000 visitors to Israel from around the world to witness the ground breaking ceremony for the new Beit Halochem auditorium in Jerusalem. At the ceremony a scroll was placed under the cornerstone. Most of the funds for this endeavor came from donations by Society members. [The photograph of the finished auditorium appears at the beginning of this book.]

Between September 26 and October 16 members of the Society completed a successful trip to Spain and Israel. One of the many highlights of the trip was a visit to the Absorption Center to meet and greet new immigrants from Ethiopia and the Soviet Union to which the Society contributed \$20,000 to Project Exodus.

Closing out the year, in November 1991 the Society began a fund raising campaign for the construction of a new Beit Midrash in Kiryat Ono, Israel to replace the old one. This new edifice would

preserve the memory of Jews from Cracow-Podgorze. It became known as Torah Centre Ono in Bnei Brak.



**A GRAND BETH MIDRASH TO PRESERVE THE MEMORY OF THE JEWS FROM CRACOW-PODGORZE
FINALLY A REALITY**

In the past years we have written about and asked for your support for Torah Centre Ono in Kiryat Ono, Israel, a yeashiva and synagogue established by Rav Frankel, the grandson of the Frankel Dynasty in Podgorze, to carry on the memory and traditions of cracow jewry.

This makeshift yeshiva-synagogue in Kiryat Ono is now being replaced by a grand structure to house a synagogue-yeshiva befitting the dignity of our ancestors in the city of Cracow.

The foundation has been laid and the building has begun in B'nei B'rak where the memorial to the glorious history of the Jews from Cracow-Podgorze will have its permanent home.

This presents an excellent opportunity for anyone to establish a dignified memorial to members of their families perished in the holocaust, by dedicating a room, a bench or a plaque in their memory. interested parties should get in touch with Roman Weingarten at 516 481-7988.

The year 1992 flew by with the Society continuing all of its worthy programs and fundraising efforts for its projects here and in Israel. In 1993, members of the Society again made a trip to Israel as a group. They visited the just completed Valley of Destroyed Jewish Communities at Yad Vashem.

An article in the January-February 1994 Newsletter gave a footnote to the trip.

A FOOTNOTE TO OUR GROUP TRIP TO ISRAEL

In its report from Yad Vashem, "Martyrdom and Resistance", a publication by the International Society for Yad Vashem, November - December 1993 edition, carried a picture of Michael Kluger addressing the pilgrimage, when our group visited the Valley of the Destroyed Jewish Communities in Jerusalem.

The paper called the ceremony in the Cracow courtyard of the Valley, attended by our group, a "special feature" of the pilgrimage.

*Eli Zborowski, chairman of the Societies for Yad Vashem, paid tribute to the Cracow Society delegation, saying that the Cracow Society has always been notable for their cooperation in the programs, and advancing the goals of Yad Vashem and that the participation of a large group of Cracow friends, who were **Oleh Regel**, [alluding to the pilgrimage at the time of the Temple], testifies to the vibrancy of The New Cracow Friendship Society.*

One of the highlights of 1993 was when some of the members of the Society were invited, all expenses paid, by Steven Spielberg to join him in Israel. These members were survivors whose names were on the list created by Oskar Schindler. The members were included in the epilogue scene filmed in Jerusalem at the site of Oskar Schindler's grave. The release of the movie, *Schindler's List*, in December brought a new awareness of the Shoah to the world and more locally a new awareness of the Society. Many members of the Society were Schindler Juden.

On April 22, 1993, members were invited to "A Night of Gratitude" which was for the official dedication of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Continuing with the Society's commitment to Israel Bonds \$380,000 in bonds was purchased in honor of Max and Erna Hilfstein on November 4th.



Pictured: Top: son Leon, granddaughters Alexandra & Anna, daughter Simone Bottom: Max and Erna Hilfstein and David Forster

In 1994, the Society, continuing with its philanthropic endeavors, took a step to make it better well known in the metropolitan area. In May, a letter was written by Roman Weingarten to the Editor of *The Jewish Week*. The letter was to inform him that The New Cracow Friendship Society's efforts of charity toward the needy, whether in Israel, Cracow or within the United States was as great a commitment as any "National Jewish Organization." Even though we were a "local organization", for one of our size, we were at least as generous, if not more so, than the organizations listed in the article.

Woe to him who is alone and falls with no companion to raise him.

Ecclesiastes 4:10



New Cracow Friendship Society Inc.

647 Dogwood Avenue, West Hempstead, NY 11552

May 17, 1994

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The Editor of the
Jewish Week
1501 Broadway, NY 11036

Dear Editor,

In his article, "Rebuilding Jewish Life", (May 13-19), Jonathan Mark states that Polish Jewry is basically subsidized by two New York based organizations, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and The Ronald Lauder Foundation.

For the information of your readers I would like to add another organization (though not on a national scale), which for the last 29 years has been involved in the uninterrupted distribution of monthly subsidies to some 68 Jewish families (as of last count) living in the city of Cracow.

The organization is The New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc., founded in 1965, comprised of 370 family members hailing from Cracow and vicinity.

The first deed upon incorporation was to establish a Welfare Fund for the purpose of helping our brethren in need.

Our original contacts with the Jewish community of Cracow was through the then president of the Jewish community, Mr. Maciej Jakubowicz and is now being continued through Mr. Czeslaw Jakubowicz, his successor.

We are proud that 68 families out of a total Jewish population of approximately 200 are the beneficiaries of our assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Roman Weingarten
Past President, and
Editor of the official
Newsletter, Cracow Friendship

Ending out the year, over \$500,000 in Israel Bonds were purchased at the Bond Drive in honor of Melvin Reich and Henry Weiner.

The year 1995 marked a most important

anniversary for the members of the Society. It had been 50 years since their liberation from the living death they had endured for so long. In keeping with that important milestone, another trip to Israel as a

group was announced at the end of 1994. The Society was invited by the International Society for Yad Vashem to participate in the gathering of Holocaust survivors from the world over. The gathering took place from May 2 – 17th.

On October 16, 1995 The New Cracow Friendship Society formally became a member of *The Conference of the Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations*. Later that month on the 22nd, over 100 Society members gathered at Terrace on the Park to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the founding of The New Cracow Friendship Society. The published collection of *Two Millennia of Great Jewish Personalities* as described earlier was distributed to each family in attendance. Also at the celebration, Simone Hilfstein Scheumann, a second generation member, was honored for her dedication and service to the Society.

SIMONE HILFSTEIN-SCHEUMANN'S ACCEPTANCE AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This is a special day. A milestone in this organization's history, another opportunity for friends to get together and of course, one entire minute for me to tell you all how humbled I am to share this time on earth with you.

There are six "forces" that I can claim to have inspired me to do organization work. My main role model has most definitely been my father. He has a strong social conscious and is a fighter for all things that he believes in. My mother who has shown me that hard work can indeed get you a piece of immortality and that speaking your mind is important even if you don't win a popularity contest. My grandmother who taught me to give unselfishly to family and friends and that this in itself is a reward. My children Anna and Alexandra, who give life worth. My companion husband, Lee, who keeps me grounded so I don't get lost and insists I have time for myself and the family. Lastly, to all of you who have demonstrated such a strong love of life, a desire to raise children with a proud Jewish heritage and a commitment to the Jewish people. Survivors who carry a profound sorrow for what was lost and the responsibility to remember.

Thank you for this recognition. My fifteen years of work on the Board of Directors has been a pleasure, a challenge and a great learning experience. I know my presence has enable the board members to see a point of view not so unlike their own children. I hope to continue serving you as the organization continues to continue!

Almost 31 years into the Society's existence a Florida Branch was created in January 1966. It was established to meet the needs of the ever increasing number of members who had permanently moved there and for the snow birds. Norbert Friedman was made the Executive Director of the Florida Branch and served as the Society's liaison there. Shortly after, the Society began to hold two commemorations to observe the liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto. The one in Florida was scheduled on or near the actual date of March 13th while the one in New York would take place sometime in April.

On April 16, 1966, members of the Society participated in the *March of the Living* at the former concentration camp Auschwitz. [This was to be repeated by other members the following year.]



Auschwitz-Birkenau
The March of the Living 1996

אל תמנע טוב
מבעליו בהיות
לא-ל ידיך לעשות.

משלי ג:כ"ז

THE MARCH OF THE LIVING

Emanuel and Eta Mandelberger

The March of the Living, which was held on April 16, at the former concentration camp of Auschwitz is a living testament to the millions who died there. It is also an indictment to those who attempt to revise history and claim that the Holocaust never existed.

The March brought together over 6,000 young people and adults from all over the world. The goal was to learn the history of the Jews in Europe and to challenge the views of revisionists to that history. Under the banner of Israeli flags, a sea of teenagers and accompanying adults walked slowly in a somber and dignified manner from the main camp at Auschwitz to the death camp in Birkenau.

But our trip to Poland actually began several months before, with intense historical lectures and orientation sessions. We were two of ten Holocaust survivors assigned to a group of 450 teenagers from South Florida. Our role was to make the history that was being taught as real and personal as possible. We tried to communicate to the young people that we were also young once. We were witnesses to that life and its destruction.

The teenagers we met were a unique group of caring, sensitive young people who were eager to ask us questions. They were especially sensitive to making us feel comfortable on this rigorous trip, where days began as early as 5:30 AM and often did not end until after midnight. And even though we were extremely tired and challenged by this schedule, we found the energy and strength to continue because we could see that we were contributing something valuable and memorable to these young people.

The journey began at the Miami International Airport after midnight, where hundreds of participants and anxious parents assembled to say goodbye. We took a chartered plane directly to Warsaw. This 8 hour flight was immediately followed by a 6 hour bus ride from Warsaw to Cracow.

Cracow is an appropriate place to start our journey into Poland. I (Emil Mandelberger), had personal memories of a city where I was born and spent the first 15 years of my life. And my wife (Tusia Mandelberger), shares the sentiments of writer Elie Wiesel who has written: "The world of Cracow Jewry was not my world...yet I too

**Do not withhold
good from those
who deserve it
when you have the
power to do it.**

Proverbs 3:27

am heir to its spirit."

The first morning in Cracow, buses were waiting to take us on a tour of the Jewish section. We visited the Remu Synagogue and Cemetery, and the Alte Synagogue, which now houses a museum of Jewish history. As we walked the narrow streets of the old Jewish section, the names of the streets like *Ciemna*, *Jacuba*, *Jozefa*, *Izaca* and *Miodowa* brought back memories from my youth.

In the evening, the group assembled in the Temple on Miodowa Street where over 400 young people attended singing Hebrew songs and dancing Jewish folk dances. The singing of *Am Yisrael Chai* and *Hatikvah* in this magnificent but empty temple, an event that would not have even been conceived of 50 years ago, gave us a great sense of satisfaction. It was a clear statement that the Jewish spirit of our youth had indeed survived.

Other highlights included visits to the Jewish ghetto, the Plaszow concentration camp and the original factory of Oskar Schindler. An unscheduled part of the tour was especially significant. 14 Gertrude Street does not house a synagogue or a monument of a building of historical significance. But it contains the memories of a childhood rich in community and family spirit.... It was my (Emil) last home before going to the ghetto. The young people with us were as excited as we were to have a glimpse of this personal memory.

Our next stop was the capital city of Warsaw. We visited the remnants of the Warsaw ghetto and the Jewish cemetery, where the teenagers rubbed the tombstones with tracing paper to bring out the names of those buried there. We also visited the Nozick Temple, the only synagogue that survived the war. There we met a young American rabbi who had a pre-school of about 20 young Jewish children from mixed marriages who surprised us all with songs in Hebrew.

The trip continued to Lublin, Majdanek and Treblinka, where the existing memorials and remnants of the concentration camps made an enormous impression on the young people.

After seven days in Poland, we were glad to leave. We were excited about celebrating the birth of the State of Israel at Yom Haatzmaut celebrations in Israel. We celebrated the day in the town of Latrun, where all 6,000 participants of the March of the Living came together in a celebration of food, song and dance.

Aside from the touring that we did in Israel during the tense border war with Lebanon, a very significant moment came when the young people had a chance to meet other Cracovians who had survived the war at an encounter at the former British detention camp in Atlit.

We returned to the United States completely exhausted and emotionally drained. It took us many days to recover. However, we both strongly feel that this was a worthwhile effort. By attending the March and being present to answer the questions of the young people, we made all these events real and personal for them. We feel we contributed to the continuation of the Jewish legacy with a confidence that our experiences will not end with us. They have now been transferred to a new generation of young people who will be able to pass it on long after we are gone. This is our reward.

On April 23rd the Board of Directors voted to establish a Mordechai Gebirtig Fund. The purpose of the fund was to assist in the publication of a book of his works. He was known as the poet and composer of Cracow.

November 3rd saw a most successful bond testimonial reception garnering \$600,000 in bonds being purchased in honor of Eric and Gertrude Schneider. That figure would be repeated the following year, 1997, when the honorees were Irving and Sylvia Badner.

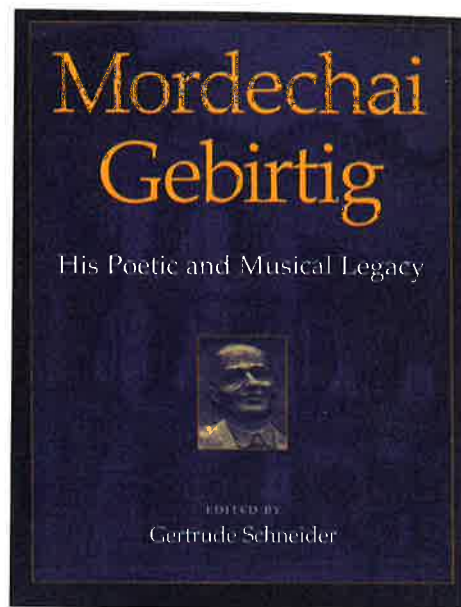
The year 1998 was a quiet one for the Society as the months flew by. In October, members of The New Cracow Friendship Society flocked to Israel to help celebrate Israel's 50th Anniversary Year. The group that went also attended the dedication of the Beit Midrash erected in Memory of the Jewish Communities of Krakow-Podgorze.

The Bond Drive of November 29th set a precedent in that the chairman of the event, Ben Geizhals became gravely ill and the event was co-chaired by Simone Scheumann and Bernice Slutzman, two second generation members. They had served on the Board of Directors for a number of years. The honoree was the State of Israel on the 50th Anniversary of Independence. Despite the difficult circumstances surrounding the Bond Drive that year, an impressive \$286,000 was raised.

The year ended with the Hanukah Party being combined with a General Membership Meeting.

In keeping with the demand, in August of 1999 the Society acquired 54 plots adjacent to the original purchase at Block 10 at Beth Moses Cemetery.

We closed out the year and the century on a high note. The Testimonial Dinner on November



21, 1999 honored Eta and Henry Wrobel and garnered \$700,000. It was a very impressive figure indeed. The great undertaking of creating a book honoring Mordechai Gebirtig came to fruition with its publication that same month

SUMMING UP THE 1990S

The 1990s was a banner decade. So many events and celebrations took place that only enhanced, elevated and solidified The New Cracow Friendship Society's reputation as a leader among all others of its kind. This statement is exemplified by the organization formally becoming a member of the *Conference of the Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations*. [The operative word here, of course, is "Major."] The Society was also invited by the International Society for Yad Vashem to participate in the planning for a gathering of Holocaust survivors. These examples of the esteem in which other Jewish organizations place The New Cracow Friendship Society show how far the organization had come since its founding.

The decade started out with a huge and meaningful 25th Anniversary celebration. It included a well-deserved congratulatory gala ball in acknowledgement of 25 years of great achievements since the founding and the distribution of the splendid 25th Anniversary Journal.

That publication "depicts, in short, the life of

Polish Jewry in general, and the Jews from Cracow, in particular, with special emphasis on the period between the two world wars. This Journal was conceived as a testimonial to the culture of Polish Jewry, which was dealt a fatal blow by the Nazis. The purpose is to leave a legacy for future generations, highlighting the past and the present. It affords us the unique opportunity to recreate the Jewish world of the period in Cracow as seen through the eyes of those who lived through it." [Introduction to the Journal by Roman Weingarten] It also included a history of the accomplishments of The New Cracow Friendship Society over the 25 years of its existence.

What really gave the Journal the desired "legacy for future generations" was the section of the Journal titled, "Reflections and Memories From the Second Generation." That section truly bonded the first and second generations through love and respect, as one that shares the same thoughts, ideas, and feelings of what it's like to be a survivor. While the second generation never went through anything remotely close to what their parents experienced, they acted, felt, had a sense of purpose and saw life a little bit as their parents did. It brought a different outlook on life that their American peers did not have.

In essence that Journal was a work of great magnitude and the fact that it was written and conveyed with the emotions of those who lived through it whether first or second generation, made the Journal unique in so many ways.

This was the decade of the recognition of the second generation as an important and necessary part of the Society's path toward the future. There was a rise in second generation contributions to the Newsletter, and most telling was the increased voice the second generation had in actually coordinating events, chairing committees, and even becoming members of the Board of Directors, giving them a larger voice in the running of the Society.

This decade could also be called "The Decade of Dedications," with members attending dedications of various kinds in Israel, Poland, Washington, D.C. and Miami, Florida. A large group of members from The New Cracow Friendship Society made three trips to Israel and Poland for events that included at least

one dedication per visit. The three most important, for all the Society members were: 1. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Beit Halochem auditorium in Jerusalem; 2. The dedication of the *Valley of the Destroyed Communities* at Yad Vashem; 3. The opening and dedication of the completed Beit Midrash in Memory of the Jewish Communities of Krakow-Podgorze, in Bnei Brak, Israel. The last dedication was the most meaningful for the Society because, to finally have a living memorial to the Jews of Cracow was a dream come true. Such a memorial was a priority of the founders of the Society from its inception. The organization's members also attended ceremonies for the official dedication of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and the Holocaust Museum in Florida.

The decade saw the publication of two books sponsored by the Society, as well as other achievements. The books were *Two Millennia of Great Jewish Personalities*, which was distributed at the Society's 30th anniversary, and *Mordechai Gebirtig, His Musical and Poetic Legacy*.

Major monetary contributions also marked the decade. There was the purchase of over \$6,750,000 in Israel Bonds and a donation amounting to \$20,000 to *Operation Exodus* to aid Israel in the absorption of immigrants from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

The most pivotal event of the decade, however, was the release of Steven Spielberg's masterpiece, *Schindler's List*. Many of the members of The New Cracow Friendship Society were on the "List", and appeared in the final scenes of the movie. In many ways this brought instant fame and recognition to these members. They were interviewed on television, gave lectures to large groups, and were featured in newspaper and magazine articles. While this new fame and recognition was concentrated on those members on the list, more than a little reflected back on the Society.

Even though the movie had to be "toned down" to make the horrors committed more palatable for the movie audience, it still had worldwide impact. The movie did not start in the factory of Oskar Schindler. It started in the Cracow Ghetto, making people around the world aware of a city in Poland, named

Krakow/Cracow. Movie goers saw and heard with their own eyes and ears the unspeakable atrocities afflicted, not just on the Jews whose names ended up on the list, but on all the Jews in the Cracow Ghetto. While we follow the lives of the Jews on "The List", the Jews who were not listed are the ones the movie leaves behind. What happened to them? We knew, but only because the first generation members of the Society are the survivors of that horror and the

horrors that followed. Their stories of survival also fill in the blanks left by those who did not survive.

The monumental accomplishment by the survivors in rebuilding their lives and the huge success of The New Cracow Friendship Society is without question an achievement of which we all can be truly proud.





Starting A New Century

2000-2010



JEWISH BOOK WORLD

FALL 2000 / 5761

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL

VOLUME 18 NO. 2

Book Reviews - Non Fiction

Mordechai Gebirtig: Poetic and Musical Legacy

Gertrude Schneider, ed.
Greenwood Publishing, 2000. \$65.00.
224pp. ISBN 0-275-96657-7

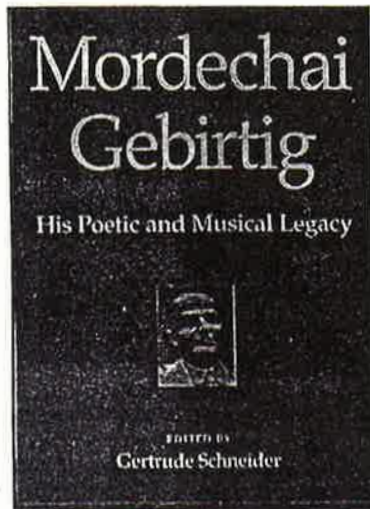
Reviewed by Donald P. Fischer

Mordechai Gebirtig was the nom-de-plume of Markus Birtig, a poet, song composer and performer, born in 1877 and killed by the Nazis in 1942. His work has been gathered by the New Cracow Friendship Society and is released in this volume.

Gebirtig, as he wanted to be known, achieved local acclaim as a performer, and wider acclaim as a poet laureate of the Eastern European Jewish communities from the turn of the century until his untimely death. He was primarily employed as a furniture restorer ("furniture mender" on his passport). Many of his songs were first presented in performance, then refined and perfected until he was satisfied with them. This caused some confusion about the "authentic" version, since more than one version was in circulation at any time.

His songs literally were on the lips of every Jew in the first half of this century. "Kinder Yoren" (Years of Childhood) and the prophetic "Es Brent" (It's Burning) are the works for which he is best known. "Es Brent" became a rallying song for survivors of the Holocaust. It is impossible to overestimate the impact that his songs and poems had on the internal and cultural life of Eastern European Jews, and how important his work is in modern Yiddish circles.

His work covers many subjects, ranging from a housemaid who becomes



engaged to the master's son, to a Polish tax collector who falls on hard times. It captures a man celebrating his 50th birthday. It tells of a couple that has married off three daughters, and already feels lonely. There is protest against pogroms, and the coming Holocaust. There is an anticipation of sweet revenge.

Listen to the voice of a young woman, who a matchmaker is trying to marry off:

The matchmaker brought me a match
Everyone is fond of him.
The bridegroom however is
named Benjamin
I don't like such a name!
I don't want to be his bride.
(Ch'vil Nisht Asa Chosen)

Or of a young orphan about saying Kaddish for his father:

Is it true, Mommy,
Grandfather swore
From every Kaddish I say
An angel will be born.
And to those little angels
Father gives orders?
Oh, Mama, not once will I
Fail to say Kaddish,
(A Malach Vet Geboren)

In short, he sings of the life trials of the Eastern European Jew. But more than that, many songs and poems sing about the condition of people everywhere.

Gebirtig composed until the very end of his life. With a premonition of his impending murder, he entrusted his wartime ghetto works to a friend. Thus were they able to survive the war.

This volume is arranged with the words in Yiddish, English transliteration, and an English translation. The music is legible. The lyrics would have been easier for a singer to use if an English transliteration had been used under the musical notes instead of the original Yiddish. The edition could be improved by including the date of composition of all the poems and a brief explanation of some of the more obscure poems. These are relatively small items, however, and in no way detract from the pleasure of reading the poems and learning the songs.

In experiencing the beauty of Gebirtig's oeuvre in this volume, new worlds will open for the reader. The editor and the New Cracow Friendship Society are congratulated on the production of this classical work.

Dr. Donald P. Fischer is a cantor at Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, California.

1999 National Jewish Book Awards

2000 Jewish Book Fair List



BENJAMIN MEED
PRESIDENT

AMERICAN GATHERING of JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

אמעריקאנער צוזאמענקום פון דער שארית הפליטה

122 WEST 30th STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10001

Tel: 212-239-4230 Fax: 212-279-2926
email: mail@americangathering.org

May 22, 2000

Mr. Roman Weingarten
The New Cracow Friendship Society
647 Dogwood Avenue
West Hempstead, NY 11552

Dear Romek:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting me to yesterday's get-together of the New Cracow Friendship Society. I most certainly appreciated this and it gave me much to ponder.

Your tribute to the genius of Mordechai Gebirtig was done with a lot of finesse, which Gebirtig fully deserved. Each song was a reminder of our life in pre-war Poland.

It occurred to me that you should be thinking of trying to get Gebirtig's genius before the general public and maybe you can find a way to have a presentation in Carnegie Hall or Lincoln Center.

I congratulate you for organizing the event, and I want to thank you very much for the book of the Gebirtig songs, which I will treasure.

Looking forward to speaking to you again.

With my heartiest thanks, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin Meed

In the winter of 2000, in light of continuing trouble in the Middle East, the Board of Directors of the Society renewed their solidarity with Israel and passed the following resolution:

We, the members of The New Cracow Friendship Society, hereby declare a renewal of our solidarity with the State and the People of Israel.

We strongly believe that the People Israel have a historical, biblical, moral and legal right to Eretz Israel!

We petition the United States Government to declare an unequivocal commitment to maintain the independence and security of the State of Israel and its citizens, with Jerusalem as the united capital of the Jewish State.

Moving into the actual beginning of the 21st

Century, on February 6, 2001 the Gebirtig celebration concert was repeated during the reunion of members of the Society in Miami Beach, Florida. The concert was held at the Aventura-Turnberry Jewish Center. It featured songs other than those performed at the original festivities held in New York.

In March, The New Cracow Friendship Society successfully joined with other survivor organizations forming *The Holocaust Survivors Foundation – USA*. The organization, formed in February, 2001 was created to seek equity in channeling existing Holocaust monies to fund a health care program for all Holocaust survivors in the United States.

The Israel Bond Drive, held in October, honored our members Arthur and Sydelle Spielman. Purchases of Israel Bonds amounted to \$1,045,000.



Pictured: Sydelle and Arthur Spielman, Roman Weingarten, Dr. Meister, Simone Hilfstein Scheumann

As in its formative years, The New Cracow Friendship Society continued speaking out against injustices here and abroad. In July, 2002 the Society

joined other survivor organizations in petitioning for increased services for survivors.

PETITION

A STATEMENT FROM HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN THE UNITED STATES

Chief Judge Edward R. Korman
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Judge Korman,

We write to you as Holocaust Survivors alarmed about the social service crisis facing survivors in our communities, and to encourage the Court to seriously consider immediate responses to the emergency.

We fully endorse and support the request for a meeting with you made by Samuel J. Dubbin, attorney for the Holocaust Survivors' Foundation-USA (HSF-USA), in his letter to you dated May 17, 2002.

We are deeply pained that we must now, at this late date, be addressing such an issue. But the reality is that today, there are unacceptable shortfalls in funding for urgently needed human services, including in-home care so important to the dignity and health of Survivors.

Our local Survivor groups and social welfare institutions are struggling unsuccessfully to meet even minimal recommended levels of care. There are budget shortfalls and, even worse, long waiting lists for home care and other basic services in a growing number of cities. We know from experience that many of the Survivors who would most benefit from support services do not step forward at all for personal and cultural reasons, or because they feel it is pointless to apply only to be placed on a waiting list.

We join together because we feel that the Survivor community is not being properly heard in the negotiations over funds recovered in the name of Holocaust Survivors. Quite honestly, we cannot understand how billions of dollars have been recovered in the names of Holocaust victims but still we are surrounded by so many Survivors in despair.

It is we, the surviving generation, who see and feel the urgency around us most directly. We strongly support the principle that unclaimed funds be devoted in proper proportion to give Survivors dignity in their final years. We continue to seek a guaranteed long-term insurance plan benefiting Survivors, but hope that under the circumstances you can consider immediate practical solutions with Swiss bank recoveries as suggested in Mr. Dubbin's letter.

We appreciate the care and concern you have demonstrated, and believe you have the interests of Survivors at heart. We look forward to working closely with you to address the urgent needs we face today.

When plans by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for a monument to be erected at Belzec were made public the Society wasted no time in making its position known.



New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.

647 Degwood Avenue, West Hempstead, New York 11552
Tel: 516 481-7988 Fax: 516 481-7988

July 22, 2002

Mr. Fred Zeidman, Chairman
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council
100 Raoul Wallenberg Plaza
SW Washington, DC 20024

Re: Holocaust Memorial at Belzec

Dear Sir,

Your planning to build a monument at the site where 600,000 Polish Jews were brutally murdered during the Shoah at Belzec is commendable and long overdue. However the type of memorial that you are planning is objectionable.

I represent an organization comprized of more than 400 family members, all of them Holocaust survivors with their origins from Cracow, Poland and vicinity.

Most of our families, who perished in the Holocaust found their cruel death at Belzec and their remains are scattered all over the grounds that constituted the extermination camp at Belzec.

In-as much-as a proper memorial at Belzec is very much desired, to excavate massive amounts of soil on the grounds that is suffused with the bones and ashes of our families who were brought there to be gassed would be a desecration of the very memory we are trying to preserve.

There must be another way and it is your obligation to find it. One thing is certain *LO ZEH HADERECH* this is NOT the way.

Respectfully Yours

Roman Weingarten
President

President
ROMAN WEINGARTEN

Vice Presidents
SIMONE HILFSTEIN SCHEUMANN
BERNICE SLUTZMAN
HENRY WIENER

Treasurer
LARRY ZELLNER

Secretary
SIGMUND MORROW

Comptroller
NORBERT FRIEDMAN

Board of Directors
AL BUKIET
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CAROLA GREENSPAN
DR. ERNA HILFSTEIN
MILTON HIRSCHFELD
VICTOR LEWIS
MARY MINDEL
NATHAN OFFEN
MELVIN REICH
IDEK ROSENBLUM
ERIC SCHNEIDER
ARTHUR SPIELMAN
HENRY TENENBAUM
HENRY WILNER

Founders
RICHARD ABRAHAMER
ELIAS FRIEDMAN
BEN GEIZHALS, z.l.
ROMAN GUNZ, z.l.
MAX HILFSTEIN, z.l.
VICTOR LEWIS
STEVE MORROW, z.l.
SIGMUND MORROW
EMIL SIEGMAN
DAVID TWERSKY
MANEK WERDIGER
SAM WERTHEIM
LARRY ZELLNER

Honorary President
STEVE MORROW, z.l.

Past Presidents
BEN GEIZHALS, z.l.
RICHARD ABRAHAMER
LARRY ZELLNER
MILTON HIRSCHFELD
MICHAEL KLUGER, z.l.
MAX HILFSTEIN, z.l.

Also in July, members of the Society attended the Gathering of Holocaust Survivors of South Florida at Kutcher's Hotel in the Catskills.

In October of 2002 with Intifada rearing its ugly head in Israel, the Society sent \$50,209 to Beit Halochem for the Emergency Relief Drive.

FRIENDS OF ISRAEL DISABLED VETERANS, INC.

Beit Halochem

419 Park Avenue South • Suite 905 • New York, New York 10018
(212) 689-3220 • Fax (212) 689-3236
WWW.FIDV-BH.COM • email: FIDV@att.net



October 21, 2002

Mr. Roman Weingarten
President
New Cracow Friendship Society
647 Dogwood Avenue
West Hempstead, NY 11552

Dear Mr. Weingarten,

We thank the New Cracow Friendship Society and all its supporters for their devoted efforts for the Emergency Relief Drive, which raised \$50,209.00.

With your support, and the help of donors worldwide, the Beit Halochem centers in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem, and the Beit Kay convalescent facility in Nahariya, can continue to provide the excellent rehabilitation, sports and social services so urgently needed by their members in order to meet the daily challenge of living with serious disabilities.

With great appreciation for your assistance and generosity, and with all best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely,


Regina Gottfried
National Executive Director

Ever showing its philanthropic side, in November, the Society contributed an additional \$10,000 to Beit Halochem. Also looking to events here at home, \$3,000 was sent to the 9/11 Victims Fund to aid families directly affected by the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. In continuing with providing much needed relief vehicles to Israel, in May, 2003 the Society donated a bloodmobile through the American Red Magen David for Israel. The bloodmobile was *Dedicated to the Sacred Memory of the Jews from Cracow and Vicinity who Perished in the Shoah ZICHRONOM L'VRACHA*



Pictured: Lola and Henry Tenenbaum, Roman Weingarten and a representative from Magen David Adom

With Thanks
בתודה

MAGEN
DAVID
ADOM
IN ISRAEL



מגן דאָוּד
אָדוֹם
בִּישְׂרָאֵל

October 23, 2003

New Cracow Friendship Society, Inc.
c/o Roman Weingarten, President
647 Dogwood Ave.
West Hempstead, NY 11552

Dear Mr. Weingarten,

It is our privilege and pleasure to inform you that the bloodmobile so generously donated to Magen David Adom in Israel by the New Cracow Friendship Society, has arrived safely and joined our fleet.

The life-saving vehicle is now stationed at MDA's Blood Services in Tel Hashomer.
Its Chassis number is: 29539
Its license plate number is: 71-041-51

Magen David Adom provides Emergency Medical Services to the population of Israel in routine and in emergencies with the operation of Standard Ambulances and Mobile Intensive Care Units that are all acquired thanks to generous contributors.

With your generosity you assist MDA in saving lives and thus perpetuate the saying:

**"WHOSOEVER SAVES A SINGLE SOUL...
AS THOUGH HE HAD SAVED A WHOLE WORLD"**

We are most grateful for your support and interest in the humanitarian and life-saving work of Magen David Adom in Israel. Please accept our most sincere thanks for this substantial gift.

Over the weekend of October 31 – November 2, 2003 forty-six members of the Society participated in the *Tribute to Holocaust Survivors: a Reunion of a Special Family* at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. on the occasion of the museum's 10th anniversary. They joined more than 7,000 other survivors and their families for a very meaningful weekend. From the November-December 2003 Newsletter:

A SECOND GENERATION OBSERVATION ON THE TRIBUTE TO SURVIVORS WEEKEND IN WASHINGTON

Although the proceedings of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Tribute to Holocaust Survivors on the occasion of its tenth anniversary has been covered by the Editor of this publication, I would like to add my own personal feelings.

Of the group that went on the bus from the North Shore Towers, I was the only one to attend the Tribute Dinner which took place on Saturday night, November 1st, thanks to the intervention of Abraham Zuckerman. To be sure, I have never witnessed such an efficient

operation and probably will not again. There were 4,000 people accommodated in the new Washington Convention Center. I was seated at table 723! Believe me; you have waited longer to be served your meals, from salad to dessert, at parties where maybe only 100 people were seated!

I was seated at a table with total strangers, but it didn't matter in the least. We all had a common bond. Parents were with their "children" who were second generation just as I. We simply started talking with each other as if we knew each other from before.

What I wish to convey to you however, is not just what the tribute dinner was like, but rather the feeling of the weekend as a whole. On Shabbat, after attending the services which were set up to try to please both the Orthodox and Conservative among us, I took a walk, albeit a rather long one, to the museum. (At services, there were three sections set up in one of the hotel's ballrooms. On the left was the women's section and on the right was the men's section. In the center was mixed seating. I guess we were the mechitzah!)

Once in the museum, I visited some exhibits I had missed the last time I was there and some that were new. While viewing the area about the Life in the Shadows, the hidden children, I started reading the description aloud for a couple who were having difficulty. As it turned out, the woman was one of the many children who had been living with a Catholic family until the war's end. We walked through the exhibit together, the three of us, and it was as if they had "adopted" me for the afternoon. Andzia Zellner happened to walk by and asked me to go with her and the woman who I was with said, "No, she's with us."

This was the tone for the entire weekend. Everyone was

with everyone else. When I left the museum, I must admit that I found the thought of walking back to the hotel a bit daunting and so looked for the shuttle buses made available for us. As I didn't know where those buses were, when I came out of the museum on Raoul Wallenberg Place, there was a small group of people getting into a mini-van. I asked the gentleman who was "in charge" where I could get the bus to the Renaissance Hotel. His immediate response was that they would take me. They had rented the van for the day. The real impact that this kindness made upon me was that the same man who told me to board the van didn't get on but took a cab to the hotel. He gave me his place.

The figures for the weekend tallied 7,000 people in attendance. While it could be said that no one knew anybody, everyone knew everybody. Oxymoron, yes, but also true. There was a common bond for all. For the first time, for me, I did not feel like an outsider looking in as I do almost at any gathering I attend. I belonged.

. Bernice Slutzman

In November at our annual Israel Bond Testimonial Dinner, Mary Mindel was honored. Bond purchases amounted to \$1,200,000.

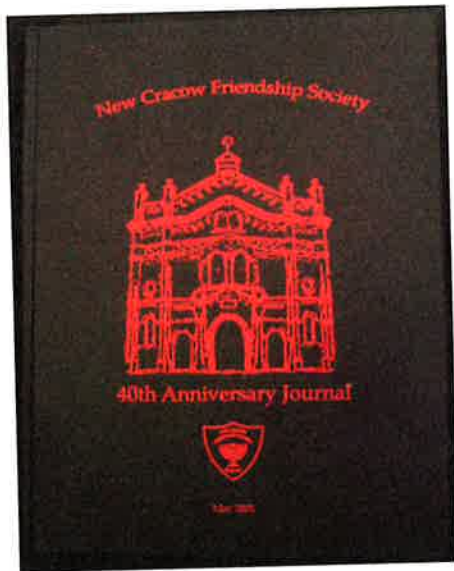
The Bond Drive the following year, on October 24, 2005, honored Melvin Bukeit and his wife Jill Goodman. That event brought in \$647,000 in bond purchases.

The beginning of 2005 offered a real treat for The New Cracow Friendship Society. The year marked the 60th Anniversary of Liberation. Over 600 Society members and non-members congregated at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach Florida on February 20, 2005. The thrust of the celebration was a reunion of Schindler Survivors honoring Steven Spielberg and remembering Oskar Schindler. Mr. Spielberg was unavoidably unable to attend but did send 2 film crews. He also provided 400 copies of *Schindler's List* which were distributed to the attendees. In April, Mr. Spielberg sent DVDs from the event.

On May 15, 2005 the Society celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a gala party at Temple Torah in Little Neck. The third journal was distributed. This opus differed from its predecessors in that it was the work of the second generation. The theme of the journal was the honoring of survivors through essays written by second and third generation members.



Pictured: The Mindel Family



On January 27, 2006, on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, a contingent of Society members attended the First Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day at the United Nations in New York. The Society has been represented at these commemorations ever since.

In May The New Cracow Friendship Society started a campaign to raise money to support the Jewish National Fund Project *Ammunition Hill*. The project's objective was to restore and expand the museum [Givat HaTachmoshet], Educational Center, Library and extensive archives. Ammunition Hill itself was a key battle in the 1967 Six Day War to reunify Jerusalem. The restoration would eventually serve as an information center in Jerusalem. The building would be dedicated as a tribute to the Israeli Soldiers who were killed in the battle for the holy city.

The following year in September 2007, the Board of Directors approved a proposal to set up a scholarship in memory of Max and Erna Hilfstein for our members or descendants of any Holocaust survivor from Cracow and vicinity. The scholarship was for undergraduate/graduate studies in Jewish/Holocaust studies in Israel or Poland.

In December 2007 a final payment of \$28,000 was presented to Mr. Howard Ingram the Regional Director of the Jewish National Fund. The amount completed the payments made to meet a previous pledge to the UJA by the Society. In recognition

of this achievement, a plaque was presented to our President, Roman Weingarten, in honor of our Founders and in tribute to the present leaders. The plaque also listed the accomplishments of the Society.



The text of the plaque reads:

IN HONOR OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE NEW
CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

RICHARD ABRAHAMER z.l., ELIAS FRIEDMAN, BEN
GEIZHALS z.l., ROMAN GUNZ z.l.,

MAX HILFSTEIN z.l., VICTOR LEWIS, STEVE
MORROW z.l., ZIGMUND MORROW, EMIL SIEGMAN
z.l.,

DAVID TWERSKY z.l, MANEK WERDIGER, SAM
WERTHEIM, LARRY ZELLNER

AND IN TRIBUTE TO

THE ELECTED OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ROMAN WEINGARTEN, PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENTS: VICTOR LEWIS, ERIC SCHNEIDER,
ARTHUR SPIELMAN

TREASURER LARRY ZELLNER

SECRETARY HENRY WIENER

COMPTROLLER HENRY WILNER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – FLORIDA BRANCH

NORBERT FRIEDMAN

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

AL BUKIET, HELEN FINDER, HALINA FROTINER,
CAROLA GREENSPAN, SAUL KARPIK z.l.,

MARY MINDEL, NATHAN OFFEN, REGINA
PETERSEIL, EVA PFAU, DOLEK POLAND[SIC],

MELVIN REICH, SIMONE SCHEUMANN, EVA
SILBERSTEIN, BERNICE SLUTZMAN

FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING DEDICATION TO THE
STATE OF ISRAEL

AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR FOR THEIR
SUPPORT OF

ISRAEL'S DEFENSE FORCES

THROUGH THE DONATION OF SEVEN LIFE SAVING
AMBULANCES,

THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF A SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO ASSIST NEEDY
STUDENTS TO

COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION,

THE SUPPORT OF "AKIM" THE INSTITUTION TO
REHABILITATE

THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

IN ISRAEL AND FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF

THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

On February 19, 2008 for the first time since the Society started the annual tradition of honoring members in Florida during the "Winter in Miami", the honorees were two second generation members. They were Simone Hilfstein Scheumann and Bernice Slutzman.



On June 2, 2008, at the invitation of Bnai Zion, New Cracow Friendship Society members participated in the Bnai Zion Foundation's Centennial and Israel's 60th Birthday. As recognition of the Society's prestige among organizations such as ours, Roman Weingarten and Bernice Slutzman were asked to speak at the celebration. Several liberators were present also. They were happy to see that the survivors had been able to pick up the pieces of their lives and begin anew here in the United States and thrive.





The campaign begun in May of 2006 to raise money for Ammunition Hill was finally accomplished. In October 2008, the Society donated \$50,000 to the project. The November – December Newsletter of 2008 published what would be inscribed on the wall at the entrance to the Education Center at the museum in Jerusalem:

THIS WALL OF HONOR AND APPRECIATION

Is dedicated to
 The Israeli brave soldiers, volunteers in the Allied
 Forces
 Fighting against the Nazis and their allies in the
 defense
 of the
 Jewish people and their land in Israel
 To commemorate their unique achievements during
 WWII
 In locating Jewish Holocaust survivors and Jewish
 children
 who survived in hiding
 To pay Tribute to their bravery in assisting
 Holocaust Survivors
 enter the land of Israel, even before the
 establishment of
 The State

and
 To the memory of the families of members of the
NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY,
 Inc., in NEW YORK
MARTYRS OF THE HOLOCAUST
 And
 In tribute to all Holocaust Survivors from the city
 of Krakow and vicinity
 Funded by The New Cracow Friendship Society,
 Inc. New York USA

SUMMING UP THE FIRST DECADE OF THE NEW CENTURY

For The New Cracow Friendship Society, the start of the 21st Century was very similar to the end of the 20th. We reaffirmed our commitment to Israel, continued our recognition of Mordechai Gebirtig and his work, and celebrated with a joyous 35th Anniversary of the Society's founding. But by the year 2001, The New Cracow Friendship Society started to increase the pace of its activities.

The Society formally joined other survivor organizations in order to increase their voice in events that affected Jews worldwide. These organizations were The Holocaust Survivors Foundation USA and

the The Anti-Defamation League (ADL). They also joined other survivor organizations in petitioning for increased services for survivors.

The Society also made its presence known by participating in:

1. Participation in the Holocaust Remembrance at the United Nations
2. Made opinions known on the construction of the Holocaust Memorial at Belzec Concentration Camp
3. Contributed \$10,000 to Beit Halochem
4. Sent \$3,000 to the 9/11 Victims Fund
5. Raised and donated \$50,209 towards the Beit Halochem Emergency Relief Drive
6. Attended the Gathering of Holocaust Survivors of South Florida at Kutcher's Hotel in the Catskills, NY
7. Donated a bloodmobile to Israel
8. Participated in the Tribute to Holocaust Survivors at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC
9. Presented \$28,000 to the Jewish National Fund

10. Participated in the Bnai Zion Foundation's Centennial
11. Donated \$50,000 for Project Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem.
12. Not to forget our commitment to purchase Israel Bonds, the Society reached a total of \$6,000,000 in purchases during this decade.

The New Cracow Friendship Society also celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a joyous celebration and the distribution of the anniversary journal. The journal featured the second and third generations' feelings towards their parents and grandparents.

The highlight of the decade had to be the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Liberation coupled with a Reunion of Schindler's Survivors honoring Steven Spielberg. The event drew over 600 society members and non-members who survived by being on Schindler's list. It was covered by the news media and filmed by a crew sent by Mr. Spielberg. Following the release of the movie, *Schindler's List*, the members of the Society were again in the news media with many of them noted as members of The New Cracow Friendship Society. Once again, the light was shining on the organization.





2010 To The Present Day

2010 – 2015



Ten years into the new millennium the Society turned 45. Shocking all present at the Board of Directors meeting of June 6, 2010, Roman Weingarten, the longest reigning president of The New Cracow Friendship Society resigned due to health conditions. Bernice Slutzman, a Vice President, was selected by the Board to finish the term becoming the first second generation member to hold the position. In 2011, Leon Hilfstein became the first second generation president elected by the membership at large.

One of the first parties held in years was the May 18, 2014 Yom Haatzmaut Party. Its success was measured by the number of members in attendance. Going back many years, the Society held a Hanukah Party. The practice had been discontinued due to the fact that most of the membership were snow birds and unavailable for winter gatherings. The pendulum

has swung back and members remain up north. The 2014 party was attended by a wonderful mix of first, second and third generation members.

The May 17, 2015 Yom Haatzmaut and Installation of Officers was a milestone in every sense of the word. Ten of the fifteen Board Members are of the Second Generation. The occasion also marked the Jubilee Year of the Society's existence, the Golden Anniversary. Two of the then three remaining founders were in attendance at the gala held at Temple Torah in Little Neck, Queens.

TO THE FUTURE! MAY THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CELEBRATE 50 MORE YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT, TZEDAKAH AND HAPPY MILESTONES.



Photo by: Aiden Kane

THE 2015 ELECTED OFFICERS AND GUESTS

Pictured Standing: Maria Helfman, Jack Gingold, guest Henry Erlich, Dr. Fryderyk Silberstein, Rachele Zuckerman, Leon Hilfstein, Susan Krul Caren, Simone Hilfstein Scheumann, Steven Radwan, Bernice Slutzman and Ida Lewis
Seated: Marian Keren, Eva Silberstein, Larry Zellner, Founder Elias Friedman, and Arthur Spielman
Not pictured: Elizabeth Szancer



Conclusion
50 Years of
Achievements

1965 - 2015



At this stage of the Journal, you, the reader, have by now gained a wonderful understanding of the amazing individual achievements that The New Cracow Friendship Society accomplished in its 50 years of existence. What you may not realize is the cumulative total.

1. Over \$26,000,000 in Israel Bonds were purchased through the Israel Bond Testimonial Dinners.
2. Over \$5,000,000 was donated to the United Jewish Appeal.
3. The equivalent of a medium sized forest is now growing in Israel due to the number of trees purchased through the Jewish National Fund.
4. Close to \$500,000 was donated to Beit Halochem, including the \$400,000 for the cost of the building of the auditorium.
5. Over \$250,000 was donated to AKIM.
6. Nearly \$1,000,000 was given out through the Welfare Fund of the Welfare Committee.
7. Over 500 scholarships were given to deserving students at the Municipal High School #5 in Tel Aviv.
8. Over \$60,000 was donated to help rebuild Torah Centre Ono in Israel. The Beit Midrash bears the name "Krakow Podgorze" and is located in Bnei Brak.
9. \$50,000 was donated to restore two walls of the entrance to the Remu Shul in Cracow, Poland.
10. \$20,000 was donated to Project Exodus
11. \$20,000 was donated to Ammunition Hill
12. A total of six ambulances and one bloodmobile was sent to Israel through Magen David Adom.
13. The collection of money was facilitated for the restoration of the Miodowa Cemetery.

All of the aforementioned are just a drop in the bucket of all the great work that The New Cracow Friendship Society has accomplished. If one adds up the total monetary donations made by the Society for the causes listed above, that number adds up to approximately \$33,650,000. That is a staggering amount and yet one to two million dollars can be added to that total through member donations individually made over the fifty years since the Society was founded. All the money spent is a perfect example of the organization's commitment to education, Israel, tzedakah and the commemoration of those from Cracow who did not survive the Holocaust.

Raising and donating money while important is not the only thing that defines the Society and molds it into what we proudly declare as An Organization of Historic Significance. To be recognized as such, the Society had to have other strengths.

One of those strengths was the Newsletter. While many of the articles printed in the Newsletter were similar to those printed in a local newspaper, informing members of society events, recapping functions held and the health of the Society, the Newsletter was also the conduit for far reaching global events.

1. In every issue there was a Letter From Israel section that made the membership acutely aware of events in Israel so it was almost like being there. Progress of our many projects in Israel, or campaigns to raise money for those projects were an ongoing part of the Editorial, President's Message, Welfare and Israeli Committee reports, often accompanied by pictures. The Editor even reprinted political cartoons from Israel, as well as newspaper articles regarding the crises in the Middle East. The Newsletter covered all events during the fifty years of The New Cracow Friendship Society's existence.
2. News from Cracow and its vicinity also became a regular part of the Newsletter. Visits to Poland and the concentration camps were repeatedly featured through poignant

and emotional articles detailing those visits. Thank you letters from Welfare recipients were at one time, reprinted. Pledges for money and progress reports on ongoing restoration projects were often a portion of the Welfare Committee Report.

3. The Newsletter was also a place where differences of opinions were openly discussed.
4. It was a forum for members to tell their stories.
5. The publication was a place to learn history and the meaning of Jewish holidays. At times it showed us how the holidays related to current events.
6. The Newsletter was an educational tool giving us knowledge through biographies of great Jewish thinkers, poets, musicians, writers, religious leaders, soldiers, politicians and much, much more.
7. It was used as a conduit for notices of global searches for lost relatives and friends from Cracow and other parts of Poland.
8. The Newsletter was a strong voice for fighting anti-Semitism around the world.

These are just a few examples of the important impact the Newsletter has had even beyond our small group of survivors. The Newsletter has been sent to our sister societies in Israel, Canada, Poland, Australia and many religious and Jewish organizations, educational institutions and Holocaust museums. It is also catalogued in the National Library of Israel, Periodicals Department. It is even sent to individuals around the world who request copies.

One cannot leave out the three books, which, without the Society's sponsorship, would never have been published. The impact of the previous three journals also cannot be overlooked. They were distributed to colleges, universities, libraries and Holocaust museums for their permanent Holocaust collections. Other survivor organizations,

government and religious officials were also recipients of the Journals, bringing new light on life in Cracow before, during and after the Holocaust.

The New Cracow Friendship Society was instrumental in reuniting Holocaust survivors from all over the world. They organized the very first reunion of Survivors from Cracow. The organization hosted not one but three reunions in the United States and took a lead role in the reunion in Israel. A reunion of survivors on Schindler's list was also planned and executed. All of those events were massive successes. Even though the number of attendees at the events were many and can be calculated, the emotional impact cannot be fathomed or described in words.

The Society also made sure that the memory of those who did not survive would last forever: in the school that adopted the society and the City of Cracow; a veteran's hospital in Israel the auditorium of which is dedicated to The New Cracow Friendship Society and the martyrs of Cracow; six ambulances and a bloodmobile, similarly dedicated, and a plaque at Yad Vashem. We can include many other places dedicated to the City of Cracow and The New Cracow Friendship Society, but they all have the same effect of telling the world that we will "Never Forget", and we are not going to let you forget either.

In essence what really set the Society apart from other survivor organizations are the quality, dedication and moral fortitude of our members. Whenever a pledge was made, the members always rose to the occasion and made sure the Society never fell short. If a letter campaign was needed to fight anti-Semitism, the members wrote them. If a demonstration was needed, the members demonstrated. The New Cracow Friendship Society always, even when not everyone agreed, stood tall and strong in its efforts and support.

The men and women of the Society who served on the Boards and the numerous committees dedicated their time and energy doing extraordinary work. All the members of the first generation, and yes, even the second generation of the Society, accomplished much on their own. They received awards, wrote books, gave interviews on television, to newspapers and magazines and, most importantly,

spoke directly to people of all ages in synagogues, colleges, universities and even to students as young as those in middle school. Opening themselves up by relating their personal experiences to people of all ages, faiths and ethnic backgrounds is truly a mitzvah.

Let us not forget the majority of the members, even if they never received any individual recognition or reward outside of the Society, brought to the organization their expertise, skills and commitment. They were put to good use and were indispensable in making The New Cracow Friendship Society the force it became within the Jewish communities around the world.

Throughout the course of the past fifty years the Society was a presence and worked with and for many organizations and people, some of which have not lasted as long as we. We list some of them here.

AKIM

- American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
- American Magen David Adom
- Anti-Defamation League
- Bnai Zion Foundation
- Center for Holocaust Studies YIVO
- Beit Halochem
- Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, Inc.
- Sir Martin Gilbert, z.l., CBE D. Litt
- Holocaust Survivors Foundation, USA

- International Committee to Perpetuate the Memory of Jewish Fighters from Ghetto Cracow
- International Women's Division of YIVO
- Irgun Yotzei Krakow
- Jamaica Jewish Center
- Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills
- Jewish Community Center of West Hempstead
- Jewish National Fund
- Lake Success Jewish Center
- Municipal High School #5 in Tel Aviv
- Steven Spielberg
- State of Israel Bonds
- Torah Centre Ono, Bnai Barak
- United Jewish Appeal
- Vaad Lemaan Hechayal
- Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization
- [WAGRO]
- Elie Wiesel
- Yad Vashem
- Yeshiva University
- Young Israel of Hillcrest

What that small group of people with a common background and commitment achieved over these past fifty years can only be compared to the wisdom imparted in Proverbs, 3:27: Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when you have the power to do it.

CONGRATULATIONS ON FIFTY YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS!





Reflections



HOW THE SOCIETY AFFECTED THE LIVES OF ADA AND RAFAEL ABRAHAMER

Six years ago, when I was charged with managing my dear parents' end-of-life affairs after they passed away, I came across years' worth of The New Cracow Friendship Society Newsletters going back to the late 1960s in my mother's dresser drawers. My mother had carefully saved them all – and certainly had read them cover to cover – as if they were letters from a close and important family member. But that is in fact how my parents viewed the Society: as their extended family, their closest friends, their social life, their anchor. It was their connection to happier days in Poland before the war. It was their springboard and bridge to a new life here in the States. They went to almost every meeting, card game, fundraiser, “ball,” and Hanukah party. Whatever was happening related to the NCFS was a significant event for my parents, one that they didn't want to miss. It was a focal point of their lives.

Their friends from the Society were, in turn, my family. As was the case with so many Holocaust survivors, my parents had no immediate family left. We had a few cousins, but not many. No parents of my parents, no grandparents for me or my brother, none of their siblings alive, no first cousins. So, members of the Society became my “aunts” and “uncles.” This new family shared my parents' daily concerns, and supported their efforts to acclimate to a whole new world, a new language, livelihoods, children, life after devastation and loss — that family, that community was made up of the members of the NCFS. Everyone was going through the same difficult adjustments

and challenges; no words needed to be said. All was understood. They survived the same war, the same loss, the same tragedy, and they were all working as hard as they could to re-build their lives and their families and to put the past behind them as best as they could. And, in spite of the nightmares that they shared, they found humor and laughter, warm friendships, accomplishments, and inner strength.

The New Cracow Friendship Society members shared their smachot and the high points of their lives — children, bar and bat mitzvot, weddings, successes, grandchildren — and now, sadly, they share each other's funerals and cemetery plots. Going to Beth Moses Cemetery on Long Island where the Society has three blocks of burial sites, I was in awe seeing so many familiar names. They were so often together sharing their new lives in the US, and now again, they are together after life. They made sure that they had a proper and dignified burial site, together, in great contrast with the tragic lack of burial grounds that their families suffered.

These strong survivors from Cracow created their Society to ensure a strong and healthy transition into their new lives and to keep the memory of those who perished alive. They nurtured their community, watched it grow, enjoyed it, and benefited from it. They were proud of it — and rightly so. It gave them all, including my parents, a very important lifeline, an anchor. I can't imagine what their lives would have been without it.

Nora Abrahamer

IDA AND EMANUEL [MENDEK] BEITSCHER, ל"ו

The New Cracow Friendship Society is an organization that united our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents (Ida and Emanuel [Mendek] Beitscher, ל"ו) with other Holocaust survivors from their hometown of Cracow, Poland. The members welcomed my parents and provided them with a sense of belonging. Ida and Emanuel were thrilled to rekindle friendships. They felt a strong connection to other members of the Society and viewed them as an extended family.

Ida and Emanuel were thankful for the organization's ability to bring families together to learn about their Jewish heritage and traditions. As Holocaust survivors, they wanted us to take pride in being Jewish, find joy in celebrating our holidays, and understand the meaning and significance behind each Jewish ritual. It is because of these values that they encouraged each of us to participate in the events at The New Cracow Friendship Society. I remember one Chanukah Party several years ago that was attended by all three of our generations. We celebrated the holiday by dancing and singing

together. The room was buzzing with excitement and the energy and joy of the holiday were uplifting for Ida and Emanuel. We, the next generation, were so happy to watch them enjoy it. They were amazed by how much their lives had changed since the time of the Shoah. Their strong wills enabled them to create families and enjoy life once again.

The Society Newsletter had been a great way for Ida and Emanuel and the rest of the family to catch-up with all that was going on. The connection continued at a time when they were not well, and that meant so much to them. It made them very sad to read the memorial page's notices of members who had passed away. With each notice, they felt the loss of a friend. They were worried that the Society would not last, but with the second and future generations, the flame will continue to be lit.

We are forever grateful for the love and support that the NCFS has provided to our family.

Thank you, and happy 50th Anniversary.

Betty, William, Leora, Daniella and Oren Nusblat

FROM THE GONEN FAMILY

Congratulations to The New Cracow Friendship Society on reaching this milestone 50th Anniversary! We are proud to consider ourselves as second, third and even fourth generation Holocaust survivors. We made a promise not to forget what happened to our family during the Shoah and we will make sure that it doesn't happen again.

As children growing up in Israel, our parents told us very little about the atrocities they experienced while in the concentration camps because they were concerned about our well-being. They raised us to be compassionate, caring individuals and instilled in us strong Jewish morals and values. Growing up in a home of Holocaust survivors deeply affected the way I led my life and educated my children.

I will never forget the first day when I joined The New Cracow Friendship Society. It was ten years ago as we came for the Commemoration of the Liquidation of the Cracow Ghetto. I received a special honor to light one of the six candles in memory of the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis. It was one of the most emotional moments of my life. I felt a great compassion and closeness to all the members present. Their warmth and welcoming manner was reassuring and I felt very close to this "extended family."

From that day on, we continued to participate

in the many activities and meetings of The New Cracow Friendship Society. We listened eagerly to the life stories of its members. We read the Newsletter excitedly. The Society motivated us to go and look into our family roots in Cracow, Poland.

With guidance from the previous President, Roman Weingarten, ל"ר, my husband and I embarked on the March of the Living trip in Poland. We visited the concentration camps at Auschwitz and participated in a moving Yom Hashoah ceremony led by Rabbi Lau. In Cracow, we visited the Izaka Synagogue where my grandfather used to pray, Stara Synagogue where my father used to pray, and the Jewish day school that my mother attended. From Poland, we traveled directly to Israel for the Israeli Independence Day — the same path that many survivors had traveled following WWII. This trip provided us with a better understanding of what happened to our family.

For our family, The New Cracow Friendship Society is a warm and caring group of people with whom we share both a common history and many life smachot. You are our extended family. You have inspired us to examine our family history, to share our common experiences, and to reinforce our roots that originated in Cracow, Poland.

Thank you and Happy 50th Anniversary

Second Generation (Yona and Jerry Gonen)

Third Generation (Shachar, Sharon, Ron and Michele Gonen; Jacob Harel)

Fourth Generation (Ezra and Elianna Gonen)

WHAT THE SOCIETY MEANT TO (FOUNDER) MAX AND ERNA HILFSTEIN AND BABCIA KLUGEROVA

Survivors, Max and Erna Hilfstein and Babunia Anna Kluger found an amazing support system in The New Cracow Friendship Society. The parties and other social functions were life affirming while the Israeli Bond Drives and other fundraising activities gave meaning to the organization's mission.

Our father was one of the founders and passed on the love and necessity to be involved in this Society from an early age. So, as this journal goes to press,

Max's son, Leon Hilfstein, is President of the Society, and his daughter, Simone, has served on the Board in various capacities for over 30 years. It has been and remains our pleasure to be part of this organization.

Overall, the creation of this organization brought profound joy to our parents and, in time, to us and our children as well. The members were and are our extended family. We continue to rejoice, celebrate, remember, and shed tears together.

*Leon & Dena Hilfstein
Lee & Simone (Hilfstein) Scheumann
Third generation: Anna, Alexandra, Delia & David*

TRIBUTE TO MY PAPA MAX AND BABUNIA ERNA

How do I begin to express the feelings I have towards my grandparents? That is how I started my tribute 10 years ago and it is how I am starting it again because my feelings have grown even more for them. They were the light of my life during the summers I spent in the Catskill Mountains. We picked blueberries together, went fishing, told stories, and spent endless amounts of family time together. They are still the most compassionate,

kind, driven, and brilliant people I had the honor of knowing. They sacrificed so much at a young age and still were able to instill Jewish values in us. Oh, how I wish they were here to meet my beautiful and smart daughter, Taylor. She reminds me so much of them. I am passing on what they taught me to her. They contributed so much to the world, and still do. I think of them and miss them everyday. My love for them is always a constant driving force of my heart.

Delia Hilfstein Brannan

REFLECTIONS OF THE ORIGINS OF THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AND WHAT IT MEANT TO THE LEWIS FAMILY

The New Cracow Friendship Society has been an incredibly vibrant and important organization for my parents, Victor (z.l.) and Regina Lewis. Twenty years after the end of the worst experience imaginable in the history of the Jewish people, the Society rose from the ashes of the Holocaust to become the rock-solid support system that was so sorely needed by my parents and by so many of their survivor friends.

The Society provided camaraderie, replacement (surrogate) family, and purpose – with intention to create social and educational programs, support those in financial need, contribute to important charitable organizations, and assist Israel through a wide range of donor and bond raising programs. During several wars that threatened the existence of Israel, the Society leaped forward with emergency fundraising and bond-buying activities so that its members could help the Jewish nation to survive. Sixteen productive committees kept the Society in perpetual motion on a wide range of activities. At one point, it had become the most active of all Holocaust survivor organizations.

So, what did The New Cracow Friendship Society mean to Victor and Regina? Outside of our very small family that survived the war, the Society meant *everything* to them. They lived and breathed the Society. My sister and I watched as they helped to found the Society; helped it to grow; headed up the Membership Committee; licked thousands of envelopes and stamps in our kitchen for numerous membership drives, announcements, and newsletter mailings; prepared for important board and general membership meetings; led and participated in numerous programs – including the annual memorial commemorations, Beit Halochem fundraisers, and other special programs. And they literally had a ball...at Hanukah balls, New Year's Eve balls, Purim balls, and other dancing and festive occasions during the year. With the Society in full swing, they really enjoyed life to the fullest.

"77th and Main Street" The apartment complexes in Kew Gardens Hills, where so many

survivors from Cracow moved in the late 1950s and early 1960s, became the incubator neighborhood for The New Cracow Friendship Society. Within a block east, west, north and south of 77th Road and Main Street lived the Morrows (Steve and Barbara), Werdigers (Manek and Ilona), Mandelbaums (Ignatz and Linda), Pollands (Dolek and Dola), Siegmans, Nadels, Thomases, Adlers, Grunbergs, and Lewises. Just a few blocks away (and in the same public school district) lived the Abrahamers (Richard and Judy), Raps, Gunzes, Ehrlichs, Buchsbaums, Kleinmans, Twerskys and Blumners. (*Please forgive me if I left anyone out!*) Scores of other survivors lived with just a few minutes drive from 77th and Main.

In various homes in that neighborhood, Steve Morrow's visionary idea of bringing Cracovian survivors together began to gain traction with a few friends, including my dad. A scan of the list of founders reveals that seven out of thirteen founders lived within just a few blocks of 77th and Main. Ten out of thirteen lived within a few minutes' drive. With great enthusiasm, my parents began the work that would give them great satisfaction for the next 50 years.

Reflections of the early years Immediately after the Society was founded in 1965, my family relocated from 77th Road to just two doors away from the Morrows' new house on 78th Road. I can remember the numerous gatherings, the laughing, and the sheer joy in our home as the Society was gaining speed. Steve and Basia and other active members were in our house all of the time...the opposite was also true...they were all in each other's houses all of the time.

Within a short time, a clubhouse was rented next door to the Jamaica Jewish Center so that Board and Committee Members could meet during the week and on weekends without disturbing our families. On weekends, all members were invited to drop by the clubhouse to socialize and relax from the stresses of work and raising a family. The Society had begun its mission to provide exactly what its members needed

– friendship among a critical mass of survivors that made people feel a lot more comfortable in the American homeland. This was surely the case for my father and mother.

The new society was spearheaded by very strong and competent individuals. That's why news about the Society spread very quickly. In a newsletter distributed before the first official Newsletter in 1965 (and therefore considered issue #0), it was noted that 700 people came to the first membership meeting at the Kew Gardens Hills Jewish Center, just a few blocks away from 77th and Main. Issue #2 recounts 420 attendees reveling at the Society's first "supper-dance-officer installation banquet" in May 1965, also at the Kew Gardens Hills Jewish Center. With much regret, people had to be turned away from that event because the demand for tickets far exceeded the 400 person capacity of the dance hall. According to the newsletter article, the last guests at that banquet left at 3 AM. There is no doubt in my mind that my parents were among the last to leave...that was standard fare for them after a party in those days.

A year and a half later, a 2-page photograph in the Society Newsletter shows hundreds of people dressed to the hilt in black tuxedos, suit and gowns, and fine dresses, enjoying the 1966-1967 New Year's Eve Ball at the Statler Hilton Hotel. So, just two years after its inception, the Society's New Year's gala graduated from the basement of a local Jewish center in Kew Gardens Hills to a world class hotel in Manhattan! There was no doubt in anyone's mind that the Society was now "on the map!"

In my parents' house during those early years, phone calls to and from members easily numbered in the dozens per day. There was a lot of hopping off the couch and running to the kitchen to answer the telephone (cordless and cell phones were not invented yet). The calls, plus members coming in and out of the house so frequently, created an inside joke that 147-17 78th Road had become Grand Central Station. From time to time when things got real active, I'd answer the phone, "Grand Central, can I help you?" The callers were initially confused, but I then assured them they had reached the right telephone numbers, and then promptly asked my

father or mother to come to the phone.

Those early years were also a period of "survivor discovery." Not remembering any names specifically, I can recall my parents rejoicing whenever they heard that a Cracovian survivor had been "discovered" after being out of contact with others since the Holocaust. There was sheer joy in learning that those heretofore unaccounted for had survived. The discoveries made an impression on me as I knew that an unfathomable 6 million Jews died at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. But, of course, the discoveries made a much larger impression on the survivors. Each newly-discovered survivor made his/her way down to the next Society function where their survival and life were celebrated by all.

Marion Dolinski, Associate Editor of the 1st issue of the Newsletter (April 1965), gives us some perspective on the joy of being reunited with former Cracovians for the first time since the Holocaust:

When I first learned about the creation of The New Cracow Friendship Society and the newsletter I received by mail, I was amazed as much as if I had received an invitation from the space agency to be among the first astronauts to land on the moon. Suddenly my imagination was filled with the vision that after a quarter of a century, I may meet again some of my good friends with whom I played soccer near the Wisla river or played cards on the classroom bench during the lessons of mathematics. And perhaps also some of the pretty Cracower girls I was in love with.

Reflections about the survivors "coming out" in America After recently reading some of the first Newsletters, I was extremely impressed by how much the members wanted the world to know that they had survived, that they were strong, that they were organizing, and that they were determined to make a difference in the world! Announcements were made to elected U.S. officials and other leaders as soon as the Society was founded. And, to my surprise, the Society received official responses – congratulatory letters and telegrams from the LBJ White House, from NYS Governor Rockefeller, from NYC Mayor Wagner, Senator Javitz, Senator Kennedy, and leaders of Jewish institutions. These communiqués were

proudly published in the second issue of the NCFS Newsletter (June 1965), undoubtedly impressing our members. It's too bad that I can no longer ask my father to share his joy regarding those letters of congratulations from important elected officials...and whether they helped him to recruit new members.

For sure, a look through all 50 years of the Society's Newsletters would reveal hundreds of congratulatory letters from a wide variety of politicians, diplomats, statesmen, and heads of charities, praising the Society for all the great work it had accomplished.

Those Society Newsletters are invaluable historic documents that detail how the first generation thrived despite their tremendous hardships. The Newsletters should be housed in Holocaust libraries around the world, scanned for easy access, and made available for research to the public for generations to come.

Some final reflections It seems as if my parents had two different lives in America: life before the

Society and life with the Society. It is remarkable just how much the Society meant to them. How it lifted their spirits. How it filled their lives. No doubt, these are reasons why my father remained Chairman of the Membership Committee from the Society's founding until his death in 2009 – a period of 44 continuous years. And that's undoubtedly why my mother and sister are carrying out his work until this day – on the Board (Ida) and on the Membership Committee (Regina/Ida).

I would say that, while my parents' involvement in the Society was a lot of work they got back so much more. It has been rewarding experience for them in so many ways.

So we thank you, New Cracow Friendship Society, for being there, for being so giving, so valuable, and so fulfilling to the Lewis Family for the past 50 years!

Happy 50th Anniversary

Al (and Regna, Ida, Meryl, and Jennifer) Lewis



Sponsorships



50th Anniversary

In Memory of
our Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles
who died as martyrs of the Jewish People

Mordechai Shmuel Bukiet
Chaya Zipporah Bukiet
Mayer Bukiet
Mendel Bukiet
Devorah Bukiet

And in Memory of our Parents
who survived the Shoah

Al Simon Bukiet
Joseph J. Bukiet

Bruce Bukiet, Michael Bukiet, Caryn Bukiet, Melvin Bukiet, Cheri Deshe



50th Anniversary

In Loving memory of our Parents



Henry And Lola Tenenbaum

Who took great joy from their family of friends in
THE NEW CRACOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

Shelly Tenenbaum

Deborah Vine



50th Anniversary

In Memory
of
our Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles
who died Al Kiddush HaShem

Baruch Joseph Weingarten
Pesel Fremet Weingarten
Cesia Weingarten
Rywa Weingarten

Eliezer Warowicz
Bronislawa Warowicz
Rose Warowicz
Joseph Warowicz
Mary Warowicz

And in memory of our Parents

Roman Weingarten
Fela Warowicz Weingarten

and

Martin Wald
Rachel Weingarten Wald

Bernice Weingarten Slutzman And Paulette Wald Cagan





50th Anniversary



In Memory of

Michael Kluger

Rose Kluger





50th Anniversary



In Memory
of
our Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts
who perished in the Holocaust, and in honor of our Parents

**Julius and Regina Gingold
Simon and Fanny Huppert
Jerry and Karol Sass
Izio and Frania Weiser**

who survived to rebuild their lives so that we and our families could
continue on and

NEVER FORGET THEM.

The Gingold, Huppert, Sass And Weiser Families





50th Anniversary



In Loving Memory of Our Parents and Grandmother

Max & Dr. Erna Hilfstein (née Kluger)

Anna Kluger (née Shornstein)



Survivors, whose hard work,
kindness, selflessness,
dedication to family,
friends, Israel,
and this society are our
life long role models
Forever in our thoughts



In Memory of our Families

Lea Schornstein Leon Hilfstein

And those Murdered in the Holocaust

Never Again!

Szymon Schornstein

Anna Hilfstein

Aron Schornstein & family

Dolek Hilfstein

Maurycy Schornstein & family

Family Wasserlauf from Bochnia

Regina Schornstein

Leon (Lipman) Kluger

Amalia Schornstein

Nissen Kluger and Family

Salomea Grunrock & Husband

Kenner Family

Stefania Wohlfeiler & Husband



Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary

New Cracow Friendship Society

Our gratitude to all its board of directors,
committee chairs and volunteers, for fostering
philanthropy and friendship

Simone Hilfstein Scheumann

Leon Hilfstein



50th Anniversary

With Loving Memory of our dear Parents, Grandparents and
Great-grandparents

Ida And Emanuel (Mendek) Beitscher

who taught us about love, courage, respect,
honoring our heritage and the love for Israel.
Your memory will live in our hearts forever.

In honor of its 50th Anniversary of the founding of
The New Cracow Friendship Society
May it continue to inspire future generations
to go from strength to strength.



*Yona, Jerry, Shachar, Sharon, Ron, Ezra, Elianna Gonen,
Michele & Jacob Harel
Betty, William, Leora, Daniella & Oren Nusblat*





50th Anniversary



In Honor And Memory Of Our Beloved Parents, Aunts, And Uncles

Genia and Henry (Spanlang) Radwan Rosa and Israel Taff

Bella and Irwin Halpern

Who, through their efforts to overcome adversity, and raise their families with love, inspiration, and dedication to supporting the society with their good works, has made us who we are today. They continue to be a driving force as we raise our families to follow in their footsteps.

*Toby and Steven Radwan
Jennifer, Jamie, and Gregory*

*Doctors Ingrid and Joseph Taff
Alyson, Matthew, and Russell*

*Doctor Leslie Halpern and Doctor Anthony Rubonis
Jonathan Rubonis*

Michelle Halpern




50th Anniversary


In loving memory of our dear Parents

Reuven & Eda Kaminski, נ"ו

They gave so much of themselves and were
beloved by all who knew them.

Harvey & Helene Kaminski





50th Anniversary

***Congratulations to the New Cracow Friendship Society on its
50th Anniversary***

*And in Memory of our dear grandparents, aunt and uncle who perished in
the Holocaust*

Abraham, Berta, Greta and Jacob Leserkiewicz

*In memory of our beloved father/grandfather who built a successful life in
America and was devoted to his family. His memory is a blessing!*

Leon Lewis (Leserkiewicz)

In memory of our dear uncle and aunt

Victor Lewis and Lola Kleinberger

*In memory of the friends of our family who survived the Holocaust and
went on to live spirited lives in the land they loved. They will be forever in
our hearts*

Stefan and Anna Weinberg

Ilona Werdiger

Dolek Polland

Ignatz Mandelbaum



**The Kaplan (Barbara, Julia, Ben and Seth 'z.l.) Family
and**

The Rodney (Bonnie, Michael, Elizabeth and Emily) Family





50th Anniversary



In tribute to our strong and courageous Parents

Alex and Helen Finder
of blessed memory



Bad Ischl, 1946

Dolores and Peter Berkowsky
Daniel and Jesse

Charles and Darien Finder
Max, Avriel and Jacob





50th Anniversary



Richard Abrahamer, z.l.,
a Founder and President of the NCFS and
Judith Abrahamer
partner and tireless supporter

The New Cracow Friendship Society was a wish and dream for my parents' generation that became a reality.

For my children and me it is a vehicle that keeps the **presence of absence** alive and vital.

Congratulations on 50 years of important work, love and support of Israel, preservation of Jewish life and enduring testimonial to the memory of our righteous ancestors.

Vilma Helen Abrahamer
Leah Rayome Illingworth
Shayna Michel Illingworth Jingst





50th Anniversary



We have been members of the New Cracow Friendship Society since its inception through the efforts of our good friends,

Ben Geizhals, z”l and Larry Zellner.

We were privileged to know all the past presidents of this fine organization and we have many wonderful memories, especially going on the Israel missions and the many dinner dances. On the special occasion of the 50th Anniversary, we congratulate and wish a hearty mazal tov to the New Cracow Friendship Society to continue its existence and good works.

Jack And Sally Wimmer

In Loving Memory of

Golda, Carola and Henry Greenspan

and members of our Family who perished during the Shoah.



Carola Jerowski Greenspan Golda Greenspan Henry Greenspan

Our parents taught us important life lessons about humanity, resiliency and menschlekhiet and the importance of standing up and speaking out against atrocities. They were proud members of the Cracow Society.

Josh Greenspan

Barbara Greenspan Shaiman

Dan, Deb, Jeremy, Jake, Becca





50th Anniversary



In Honor of
our Parents

**Steven Morrow, z.l. and
Barbara Morrow, z.l.**

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary!

Alex Morrow And Stanley Morrow





50th Anniversary



In cherished memory of

**Genia “Mema” Boyman
and
Sevek “Pepa” Boyman**



They are always in our hearts.
We miss their light and love.

The Leitzes - Boyman Family

Thank you to the New Cracow Friendship Society for giving
our parents a place to just “be” and “belong”.

In memory of our beloved son

George Silberstein

Dr. and Mrs. Fryderyk Silberstein





50th Anniversary



In loving memory of

Dr. Cecile Insdorf
("Krakowianka" Cesia Weindling)

as well as

Michael Insdorf
Sonia, Feuer, and Anka Pajewska

Annette Insdorf

Mazal Tov to the

New Cracow Friendship Society

on the occasion of its Golden Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Fenster





50th Anniversary



In loving memory of

Reuven and Eda Kaminski

Anita Epstein

In honor of the memory of

First Generation Members

Irena and Henryk Szancer

*Elizabeth Szancer & Tom Zoufaly
And Families*





50th Anniversary



Congratulations from the LEWIS FAMILY on your 50th Anniversary!

Thank you for helping our family to reclaim and enjoy their lives after the Holocaust and for offering them a way to heal and grow through close-knit friendships, volunteering, and charitable giving.

In memory of our dear father, grandfather, and devoted founder:

Victor Lewis, z.l.,

Membership Chairman from 1965-2009, who worked tirelessly on so many programs and had the love and interests of the Society in his heart and on his mind.

And in honor of our dear mother and grandmother:

Regina Lewis,

who worked so diligently and continuously in support of Victor's Membership responsibilities and on other active committees and initiatives since the Society's inception.

The Society has meant so much to the Lewis family! Thank you for being there, for being so giving, and for being so fulfilling to the Lewis family for the past 50 years!

With much appreciation,

Al, Ida, Meryl, and Jennifer Lewis

Mazal Tov to the

New Cracow Friendship Society

on its 50th Anniversary!

Tusia Mandelberger And Family




50th Anniversary


In loving memory of
Reuven and Eda Kaminski

Anita Epstein

In honor of the memory of
First Generation Members
Irena and Henryk Szancer

*Elizabeth Szancer & Tom Zoufaly
And Families*





50th Anniversary

Happy 50th Anniversary

We are thrilled to wish the Organization
best wishes for continual success.
Friendship is what this society was created for
and it has provided this and much more.
With endless gratitude and love,

The Zellner Family

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of The New Cracow Friendship Society, we applaud all of its Founders, Presidents and Members for uniting survivors and promoting philanthropy, teaching of the Holocaust, camaraderie and friendships.

Participating in celebratory events and conducting Yizkor Services elevated our remembrance of the past and the promise of the future.

We are grateful to the society's accomplishments of promoting friendships, keeping memories alive and creating a forum where survivors share an indestructible bond.

Cantor Max And Lena Rubin-Tilles





50th Anniversary

In Loving Memory

Samuel Schanzer – Beloved Father
Pola Schanzer – Beloved Mother
Sam Berdick – Beloved Uncle
Solomon Schanzer – Beloved Brother
And countless Family members
who perished in the Holocaust.

Forever in our hearts.
May their souls rest in peace.

Sara Schanzer and Holland Siegel
Joe, Francie and Ariana Schanzer

In loving memory of my husband

Ben Geizhals, z.l.

A Founder and a President of the Society.
His heart and soul was for the betterment of our Society.
His legacy includes education about the Shoah and
support for the State of Israel.

Esther Geizhals
Children and Grandchildren





50th Anniversary



In loving memory of my husband
Julian

My Brothers- in-Law
Henry and Joseph Grunberg

My sisters-in-Law
Genia Abraham-Klein
Mala Grunberg
Josephine Grunberg

And my parents
Herman and Miriam Luszczanowski

They are truly missed
Helga, Malin and Sonia Grunberg

Congratulations to

The New Cracow Friendship Society

On the Golden Anniversary

Arthur and Sydelle Spielman



50th Anniversary

In loving memory of
Ada and Rafael Abrahamer



From their children

Nora And Henry

Nora's Husband Dan Perlman,

And Grandson Jeremy Abrahamer Perlman

We miss you and love you so very much.

With fond memories of our beloved Father,
Grandfather and Great Grandfather



Edward Hilfstein

Shelly and Howard Schapiro

Benjamin and Ashley Schapiro

Aliza, Hezi, Lotem and Lielle Touaf

Daniel and Jessica Schapiro

Howard, Debbie, Edward and Adin Hilfstein

In Loving Memory
of My Parents

Clara Hilt (Hubel)
Edward Hilt (Hilfstein)



Sam Hilt (Hilfstein)

In Memory Of Our
Beloved Parents

Jean Krul (née Genia Feld)

1926 - 2011

and

Eli Krul 1926 - 1971

Your loving children,

Susan Krul Caren

and Jeffrey Krul

and grandchildren

Elise and Samantha Caren

and Matthew and Michelle Krul





50th Anniversary



Good luck on the occasion of
the 50th Anniversary.
May you have many more years
to come.

In memory of
Samuel Wertheim

Ester Wertheim

We celebrate the 50th Anniversary
of the
New Cracow Friendship Society

In memory of
Adolf Polland
and
In honor of
Dola Polland

*David, Marsha, Zachary, Andrew and
Rebecca Edell and
Great Grandchildren, Max & Teddy*

In memory of the family we lost in the Shoah

Yoseph Gottselig Wohlmuth
Hinda Grunfeld-Kogel Wohlmuth
Yehudah Leib Wohlmuth
Yaakov Moshe Wohlmuth
Eliyahu Wohlmuth
Glickel Wohlmuth
Raizel Wohlmuth
Yitzchak Meir Blumberg
Esther Rachel Landau Blumberg
Rivka Leah Blumberg
Devorah Blumberg
Pinchas Bezalel Eliezer Blumberg
Chana Blumberg

And with much gratitude to our friends from the
New Cracow Friendship Society who became our
new family

*Isaac (z'l) and Miriam Wohlmuth
Elaine and Dorit*

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary
of the New Cracow Friendship Society.
I feel honored to be a member of this
dedicated, hard-working extra-special
group of people who will never allow
others to forget what happened so many
years ago in Cracow, Poland. Continued
celebrations, joyous memories, and
treasured friendships. Twenty four
years ago my father shared words at my
mother's funeral and one month ago I
shared the same words at my father's
funeral. "Don't wait for tomorrow to
phone a friend, write a note, extend your
hand, or do a mitzvah." Treasure each
day.

Dena Hilfstein





50th Anniversary



Congratulations on the 50th
Anniversary

Morris and Rita Horowitz

In Loving Memory of

Celina and Herman Salamon

Simon Salamon

In memory of
Families Grunberg, Kreuzman
and all of those who died in
concentration camps.

Marsha (Maria) Grunberg Kreuzman
Survivor

Best wishes and
continued success
on your 50th Anniversary

The Matzner Family

In loving memory of

Leopold Pfefferberg-Page

The Family

In honor of our beloved Parents

Janet and Emil Stoeger

And our second "Family" –

Members of the NCFS who made it
possible for Holocaust survivors to thrive.

With fond memories

Maria And Ken Helfman

Ally Stoeger And Dave Domnitch

Our Children And Grandchilren





50th Anniversary



In memory of my dear childhood friend

Victor Lewis, כ"א

Joseph Wolfowicz

In memory of all our loved ones

Rena Finder and Family

We are honored to be part of the New Cracow Friendship Society,
an organization that does good deeds for Israel and Jews in need.
Mazal tov on the 50th Anniversary of the Cracow Friendship Society!

Dorothy and Morris Kleinberg

On this 50th anniversary of this wonderful society, we wish to honor fellow members,
Betty and Melvin Reich and Mary Mindel, and we remember Jack Mandelbaum-
cherished husband and father, and Sam Mindel. Mazel Tov and a heartfelt thanks to all
the board members and organizers of the party and other events throughout the years.

Mollie Mandelbaum and Family

Congratulations on your 50th
Anniversary.



Doron Keren, DDS

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