



# Tracing 1,000 Years of Jewish History in Poland

The North American Council of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews is the primary U.S. tax-exempt charitable organization supporting the design and creation of the permanent exhibition devoted to the long and rich history of Polish Jewry, and the main channel for Museum development activities in North America. It also supports efforts to restore and enhance the awareness of the flowering of Jewish religious and secular life, Yiddish culture, communal life and political activity in Poland over the course of centuries.

The Museum in Warsaw will trace 1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland. Its stunning architectural design alludes to the parting of the Red Sea from the time of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land.

In the Museum of the History of Polish Jews we want to restore the memory perception of the traces left by many generations of Jews who lived among us.

**Aleksander Kwasniewski**  
*President of Poland, 1995-2005*

I am proud that my time in the Ministry coincides with this act of creation, the construction of an exceptional Museum of remembrance, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the only Museum of its kind. As the Minister, I support the Museum financially; as a person, I support it spiritually and emotionally.

**Bogdan Zdrojewski**  
*Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage*

The walls of the Museum will enclose a record of our common history and also contain a powerful moral message of tolerance for future generations.

**Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz**  
*Mayor of Warsaw*

For generations my family was active in social and political life, both Jewish and Polish. My commitment to the Museum of Polish Jewish History continues a family tradition of public service. For me, this Museum affirms the permanence of Jewish life on Polish soil.

**Piotr Wislicki**  
*Chairman of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland*

This is a grand mission. As an organization, and above all as an idea, this Museum will be the starting point of a transformative journey for young Poles and Jews.

**Agnieszka Rudzinska**  
*Acting Director, Museum of the History of Polish Jews*

I am writing these few words as a Polish-born American Jew. Our Museum will tell a story like no other in the world. Visitors— young and old— will learn how essential Jews were for Poland and Poland for us.

A new portal awaits...

**Sigmund Rolat**  
*Co-Chairman, North American Council*

The memory of the radiant Jewish world that was heinously decimated by the Nazis has to be preserved for future generations. I owe it to my family, to all those who perished and to all the people who care.

**Victor Markowicz**  
*Co-Chairman, North American Council*

It is time to shine a bright spotlight on the history of Polish Jews with all their accomplishments and contributions, so they are no longer hidden by the shadows of recent tragedies and ignorance. Let the Museum of the History of Polish Jews become that spotlight!

**Michael Berkowicz**  
*Treasurer, North American Council*



The spatial plan of the museum links the past with the present. This visualization of the main entrance looks out on the plaza between the Museum building and the Monument to the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto. The monument by Nathan Rapaport, the homage to Jewish tragedy and resistance, looks into the Museum building that enfolds a storied past and the pride of Jewish presence in Poland.

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews will open on the 70th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

For whom is our Museum intended?

First, for the Jews of the whole world, especially Jewish youth, so that they can learn their roots in history; to make them aware that for a long period the majority of the Jewish diaspora lived on Polish soil; so that they realize that on this soil were born all their great spiritual movements— both religious, such as Hasidism, as well as secular, such as Bundism and Zionism.

Second, for the Polish people, especially Polish youth, so they will understand that for nearly 1,000 years the Jews were part of the Polish landscape— as Polish literature and history attests— until a vacuum was formed by the Holocaust, which it is the mission of our Museum to fill.

Third, for all who are neither Jews nor Poles, so that they might appreciate the enormous contribution Polish Jews have made to European and world civilization.

**Marian Turcki**  
*Chairman of the Council of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews; Co-Chairman of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland*

For 1,000 years Poles and Jews have shared the same history. Now our two countries are undergoing the process of creating a common history— a bridge that connects the past and the future that we must cherish and protect together. I believe it is my duty to help restore to the common consciousness [the] rich civilization destroyed by the Shoah. I appeal to you to join me in this effort, which will benefit generations to come.

**Shimon Peres**  
*Israeli President/International Honorary Committee Chairman*

Here at this Museum, the story will be told for generations— about how millions of Jews perished in the Holocaust, and the story of who those Jews were. Without this Museum, will the next generation know the names, the people, the history, the spiritual creations of our spiritual giants? We need this Museum! In our entire history, Polish Jews are like milestones. Nowhere else in the world was there such richness of diversity as there was among Polish Jews.

**Rabbi Israel Meir Lau**  
*Former Chief Rabbi of Israel*

The Museum is an important cutting-edge educational institution that stands on sacred ground— where Jewish people attempted to live rich Jewish lives despite the deadly Nazis. It is a place that commemorates our long history in Poland, and tells us how our ancestors in the Diaspora built an epicenter of Jewish life, with Talmudic academies and Hasidic dynasties, Yiddish language and a culture that resonates today. It could not have come about without the support of today's democratic Poland, of the European Union, respecting the Jewish past, and maintaining friendship with the State of Israel.

**Rabbi Arthur Schneier**  
*Senior Rabbi, Park East Synagogue*

The Torah instructs us to remember the Shabbat, our journey in the Sinai and Amalek's attack to destroy us over and over again through the generations. The Torah instructs us in our obligation to treasure our tradition and culture, and to teach our history. Our new Museum of the History of Polish Jews embodies all three of these elements. We will ensure that our children and our children's children will know of the glory and the pain of our experiences here in Poland. Thanks to this Museum, we and those who follow after us will remember.

**Rabbi Michael Schudrich**  
*Chief Rabbi of Poland*

When it opens, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw will stand alone as a multifaceted expression of the thousand-year contribution to European civilization by Jewish life in Poland. May the uniqueness of Jewish tradition and culture, tended and grown with perseverance by generations of Jews in Poland, continue as we are taught by our Torah, *L'doroteichem*, for generations and generations to come.

**Joseph Malovany**  
*Chief Cantor, Fifth Avenue Synagogue*

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To learn more about the Museum or to donate on-line, visit [www.mhpjnc.org](http://www.mhpjnc.org).

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