

## PUBLICATIONS



„**Na rozkaz serca**” (At the heart’s command) – this book consists of the memories of the ordinary people who found themselves in uncommon situations, Henryk and Zbigniewa Pawelec. Henryk Pawelec, pseudonym Andrzej, is one of the last living veterans of the Second World War. He began his military service on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1939 and it lasted till the end of occupation. Then he fought with Bolsheviks.



„**Listy z getta**” (Letters from ghetto) – contains tens of miraculously saved postcards, letters and photographs. The author of the majority of the letters, Hanka Goldszajd, her mother Rywka, father Jakub and her brother Chaim did not survive the Shoah. They were deported from the Kielce ghetto and murdered in Treblinka. The publication of the book was connected with unveiling the Menorah Monument.

## THE HONORED



Irena Sendler (1910 – 2008) – a Polish social activist, Righteous among the Nations, lady of the Order of the White Eagle. She rescued 2500 children from the Warsaw Ghetto. On the photography Irena Sendler is receiving the Femina Bona medal.

**Vir Bonus** and **Femina Bona** are the honorary designations awarded to people who contribute to the realization of the Society’s aims with their social activity, achievements, attitude and steadfastness.

**The honored people:** Miriam Guterman, Yaacov Kotlicki, Wojciech Lubawski, Henryk Pawelec, pseudonym Andrzej, Michael Schudrich, Irena Sendler, Maria Stolzman, Romuald Jakub Weksler-Waszkiel, Stanisław Żak.

## ABOUT US AROUND THE WORLD

**The New York Times** – „It is extremely difficult to accept the dark side of one’s history – says Bogdan Białek, a psychologist who recently formed a group of 15 Kielce citizens, including Zak, that will seek reconciliation with Jews abroad.”

**THE NEW YORK TIMES (the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1996), one of the biggest American newspapers**



„In the face of general indifference, occasional verbal abuse and even death threats, Bialek has been an energetic advocate of many efforts to recognize Kielce’s past, including some of the plaques and monuments.”

**THE JEWISH DAILY FORWARD (the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2010) – the American Jews newspaper in New York**



„After 64 years from the tragic events the grave slab commemorating the victims of the Kielce pogrom was unveiled (...) among the people who delivered a speech were Yaacov Kotlicki from Israel and Bogdan Białek from Poland – the initiators of the restoration of the grave slab.”

**YEDIOTH AHRONOTH (the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2010)**

## „NOT FOR THE DEAD” [WWW.NOTFORTHEDEAD.PL](http://WWW.NOTFORTHEDEAD.PL)

„**Not for the dead**” is a title of the film whose production started 5 years ago, by two filmmakers: an American Lawrence Loewinger and a Pole Michał Jaskólski. Its theme is the activity of Mr. Bogdan Białek and the Jan Karski Society. The filmmakers are trying to present Kielce and Poland of today in confrontation with the difficulties of its history. They have made more than 200 hours of recordings which document the celebrations held in the town. In Israel and the United States they talked with the pogrom survivors. In Kielce they interviewed the witnesses of the pogrom.



## JAN KARSKI SOCIETY

[WWW.JANKARSKI.ORG.PL](http://WWW.JANKARSKI.ORG.PL)



The Jan Karski Society was founded in March 2005. Its main aim is to act for popularization of openness and respect for people and groups different in terms of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or culture; to counteract any forms of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, racism or other behaviors which humiliate human beings; to act for saving Polish national heritage – monitoring and condemning all acts of its violation. The Chairman of the Jan Karski Society is Bogdan Białek, who is also a publisher and editor-in-chief of the psychological magazine „Charaktery”. He received many awards for his social activity, for instance Professor Łukasz Hirszczyk Award, Stanisław Musiał SJ Award, as well as Polcul Foundation Award. He is also a honorary member of the Kiełtzer Society in New York.

**THE JAN KARSKI SOCIETY**  
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## THE BENCH OF JAN KARSKI

In 2005 the Jan Karski Society erected the Jan Karski sculpture in the main street in Kielce, nearby the place where the pogrom took place. Its total cost was covered by private funds and it is gift for the residents of Kielce from the Society.

His Excellency Mr. Lee Andrew Feinstein, the United States Ambassador to Poland, together with Bogdan Biatek, August 2011. The monument is directed towards the place where the pogrom occurred. Jan Karski, leaning on his stick, is playing chess, which was his favorite entertainment. It is so called „Karski's game“. It is said that nobody has won it so far. One can find the same monuments in Washington, New York, Tel Aviv and Łódź.



Fot. Stanisław Biatek

Jan Karski's monument is nowadays an integral part of the Kieltzer street. It has not only symbolical and artistic meaning, but it is also a place where Kielce residents like meeting and tourists like being photographed.

## MENORAH MONUMENT

In 2007, on the commemoration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kielce ghetto extermination and the murder of more than 20 thousand Jews, the Jan Karski Society erected the Menorah Monument financed from the private funds of the Biatek Family.



Fot. UM Kielce

Every time I am here I wonder if this Menorah goes down to the ground and is a symbol of death or it goes up as a sign of the renewed life. Thanks to such people like you I am sure that it goes up – said Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich.

## MEMORIAL EVENTS

The March of Remembrance and Reconciliation plays the special role in the activity of the Jan Karski Society. It is held each year on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July – on the day when the Kielce pogrom is commemorated. The memorial event reminds of the tragic past but also symbolizes reconciliation. The first march organized by the Society took place in 2005, earlier they were a private initiative of Bogdan Biatek and Janusz Daszuta.



Fot. UM Kielce

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2010 the official presentation of the restored monument of the victims of the Kielce pogrom took place. The initiator of the restoration was the Jan Karski Society and it was financed by individual Kielce residents as well as by the members of the Kieltzer Society in Israel and in the United States. In 2011 15 thousand young Israelis visited this place.



Fot. Stanisław Biatek

I am in deep sorrow. I intended to visit Poland before I die in order to see all my friends. I am grateful that you want to comfort me. Thank you for your welcoming attitude. I love you so much. I am in Poland with all my heart – said Miriam Guterma, born 1921, a Kieltzer who survived the pogrom, during the memorial event in Kielce (4<sup>th</sup> of July 2011).

## TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Jacek Jaros and Dariusz Stępień are the history teachers in the 6<sup>th</sup> High School in Kielce. With great devotion they encourage their students to participate in the activities of the Society and young people do this with great eagerness and interest. Among events organized during the Christian-Jewish Meetings are workshops for teachers. Their topic is how to teach about Holocaust.



In Autumn 2011 the Society in the cooperation with the Organization Spark Pro organized the visit of young Israelis in Kielce. Then, young Kieltzers made a return visit in Israel.

## THE DAY OF JUDAISM

In winter 2006 the Society together with the Polish Episcopal Conference organized the main events of the 9<sup>th</sup> Polish Day of Judaism.



Fot. UM Kielce

To remind the words of John Paul the Second and to engrave them on the plaque is a good way. It is a sign that the ideas of the Pope are being realized. Now Kieltzers can feel proud of their town because it sets a good example of how to cope with difficult problems of history. We have to say clearly that these people who live in this town do not take responsibility for what had happened. Kielce is the first Polish town – since it was allowed to tell the truth - which has found a way out of lies and falsehood – said Professor Władysław Bartoszewski during the ceremony of unveiling the inscription plaque on the house in Planty Street, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2006.

The 27<sup>th</sup> of January is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day – every year members of the Jan Karski Society meet at the Menorah Monument in order to pay homage to the victims of this cruel crime.

## CHRISTIANS – JEWS

In January 2011 the Society organized in Kielce the first edition of the Christian-Jewish Meetings. There were a lot of events whose aim was to present Jewish religion, culture and history to the residents of Kielce. During the Meetings people tried to search the convergences and similarities between the Christianity and Judaism. The idea of the Meetings turned out to be a great success. There were almost 4 thousand participants and almost half of them were schoolchildren.



The Menorah Monument inspired the eminent concertmaster and composer Jerzy Maksymiuk to create a composition titled „Lament serca. Kielcom in memoriam” dedicated to the memory of the Kieltzer Jews. The world premiere of the composition performed by the Kielce Philharmonic Orchestra inaugurated the Second Christian-Jewish Meetings in Kielce. It was conducted by Jerzy Maksymiuk.