

# The Warsaw Ghetto Museum

**|** we collect  
we build  
we remember



Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.

Joel 1:3

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is with great pleasure that I bring you this report on the activities of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, an institution in the making that I have been in charge of for the past five years. It was a period of intense work whose outcomes we are truly proud of. The museum, whose foundations were laid by a small group of people in 2018, now boasts a staff of 35, has its own unique visual identity, and carries out educational, research, cultural, and commemorative activities on a large scale. Although the core exhibition will not open for another few years, the Warsaw Ghetto Museum has already become an important point on the museum map of Warsaw.

We were able to achieve all this within such a short time thanks



to the Museum's committed, professional team whom I would like to sincerely thank on this occasion. I am also very grateful to our Organiser, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, as well as all the institutions and private individuals supporting us.

And now I would like to take you on a tour of the Museum and its activities. I hope that we will see each other soon at the official opening.

**Albert Stankowski**  
**Director, Warsaw**  
**Ghetto Museum**

## I The Warsaw Ghetto

**Before World War II, Warsaw had the largest Jewish community in Europe and the second largest in the world, surpassed only by New York.**

In 1939, some 370,000 Jews lived here (a third of the city's population). In mid-November 1940, the Germans closed the gates of the Warsaw Ghetto, cutting those forced into it off from the rest of the city. The Jews of Warsaw and Jewish deportees from other cities and countries were crowded into an area of just over 3 km<sup>2</sup>. By the beginning of 1941, the ghetto population already numbered circa 450,000. The penalty for leaving the Jewish quarter, or for providing assistance to Jews on what was known as the Aryan side, was death.

Footbridge over Przebieg Street, looking south from Bonifraterska Street, photo from the Museum collection.



Corner of Żelazna and Chłodna Streets, looking south, photo from the Museum collection.

The Warsaw Ghetto was the biggest ghetto in German-occupied Europe. From the start, it was plagued by overcrowding, bad sanitary conditions, slave labour, and economic exploitation, which contributed to hunger and outbreaks of infectious diseases. By July 1942, more than 90,000 people had died in the ghetto.

In the spring of 1942, the Germans launched Aktion „Reinhardt” whose aim was the actual ex-

termination of Jews in the Generalgouvernement. On 22 July 1942, the Grossaktion began in the Warsaw Ghetto – deportations to the death camp at Treblinka, where nearly 270,000 Warsaw Jews were killed within only two months. Only some 55,000 people remained in the reduced ghetto area, working for German companies producing supplies for the Third Reich's war effort, or staying in the ghetto clandestinely.



Tram with a Star of David instead of a number; Zamenhofa Street, looking south-east towards Nowolipki Street, photo from the Museum collection.

Realising what the German occupiers had in store for them, the Jews decided to take a heroic stand. On 19 April 1943, the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising broke out. When the Germans entered the ghetto to liquidate it, they were attacked by Jewish Combat Organisation (ŻOB) and Jewish Military Union (ŻZW) groups. On 8 May, German units destroyed the bunker at 18 Miła Street where the ŻOB command and their leader, Mordechai Anielewicz, were hiding. The Germans set about systematically burning down house after house and on May 16th they blew the Great Synagogue at Tłomackie Street up. This date is considered the symbolic end of the upri-

sing, although occasional skirmishes continued for several days. After blowing up the Great Synagogue, the commander of the German forces, Jürgen Stroop, wrote in a report to Heinrich Himmler: "The Warsaw Jewish quarter is no more".

The tragedy of the Jews confined inside the Warsaw Ghetto, struggling to overcome inhuman living conditions, is the central theme of the Museum's future core exhibition. We want to showcase the stories of ordinary people who tried to uphold basic human values in family, religious, scholarly and cultural life despite the unparalleled oppression they were subjected to.



# | The Warsaw Ghetto Museum

**The Warsaw Ghetto Museum was established by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland in 2018. The Museum's mission is to disseminate information about the everyday life, survival strategies, struggle, and destruction of Polish Jews in German-occupied Poland in 1939–1945.**

**We have only been working for five years out of a temporary office, but we are already taking strides to implement our statutory mission. Get to know us!**

Our visual identity, developed by the Lithuanian studio DADADA, translates the official wording of our mission into the language of feelings that resonate with individuals. In addition to our

permanent logo, based on the name of the institution, an algorithm was devised that allows one to create an infinite number of logos based on historic names. In 2022, the identification was awarded third place in the countrywide review Muzeum Widzialne (Visible Museum).

We are present in Warsaw's urban space. We are conducting groundbreaking research at Miła Street. We organise book meetings, lectures, workshops, and concerts. We've prepared over a dozen outdoor and virtual exhibitions, including *Witness to History: The Bersohn and Bauman Hospital*, *Postcards from our Neighbourhood: The History of Sienna and Śliska Streets*, *Three Takes on Warsaw*,



*Ordinary/Extraordinary Doctors in the Warsaw Ghetto: Anna Braude-Heller and Franciszek Raszeja*, *Those Among the Thousands...*, *One in Three* and the latest, *Memory 1943*, organised at the Kordegarda Gallery.

We collaborate with many institutions across Poland and other countries. We have started a pilot residency project whose first participants were women staff of the National Museum of the History of the Second World War in Kyiv.

Our overarching goal is to restore the memory of all the lives lost during the Holocaust. In 2020, we took part in commemorating the 80th anniversary of the closing of the Warsaw Ghetto. It was the first initiative ever to officially mark that important date. The Institute of National Remembrance has loaned us the original Stroop Report on deposit for our core exhibition. In 2022, we were one of the organisers of the year-long international commemorations



Public campaign *City Behind the Wall* on the 80nd anniversary of the closing of the Warsaw Ghetto, 2020; photo Jacek Turczyk.

of the 80th anniversary of Aktion “Reinhardt” – the operation which saw the systematic extermination of Jewry and claimed the lives of some 1.85 million Jews, most of them Polish citizens.

Thanks to our proposal, the Polish Senate has named 2023 a Year of Memory for the Heroines and Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto.



Outdoor exhibition *Those Among the Thousands...*, 2022; photo Robert Wilczyński.

April 2023 marks the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – the biggest armed Jewish revolt during World War II and the first urban uprising in occupied Europe. Its history is

inextricably linked with the history of the city and of Poland during World War II, and it is an important legacy for future generations. For the anniversary year we have planned a rich



programme of events, most notably the performance of Mieczysław Weinberg's *Polish Flowers* symphony (based on Julian Tuwim's poem) and the first performance of Elżbieta Sikora's *Tenebrae* by the Polish-Israeli Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Grand Theatre – National Opera. Another important event is the exhibition *Memory 1943* at the Kordegarda Gallery, juxtaposing the famous photographs from

the Stroop Report with ordinary objects excavated from the cellars of the destroyed tenement at 18 Miła Street. The commemorative programme includes many other events planned by the Museum and its partners, including conferences, theatre performances, webinars, a radio play, lectures and workshops for young people. The programme is available on our website:

[www.warsaw1943.pl](http://www.warsaw1943.pl).



Video-installation *City Behind the Wall* by Karolina fender Noińska, 2022; photo Robert Wilczyński.



Exhibition *Memory 1943* at the Kordegarda Gallery, 2023; photo Robert Wilczyński.



Exhibition *Memory 1943* at the Kordegarda Gallery, 2023; photo Robert Wilczyński.

## | Premises

The Museum will soon make its permanent home at the former Bersohn and Bauman Hospital at 60 Sienna / 51 Śliska Street. The hospital complex is a special witness to Warsaw's history.

Founded in 1878 by Jewish industrialists and philanthropists at the initiative of Maier Bersohn, the hospital soon began to treat Jewish and Polish children. Everyone, regardless of ethnicity or religion, could obtain assistance at the walk-in clinic. Following expansion and modernisation in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the hospital had over 250 beds and was considered one of the most modern facilities in Poland. It was headed by Anna Braude-Heller.



Bersohn and Bauman  
Children's Hospital,  
1930s, Narodowe  
Archiwum Cyfrowe.





The hospital's chemical and bacteriological lab, 1930s; Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe.

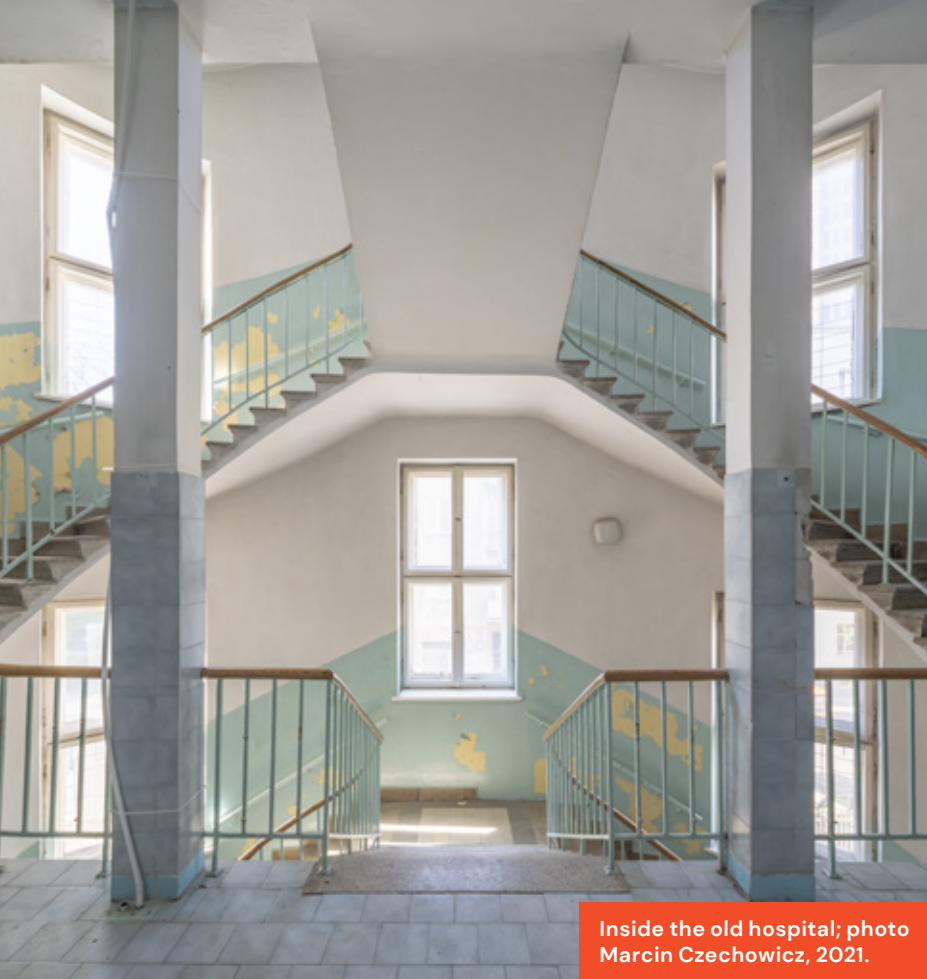


Minister Piotr Gliński visits the future site of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, photo Robert Wilczyński.

During World War II, the hospital was included in the Warsaw Ghetto. Although short of equipment and medicines, it strove to provide medical services to as many children as possible. The hospital's team of doctors took part in research on hunger disease whose results were published after the war by Emil Apfelbaum. The history of the hospital includes many illustri-

ous doctors, nurses and social activists such as Henryk Goldszmit (aka Janusz Korczak), Adina Bładyszwajger, and Marek Edelman. Preserving their legacy is an important part of the Museum's mission.

During the 1944 Warsaw Uprising the building was used as a field hospital by the Home Army's Chrobry II unit. In 1947, it



Inside the old hospital; photo Marcin Czechowicz, 2021.

became the seat of the Central Committee of Jews in Poland. It was at that time that work was launched on the Ringelblum Archive, recovered from the ruins of the ghetto. In 1953, the partly rebuilt complex returned to its

original purpose as the Children of Warsaw Hospital. In 2020, the building was purchased for the Warsaw Ghetto Museum and is currently being refurbished. The opening of the Museum is scheduled for 2026.



The main hospital building and the old ophthalmology pavilion; photo Marcin Czechowicz, 2021.



Main hospital building; photo Marcin Czechowicz, 2021.





Visualisation of the future Museum.

## I We build

**On 19 April 2023, the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, we will symbolically commence the construction of the Museum premises. That day, a time capsule will be placed in the hospital grounds.**

The main building and the ophthalmology pavilion – both listed as historic buildings along with the plots they are on – will be adapted for new purposes. New facilities will also be constructed within the grounds in addition to underground levels beneath the

courtyard. Thanks to conservation works the historic site will be restored to its original proportions, details, and colours.

After modernisation, the main hospital building will house the Museum's exhibition spaces,

while the pavilion will be used for educational activities. Two other buildings will be constructed along the edges of the plot – an office building with a visitor entrance, and a technical building. Due to the restrictions applying to the historic complex as well

as building volume limitations, part of the facility will occupy three underground levels, while the outdoor space around the buildings will remain a garden area. Importantly, the core exhibition will begin on the top floor of the main building, on the old hospital terrace, where the story of nineteenth-century Warsaw will be woven in with the palimpsest of modern city architecture outside. Aside from additional exhibition rooms, the underground levels will house an auditorium, a library, a multimedia centre, temporary exhibition halls, as well as conservation and digitisation studios along with storage.

The garden, which will be open to the public, will host street furniture as well as an exhibit – a reconstruction of a tram

from the 1930s on an original chassis, in addition to an art installation – a three-dimensional sculpture designed to blend in with the natural surroundings.

Visualisation of the future Museum.

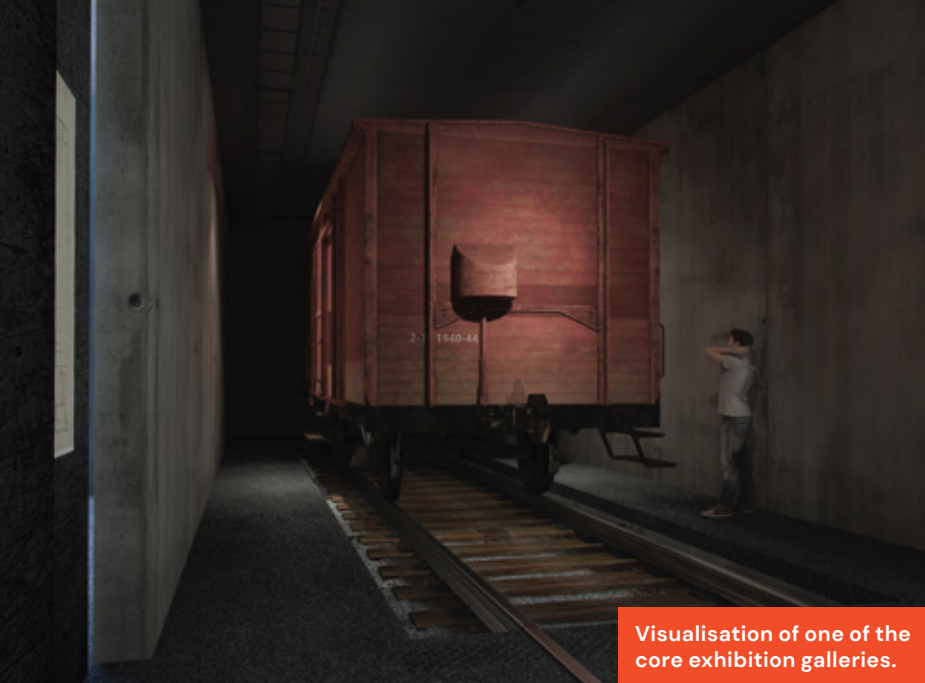


The new buildings will have an architectural concrete facade and partly green roofs. The simple, monumental, and somewhat brut architecture will contrast with the historic

buildings, accentuating their design and beauty.

The Warsaw Ghetto Museum complex has been designed by Dr Jerzy Wowczak.





Visualisation of one of the core exhibition galleries.

## Core Exhibition

The Museum's core exhibition team consists of historians from Poland, the United States, and Israel. Led by WGM's director Albert Stankowski and Prof. Daniel Blatman, the team has developed an exhibition concept which is currently being realised by the Museum's Academic and Research Department and the Exhibitions Department. The ex-

hibition timeline runs from the hospital's date of construction (1878) to the finding of the first part of the Ringelblum Archive (1946). The Museum's Academic and Research Department is devising a special publication series to accompany the opening of the core exhibition.

### The core exhibition comprises:

- Nine galleries:
  1. Jewish Warsaw
  2. War and Occupation 1939–1940
  3. Ghettoization 1940–1941
  4. Life Behind the Wall 1940–1942
  5. Divided City
  6. Großaktion Warschau 1942
  7. Ghost Town
  8. Insurgent City 1943–1944,
  9. "We bear their graves within ourselves" (Elie Wiesel)
- Artefacts, archival photographs, accounts
- Ca 3400 m<sup>2</sup> out of the Museum's total area of ca 11,500 m<sup>2</sup>

The exhibition will demonstrate how helpless the city was in the face of the German regulations that divided its territory and population. The tragedy of the Holocaust and the destruction of the Jews of Warsaw will be a point of departure for discussing human-

ist values such as tolerance, empathy for minorities, and dialogue between religions, ethnic groups, and nations. The destructive consequences of anti-Semitism and racism should not only be remembered, but also serve as a warning to future generations.

### In the core exhibition, visitors will:

- Learn about the diversity of Warsaw's pre-war Jewish community and the important role Jews played in the history and development of the city
- Learn about the complex nature of Polish-Jewish relations before the war and during the occupation, where violence and hostility co-existed with assistance and compassion
- Develop understanding and empathy for the uniquely tragic fate of Poland's and Warsaw's Jews during the Holocaust.

## I Core Exhibition Design

**The exhibition features original artefacts from the Warsaw Ghetto. It opens with a room, a “sea of rubble”, showcasing a priceless exhibit – one of the ten boxes found in the ruins of postwar Warsaw containing the documents of Emanuel Ringelblum, a Jewish historian and founder of the underground organisation Oneg Shabbat. Pages that helped preserve the memory of Jewish life before the war, during the occupation, and in the ghetto itself.**

The exhibition’s successive galleries will evoke the fate and the culture of the Jewish community. We will encounter images of pre-war modern Jewish Warsaw, but also the theme of anti-Semitism and ghetto benches, the stories

of people confined in the ghetto, trying to survive, being deported to their death, or starting an uprising. The path will descend further and further down (down to level –3), the scenography and atmosphere changing accordingly. We will see artefacts found during archaeological excavations in the former ghetto, archival photographs projected on concrete walls, a crushing sculpture representing the ghetto wall, a mapping of the changing ghetto boundaries, and an evocative “empty streets” installation. We will hear a realistic street soundscape and the voices of witnesses. We will also see a powerful installation constructed out of compressed, twisted hospital beds, and the featured Stroop Report.



Visualisation of one of the core exhibition galleries.

These are just some examples of the core exhibition scenography through which we try to convey important content as compellingly as possible. The narrative will conclude with a space of reflection and meditation, with a pool reflecting the blurred portraits of ghetto residents on the surrounding walls.

The exhibition will also allude to the actual building. We will

employ solutions like terrazzo on the floor, panelling on the walls, showcases imitating hospital cabinets from the period, or subtle visual quotations from the history of the hospital itself.

The exhibition was designed by Art Fm led by Mieczysław Bielawski.





Remington Rand typewriter with Hebrew type; photo Robert Wilczyński.

## I Collections

The Warsaw Ghetto Museum's principal aim is to preserve the memory of the life and tragic death of Warsaw's Jewish community for future generations. We are constantly on the lookout for historic artefacts connected to the Warsaw Ghetto. We collect testimonies about life in ghettos across occupied Poland

and the Holocaust, both oral and material, i.e. written documents, photographs, everyday items, handmade objects, and artworks.

The Museum collection currently numbers 5516 artefacts, including 1912 archival items, 2318 iconography items, and 895 museum items. These include the

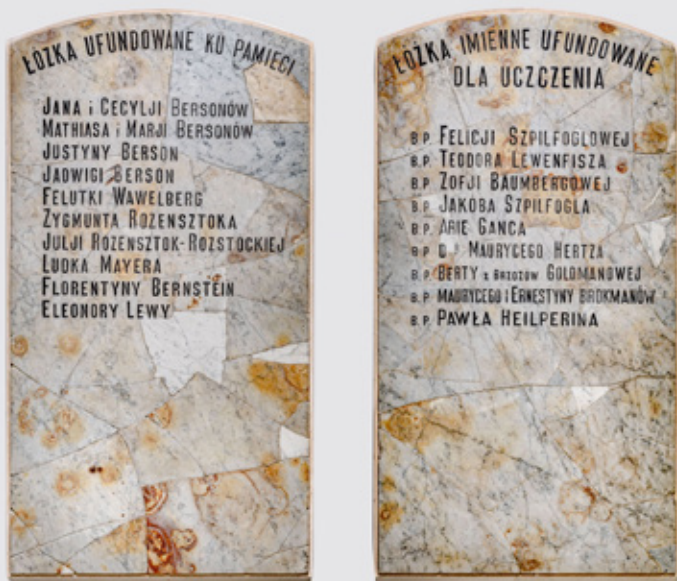


Tallit; photo Robert Wilczyński.

manuscript of Władysław Szpilman's piano suite *Życie maszyn* (The Life of Machines) and, courtesy of the Nissenbaum Family Foundation, an authentic pushcart used to collect the bodies of the dead in the Warsaw Ghetto, as well as many priceless Judaica, including a Torah shield and crown, tefillin, a *brit mila* knife, a *yad*, a

*netilat yadayim* vessel, and a nineteenth-century spice tower made in the Polish lands. The collection also includes a BMW R66 motorcycle used by the 1st SS Panzer Division Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler – Hitler's personal bodyguard.

In March 2022, the Warsaw Ghetto Museum purchased



Historic marble plaques from the Bersohn and Bauman Hospital; photo Robert Wilczyński.

a *megilla* (scroll) which belonged to Avraham Hendel, the head of the “rabbis’ workshop” in the Warsaw Ghetto. Hendel played a key role in finding a place for many important religious and social leaders at the Schultz factory in the ghetto. In

the winter of 1942, his grateful protégés gave him the *megilla*.

The artworks in the WGM collection include pieces by Henryk Hechtkopf, Gustav Metzger, Erna Rosenstein, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Ceija Stojka, Vivi-



Megilla from the Warsaw Ghetto; photo Robert Wilczyński.





Score of a Władysław Szpilman suite from 1934; photo Robert Wilczyński.

enne Koorland, Maryan (Pinchas Burstein), Leszek Sobocki, Jorge Méndez Blake, Alfred

do Jaar, Douglas Gordon, Anna Zagrodzka, and David Seymour (Chim).



Miniature matzevah dedicated to the memory of Nachum Morgenstern; photo Robert Wilczyński.



## Collecting Mementos

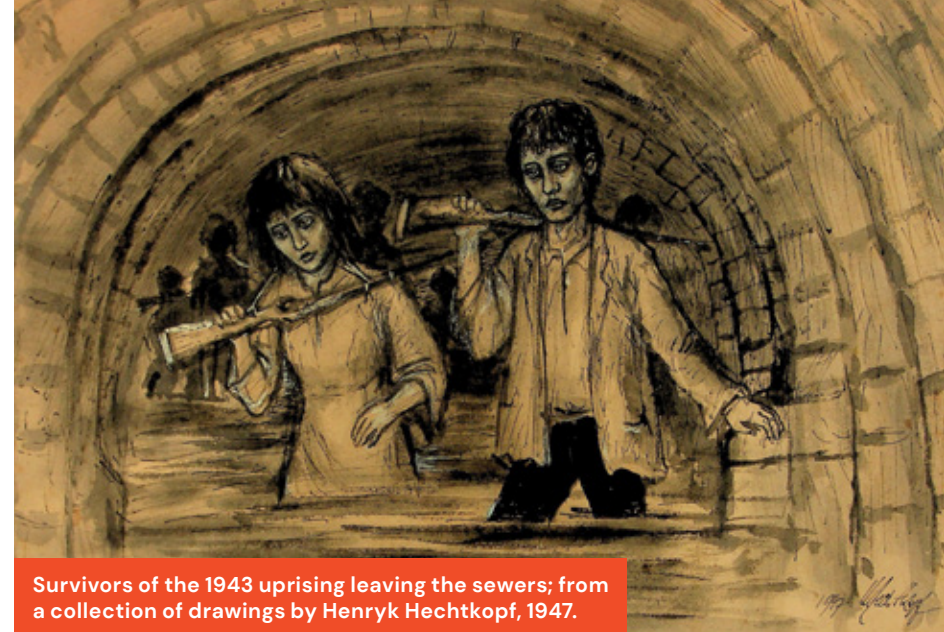
The growing number of our Friends is evidence of the trust donors put in our institution. They include Dr Avi Walewski, Maciej Woźniak, Jacek Lewinson, Aleksandra Joanna Fryszman-Fenton, Inbal Eizenfeld, Henia Vered, Piotr Capała, and Ryszard Sikorski. So far 80 items and 289 archival photographs have been donated to the Museum.

In 2020, we launched an international campaign to collect mementos. We made a film encouraging English-speaking audiences to take part in the campaign in collaboration with the American film producer Charles B. Wessler. The Museum received a collection of 76 drawings by Henryk Hechtkopf from Rachel Postavsky and Ha-

na Lerner, and Dawid Nowodworski's Virtuti Militari medal from Eyal Fridman and Dafna Fridman-Merav.

### Important:

**We are still looking for witnesses who would like to share their memories of the hospital and of the Warsaw Ghetto. We are also collecting mementos related to other ghettos in occupied Poland. We would like to hear from those who would like to donate or loan us everyday items, documents, photographs, or letters of historic value that could become part of the Museum's collection or be featured in the core exhibition.**



Survivors of the 1943 uprising leaving the sewers; from a collection of drawings by Henryk Hechtkopf, 1947.



Transfer of mementos left by Dawid Nowodworski to the Museum.



## I Memory

Archaeological excavations in the former Warsaw Ghetto occupy a special place in our mission.

The archaeological site at the corner of Miła and Dubois streets is unique. It covers a large part of the same tenement as that under the Anielewicz Mound. The mound marks the place where the commander of the Jewish Combat Organisation, Mordechai Anielewicz, and his comrades took their last stand against the Germans. One of the main aims of the excavation works, conducted in 2021–2022, was to bring back the memory of Warsaw's Jewish inhabitants. Their stories are now coming to light thanks to the everyday items found in the ruins. Already at the very beginning of the dig, archaeologists



Archaeological excavations near the corner of Miła and Dubois streets; photo Marcin Czechowicz, 2023.





Items unearthed during the excavation works; photo Marcin Czechowicz, 2023.

found elements of interior design, like stove and ceramic tiles as well as fragments of kitchenware. The most moving items, however, were personal ones like a little girl's shoe, eyeglasses frames, a cuff link, and a pair of tefillin that a religious Jew would have needed for prayer.

### So far some 5000 items have been recovered.

They remain in the Museum's care and will become part of the core exhibition. At the same time our team is working to de-

velop a permanent memorial at the Miła Street site.

### Examples of other memorial efforts include

#### Involvement in the conservation of the former Warsaw Ghetto area

Surveying the condition of surviving buildings and changes to the ghetto boundaries over the years. In October 2021, the Warsaw Ghetto area was added to the municipal register of historic sites. Any construction within



Archaeological excavations near the corner of Miła and Dubois streets; photo Marcin Czechowicz, 2023.

its perimeter currently requires prior arrangement with the provincial conservator, which represents greater archaeological protection of the area itself and of the historic artefacts still there.

#### Protection of monuments

At the initiative of WGM the fence near the building at 5/7 Stawki Street (on the Niska Street side) has been added to the Warsaw municipal register of historic sites. The Museum has placed a plaque on the fence commemorating the destruction of Warsaw's Jews.

#### Matzevot of Memory

A collaboration with the Institute of National Remembrance, local authorities and communities in the Masovia region, whose goal is to commemorate pre-war local Jewish communities. Project devised by the sculptor Jerzy Kalina. The first Matzevah of Memory was unveiled on the 80th anniversary of Aktion "Reinhardt" in 2022 in Józefów Biłgorajski in front of the old synagogue.





## | Education

The Museum currently runs a project for secondary schools located in the former Warsaw Ghetto area or in its vicinity. The purpose is to reconstruct the old urban space and to identify its significance in the history and culture of Polish Jews. The project is implemented in groups of no more than six pupils and draws on oral testimony, iconography, and written sources (archival, academic, and journalism, or personal literature such as memoirs or diaries). The project has given rise to a documentary entitled *Opening the Silence*, produced by WGM, based on materials gathered by the students of the A. Frycz Modrzewski Secondary School no. 17 with Bilingual Classes in Warsaw. The film premiered on the 81st anniversary of the closing of the Warsaw Ghetto.



Lesson at Elementary School No. 2 in Marki; school archive.



Plaque commemorating the ghetto wall in Krasinski Park, photo Robert Wilczyński.

### Other examples of WGM educational activities include:

- Regular museum lessons on the culture of Polish Jews, the Holocaust, and life in the Warsaw Ghetto
- Educational walking tours of the old ghetto area and walking tours of Warsaw
- Trainings for teachers and educators in the form of conferences (including online), retreats, and workshops
- Preparation of educational displays in the grounds of the old Bersohn and Bauman Hospital
- Film projects available on the Museum website, [www.1943.pl](http://www.1943.pl), for example *The Home Army's Response to the Tragedy of Polish Jews*
- Educational projects devoted to ghetto literature
- Filmed interviews about Jewish neighbours



## | Research

The first international conference organised by the Museum was *The Beginnings of Nazi Occupation: Continuity and Change in Polish and Jewish Life 1939–1941*. The event was realised in cooperation with the Polish Society of Jewish Studies, the Jewish Historical Institute, the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, and Touro College Berlin. The main aim of the conference was to analyse the impact of the first year of German occupation on the condition and attitudes of the civilian population of the Polish lands.

The aim of the international academic conference *80 Years After Aktion "Reinhardt" (1942–1943)* was to study the collective and individual reactions of two communities – Polish and Jewish – during

the terror and mass deportations to death camps during the period in question. It was equally important to examine and compare the liquidation operations in the Warsaw Ghetto and other ghettos in the five districts of the General-gouvernement.

The seminar and workshop *Things from the Warsaw Ghetto from the Standpoint of Contemporary Archaeological, Museological, Curatorial, Heritological and Memory-studies Discourses* provided a forum for the exchange of thoughts and opinions to foster broader discussion around the ethical, curatorial, methodological and aesthetic dilemmas that come up when documenting, showcasing and using material testimonies of the Holocaust and everyday ghetto



Conference 80 Years After Aktion "Reinhardt" (1942–1943): Social Reactions and Commemoration, photo Robert Wilczyński.

life within a museum space. Participants focused on the status, roles and meanings attributed

to things found in the Warsaw Ghetto during the excavations at Miła Street.

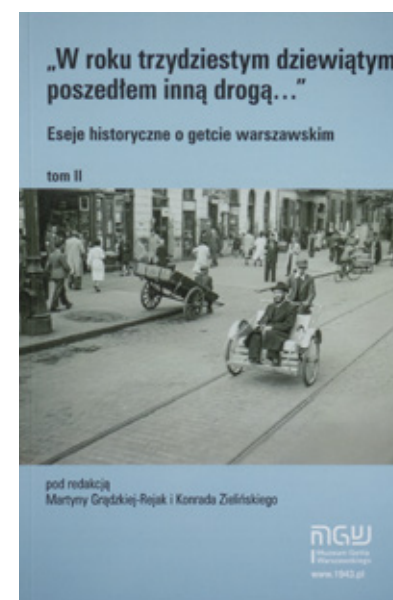
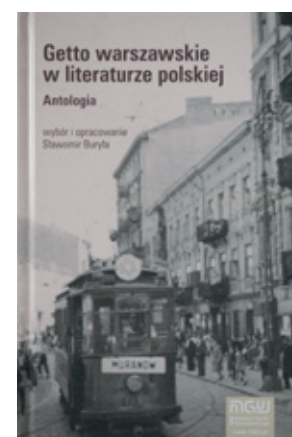
## Publications

The first book published by the Museum was an album devoted to the Bersohn and Bauman Hospital. The Museum is also involved in an edition of Holocaust Survivor memoirs. Three memoirs have appeared to date: Wacław Izaak Kornblum's *Wspomnienia. Moja wersja* (Memories: My Version), Ryszard Walewski's *Jurek*, and Bronisław Erlich's *Żydowskiie dziecko Warszawy* (The Jewish Child of Warsaw). Our book *Getto warszawskie w literaturze polskiej. Antologia* (The Warsaw Ghetto in Polish Literature: An Anthology), edited by Sławomir Buryła (who also selected the contents), is the first comprehensive overview of the Warsaw Ghetto in Polish prose and poetry. The Museum's most recent publications are two volumes of historical essays about the Warsaw Ghetto edit-

ed by Martyna Grądzka-Rejak and Konrad Zieliński: *Wolność! Zwróćcie nam naszą!...* (Freedom! Give us ours back!...) and *W roku trzydziestym dziewiątym poszedłem inną drogą...* (In 1939 I took a different turn...) as well as Jacek Konik's *Głosy zabitego miasta* (Voices of the Killed City).

An important aim of WGM's research and educational efforts is to present the history of the Warsaw Ghetto through the lens of individual stories. Our Research and Academic Department staff continually publish historical articles introducing events from the history of Warsaw's residential Jewish residential quarter, other ghettos in occupied Poland, and the Holocaust. All of their essays, numbering over 100, are available on the WGM web-

site. Some have appeared in periodicals like *Słowo Żydowskie*, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Do Rzeczy*, *Mówią Wieki* or the *Rzeczpospolita* daily's supplement *Plus Minus*.







First meeting of the WGM Board of Trustees, photo Jacek Turczyk.

## Board of Trustees

The Museum's Board of Trustees oversees the Museum's execution of its duties with re-

spect to its collections and society at large. It assesses the performance of the institution

based on the director's annual report and approves the annual plan. Should an open compe-

tition for the post of Director be announced, it appoints two additional members to the selec-

tion committee. The Trustees are appointed for a four-year term. In 2019–2023 the following individuals served on the Museum's Board of Trustees:

### **Colette Avital**

Holocaust Survivor. In 1999–2009 member of the Knesset from the Israeli Labour Party and One Israel. Previously consul general at the Israeli mission in New York. As a member of parliament, she was in charge of the investigation to identify real estate in Israel belonging to European Jews who had perished in the Holocaust. The Centre Organisations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel which she leads brings together 50 organisations providing support to Survivors.

### **Anna Stupnicka-Bando**

President of the Polish Association of Righteous Among the

Nations. During the Warsaw Uprising, she served as a liaison (*nom de guerre* Anka) in the Żywiciel unit fighting in Żoliborz. In the winter of 1941, with Anna's help, her mother smuggled a Jewish girl (Liliana Alter, daughter of the Bund activist Hilary Alter) out of the ghetto. From that point on until the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising Liliana remained in hiding at the Stupnickis' flat in Żoliborz.

### **Barbara Blumenthal**

Recognised for her efforts to preserve Jewish heritage, she has funded conservation works on a variety of monuments. Daughter of a Holocaust Survivor, the Warsaw-born engineer Leon Jozelson vel Jolson, who financed and donated a cast of the Monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes from Natan Rapoport's original design to Yad Vashem.

### **Mieczysław Cisło**

Theologian, head of the Metropolitan Seminary in Lublin, auxiliary bishop of Lublin since 1998. Within the Polish Bishops' Conference he served as the delegate of Catholic Movements and was part of the Council of Secular Catholics. He also served as chairman of the Council for Religious Dialogue and of the Committee for Dialogue with Judaism. Awarded the Laurel of Memory by the Embassy of Israel in Poland for his engagement in Catholic–Jewish dialogue and for his work to preserve the heritage of Polish Jews.

### **Abraham Foxman**

Son of a Polish–Jewish couple, Helena and Józef Foxman, born in Baranowicze (today Baranavichi, Belarus). In 1950, he emigrated to the United States with his parents. Graduate of the Yeshi-

va of Flatbush in Brooklyn. Graduate in Political Science and History from the City College of New York, Law from NYU School of Law, Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Global Economy from the New School. Since 1965 member of the Anti-Defamation League, whose mission is to combat anti-Semitism, and its president since 1987. Since 2016 he has headed the Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

### **Artur Hofman**

chairman of the Socio-Cultural Association of Jews in Poland (TSKŻ), actor, director, journalist, Jewish community activist, editor-in-chief of *Słowo Żydowskie*. Actor at the Jewish Theatre in Warsaw. In 1993–1998 director at the Szczecin Opera and Operetta. Director at the Jewish The-



atre since 2003. He has been involved in Polish-Jewish dialogue and preserving the memory of Jewish martyrdom and struggle for many years.

### **Wacław Kornblum**

Holocaust Survivor, witness. Born to a Jewish family in Paris, he moved to Warsaw at the end of the 1920s. He lived at 42 Śliska Street. His parents were members of the Bund. After the outbreak of war the Kornblums moved to 35 Niska Street. He survived the war in hiding and left for Israel in 1957. He returned to Warsaw after 30 years. He currently lives in the Wola district of Warsaw. Wacław's father, Salomon Kornblum, was a Yiddish writer. The originals of his works, digitised in Vilnius, are at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York.

### **Dr Jan Kutnik**

Lecturer at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Catholic University of Lublin. Board member of the association Studnia Pamięci (Well of Memory) which documents the history and culture of Lublin's Jews. The association organises workshops for students around human rights and anti-discrimination, as well as all kinds of meetings, discussions, and conferences commemorating important historical events. It promotes European integration by organising international educational trips to memorial sites in Poland and Ukraine.

### **Małgorzata Naimska**

Previously employed at the Polish PEN Club and several non-governmental organisations. Former member of the Political Cabinet of Foreign Affairs Minister

Władysław Bartoszewski. Long-time employee of Warsaw city hall; director and deputy director of the City of Warsaw Office for Culture. Recipient of the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art, and of the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

### **Gideon Nissenbaum**

Originator of the idea of establishing a museum of the Warsaw Ghetto in the 1980s. Chairman of the Nissenbaum Family Foundation and son of its founder, Sigmund. The Foundation, established in Warsaw in 1983, works to preserve traces of Jewish culture in the Polish lands and to memorialise sites of Jewish resistance and martyrdom during World War II. It also disseminates knowledge about the best traditions of Polish-Jewish history around the world. Sigmund Nissenbaum was one of

the the first advocates of creating a museum devoted to the Warsaw Ghetto.

### **Irene Kronhill-Pletka**

Runs a foundation dedicated to the memory of her parents, who were Polish Jews and Survivors. The Kronhill Pletka Foundation funds Jewish cultural and educational projects as well as projects promoting social justice around the world. She is a member of the YIVO Board of Directors, the Center for Jewish History, and the JOINT (JDC) which helped her parents and many others during the war and in its aftermath.

### **Michael Schudrich**

American-Polish religious scholar and historian, Chief Rabbi of Poland since 2004. In 1990–1998 he worked for the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation in Warsaw. In 2000 he became rabbi

of Warsaw and Łódź. It is largely thanks to him that Jewish kindergartens and schools were started in Poland. Member of the Rabbinate of the Republic of Poland. Actively involved in Christian–Jewish dialogue. Recipient of the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and of the Commandery of Missio Reconciliationis.

#### **Dr Jarosław Sellin**

Graduate in History from the University of Gdańsk, where he defended a master's thesis on the Jewish question in the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth during the Four-Year Sejm. He belonged to the Young Poland Movement, the Solidarity trade union, the Christian–National Confederation, the Conservative Party, and Polska Plus. Member of the PiS (Law and Justice) party since 2010. Secondary school

teacher, then lecturer at the University of Gdańsk. Journalist (for the weekly *Młoda Polska*, TVP, Polsat, and others). Spokesman for Jerzy Buzek's government. Member of KRRiT (National Broadcasting Council) in 1999–2005. Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture until 2007. Member of parliament (terms V–VIII) since 2005. Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture in Beata Szydło's and Mateusz Morawiecki's governments. Member of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews Museum Council since 2018. Member of the Polish–Israeli Parliamentary Group since 2020. General Monuments Conservator since January 2022.

#### **Adam Struzik**

Physician, local government official and activist, member of parliament. Speaker of the Senate

in 1993–1997, senator (terms II, III and IV), Marshall of the Province of Masovia since 2001. Volunteer firefighter, member of the Provincial Board and Central Board of Volunteer Fire Services of the Republic of Poland. Councillor of the Province of Masovia since 1998. Chairman of the Health and Physical Culture Committee of the Province of Masovia Sejmik (term I). On behalf of the Province of Masovia he signed the lease and then the sale of the Bersohn and Bauman Hospital for the Warsaw Ghetto Museum.

#### **Marian Turski**

Historian and journalist. Prisoner of Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, Holocaust Survivor. Chairman of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews Museum Council and deputy chairman of the Association of the Jewish Historical Insti-

tute of Poland. Editor of *Polityka* weekly. Recipient of the Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta with star and of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, first class. He has devoted his entire life to fighting for the human right to dignity.





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Ministry of Culture and National Heritage  
Republic of Poland



The former Warsaw Ghetto area  
boundaries as of 16 November 1940



Warsaw Ghetto  
Museum

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