

## Introduction

Thirteen years have passed since the publication of this book, which tells the story of the HASAG forced labour camp in Częstochowa, which was to become an integral part of the ghetto, and where many of our family members found themselves working as forced labourers.

The barracks, where they lived no longer exist, and the fences are barely discernible. Some of the buildings, where ammunition was produced, still stand in ruins, and, above stands the chimney of the power plant, proclaiming to the whole world:

**Here was the forced labour camp for the Jews of the Częstochowa Ghetto – HASAG Pelcery.**

The number of first-generation Holocaust survivors is dwindling, and only a few remain to tell the story of the forced labour camp, where our family members were employed as slaves during the Holocaust. Alongside the Holocaust survivors, who are still alive, we continue to do everything possible to continue the commemoration and preservation of memory in a city that was left without a community, and to pass this heritage on to future generations.

In 2009, we created a memorial plaque at the entrance to the HASAG Pelcery forced labour camp in memory of all our family members and to all those who were forced to work in this camp. In addition, in recent years, we have worked hard to commemorate the glorious heritage of the community:

- In 2009, at the initiative of Sigmund Rolat and executed by the artist Samuel Willenberg, a native of Częstochowa and survivor of Treblinka, the monument to the Jews of Częstochowa was erected on the Deportation Square on ul. Strażacka.
- In 2009, the memorial plaque was erected at the entrance to the HASAG-Pelcery forced labour camp.
- In 2012, in cooperation with the City of Częstochowa, the Częstochowa Philharmonic Orchestra – whose building on ul. Wilsona stands on the remains of the New Synagogue – was named after the violinist born in Częstochowa, Bronisław Huberman.
- In 2008-2016, with the help of students from “Reut” High School in Jerusalem, the Jewish cemetery was mapped and uploaded to the website Gidonim.com., so that anyone can now locate the graves of their family members in the cemetery.

- In 2016, in cooperation with the City of Częstochowa, the Museum of Jewish History, at ul. Katedralna 8, was opened. The exhibition, presenting the history of the community, was funded by cousins Sigmund Rolat and Alan Silberstein.
- In 2016, a memorial plaque was unveiled in the building at ul. Stary Rynek 24, where the Frajman family hid in a bunker during the War.
- In 2009 and 2016, two mass graves were renovated in the cemetery, and we are now working to complete the renovation of the other six mass graves there.
- After seventy years of neglect, in 2018, we began a cleaning project of the cemetery – a complex and complicated project as, over the many years, the place had been neglected and covered with thick, wild vegetation and fallen tree debris. The project, which we initiated is being carried out in collaboration with the “Adullam” Foundation from Czeszochowa and the “Matzevah” Foundation from the United States, with secondary school students and local volunteers.
- At the initiative of the organisation, Czeszochowa has been on the map of visits by Israeli students in recent years as part of their trips to Poland. The visit to Czeszochowa includes a tour of the city’s Jewish heritage sites, a meeting with Polish secondary school students for direct dialogue, and joint activities.

There is still much work to be done, and we will continue the commemoration and preservation of memory in the coming years.

Republishing this book is an integral part of our work to preserve the memory, spread it, and pass it on to future generations.

My activities over the years have been to commemorate the memory of my parents, Jerucham (Jerzy) Goldman and Sara Goldman, *née* Czarnylas, who survived the inferno, and to commemorate the members of their families who perished in the Holocaust – on my father’s side: my grandfather Jakow Goldman, my grandmother Chana-Fajgla Goldman, *née* Karmiol, my uncle Mojsze-Chaim (Moniek) Goldman and my aunt Karola Goldman; and on my mother’s side: my grandfather Jakow Czarnylas, my grandmother Gitla Czarnylas *née* Rząsiński, my uncle Josef Czarnylas, and my aunts Miryam (Mania) and Chana (Andzja) Czarnylas.

**Alon Goldman,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Association of Częstochowa and District Jews in Israel**