

Ruben Luks

Czenstochover Regional Union in Detroit

The history of the Czenstochover Regional Union in Detroit as an organisation - and especially as a *landsmannschaft* - cannot be evaluated only in the light of its momentary present existence, but through its past, historic development.

The Czenstochover Regional Union in Detroit just recently celebrated its 23rd anniversary. The cornerstone, however, which was laid as the foundation for an organised *Częstochower landsmannschaft*, is already many years older.

Already 33 years ago, in 1925, the first **Częstochower Union** was founded in Detroit, by the name of the *Czenstochover and Vicinity Society*. But, due to the idealistic form of its functions, this union was only able to bring together a number of idealistic *landsleit*, but it could not become the factor for a *landsmannschaft* organisation on a broader scale.

As a result, that same *Czenstochover and Vicinity Society*, after just a few years of existence - namely from January 1925 to the end of 1928, became a *Częstochower* branch of the *Arbeiter Ring*.

During that period, the *Częstochower Arbeiter Ring* Branch 620 in Detroit was pressed against enormous difficulties - solely due to the very identification of *landsleit* with political ideologies. And after a few years of important work - from 1928 to 1932 - the *Częstochower Arbeiter Ring* Branch was dissolved.

For three and a half years, *Częstochowa landsleit* remained without an organisation. But the more dynamic and devoted activists did not, for one minute, stop thinking of organising themselves into a union.

The time finally arrived. We, the *Częstochowa landsleit* learned quite a lot from experience. Once again, we cemented and reinforced the foundation which was laid 33 years ago [and] built an expanded *landsmannschaft*.

Together with the yearning for the *Old Home*, *Częstochowa*, which the first founders possessed, we combined the actual local day-to-day reality and a harmonious cohesion was formed. *Częstochowa landsleit* became active and, in February 1935, the Czenstochover Regional Union in Detroit was founded.

In its past 23 years of existence, the Czenstochover Regional Union in Detroit has had a great many notable activities. These activities were diversified. We supported institutions in our former hometown - *Częstochowa* - and concurrently helped the various local, and also national, Jewish bodies here. Besides that, we also did not forget our own close friends and we aided those *landsleit* who were in need of help.

The Czenstochover Regional Union in Detroit sends aid to the organised *Częstochowa landsleute* in the Land of Israel. In gratitude for the big-hearted aid from the *Częstochowers* in Detroit, the *Częstochower landsleit* in the State of Israel have inscribed the Czenstochover [Regional] Union in Detroit in the "Golden Book" there.

The Union's current officials are Ruben Luks – President, Joel Czudno - Vice-President, Abraham Fox - Recording Secretary, Nathan Richter – Treasure, Rita Halberg - Finance Secretary, Joe and Jenny Wiatrak - Hospitality. The Executive Committee is comprised of Ab. Birenholc, Isidor Gliksman, Helen Zbara, Jenny Fox, Gertie Richter, Izzy Halberg, Wolf Gryc and [Aron] Towja Szuldynger.