

***Chenstochover* Ladies Aid Society in Chicago**

Nine energetic women decided that they would form a *Częstochower* Ladies' Aid Society in Chicago. They held their first meeting on 29th January 1937 at the home of Flw Bessie Winer, at 1401 Tripp Avenue.

The organisation's pioneers were Bessie Winer, Rena Gotajner, Róża¹ Glikerman, Shirley Paul, Tillie Bitter, Dora Warszawski, Helen Szlezinger, Kate Ansel and Edith Warszawski. They immediately undertook a campaign to recruit members from amongst the *Częstochower* women, and temporarily held their meetings at the homes of the founders. The membership grew quickly and they already needed to rent public halls for the gatherings.

The organisation's first officials were: President - Bessie Winer; Vice-President - Róża Lewkowicz; Treasurer - Kate Ansel; Minutes and Finance Secretary - Rena Gotajner, and members of the Executive - Tillie Bitter and Róża Glikerman.

The young organisation was forced to overcome many difficulties. First of all, the *Chenstochover* [Neighbourhood Educational] Society, which had already been established for a long time, did not wish there to be another *Częstochower* organisation - for fear of competition. But, as it turned out, the women's club, in fact, brought much benefit and aid to the Society. The hindrances of a personal character were worse. Over time, the organisation, under the energetic leadership of the founders, established itself and became popular amongst *Częstochower* women. A charter was issued and, in 1939, a constitution was instituted for the new organisation, which gave itself the official name "*Chenstochover Ladies Aid Society*". The Society already has its permanent meeting-place and it convenes on every first and third Monday of the month.

We support the following organisations: the [Douglas Park Jewish] Day and Night Nursery, the American Red Cross, the Los Angeles Sanatorium², the Chicago Centre for Soldiers [?], the Jewish Philanthropic Fund of Chicago³, the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society [JCRS], war aid for the Soviet Union (Russian War Relief), the General Jewish Emergency Fund [?], the Jewish People's Home for the Sick [?], the Trades Campaign, and other smaller organisations that turn [to us] for aid.

It is worth mentioning that, although our membership consists of only forty-eight women, our contributions to different philanthropic institutions have reached a total of \$5,227.

The main purpose for which we [originally] organised ourselves still remains the same – namely, to aid those suffering from poverty in our hometown. Towards that end, we have designated a special fund, which we have invested in bonds.

We have many non-*Częstochower* members who assist us in our work. Our President, Bessie Winer - who is not from *Częstochowa* - is already in her seventh year in office and she is very energetically [involved] in the work of promulgating and strengthening our organisation. Flws Tillie Bitter, Róża Glikerman, Gertrude Faks and Shirley Paul have stood at their posts without interruption.

¹ [TN: On p. XXI of the biographical section at the end of this book, she is referred to as Chaja-Ruchel/Rose.]

² [TN: Founded by the Jewish Consumptive Relief Association (JCRA) in the town of Duarte, Ca.; later became City of Hope.]

³ [TN: Most likely ref. to the Jewish **Welfare** Fund of Chicago.]

We shall continue our work to aid those suffering necessities. Now, after the War, we shall also be able to enjoy the sociability that our organisation can offer.



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*Seated (R-L): Gertrude Faks (Corr.⁴ and Fin. Sec.), Helen Szlezinger (Treasurer), Rose Hofman (Vice-President), Betty [sic Bessie] Winer-Prodel, Shirley Paul (Minutes Sec.) and Sura Helberg (1st Trustee);
Second row (R-L): R. Glikerman, Ch. Zevin, D. Warszawski, R. Federman, C. Warszawski, T. Bitter, B. Warszawski and A. Szwarc;
Third row (R-L): R. Lefkowicz, A. Poper, M. Trembot, A. Gibrick and L. Leser*

⁴ [TN: Presumably abbreviation of "Corresponding."]