

## The United Czenstochover Relief Committee in New York

By 1935, the situation of the Jewish masses in Poland was already unbearable. The government of the *pułkownicy* [colonels] - the so-called "Sanacja" - with the aid of all the country's reactionary forces, through laws and restrictions, barred Jews from their main sources of livelihood. Hunger and need reigned everywhere. Letters to several *landsleit*, describing the dreadful situation and requesting aid, arrived from Częstochowa. It was before *Peisach*, and it was urgently necessary to provide the needy Częstochowa Jews with *matzos*. The matter was discussed at a meeting of the Young Men's and it was decided to send aid. A committee was formed, which raised \$400. The Young Men's contributed \$100. The funds were immediately sent, via telegraph, to Częstochowa, addressed to Rabbi Nachum Asz.

On 29<sup>th</sup> May 1935, the committee called a special meeting of the Częstochower organisations in New York, with the aim of renewing the relief activity. The Young Men's, the Zaloshiner Chevra Anshei Bnei Achim and the Arbeiter-Ring 261 participated in this meeting. Several weeks later, the *Częstochower* Branch 11 of the International Workers Order also joined the renewed aid committee.

The meeting decided to name the new aid committee "United Czenstochover Relief". The officials elected were Nathan (Nyssen) Cymerman, President; Abram-Jakow Senzer, Vice-President; Louis Szymkowicz, Financial Secretary; Josef Kaufman, Secretary.

Over the course of summer 1935, the re-established Relief organised itself and recruited members for the organisation.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 1936, the unified relief committee's first ball was held at Webster Hall, which brought in a net profit of \$1,422.

With this sum, the following associations and institutions in Częstochowa were supported:

- 1) I.L. Peretz Kindergarten;
- 2) the Jewish Hospital;
- 3) unemployed members of the professional unions;
- 4) *Beis Lechem* [House of Bread];
- 5) *Tomchei Ani'im* [Supporters of the Poor];
- 6) *Moishav Zkeinim* [Aged Care Home];
- 7) TOZ (medical aid society);
- 8) *Patronat* (society in New York to aid the political arrestees in Poland).

In April 1936, the election officials was held for a second time, and those chosen were: Louis Szymkowicz, President; Jetta Lenczner, Vice-President; Josef Kaufman, Secretary; Icze Zelkowicz, Treasurer.

In February 1937, the United Czenstochover Relief's women's organisation, the Ladies Auxiliary, was re-established.

The new officials elected in 1937 were: Abram-Jakow Senzer, President; Abe Herszkowicz, Vice-President; Josef Kaufman, Financial Secretary; Sam Oberman, Treasurer; Charlie (Zacharia) Lewensztajn, Minutes Secretary.



**Seated (R-L): J. Levy, S. Korpiel, J. Kaufman, A. Senzer, H. Fajersztajn, J. Kopin and A. Kaufman;  
1<sup>st</sup> row, standing (R-L): R. Federman, Ch. Gliksman, M. Kep, M. Gelber, Frajermauer, J. Jacobs and T. Lenczner;  
2<sup>nd</sup> row, standing (R-L): M. Fajner, J.B. Silver, D. Zytman and J. Kiel (Kielczyglowski)**

In 1937, the *Częstochower landsmannschaft* was shocked by the news that another pogrom had taken place in Częstochowa (the Third Pogrom). This was on top of the need and bitter distress reigning there.

The Relief allocated a sum of \$500 in aid for the victims. Together with the \$500 that the Union of Polish Jews<sup>1</sup> contributed, \$1,000 were sent. The money was addressed to the dentist Aron Percec.

In connection with the pogrom, the Relief also called a protest meeting at the *Częstochower* Chasam Sopher Synagogue<sup>2</sup>, chaired by President Abram-Jakow Senzer, at which appearances were made by the representative of the Joint, Kilimowski, a representative of ORT, nurse Jetta Lenczner, Maurice Szwarc from Nowo Radomsko, J. [?] Frajd from the *Morgen Freiheit* [Morning Freedom; newspaper], Rabbi Mordche-Zelig Horsz of the Zaloshiner Society and others.

<sup>1</sup> [TN: Most likely ref. to the American Federation for Polish Jews, based in NY.]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: Located in New York's Lower East Side, it is the city's second oldest synagogue. It was originally built by German Jews in 1853, who merged in 1892 with two congregations from Poland.]

The annual ball of 1938 was held at the Edison Hall. The net profits reached \$2,800.

Officials elected in 1939 were Abram Senzer, President; Izzie Berger, Vice-President; Josef Kaufman, Financial Secretary; Charlie Lewensztajn, Minutes Secretary and Jankel Kopin (Kopinski), Treasurer.

The annual ball in 1939 was held at the Manhattan Centre. That year, the officials remained unchanged.

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October of that year, the Relief arranged a mass-meeting at the Chasam Sopher *Shul* on Clinton Street. Abram-Jakow Senzer (President of the Relief) chaired the meeting. Among others, Rabbi Mordche-Zelig Horsz and Flw Icek Kurski appeared at the meeting.

Over the course of 1939, the Relief raised the sum of \$3,100.

The Second World War broke out. Hitler's hordes occupied Częstochowa. But the relief work for Częstochowa did not cease. It was conducted through the national organisations, such as the Joint, ORT and others.

The ball of 1940, which was held on 6<sup>th</sup> January at the Manhattan Centre, was that year not a happy one. Firstly, Częstochowa was already squirming in the bloodied hands of the Nazi murderers. Secondly, on that same evening, the *Częstochower landsleit* had learned of the sudden death of Charlie Lewensztajn, who was loved by all those who knew him. His funeral took place on 7<sup>th</sup> January. A great number of *landsleit* and friends accompanied him to his eternal repose.

A few days later, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, the United Czenstochover Relief held a memorial evening dedicated to Charlie Lewensztajn's memory.

Flw Max Kamiński was elected the new Minutes Secretary.

In the winter of 1940-41, a few friends from Częstochowa, who had managed to save themselves from Hitler's despoilers, arrived in New York via the Soviet Union. These were Raphael Federman, the lawyer Zygmunt Epsztajn, Aleksander Haftka, Herman Zygas and Chana Munowicz. Later, Dr Lazarowicz [also] came.

Dr Moryc Grynbaum, with his wife and son, who had come here to the World Fair, were already in New York by then.

Flw Raphael Federman was welcomed by the United Czenstochover Relief as the leader of an entire array of workers' institutions in Częstochowa and as a longstanding fighter for the rights of the Jewish masses in Częstochowa. Flws Dr Lazarowicz, Aleksander Haftka, Zygas, and Chana Munowicz also appeared at the Relief's meetings and were [publically] greeted by President Senzer and their *Częstochower* friends.

In May 1940, Flw Harry Fajersztajn was elected Vice-President. The other officials remained unchanged. Over the course of 1940, the Relief raised the sum of \$2,600.

In January 1941, the annual ball of the Relief and Ladies Auxiliary was held at the Manhattan Centre. Up to 700 people attended [the function].

On Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1941, by prior decision of the Relief, a welcome banquet was held for Flws R. Federman, Icek and Hela Gurski, Dr Moryc Grynbaum and his wife Gertrude, lawyer Zygmunt Epsztajn,

Herman Zygas and Chana Munowicz. This banquet was one of the Relief's finest functions. A large number of guests and representatives of national organisations participated. Flw Josef Kaufman, the Relief's Financial Secretary, opened the gathering and handed the chair over to the President of the Relief, Flw Abram-Jakow Senzer. Flw A. Chrobolovsky, on behalf of the United Czenstochover Relief and Ladies Auxiliary, greeted the banquet's guests of honour, who had played a significant role in the life of modern-day Jewish Częstochowa. There were also appearances by the representative of the Jewish Labour Committee [JLC], Flw Tabaczynski, and the renowned Jewish Socialist, leader of *Freiland* [Freeland (League)] in America, Ben-Adir (Dr [Abram] Rozin). Flw Rembak spoke on behalf of the *Częstochower Arbeiter-Ring* Branch 261. Telegrams and written greetings arrived from Cyna Orzech in Toronto, Canada; Grylak, Epszajn and Menkof in Los Angeles; Mr and Mrs Cincinatus in Toronto and [the siblings] Fanny and Sam Chrablow [Chrabołowski] in Chicago.

In closing, Flws R. Federman and Icek Gurski responded to the greetings. The banquet left a profound impression on those assembled.

At the end of 1941, Flw Aba Kaufman was elected Minutes Secretary. The other Relief officials remained unchanged. The proceeds, in 1941, were \$1,990.



***Landsleit and guests at the banquet held in honour of the arrival, in America, of the first Częstochower refugees in 1941***

Over the course of the entire time [of its existence], the United Czenstochover Relief raised \$15,798 [for] the aid institutions in Częstochowa, which have already been mentioned. When contact with Częstochowa was interrupted by the War, the Relief conducted the work for Częstochowa through the Joint.

The Relief awarded a grant of \$200 to the Labour Committee in New York for having helped rescue some of the members from Częstochowa and bring them to New York (R. Federman, Epszajn, Zygas and Andzia Munowicz). The Relief concurrently also supported ORT in America and HIAS.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, an information bureau, under the leadership of R. Federman, was set up at the Relief. It had a great significance for as long as there was still correspondence contact with Częstochowa. This information bureau put many Częstochower families

and individuals in contact with their friends in America, and dozens of clothing and food parcels were sent with the Bureau's assistance.

The four issues of the *Bulletin of the United Czenstochover Relief and Ladies Auxiliary in New York* (edited by R. Federman and A. Chrobolovsky) were of great significance for the relief activity during the War.



***Representatives of the Jewish Kehilla, with the Rabbi Reb Nachum Asz, in front of the entrance to the Synagogue, following the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the United States. Among others, the delegates of the United Czenstochover Relief, J. Kopin and A. Sigman***

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941, our country was shaken by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. America entered the Second World War, and new tasks presented themselves for the United Czenstochover Relief and Ladies Auxiliary. Special meetings of the Relief's Executive [Board] and membership were held in connection with this. Flws Senzer, Federman and Wajsberg were asked to draft a resolution. The following resolution was adopted:

*The United Czenstochover Relief in New York, while remaining loyal to its fundamental status as an aid organisation for Cześćstochowa, nevertheless deems it a necessity of life and a civic duty, with America's entry into the Second World War, to broaden its activities and adapt itself to our country's wartime needs.*

*We therefore resolve:*

*1) To recommend to the Ladies Auxiliary that it join the American Red Cross as an organisation, assist it in all its activities and persuade our landsleit to join it.*

*2) From the profits which our function, the ball, is to generate, certain sums are to be allocated, by decision of the Relief, to the medical and war aid causes of America and its allies.*

*3) The United Czenstochover Relief and Ladies Auxiliary will, as far as possible, organise functions for this same cause.*

On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 1942, the annual *Częstochower* ball was held at Central Plaza. This was the last ball held by the United Czenstochover Relief and Ladies Auxiliary.

As per the resolutions above, part of the ball's proceeds were allocated to the Jewish Council for Russian War Relief, the American Red Cross and the New York War Relief<sup>3</sup>.

At a special session of the Executive on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1942, the decision was made to call a conference of representatives of the *Częstochower* organisations in New York, to discuss the matter of publishing a *Częstochowa* almanac - with which began a new, important work for the United Czenstochover Relief.

Along with this, it was decided to raise a fund of \$10,000 as a development fund and for first aid for *Częstochowa* and the neighbouring *shtetls*. The proclamation, which was published in regards to this decision, states:

*Brothers and sisters,*

*The bloody war against the Nazi beasts is now in full ardour. We know that much more blood - the cherished blood of the finest children of humanity in all corners of the globe is yet to be spilt, and that each one of us will be forced to make great sacrifices until the horrendous, gruesome Nazi beast is finally vanquished.*

*But, just as we know for sure that night must end and day must come, it is also certain that the end of the Nazi murderers will arrive – and, today, we already need to be ready for that day.*

*And when that day arrives, dear brothers and sisters, let us remember that those of our brothers and sisters remaining, after the massacres, murders and tortures in the ghettos and concentration camps, will be grievously tortured, starved, naked, barefoot and without a place on which to lay down their heads.*

*The cry to us for help, from the few individuals saved from the Nazi hell, will reach the heavens - and woe to us and woe to them, our hapless brethren, should we not be prepared to respond to their call and provide them with the first assistance.*

The first sum, for this designated cause, was raised on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 1942, at St Mark's Place, [Manhattan], at the swearing in [ceremony] of the Relief and Ladies Auxiliary.

Over \$1,000 were raised on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1943, at the ceremony celebrating the printing of the sample of the book *Czenstochover Yidn* at the Academy Hall.

Marking the departure of Flw Abram-Jakow Senzer, President of the United Czenstochover Relief, to Los Angeles, California, to improve his health, a farewell banquet was held at the Academy Hall and about \$1,000 were raised. During his absence, he was represented by Flw Harry Fajersztajn as

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<sup>3</sup> [TN: We have as yet found no mention of this organisation in our searches.]

Chairman and Flw Sam Korpiel as Vice-Chairman. At the end of March 1944, Flw Senzer returned from Los Angeles and resumed his office as President.

On Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 1944, the Relief held a special gathering in honour of Flw Izzie Berger, former Vice-President and Executive Member of the Relief, marking his departure with his family to Los Angeles, California. A large crowd of Relief members, with their families and friends of I. Berger, assembled at this gathering.

Reports of the extermination of our brothers and sisters in Poland began to arrive. For the first time, the names of a few individual martyrs became known.

At one of the Relief's meetings, [the memories of] Dr [Emanuel] Ringelblum (renowned historian who took part in the founding of the committee for a *Częstochower Pinkas* [ledger] that was created in Częstochowa) and Ch. Wilczyński, who perished alongside him at the hands of the Nazi murderers, were honoured.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 1944, a meeting of the Relief decided to call on all the *landsmannschaften* in the United States and Canada to send representatives to a countrywide conference, with the purpose of coordinating aid activity for Częstochowa, and to mobilise all the *landsmannschaften* for the book *Czenstochover Yidn*.

Following the Soviet Army's victorious entry into Poland, when the Central Committee of Jews [in Poland (CKŻP)] was established in Lublin, it was decided to send a shipment of food parcels through the Polish union named for Dr [Emil] Sommerstein<sup>4</sup>. At the same meeting [mentioned above], the assembled Relief members donated a large quantity of food parcels.

When the sorrowful news of the martyrs' deaths of Mojsze and Rajzla Berkensztadt arrived, the Relief held a memorial evening, at which Flws A. Chrobolovsky and R. Federman spoke about the two martyrs' idealist activity. Abram-Jakow Senzer chaired the meeting.

By prior decision of the Relief, Flw R. Federman was sent on a tour to visit the cities of Detroit, Chicago and Toronto. He also visited Los Angeles, and returned at the end of December. On Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 1945, under the chairmanship of President Abram-Jakow Senzer, the Relief held a welcome for Flw Federman, who delivered a report of his journey. That evening, the assembled donated \$1,468. Flw Nyssen Cymerman, first president and founder of the United Czenstochover Relief, also sat at the presidium table that evening. He died, suddenly, on his way home.

On Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1945, the Relief, under the chairmanship of President Abram-Jakow Senzer, held a memorial gathering honouring the memory of Nyssen Cymerman. Speakers included Max Jacobs, Joe Jacobs, Max Rabinowicz, Dr Wajskop, Emanuel Wargon, Sziper, Federman, Chrobolovsky, Willie Nachtigal and Josef and Aba Kaufman. As a result of Flw Silver's proposal, the assembled honoured his memory by raising a large sum for food parcels for the Central Committee of Jews [in Poland]. At Dr Wajskop's proposal, it was also decided that the Relief would hold a memorial gathering, annually, on the anniversary of Flw Cymerman's death.

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 1945, Częstochowa and almost the whole of Poland was liberated from the Nazis. By then, the reports on the annihilation of our hometown's Jewish population had already arrived from Izbicki and Brandes, who had managed to save themselves [by escaping] to the Land of Israel. The reports were published in New York's Jewish newspapers.

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<sup>4</sup> [TN: Most likely a reference to the Polish Committee of National Liberation (PKWN); Dr Sommerstein headed its Department of War Compensation during the second half of 1944.]

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 1945, the Relief held a mass meeting. It was a meeting of joy, mingled with sorrow and pain. Częstochowa had been liberated from the Nazi murderers. However, it was already clear that, with the exception of a few hundred individuals, the entire Jewish population - the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends of those assembled - had been annihilated. The speakers choked with tears. Those gathered wept. At that meeting, a declaration was adopted to erect a "Ner Tumid" [Heb. Eternal Candle] for the victims and to hold an annual memorial day, to be observed by all Częstochowers around the world.

The Relief received a letter from the Polish Ambassador in Moscow, Zygmunt Modzelewski. In it, he stated that he was a native of Częstochowa [himself] and, having learned of our "Relief", he requested that we make contact with him.

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April 30, 1945

Mr. Raphael Federman  
apt. 25  
2165 Bolton St.  
Bronx 60, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Following is the full text of a message addressed to you which has just been received:

VERY MUCH KIND RESPONSE FROM AMBASSADOR MODZELEWSKI TO  
RACHAŁSKI'S CHAIRMAN OF RELIEF COMMITTEE FOR CZĘSTOCHOWA:

Being from Częstochowa myself, I learned with deep emotion about the formation of a relief committee for Częstochowa.

I would appreciate with gratitude any details concerning your work. On my part, I am able to inform you that, thanks to the speedy advance of the Red Army, Częstochowa has been but slightly damaged during its liberation which will enable her in rapid reconstruction. In fact, the industries are already partly working and railways of Częstochowa Junction are pioneers of rehabilitation of transportation.

During five years of Nazi occupation, Częstochowa was one of the main centers of resistance movement and, in many cases, the city headed the struggle against the hateful invader. It must be stressed that it was Częstochowa workers who led that struggle.

One of the saddest pages in the history of the occupation period was the extermination of the Jewish population by the nazis.

In Częstochowa today there are 180,000 inhabitants, among them many French, Italian and other ex-prisoners of war. The daily *Praca* (10,000) is being published in Częstochowa. The theater is open and Częstochowa is now the center of Polish Plastic Arts. Workers are organized in trade unions and also

there are unions of musicians, journalists, writers and others.

I have been informed that among this group is Abram Brun of Częstochowa who is the town councillor.

If I receive any further details concerning life in Częstochowa, I will inform you immediately. I wish you full success in your work.

ZYGMUNT MODZELEWSKI

Polish Ambassador to Moscow.

*Ambassador Modzelewski's letter [TN: Transliteration on following page.]*



*[Verbatim transliteration]*

April 30, 1945

Mr Raphael Federman  
Apt. 2F  
2165 Bolton St.  
Bronx 60, N.Y.

Dear Sir,

Following is the full text of a message addressed to you which has just been received:

CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR MODZELEWSKI TO  
RAFAEL FEDERMAN CHAIRMAN OF RELIEF COMMITTEE FOR CZĘSTOCHOWA:

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I would appreciate with gratitude any details concerning your work. On my part, I am able to inform you that, thanks to the speedy advance of the Red Army, Częstochowa has been but slightly damaged during its liberation which will enable her in rapid reconstruction. In fact, the industries are already partly working and railwaymen of Częstochowa Junction are pioneers of rehabilitation of transportation.

During five years of Nazi occupation, Częstochowa was one of the main centers of resistance movement and, in many cases, the city headed the struggle against the hateful invader. It must be stressed that it was the Częstochowa workers who led that struggle.

One of the saddest pages of the history of the occupation period was the extermination of the Jewish population by the Nazis.

In Częstochowa today there are 180,000 inhabitants, among them many French, Italian and other ex-prisoners of war. The daily GŁOS NARODU is being published in Częstochowa. The theatre is open and Częstochowa is now the center of Polish Plastic Arts. Workers are organized in trade unions and also there are unions of musicians, journalists, writers and others.

I have been informed that among this group is Abram Grun of Częstochowa who is the town councillor.

If I receive any further details concerning life in Częstochowa, I will inform you immediately. I wish you full success in your work.

ZYGMUNT MODZELEWSKI

On Saturday and Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 1945, the countrywide conference of the *Częstochower landsmannschaften* in America and Canada was held at Beethoven Hall.

On Sunday evening, a festive banquet was held, in that same hall, in honour of the delegates to the conference. A great crowd of New York *landsleit* took part. Thirty-four hundred dollars were raised. The Czenstochauer Young Men's contributed \$500 from their treasury and raised \$1,000 among their members - in total, \$1,500. The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$500 and the *Częstochower* Branch 11 of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order - \$200.

A few days after the conference, the following telegram arrived from Częstochowa: "*Warm greetings from the children of the I.L. Peretz Building*", signed Brener, Lederman, Hasenfeld, Weksztajn, Czarny and Josef Goldberg, Jewish Committee, Aleja 7.

As regards the decision to publish the book *Czenstochover Yidn*, on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1945, it was determined that 1,500 copies would be printed.

Food parcels were sent to *landsleit*, in different countries, whose addresses we had received. It was also decided to send support to the *Kehilla* in Częstochowa in order to rebuild the cemetery. Through the Joint, \$2,000 were sent to Częstochowa and, through the TOZ, \$500.

On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, there was a convention in Detroit.

On Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 1945, a mass gathering was held at the Manhattan Centre, at which over \$3,300 were raised.

On Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 1946, a memorial meeting was held for the deceased president, Nyssen Cymerman. Some \$500 were raised for *matzos* for Częstochowa. The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$100.

5,000 lbs of *matzos*, which cost \$835, were sent through Agudas Yisroel<sup>5</sup>.

A relief committee was founded in Montreal. Flw Federman, as delegate of the United Czenstochover Relief Committee, was present at the founding.

\$500 were sent to Paris, and to Sweden – \$300.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 1946, a mass meeting at Irving Plaza. Jakow Pat reported on his visit to Częstochowa and to Poland in general. Various pictures of Częstochowa were also shown. \$1,322 were raised.

Flws Senzer and Federman were [sent as] delegates to Chicago, from where they brought the sum of \$1,800 to send to Częstochowa.

On Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 1946, Wolf Gliksman, who had just recently returned from Europe, was present at the Relief's meeting. He extended greetings to the Relief. It was decided to write the full text of the speech in the [organisation's] minutes and, also, to print it in the book *Czenstochover Yidn*, as we present it here:

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<sup>5</sup> [TN: The same amount of *matzos* would cost in 2021 around \$50,000 for the cheaper sort, and up to five times as much for others.]

## W. Gliksman's Speech

*Assembled members,*

*During my time in the Big Ghetto, then the Small Ghetto and, of late, in the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Dachau, when I sometimes dreamed of a land where I would be able to build my old-new life, I had the Land of Israel and the United States before my eyes.*

*Besides the purely personal circumstances which drew me and brought me to this country, and are driving me on to the land of Israel, I [also] had the purpose of coming to a Jewish centre in a Jewish environment.*

*[This is] because, after the destruction of the great Jewish community in Poland, we, the Surviving Remnant, have wished to come into contact with Jews, to draw from them new strengths for our life to come.*

*True, following the Liberation, we made efforts to live in Germany or Poland, Hungary or Lithuania, in exclusively Jewish groups, to refresh ourselves and to fight for a new existence of our own as one man.*

*But, deplorably, in Europe, we met with hateful treatment on the part of the non-Jewish populace - not to mention that we cannot and desire not to remain in Germany at the present.*

*I was one of the lucky ones who had the opportunity to leave Germany with the first transport and to come to America.*

*We, those saved from the Jewish destruction, usually arrive here with the aid of our sisters, brothers or close relatives. But the force that draws us here is the large Jewish community and our landsmannschaften are in the first row.*

*Dear landsleit, it is a great honour for me to be here this evening and to be reminded a little of the Old Home. By now, I have already had the opportunity to become acquainted with some of you. At this point, I wish to mention the name of Flw Raphael Federman, with whom we have discussed several issues pertaining to our city. I must express, here, my gratitude to Flw Federman for the great work that he did for our city while still in Częstochowa and, particularly, here in America. His work is invaluable.*

*I received a warm welcome at a meeting in the home of Flw Chrobolovsky, where I was able to meet with landsleit such as Flws Silver and A. Kaufman. The latter, incidentally, was a yeshiva mate of my father z"l.*

*I wish to make further acquaintance with our landsleit and to work together, with them, in every detail for our Częstochower brethren.*

*And although I have not come directly from Częstochowa, and I cannot speak on their behalf, I nevertheless wish to express my gratitude to all of you here for what you have done for them until now.*

*It was enough for me to speak with our landsleit in Munich, who had arrived from Częstochowa.*

*I have also had the opportunity to read various letters from our landsleit all over the world to Mr J. Kaufman or just to the Relief, in which they give thanks for the aid that you sent them.*

*In the work of our Relief secretariat, in which I have been active since a few days after my arrival here and where I work alongside Flw Federman in the great work, I can discern your goodwill, effort, sacrifices and that you remember your home of old.*

*With particular joy and reverence, I must congratulate you on your initiative to publish the book "Czenstochover Yidn". What Flw Federman has done in this is of great importance.*

*While in Munich, I worked together with the Central Committee's Historical Commission, which was tasked with gathering historical material, documents, pictures and texts pertaining to the Jews during the period 1933-1945.*

*It is not yet possible to evaluate the great work that the historical commissions in Germany and in Poland have performed. It is not only material for our future historians, who will write the mournful history of the European Jewry, but also the finest headstone for our martyrs.*

*Our book, too, will be a part of this large historical material. [And] for us – [it will be] a monument, a memorial for all the Cześćochowa martyrs.*

*If I said earlier that I do not have the right to speak on behalf of the Cześćochowa community, I also do not wish to tell you what you already know, even though each one of us experienced somewhat different [circumstances]. It will only refresh your agony and burst open your wounds. I will not speak about them or speak for them. I will speak to them for you.*

*In the great relief campaign of the American Jewry for the small Jewish group in Poland, Cześćochowa is [but] one link in the huge chain that is the aid for the forlorn, the poor, the sick, the children and those repatriated from Soviet Russia or just saved by a miracle.*

*Because, we have only survived, but we do not live. To live means to build, create and work. We must aid our brethren. I ask and implore you to continue helping and supporting. And I am sure that you will continue doing your work in the best possible manner to support our landsleit, and I wish you success in this work.*

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Sent to Rome, Italy – \$500.

In Melbourne, Australia, a Cześćochower relief committee<sup>6</sup> was established. During two meetings, they raised £1,200.

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<sup>6</sup> [TN: This organisation's full name was "Czenstochover and Vicinity Fraternal Aid in Australia". It was founded on 22nd September 1946 in Melbourne (source: Sefer Cześćochowa, Vol. II, col.498). These last two entries apparently represent the last activities connected to the United Czenstochover Relief before the book "Czenstochover Yidn" was printed.]