

**A Kaufman**

## **[The] Czenstochover Young Ladies Auxiliary in New York**

The women always took a large part in the work of the Aid Society and the Czenstochover Relief in New York. No ball or any other function was held without their participation and assistance.

In 1922, at the initiative of Flw Louis Szymkowicz and other members of the Young Men's, a separate women's organisation named "Czenstochover Young Ladies Auxiliary" was founded, with the purpose of supporting the war orphans and poor children of Częstochowa with food and clothing.

The petition for a charter was signed by Louis Szymkowicz, Berta Bratman, Anna Wajskop, Katie Jackson and Rae Sobol.

The first Board of Directors consisted of Cylia Szymkowicz, Rose Wajskop, Dora Rozen, Helen Frydman, Anna Zelkowicz, Helen Lajcher, Ruth Hiller, Cylia Jacobs, Rose Goldberg, Beatrice Zajdman, Gussie Jacobs and Rebecca Skowronek.

Those who joined later were Lina Win, Jetta Korpiel, Anna Rybs, Rose Adler, S. Faust, Minnie Korpiel, Anna Samuels, Gussie Lewensztajn and Wajnsztajn.

Flw Louis Szymkowicz was elected as the first President of the Czenstochover Young Ladies Auxiliary; Vice-President - Lina Win; Minutes Secretary - Rose Adler; Financial Secretary - Katie Jackson; Treasurer - Rae Sobol and Trustee - Anna Wajskop.

Their first large undertaking was the ball which was held on Saturday night, 24<sup>th</sup> January 1923, at the Park Palace, New York.

The Czenstochover Young Ladies Auxiliary's second Chairwoman was Mrs Anna Samuels.

In 1924, Mrs Jetta Lenczner was elected Chairwoman; Vice-Chairwoman - Martha Korpiel; Minutes Secretary - Jetta Korpiel; Trustee – [Anna] Broder; the Financial Secretary and Treasurer remained the same.

Beginning in 1928, the Ladies Auxiliary arranged the annual balls in partnership with the Czenstochover Relief in New York.

In 1928, Mrs Anna Samuels was elected Chairwoman and Anna Broder - Vice-Chairwoman. The Arrangements Committee was made up of the following ladies: Anna Nirenberg, Cylia Szymkowicz, Jetta Lenczner, Martha Korpiel, Mollie Gotlib, R. Moszkowicz, Malka Frydman, Cylia Lewental, Chana Fajersztajn, Fannie Fajersztajn and Mary Lefkowicz.

In 1929, the officers elected were: Anna Wajskop - Chairwoman; Mollie Gotlib - Vice-Chairwoman; Katie Jackson - Minutes Secretary; Trustees - Florence Nirenberg, Cylia Szymkowicz and Anna Broder.

In 1931, Jetta Lenczner - Chairwoman, and Rebecca Skowronek - Vice-Chairwoman were elected. The other officials were unchanged. The Arrangements Committee consisted of Chana Manuszewicz, Anna Samuels, Sarah Singer, Cylia Lewental, Mary Lefkowicz, M. Hiller, Martha Korpiel, Gussie Pitman, L. Skowronek and Chana Fajersztajn.

After the Czenstochover Relief in New York had ceased to exist, for a long time and on their own, the Ladies Auxiliary conducted the aid work for Częstochowa – above all, to maintain the I.L. Peretz Kindergarten. Flws Louis Szymkowicz, Sam Korpiel, Sobol and Charlie Lenczner always worked together with the Ladies Auxiliary. In the end, the Ladies Auxiliary also ceased its activity and was reorganised as part of the new United Czenstochover Relief in New York.

The United Czenstochover Relief's renewed Ladies Auxiliary began its activity around 1936. Until then, the ladies worked together with the Relief and had their representative, Jetta Lenczner, as Vice-Chairwoman.

The first officers were Jetta Lenczner - Chairwoman; Fannie Fajersztajn - Vice-Chairwoman; Cylia Jacobs - Financial Secretary; Sarah Senzer - Minutes Secretary; Glanc - Treasurer; Gussie Gelber - Chairwoman of the Functions Committee; Rae Kaufman - Functions Treasurer; Martha Korpiel - First Trustee, and Kepp - Second Trustee.



***Ladies Auxiliary of the United Czenstochover Relief Committee***  
***Seated (R-L): Gucia Gelber, Sadie Senzer, Cylia Jacobs, Jetta Lenczner, Fannie Fajersztajn and Martha Korpiel;***  
***Standing (R-L): Rejla Frajmauer, Ester Kepp and Cylia Levy***

In the history of the *Częstochower landsmannschaften*, the Ladies Auxiliary began with its foundation in 1922. Many women, whose husbands were members of different organisations, belonged to this women's organisation. A meeting of the Ladies was often larger than one of the Relief. The leaders of the Young Men's, Flws Louis Szymkowicz, Maks Korpiel z''l, Sam Korpiel, W. Sobol z''l and Charlie Lenczner, usually participated in the meeting together with the Ladies.

The importance of the women's organisation's work is shown by the following sums of money, which the Ladies Auxiliary sent, on its own, to Częstochowa for the kindergartens and primary schools, in addition to the sums which they gave over to the Relief for the construction of the building and other purposes:

1925	-----	\$1,095
1926	-----	\$850
1927	-----	\$1,150
1928	-----	\$1,150
1929	-----	\$700

Over the course of just five years, a sum of \$4,945 was sent over.

The women and the members of the Young Men's, who ran the Ladies Auxiliary during the time when no Relief Organisation existed, deserve a special acknowledgement. The remaining members of the Czenstochover Relief in New York, actually, partially gave up their activity due to the fact that they had the possibility of working together with the Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies Auxiliary was the last remaining aid organisation in New York, which continued carrying out the relief work, regardless of the hard depression in America and the discord within the *Częstochower* organisation in New York.

The newly-founded women's organisation was already more closely connected to the United Czenstochover Relief than earlier. The meetings were held in the same hall and on the same evening. The Ladies Auxiliary needs to be credited with a large part of the Relief's work, because both organisations conducted the functions jointly.

At the meetings and gatherings of the Ladies Auxiliary, just as at those of the Relief, the joys and sufferings in the life of the *Częstochower landsleit* often found an echo. When a member of the Relief or the Ladies Auxiliary married off a child, a certain sum was spent for the Relief in honour of the occasion. Liquor and appetisers were brought to the meeting and [the members] rejoiced and wished the parents *mazel tov*. The same happened when a child or grandchild was born. In the very same manner that the fathers and mothers in the old home had on such occasions treated the worshipers in the synagogues or Chassidic *shtieblech*<sup>1</sup> to liquor and *lejkach* [sponge cake]. If someone fell ill, or left this world, Heaven forbid, sisters and brothers visited the sick person at his home and, when a member of the *Częstochowa* family met with misfortune, they grieved and suffered along with him.

The Ladies Auxiliary also conducted aid work amongst the *landsleit* in New York who found themselves in need.



The Ladies Auxiliary's first president was Mrs Anna Samuels. She was also elected as President and to other offices in the subsequent years. She was born in America, but has always been prepared to do everything within her power for the aid work in benefit of *Częstochowa*.

Jetta Lenczner, today just like thirty years ago, is the most active and energetic Relief activist. She has beaten everyone with her number of years as President of the Ladies Auxiliary, and she has no equal in the work that she has dedicated to *Częstochowa* and to the communal life of the *Częstochower landsleit* in America.

---

<sup>1</sup> [TN: A "shtiebel" (little house/room) is a small, often one-room house of study and prayer for members of a specific Chassidic group, and effectively serves as a religious clubhouse.]

Katie Jackson, the English-speaking Minutes Secretary for many years, has always brought grace and capability to the Ladies Auxiliary.

Helen Frydman, the Financial Secretary of the first Ladies Auxiliary, throughout the course of its entire existence, is the finest progeny of our mothers of old, who embodied all the world's motherly love and goodness.

As Minutes Secretaries and Trustees, Martha Korpiel and Jetta Korpiel brought beauty to every meeting and every gathering of the *Częstochowers*.

We should also mention the energetic and dedicated activity of Anna Broder as Vice-President and in other offices. Among the Ladies Auxiliary's functionaries of these last years, it is particularly worth mentioning Minutes Secretary Sarah Senzer, who distinguishes herself with the colloquial Yiddish that she brought with her from *Częstochowa*.

A great deal of energy and life were given to the aid work by Cylia Jacobs - Financial Secretary; Cylia Szymkowicz - Trustee; Anna Wajskop - Chairwoman in 1929; Florence Nirenberg - Trustee; Anna Nirenberg and Gussie Gelber – Functions Chairwomen; Rae Kaufman - Functions Treasurer and Kepp - Trustee.