

Częstochowers In Canada



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Chenstochover and Vicinity Aid Society in Toronto (Canada)

The first meeting to establish a *Częstochower landsmannschaft* in Toronto was held on 8th January 1943, with the participation of the following persons: C. Orzech, Sz. Kamieńkowski and B. Cyncynatus.

Shortly afterwards, on 29th March 1943, a second meeting was held, with the [following] individuals: Dawid Birenholc, C. Orzech, Sz. Kamieńkowski, B. Cyncynatus and Mojsze Pinkus, at which it was decided to call an inaugural meeting and to create a permanent *Częstochower* society in Toronto. The date was set for 4th April 1943 at the house of Flw D. Birenholc.

On that day, a group of *landsleit* gathered at Flw D. Birenholc's, and a Presirium was formed comprising:

C. Orzech - Temporary Chairman;
Szymazon Lichter - Temporary Secretary
Dawid Birenholc - Temporary Treasurer.

A Temporary Executive [Board] was also formed comprising:

Mojsze Tarnowski
Sz. Lichter, B
. Woznica,
A. [x] Dalman
B. Sz. Kamieńkowski.

The elected members of the Presidium and Executive embarked on the work with great energy, and they collected the first monetary funds from the members already at that very meeting. Flw D. Birenholc particularly distinguished himself in this field.

At this same meeting, it was also decided to give the *Częstochower landsmannschaft* the name "*Częstochower Hilf Verein un Umgegnt in Toronto*"¹.

How devotedly and loyally the members of the Presidium and Executive worked is shown by the fact that, by 2nd May 1943, they had succeeded in gaining about 100 new members and raising a large sum of money, as well as calling a general meeting on that day.

The following officials were elected at the gathering held on 2nd May 1943:

¹ [TN: This translates as the Organisation's official name in English-language sources: "Chenstochover and Vicinity Aid Society in Toronto."]

Mojsze Tarnowski - Chairman
Jechiel Goldberg - Vice-Chairman
Herszl Goldberg - Vice- Chairman
B. Woznica - Vice-Chairman
Szymson Lichter - Finance Secretary
Sz. Kamieńkowski - Minutes Secretary
Dawid Birenholc – Treasurer.

The Executive [Committee] comprised M. Birenholc, B. Kolchory, B. Woznica, Ch. Goldberg, J. [?] Goldsztajn, H. Landau, H. Starr, Mrs M. Birenholc, Mrs B. Kolchory, Mrs S. Lichter, Mrs Woznica, Mrs Ch. Goldberg, Mrs Lazarus and F. Kenigsberg.

It is worth mentioning that, under the leadership of Flw Mojsze Tarnowski, the Chenstochover Aid Society had a great success. The Birenholc, Woznica and Elcter² families also excelled in the Society's work.

The wives of the *Częstochower landsleit* have a very considerable role in the Chenstochover Aid Society's work. They have distinguished themselves by raising large sums of money and by assisting their husbands in their intensive aid work.

In order to raise large sums of money, on 6th February 1944, the Chenstochover Aid Society in Toronto held its first large function.

At the initiative of several individuals, a banquet was held, for which a souvenir book was published. A large number of *landsleit* attended this banquet and they strengthened the *Landsmannschaft's* monetary fund with their donations.

Another banquet, with a souvenir book and which was also very successful, took place on 28th January 1945.

The following figures sum up the activity of the Chenstochover and Vicinity Aid Society in Toronto: fifty food parcels to *Częstochowa*; \$500 in cash, through Dr Tenenbaum, President of the [American] Federation for Polish Jews, and active participation in all the aid institutions, including in the *Mo'os Chittin*³ campaign, the United Palestine Appeal and others.

The above took form through the work of the local members and the moral support of the United Czenstochover Relief in New York, which sent its representative Flw R. Federman for this purpose.

But [with this,] the Chenstochover Aid Society in Toronto does not relent in its work. Conscious of their goal and tasks, they continue to stand in the ranks of the builders of a new Jewry in general and of *Częstochowa* in particular.

² [TN: On the following page, what appears to be this same surname is rendered as "Alster"; it is likely that the original surname was "Elster," which appears many times in the original *Częstochowa* archives.]

³ [TN: "Wheat Money," or relief for the poor with which to purchase the necessities for Passover; alternative name for the "Kimcha D'Pischa" mentioned above on p.347.]



***Management Committee of the
Chenstochover and Vicinity Aid Society in Toronto (Canada)***

***Seated (R-L): D. Birenholc (Treasurer), Sz. Alster, M. Tarnowski (President), H. Goldberg (Vice-President),
Sz. Lichter (Finance Secretary)***

***Standing 1st row (R-L): A. Winter, E. [ט] Szwicer, F. Kenigsberg, B. Woznica, J. [י] Frajermauer, J. [י] Goldberg
Standing 2nd row (R-L): Sz. Kamieńkowski (Minutes Secretary), M. Birenholc, C. Orzech, H. Starr, J. [י] Czapnik***