

J. Gliksman

## ***Chenstochover* Rajoner Verein<sup>1</sup> in Detroit**

The founding committee [of the first *Częstochower landsmannschaft* in Detroit] came together at the home of Flw I. Gliksman<sup>2</sup>, on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1925. Deliberations were attended by I. Gliksman, F. Fajertag, N. Richter, M. Storozum, H. Joskowicz, [and the brothers] Max Grosberg and A. [Aron] Grosberg.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1926, a mass-meeting was held at the home of Flw H. Joskowicz and thirty members joined.

The following officials were elected: M. Fradelski - Chairman; M. Grosberg - Vice-Chairman; F. Gliksman - Secretary; M. Storozum - Minutes Secretary; H. Szumer (Szmulewicz) - Treasurer; Executive [members]: M. Fradel (Fradelski), T. Halberg, I. Gliksman, A. Birnholc, H. Joskowicz, H. Szumer, M. Storozum, A. Grosberg, A. Jacobs and A. Fefer.

While this organisation was still in existence, it supported the kindergarten and professional unions - as well as the TOZ - in *Częstochowa* with considerable sums, and we also aided an array of national and local organisations here in the country.

This organisation was dissolved on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1928.

### ***Chenstochover* Rajoner Verein**

The *Chenstochover Rajoner Verein* in Detroit was organised on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1935. The organising committee held its first session in the home of Flw Sam Halberg, with the participation of I. Gliksman, N. Richter, S. Halberg, R. Luks, B. Kalin, T. Halberg, A. Winter, Hymie Joskowicz (deceased), A. Birnholc and H. Halberg.

The mass-gathering was held at the Assembly Hall.

The following official were elected: Chairman - S. Halberg; Vice-Chairman - Hymie Joskowicz; Finance Secretary - I. Gliksman; Minutes Secretary - A. Winter; Treasurer - B. Kalin; Executive [members]: T. Halberg, R. Luks, A. Birnholc and A. Leser.

Over the course of our ten-year existence, we have given \$14,263 in support to the following organisations: the *Częstochowa* kindergartens, the professional unions' Cultural Bureau and the TOZ branch in *Częstochowa*; the [American] Federation for Polish Jews; the Allied Jewish Campaign [of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit]; HIAS; ICOR [Organisation for Jewish Colonisation in Russia]; the Trades Campaign [for the Land of Israel]; the [Jewish] National Fund [KKL]; the [Detroit] *Chesed Shel Emes*<sup>3</sup>; the Red Cross; the [local] War Chest [Campaign]; the Los Angeles Sanatorium (Detroit branch);

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Transliterated from Yid., "*Częstochower Regional Society*." As incongruous as these spellings are – note that the first word is spelt in an Americanised fashion and the second in a Polish one, while the third (pronounced "Farayn") is simply the correct form of the word in German – we have rendered the organisation's name exactly as it appears in the contemporary English-language sources, namely the *Detroit Jewish press*.]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: Isidor Gliksman, the author of this article.]

<sup>3</sup> [TN: Heb. "True Charity"; this organisation's name in English is the "Detroit Jewish Free Burial Association."]

the Denver Sanatorium [of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society]; the Chinese War Relief, the Russian War Relief, the USO<sup>4</sup> and dozens of other organisations.

The members of the Chenstochover Verein purchased \$65,000 worth of bonds through the organisation in the course of the six War Loans<sup>5</sup>.



*The Executive of the Chenstochover Rajoner Verein in Detroit*  
*1<sup>st</sup> row, seated (R-L): Mrs A. Birnholt, Mrs A. Sborow, Mrs M. Richter, Mrs M. Fajn and Mrs J. [?] Halberg;*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> row, seated (R-L): S. Sborow, B. Wrocławski, M. Fajn, R. Federman, I. Halberg, T. Halberg and N. Richter;*  
*Standing (R-L): J. [?] Wiatrak, S. Rechtman, A. Birnholt, Ch. Halberg and A. Goldsztajn*

Our members have thirty-eight offspring in the American army. During the three years of [America's participation in the] War, we were always in contact with our children in the army, and we sent each of them a parcel every three months.

We worked along with the [American] Federation for Polish Jews as members, and sent a large number of parcels to Lublin.

The *Chenstochover* Rajoner Verein has shown an interest in our hometown of old, Częstochowa, for some time. To this purpose, we already raised a larger fund. The proceeds from the banquet in honour of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1945, were also allotted to this fund.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1938, the *Chenstochover* Rajoner Verein in Detroit celebrated its second [sic third?] anniversary, at the Conference Hall, with a fine concert and banquet. For the short time of its existence, the *Chenstochover* Verein had managed to develop lively activity in various fields, which manifested the tasks that the Society had set itself at its very foundation.

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<sup>4</sup> [TN: The United Service Organisations Inc.; a US non-profit corporation that provides entertainment for US troops and their families. In the original, the names of the last three organisations are printed in English – in Latin characters.]

<sup>5</sup> [TN: Ref. to the six Bond Drives launched by the Detroit Congregation Shaarey Zedek during WWII; the seventh began in October 1945, as follows below.]

The Society had also stood watch and did whatever had only been possible to also aid its own members in temporary need of fraternal assistance. Another noteworthy fact is that the Society had not remained indifferent to the communal life here in the city, and it had taken proper part in the great people's movement to erect a house in the Los Angeles Sanatorium in the name of Detroit Jewry. It had also joined a few national and municipal bodies, with yearly contributions. In general, the organisation has responded to every appeal of our fellow organisations in a most fraternal manner.

At the same time, the society had also seen to its cultural tasks. Thus, over the course of these two years, it has successfully held several concerts, literary family evenings and other similar cultural undertakings.

All these important functions, which the organisation earnestly and genuinely endeavoured to serve, established it as a communal factor in Detroit's Jewish life and also drew the attention of many non-*landsleit*, who offered the organisation their cooperation, so that it should continue its work in an even more successful manner. The result of this was that several important persons joined as members.

It is obvious that all this was, to a great extent, in order to show gratitude for the profound devotion and selflessness of quite a large section of the active members, who brought vitality and vigour to the organisation's work and tasks.

The charter was given to the organisation as a gift from Luzor Gliksman.

The following officials held office in 1944: Chairman - Fajn; Vice-Chairman - A. Halberg; Finance Secretary - B. Wiatrak; Minutes Secretary - A. Birnholc; Treasurer - B. Wrocławski; Hospitality (men) - J. Wiatrak; Hospitality (women) - R. Halberg; Executive [members] - N. Richter, [his wife] Sister G. Richter, Sister Helen Sborow and T. Halberg.

Newly-elected officials for 1945: Chairman - Isidor Gliksman; Vice-Chairman - S. Rechtman; Finance Secretary - B. Wiatrak; Minutes Secretary - J. Czudnow; Treasurer - B. Wrocławski; Hospitality (men) - J. Wiatrak; Hospitality (women) - Jenny Wiatrak; Executive [members] - A. Birnholc, T. Halberg, Izzie Halberg, S. Halberg, A. Winter, Helen Sborow, N. Richter and Sister N. Bajtner.

The *Chenstochover* Rajoner Verein opened its winter activities with a banquet, on 14<sup>th</sup> October, at the Jewish Cultural Centre, at 2705 Joy Road. The banquet was dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the long-standing Hospitality [Manager] and prominent activist, J. Wiatrak. The campaign for the Victory Loan was also launched that evening.

Over the course of this last year, thanks to the capable leadership of the *Chenstochover* Verein in Detroit, considerable results were attained in all the organisation's relief and communal undertakings.

The *Chenstochover* Verein has distinguished itself in the sale of War Bonds and has received a "citation"<sup>6</sup> from the Ministry of Defence in Washington, which was delivered over the radio. The Detroit organisation has [also] given a sum of \$1,000 to the Czenstochover Relief in New York for relief purposes.

The organisation actively participated in the campaign of the Jewish Committee for the Russian [War] Relief with a considerable amount of money. The leaders of the *Chenstochover* Verein in Detroit [also] worked out a series of plans for local communal operations.

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<sup>6</sup> [TN: In English in the original.]

The *Częstochower* Branch 620 of the Arbeiter-Ring was instituted on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1928<sup>7</sup>. The following officials were nominated: R. Luks - Finance Secretary; I. Gliksman - Minutes Secretary; H. Joskowicz - Treasurer (deceased); B. Kalin - Hospitality; Executive [members] - Pański, Kenigsberg, F. Fajertag, Willis, Abe Wenger, N. Richter, I. Gliksman and R. Luks.

The branch conducted cultural activity and supported many local and national bodies. The branch was dissolved on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1932.



The founding meeting of the *Częstochower* Patronage in Detroit was held at the house of Flw I. Gliksman, on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1937. I. Gliksman, B. Wrocławski, S. Rechtman, Fajerman, Rich, B. Kalin and N. Richter were present. B. Wrocławski was chosen as Temporary Chairman and I. Gliksman as Finance Secretary.

During the six months of the Patronage's existence, we managed to carry out several undertakings and to support the patronages with more than \$150, as well as disseminating their publications in large number.

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<sup>7</sup> [TN: According to the book "*Czenstochow*" (1958), this short-lived Arbeiter-Ring Branch 620 was the first *Częstochower* landsmannschaft in Detroit, and constituted the foundation for the later "*Chenstochover Rajoner Verein*" (see there, p.242).]