

The Executive of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft of Montreal

The Czenstochover Landsmanshaft has gained a very favourable reputation in Montreal. This is a result of the activities that it conducts, thereby serving as an example for other *Landsmannschaften* and societies.

In order to conduct positive activities – such as:

- 1) continuing the traditions of the Częstochowa Jewish Community;
- 2) perpetuating the memory of the martyrs and the heroic struggle of Częstochowa Jewry against the Nazi regime;
- 3) holding *yizkor* services in a worthy and reverent manner, on the days of mourning, in memory of the martyrs and heroes, who fell in sanctification of the Name [of God] and the People [of Israel];
- 4) seeking out and bringing to justice the Nazi murderers, may their name be obliterated, who gruesomely destroyed Częstochowa Jewry;
- 5) giving financial aid to our *landsleit* overseas, victims of the Nazi regime;
- 6) working for Jewish communal and cultural life in Montreal and helping it along, also financially; and
- 7) creating a familiar and comradely atmosphere amongst our *landsleit*, sharing the times of joy and, Heaven forbid, sorrow

– necessitates a group of people, an Executive, to manage the wide range of activities.

These individuals must:

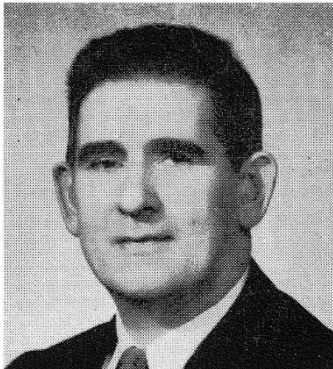
- a) be able and competent to carry out such activities;
- b) possess deep feelings and sentiments for the tasks they must perform;
- c) be ready to volunteer as much time as needed
- d) willingly contribute financial means to make the accomplishment of these goals and tasks of the Society possible.

Who are the Executive Members?

In order to answer this question, we would need to write an entire book with each one's biography, communal activities, position in the general Jewish communal life, experiences during the Nazi epoch and current communal activities.

It is impossible to do so within the confines of this brief and unassuming essay. The sole aim of this short and modest article is to provide concise information as regards the office held by each Executive Member and his duties.

One characteristic, which unites all the Executive Members, is that they are all newcomers to Canada - all of them have lived through the Jewish wrangle, pain, troubles and suffering during the time of Nazi tyranny and, as such, have suffered themselves. They have an understanding for those who are, to this day, suffering and find themselves in need. Concurrently, they are the ones for whom the tasks and goals of the Society are a constituent part of their day-to-day mind and thoughts.



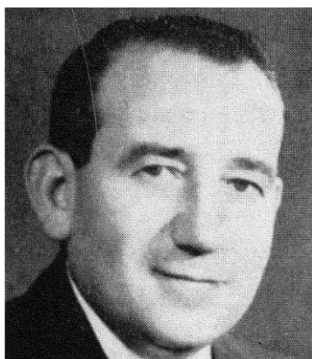
**President
Lajbke Jakubowicz**

Lajbke Jakubowicz is President of the Society. His duties include representing the Society, taking part in meetings of all the committees, gatherings and functions. In cases of emergency, when it is not possible to call the Executive together at once, to deliberate with the Presidium and adopt the appropriate decisions in accordance with the constitution, goals and duties of the Society. Lajbke Jakubowicz carries out his duties with great devotion and responsibility.



**Chairman
Berl Ickowicz**

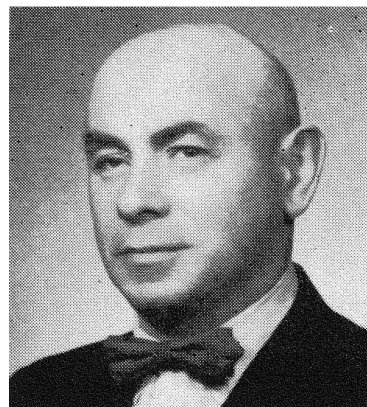
Berl Ickowicz is Chairman of the Society> his duties include calling together the meetings of the Executive, preparing an agenda for the day together with the Secretary and chairing the meeting, coordinating the activity of the separate offices and maintaining contact with everyone [to ascertain] whether the activities, to which they have been entrusted, are carried out in accordance with the decisions adopted. We must stress the fact that Berl Ickowicz carries out his duties to perfection and is the suitable Executive Member for this office.



**Vice-Chairman and Vice-Treasurer
Mendel Frydlender**

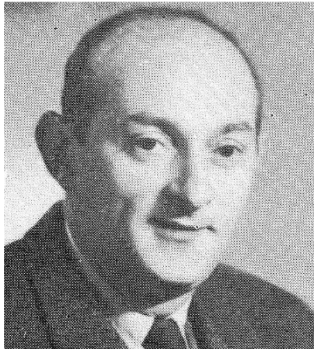
Mendel Frydlender holds the offices of Vice-Chairman and Vice-Treasurer. He chairs the Executive meetings in the Chairman's absence and is one of the ones who sign the cheques. He maintains the documentation relating to the receipts [for donations] and bank meetings, at the same time executing all the tasks that every Executive Member is required to perform. He does this with great love, devotion, selflessness and idealism.

**Harry Klein
Treasurer**



Harry Klein is Treasurer of the Society. His duties include not only collecting money and issuing receipts, but also formulating plans as to how to raise the funds. He concurrently performs the general functions of the Executive. A witticism has spread about him: *"His name is Small¹, but his deeds for the Society are great."* He is the driving force behind the Executive's activities.

¹ [TN: Klein means small in Yiddish.]



Symcha Silver
Secretary

Symcha Silver is Secretary. His duties include:

- 1) receiving all correspondence, reading it through and either reporting about it or reading it at the Executive meetings;
- 2) responding to the letters in accordance with the decisions of the Executive;
- 3) Sending out letters and invitations to members of the Society, regarding memorial services, general assemblies, fundraisers and all other functions.

Taking into account that this work entails a great deal of time, devotion and goodwill, forcing him to sit up until midnight following hard workdays, he truly deserves a hearty thank you and *yasher koyach*².

Charles Konarski
Recording Secretary



Charles Konarski is Recording Secretary. His duties include:

- 1) recording the minutes of the Executive meetings, general assemblies and all other functions; and
- 2) reading out, at every Executive meeting, the minutes of the previous meeting, so that the Executive should be able to verify whether the decisions adopted were properly carried out.

Charles Konarski is not satisfied with just this office. He is active in all fields and particularly displays great understanding, heart and feeling to the allocation of financial aid to our impecunious *landsleit* overseas.

² [TN: Heb., lit. "May your strength be straightened" (viz. made firm); traditional Jewish expression of gratitude akin to "Well done!"]



Dr. Benjamin Orenstein
General Secretary

Dr Benjamin Orenstein is General Secretary. His duties include:

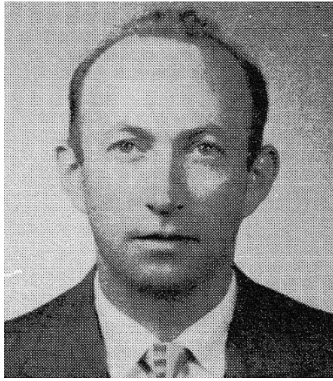
- 1) representing the Society at conventions and conferences of a national, regional and local character;
- 2) maintaining written contact with *Częstochower* institutions and *Częstochower* personalities all over the globe;
- 3) editing all the Society's publications;
- 4) providing the appropriate incriminatory materials to the courts trying the Nazi killers who murdered *Częstochowa* Jewry;
- 5) appearing to speak at the memorial services;
- 6) giving reports of communal activities at the general assemblies and Executive meetings; and
- 7) being in charge of the Society's archives.

Dr Benjamin Orenstein holds a highly respected position in the historical research of the Holocaust era, and with his work, he is the chief historian of the *Częstochowa* Jewry's history.

Mojsze Altman
Relief Committee Chairman



Mojsze Altman is Chairman of the Relief Committee – an office which is considered most important and honourable, as he and his committee are tasked with evaluating all appeals for financial assistance from impoverished *landsleit* overseas. Mojsze Altman is distinguished for his very good memory. He perfectly remembers all the *landsleit* and even the addresses where they lived before the War and the nicknames they had. He excels in his activities and takes part in all the work of the Executive. He is the right man in the right office.



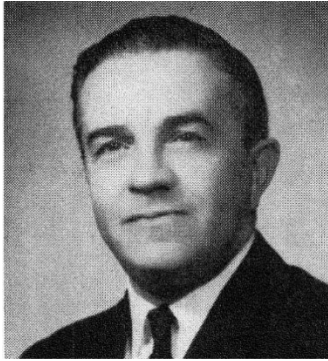
H. Rosenblum
Cultural Committee Chairman

H. Rosenblum is Chairman of the Cultural Committee. His duties include preparing the programmes for all the functions. At the same time, he takes an active part in all the works of the Executive, performing his tasks in a conscientious manner. He is distinguished for his organisational capabilities.



Max Herszlikowicz
Telephone Communications

Max Herszlikowicz holds the office of Telephone Communications. A system has been implemented whereby no invitations are sent to Executive meetings but, instead, telephone calls are made. This duty is conscientiously performed by Max Herszlikowicz. Very often, after a hard day's work, he sits for long hours on the telephone, informing all the Executive Members of the date and location where the meeting is to take place. It is his custom to ask first about health and family, recount something interesting and then notify regarding the session. Besides that, he participates in all the works of the Executive. He performs his duties conscientiously and with devotion.



Simon Lerner
Arrangements Committee Chairman

Simon Lerner is Chairman of the Arrangements Committee. His duties include all the arrangements for the annual balls held by the Society. He is concurrently the ticket champion - he sells tickets in very large numbers, reaching a total of sixty or seventy. Very often, it happens that he does not collect all the money, but he pays for them [himself]. His ticket sales immediately guarantee successful and well-attended balls.

Aron Birenbaum
Reception Committee Chairman



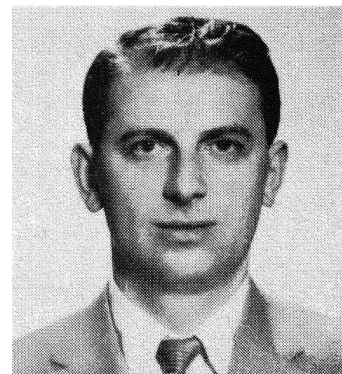
Aron Birenbaum is Chairman of the Reception Committee. His duties include the reception of guest *landsleit*, who visit Montreal with great frequency. He also ensures that Executive meetings, general assemblies and annual ball functions should proceed appropriately and that everyone should feel they are in a friendly and comradely environment. Aron Birenbaum actively participates actively in all the works of the Executive and generously, financially aids the Society.



Zelig Neufeld
Hospitality Committee Chairman

Zelig Neufeld is Chairman of the Hospitality Committee, a field in which he highly distinguishes himself. He performs his duties with great devotion and joy, concurrently taking part in all the works of the Executive and generously supporting the Society.

Abram Kamiński
Bikur Cholim³ Committee



Abram Kamiński is Chairman of the Bikur Cholim Committee. This is an extremely important office within the Society's internal life. If a *landsmann* (Heaven forbid) is ill, he is visited by a special delegation appointed by Abram Kamiński. Such a visit, coupled with a gift from the Society, works wonders with the ailing individual. He feels that he has a large family, forgets his illness and becomes involved in all kinds of unique and autochthonous conversations. It very frequently happens that a sick person, who is lying and groaning with pain, meets the delegation, engages in conversation and is completely transformed, starting to chat and even to smile with joy. Besides that, Kamiński takes part in an entire array of the Executive's works and willingly contributes to the Society above his financial possibilities.



Mojsze Lewkowicz
Audit Committee Chairman

Mojsze Lewkowicz is Chairman of the Audit Committee. His duties, along with the members of the Committee, include monitoring the finances, the income and expenditure, as well as checking that the decisions of the Executive are executed on time. Mojsze Lewkowicz participates in an entire array of activities of the Executive and performs his duties with great devotion.

³ [TN: Heb., lit. "visiting the sick"; in the English-language part of "Czenstochov, Our Legacy" (1993), this office is referred to as the "Sick and Welfare Committee".]

FORMER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Apart from those Executive Members listed above, over the course of the existence of the Society, there was also an entire array of other active *landsleit*, who held important positions on the Executive. Some of them departed young from this world, while others left Montreal.

The deceased are:

Szlojme Dilewski z"l - former Chairman of the Society;

Yecheskel Silver (Zylberberg) z"l - longstanding President of the Society;

Josef Zylberberg z"l - former Executive Member of the Society;

Dr Henryk Lazarowicz z"l - former Chairman of the Society.



Moved to New York:

Kuba Goldberg - held various offices, beginning as Secretary and later becoming Chairman;

Berek Fefer - held the office of Campaign Manager.



Moved to Toronto:

Szlojme Waga - held various offices, serving several terms as Secretary and several as Chairman;

Louis Buchwalter - Arrangements Committee Chairman.