

In Memory of My Deceased Friend, Josef Zylberberg



Josef Zylberberg was born in 1906 in Szczekociny, a small *shtetl* near Częstochowa. He attended *cheder* and general school. At the age of thirteen, he came to Częstochowa and, due to the fact that his parents were very poor people, he went to work in tailoring. Once he had learnt the profession and had grown up, he married and became independent, opening a small workshop as a *chatupnik*¹.

When the War broke out, he shared the same fate as all the Jews in Częstochowa. His entire family was annihilated, and he was barracked in HASAG-Pelcery. He was freed from HASAG on the night from 16th to 17th January 1945.

Following liberation, he was in Częstochowa and married Mania Ickowicz, who gave him two children— a boy and a girl, who were his whole hope, consolation and contentment in life. Along with his family, he emigrated to Canada and settled in Montreal. At first, it was a little difficult for him to settle down. Over time, the difficulties dissipated and he led a peaceful and happy life.

When I arrived in Montreal, along with my daughter, he regularly offered me financial aid, so that I should be able to settle down as quickly and in the best manner as possible. He had an open hand and a good will to help every individual in need of advice, active aid and financial means.

Josef Zylberberg was an active member of the Executive Committee of the Czenstochover *Landsmanshaft*, and dedicated himself to the activities in a simply, selfless manner.

I remember one instance, when we both went to *landsleit* to raise money in aid of the needy *landsleit* overseas. It was a very cold day. The tempestuous frost and wind were raging, but he felt no cold. The idea, that by raising funds for needy *landsleit* would be supported, made him feel good, comfortable, pleasant and warm.

On 12th May 1959, all the *landsleit* and I were shattered by the sorrowful news that Josef Zylberberg was no longer with us. He had departed to eternity.

I will not forget Josef Zylberberg.

Honoured be his memory.

¹ [TN: Pol., home-based worker; from the word "chalupa," meaning "hut."]