

Czenstochover Relief Committee in New York

In 1964, it will be fifty years since the Czenstochover Relief Committee in New York was founded.

To provide an appropriate overview of the Committee's activities – in chronological order, of course – would necessitate an entire book. It is therefore impossible to do so in this publication.

Consequently, this report will limit itself to just several highpoints of the activities over the last few years.

The Relief Committee of New York is directed by an Active [viz. Executive], comprised of *landsleit* who work selflessly, voluntarily devoting time and considerable contributions.

This Active consists mainly of educated, communal activists, who were already well-known in the home of old. There are also some who are still young and new in communal activities. They take a keen interest in the work, actively participate and learn - and sooner or later, they will grow to become distinguished, communal activists.

The activities are broad. Obviously, material aid is first and foremost. The term "material aid" does not always imply cash money. In the written appeals, which the Relief Committee receives, *landsleit* ask for clothing, antibiotic medication and, in one case, the request was for rubber socks for ailing feet. Clothing is the easiest, as it is gathered from amongst the *landsleit* themselves. The Relief Committee has a principle to the effect that no request is turned down.

The Relief Committee has published two large books:

- *Czenstochover Yidn* in 1947 and
- *Czenstochov* in 1958.

Both these works immortalise the history of the life, struggle and destruction of Częstochowa Jewry.

Over these last few years, the Relief Committee has focused on a project of building a children's home [viz. kindergarten] in Kfar Saba, Israel, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars¹.

This children's home is to serve as a monument and as an eternal candle for the martyrs of Częstochowa and the vicinity, who perished in sanctification of the Name [of God] and the People [of Israel], during the times of the Nazi tyranny. This institution will be named the "Częstochowa Children's Home".

The financial means are raised in various manners:

¹ [TN: See more on this in *Sefer Czenstochow*, Vol. II, section *Częstochowers in the Diaspora*, article *Opening Ceremony of the Kfar Saba Children's Home*.]

- Firstly, from individuals wishing to commemorate their annihilated nearest ones by way of engraved, bronze plaques, which will be hung in the rooms of the children's home.
- Secondly, by commemorating names to be inscribed in the Golden Book, which will be placed in the lobby of the children's home.
- Thirdly, from the memorial services, which have an attendance of about five hundred *landsleit*; and
- Fourthly, from a ball that is held before New Year's, or on the day of the liberation of the HASAG camps in Częstochowa.

The Executive of the Czenstochover Relief
Committee and Ladies Auxiliary of New York

Karl Wargon, President
Abram Bomba, Secretary