

Pinchas [Pinkus] Michałowicz

The “Religious Craftsmen’s Centre” Branch in Częstochowa

I send you an excerpt from the local newspaper “*Unser Weg*” [“Our Way”], from 17th April 1936, in which was printed an article on the activities of that branch, of which I was the Chairman, and these are its words:

On Sunday, 4th [day] of Chol Ha’Moed Peisach, 5696 [12th April 1936], at the branch’s premises (at the First Avenue 10), a general assembly was held of the Religious Craftsmen’s Centre branch in Częstochowa.

The assembly was opened by the branch Chairman, Pinkus Michałowicz (now in Petah Tikva), who denoted the great loss suffered by the People of Israel, in general, and religious Jewry in particular, with the death of the prodigy Rabbi Abraham Yitzchak Ha’Cohen Kook ztz”l, the Chief Rabbi of the Land of Israel. The audience honoured his memory by standing.

The Chairman also mentioned the martyrs of Przytyk who, glorified heaven’s name by protecting the city’s Jews and the member Ester Szwarbaum, had died in the Land of Israel.

Afterwards, member Szywek was appointed Chairman of the assembly and members Wargon and Fiszman as his deputies, with member Lancman as secretary.

Following the blessings delivered by member Blechsztajn in the name of “Ha’Mizrachi” and “Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael”, member Danziger “Torah Ve’Avoda” [Torah and Work] movement (in Hebrew), member Lenczner - in the name of “Ha’Shomer Ha’Dati” [The Religious Guardian] and member Sztencel - in the name of “Bruria”, Chairman Mr. Michałowicz delivered a report on the activities, from which it was seen that, over the course of the year, about one hundred members were added. A wide cultural program had been conducted in the form of members’ discussions, lectures, Hebrew lessons and the study of the history of Zionism and the “Ha’Mizrachi” movement.

Other reports were read as well, by member Figlarz - on the activities of the “Keren Le’Aliyah” [Fund for Aliyah] and by member Kaminski - a financial report, which was also approved by the audit committee.

A new council was elected, comprising members Michałowicz, Częstochowski, Kaminski, Fridman, Szajnweksler, Gold, Rozenberg, Burszewski, Wargon and Figlarz.

A plan for the future was worked out, which included the organisation of activities in the branches near Częstochowa, in the project of planting a forest in the name of Józef Piłsudski, on the lands of “Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael” in the Land [of Israel] and in preparations towards the World Jewish Congress.

(Obviously, this branch's activities were also cut down. The majority of its members were annihilated by Hitler's troops and only a few of them had the privilege to emigrate to the Land [of Israel], where they became integrated into the life of our redeemed and constructed country.)