

Project Title	Czestochowa 2019
Project Dates	June 10-14, 2019
Project Lead(s)	Steven Reece, Przemek Panasiuk
Project Description	Clean cemetery and check on growth of previously identified potential local leaders to continue the work
Participants (#, countries, etc)	TMF: Steven Reece, Rachael Romero, Przemek Panasiuk World Society of Czestochowa Jews and Descendants: Alon Goldman (Israel) Fundacja Adullam: Robert Kaminski +6 (Poland) Local Schools: 80-90 students and teachers (group of 10-30 daily) Other volunteers: c.a. 12
Partners	World Society of Czestochowa Jews and Descendants, Fundacja Adullam (Adullam Foundation)
Lodging	Mercure Częstochowa Centrum
Transportation	Rented van
Educational	Alon gave us a tour of jewish sites in Chestochowa Introduction to cemetery work provided by TMF and Alon to the volunteering students
Cultural	On the day of arrival Alon took TMF to concerts organized during annual jazz festival in Czestochowa
Meetings	Meet and greet organized at TSKŻ (Cultural Society of Jews in Poland) Meet and greet with Fundacja Adullam and elder community they work with Meeting with Andrzej Stanisławski (friend form last year) and his daughter and her boyfriend Meeting with Alon's friend (former director of Jewish muzeum in Chestochowa) and his wife at their house On site meeting with Piotr Puchta (new director of FODŻ) and his son
Meaningful Outcomes	Increased awareness of Jewish culture and significance of the cemetery among local citizens and students.

	Observed continuous involvement in works in jewish cemetery from Robert Kaminski (trained in Halacha last year) and provided encouragement Continued relationship with Alon Goldman
Unmet expectations?	Got about 85-90% of the planned section of the cemetery cleared
Unexpected issues?	Men with chainsaws and woodchipper we liked so much to work with last year didn't show up after the first day of our project claiming they had an issue with woodchipper. It forced us to look for other options and created an obstacle in the flow cleaning. City didn't provide any support. They were supposed to help with moving logs out of cemetery. Allegedly they had too short notice. Work have been shortened by 1 day due to jewish holiday on Monday 10th June.
What we learned	Check jewish holiday dates for a particular date either with befriended jews in Poland or calendars of jewish holidays in Poland as dates may vary If we expect a big group of volunteers we should consider hiring chainsaws crew or reliable partner on site to do some cutting ahead of time.
Pictures	2-4 pics of project should be added to project folder (@Steven)
Participant Feedback	

Narrative:

- Main goal was to continue clearing the section of the cemetery we started last year and observe how does the work going in the meantime including providing encouragement and building relationships with potential local leaders.
- Despite lower number of volunteers (allegedly there were some cases of ticks brought home after work and even cases of lime disease since last year) and unexpected cancellation of woodchipper. We have almost accomplished our task and cleared about 85% of the section we planned. Alon was satisfied with the progress.

- We had further opportunity to interact with and get to know better the director of Fundacja Adullam, Ela. We have been invited to a meeting to introduce our work to members of senior university and have a meal with Ela and Robert.
- Błażej Talarek (local student, 18 years old) joined us a few days and we got to celebrate his 18th birthday which was close to when we were there. He has expressed his gratitude and mentioned our work pointed him to the direction he would like to pursue in the future.
- We had a chance to meet new director of FODŻ while we were in Częstochowa and talk with him together with Alon
- Majority of costs were covered by donation from Alon including the meals and lodging for Przemek and Steven. We had to cover only the cost of Rachel's lodging. Chainsaw crews and wood chippers were paid by Alon directly, so we have returned bigger part of donation back to Alon

Thoughts on future involvement:

- We have already been asked to return to Częstochowa next year.
- During later meeting with Piotr Puchta, we have learned that Częstochowa have been recommended as a cemetery another foundation based in Poland may involve their volunteers. If it takes place we might want to be involved in order to direct the work.
- Alon have asked if it would be possible to hold project later (around September or October) if that would mean we get more volunteers.