

Steven D. Reece

From: Haim Horowitz <Haim.Horowitz@dspg.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2017 00:59
To: sdreece@matzevah.org
Subject: FW: Our meeting in Oswiecim
Attachments: Chrzanow Letter.jpg

Dear Steven,

This is so exciting.

Hanukkah is a good time for hoping for miracles.

With good and conscience people like you and your friend Adam, the world is lightened...

Thank you

I understand now that the family has to get in touch with the Jewish community in Katowice. The letter from the Mayor of Chrzanow that we were exposed to, thanks to you and Adam, made me aware of that.

Good luck to you with the report you are working on. May I ask what is the report you are preparing and o whom is it intended?

At the top of the letter from the Mayor to your friend Adam, I can see Adam's title in Polish. How is it (if I may), translated to English?

Are you planning to re visit Oswiecim or/and Chrzanow any time in the foreseeable future?

Best wishes for a Wonderful New Year!

Haim Horowitz

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven D. Reece [mailto:sdreece@matzevah.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 4:18 PM
To: Haim Horowitz <Haim.Horowitz@dspg.com>
Cc: 'STURDY COLLS Caroline' <C.Sturdy-Colls@staffs.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Our meeting in Oswiecim

Dear Haim,

Adam, a long-time Polish friend, acted on our behalf. After I posted the story on my Facebook page. He took personal action and wrote the mayor of Chrzanów. He sent to me a scan of the letter that he received from the mayor. I have attached it for your review. Here is his response,

"I received information from Ryszard Kasowski, mayor of Chrzanow. He says that Chrzanow Commune is not involved in any action toward moving the monument. However Landowners in 2017 moved for monument's relocation and Jewish Religious Community in Katowice was informed about it. Mayor knows that the stones were located there in 1962 and that in 1939 about 50% citizens of Chrzanow were Jewish. And there he says "I think that there legal status of this site needs to be regulated to remind it's public character and with consideration of interests to all concerned sides". I send u full answer from mayor of Chrzanow in polish."

Once our report is finalized, we will send a letter, as well to the mayor.

Happy Hanukkah!

Steven

-----Original Message-----

From: Haim Horowitz [mailto:Haim.Horowitz@dspg.com]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 20:16
To: sdreece@matzevah.org
Cc: 'STURDY COLLS Caroline' <C.Sturdy-Colls@staffs.ac.uk>
Subject: RE: Our meeting in Oswiecim

Dear Steven,

Thank you so much!
I was very excited reading your memo. It is a great support for us

Shalom,

Haim

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven D. Reece [mailto:sdreece@matzevah.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 1:49 AM
To: Haim Horowitz; 'STURDY COLLS Caroline'
Subject: RE: Our meeting in Oswiecim

Dear Haim,

Thank you for contacting us and letting us know of this sad development. We learned of it last week and Caroline and I have discussed how we might address the situation. I have personally reached out to the Auschwitz Jewish Center and they are planning to reach out to the city. I do not know yet what they plan to do or when they plan to do it.

Since Caroline and her students surveyed the mass grave in Chrzanów, we were planning to send a report to the city. We can address this matter as well since they are directly related. We will keep you posted.

L'shalom,

Steven

-----Original Message-----

From: Haim Horowitz [mailto:Haim.Horowitz@dspg.com]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 07:31
To: STURDY COLLS Caroline <C.Sturdy-Colls@staffs.ac.uk>
Cc: sdreece@matzevah.org
Subject: RE: Our meeting in Oswiecim

Dear Caroline and Steven,

<http://jewish.pl/pl/2017/11/24/pomnik-upamietniajacy-zamordowanych-zydow-zniknie-z-chrzanowa/>

https://www.jta.org/2017/11/27/news-opinion/world/landowner-asks-polish-town-to-remove-monument-to-jews-killed-by-nazis?utm_content=buffer21d0f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=jtafacebook&utm_campaign=social

How are you and how are your projects progressing?

How was the trip to Chrzanow? I hope it was a successful one.

Do you have any future travel plans to either Oswiecim or Chrzanow or both?

We received lately bad and sad news from Chrzanow.

Please see the attached links (Polis and English).

The monument that is mentioned in the article, is commemorating 7 Jews who were publically hanged by the Nazis, on 29 April 1942.

3 of the victims are from my family

Israel Gerstner who is the Grandfather of my mother and my father (my parents are cousins) and eventually, my Great Grandfather.

Chaim Gerstner who is my mother's Father and my father's Uncle and eventually my Grandfather and my first name is his Shimshon Gerstner who is the Uncle of both my father and mother.

The monument is now placed where the hanging took place, right under the hanging trees. I attach photos from this notorious event

Caroline and Steven, please let me know if you have any contacts in Chrzanow that may potentially help us to keep the monument where it is now.

I already told my family that I will not agree to any confiscation of private property in order not to move the monument. I have no doubt that we will need to negotiate with the legal owners of the property although, the city that built the monument (right at the site where it should be placed) did it over 30 years ago.

Thank you both and good luck!

Also, I wish you and your families, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Successful and full with Achievements New Year.

Haim

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