

# **Australian Society of Polish Jews and their Descendants**

**Annual Report 2017–18**

**PRESERVE  
EDUCATE  
PROMOTE**



**Australian Society of Polish Jews  
and their Descendants**



“Australian Society of Polish Jews  
and Their Descendants is dedicated to  
preserving and promoting the historical and  
cultural heritage of Jewish life in Poland  
and to fostering understanding between  
current and future generations of the Polish  
and Jewish communities”

# PRESERVE EDUCATE PROMOTE

The ASPJ coordinates with the established Jewish and Polish communal bodies, religious leadership, governmental, parliamentary and diplomatic bodies, as well as historical, cultural and educational organisations in both Australia and Poland.

Polish-Jewish dialogue in Poland today is growing, particularly among the post-communist, educated young. There is a growing understanding and acceptance of the past, both the good and the bad. A new spirit of positive co-operation has emerged. Young Catholic Poles, more than ever before, are expressing an interest in the Jewish history of their country. This dialogue and interest needs to be nurtured and encouraged.

We organise educational and cultural events that cover the broad range of Polish-Jewish relations.

Our Haynt magazine is published three times a year, showcasing cultural, social and political articles of interest to Polish and Jewish communities.

ASPJ is a resource for educational material and offers a speaker service in a variety of topics relating to Polish-Jewish relations.

The Henryk Slawik Award is bestowed by the ASPJ to a person or institution that helps foster a deeper understanding of Polish-Jewish history and relations.

ASPJ Oration invites national or international speakers who can address complex and relevant issues regarding Polish-Jewish concerns.

Based in Melbourne, Australia, we invite all people, Jewish and non-Jewish, whose roots lie in Poland, to join our organisation.

## From the President



This year, 2018, has been busy and productive, enabling us to build on our past successes. ASPJ has formed strong relationships with Victorian members of parliament and played a key part in the formation of Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Poland group. We hosted and held events, and travelled to Poland, where we held talks with a number of government departments and community organisations. Our work is regarded by many as unique and important to the relationship between Jewish and non-Jewish Poles.

Our plans for the coming year include the usual annual events – the Henryk Slawik Award and the ASPJ Oration – as well as other educational and cultural events and exhibitions. We hope for the participation of members of both communities.

We feel that we are making progress towards achieving our goals, though the nature of the work we are doing at ASPJ makes it impossible to reach the point where we can feel that our mission has been accomplished. Along with the advances there are setbacks, and we need to guard against allowing these to discourage us.

We are committed to continuing constructive dialogue with our willing partners and believe that further progress can be made in the future.

Izidor Marmur

## From the CEO



The Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants has been active for nearly ten years now. Started by a small group of like-minded volunteers, the organisation has grown to such an extent that our mission and purpose is recognised and supported both in Australia and overseas.

As we achieve success it is imperative that strong best administration practice is entrenched within the organisation. No matter how noble or altruistic, without skillful and proficient management, vision is a lot more difficult to achieve.

With our mindset to not allow stagnation to set in and our sight fully focused on the future, 2019 will be dedicated to the revamp of our structures, so that in an ever-changing world of global communication, data storage, the needs and requirements of volunteers, planning cultural events and fundraising, the ASPJ is prepared for the challenges ahead.

If you feel that you have the skills to enhance the organisation and would like to be involved, please contact our secretary.

Bernard Korbman

## The board



Eva Hussain  
Vice-President



Ezra May  
Vice-President



Andrew Rajcher  
Treasurer



Lena Fizman  
Secretary



Peter Schnall  
Secretary



Estelle Rozinski  
NSW



David Prince  
Member



Moshe Fizman  
Member



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## Sharing, mingling and working together



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1. L-r. Natalie Suleyman MP, Sue Hempel OAM and Frances Prince winners of the Henryk Slawik Award and Marian Pawlik, President PCCV.
2. Polish Constitution dinner at Syrena Polish Club.
3. On the left, Peter Schnall ASPJ Secretary on the right, Lena Fiszman co-Secretary at ASPJ stand at *In One Voice* festival.
4. ASPJ Board members meeting with Prof. Krzysztof Szwarzgryk, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw.
5. *They Risked Their Lives* travelling exhibition at the Polish Consulate in Sydney.
6. Annual Sports day at the Albion Polish House.
7. Reception at the Victorian Government House for Andrzej Duda, President of Poland. L-r. Adam Drahan PCCV, Natalie Suleyman, Bernard Korbman, Ala Drahan and Marek Kijak President Albion Polish House.
8. L-r. Adam Warzel AIPA, David Southwick MP, Nick Wakeling MP, George Luk-Kozika OAM Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland, Janusz Makuch, founder and director of Krakow Jewish Cultural Festival and Izidor Marmur President ASPJ.

## Our networks

Developing strong networks both in Australia and internationally is an important factor for our ongoing success at ASPJ.

We are grateful to have the support of the following institutions and organisations:



The Victorian Parliamentary Poland Friendship Group



Polish Marian Shrine



יידישער היסטארישער אינסטיטוט JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE



## Membership

Even though the name of our society is indicative of our Jewish identity, our membership policy is intended to be as inclusive as possible.

Naturally, we encourage all Jewish people whose roots lie in Poland to become a member and join in our activities. However, even if you are not Jewish but are interested in Polish-Jewish relations, history and/or

dialogue, we invite you to join us and apply for Associate Membership.

Membership is open to Jewish people aged sixteen years and over. However, we also encourage young people under the age of sixteen who are interested in their heritage and history, to become an Associate Member.

**Membership forms are available on our website: [www.polishjews.org.au](http://www.polishjews.org.au)  
or contact us on [lfizman@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lfizman@bigpond.net.au)**



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