

Help us
rekindle the light
of Jewish life
in Poland!



Dedicated Prayer Leaders



"The last trip to Poland was very moving for me. I myself left Poland when I was four years old and have never lost my love for the Polish language – so placing me there where everyone spoke Polish was music to my soul. Meeting the young men who had newly discovered they were Jewish at the deathbeds of their grandmothers made me long to have something to do with teaching them what it means to be a Jew."

—Leonia Kurgan

"The Judaism Step-by-Step course and the Shabbatot we hold at Beit Bialystok are the first time since the 1950's that Bialystok Jews have been able to study and pray openly. Jewish songs and Jewish voices raised in prayer. Imagine."

—Beit Polska congregant

"I was a person who didn't belong anywhere and that was a bad feeling. I decided I was ready to undertake a formal conversion with a Masorti congregation. I found a website that suggested that I approach the Progressive congregation, Beit Warszawa, where the rabbi, Gil Nativ, was actually Masorti."

—Magda Gudzińska

"How can we make the world whole when a large part of our heart - central and eastern Europe - has been torn from us? One way is to renew our Jewish presence in Poland! My parents were both Jewish Polish survivors of the Shoah. I was born after the war in a displaced persons camp in occupied Germany, and we emigrated to the US when I was a child. I never was inclined to visit Poland. But I did and found a form of healing requires renewal and one of the great mysteries of our time is the Jewish renewal taking place in Poland. I now think of Jewish history and reality in Poland as not something just of the past, but of the present and future."

—David Kader

"About ten years ago I got involved with Beit Warszawa, the Progressive (Reform) congregation in Warsaw. This was a significant development for me as I grew up in a household which was anti-religious to a certain degree."

—Piotr Stasiak

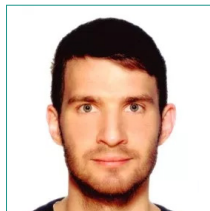
Cantorial Soloists

Henryk Kowalski, Miriam Klimowa, Rivkah Foremniak and Avigail Smoczynska. Miriam Klimowa is currently a rabbinic student at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem.



Dr. Menachem Mirski

Second year rabbinic student at the Ziegler School for Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles



Mati Kirschenbaum

Fourth year rabbinic student at Leo Baeck College in London



Cantorial Soloists

Anna Jagielska-Riveiro and Piotr Kondrat leading Shabbat services



Your Invitation to a Miracle!



Progressive Jewish Congregations in Poland
Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland

Beit Warszawa/Warsaw • Beit Konstancin/Warsaw
Beit Tojmiasto/Gdansk (chavurot) Wrocław
Białystok • Łódź • Poznań • Częstochowa Katowice
Lublin • Zielona Góra



Havdalah at Beit Warszawa

www.jewishrenewalinpoland.org
www.beitpolska.org

www.jewishrenewalinpoland.org
www.beitpolska.org



Immersed in Simchat Torah study



Dr. Lena Magnone's Bat Mitzvah, 11/9/18

What is Beit Polska?

Beit Polska was founded in 1995 to provide opportunities throughout Poland for Poles in their quest to learn about Judaism. The flagship congregation, Beit Warszawa, was a response to both curiosity and hunger for Jewish experience. The World/ European Union for Progressive Judaism and Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland partnered to create a vibrant and increasingly growing country-wide movement.

Our leadership includes:

- Marek Jezowski, Beit Polska national chair
- Rabbi Haim Beliak, volunteer CEO of Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland (rabbibeliak@jewishrenewalinpoland.org)
- Dominika Zakrzewska, part-time coordinator for Beit Polska (beit.polska@wp.pl)

Why Beit Polska?

Today, individuals and families from all corners of Poland are discovering or acknowledging their Jewish roots:

- **the father** who hid his origins in the hostile threat of Nazism and later Communist antisemitism;
- **the mother** who raised her children as Christians hoping to spare them from hatred and intolerance;
- **the children** who as adults are seeking answers to the mysteries of their family history.

In addition, many Polish non-Jews want to explore Judaism and its culture because of a growing respect in many quarters for Poland's past.

"Maybe it's a common reaction after a Giyur (conversion), but I should admit there is literally nothing more important to me right now than my Judaism. We started a Rosh Chodesh women's group: on Erev Rosh Chodesh we pray together and try to study the Torah from women's perspective. We met for the first time last month in my apartment, and there was a meeting for Kislev right after my Bat Mitzvah. I hope this project will develop and grow."

—Dr. Lena Magnone at her Bat Mitzvah, 11/9/18

Help continue the Miracle!

Beit Polska is fostering a new generation of Progressive Jews in Poland. Your vital monetary contribution will enrich Jewish life in Poland.

Beit Polska's Ongoing and Future Infrastructure Needs

- Shabbat, holiday and lifecycle observances
- Classes and Shabbatonim exploring Jewish roots and history
- Conversion program; hosting university students and congregational seminars
- Outreach to Poles in high schools, Elder Hostels, and service organizations
- International concerts featuring musicians from Poland and the U.S.
- *"Bogdan's Journey"* a documentary leading to dialogue in the wake of the 1946 Kielce Pogrom
- Study guides and interviews with Dr. Bogdan Bialek (June 2019)
- *Siddur Beit Polin*, a modern Polish/Hebrew prayerbook (completed 2014)
- Hosting university seminars
- Translation to Polish of modern guide to Judaism, *The Honey and The Sting* by Rabbi Walter Rothschild (publish Dec. 2019)
- Polish translation of *The Crooked Mirror* by Louise Steinman (to be published in 2020)
- Continue to support the education of rabbis, cantors, and teachers
- *Tikkun Olam Society*: focusing on awareness of health security, senior care, respecting minority rights, environmental issues, antisemitism and prejudice reduction.

Beit Polska
Dominka Zakrzewska, Coordinator
beit.polska@wp.pl
(+48) 22-885-26-38
82B/30 Koszykowa Street
Warsaw, Poland

Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland
Rabbi Haim Beliak, Volunteer CEO
rabbibeliak@jewishrenewalinpoland.org
(310) 286-9991
PO Box 5438
Beverly Hills, CA 90209

Become a Sustaining Partner

Please send your donation via check or credit card along with this completed form indicating your level of assistance to *Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland* (501c3):

Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland

PO Box 5438, Beverly Hills, CA 90209

Sponsorship Level:

- ☐ Platinum Circle \$10,000
- ☐ Circle of Friends \$5,000
- ☐ Benefactors \$1,000
- ☐ Partners \$500
- ☐ Supporters \$100
- ☐ Double Chai Blessing \$36
- ☐ Other _____

Select a Sponsorship Preference:

- ☐ Scholarships for teens, conferences, ambassadors
- ☐ Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation
- ☐ Preschool Religious Shabbat Gam Yachad
- ☐ Teachers/Prayer Leaders
- ☐ Holiday events
- ☐ Step by Step adult conversion
- ☐ Tikkun Olam Society—religious action center
- ☐ Education of a progressive rabbi/cantor
- ☐ Book translation
- ☐ Other _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclose a check, or complete credit/debit card info below:

Card # _____

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Exp. _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____

Date _____