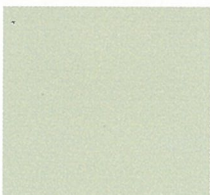
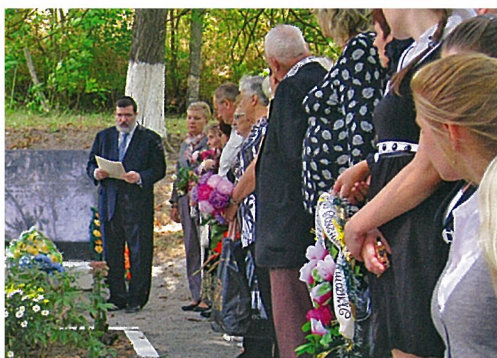


U.S. COMMISSION for the PRESERVATION of AMERICA'S HERITAGE ABROAD





Commission Member Jonathan Rikoon speaks during dedication of a Commission-built memorial on the site of a Holocaust mass grave in Fastiv, Ukraine.

Commission Member Lee Seeman speaks at dedication of Commission-built Holocaust memorial in Jewish cemetery of Serock, Poland.

MEMBERS

Lesley Weiss, Chair
Washington, DC

Abba Cohen
Baltimore, MD

Ned W. Bandler
Bridgewater, CT

Herbert Block
White Plains, NY

Tyrone C. Fahner
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Rachmiel Liberman
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Lee Seeman
Great Neck, NY

Joan E. Silber
St. Louis, MO

Richard H. Weisberg
New York, NY

Gary P. Zola
Cincinnati, OH



Rabbi Michael Schudrich at dedication of Holocaust mass grave site in Leokadia, Poland.



Walls of Jewish cemetery in Ozarow, Poland, built with support of the Commission.

THE COMMISSION

The Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad is an independent agency of the Government of the United States.

The Congress established the Commission in response to the concern of Americans who are Jewish that cemeteries in Central and Eastern Europe were being lost because of the annihilation of the Jewish population of the region in the Holocaust and because of the insensitivity of atheistic communist regimes. It is an article of faith for these Americans that the remains of the dead must not be disturbed.

Public Law 99-83, which established the Commission, did not, however, limit its mandate to cemeteries or to Jewish sites. The law gives it two assignments:

- To identify cemeteries, memorials, and historic buildings in Central and Eastern Europe associated with the heritage of Americans.
- To obtain assurances from the governments of the region that these

cultural sites will be protected and preserved.

The law provides for 21 Members appointed by the President of the United States, with one designated to chair the Commission. The President names seven Members on her or his own and seven each in consultation with the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate. The practice has been for the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to each recommend four Members and the minority leaders of both houses to each recommend three.

Members are appointed to three-year consecutive terms but they serve until they are replaced. They are not paid for their service. The principal role of Members of the Commission is to raise funds for and oversee site preservation or memorialization projects.

The Commission Chair is the head of the agency. By agreement with the Department of State, the Chair or the Chair's designee conducts all negotiations with foreign governments.

“ One of the principal missions that United States law assigns the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad is to identify and report on cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe associated with the cultural heritage of U.S. citizens, especially endangered sites... The Commission also seeks assurances from the governments of the region regarding the protection and preservation of these cultural heritage properties and encourages their restoration and maintenance. ”

Lesley Weiss, Commission Chair



Commission Chair Lesley Weiss and Member Michael Levy present a copy of the Commission's report on a survey of selected Protestant sites in Bulgaria to Bulgaria's Ambassador to the U.S., Elena Poptodorova.



Commission Chair Lesley Weiss, with U.S. Embassy officials, left, discusses U.S.-proposed bilateral agreement on the preservation of cemeteries, monuments, historic sites, and places of worship with Government of Belarus officials in Minsk.



President Barack Obama, German Prime Minister Angela Merkel, and Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel tour the Commission-built memorial on the site of the Buchenwald concentration camp's "Little Camp," where Wiesel was imprisoned during the Holocaust.

SELECTED SITE PROJECTS

Serock, Poland, Jewish Cemetery Memorial

Commission Member Lee Seeman raised funds from American donors to build a memorial at the site of the Jewish cemetery in Serock, Poland. It incorporates fragments of gravestones found decades after the markers were removed from the site. The Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland supervised the project.

Bardejov, Slovakia, Holocaust Memorial

Commission Member Emil A. Fish, a Holocaust survivor from Bardejov, headed a committee that built a memorial to the town's Jewish community and its Holocaust victims. The impressive site includes a memorial garden, an eternal light, and 14 black granite tablets bearing the names of 3,262 Bardejov-area Jews known to be killed during the Holocaust.

Buchenwald "Little Camp" Memorial

Commission Member Warren Miller was instrumental in establishing a memorial on the site of the Buchenwald concentration camp's "Little

Camp," where Elie Wiesel and his father were imprisoned. Miller proposed and raised funds for the memorial, designed by Buchenwald survivor Stephen Jacobs and built with the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Memorials Foundation.

Daugavpils Synagogue Restoration, Latvia

The children of famed artist Mark Rothko funded the restoration of a synagogue in Daugavpils, his hometown before his family emigrated to the United States.

Kielce Pogrom Memorial, Poland

Holocaust survivors who returned to their homes in Kielce, Poland, were massacred by their former neighbors on July 4, 1946, more than a year after the end of the Holocaust. The Commission, with the support of the city, funded a memorial to the victims.

Pope John XXIII Plaques, Budapest, Hungary

Plaques honoring Monsignor Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli – later Pope John XXIII – were installed at Budapest's Dohany Street Synagogue complex, the site of Hungary's national Holocaust memorial, with funds provided by Commission Member Ron Bloom. From his post in Turkey, Vatican diplomat Roncalli issued false exit papers that helped people from France, Hungary,



Then Commission Chairman Michael Lewan showing Polish Ambassador Jerzy Kozminski a copy of the report on cultural sites in Poland.

IDENTIFICATION OF SITES

The Commission carries out its assignment of identifying cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings primarily through field surveys that examine each site. The surveys record information about the location and condition.

Surveys have been done on Jewish sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Ukraine. Surveys have also been done on selected Protestant and Muslim sites in Bulgaria, Roma sites in Poland, and Old Believer Christian sites in Lithuania.

In response to a directive of the congressional committees on appropriations, the Commission also did a preliminary survey of sites abroad associated with foreign-born heroes of the American Revolution.



Commission planning and fundraising made possible restoration of this Greek Catholic wooden church in Lukov Venecia, Slovakia.

Greece, and the Balkans who were Jewish to escape the Holocaust.

Feng Shan Ho Plaques

The Commission honored Feng Shan Ho, the Chinese Consul-General in Vienna from 1938 to 1940, who gave Austrian Jews exit papers that enabled them to go to China and other countries, escaping the Holocaust. Commission Member Martin Gold led the effort that placed plaques in Vienna and Shanghai and arranged exhibits in a U.S. Senate office building and in Shanghai. Gold's initiative led the U.S. Senate to pass a resolution honoring Ho.

Greek Catholic Wooden Churches, Slovakia

Commission Member (and later Ambassador to Slovakia) Vincent Obsitnik, in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, funded a survey of Greek Orthodox wooden churches in Slovakia, which was followed by an international conference to develop a plan for their repair and maintenance. Obsitnik then raised funds for restoration of the churches in Bodruzal and Lukov Venecia. Later, Commission Member Peter Hawryluk helped raise funds to restore the church in Potoky.

Sarajevo Cemetery, Bosnia and Herzegovina

At the request of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Commission helped restore the pre-burial building of the Jewish cemetery of Sarajevo, which was known as Sniper's Alley during the 1992-95 war in that country. The U.S. Congress appropriated \$100,000 to the Commission for the restoration.

Holocaust Labor Camp Markers, Estonia

The Commission, through Members Lee Seeman and Gary Lavine, worked with the Holocaust Educational Trust of Great Britain and Estonia's Culture

Ministry and Jewish community to fund memorials at the sites of eight Holocaust camps in Estonia. Jewish citizens of Axis and Axis-occupied European countries were sent to the camps as slave labor.

Holocaust Mass Graves, Poland

Commission Member Harley Lippman has funded efforts to identify and mark Holocaust mass graves in Poland. The sites are located by an individual who travels to remote areas of the country and interviews longtime residents to find the graves in an effort coordinated by the Warsaw Jewish Community. Monuments have been placed in Strzelce, Wolka Dobrynska, Busno, Leokadia, and Luta, among other sites, in a project that is continuing.

Holocaust Mass Graves, Ukraine

Commission Member Jonathan Rikoon is responsible for funding memorials at mass graves of Holocaust victims in Baryshivka, Dymer, and Fastiv, Ukraine.

Philip Mazzei Memorial, Poggio a Caiano, Italy

At the direction of the U.S. Congress's committees on appropriations, the Commission did a preliminary survey of sites abroad associated with foreign-born heroes of the American Revolution. Its report prompted a New York State Supreme Court justice to propose a memorial recalling Philip Mazzei, a neighbor of Thomas Jefferson, whose



Bardejov, Slovakia, Holocaust memorial.



Interior of the Commission-restored synagogue in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

writings inspired some of the words in the Declaration of Independence. Commission Member Ty Fahner and the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit provided funding for the monument in the city hall of Mazzei's hometown in Italy.

Rumbula Holocaust Memorial, Latvia

The Commission co-sponsored and raised funds to complete a memorial to more than 25,000 Jewish Latvians who were shot to death during just two days in the Rumbula Forest outside of Riga in 1941. The inscription on the memorial became an issue when a local official proposed a change that would

have obscured Latvian complicity with Nazi Germans for the killings. Latvia's president intervened at the request of the Commission to ensure that the inscription told the truth. She also recognized the complicity when the memorial was dedicated.

Plovdiv Synagogue Restoration, Bulgaria

Commission Members Michael B. Levy and Ned W. Bandler helped fund restoration of the interior of the sole remaining synagogue in Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city. The synagogue is one of two remaining in the country.

Trsice, Czech Republic, Holocaust Memorial

Commission Member Joan Silber helped fund a memorial honoring residents of a Czech town who saved their Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust. The memorial was a project of the New Milford, NJ, High School Holocaust studies program. It was supported by Trsice, a nearby town, and a Czech organization focusing on communities destroyed during World War II.

American College in Sophia and American University in Bulgaria

Commission Member Ned W. Bandler is responsible for funding scholarships and lectures at these institutions in recognition of the contributions of



Rumbula, Latvia, Holocaust memorial made possible by Commission fundraising.



Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sign a Commission-negotiated agreement between the two nations on the preservation of cultural properties. Kosovo's ambassador and then Commission Chairman Warren Miller look on.

AGREEMENTS

The Commission and the Department of State have agreed that negotiating government-to-government agreements is a principal way for the Commission to implement its mandate to obtain assurances that cultural sites will be protected and preserved. The agreements generally commit the governments to prohibit discrimination against the sites of any cultural group (although most agreements focus on groups that were victims of genocide during World War II) and to site identification and preservation efforts and bilateral cooperation.

Agreements have been reached with 24 nations: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Ukraine.



Commission Chair Lesley Weiss and Member Gary P. Zola at Terezin memorial to Rabbi Regina Jonas.

American Protestant missionaries to the development of a democratic civil society in Bulgaria.

First Female Rabbi Memorial

A plaque in the memorial museum on the site of Terezin (Theresienstadt), a Nazi German concentration camp in the Czech Republic, remembers Regina Jonas, the first woman to become a rabbi. In 1942, Jonas was deported from Germany to Terezin, before being taken to Auschwitz and her death in 1944. Commission Member Gary P. Zola and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion helped make the memorial possible.

Uzupis Cemetery Memorial, Vilnius, Lithuania

Commission Members Harriett Rotter and Steven Some raised funds for a memorial and a fence surrounding the site of Lithuania's largest Jewish cemetery, from which all gravestones had been removed by Communist authorities, some to be used as building material. The joint project with the city of Vilnius incorporates recovered gravestones.

Bitola Jewish Cemetery, Macedonia

Commission Member Michael Menis worked with Macedonia's Culture Ministry to restore the entrance building at the Bitola Jewish Cemetery.

Bryansk Holocaust Memorial, Russia

At Bryansk, site of a mass execution

of Jews in 1942, Commission Member Harriet Rotter funded a memorial built through the Russian Jewish Congress.

Giurgiuului, Romania, Jewish Cemetery

The Commission, through Members Larry Steinberg and Amy Epstein, funded the restoration by the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania of 131 gravestones broken and toppled by vandals.

Gyongyos Jewish Cemetery, Hungary

Funds from Commission Member Ronald Bloom enabled the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary to restore the Jewish Cemetery and Holocaust Memorial in Gyongyos.

Mittelbau-Dora Memorial Map, Germany

Commission Member Amy Epstein and her husband Bruce co-funded a large bronze map at the entrance of the site of the infamous Mittelbau-Dora forced labor camp.

Pavlovo Jewish Cemetery, Ukraine

Commission Chair Lesley Weiss raised funds for and managed a project to restore the Jewish cemetery.

Plaque for Judeo-Spanish Holocaust Victims, Auschwitz, Germany

The Commission co-sponsored the installation and dedication of a memorial plaque in Ladino, the Judeo-Spanish language, at the Auschwitz camp memorial.



Commission-built memorial at Uzupis Jewish cemetery in Vilnius, Lithuania.



Commission Chair Lesley Weiss presents the Commission's award to U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (NY) for sponsoring a law that makes desecration of cemeteries a violation of religious freedom.

SELECTED CURRENT PROJECTS

Commission Member Martin Gold is funding a memorial in Bucharest to a pogrom carried out by a local rebel group on January 21-23, 1941, that murdered at least 125 Jewish Romanians and victimized thousands.

Commission Member Richard Weisberg has raised funds to fence the Jewish cemetery in Stavische, Ukraine.

The Commission has obtained funds to build a memorial in Gherla, Romania, recalling its Jewish community and the Holocaust. Commission Member Herbert Block is working on this project.

Commission Member Warren Miller has raised funds for a memorial in Tirana, Albania, honoring the country's people for saving their Jewish neighbors during the Holocaust.

Commission Member Joan Silber is responsible for funding that will map the site of the Great Synagogue site in Vilnius, Lithuania.

“Because the fabric of a society is strengthened by visible reminders of the historical roots of the society, it is in the national interest of the United States to encourage the preservation and protection of the cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings associated with the foreign heritage of United States citizens.”

U.S. Public Law 99-83, Section 1303, August 8, 1985, establishing the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad

**U.S. COMMISSION FOR THE
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