

Chelm, 6th April 2019

**The Founding Act
of a Memorial to all Chelm's Jewish Citizens Murdered in the Years
from 1939 to 1944 by the Nazi Germany**

In the year of 2018 on 22nd January in the town of Chelm a committee was raised to set up commemoration ceremonies in honour of all local Jewish citizens murdered by the Nazi Germany in the years from 1939 to 1944.

Chelm's Ceremonies Committee Commemorating Jewish Citizens endeavours to erect a memorial to pay tribute to them.

The Founding Members of the Committee are:

Mrs Agata Fisz - Mayoress of Chelm

Mr Zygmunt Gardzinski - Leader of Chelm Town Council

Pastor Henryk Skrzypkowski - President of the aforementioned Committee

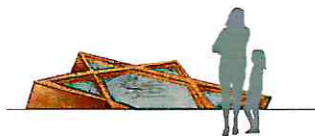
The Jewish Community started to settle down in Chelm as early as in the XVth century. In 1939 they constituted 44.6% of the entire town's population of thirty-four thousand people.

In December 1939 right after the II World War had started German authorities forced two thousand of Jewish citizens from Chelm to leave their homes and move to Skala. During this deportation about three hundred of them lost their lives in the so called "Death March". They were then buried in a mass grave in Mojslawice.

By the end of 1941 a Jewish ghetto was set up with its boundaries between Lwowska street, Uscilugska, Wojslawicka, Katowska (Partyzantow) and Pocztowa streets. This ghetto became a prison for about eleven thousand Jewish citizens.

There were mass public executions of the Jewish population which started right after the German invasion. As from May 1942 there were mass transportations of Chelm Jewish citizens to Sobibor - the local death camp. The German extermination of Jewish citizens who lived in Chelm started in the fall of 1939 and ended in July 1944. Only two hundred people of the original Jewish population survived.

Chelm's Jewish Ghetto was closed seventy-five years ago. Today, the citizens of Chelm desire to pay tribute to all the Jewish people who lived in our town during the II Word War by raising a memorial to commemorate their fate. This memorial should serve as a place of honour to all who were murdered and as a warning to coming generations.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Henryk Skrzypkowski

Zbigniew Lubaszewski

Andrzej Zieliński

Zygmunt Gardziński

Waldemar Taurogiński

Mariusz Matera

Robert Chelmicki

Marian Lackowski

Mariusz Klimczak