

JEWISH BĘDZIN

CITY MAP – MEMORIALS

OLD TOWN AND CASTLE HILL (*Polish*: **GÓRA ZAMKOWA**)

1) pl. Kazimierza Wielkiego (Old Market Square) – established at the time of founding of the town in 1358. Prior to World War II, the Old Market Square was mostly populated by Jews. The area was the main place of trade; address books from the mid-war period list about 140 Jewish shops and workshops. Jewish people could trade in the market square (and live within city walls) on equal terms with Christians in line with Stephen Báthory’s prerogative from 1583

2) Czegladzka 2 – Mayor’s House (pl. Dom Wójtowski Wjezdny) – the building was leased by a Jewish inn keeper Herszel Inlster at the beginning of the 19th century

3) Podwale 1 (corner of Moniuszki Street) – 1) on the back wall of the former Rozdział’s tenement house, there is a dilapidated religious painting (probably from an in-house prayer room) on the second floor, discovered on 12 December 2015 by Karolina Kot after the demolition of the so-called Rutka Laskier’s house; a sentence in Hebrew reads "Our Lord King of the World" (part of an evening blessing spoken every Friday evening before lighting the Sabbath candles); **2)** remains of a wooden sukkah, demolished in autumn 2015

4) Podwale 20 – Mśc David Klayman (1918–2015) lived here since he was six – born at No. 10 Czegladzka Street, prisoner of KL Auschwitz, author of the book "From Holocaust to Innovation. Survivor 172008"; in 1953 he migrated to Israel, where he ran Klayman Meteor company (est. in 1938 in Dąbrowa Górnicza), which produced insect nets, used in farming

5) Moniuszki 4 (formerly St. John Street, Polish: św. Jana) – remains of Chana Nunberg’s tenement house, where, until 1942, Rutka Laskier (1929–43) lived with her parents Jacob and Dwoira. Rutka was a 14-year-old author of a journal written in 1943 in the ghetto (she died in KL Auschwitz); her maternal grandparents Abram Chil and Gitla Hampel had lived there before they moved to Palestine

6) Rybny Rynek – (Polish: Rybny Rynek) – 1) here in 1807 a rabbi and miracle worker Jakub Natan – a great Polish patriot – led a religious service in the intention of the country’s prosperity as a reaction to the imposition of the Duchy of Warsaw by Napoleon; **2)** according to the memoirs of Esther Petersell née Himelfarb (who lived at No. 2 in Rybny Rynek until the occupation, at present living in New York) on the first floor at No. 4 there was a Hassidic House of Prayer of the followers of the Radomsk dynasty; the services were led by rabbi Salomon Henoch Rabinowicz (1882-1942), one of the wealthiest people in Poland at the time, resident of Sosnowiec.

7) Joselewicza 4 – the kindergarten playground – location of the first wooden synagogue in the late 16th century as a result of the emergence of the Jewish community. The first recorded rabbis were: Natan Majlis in the 16th century, Moshe, Mayer, Tuvie and his son David in the 18th century

8) Zawale/Modrzewska – the small park by the historical city walls – location of the oldest Jewish cemetery. Founded at the end of the 16th century, it was shut down in the late 19th century. It was eventually liquidated by the Germans during the Second World War. In this very place in Spring 1942 the Germans publicly hanged on trees two Jews, Herszel Sztern and Szymon Szajnerman, executed for the alleged black market trade of so-called ‘clothing points’ (ration stamps)

9) Plebańska 2 – Holy Trinity Church – the memorial plaque devoted to the parson of the church Mieczysław Zawadzki (1894–1975), who, on the night of 9/10 September 1939, saved Jews from the burning synagogue by opening the gates of the church for them. Later, on he was awarded the Righteous Among the Nations title

10) Góra Zamkowa (Polish: Góra Zamkowa) 28 (a non-existent building) – Izaak Jungerman (1896–1919) lived here – a heroic medic of the Polish Legions who died on the battlefield of the Lithuanian campaign of the Polish-Soviet War (1919-1921)

11) Zamek – in 1587, during the war against the Archduke Maximilian Habsburg, Rabbi Natan Mejtlis collected a substantial amount of money from the Jews of Będzin to be transferred to the burgrave

12) Zamkowa (Polish: Ulica Zamkowa) – a small stone memorial shaped as *tefilin* (1993, arch. Romuald Malina) commemorating the Jews of Będzin murdered by the Nazis. The Great Synagogue stood here from 1881 until it was burned down by the Germans on the night of 9th September 1939 . Also, from 1859 the location of both midrash. Between 1925–26 the synagogue was beautifully decorated by painters Samuel Cygler of Będzin and Maurycy Appelbaum, and a sculptor Chaim Hanft

13) Bóznicza 11 (a non-existent building) – designed in 1838, the house of the qahal (an administrative board of the Jewish community) – and mikvah (a ritual bath)

14) Podzamcze 41 (formerly No. 29) – the maternity hospital of the “Linas Hacholim” Charity Society for the Ill and Needy of Judaic Faith built in 1906. In June 1942 it was transformed by the Germans into a general Jewish hospital run by Dr Salomon Weinzieher; In April 1943 it was transferred to the ghetto at 60 Krakowska Street

15) Podzamcze – the Jewish cemetery founded in the summer of 1831 for the victims of the cholera epidemics. About 250 complete matzewot (tombsones) and about 550 partially destroyed still remain. It was a burial place of (among others) Rabbi Baruch Hercygiez (d. 1846) (with remains of the ohel) and Rabbi Jakub Natan (d. 1843). He believed to be the prototype Jankiel’s character from Adam Mickiewicz’s ‘Sir Thaddeus’ ‘Sir Thaddeus’ (Polish: “Pan Tadeusz”). Natan’s matzewah decorated with a symbol of the Polish eagle, is exhibited in Museum of Zagłębie

16) Podzamcze – the old parish cemetery (south-west corner). The collective grave of about 30 people falsely accused of burning down the synagogue and executed in 1939 by the Germans

17) Teatralna 5 (formerly Sobieski Street) – the building of the Secondary School No. 2 – formerly ‘Szymon Fürstenberg’s Coeducational Gymnasium and Lyceum’ (middle and secondary schools). It was founded in 1907 as the Private Jewish Male Gymnasium “Jawne” on 45 Kollątaj Street. The building was funded in 1929 by an industrialist, Szymon Fürstenberg. Closed down by the Germans in 1939

CITY CENTRE

18) pl. 3 Maja 4 (No. 4, The Third May Sq) – 1) Herszel Henoeh Lewin (1870–1935) lived here – the rabbi of Będzin from 1921. After the war his ashes were moved from the Czegladz-Będzin cemetery to Jerusalem. His son Mendel Lewin (1899–1942) became an unofficial rabbi (during so-called ‘war of the rabbis’) in 1935. He died in KL Auschwitz; **2)** It was the hub of the Merchants’ Society of Będzin (1913), chaired by Lejzer Rubinlicht (1881–1943), the vice-president of Będzin

19) pl. 3 Maja 5 (No. 5, The Third May Sq) – the former Nuchem Hampel’s building. Before the war the house of the rabbinite. Some remains of mezzout can still be seen there

20) pl. 3 Maja 8 (No. 8, The Third May Sq) – since September 1939 (after the house on Boczna Street was burned down) Ieek (Iechak) Turner (b. 1922) lived here. He was wounded during the Jewish pogrom (and destruction of the synagogue) but survived thanks to Father Zawadzki and Dr Kosibowicz; an activist of the World Organisation of the Jews of Będzin in Israel

21) pl. 3 Maja 11 – the editorial office of “Zaglember Leben”, the newspaper (edited and published by Szaja Lewkowicz)

22) Kollątaja 23 (a non-existent building) – 1) Alfred Szwarebaum lived here (1896–1990). A businessman (a hardware importer), who, in April 1940, had escaped to Switzerland (Lausanne). From there he sent aid to his compatriots, including passports allowing them to leave occupied Poland. In 1946 he emigrated to Palestine; **2)** The headquarters of the Mutual Credit Society of Będzin, established in 1910. Nuchim Cukierman was its co-founder and member of the board

23) Kollątaja 27 (a non-existent building) – Salomon Gutman’s (1870–1934) tenement house and the padlocks factory (Będzin Hardware and Ironware Factory). He was also the co-founder and the President of the Supervisory Board of ‘Jawne” gymnasium

24) Kollątaja 31 (a non-existent building) – dr Salomon Weinzieher (1869–1943) lived here – a doctor, director of the Municipal Hospital (1913–19), a social activist in orthodox groups, later also

a Zionist. He was a member of the city council, the mayor as well as the Member of the Parliament (1919–27)

25) Kollątaja 35 (a non-existent building) – Jakub Gutman (1862–1938) lived and worked here - his own tenement house. The founder and president of the management board of a joint stock company: iron and hardware warehouse. Also the founder of an orphanage and a pre-burial house

26) Kollątaja 37 (a non-existent building) – Samuel Cygler’s (1898–1945) atelier at Żmigrod’s tenement house. Cygler was a painter and a graphics designer, also a co-author of the Great Synagogue’s murals. His wife Rachel (1897–1943) had her dental practice in the same building. Their daughter (Tamar Dror) (1935–93) wrote a book about her survival: “A Green Parrot”, published in Australia in 1999

27) Kollątaja 43 (a non-existent building) – **1)** Chaim Molezadzski lived here – a clerk, social and political activist; the chairman of the Board of the Elders of Będzin 1942–43; **2)** the hub of the Jewish Tourism Society –Zagłębie Dąbrowskie branch

28) Kollątaja 45 (a non-existent building)–**1)** Private Jewish Male Gymnasium “Jawne” was located here between 1917-29; also **2)** The six-form female Jewish school run by Maria Bojarska and Pola Hamburgerówna (est. 1914); **3)** Sports Society “Hakoach” (est. 1913) (its football club was the most famous Jewish sport team in Będzin); 4) Central Union of Jewish Craftsmen – Będzin branch

29) al. Kollątaja 57 (formerly 55) – Izaak Dombek lived here, on 1st August 1914 he joined Polish Legions (served in the Military Intelligence). Severely wounded during the war and taken POW while serving with the Haller’s army on Italian front; in the Polish Army until 1921

30) al. Kollątaja (formerly Okrzei Street) – on 6th September 1939, Jewish bakers Józef Katz from Głuchów and Szaja Stawski from Modrzewska Street were executed next to a former brickyard „Dzwon” (ul. Mostowa 9/11) by the Germans: first victims of the Nazi occupation

31) al. Kollątaja 18 – well-known confectionary and cafe run by the Cukiermans – Hercel (1872–1943) and Rywka; their son Benjamin Cukierman (1908–43) was a keen photographer (some of his photographs survived the war) and a gymnast in the “Hakoach” sports club; they all died in KL Auschwitz

32) al. Kollątaja 6 (formerly Alte Hauptstr.) – location of so-called szop established in 1941 (Benziner Wäsche und Bekleidungsfabrik – clothes and undergarment factory) owned by Leopold Michatz, employing about a thousand Będzin Jews

33) al. Kollątaja 24 – 1) Nuchim Cukierman’s (1858–1929) tenement house – a merchant, social activist and a philanthropist; **2)** A former Jewish prayer house was located in the courtyard (so-called Cukerman’s Gate) from the early 20th century. Discovered in 2005, reopened for tourists in 2007 and in 2010 (following the renovation of the wall painting). Since 2008 the hub of the Cukerman’s Gate Foundation (Polish: Fundacja Brama Cukermana)

34) al. Kollątaja 30 – the bookshop and a stationary store of Adolf Żmigrod (1860–1938) – a bookseller and publisher of postcards, city maps, etc

35) al. Kollątaja 32 – former residents include (among many): **1)** Aleksander (Olek) Guttman (Alex Gatmon) (1926–81) –Hanaor Haejionj activist during the German occupation. After the war member of a secret Jewish avengers group in Israel, fought in the Israeli’s War of Independence. He became a colonel in the Israeli army and the chief of Mossad; **2)** Tusia Herenberg (Estera Guttman) (1921–2005) – Olek’s sister, a nurse, a Zionist activist, member of many organisations in Israel; also a writer, author of short stories, awarded the President’s of Israel prize; **3)** Rella Guttman (1894–1978) – daughter of the Rabbi of Będzin, Issachar Berisza Graubart from Szezińsk (1845–1913), mother of Dova Bernard Guttman, Tusia Herenberg and Alex Gatmon. She was a teacher, a Zionist underground activist. Moved to Israel in 1950, where she took up sculpting. She was also active in the Jews of Będzin organisation in Israel; 4) her brother Jekutiel Zalman Graubart (1896–1941) – Rabbi of Będzin (1913–20), in the 1930s also the Rabbi of Brooklyn (New York)

36) al. Kollątaja 34 – former residents include (among many): **1)** Aron (baker) and Karol (Charles) Lustiger – grandfather and father of Jean-Marie Lustiger (1926–2007) – the cardinal and archbishop of Paris (memorial plaque); **2)** Arno Lustiger (1924–2012) – cardinal’s cousin, one of the best known witnesses and historians of the Holocaust in Germany, Jewish organisations’ activist; **3)** Kita Altman (ur. 1922-2017) – A Holocaust survivor, a volunteer-guide in the Holocaust Museum in Elsternwick near Melbourne, author of the book “Memories of Ordinary People” (2003); thanks to her engagement Genia Pająk and Alfred Rossner received the Righteous Among the Nations award

37) al. Kollątaja 38 – former residents include (among many): **1)** Symcha Lustig (1888–1943) – a musician, conductor of the first Będzin students’ orchestra in Rapaport’s school; **2)** Janka Abram (Jenta Lustig) (1921–93) – the daughter of Symcha, a writer, born in Będzin. After the war she emigrated to Israel, and then in 1955 to Australia

38) al. Kollątaja 42 – Mozes Grubner-Klagsbald, a cantor at the synagogue, lived here

39) al. Kollątaja 44 – the non-existent building of the city hall – 1) Moszek Chaim Kaminer (1887–1943) lived here – a press publisher (“Das Jidische Wochenblat”); 2) Szymon Fürstenberg run a furniture shop from here prior to the WW1

40) Malachowskiego 2 – in 1930s the headquarters of Interest-free Lending Company “Gemilts Chesed”

41) Malachowskiego 3 –non-existent buildings which in the mid-war period housed Szaja Rottner’s Factory of Spirits and Liquors – the owner was a prominent Jewish activist and a member of the city council

42) Malachowskiego 8 – in 1942, on the estate of Chaim Dawid Fiszl’s inheritors, a branch of “Galanterie und Landerwahrenvarkstatte Ewa Nawrat” szop (forced labour workshop) was founded; it employed about 650 Jews

43) Malachowskiego 9 (formerly 7) – Rutka Laskier’s grandparents– Golda Liba and Dawid Laskier (1872–1940) lived here, in Dawid Skoczylas’ (a merchant, the co-owner of a mill at Kościuszki Street) tenement house. Her father Jakub (1900–86) was also a resident. He later moved in with his parents at No. 4 Świętojańska Street. Between 1944–45, as a prisoner of Sachsenhausen Lager, he was forced to work in a secret unit forging British bank notes (operation “Bernhard”); his daughter Zahava Scherz is a scientist in Israel and occasionally visits Będzin

44) Malachowskiego 10 – the Abram Najmark’s tenement house where the following lived: **1)** Rachela Olewski (1921–87) – a mandolin player in the KL Auschwitz camp orchestra; **2)** Rachela’s brother, Beniek (Dow) Zelmanowicz who was executed after the Sonderkommando rebellion on 7th October 1944; **3)** Lily Zaks (Laja Gliksman) (1917–2014), a prisoner of the KL Auschwitz (survived the death march), mother to the American Broadway director and actor Jerry Zaks (his father Szaja lived on 85 Modrzewska Street, see 89)

45) Malachowskiego 12 – the former hospital – the memorial plaque from 2008 devoted to Dr Tadeusz Kosibowicz (1893–1971) – a doctor, director of the hospital, imprisoned in concentration camps for helping the Jews. In 2006 he was posthumously awarded the Righteous Among the Nations award

46) Malachowskiego 13 (formerly 11) – the Grand Hotel, owned by Szlama Fersztenfeld (1874–1943)

47) Malachowskiego 14 – Lejb Szpigielman lived here, a publisher of “Zaglember Cajtung” weekly (1911–39)

48) Malachowskiego 15 – the estate owned by Samson Rozenblum’s inheritors. In the interwar period Izaak Kaufman’s cinema Corso

49) Malachowskiego 16 – Józef Sz wajcer’s tenement house –**1)** Arieh Ben-Tov (Lejba Hasenberg) (1923–96) lived here. A graduate of Rappaport’s and Fürstenberg’s schools, an Israeli lawyer, historian, author, social and political activist, president of the World Union of the Jews of Zagłębie; **2)** Józef Goldewajg, the official ghetto photographer during the occupation, had his atelier here

50) Malachowskiego 17 (formerly 13) – **1)** in Samson Rozenblum’s (1882–1935) tenement house lived: a) Chawa Hutner (1890–1943) – activist of “Charity” (Polish: “Dobroczywność”) organisation, president of the Zionist Women Organisation in Będzin; b) Chaim Awigdor Cukierman (1879–1943) and his wife Fajgla (1876–1943) – owners of a sweets factory (died in Birkenau); their son Szamszo (Simon Zuckerman) (1911–88) who was a co-owner of the factory, emigrated to the USA after the

war; **2)** at the back of the building there are remains of a steam brewery owned by two brothers, Wolf and Berek Hercygiez (Herziger). It was established in 1890; from 1912 known as ‘Crown’ (Polish: “Korona”) Stock Company of the Steam Brewery and Malt House (Polish: Towarzystwo Akcyjne Browaru Parowego i Słodowni); from 1914 co-owned by LL Abramsona and Samson and Jacheta Rozenblum. From 1946 the state-owned Castle Brewery (Polish: Zamkowy); closed down in 1978

51) Malachowskiego 20 – the estate owned by the inheritors of the Frydrychs and the Bursztyn brothers – **1)** before the WW2 son of Izrael Frydrych, Berek (1910–82) (among others) run a brass foundry at the back of the building. During the occupation his daughter Irena (1942–2001) was put in custody of a tradeswoman, Honorata Skowronka (1911–95) (Righteous among the Nations). After the war she emigrated to America (see her daughter’s, Erin Einhorn’s book “Hidden Pages”); **2)** between 1846–50 the house of the Jewish Committee, a common room, a community kitchen and a clinic of the Society for the Protection of Health of the Jewish Community (Towarzystwo Ochrony Zdrowia Ludności Żydowskiej)

52) Malachowskiego 22 (formerly 24) – formerly Bristol Hotel owned by Lajzer Borzykowski (1870–1942), president of Ahawat Chesed in Będzin

53) Malachowskiego 33 (formerly 29) – formerly the Szajns Family villa – the main office of the Szajn Brothers’ Nail and Wire Factory (Fabryki Gwoździ i Drutu Braćia Szajn, also known as Br. Ch. & M. Schein) – so-called wire-shop in Sławków. Chaim and Mordka Szajn were also members of the “Jawne” Gymnasium’s board of directors

54) Malachowskiego 35–39 (formerly 33) – the steam mill owned by Kalman Liwer (1865–1942) operated here, later run by his son Abram. At No. 31, (currently No. 35) Gustaw Weinzieher (1876–1943) built his property. He was the owner of a construction company (building slaughter houses and sewages) and a member of the city council

55) Malachowskiego 36 – Chil Krakowski’s building where the following resided:

1) Mira Reym Binford (born 1938) – A child Holocaust survivor, now American Professor Emeritus, also a documentary film maker “Diamonds in the Snow” with a subplot taking place in Będzin). Her mother, also a survivor, Dora Reym (Estera Pacht-Rembiszewska) (1914–2015) was active as a painter and a graphic artist from the 1960s; **2)** Lazarz (Lezer) Krakowski – in June 1943 as an 8-year-old he was saved by his housemaid, Władysława Palka (Righteous Among the Nations, 1988)

56) Malachowskiego 38 – Iechak Klajman (Klajnmann) lived here. During the WW2 as a 9-year-old he was hidden in a forest dugout and a flat by Stanisława and Stanisław Gryzbowski and their daughter Wanda (1924–2012) and her husband Kazimierz Kafarski (Righteous Among the Nations, 2004)

57) Malachowskiego 43 (formerly 35) – the location of Bejt Jakow school for girls from religious families (1925-39) and municipal public female Jewish schools (Eliza Orzeszkowa Memorial School No. 4 and Maria Konopnicka Memorial School No. 8)

58) Malachowskiego 41 (formerly 33) – Dawid Liwer (1901–68), a Zionist activist and essayist and his son Menachem Lior (Liwer) (1928–2017), member of the Jewish resistance, colonel of the Israeli Army lived here; Menachem Liwer was the president of World Union of the Jews of Zagłębie between 2014-2017

59) Malachowskiego 48 (formerly 46) – Szlama Lerner (1918–43) lived in Welner’s tenement house. A tailor, one of the founding members of the underground scouts’ movement Hechaluc, commander of Jewish Combat Organization (Polish: Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa ŻOB). Along with Hanka Borensztajn he led the Gordonia youth movement; died during the war

60) Malachowskiego 50 (formerly 48) – in October 1941 a Galanterie und Landerwahrenvarkstatte “szop” was established at this address. The Jews were employed there to sew paper and celluloid wallets, purses and suitcases. The formal owner was Ewa Nawrat, a German from Bytom, who had no prejudice against the Jews. Samuel Półtorak (survivor) and Roman Siegel were the managers. In 1942 another branch was opened at No. 8 Malachowskiego Street

61) Malachowskiego 54 (formerly 52) – the Herberg’s tenement house where the family of Mendel and Fajgla Broder lived. They ran a tobacco shop. Their collection of photographs (2400 items) survived the war. It is preserved in the Museum of Auschwitz and partially exhibited in KL Birkenau

62) Malachowskiego 64 (formerly 58) – the villa (also the headquarters of the company) belonging to Abram Troppauer (1860–1941). A leaseholder and from 1930 a co-owner of the brewery in Grodziec (the corporation from 1933)

63) Sączeńskiego 5 (a non-existent) – dr Jakub Ferber (1884–1942/43) lived and worked here. The owner of the property and one of the best gynaecologist in Zagłębie

64) Sączeńskiego 9 – in the backyard of the Erlich’s building one can still see a sukkah (Polish: kuczka), where the Jews had their meals during the week-long festival Sukkot. It is celebrated in autumn to commemorate the time God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness they inhabited after they were freed from slavery in Egypt

65) Sączeńskiego 11 – Iechak (Ieek Wolf) Wygodzki (1878–1943), a merchant, one of the leading Zionist activists in Poland and father of a writer, Stanisław Wygodzki lived here until being forced out by the Germans

66) Sączeńskiego 13 – until 1943 Stanisław (Szaja/Jehoszua) Wygodzki (1907–92) lived here, in the Erlich’s and Landau’s tenement house. He was a Będzin-born writer, poet, literary critic, translator also a prisoner of concentration camps. After the war he worked in Warsaw and in 1968 he emigrated to Israel

67) Sączeńskiego 17 – formerly the courtyard of the district office (currently a bank). The execution site where on 10th September 1939 about 40 Poles and Jews, falsely accused of setting fire to the synagogue, were shot (memorial plaque from 1988 at the front of the building)

68) Sączeńskiego 23 – district Court House (formerly Merchants’ Bank from 1913) – the pre-war residence of Szymon Fürstenberg (1879–1942), an industrialist (main stockholder of the Polish Zinc Industry Plants – after the war, Będzin Ironworks), a social activist and philanthropist, founder of the Jewish Gymnasium’s building. During the WW2, site of the German city hall

69) Sączeńskiego 25 – Józef Lejb Kugelman (Josek Lajb Kugelfreser) (1887–1943) lived here. An owner of a small shoe store. His son Hersz (1912–82) run a shoe shop at No. 18 Kollątaja

70) Sączeńskiego 27 – some of the former residents include: **1)** Dr Maksymilian Wassercwajg, a medical doctor, director of the district hospital, owner of the tenement house; **2)** Hanka Borensztajn (1922–43) – along with Szlomo Lerner led the youth Zionist organisation Gordonia in Będzin. From 1942 she was one of the leaders of the Jewish Combat Organisation in Będzin (Polish: Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa ŻOB); **3)** Linka Gold (Paulina Kleinerer) (born 1929) – Rutka Laskier’s classmate from the Fürstenberg’s Gymnasium, the owner of the album with her inscription. Her family survived thanks to her uncle Alf Szwarebaum’s help (→ Kollątaja 23). She lives in London

71) Sączeńskiego 29 – here, in Lajzerowicz’s tenement house lived Miriam Tanenbaum (1887–1943). Born in Staszów, she was a Hebrew teacher a and social activist (she ran the Hazamir library). In Warsaw she worked with Janusz Korczak

72) Sączeńskiego 12 – Bernard Anzelwicz lived here. A merchant who on 5th January 1915 joined the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the Polish Legions. In 1918 he was interned in the Łomża camp

73) Modrzewska 13 (a non-existent building) – Dora Diamant (1899–1952) , her father (Herszel Dymant from Pabianice) and siblings lived here for a few years. She was Franz Kafka’s last life companion who saved some of his works. She died in London

74) Modrzewska 19 – some of the former residents of a non-existent house include: **1)** Szymon Abram Rotenberg (1894–1943), a teacher, painter, author of the mostly lost works the Jewish community history “Almanach Zagłębia” (its fragments were published in “Pinksas Bendin”); **2)** Pinek (Paweł) Mąka (in America, Paul Monk) (1920–2009), an underground army soldier; after the WW2 high ranking officer in the Public Security Office in Katowice (Polish: Urząd Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego) assigned to the Silesia region, (see: John Sack’s book “Eye for an eye”)

75) Modrzewska 42 (formerly No. 44) – Ieek Politański’s (1870–1943) tenement house. During the war the headquarters of the Jewish committee (the Board of Elders) and a laboratory (typhus vaccinations in September 1941), after the WW2, the headquarters of the Jewish Belief Congregation

76) Modrzewska 44 (formerly No. 46) – the Lemels’ tenement house – **1)** Bernard Dov Lemel (born 1930) lived here. A prisoner of KL Auschwitz, in Sachsenhausen (1943-45) subjected to inhumane medical experiments (hepatitis); took part in the Israel’s War of independence. He now lives in Jerusalem. His son Yossi is a world-known posters painter ;

2) Cafe Jerolimima – established in 2015, exhibits an impressive collection of Będzin Judaica

77) Modrzewska 46 (formerly No. 48) – family house of Zeev Leron (Wolf Beniamin Londner) (1922–2014). A Zionist activist, member of the Jewish Combat Organisation, prisoner of concentration camps, pilot of the Israeli Air Force, commander of the Israeli Aerial Intelligence, military attaché in Chile and Ecuador

78) Modrzewska 49 (formerly No. 45) – the Olszenko family tenement house, some of the residents: **1)** Ada Halperin née Nofjfeld (1921–2001) – member of the Hanaor Haejionj youth organisation, during the WW2 in Haszomer Haeair. In KL Auschwitz she smuggled gunpowder for the Sonderkommando rebellion. In 1953 she moved to Israel; **2)** Ajzyk Grausman (1887–1943) – Between 1929–35 the Rabbi of Gajewo, from 1935 to 1939 one of the last two unofficial rabbis of Będzin, elected by the Zionists

79) Modrzewska 57 (formerly No. 53) (in backyard 1) – one of the few suktho (“booths”) of Będzin. Modernised after the war

80) Modrzewska 58 (formerly No. 62) – dr Chaim Perel (1893–1943) lived here. A member of the city council, socialist and cultural activist (active in the Musical-Literary Society Hazomir)

81) Modrzewska 60 (formerly No. 64) – **1)** in the basement: the remains of a two-floor *shtiebel* (including a women’s hall), discovered in 2009; **2)** Sam Walters (Szlama Pozmanitr) from Kansas City (1929–2007) lived here – a survivor, whose life was described in the book “From the Heart: Life Before and After the Holocaust”; **3)** home of Dita Gerlitz-Hadash (1937–1997) who was smuggled out of the ghetto and taken care of by Jaroslawa and Teodor Florczak (Righteous among the Nations, 2011). She emigrated to Israel

82) Modrzewska 62 (formerly No. 66) – currently property of ‘Kaufland’. In 1898 a German, Jan Meyerhold (1860–1929) and a Jew Maurycy (Mojżesz) Margulies (1849–1921) established a steam factory of wire cables (after the WW2 known as the “file-shop” (Polish: pilnikarnia, closed down in 2001)

83) Modrzewska 65 (formerly No. 61) – the Najman’s tenement



JEWISH BĘDZIN CITY MAP – MEMORIALS

