

TIKKUN | PACOV



SPOLEK PRO
SYNAGOGU
SYNAGOGUE
ASSOCIATION

2017
annual report



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Words: Daniela Orlando

Find up-to-date information about our activities
at www.tikkun.cz

A Promising Start

The establishment of the Tikkun Pacov non-governmental organization in April 2017 put the efforts to save the Pacov synagogue on an organized basis and turned a spontaneous grass-roots initiative into a systematic campaign for the preservation of the memory and cultural heritage of the local Jewish community which has been an integral part of Pacov for four centuries. The association is now raising funds for the purchase and restoration of the synagogue and sponsoring a long-term survey of the history of the Pacov Jewry.

The association consists of a three-member board of directors – Daniela Orlando (Chair), Zuzana Krulichová (Vice-Chair), Leona Stejskalová – and a three-member inspection committee: Petr Diviš, Eva Keroušová, Marie Orlando. We managed to acquire a number of dedicated outside collaborators and get in touch with domestic and foreign associations and Jewish communities interested in the history of the Pacov Jewry. The establishment of an NGO thus became a paramount symbolic milestone in the development of the synagogue renewal project as well as an important source of practical support for the volunteers engaged in it.



Memories Are Coming Back

Throughout the first year of our existence we continued to raise awareness of our efforts via talks and newspaper articles to which we added a couple of major public events: the visit of the last Pacov rabbi's daughter Nelly Guttmann-Prezma in June 2017 and a series of memorial events called *Crossroads and Irreversibilities of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands History* in November. We have also created the website www.tikkun.cz which proved an effective way of publishing reports and historical essays as well as making contact with other activists from the Czech Republic and abroad. Our efforts were mentioned by the domestic and foreign media including the Franco-German TV channel ARTE, the radio station Český Rozhlas Vysočina, the Pelhřimovský Deník and Deník Referendum dailies, the Czech expats in Belgium association quarterly, and the Židovské Listy online newspaper. The documentary about the Pacov Jewish community before WWII and during the Holocaust *Rodáci bez hrobu* (Neighbours Without Graves) was also met with great acclaim.

A systematic awareness-raising campaign for the synagogue and the fate of erstwhile Jewish fellow citizens has succeeded in returning the Jewish history of Pacov to the consciousness of the general public, the media, and the local authorities. We consider bringing the municipal authorities around to a closer cooperation in saving and restoring the synagogue one of our main achievements.





Fund-raising in Full Swing

By May 2017 our association has managed to raise 199,000 CZK (ca 8,900 US\$). We are also negotiating with private donors who have already pledged another 550,000 CZK (ca 24,500 US\$) altogether. The Pacov municipal council has pledged to contribute 100,000 CZK (ca 4,500 US\$) towards the purchase and to cover the cost of a detailed renovation study of the synagogue. The current owner has priced the synagogue at 950,000 CZK (ca 42,500 US\$).

We deposit all donations and the proceeds of our activities into our Fio Bank transparent account No. 2701205032/2010. So far our association has been funded exclusively by membership fees and private donations while also considering applying for the municipal, regional, national, and EU subsidies and private foundation endowments in the future. Total running costs of Tikkun Pacov amount to only ca 4,000 CZK/180 US\$ (of which 1,815 CZK/80 US\$ were paid for the *Crossroads and Irreversibilities of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands History* press release distribution via the ČTK news agency network, 1,626 CZK/70 US\$ for the tikkun.cz domain and website hosting, and 529 CZK/25 US\$ for office supplies) thanks to voluntary involvement of our members and supporters. Full summary of payments is available at <https://ib.fio.cz/ib/transparent/?a=2701205032>

Our annual financial statement is available via the Czech public registry website <https://or.justice.cz>



The Present and the Past

Apart from raising awareness of the Pacov synagogue via the abovementioned events and pursuing other associated common good activities (Holocaust remembrance and reflection; prevention of anti-Semitism and xenophobia; human rights education), Tikkun Pacov is also researching historical sources related to the Pacov Jewry. We hope to create a permanent exhibition tracing the Jewish history of Pacov to be installed in the refurbished synagogue while the premises themselves will become a dynamic venue for cultural and educational events complying with the association statutes.

The synagogue association has perceptibly advanced the efforts to save the Pacov synagogue and resurrect the memory of the local Jewish community. We will now focus on maintaining the interest of municipal authorities, general public, and private donors so that we get to buy the synagogue as soon as possible and embark on restoring this important monument which deserves to be brought back to its rightful place within the local physical and mental environment.

The purchase of the Pacov synagogue is supported by:

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Tikkun Pacov
320 Náměstí Svobody Sq
395 01 Pacov
Czech Republic
CRO No. 05930740
Account No. 2701205032/2010
www.tikkun.cz/?lang=en
tikkun@tikkun.cz