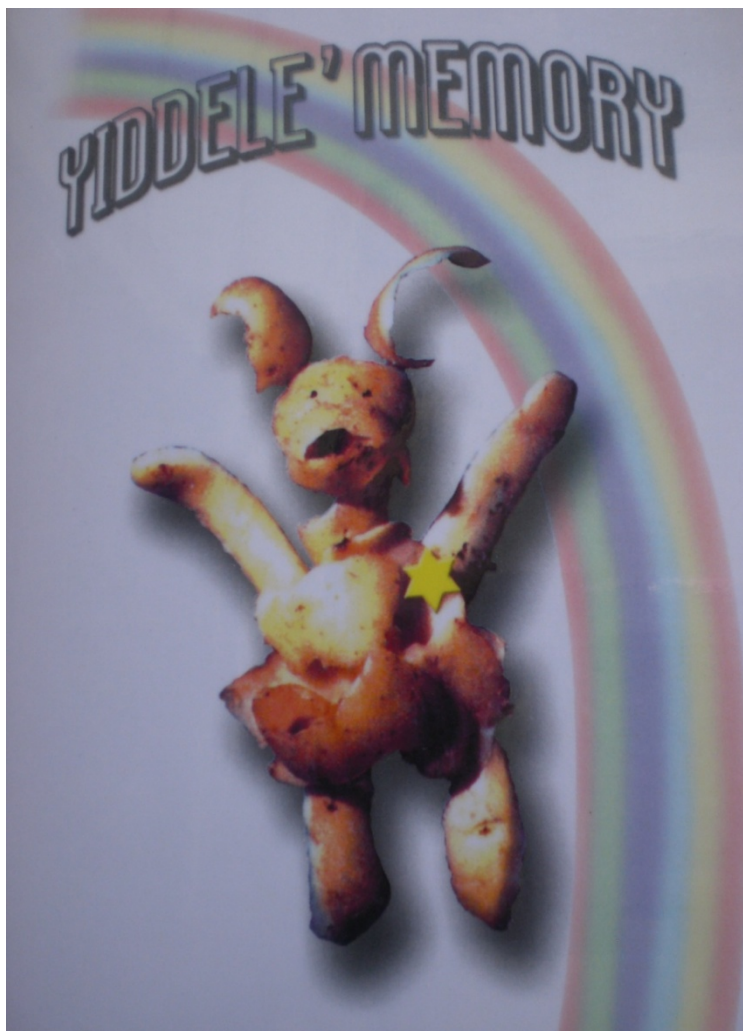


PROJECT of "YIDDELE' MEMORY" FOR RADOMSKO

"From Remembrance to Living Memory :
RADOMSKO, 1st Jewish open sky Museum in Poland"



Young Children of Holocaust Survivors' Organization

Rachel Lea Kesselman, President-Founder
"Yiddele' Memory"
73, Bd Grosso, 06000 Nice, France

N° Préfecture W062002980, association loi 1901 à but non lucratif

e-mail : lili_k1826@hotmail.com / www.yiddele-memory.org

Letter from the Mayor of Radomsko, Anna Milczanowska



To whom it may concern

16th January 2013

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In January we hosted in Radomsko Ms. Rachel Kesselman President – Founder of “Yiddele’ Memory”. She came to us with a mission that comes straight from the heart – project “From Remembrance to Living Memory”.

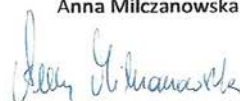
With great enthusiasm we received general idea, considering the fact that similar ideas already formed in our hearts and minds. The confirmation of the presented attitude is maceva located in former ghetto area. It was an expression of unbreakable bond that exists between our nations. Establishment of the cooperation with Kiriat Bialik in Israel is also an evidence of Radomsko’s openness and willingness to taking common initiatives.

Concerning “From Remembrance to Living Memory” project both Yiddele Memory and City of Radomsko are under the process of detailed arrangements preparation. We would be pleased if our project could be supported by any stakeholders.

With the aid of mentioned facts we hope that cooperation between Town Hall in Radomsko and “Yiddele’ Memory” will give fruitful results in future.



Yours faithfully
Anna Milczanowska


Mayor of Radomsko

Urząd Miasta Radomsko,
ul. Tysiąclecia 5, 97-500 Radomsko
tel. 044 685 45 00, fax 044 685 45 13
www.radomsko.pl

Letter from the Regional Prefect (Starosta), Robert Zakrzewski

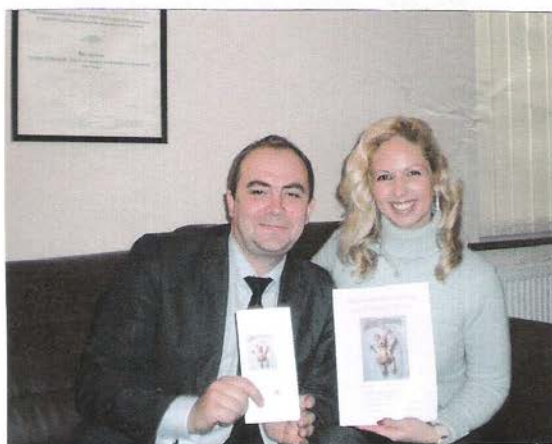


Radomsko, October 29th 2012

"Yiddele' Memory Organization"
Madame Rachel Lili Kesselman, President,
73, Bd Grosso,
06000 Nice - France

I'm pleased to inform about a cultural project of Ms. Rachel Lili Kesselman, which was mentioned by her when we met personally. Ms. Rachel Lili Kesselman, the President of "Yiddele' Memory Organization" presented to me the idea of the cultural project "Radomsko the first city open sky Museum for the Memory of the Jews in Poland", in which we interest with special significance for respecting the memory of the Holocaust.

STAROSTA
Robert Zakrzewski



Robert Zakrzewski
Starosta Powiatu Radomszczańskiego

Starostwo Powiatowe
ul. Leśka Czarnego 22
97-500 Radomsko
www.radomszczanski.pl

tel. 44 683 45 09
fax 44 683 43 35
tel. kom. 518 808 031
starosta@powiat.radomszczanski.pl



Y'M with Ambassador of
Poland in Argentina, Jacek Bazanski, May 2012



AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND



Jacek Bazański
Embajador

Embajada
de la República de Polonia
en Buenos Aires
A. M. de Agüado 2870
C1425CEB Buenos Aires

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secretaria.buenosaires@msz.gov.pl
www.buenosaires.msz.gov.pl

AMBRPBA/50-7/12

Buenos Aires, October 9th 2012

To whom it may concern,

I'm pleased to inform about a cultural project of Ms. Rachel Lili Kesselman, which was mentioned by her when we met personally. Ms. Rachel Lili Kesselman, the President of "Yiddele Memory" Young Children of Holocaust Survivors' Organization, among others presented to me the idea of placing in Radomsko bronze plaques which will commemorate the Jews who lived in the city before the world war II.

I consider the project to be of interest and special significance for honouring the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Jacek Bazański

Letter of recommendation of Ambassador Jacek Bazanski
for "Yiddele' Memory's Project in Radomsko

Letter from Mr Martin Gray, First Honorary Member of « Yiddele' Memory »
Author of "For those I loved"

Martin GRAY
Domaine des Clausonnes
06 410 Biot



Yad Vashem
Mr. Avner Shalev,
Director
Jerusalem, Israel

March 22nd 2010

Dear Mister Shalev,

As a member of Honor of "Yiddele' Memory", I would like to introduce to you Miss Rachel "Lili" KESSELMAN.

Her father was a survivor of the Shoah and his experience in Poland under the Nazis is an incredible story. Like I did with my own children, he told his daughter about his life since she was a little girl.

When she talked to me about her Association of Young Children of Survivors, I've accepted to be a Member of Honor and suggested to write a book about her father's life seen through her eyes.

You know how important the work of remembrance is.
What Lili does is not only trying to gather young children like mine to perpetuate our memory through her association, but also to wake up people's conscience about the dangers of the world we live in today.

Miss Kesselman is young and she masters very well the subject of the Holocaust, being also aware of the period we are living now. She is a courageous girl who travels the world indefatigably in order to find new members, gives conferences and I can only congratulate her action.

That's why, Mister Shalev, I would suggest you give "Yiddele'Memory" your sponsorship.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Gray

P.S.: I am enclosing two books "For those I loved" recently reedited in the United States for the Yad Vashem Library. Regretfully I no longer possess any copies in Hebrew.

Letter from Professeur of University : Benjamin GROSS, Israel

Benjamin Gross
21 Ahad Haam
92151 Jérusalem
Israël

Jérusalem le 17 février 2013

Recommandation

Madame Lili Kesselman me fait part de son projet de créer à Radomsko en Pologne un musée à ciel ouvert, destiné à rappeler aux habitants et aux visiteurs les atrocités subies par les juifs dans cette ville durant la seconde guerre mondiale. Un des premiers ghettos en Pologne fut établi dans cette cité, réputée par ailleurs pour son activité culturelle et les nombreuses personnalités hassidiques qui y ont séjourné.

Cette initiative qui a reçu, semble-t-il, l'aval de la municipalité, mérite d'être soutenue pour sa valeur propre comme lieu de mémoire, et parce qu'elle pourrait servir d'exemple pour d'autres villes dans le pays.

Comme membre d'Honneur de Yddele Memory, je me permets de recommander ce projet à votre attention et de le soutenir financièrement pour en assurer la réalisation.



Benjamin Gross

Letter from Daisy Miller, Director
at « Shoah Foundation »
Los Angeles

Daisy Miller Shoah Foundation Spielberg Los Angeles

À : lili_k1826@hotmail.com
De : **Daisy Miller** (daisymil@dornsife.usc.edu)
Envoyé : mar. 08/11/11 00:31
À : lili_k1826@hotmail.com

Dear Lili,

To follow up our discussion and our correspondence, I would like once more to tell you how much I enjoyed meeting you and how impressed I am about your work with "Yiddele' Memory". As I told you I am very familiar with issues related to younger generations, as someone who helped found organizations dealing with those of us who were young children during the Holocaust. Because of my history I am particularly sensitive to issues of those who were young children of older survivors as well. Precisely what you are working to do with "Yiddele Memory".

I have several suggestions for you including connecting you to the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors and Decedents, of which I am Vice President, and with an organization that deals with Children of Survivors, called "All Generations", in fact you might want to go to their website www.allgenerations.org. The person who heads it is Serena Woolrich.

I am happy to discuss these and possibly other avenues where we might connect and work together.

I would hope you can come to Los Angeles to meet, visit the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, and spend time together to discuss future possibilities.

Please let me know when it would be good for you to come.

Until then I send you all my best and look forward to seeing you here very soon.

Daisy



USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education

Daisy Miller

Director of Community Relations

University of Southern California
650 West 35th Street, Suite 114
Los Angeles, California 90089-2571
Tel: 213 740 6073 Fax: 213 740 6044
Cell: 323 697 9140
Email: daisymil@usc.edu
<http://dornsife.usc.edu/vhi>



Radomsko



[Héraldique](#)



[Drapeau](#)


Administration

Pays	 Pologne
Région	Łódź
District	Radomszczański
Maire	Anna Milczanowska
Code postal	97-500
Indicatif téléphonique international	+(48)
Indicatif téléphonique local	44
Immatriculation	ERA

Démographie


Population	50 399 hab. (2008)
Densité	980 hab./km ²

Géographie

Coordonnées	 51° 04' 00" Nord 19° 27' 00" Est 51.066667, 19.45
Altitude	Min. 220 m — Max. 254 m
Superficie	5 142 ha = 51,42 km



Twin towns — Sister Cities

 Makó (Hongrie)

 Voznesensk (Ukraine)

 Kiriat Bialik (Israël)

Radomsko is a city in Poland with 50 399 inhabitants (at 16 April 2008). It is a chief town of the district (powiat) of Łódź.

Location

Radomsko is 90 km south of Łódź, on the Radomka River. The city is crossed by important communication channels: National Highway 1 (future highway) and the Warsaw-Vienna railway line.

History

In the eleventh century, a fort appears at the crossroads between the road salt, starting from Bochnia to the Greater Poland and Mazovia, and the road between Silesia and the the Rus'. The first historical mention of Radomsko dates of 1243. The city receives urban privileges in 1266 at the hands of Lech II Black. In 1382 and 1384, the city hosts two general assemblies of the nobility on the estate of Louis I of Hungary. In the fourteenth century, the city became the seat of a district and in the fifteenth century, the seat of a village elder. Trade and crafts thrive.

Around 1780, Jews were allowed to settle in the city, which had been banned since 1643 (privilege of *non tolerandis Judaeis*). The town became an important center of Hasidism, the third in Poland, after Ger and Alexander.

In 1793, following the second partition of Poland, the city was annexed by Prussia. In 1807, she joined the Duchy of Warsaw created by Napoleon. In 1815, it was incorporated into the Kingdom of Congress. In 1846, the city is connected to the rail network. Very quickly, the industry is growing, thanks in large part to the Jews.

In 1939, the city has 13,000 Jews, 55% of the population. The architectural style of the buildings is typically Jewish until today.

From the beginning of World War II, the Germans imprison 22,000 Jews in the ghetto (Radomsko and neighboring towns). Most will be exterminated at Treblinka. Resistance is very active in the city (nicknamed "Banditenstadt" by the Germans). Radomsko was liberated by the Red Army on January 16th 1945.

Monuments

- Jewish Cemetery (1816)
- Town Hall - Museum (1857)
- Franciscan Monastery (1543)
- Saint Lambert Church (1869-1876)
- Saint Roch Church (1502)

Économy Radomsko is an industrial center and services:

- Furniture (Brothers Kohn, Thonet-Mundus, Fameg...)
- Metal fabrication
- Glassware
- Machinery (Indésit...)
- Repair company medical tools
- Clothing
- Dairy
- Processing of fruits and vegetables
- Production of flour
- Printing
- Fertiliser

Notable residents

- Władysław Reymont, novelist, Nobel laureate 1924
- Zbigniew Dłubak, artist
- Dr. Helen Fagin, survivor
- Angelyne, American billboard celebrity
- Mariusz Czerkowski, ice hockey player
- Tadeusz Różewicz, poet, Golden Wreath laureate
- Shlomo Hakohen Rabinowicz of Radomsk (*Tiferes Shlomo*), First Radomsker Rebbe
- Avraham Yissachar Dov Hakohen Rabinowicz of Radomsk (*Chesed LeAvraham*), Second Radomsker Rebbe
- Yechezkel Hakohen Rabinowicz of Radomsk (*Kenesses Yechezkel*), Third Radomsker Rebbe
- Shlomo Chanoch Hakohen Rabinowicz of Radomsk, Fourth Radomsker Rebbe
- José Ber Gelbard, Argentine Economic ministry

*1) MAKE OF RADOMSKO the first open sky Museum city for the Memory of the Jews in Poland

Indicate what was Jewish in Radomsko. Put signs a bit everywhere, in Polish and in English. Possibly in Yiddish.

Contour blue and white (like the Israeli flag).

« Yiddele' Memory » 's logo used for indication.

Examples :

- Jewish cemetery,
- House of the Great Tsadik Salomon haCohen Rabinowicz,
- Talmud Torah,
- Synagogue and Mikve,
- Jewish Park behind the Ratusz (Museum),
- Commemoration place (Matseva),
- Heder,
- Jewish School for Girls (Fabianiego St)
- Ghetto (with many explanations on the walls),
- Way to the train station on Kościuszki St,
- Train Station,
- Ratusz/Museum of Radomsko : famous Jews from Radomsko, prison cells ...
- Marvellous Jewish architecture in the city-center

NA CMENTARZ ŻYDOWSKI *

TO THE JEWISH CEMETERY

www.yiddele-memory.org



+ put QR codes for smart phones



Cmentarz żydowski, ul. Przedborska : translate the panel from Polish to English outside of the cemetery + also put explanations in the cemetery in Polish and in English : very few people read Hebrew while there is much to commemorate in this place where more than 3000 Jews have been shot in a mass grave and where the Tsadikim rest in peace (Ohel).



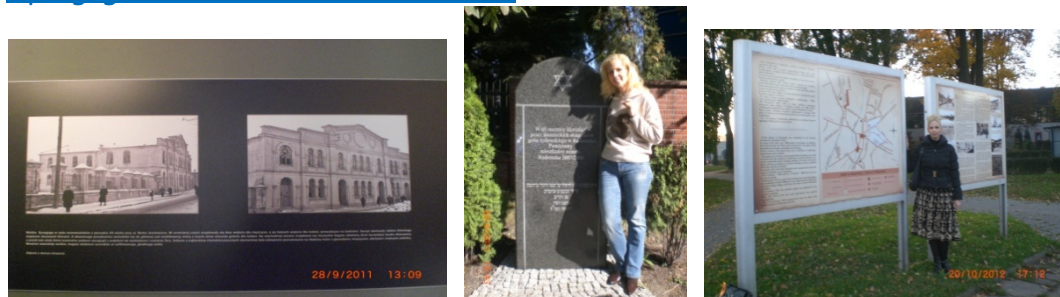
- Dom Tsadik HaCohen Rabinowicz + Talmud Torah School, ul. Joselewicza : panel + explanations in Polish and in English :

Even if there is now few jewish presence in Radomsko, we have a great asset comparing with other cities : the House of the Tsadik Salomon haCohen Rabinowicz, famous author of the book "Tiferess Shlomo" and creator of the famous Shabess song "Shalom Aleichem". Radomsko represents the 3rd dynasty of the Polish Hassidic world (after Ger and Alexander). This is a major privilege !



Attention : By recuperating this house, we could create a jewish House with a little Museum, a kosher dining room, a prayer room and 4 guest rooms.

- Synagogue and Mikve, ul. Joselewicza + commemoration Matséva :



There are only 2 big signs like on the 3rd picture, in front of the previous synagogue. The idea is to make them flourish everywhere in the city : minimum 35 signs to begin the project.

- [Heder \(ul.Kaliska = Reymonta\)](#) : talmudic school for little boys :

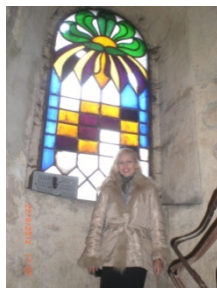


- [Jewish school for girls, ul. Fabianiego](#):



Put pictures of people who lived there helps young people to empathize

- [Jewish architecture : ul. Reymonta, Fabianiego, etc.](#) : put signs on the houses and on buildings, + in the streets, with pictures and explanations.



- [Ghetto](#) : when there is the picture, show the different places and illustrate with corresponding panel on the house or just in front (as it already exists in ul. Joselewicza for instance) :

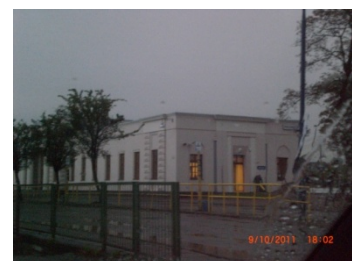


- [Sign on Kościuszki St : way to the Train Station of Radomsko, destination Treblinka](#) :

*On Kościuszki St 7, reproduce the picture on the building + a tablet : « January 6th 1943 : Walker, don't forget »,

*Create a commemorative tablet at the Train Station :

"1939 - 1945 : from here, 22.000 Jews were deported from Radomsko to the extermination camp of Treblinka. Never forget. »



Kosciuski St. 7. Deportation in 1943

same place in 2012

Radomsko train station

*2nd Project: Discrete yet effective Memory, Respect and Dignity :

Blocks of bronze in the pavement like in Berlin. Here, we don't have the detailed archives as the Nazis had. But we have enough information to indicate where numerous jewish families lived.



Exemples : Here lived Family.../ Tutaj mieszkała Rodzina...

- Family Kesselman, Dobryszyska 2, now Krasickiego 44 ("Imponar"),



- Family Aizen, Krakowska 9 (now n°X),



- Family Koss, Przedborska 10,



- Family Grossman, Plac 3 Maja n°3/Family Najkron, Plac 3 Maja (white and green building)



- my greatgrandfather, Jozna Kesselman, had a bakery and a mill, on ul. Częstochowska 9.



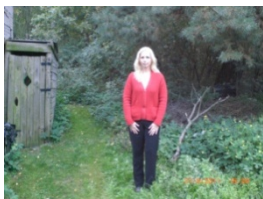
I have other addresses of Radomskers...

PLEASE, if your family was from Radomsko or if you know people who were from there, ask them what their address was and send it to me quickly. No matter if they were owners or renters. They just lived there and we honor their presence. **We need 100 adresses at least. Thanks for your cooperation !**

*And also honor the « Righteous among the Nations » with silver blocks : people who saved Jews, risking their lives, as for Jerzy Wüensche, Janina and Marian Bereska, Wincenty Gniatkowski in Zdania...



Radomsko / Radomskers in Cannes / my Dad and Mr Wuensche from Radomsko, "Righteous among the Nations" who saved dozens of Jews during WWII.



Wincenty Gniatkowski, honored by Yad Vashem because he helped hide my family in his barn and under the lavatory hut in Zdania for the last few weeks of the war. 6 people in 2 cube meters underground. The Gestapo tortured him, broke the legs of his little boy against the wall, but he didn't talk and didn't betray my family. May his memory be blessed.

Here in September 2011 with his grand-daughter Elzbieta who still lives in this humble house.

And in October 2012 with my cousin from Argentina, just above where our fathers were hidden.

*3rd Project : when possible, put a tablet of bronze on the house where jewish families lived (with embedded figurines).



A walk through time...

Arriving on the main square in Radomsko, the Yiddeler tourist will just have to take the historical brochure + the brochure of Jewish town journey and follow the numbers indicated: he will find on his way Jewish buildings, many pictures and explanations in almost every streets of Radomsko.

Of course the Holocaust is mentioned (ghetto Judenrat, several Kommandantur houses, ramp of deportation, train station ...) but the most important is to relate the **JEWISH LIFE** in Radomsko before the war: the marketplace, the kosher slaughterhouses, the beautiful synagogue, the house of prayer of the Great Tzaddikim of Radomsko, the Talmud Torah, the Jewish school for girls, the Heder of the little ones, the stores, the mills...



A historical and cultural journey
A Polish city that wants to teach the youth and all generations
what was its Jewish past !

**Please, help us to create this project, make a donation
for the first Jewish Open Sky Museum in Poland.
For all generations to know...**

Large-scale project in the city, low cost ☺
Estimate for 35 panels of different sizes * :

Radomsko, 9th January 2013

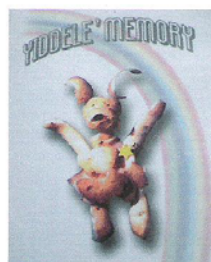
"Yiddele' Memory" and City of Radomsko Project :
"From Remembrance to living Memory"

Project part I : Open Sky Jewish Museum in the City

1. All the prices below were estimated on the base of realized boards by Town Hall expenses concerning such category. Prices include tax.

	Volume	Estimated price (PLN)	Cost (PLN)	Cost (EUR)
Signs boards	20	600	18.000	4.300
Information boards LARGE	5	5.000	25.000	6.000
Information boards SMALL	20	1500	30.000	7.200
Plaques	10	700	7.000	1.600
QR + website			5.000	1.200
		SUM	85.000 PLN	20.300 EUR

2. Final costs of the project will be confirmed by invoices and documents according to law and transparency in administration.



* The cost of two other projects to be determined

. CONCLUSION :

Make of Radomsko the first city as open sky Jewish Museum is an ambitious project, large scale, yet very easy to realize with the cooperation of the local authorities.

-we only have to manufacture about 30 panels or signs and make them "flourish" a bit everywhere in town,

-to pose a few commemorative tablets on houses and historic jewish places and create panels showing old pictures (there are many at the Ratusz/Museum).

-and « plant » a few blocks of bronze and of silver in the pavement.

Comparing to the folkloric and artificial tourism of Kraków for instance (reference to the book "10 days in Poland" by Henri Raczymov, who shows a caricature of jewish life to lure the "client", where you have to pay to visit every cemeteries and synagogues, where the tschulent in the picturesque restaurants is cooked with pork !...), Radomsko, thanks to a worthy, respectful, cultural and educational project would give taste to the jewish people and other tourists to visit Poland and see it differently : the living memory of a rich past, where Jews and non-Jews lived together and where everyday, simply by signs, jewish victims of barbarian Nazism are honored.

Here, we would develop a tourism of quality that contributes to Education of young people, also respecting the sensibility of the traveller, survivor or descendant of survivors, who would appreciate with a positive astonishment, grace and enthusiasm a trip that he would never have done before.

The Opening is planned for October 2013.

I think that on the Inauguration Day of such a project, the Presidents or Ambassadors of Israel and Poland, Ministers of Culture and Education as well as Presidents of international organizations would come to Radomsko.

May all the good souls, alive and in Eden, watch and help this project of "Yiddele' Memory" and Radomsko be filled with a thousand blessings.

Rachel Lili Kesselman, Radomsko, December 2012.



Radomsk (Hasidic dynasty)

Radomsk (Hebrew: רדומסק) is a Hasidic dynasty named after the town of Radomsko in Łódź province, south-central Poland. **The dynasty was founded in 1843 by Rabbi Shlomo Hakohen Rabinowicz (the *Tiferes Shlomo*)**, one of the great Hasidic masters of 19th-century Poland. His son, grandson and great-grandson led the dynasty in turn, attracting thousands of followers. On the eve of World War II, Radomsk was the third largest Hasidic dynasty in Poland, after Ger and Alexander.

The town of Radomsko was invaded and most of its Jews deported and killed during the German occupation of Poland in World War II. The fourth Radomsker Rebbe, Rabbi Shlomo Chanoch Hakohen Rabinowicz, was murdered by the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942, bringing the father-to-son dynasty to an end. In 1965, Radomsker Hasidim who had survived the Holocaust and were living in Israel asked Rabbi Menachem Shlomo Bornsztain, the fifth Sochatchover Rebbe and a descendant of the first Radomsker Rebbe, to become their Rebbe as well, and he agreed. Bornsztain's son, Rabbi Avrohom Nosson Bornsztain, is the current Radomsker Rebbe.

History

Leadership

The founder of the dynasty was Rebbe Shlomo Hakohen Rabinowicz (the *Tiferes Shlomo*) (1801–1866), who had begun serving as Rav of Radomsko (Radomsk) in 1834. Under his leadership, the Jewish community of Radomsk grew both in prestige and population. When Grand Rabbi Moshe Biderman of Lelov moved to the Land of Israel and instructed his Hasidim to follow Rabinowicz, the latter's influence as a Rebbe grew significantly and Radomsk became a major Hasidic center. The masses revered their Rebbe for his lofty prayers, beautiful singing voice, and benevolence towards their needs, while the more scholarly Hasidim admired his profound discourses in Halakha and Kabbalah. Rabinowicz's discourses on the Chumash and Jewish holidays were published posthumously in Warsaw in 1867–1869 as the two-volume *Tiferes Shlomo*. This work, considered a textbook of Hasidic thought, met with widespread acclaim and has been continuously reprinted.

Upon the Rebbe's death in 1866, his youngest son, Avraham Yissachar Dov Hakohen Rabinowicz (1843–1892), succeeded him. Rabbi Avraham Yissachar Dov was also a great Torah scholar and was musically gifted. After he became Rebbe, he attracted many Hasidim from Poland and Galicia. He suffered from diabetes and died in Radomsk a year shy of his fiftieth birthday. His Torah teachings were compiled under the title *Chesed L'Avraham*, published in Piotrkow in 1893.

He was succeeded as Rebbe by his second son, Rabbi Yechezkel Hakohen Rabinowicz (1864–1910), who had initially served as Rav of Novipola. The third Radomsker Rebbe was known for his dedication to Torah study, his extreme modesty, and powerful sermons. He suffered from diabetes like his father and also died before the age of 50. An estimated 25,000 people attended his funeral from all over Poland and Galicia. His Torah teachings were compiled under the title *Kenesses Yechezkel*, published in 1913.

His eldest son, Rabbi Shlomo Chanoch Hakohen Rabinowicz (1882–1942), succeeded him. The fourth Radomsker Rebbe was a dynamic and charismatic leader. Thousands of Hasidim attended his court on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. The Rebbe was also quite wealthy. He owned a glass factory and homes in Berlin, Warsaw, and Sosnowiec; he re-established his court in the latter city after World War I. He also amassed a huge personal collection of old manuscripts and prints that was said to be the second-largest private library in Poland after that of the Gerrer Rebbe.

« Kesser Torah » yeshiva network Radomsko

The fourth Radomsker Rebbe innovated a new trend in Hasidic education in Poland. Until World War I, Hasidic youth traditionally studied Torah and learned the customs and lore of their dynasties in *shtiebelach* (small houses of prayer and study) across Poland. As the war uprooted hundreds of thousands of Jews and decimated established communities, the *shtiebelach* lost their central place in Hasidic life. In 1926, the Rebbe announced his plan to create a network of yeshivas called Keser Torah (Crown of Torah). By 1930, nine yeshivas were functioning in major Polish cities, together with a "Kibbutz Govoha" (high-level study group) for advanced students and *avreichim* (married students) in Sosnowiec. The Rebbe appointed his new son-in-law, Rabbi Dovid Moshe Hakohen Rabinowicz (1906–1942), to serve as rosh yeshiva for the entire network. By 1939, there were 36 Keser Torah yeshivas enrolling over 4,000 students in Poland and Galicia. The Rebbe paid for the entire operation, including staff salaries, food, and student lodging, out of his own pocket.

World War II

On the eve of World War II, Radomsk was the third largest Hasidic dynasty in Poland, after Ger and Alexander. In Kraków, there were more Radomsker *shtiebelach* than Gerrer *shtiebelach*.

Following the German invasion of Poland, the Keser Torah yeshivas disbanded and the Rebbe escaped to the town of Alexander, but from there was most likely sent by the Nazis into the Warsaw Ghetto. His son-in-law, Rabbi Dovid Moshe Rabinowicz, was also incarcerated in the Warsaw Ghetto, where he continued to deliver *shiurim* to Keser Torah students. The Rebbe and all the members of his family, including his only daughter, son-in-law, and their infant son, were shot to death during the *Aktion* of 1 August 1942. They were buried in a mass grave in Warsaw's main cemetery. With the Rebbe's death, the father-to-son lineage of Radomsker rebbes came to an end. (The Rebbe's brother, Rabbi Elimelech Aryeh Hakohen Rabinowicz, died in Mauthausen)

Rebirth in Israel

After World War II, Radomsker Hasidim and Keser Torah yeshiva students who had survived the Holocaust established Kollel Keser Torah in Bnei Brak, Israel. In 1965 they approached Rabbi Menachem Shlomo Bornsztain, son of the Sochatchover Rebbe and a nephew of Rabbi David Moshe Rabinowicz, to lead the kollel (Bornsztain was also a direct descendant of the first Radomsker Rebbe, as his grandfather, the second Sochatchover Rebbe, married the daughter of the first Radomsker Rebbe.)

Bornsztain accepted the offer and commuted from his home in Tel Aviv to Bnei Brak. When Bornsztain acceded to the leadership of the Sochatchov dynasty in 1965, the Radomsker Hasidim asked him to become their Rebbe as well, and he officially became known as the Sochatchover-Radomsker Rebbe. Following Bornsztain's untimely death in 1969, his eldest son, Rabbi Shmuel Bornsztain, became the Sochatchover Rebbe and another son, Avrohom Nosson Bornsztain, was appointed Radomsker Rebbe. Rabbi Avrohom Nosson Bornsztain presently heads the Radomsker *beis medrash* in Bnei Brak.

Today Radomsker communities exist in Jerusalem and Bnei Brak, Israel; Brooklyn, New York; Lakewood, New Jersey; and Montreal, Canada. The Radomsker Rav of Boro Park, Rabbi Leibish Frand, heads a Radomsker *beis medrash* in Brooklyn.

Music of Radomsk

The first Radomsker Rebbe, Rabbi Shlomo Hakohen Rabinowicz, had a beautiful singing voice and was renowned as a chazzan and composer of Hasidic music. He composed and sang new *nigunim* (melodies) each year for the High Holy days and Jewish holidays.

*He is especially reknowned for composing music and song “shalom alechem malachei hamelachim”, the most popular song of shabat evening before Kidush.

He also sent money to one of his Hasidim in Safed, Israel so the latter would organize a Radomsker Shalosh Seudos meal every Shabbat at which his *nigunim* would be sung. The second Radomsker Rebbe was also musically gifted, and the *nigunim* of the first two Radomsker Rebbes were sung in all Radomsker courts. Rabbi Chaskel Besser, a prominent Radomsker Hasid in New York after World War II, produced an album titled *Nigunei Radomsk* (Melodies of Radomsk) to preserve the music of the dynasty.

Lineage of Radomsk dynastic leadership

- **First Radomsker Rebbe: Shlomo Hakohen Rabinowicz** (1801–1866), author of *Tiferes Shlomo*. Rebbe from 1843 to 1866.
 - **Second Radomsker Rebbe:** Avraham Yissachar Dov Hakohen Rabinowicz (1843–1892), son of Shlomo Hakohen Rabinowicz, author of *Chesed L'Avraham*. Rebbe from 1866 to 1892.
 - **Third Radomsker Rebbe:** Yechezkel Hakohen Rabinowicz (1864–1910), son of Avraham Yissachar Dov Hakohen Rabinowicz, author of *Kenesses Yechezkel*. Rebbe from 1892 to 1910.
 - **Fourth Radomsker Rebbe:** Shlomo Chanoch Hakohen Rabinowicz (d. 1942), son of Yechezkel Hakohen Rabinowicz. Rebbe from 1910 to 1942.
 - **Sochatchover-Radomsker Rebbe:** Menachem Shlomo Bornsztain (1934–1969), great-grandson of Shlomo Rabinowicz. Rebbe from 1965 to 1969.
 - **Sixth Radomsker Rebbe:** Avrohom Nosson Bornsztain (b. 1963), son of Menachem Shlomo Bornsztain. Rebbe since 1970s.

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נעים זמירות רבי שלמה / מאיר-שמעון גשורי

Handwritten musical score for a song titled "המנון חובבי ציון" (Hymn of the Zion Lovers). The score is written in Hebrew and includes lyrics. The title is written at the top center. The lyrics are written below the musical notation. The score is divided into two main sections, each with its own title: "המנון חובבי ציון" and "המנון חובבי ציון". The lyrics are written in a cursive script. The musical notation is in a standard staff format with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. The score includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines. The lyrics are written in a cursive script. The score is divided into two main sections, each with its own title: "המנון חובבי ציון" and "המנון חובבי ציון". The lyrics are written in a cursive script. The musical notation is in a standard staff format with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. The score includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

*RATUSZ/MUSEUM:

*indicate in town that there is an exhibition room about the war and the history of the Jews of Radomsko in the Ratusz-Museum (Center of the Gestapo since 1939) + show DVD of my uncle Alek for the “Shoah Foundation” of Spielberg, when he was prisoned in Ratusz/Gestapo center + attack of A.K. and he was delivered by chance.

*Create a permanent exhibition for Notable people from Radomsko and Survivors, for instance :

- José Gellbard : Minister of Economy in Argentina under Perón (and my Dad’s cousin by marriage :)
- Herschele Grynszpan : this 17 young man wanted to « wake up people’s consciences » in November 1938, in order to denounce the deportations of german Jews to Poland and the awful laws of Nuremberg. In Paris, he killed the assistant of the German Ambassador, Ernst von Rath. Effectively, the public opinion was moved and his heroic act has been published in all the worldwide newspapers. Unfortunately, this had the opposite consequences in Germany and that initiated the pogroms of the Kristallnacht.

Here’s what he wrote in prison : “I didn’t act moved by hate or by revenge, but on the contrary, for love of my parents and of my people who bear terrible sufferings. I’m sincerely sorry to have wounded someone but I didn’t have other possibility to express. To be Jew is not a crime. Jews are not criminals. The jewish people has the right to live”.



***José Ber Gelbard**



Gelbard (*right*) and [Juan Perón](#).

José Ber Gelbard (April 14, 1917 – October 4, 1977) was an Argentine activist and politician.

Career

José Gelbard was born in Radomsko, Poland, in 1917. In 1930 at the age of 13, Gelbard emigrated to Argentina with his parents and siblings. They settled in Tucumán, 800 miles (1,287 km) north of Buenos Aires. Those were tough times and Gelbard had to make a living as a street peddler of men's ties and belts. In 1938 he married Dina Haskell. They settled in Catamarca and he started a men's clothing store named "Casa Nueva York".

Gelbard was a political activist, involved in several causes, including Jewish armed groups defending the Jewish community in Tucumán from the abuses of local Nazi groups, and joined the Democratic Union, a loose alliance against populist candidate Juan Perón, during the 1945-46 electoral campaign. In the late 40's, he embraced the idea that the only way Argentina was going to grow was if the small and medium business sectors prospered, and if the millions of small industries and merchants were united as a force that could negotiate with Perón's pro labor forces.

In 1954 Gelbard moved with his family to Buenos Aires and almost immediately became part of Perón's cabinet as a minister without portfolio. He continued his fight for small and medium businesses, opposing perceived imperialist interests and agro interests that would have preferred a country of grain and cattle exporters, to the detriment of the millions of small industries and businesses. In this process, the CGE ("Confederación General Económica") was born. It could be described as the union of millions of industrialists and businessmen, with enough strength to negotiate with the government and labor unions. In 1955 there was a military coup that toppled Perón. Gelbard was prosecuted and his assets were frozen, for being an advisor to Peron.

In later years, the generals called elections, there were new coups d'état, new presidents, new elections and Gelbard became, without exceptions, the advisor of all subsequent presidents, whether Generals or democratically elected. In 1972, following a request from General

Lanusse, the then dictator, Gelbard negotiated the return of General Perón from his exile in Madrid. After many trips and secret negotiations, elections were called and since Perón was not allowed to be President himself, one of his men, Dr. Héctor Cámpora became president on May 25, 1973.

Perón allegedly said that he would not accept a Peronist government without José Ber Gelbard watching the economy.¹ Finally in October 1973 Perón himself became president after an internal political shuffle. Gelbard implemented a plan, "The Social Pact" (*El Pacto Social*), which basically called for a freeze in prices and salaries so the country could progress economically. He also gave a new boost to exports by unilaterally lifting the Cuban blockade and selling one billion dollars in good to Cuba, including United States-branded cars manufactured in Argentina (which the US had to accept after a threat to close all US car factories in Argentina). Many economic missions were planned and large groups of Argentine businessmen and industrialists headed by the Minister of Economy visited Cuba, Venezuela, Chile, the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and other countries.

On July 1, 1974, Perón died, leaving a divided party and his widow, who was earlier chosen Vice President as a compromise between feuding factions, in power. Increasingly strained by rising labor union wage demands and the 1973 oil shock alike, the Social Pact gradually lost its ability to contain inflation, and in November, Gelbard decided to resign. In March 1976 a bloody Military Junta overthrew Isabel Perón's presidency and in later years killed tens of thousands of people. Gelbard and his family left the country before the coup and obtained political asylum in the USA. All his assets in Argentina were quasi confiscated, frozen. There was a death sentence for him and his son Fernando. On October 4, 1977, Gelbard died of a heart attack in Washington DC. His son Fernando fought the Junta, recovered all the family assets, and in 1989 became Argentine Ambassador to France.

***Herschel Grynszpan**



In the next photo: his father and mother (middle row, first and second from the right) and his sister Berta (top row, fourth from the right).

Evidently photographed immediately following the deportation to Zbaszyn, then back to Radomsko in October 1938.



Members of Herschel Grynszpan's family from Radomsko (photographer Wilhelm Selig)

Zyndel Shmuel GRYNSZPAN, born in 1886 in Radomsko, Poland. Went to Hanover (Germany) in 1911. He had 6 children, 3 sons and 3 daughters, among them **Herschel Feibel Grynszpan** who was then living in Paris at his uncle and who tried to kill the Secretary of the Ambassador of Germany in France in 1938. He wanted to wake up people's conscience about what was happening to his people (Nuremberg laws, deportation to Poland...). Unfortunately, that caused represailles against Jews in Germany 3 days later, known as "Kristallnacht".

+ Also see my Aunt Cesia Eizen Kesselman's testimony on video, she was living in front of them.

Herschel Feibel Grynszpan (March 28, 1921 — declared dead 1960) was a German-born Jewish refugee of Polish parents from Radomsko, and convicted political assassin. Grynszpan's assassination of the German diplomat Ernst vom Rath on November 7, 1938 in Paris (in revenge for the expulsion of his family), provided the Nazis with a convenient pretext for the *Kristallnacht*, the antisemitic pogrom of November 9–10, 1938. Grynszpan was seized by the Gestapo after the German invasion of France and brought to Germany.

Early years

Herschel Grynszpan was born in Hanover, Germany. His parents, Sendel and Rivka Grynszpan, were Polish Jews who had immigrated from Radomsko (Poland) in 1911 and settled in Hanover, where Sendel opened a tailor's shop, from which the family made a modest living. They became Polish citizens after World War I and retained that status during their years in Germany. Herschel was one of six children of whom only three survived childhood. The first child was born dead in 1912. The second child, daughter Sophie Helena, born in 1914, died in 1928 of scarlet fever. Daughter Esther was born on January 31, 1916, and a son, Mordechai, on August 29, 1919. A fifth child, son Salomon, was born in 1920 and died in 1931 as a result of a traffic accident. On March 28, 1921, Herschel was born.

Hanover to Paris

Herschel attended a state primary school until he was 14, in 1935. He later said that he left school because Jewish students were already facing discrimination. He was an intelligent, sensitive youth who had few close friends, although he was an active member of the Jewish youth sports club, Bar-Kochba Hanover. When he left school, his parents decided there was no future for him in Germany, and tried to arrange for him to emigrate to the British Mandate of Palestine. With financial assistance from the Hanover Jewish community, Herschel was sent to a yeshiva (rabbinical seminary) in Frankfurt, where he studied Hebrew and the Torah: he was by all accounts more religious than his parents. After eleven months he left the yeshiva and returned to Hanover, where he applied to emigrate to Palestine. But the local Palestine emigration office told him he was too young, and would have to wait a year.

Rather than wait, Herschel and his parents decided that he should go to live with his uncle and aunt, Abraham and Chawa Grynszpan, in Paris. He obtained a Polish passport and a German residence permit, and received permission to leave Germany for Belgium, where another uncle, Wolf Grynszpan, was living. He had no intention of staying in Belgium, however, and in September 1936 he entered France illegally. He was unable to enter France legally because he had no visible means of support, while Jews were not permitted to take money out of Germany.

In Paris, Grynszpan lived in a small Yiddish-speaking enclave of Polish Orthodox Jews, and met few people outside it, learning only a few words of French in two years. He spent this period trying to get legal residence in France, without which he could not work or study legally, but was rejected by French officials. His re-entry permit for Germany expired in April 1937 and his Polish passport expired in January 1938, leaving him without legal papers.

In July 1938, the Prefecture of Police ruled that Grynszpan had no basis for his request to stay in France, and in August he was ordered to leave the country. He had no re-entry permit for Germany and in any case had no desire to go there. In March 1938, Poland had passed a law depriving Polish citizens who had lived continuously abroad for more than five years of their citizenship: therefore effectively becoming a stateless person he continued to live in Paris illegally. He was active in Jewish émigré circles and was a member of the Bundist youth movement Tsukunft.

Exile to assassin

Meanwhile, the position of the Grynszpan family in Hanover was becoming increasingly untenable. Sendel's business was declining because of Nazism, and Berta and Mordecai both lost their jobs. In August 1938 the German authorities announced that all residence permits for foreigners were being cancelled and would have to be renewed: it was obvious that Jews would not be given new permits. Poland, however, said that it would not accept Jews of Polish origin, whom it no longer considered to be Polish citizens, after the end of October. On 26 October, to beat this deadline, the Gestapo was ordered to arrest and deport immediately all Polish Jews in Germany.

The Grynszpans were among the estimated 12,000 Polish Jews arrested, stripped of their property and herded aboard trains headed for Poland. At the trial of Adolf Eichmann, Sendel Grynszpan recounted the events of their deportation, on the night of 27 October 1938: "Then

they took us in police trucks, in prisoners' lorries, about 20 men in each truck, and they took us to the railway station. The streets were full of people shouting: 'Juden raus! Aus nach Palästina!' " ("Jews get out! Out to Palestine!").⁴ When they got to the border, they were forced to walk two kilometres to the Polish border town of Zbąszyń (Bentschen in German). There, however, Poland refused to admit them, in view of this egregious breach of international law. The Grynszpans and thousands of other Polish-Jewish deportees were left stranded at the border, fed by the Polish Red Cross. It was from Zbąszyn that Berta Grynszpan sent a postcard to Herschel in Paris, telling him what had happened and pleading with him to rescue them and arrange for them to emigrate to America - something totally beyond his powers. [They then went living \(and hiding\) on Krakowska street in Radomsko.](#)

Berta's postcard was dated 31 October, and reached Herschel on Thursday 3 November. The next day was the Jewish Sabbath, and then came the weekend. On the evening of Sunday 6 November, he asked his uncle Abraham to give him money that he could send to his family, but Abraham said that he had little to spare, and that he was incurring both financial cost and legal risks by harbouring Herschel, an illegal and unemployed youth. There was a furious scene, and Herschel walked out of his uncle's house, with about 300 francs to his name. He spent the night in a cheap hotel.

On the morning of 7 November, Grynszpan wrote a farewell postcard to his parents, which he put in his pocket. He then went to a gunshop in the Rue du Faubourg St Martin, where he bought a 6.35mm revolver and a box of 25 bullets, for 235 francs. He then caught the metro to the Solférino station, and walked to the German Embassy at 78 Rue de Lille. At 9:45am at the Embassy reception desk, Grynszpan said that he was a German resident and that he wanted to see an Embassy official - he did not ask for anyone by name (an important point in the light of later events). The clerk on duty asked Ernst vom Rath, the more junior of the two Embassy officials available, to see him. When Grynszpan entered vom Rath's office, he pulled out his gun and shot vom Rath five times in the abdomen. According to the French police account, he shouted "You're a filthy *boche*" and said he was acting in the name of 12,000 persecuted Jews.

Grynszpan made no attempt to resist or escape, and identified himself correctly to the French police. He freely confessed to shooting vom Rath (who was in critical condition in a hospital), and again said that his motive for doing so was to avenge the persecuted German Jews. In his pocket was the postcard to his parents. It said:

"With God's help.

My dear parents, I could not do otherwise, may God forgive me, the heart bleeds when I hear of your tragedy and that of the 12,000 Jews. I must protest so that the whole world hears my protest, and that I will do. Forgive me. Hermann [*his German name*]"

Consequences



Looted Jewish shops on the morning after *Kristallnacht*

Despite the best attentions of French and German doctors, including Adolf Hitler's personal physician Karl Brandt, Ernst vom Rath died on 9 November. On 17 November, he was given a state funeral in Düsseldorf, which was attended by Hitler and Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop with considerable publicity. In his funeral oration, Ribbentrop described the shooting as an attack by the Jews on the German people: "We understand the challenge, and we accept it", he said. By then, however, vom Rath's assassination had already had the most dire consequences for the people Grynspan had apparently been trying to help—the German Jews.

The day of Rath's death was the fifteenth anniversary of the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, the "*Tag der Bewegung*" (Day of the Movement): the greatest day of the Nazi calendar. That evening Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, after consulting with Hitler, made an inflammatory speech at the Bürgerbräukeller beer hall in Munich where the Putsch had been organised, in front of a crowd of senior veteran Nazis from all over Germany. It would not be surprising, he said, if the German people were so outraged by the assassination of a German diplomat by a Jew that they took the law into their own hands and attacked Jewish businesses, community centres and synagogues. Such "spontaneous outbursts", he said, should not be openly organised by the Nazi Party or the SA, but neither should they be opposed or prevented.

Within hours, Nazi militants launched a massive pogrom against Jewish communities throughout Germany, known to history as *Kristallnacht* ("Night of Broken Glass"), which lasted all night and into the next day. Over 90 people were killed, more than 30,000 Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps (where over a thousand died of mistreatment before

the remainder were released some months later), and thousands of Jewish shops, homes and offices and more than 200 synagogues smashed up or burned. More than 1 billion Reichsmarks' damage to property was reported - and Jews were unable to claim insurance for property losses. These events shocked and horrified world opinion and helped bring to an end the climate of support for appeasement of Hitler in Britain, France and the United States. They also caused a new wave of Jewish emigration from Germany.

Grynszpan was distraught that his action had triggered such a violent assault on the German Jews (although his own family, having already been deported to the Polish border, were safe from this particular manifestation of Nazi anti-Semitism but was now looked after as parents of the young murder). The assassination of vom Rath was merely a pretext for the launch of the pogrom. The Nazi government had been planning a new level of violence against the Jews for some time and were waiting for an appropriate pretext. Eric Johnson notes that in the year preceding *Kristallnacht* the Nazis "had entered a new radical phase in anti-Semitic activity". A Jewish leader in Palestine wrote in February 1938 based on "a very reliable private source – one which can be traced back to the highest echelons of the SS leadership, that there is an intention to carry out a genuine and dramatic pogrom in Germany on a large scale in the near future."

(see [Wikipedia Herschel Grynszpan](#) for more information).