

**We go on living- the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the Jewish community of Gąbin**  
[From Nasz Gąbin website]

*"We go on living. The snow begins to fall.  
We meet white trees, yes, we see them one and all.  
Eyes dark, we drink the dusk; and without words  
we speak-- to little gray birds."*

The words of Rejzel Żychlińska - a native of Gąbin - became the title and motto of an extraordinary ceremony that took place in Gąbin on June 9, 2021, on the initiative of the Gombin Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society (Gombin Society) and the Mayor of the Town and Municipality of Gąbin. It was the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Jewish community of Gąbin. Thanks to cyber communication, descendants of Gąbin's Jews from all over the world could see the event and participate in this historical moment with great emotion.

The history of Jews in Gąbin dates back to the 15th century. Before the Second World War Gąbin was a multicultural town, and Jews were an important part of it. The German occupation, which began in September 1939, put an end to this reality - the Jewish Synagogue was burned down and many Gąbin Jews died in Auschwitz, Treblinka and Chełmno. Only a handful of Jews survived the Holocaust.

This is why the unveiling of the Gąbin Jewish Community Memorial Plaque, which attracted many guests, was so important: Among the guests were Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, Marlena Mazurska, Head of the Delegation in Płock of the Marshall Office, Iwona Sierocka, Deputy Mayor of Płock County, Town and Municipality Council Members, Olga Kaczmarek, Director of the Forum for Dialogue Foundation, Jadwiga Milewska, Director of the Stanisław Staszic School Complex in Gąbin, Elżbieta Błaszczyk and Janusz Pielaciński, Deputy Directors. The President of the Gąbin Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society, Bernard Guyer (recording), and the Mayor of Gąbin Krzysztof Jadczyk were also present. All of them stressed the importance of dialogue and mutual understanding as well as multiculturalism in today's world. It can be said that the desire of Rejzel Żychlińska from her poetic diary came true:

*"I want to walk here once more on the grass and weep to the sky and to the wind that howls in my face"*

When the Mayor of Gąbin Krzysztof Jadczyk, Rabbi Schudrich and the designer of the plaque Wojciech Wasilewski started the ceremonial act of uncovering the plaque, the people gathered were very moved. A concert given by teachers from the Music School in Gąbin and their students enriched this historical moment. A remarkable gesture of reconciliation was the laying of symbolic white and red roses by young people from the Stanisław Staszic School Complex in

Gąbin, as well as a poetic and musical performance by them, which included Rejzel Żychlinska's poems and traditional Jewish songs. The final song, *"Hevenu Shalom Alehem/And peace be with us,"* made both the young people and the audience very emotional, mixed with applause, tears and beautiful words: *"Let's sing peace to the world."* The performing youth delighted everyone with their maturity and beauty, and above all with their professionalism. At the end, everyone could taste hummus prepared by students of Stanislaw Staszic School Complex, kugel and challah prepared by Association 'Together We Can Do More' and cakes prepared by the owner of Bistro Folk. Volunteers from the Eight Club of the Stanislaw Staszic School Complex in Gąbin took care of everyone. The event was hosted by Karen Forth - a friend of the Gombin Society.

Memories and life, past and present, were united on this extraordinary day in the Memory Board of the Jewish Community of Gąbin, which stands in the center of the city in the so-called park with a fountain.

It is worth stopping for a moment to discover interesting facts about the Jewish community of Gąbin, to reflect on the importance of tolerance and mutual understanding, and above all, the memory of those who are no longer with us: Let us not forget the greeting: *"May our lives be joyful, may the greeting "peace" unite us"*.