

Thank you for inviting us to commemorate 75 years since the extermination of the Jews of Olkusz. We regret that we are not able to participate in this important event.

Both of our parents were born and lived in the town of Olkusz. We carry with us their memories - both the good ones and the bad ones.

As part of the Olkusz Jewish community, our parents dreamed of a better future and a peaceful life. Our grandfather, Jacob Grosman, was an artist, whose work adorned many churches. He was also a violinist and delighted the people of his community with his music.

Our parents shared stories about their childhood and life experiences. The people and scenery in Olkusz was beloved above all else.

Their daily lives and dreams, however, were tragically disrupted with the German occupation. The extended family - uncles, grandparents and siblings were murdered for the sole reason that they were of a Jewish heritage.

Our mothers were spared death, only to be forced into hard labor. After the war, they were reunited with each other, only to realize that their the rest of their family had perished. Since then, they were inseparable. They each went on to have families - celebrating life in the shadow of loss and pain.

When we visited Olkusz, we were pleased to meet Mr. Ireneusz Cieslik, a dear man, whose aim is to explore and document the Olkusz Jewish history. We and our families will cherish and appreciate his work; the writing of books and documenting the history of Jewish life in the city of Olkusz. Thanks to his work, we received so much important information pertaining to our family, helping us understand much more than we ever would have.

Life in the 21st century has ushered in the era of globalization and technological and scientific advancements, but we must never forget the atrocities of the Nazis in World War II. That is why the study and documentation of this history is of utmost importance. We must learn from the past in order to aspire to have a better life for future generations. It's important to be sensitive and tolerant to those that are different than us, those who believe in different things or are different in appearance. As humans, we are more united than we will ever be different.

We would like to express our gratitude to all who participated and took part in organizing this event.

Sincerely,
Leon Taler - son of Fela Grosman
Ilana Gal - daughter of Rena Grosman