

Remembering Staszow

On November 8, 1942, the Nazis deported all 5,000 Jewish inhabitants of Staszow, Poland to the death camps.

Exactly 50 years later, B'nai B'rith member Jack Goldfarb, whose parents fled Europe before the war, returned to take part in ceremonies marking the dedication of Staszow's first Holocaust monument. Hundreds of people from the southern Polish town took part in an event Krakow Television termed "a pioneer development in improving Polish-Jewish relations."

The monument, a 25-foot-high concrete structure, was a project conceived and partially funded



Jack Goldfarb recites Kaddish at the Holocaust memorial in Staszow, Poland.

by Goldfarb himself. A travel writer, he had visited his parents' birthplace on many previous occasions, where he cared for local Christian rescuers and lec-

tured on the history of the Holocaust. During this visit, Goldfarb marked the "Day of Remembrance" by donating hundreds of textbooks on the history of Staszow's Jewish community, which had existed for 400 years before it was destroyed.

Goldfarb said the town's 18,000 citizens, who have been friendly and receptive to Jewish history ever since he began visiting, seemed to be particularly moved by their new landmark. Even before the monument's dedication, people had lain flowers and lit candles at its base, which is composed of tombstone fragments from the town's long-ago desecrated Jewish cemetery. "[The monument] was created because it had to be done," said Goldfarb.



A Better World

In a city shot through with murder, kidnapping and extortion, B'nai B'rith refuses to let hope die. In Medellín, Colombia, where narco-terrorism has hit the Jewish community hard, District 23 recently established a lodge with 36 members. The group hopes to serve the community, which now numbers only 120 families, by strengthening Jewish identity, providing services, and fighting for human rights. Says District President Ramy Attie: "We are proud to have installed Medellín's first lodge, even though many thought it could not be done. No matter how negative a situation may be, B'nai B'rith is always there working to build a better world."

A Symbol of Survival

One year after a terrorist bomb completely destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, B'nai B'rith District 26 gathered with the rest of the Argentine Jewish community to commemorate the solemn occasion.

In a March 17 ceremony conducted at the former embassy site and broadcast nationwide on television and radio, President Carlos Saul Menem told listeners that officials would continue to investigate the bombing until those responsible were apprehended. The blast killed 30 people, including B'nai B'rith member Beatriz Berenstein de Supanichky, and injured 250 others.

President Menem also

took part in the unveiling of a monument at the site, a replica of a menorah B'nai B'rith Argentina donated to the embassy more than 40 years ago in honor of the building's dedication. The original, which miraculously survived the blast undamaged, once graced the embassy's entryway and is now housed in its temporary headquarters. Created by a prominent

Jewish artist, it was designed to resemble the menorah depicted on Rome's Arch of Titus, which was erected to celebrate the Roman destruction of the Second Temple.

"The survival of this menorah is a metaphor for the survival of the Jewish people in the face of adversity," said District President Hector Szulik: "Both cannot be destroyed."



The menorah, soon after a bomb blast destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Argentina last year.