

NINA TALBOT once again in Dynów
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(English translation)

Before the Jewish population began to be murdered in the gas chambers from 1942, after the Wannsee conference, before their bodies began to burn in the crematoria, the crimes were carried out by the Einsatzgruppen death squads.

This was the case in 1941 in Babi Yar near Kiev, where more than 30,000 children, women, and men were killed in a bestial manner.

Zurawiec and Plebańskie Pole are " Dynów's Babi Yar," where on the holiday of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) on September 14, 1939, approximately 200 Jewish inhabitants— Dynów residents were murdered. On the second day of the holiday this tragedy came to an end in the Dynów synagogue.

The Germans herded the Jewish residents of Dynów and their guests from the neighboring town of Brzozów, and other nearby towns. About 200 of our congregants were burned alive in the synagogue.

The final stage of the tragedy took place on September 28, on the holy day of Sukkot (celebrated to commemorate the return of the Jews from Egyptian captivity). At that time, the remaining surviving Jewish residents of Dynów, mostly women, the elderly, and children, were chased to the San River, to the playing of the orchestra.

There, representatives of other Jewish families including the Halpern and Ringler families, were ordered to go to the Soviet side. The Jews of Dynów ceased to exist...

The event was attended by the Rev. Dr. Waclaw Wierzbieniec, Prof. of the University of Rzeszow, Mr. Adam Kozak, on behalf of the Rzeszów starost, the director of the Diocesan Museum in Rzeszów, Rev. Dr. Pawel Batory, Yehoshua Ellis, a rabbi from Warsaw and young people, students of the high school, were captivated by Nina Talbot, a painter from New York, and her series of paintings Dynów residents.

The event was covered by Polish Radio and TVP Rzeszów, and the artist told her story about our town, and her beloved grandmother Bela Neger, and in had in her heart the fact that 38 members of her family perished in the pogroms.

This year Nina Talbot was an honorary guest at the 15th International Holocaust Remembrance Day celebrations in Podkarpacie. She visited Dynów for the umpteenth time, this time accompanied by her representatives.

The meeting was hosted by Mrs. Elżbieta Klaczak-Lach, director of the Dynów High School, Mr. Zygmunt Frańczak, mayor of Dynów, and Dr. Andrzej Stankiewicz, president of the Dynów Friends Society.

The beautiful artistic part of the meeting, prepared by history teacher Maciej Jurasinski, was introduced into the atmosphere of the meeting by young people gathered around the Center for Education of Youth and Culture (CEM), operating at the High School in Dynów. In the introductory speech Maciej Jurasinski recalled Nina Talbot's more recent encounters with the city and her past achievements. The aforementioned guests also spoke.

The highlight of the program, however, was the presentation and promotion of the book written by Nina Talbot's new book, "The Past is the Present." The author spoke about her work on the book in a very moving and emotional way. She stated that today—during the ongoing war in Ukraine, when one of the Russian bombs fell on Babi Yar— the title and three of her books on this theme, have a particularly painful effect and should be a warning to present and future generations!

She also expressed gratitude to her Dynów friends who helped her in her research work, which served as the basis for painting the series "Faces of Dynów," now in the possession of the CEM of Three Cultures at the Dynów High School.

After the meeting was over, food and drinks were waiting for the participants. They were also able to see an exhibition of Nina Talbot's paintings and buy her books. A sad but necessary part of the ceremony was a joint prayer at the Jewish cemetery in Karolówka, where the bodies of the murdered were brought in 1940 (led by Yehoshua Ellis and Rev. Dr. Pawel Batory), and a visit to the Center for the History of Polish Jews in Dynów.

All speeches and discussions, in a very professional manner, were translated by Agnieszka Jurasinski, as a volunteer.

Finally, it should be recalled that the year 2023 is, so to speak, linked to Dynów by the activity of painter Nina Talbot, as she made her first trip to Dynów in 2013....

It is therefore worth taking this opportunity to highlight her achievements, which have both a social-historical, cultural, and educational dimension: she painted the aforementioned series of paintings "Faces of Dynów" during her research work when she collected valuable archival material.

The paintings now enrich the history lessons at Dynów High School; she contributed to the creation of the Center for Youth Education, which is a reminder of the co-existence of Polish, Jewish and Ukrainian cultures in Dynów at one time; she used her own funds to renovate the cemetery on Karolówka and founded a memorial plaque, as well as plaques with the names of murdered members of her family, which were placed on the wall of Dynów's ohel, and finally published a book, "The Past is the Present," documenting her meetings with Dynów.

The Society of Friends of Dynów and its journal "Dynowinka" supported the artist's activity from the very beginning, pay their respects to her, and at the same time thank her for everything she has done and is doing for the memory of the difficult, but very colorful and important Polish-Jewish past of Dynów...

-Maciej Jurasinski
photos: Daniel Gasecki
THANK YOU