

The Czech Torah Network - Emergency Update

August 27, 2002

We are all aware of the very distressing news coming from the Czech Republic, and the rest of Europe. In addition to taking many lives, the damaging flood waters have also had a significant impact on the very Jewish legacy of this ancient land that we all work so hard to protect, and perpetuate.

The Czech Torah Network wants to help support the modern Jewish community in the Czech Republic however we can. The flood waters damaged untold numbers of historically significant documents and artifacts, and the extent of damage to buildings in the Prague Jewish Quarter, and Jewish buildings throughout The Czech Republic, is a tragedy of tremendous proportions. Unless aggressive action is taken immediately to repair what has been damaged, there is grave danger that future repairs will be impossible.

One of the most humbling places to visit in all of The Czech Republic is the Pinkas Synagogue, where name of every Czech Jew who died in the Holocaust has been painstakingly handwritten on the walls of this 16th century building, The building is always filled with people, and yet it is always silent. The names and dates deafen our senses as we try to comprehend and understand the unspeakable losses suffered by the Jewish people.

Floodwaters rose in the Pinkas Synagogue approximately 15 meters. These handwritten names, often the only memorial to people senselessly murdered during the Holocaust, were in many cases washed away during the flood. Walls were damaged and floorboards warped beyond repair. The Pinkas Synagogue will be fixed to look as it did before...but when? How? It is time for the Czech Torah Network, and all who support our actions, to take the lead in helping The Czech Republic repair what was damaged.

→ How to Give....

Through her own organization, The Czech Heritage Action Initiative (www.chaiworks.org), CTN board member Lisa Feder has been working around the clock to provide ways for people to donate much needed funds to the relief effort. Through a unique partnership with the Project Judaica Foundation (www.judaica.org), a 501(c) 3 organization, Lisa has established a means by which tax deductible donations can be made to help with the flood relief efforts.

Your tax deductible donations can be sent by mailing a check to:

Project Judaica, Inc.
c/o Czech Heritage Action Initiative
P.O. Box 516
Deerfield, IL 60015

If you prefer to work on-line, please go to:

<https://host17.apollohosting.com/judaica/flood/Donate.html>

Here, you can make a secure, on-line donation. In the box labelled "Any Additional Information" please indicate "CHAI/CTN", so they know where the donation came from. Please indicate the same in the memo area of your check.

Together, we can make a significant statement about our level of concern, and the importance of these sites, documents, and artifacts.

Please contact us with any questions, and thank you for supporting this important effort.

Sincerely,

Larry Glickman
Executive Director