

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

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**Organization Legal Name:** FRIENDS OF JEWISH RENEWAL IN POLAND

**IRS Tax ID #:** 20-0107091

**Other name or DBA:** C/O IRV HEPNER

**Address:** 1999 AVENUE OF THE STARS, SUITE 1700

**City:** LOS ANGELES                      **State:** CA      **Zip:** 90067

**Phone #:** 310-788-1000

**Web:** <http://jewishrenewalinpoland.org>

**Chief Executive Officer:** RABBI HAIM BELIAK

**Chief Executive Phone:** 310-286-9991

**Email:** [haimbeliak@gmail.com](mailto:haimbeliak@gmail.com)

**Primary Grant Contact:** BARRY ROSENBLATT, PH.D      **Title:** STRATEGIC CONSULTANT

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**Total Operating Expenses:** \$40,000

**For Year Ending/Ended:** 31 DEC 2014

## DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION

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Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland (FJRP), a 501(c)(3) organization, is the applicant. FJRP is the American fund-raising arm for Beit Polska. Beit Polska was registered as a religious entity in 2009 and is the national Polish umbrella organization for Progressive Jewish Communities in Poland. Beit Polska's task is fostering Progressive Jewish communities throughout Poland by supportive activities, facilitating education and regularizing people's Jewish status, training congregational leaders and providing a proper legal framework under Polish law and Jewish practice.

FJRP's allocations are divided into three categories: (1) Beit Polska, which is affiliated with the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) and its European counter-part, the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) and Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland (FJRP). (2) Beit Warszawa (the Beit Polska flagship congregation), which includes the synagogue, a commercial kitchen, social hall, offices, an apartment for guests, and an apartment for the Rabbi. And, (3) other groups affiliated with the goals of Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland.

This document refers to Beit Polska activities in Poland that are supported by the applicant: FJRP.

**The organization’s largest secured funding sources for the current fiscal year, and prior five fiscal years.**

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Contributor	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Cumulative Totals
Severyn Ashkenazy and Related Entities	\$66,700	\$106,800	\$182,839	\$172,193	\$212,420	\$740,952
The Stanley and Joyce Black Foundation	\$15,000	\$15,000		\$25,000	\$43,000	\$98,000
The Katherine Andrews Foundation				\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000
Hitter Family Foundation	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$60,000
Philip and Alyce de Toledo Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$15,000	\$45,000
Sigmunt Rolat	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$15,000			\$135,000
Haim Beliak	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Totals	\$166,700	\$206,800	\$212,839	\$237,193	\$310,420	\$1,133,952

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(Note: The “Ashkenazy and Related” funds above cover facility costs and office staff for Beit Polska flagship congregation, Beit Warszawa, located in Warsaw, and do not cover religious and program costs, such as: rabbi salary, conversion program, youth education, and launch of income-earning projects to build early stages of self-support for Beit Polska congregations).

**Note on self-support within Beit Polska:**

Following end of WWII, Poland was under Soviet communist control until 1989. During this more than 45-year period, Jews in Poland did not own or develop businesses capable of accumulating capital wealth. Typical in American synagogues is the “capital campaign,” whereby civic-minded community members contribute portions of their wealth for betterment of the total community. This wealth does not yet exist within Poland’s contemporary Jewish communities. And throughout Poland—Jewish and non-Jewish, the sense of civic duty has yet to evolve and replace the previous sense of hiding from oppressive authority. Thus, formation and early development of Jewish renewal communities in Poland depends heavily on donor sources from outside Poland.

Since April 2011 Beit Polska has gradually assumed greater financial responsibility for operations of all Progressive Jewish congregational activity in Poland. Currently the salary for

the rabbi (beginning August 2012), part time coordinator (since March 2014), lay cantors (since August 2012), Polish speaking lecturers and translators (since August 2012) as well as most programmatic expenses are supported by the fundraising efforts within Friends of Jewish Renewal; and this is gradually reducing dependency on the long time generous support of the Ashkenazy family.

## **OVERALL SUMMARY**

Friends of Jewish Renewal provides the majority of the funds for maintaining Progressive Jewish centers in Warsaw and Gdansk as well as regular activities in Lublin, Lodz, Poznan, Katowice, Bialystok, Wroclaw (Bratslav), and Trojmiasto (pronounced “troy-miasto”, or “tri-cities”). Friends of Jewish Renewal in Poland is the key American source of funds, leadership, and public relations for the Poland-wide efforts of Beit Polska. The projects described in this section are administered by Beit Polska.

Projects include the following, in priority order:

### **Total Omnibus Target amount \$591,000**

There are a number of potential audiences in Poland and throughout the Polish Diaspora (i.e., people living outside Poland with birth/living experience and/or with family members in or from Poland; this includes Jews, people with ‘mingled roots,’ children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who would benefit from a modern and authentic presentation of Judaism). There is a disturbing lack of information about modern Judaism in the Polish language. There are no authoritative non-Orthodox presentations of Judaism. A key goal of Beit Polska’s diverse programs is to return Progressive Judaism to a public role in Poland. In order to attract Poles who are self-identified Jews or “Jews in the closet” about their Judaism, Judaism must be re-positioned in the consciousness of Poles. The predominate stereotype among Poles that all Jews are “shtetl Jews” does not reflect the story of modern Jews, nor does it attract contemporary interest. Changing perceptions among Poles and young Jews is a key component of all our activities. The most common misperception of a “Jew” among Poles as the orthodox man with beard and black hat is not representative of what the vast majority of Progressive Jews aspire to emulate.

## **Project Summary**

<b>Project #</b>		<b>Cost</b>	
1.0	Step-by-Step	\$25,000	per year
1.1	Adult Bar Mitzvah	\$10,000	per year
1.2	Outreach	\$5,000	per year
2.0	Children's education	\$76,000	per year
3.0	American-Polish-Israel High School Youth Connect	\$140,000	1st year
4.0	Lay Prayer Leaders	\$25,000	per year
5.0	Shabbat & Holiday Observance	\$45,000	per year
6.0	Adopt a Community	\$108,000	per year
7.0	Non-Profit Ventures:		
7.1	Kosher Foundation	\$25,000	per year
7.2	Publications & Media	\$15,000	per year
7.3	Tourist & Genealogical service	\$25,000	per year
7.4	Hosting Groups outside & inside	\$20,000	per year
8.0	Public Relations, Social Media	\$10,000	per year
9.0	Personnel Development	\$50,000	per year
10.0	Jewish Students in Polish Medical Schools	\$12,000	per year
		<b>\$591,000</b>	<b>Total</b>