



January 26, 2017

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki
Director
The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools
3535 Commerce Road
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki:

It is with unreserved humbleness and honor that the Amud Aish Memorial Museum and the Kleinman Holocaust Education Center join you today on the 72nd commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust. As Founder and President of an organization that deals daily with Jewish survivors of Auschwitz and their families, I commend your travails and efforts on this Memorial Day of remembrance.

The remaining survivors today remind us of the sanctity and fragility of life, as it existed alongside hatred, violence and genocide. It is fitting that this commemoration focuses on expressions of life in Auschwitz/Birkenau. The exhibit Forbidden Art beckons us to reflect on the insistent human drive for meaning, by focusing on the experience of the victim.

This is the core and defining mission of the Amud Aish Memorial Museum based in Brooklyn, New York. August institutions, dedicated to explaining the Holocaust and Auschwitz, harbor mountains of historical data on the perpetrator. Yet, 72 years later we still have a scarce understanding of the perished, their human experience in Auschwitz.

Approximately 1.1 Million Jews, 165 thousand Poles, 20,000 Gypsies and over 10,000 Soviet prisoners of war were violently murdered in the constellations of camps which comprised Auschwitz. Who were the victims? What thoughts, philosophies, and faith based tenets helped them survive as long as they did in a deathworld? We will all be better equipped in confronting the dangers of nationalism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism with a memorial imagination that instructs future generations about the humanity of the victim.

We send our warmest greetings and solidarity on this most important and auspicious occasion.

Elly Kleinman
Founder and President
The Amud Aish Memorial Museum
Kleinman Holocaust Education Center