

<http://www.kingston-synagogue.org.uk/index.php/community/ostrava>

Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků
Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis
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Liberation! 30th April 1945.
Ostrava trip and Ostravak Reunion.

April 30th 2015 will be the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Ostrava in 1945. The City of Ostrava is, of course, arranging some appropriate events to mark the occasion and we are thinking about organising a trip to Ostrava at that time. We **guess** that the 3 or 4 day trip will cost approx. £750 per person from London. We will probably use the new direct flights Stansted-Ostrava. If you are interested, please let Monica or David know. If there is sufficient interest, we will go ahead with more detailed planning. If there is not, we will not make further plans.

However, in any event, we are planning our next Re-Union on 27th April 2014. It will probably be in the synagogue, as we are not sure if we will be able to be accommodated at the Embassy. Please let Monica or David know if, in principle,

you would hope to attend. The cost will be approx. £7.50/head and all donations will be gratefully received.

***Judaica Bohemiae* article**

The collaboration between the Ostrava Group in Kingston, our worldwide network of Ostravaks and the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP) continues to flourish. The latest fruit is an article, written by Michal Frankl (Deputy Director, JMP) and David, which will appear in the July edition of *Judaica Bohemiae*. A preprint of the article is attached as an Appendix to this Newsletter.

Ostrava Film

Victoria Bursa sent a link to a film about Ostrava: <http://vimeo.com/14855627> and also a link to an interesting slide presentation: "Ostrava, Yesterday and Today", a copy can be seen on our website.

New Prague Shoah Memorial



Until the end of World War II, Prague's cultural life was built on the interaction of three distinct groups. This interaction turned a small town into a European cultural capital. With the murder of nearly 90% of the city's Jewish population and the expulsion of Prague's German community, this unique cultural mix has been lost forever.

But we should not forget. Memory is an important legacy for this city and this country, as the Czech Republic and Europe as a whole struggle in their uneasy search for identity. This is a time when many feel a sense of rootlessness. Traditional spiritual values and visions are being lost.



In Prague there is a very ordinary street that was the place where Jews bid their final farewell to their city before being made to join the transports. At one end of the street is the place where they were assembled and registered. At the other end is the railway station from where they were sent into the unknown. Here 46,000 people lost their names and became numbers.

Negotiations are underway to turn this unused station building into a Holocaust Memorial – with educational programmes and both temporary and permanent exhibitions, a place for meeting, and also for concerts and theatre.

For this to work, the non-profit organization "Památník šoa Praha" (Prague Holocaust Memorial) feels that it is important for the initial presentation to include a worthy exhibition event that will attract broad public interest. The short-term exhibition will mark the start of a series of events. Its target groups are visitors of all generations, school groups, and survivors and their families.

The first projects will take place before the building is renovated. It is important for the temporary exhibitions to focus on what actually took place here. The final journey of thousands of people, as their identity was reduced to a mere number, began at a building in Veletržní Street that stood right next to the Veletržní Palace, which now houses the National Gallery's collection of modern art. They were then made to walk the short distance through the busy streets of this part of Prague down to Bubny station. Retracing their steps is an essential element in the commemoration.

Parts of the exhibition will be displayed along the busy street, thus becoming an impossible-to-ignore part of the city and engaging the public with the project. They will also guide visitors' steps towards the old railway station just a few hundred yards away.

Kaddish:

Památník šoa Praha approached the sculptor Aleš Veselý, a leading figure of Czech post-war sculpture. Veselý's work and life story are tied to the subject and the place, and he suggested lending his best-known work, Kaddish.



The sculpture will form the centrepiece and provide the working title of the exhibition. It will be exhibited in front of Bubny station.

Kaddish is a nearly ten-metre tall steel monument that calls attention to itself on its own. It inspires meditation and evokes respect. Visitors will be guided to it via large-format panels marking the route of the former transports, starting near today's Park Hotel, just across from the National Gallery building. This authentic site will mark the beginning of the route, with the texts on the panels explaining the site's wartime past and the project's aim.

This is an extract from the website: <http://www.pspbubny.cz/en/news>. Pepek Salomonovič comments that he, Michal and his mother were all deported from this station. No doubt several of our readers will have similar memories.

Safe Haven in the Philippines in WW11

Mirjam Halpern has sent a link to a report about a little known story of how the Philippines offered a safe haven to Jews in the War:

<http://www.asianweek.com/2013/05/02/telltale-signs-philippines-a-jewish-refugee-from-the-holocaust/>

Do you know of anyone who was involved?

News of Ostravaks

George Roden

George celebrated his 90th birthday on 8th June 2013. Happy Birthday, George!

George also knew of Stepan Körner (see Newsletter #29) and Ann Altman contacted George to talk about the past. She wrote:

Mr. Roden did, however, know the Eisner family, and had clear memories of Director Eisner, his son Otto and his daughter Hede. The two families lived around the corner from one another. He knew about Hede's marriage (to another Otto, a diplomat) and that she went to live in Israel. I told him how the connection between the Eisners and myself lives on.

Libuše Salomonovičová

Libuše has been quite ill with an infection caused by gall-stones and Radan has spent a few days with his parents in Ostrava. Typically, Libuše did not take this as an occasion to rest but as an opportunity to do and report even more research! We wish her a very speedy and complete recovery and look forward to even more remarkable genealogical findings.

In April she wrote an article about the Ostrava network for the Jewish monthly newspaper in Brno. It will help you practice your Czech!

<http://www.zob.cz/?q=node/2287>

Drinks (NOT) on Jomi Beck

Jomi Beck's cousin is planning to visit Bilovec to research the family history and Jomi asked the indefatigable Salomonovič family for some help. This caused them to find an article from April 2012 in a Bilovec magazine. Victoria Bursa kindly translated and summarised it:

"It is about a discovery of 905 bottles of quality bitter liqueur discovered in the underground passage leading from the castle to the river, constructed in the 30 year war. The bottles were hidden under ground by a liqueur maker called Markus before the Nazis invaded, he then disappeared in the war. There are no known heirs. The beverage is delicious and valuable, about 110 000 crowns, and, already some locals tried to dig for it.

Jomi is the grandson of the Markus family and, as you might imagine, this produced quite a lot of excitement. However, it was an April Fool joke, in very bad taste. So

no 70 year old schnapps but the Mayor of Bilovec has promised to help Jomi's cousin with the research, so some good might come out of it.

Amos Paran and Spitzer Jam

Amos recently got in touch with us (referred by Renate Whurr whom he met at a cocktail party!). He wrote:

My great-grandfather, Joseph Spitzer, moved to Ostrava in the early 1890s, and the family lived there until 1938. He himself died in 1936; he had a very large jam and preserves factory in southern Moravia, in Miroslav (then Misslitz). I have various photographs and some documents and am in the process of sorting out what I have.

I was very excited to see that you have a book written by Georg Wolf Löwy, whom I met a few times when I was a child, and whose mother (whom I knew extremely well when she lived in Israel) was a good friend of my family, so am really looking forward to seeing the book.



We have been able to put Amos in touch with George Löwy, to their mutual delight. We also found that Tom Kolisch's (see also Newsletter #29) grandfather, David Morgenstern, was actually employed as "Prokurist" in the Spitzer Jam factory and David (Lawson) had the pleasure of meeting Amos and Tom in Surbiton recently.



Amos Paran and Tom Kolisch

Josef Spitzer, (1852-1936) who was the owner of Jos. Spitzer, a jam and preserves factory in Miroslav (Misslitz), in South Moravia. They moved from Misslitz to Ostrava sometime in the late 1880's or early 1890s and lived on Bahnhofstraße 48; I assume this had a

different name post 1918, but don't know what the name changed to. He died in February 1936 and is probably buried in Ostrava.

His wife, Flora Spitzer, née Pollenz. Born 1864, I think, or thereabouts. She emigrated to Palestine in 1938 or 1939 and died in 1940, and is buried in the Nachalat Yitchak cemetery (Givatayim/Tel Aviv border).

They had six children: Felix, Ida, Ilka, Klara, Therese (Resi), Gisela (Gisi). Of these, only Resi and Gisi were born after the family moved to Ostrava.

The factory in Misslitz was quite big. As you will see, the offices of the company were in Ostrava. Felix Spitzer was the general manager of the company until 1939. In the late 1930's the family tried to purchase the Assis company in Palestine. To the best of my knowledge they found out at a very late stage that there had been some major embezzlement at the factory and they did not have the funds for the purchase. I don't think they ever managed to sell the factory; as far as I know, Misslitz, between Znaim and Brno, was in the area ceded to Germany in the Munich Agreement. Felix Spitzer stayed in Ostrava as long as he could, and escaped in March 1939; succeeded in getting to the UK and then to Palestine. The factory was bombed to smithereens on May 8th 1945.

Some additional details:

- Felix: born 1884 (?) - died 1942 (?) in Tel Aviv
- Ida: married in Budapest; died late 1930s. Had two daughters: Lili and Marianne. (Marianne's son and his children are living in Hungary)
- Klara: Married in Budapest; died 1970s. (Descendants living in Hungary)
- Ilka: born 1887, married in Budapest, immigrated to Palestine in 1947, died 1974. Her son Gyula Berthold Frank (Yoel Paran) was my father. I know he spent many summers as a child in Ostrava in the 1920s and early 1930s.
- Resi: Married in Linz; immigrated to Palestine in 1938-39.
- Gisi: Married in Vienna; returned to Ostrava after the Anschluss; left for London after March 1939. Had two children, Peter and Franz Grünwald, who died in the Holocaust.

There were various other members of the family who may have lived in Ostrava for a period. One of them was Heinrich (Heini) Zador, who I think was involved in the business. Much of what I know about the family in the 1930s comes from his first, unpublished novel. He was the husband of Ida Spitzer's eldest daughter, Lili, and after immigrating to Palestine in 1938-39 he did become a published author in German. I suspect he may have lived in Ostrava for some time.

Another family who may have lived in Ostrava is the Edelstein family, who were connected to the Spitzers by marriage. They were Dr. Fred Edelstein, his wife Gre (presumably Grete) and their son Hans.

Do you know anything about the family? If so, please let Monica or David know and we will pass on the information to Amos.

Arnošt Frischer

Dr Jan Lanicek, a Czech at the University of New South Wales in Australia was introduced to us by Michal Frankl of the JMP. Jan is researching the life of Arnošt Frischer. Jan wrote:

I am working on a biography of Arnost (Ernest) Frischer. He was born in Bohemia, but spent the whole interwar period in Moravska Ostrava, owning a building company, but also representing the Jews in the City council. In 1939, he was imprisoned by the Gestapo, but was later released and allowed to emigrate to Palestine. In 1941, he was appointed as the only Jewish (in his own perception) member of the Czechoslovak State Council in London - a quasi parliament. After the war he moved back to Czechoslovakia, but spent most of the time in Prague and not in Ostrava.

I would be curious to know, if members of your community, those who lived in Ostrava, have any recollections of Frischer, or of other individuals, who were in contact with Frischer, namely:

Hermina (Mitzi) Frischerova (Frischer's wife):

his three children: Hanus (Jaakov) Frischer; Lisa (Liese) Frischerova; Bedriska (Fritzi) Frischerova;

His second wife: Lilly Skutecka (Skutecky). It seems that Lilly Frischer (Skutecky) later in her life used the name Frisher (without C).

They all lived in Ostrava between the wars.

Frischer died in 1954 in London. His second wife Lilly Frischer (born Skutecky) was born in 1907 and lived with him in London after the war. Her daughter Hannah, married Pinkus, still lives in London- to my best knowledge.

Frischer's son Hanus, later Jaakov died in Jerusalem in 2006.

Frischer's daughter Liese - Liza married in London, but I have no information about her fate after the war. She was born in 1918.

His second daughter Bedriska or Fritzi - allegedly married Page, lived allegedly in South Africa, she was born in 1924.

Frischer's first wife Hermina or Herma, born Rufeisen, died in Jerusalem in 1949, I think.

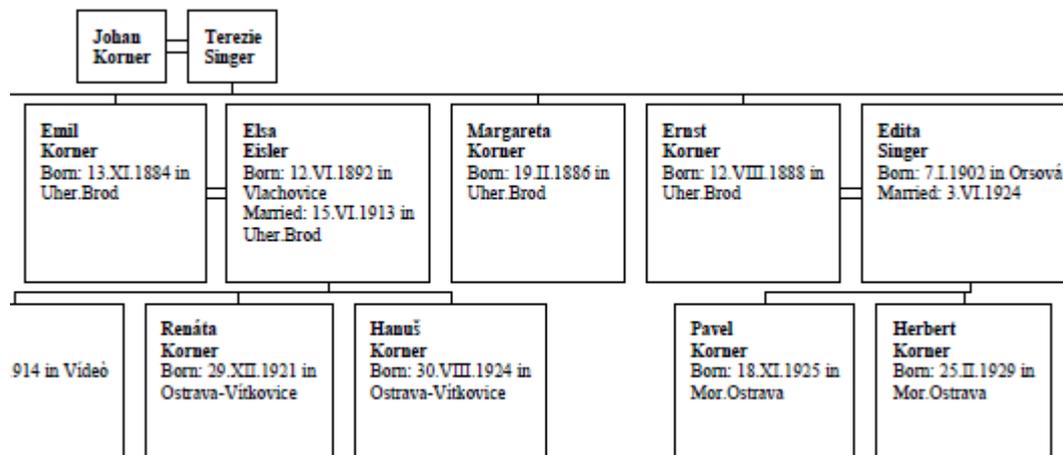
I would really appreciate your help.

If you have any information, please pass it on to Monica or David and we will send it to Jan.

Paul Körner

Not the same family as Stepan Körner! Libuše is researching the family and she writes (from her sick-bed, via Radan):

In Australia lived Paul Körner (1925 - 2012), born in Moravska Ostrava, distinguished scientist in medicine. His father Ernst was famous architect in Ostrava.



Do you have any information about the family, especially the family in Australia? If so, please tell Monica or David.

Frantisek Steiner

Matthew Stevens writes from Australia:

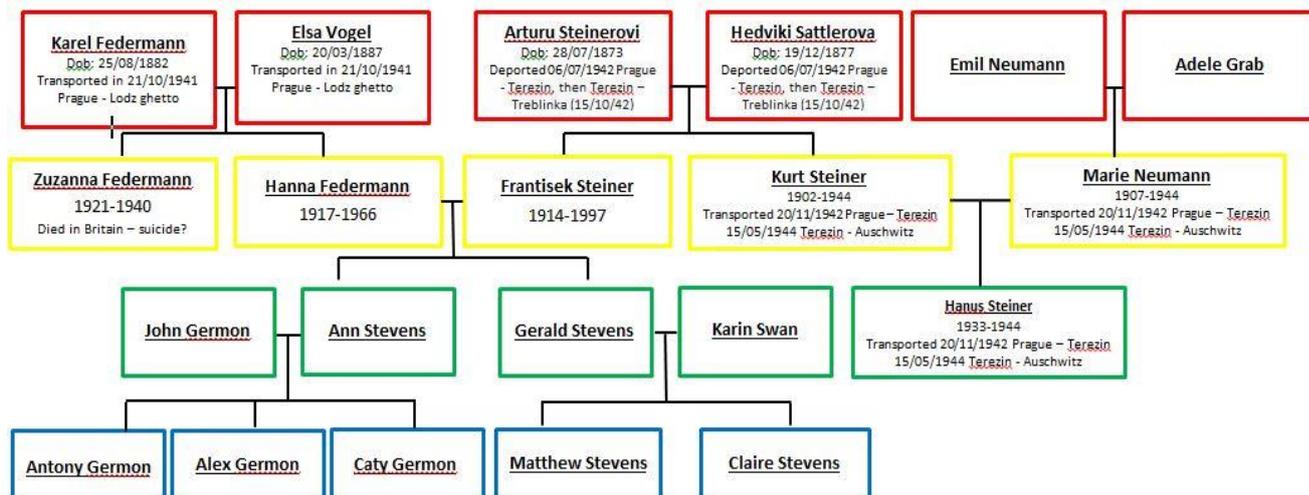
I was given this e-mail address of the Kingston Synagogue in London as it apparently has a special Ostrava - interest section.

I am researching the Czech family history of my Grandfather, Frantisek STEINER, who was born in 1914 and lived in Mor. Ostrava before WWII.

He fled from Czechoslovakia to the UK and joined the British Army during the war, and left the rest of his family behind. It is believed his family perished in the holocaust. His parents' names were Artur Steiner and Hedvika Steinerov. He also married a Hanna FEDERMANN, with parents Dr Karel Federmann and Elsa Federmannova. He had a brother named Kurt Steiner, who was married to a Marie Steinerova and they had a son, Hanus Steiner. It is believed all except Frantisek and Hanna perished in the holocaust. Frantisek later left the UK and migrated to Australia with Hanna to start a family.

It is believed the family also owned a department store in Ostrava, but I do not know much more about this.

I am interested if anyone knows any information about them, or can be of assistance in finding more information. Any help would be greatly appreciated



Please let David or Monica know if you have any information.

David Kernek (Kohn)

A few weeks ago, David gave a talk about Ostrava (Steel and Schnapps, sausages and Soldiers, Scrolls and Survival - the Story of Ostrava) to the Association of Jewish Refugees in Bristol and met David Kernek. He wrote:

Many thanks for your note, and the attached newsletter, which I'll read with great interest.

I will certainly go through the family papers I have and send copies of what I think might be useful. This will take a little time, as they're in what can best be described as a jumble. Periodic attempts to put them into some sort of workable order have failed. I will try again. Meanwhile, I've attached - for what they're worth, which might be very little - photographs of my grandfather (Emil Kohn, later Kernek) and his brother, Theodore Kohn. The latter was taken during WW1, in Montenegro I think, when Theodore served in the Austria-Hungary army, as did my grandfather.



Theodore Kohn



Emil Kerner (né Kohn)

George and Edith Löwy

In the last Newsletter, we mentioned George and Edith had published their life stories. Not only was Amos Paran interested but also Michael Gordy was. He wrote:

Thank you for an interesting newsletter. Might you have an email address for Edith Loewy or her husband George? I have extensive records on Straznice, and would be happy to help her trace her family.

We were able to put them in contact, and Michael later wrote:

Thank you, David! I have already received a message from George and Edith, and replied a few minutes ago. It turns out that they live in the town next to mine, barely a 20 minute drive!

Best wishes,
Michael

We have a really powerful network!

Peter Bachrach

Petr Brod sent this link reporting an interview with Peter Bachrach: <http://bretislav-olser.enface.cz/?s=prezili-sest-valek-na-libanon-mam-jen-ty-nejhorsivzpominky>. Jan Bettelheim kindly translated the article into English, and this is an extract:

Bretislav Olser – interview with Petr Bachrach

He is of relatively slight build, but a giant among giants in spirit and character. His father came from Hranice in Moravia, his mother from Opava. He himself was born in the Polish town of Bialsko – Biala. He and his older brother tried to avoid the transport of Jews to the concentration camp at the age of 11 by fleeing to Slovakia. He was caught, but managed to escape and join the partisans. He survived and in 1948 moved to the newly created state of Israel. After 42 years in the land of his forefathers he returned to the Czech republic in 1992 and stayed for ten years. Such is the life in brief of Petr Bachrach who has lived for almost 60 years in Haifa.

At the age of thirteen he became a partisan.

"We lived in Poland until 1939. After the outbreak of war the first concern of the Germans was how to get rid of the Jews. We had the money to be able to escape to the West, but my father was a high ranking officer from the Austro-Hungarian era and he thought that nothing could happen to him. He was among the first Jews to be taken in 1939 from Ostrava to Nisko."

Some 1,200 Ostrava Jews were taken to Nisko, with no more than 50kg of luggage each. Petr's father was killed when fleeing to the east. Petr went in 1990 to Poland searching for his father's grave. Friends gave him a rough plan to help him to look for it, but it was like a detective story. Where fifty years ago there was woodland there were now fields, instead of a brook there was now a road. It was complicated, but in the end he found the last resting place of his father.

"It was a carefully maintained grave with a wooden cross. Originally I wanted to transfer my father's remains to Ostrava, but seeing how well it was cared for I did not even mind the cross."

When Petr's mother learnt about the death of her husband she tried at least to save her sons. She arranged for them to be smuggled into Slovakia where they lived with a friend until 1942 and began preparing for a move to Palestine. Then the hunt for Jews started in Slovakia as well. Even though not required to do so by the Germans, the Slovaks sensed an opportunity to get rid of their Jewish compatriots and on their own initiative started organising deportations with the intention of taking their substantial properties.

"My brother was in the first transport to Maidanek. In the meantime my mother, who had moved to Olomouc, found herself on the transport to Terezin. I never saw her again. I managed to flee from Liptovsky Mikulas all the way to Ruzemberok, but the Slovaks caught me and put me on a transport. I made a hole in the rotten floor of the railway wagon and escaped into the mountains. An old shepherd took pity on me and helped me make contact with the partisans. At the age of thirteen I became one of them."

When his unit joined the Svoboda army towards the end of the war he went with them all the way back home to Ostrava. There, after the liberation, he went to school to catch up on all the learning he had missed. But unfriendly comments from his fellow Czechs were becoming ever more frequent: "Jews go to Palestine!". And so, together with his friend Honza Rosenbaum, he decided to leave.

Petr first married in 1952. His wife gave him a son, Doron. He had great plans for him, but like most young Israelis Doron had to go to the front. He was killed in action on the Lebanese front, somewhere between Beirut and Damascus. Petr Bachrach then got divorced and a little later married for the second time and a second son was born. He became a director general of a rubber goods manufacturers in Israel. He survived his military service. It was however Petr Bachrach who, more than any other in his family, lived with a gun in his hand. He fought in six wars, starting as a private in one of the first three Israeli battalions and finishing as a colonel in the territorial army.

"I experienced the first battles during WWII in the mountains of Slovakia and then I fought as a volunteer in Jerusalem for the independence of Israel in 1948. It was dreadful – new boys arrived in the morning and they were dead before we even got to know them. Eight years later it was the Sinai war when I was a captain. Then came the six day war in 1967, when we took the Golan Heights. By that time I had been re-trained as a tank commander. My fifth war was the Yom Kippur war in 1973. It started on a religious holiday when most of us were in Synagogues. We were treacherously attacked by our Arab neighbours. In spite of that we prevailed once again. My last war was the battle in 1982 when we had to defend ourselves against terrorists attacking us from Lebanon."

Petr's most difficult battles? Probably when they were near the lake of Nazareth to seize the Golan Heights, which were being used by the Syrians to shoot at the Jewish settlements. At first the mine searchers had to walk through the desert mountains, followed by bulldozers to make way for tanks and then the infantry last.

How does he live now? He receives a monthly pension from the Czech republic of Kc1,400 plus Kc550 for his participation in the resistance in WWII. He never lost his Czech

citizenship which, with his Israeli citizenship, makes two.

"I do not know how I would manage without my past businesses and savings. I had a garage with 26 employees in Haifa with a friend, an Arab. We are still friends to this day. However, after the death of my first son Doron in 1983 I lost all will to live and I left the business. My younger son has taken care of me. I was able to represent his firm in the north of the country, selling power belts, hoses and other rubber products."

Epilogue.

The first son of Petr Bachrach was killed during the battles on the Israel – Lebanon front between Beirut and Damascus. Every father in Israel who lost a son in war has the right not to send any younger sons to fight. It is entirely a father's decision. In spite of this his second and third sons requested that their father allow them to fulfil their military duty. And not to some cosy warehouse, but directly to the tanks on the front. Fortunately they survived.

Early in 1990 Petr Bachrach travelled to Switzerland to help a friend rebuild his house. Whilst there he suffered a heart attack. After recovering he decided to return for a time to the Ostrava region where his family had left its roots.

He feared that the hot weather in Israel would not suit his health. So he returned and in his capacity as chairman he began to build up a new profile for the Jewish community in Moravia and Silesia. These days he lives mostly in Haifa, but he is happy to be at home in the two countries. He loves them equally in spite of the fact that his forebears were expelled from both. Even for this reason he deserves his two homelands. After all, he fought for them.

Eva Erben – Film Star

You will remember Eva Erben (wife of Petr Erben, né Eisenberg) whose life story in English was published as "Escape Story: How a young Girl survived the Holocaust". Eva is now a rather unlikely film star. She wrote (with minor editing):

How nice to hear from you and about the presentation of our book -I am so glad.

Last week I had here the Czech TV a team of five men they come to shoot the second part of the film "Posledni cyklista". English. Something like the last bicycle. It is a story about a Jewish couple adopting a baby in the years 1928 not Jewish and all the troubles and tragedies. The finale is to show that in spite of all the bad time there is life.

So I was given the part of the young heroine. Which is now an old lady in Israel with a large family celebrating her 84 birthday with all the children big house in the garden. The actual actress is a Hungarian film student in Prague.

The film producer offered me this in Prague where he saw me on the F Kafka book christening.

But I did not take it seriously. But at the end they came to Israel only because of me. Stayed 4 days. The last scene is done by the sea in the evening with a magnificent sun set.

It was exciting. The film will be ready at the end of the year. The register is a very well known persona grata in the film business. So I am gespannt.

So Did I amaze you?

Love EVA

Löwy Twins



Elen Gräzer recognised the twins in the school photograph in Newsletter #29 as Hanuš and Bedřich (Fritz)*16.5.1910. Bedřich had twin sons, one of whom died young but the other, also Bedřich, is Elen's father. The twins were brothers of Edith Rosenbergová and Elen sent a photo.

David Friedmann

There was a David Friedman Exhibition at the German Consulate NY on June 6:
Painting to Survive - The Work of David Friedman

Peter Brod contacted Miriam Morris. Her father portrayed his aunt Fritta Brod and Petr found her portrait in the book by Detlef Lorenz: *David Friedmann (1893-1980) Ein Berliner Pressezeichner der 1920er Jahre*

Paul Rice (né Pavel Reisz)

Nick Rice, Paul's son, wrote to us that Paul died suddenly from a stroke on the 23rd March. We will all miss his cheery interest in all things to do with Ostrava and we send our sympathy to the family.



Trude Marriott

John Farago wrote:

Trude Marriott was born as Gertrude Kohn on 11 June 1916. Her father Max Kohn and my mother's father Joseph Kohn were brothers, sons of Moritz Kohn who had moved to Leobersdorf near Vienna from Olmutz (now Olomouc in Moravia in the Eastern part of what is now the Czech Republic), but was then part of the Austrian Empire). Trude told me recently - on one of the rare occasions when she would talk about the past - that one of her ancestors had in the 19th century become Bishop Kohn of Olmutz. Trude's mother was a Trebitsch named after her family's place of origin in another part of Moravia.

When Hitler marched triumphantly into Austria in March 1938 to the acclaim of the local population, Jews were no longer subject to mild anti-Semitism, but became outcasts, no longer able to work or to own businesses or go to schools for non-Jews. As is now well recorded, persecution of Jews continued to increase. It was difficult to leave Austria but before the end of 1938 Trude, now 22 was able to obtain a visa to enter the UK as a domestic servant. She did not settle down, moved from job to job and her unhappiness showed.

Trude left her parents behind in Austria. They and her younger sister died in the Holocaust. She was never reconciled to their loss and would never speak about it and dismissed any questions.

During World War II Trude joined the Army and served in the Anti-Aircraft Corps. She lost all hearing in one ear. She was promoted to Sergeant. At the end of the war she worked for a time in the Army of Occupation in Germany and Austria, but again she would never talk about that experience. After leaving the Army she trained as a Domestic Science teacher and worked as a teacher until she retired. In the 1950's she was working in London where she met and married Walter Marriott, but the marriage was never a success and Trude never spoke about it after her divorce. My late mother did what she could for Trude and remained a close friend although they did not meet that often after Trude moved to Southend. From her youth Trude supported the socialists. In Austria the Right Wing was always associated with fascism and anti-Semitism even before Hitler. In England she was a staunch supporter of Labour and the Cooperative Movement. I wonder what she would have thought of sharing the day of her funeral with Margaret Thatcher.

She was a regular member of the Southend and District Reform Synagogue, participating in their activities and outings. Although increasingly dependent on others and confined to a wheelchair, Trude remained fiercely independent. She was extremely knowledgeable about history, geography and the arts and she loved classical music.

It was characteristic of her that a few days before she died I took her to the library where she selected 11 books, fiction, art, travel. When she was taken to hospital the day before she died she took with her a 600 page history of the Plantagenet kings.

Trude loved nature and went hiking as long as her legs would take her. The long cold winter got to her and she was longing for spring to come. It is sad that the sun has only come out on the day we say goodbye to her.

Elsa Frank née Goldberger

Elsa Frank passed away on 24th March. Her son, Ron, writes:

For those of you who had the opportunity to know her, you would have been rewarded by her keen sense of propriety, coupled with an appreciation of fun, music and appropriate dress for every occasion.

Mother was born on the 27th December 1918 the third child of Rosa and Rudolf Goldberger. With her older sister Grete and brother Hans, did her training in Vienna as a milliner, Hans as an electrical tradesman and sister Grete, completing commercial courses. She loved her home town with its history and culture, but like so many ran from the NAZI regime in 1939. The Adler family in Perth, distantly related to my Grandparents, sponsored the Goldberger's and helped them start trading in Perth in that year.

Mother met my father Fred Frank at a dance in the old Princes Hall behind the Brisbane st Synagogue and they married a short time later. With her new name of Frank, she raised two sons, Ron and Bob, as well as running a small manufacturing and later retailing dress boutique business, Vienna Modes, whilst being a good wife to my father, an electrician and industrial advocate.

She became a grandmother of 4, a great-grandmother of 5 and an Aunt to her late brother, Hans' children. She derived great pleasure and immense pride as each of her grandies achieved their successes and she would boast to her chums that her Saul or Howard did this and David did that whilst her granddaughter Caroline was getting her stories published in the papers. Yes, a lucky happy lady who lived life to the hilt.

Her final years after my father passed, were spent happily with her many friends and later her new fellow, Norman. She enjoyed many activities, some simple and some quite complex, a busy life of entertaining, concerts, shows, pottery, bingo and so forth, with our Wednesday evening outings the highlight of her week. She had a loss of blood last week which resulted in a 2nd broken hip when she fell getting out of bed and her slight body did not recover from that, which resulted in her passing peacefully at 5.40 am this morning as she slept.

We send our sympathy to the whole family, Ron & Val. Bob & Jan, grandchildren Saul, Howard, David, Caroline and her great grand-children, Anthony, Emma, Jessica, Leo, Zac and Ron's two Daughters-in-Law Christina and Farrah,

Search for a Lost Twin

Ron Frank has passed on an appeal for help to find a lost twin, not connected at all to Ostrava.

Holocaust survivor, Menachem BODNER, was just four years old when he was liberated in 1945 from Auschwitz concentration camp. Now 72, retired, and living in Israel, Menachem is on a quest to locate his identical twin brother, last seen at Auschwitz, when the two were separated just 2 days before liberation.

In May 1944, Menachem and his identical twin brother were transported to Auschwitz, two months prior to their 4th birthday. Being identical twins, they were selected and became objects of criminal medical experiments.

Luckily, both survived the war, however, became separated. One twin was adopted and given a new name, Menachem BODNER. The other twin was adopted and taken to the

USA. Maybe he too changed his name, maybe even changed his religion---but the only definite link between them is the number tattooed on their arm.

For the next 67 years, Menachem had no knowledge about his family or twin brother--
-knowing only his own Auschwitz tattoo on his arm, which was **A7733**.
Red Cross records that were located, show Menachem's brother was alive two weeks after Auschwitz was liberated, giving him hope that he was still alive and out there to be found and reunited with him. Also, from the Red Cross list, Menachem learned his real name was: GOTTESMAN, Elias.

From the Red Cross records:

A-7733 GOTTESMAN, Elias

A-7734 GOTTESMAN, Jenö

There is also a Facebook page with photos and more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/A7734/499971010060858?sid=0.562905358616262>

If you have any information, please contact Monica or David. **Note Monica's new address**

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Appendix: Judaica Bohemiae article

Unfortunately, the final version of the article was not available in time for this Newsletter. It will be published in the next edition.

Watch this space!