

Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis Our Ostrava Group

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Minister:
Rabbi David Mason

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Let's celebrate!

In collating and writing material for the Newsletter, we tend to concentrate, of course, on history, on those things and people which are lost or were destroyed. As a consequence, we possibly miss the triumphs and joys and the fun of those who survived the horrors. So, for this Newsletter, we will start with some of those joys.

Kurt Karel Smulovic was an officer in the Czechoslovak Army at the time that the Germans invaded. He escaped over the Polish border with his men and ultimately returned as part of the red army to liberate Ostrava. His grand-daughter, Tanya Bintcliffe, and her husband Neil have recently had a beautiful baby daughter – Amy.

Michal and Libuše Salomonovic, who are the source of much of our information and who are great guides to Ostrava, have a new grandson, Samuel. Their son, Radan, (who lives and works in Prague after post-doctoral work in nuclear physics in Oxford and at the Weizmann Institute and who is my main contact) and his wife Katerina, had their first baby a few months ago.



Tanya and Amy



Samuel with Radan and Katerina

Bertie Goldberg sends news of his 60th Wedding Anniversary:

“We- meaning my whole family of children grand children and the gt.grand-children are going to have a Shabbat in Kibbutz Lavi to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. There will be a total of 84 in all . You see what an Ostravak can achieve in 60 years. And all of them are Shomer Shabbat. Proudly, Bertie”

For those of you who like quizzes, here are some (I hope) entertaining questions. What is the connection between Ostrava and:

1. Her Royal Highness the (late) Princess Margaret?
2. The Jewish community of Vevey in Switzerland?
3. The Aeronautics Department of Kingston University?
4. The Battle of Trafalgar?
5. The Talk of the Town night club in Leicester Square, London?

The answers are:

1. Emil Pick (1851-1942) had a leather-goods store in Ostrava. His granddaughter, Eva (born 1926) came to England and became a fashion model. She was photographed by Anthony Armstrong-Jones (Lord Snowdon), the husband of Princess Margaret
2. Siggie Toman (geb. Jachzel) was born in Ostrava and has just retired from over 30 years as head of the Jewish Community in Vevey.
3. Heinz Vogel, who is a keen and very active member of our Ostrava Group, was born in Ostrava and came to England as a 10 year old. At the end of his career, he was Prof. of Aeronautical Engineering at Kingston University.
4. Michal Salomonovic's mother was Dora Kupfermanová, whose brother came to the UK and married a direct descendant of Captain Hardy, who commanded Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar!
5. Henry (Jindrich) Heitlinger was born and lived in Trineč rather than Ostrava but he had a lot of members of his family (the Hupperts) in Ostrava and he visited them frequently. His father had a large textile and clothing store Trineč of which Leo Schlachet (from Ostrava) was the manager after Henry's father was deported in 1938. Henry and Leo escaped the Germans in 1939 and made their way to Israel. Henry subsequently came to the UK and ended his career as manager of *The Talk of the Town*. He now lives quietly in Cheltenham. We think that Mihal Efrat (geb. Evelina Schlachet) might be the niece of this Leo Schlachet, and we are trying to confirm that.

People

Our network continues to grow – we have made contact with more Ostravaks.

Vera Minton (geb. Fischel) is a cousin of Siggie Toman and we hope to meet her very soon – she lives in London. She knew Lydia Tischlerová (geb Folkartová) when they were in the Jewish School together in Ostrava and have not seen each other since then. They have now met and exchanged memories of old times. Zipporah Nir (geb Loewinger) has joined in, by email! Ziporah's late father was a teacher in the Jewish School and I am sure that some of you will remember him (see photo from 1942, below)

Lydia has provided some photographs of her school days. Can you recognise anyone and can you help to fill in the names? If you can, please let us know.

Peter Erban gave us a list of names and addresses of those people who were invited when the Nisko memorial was unveiled in Ostrava in 1994. We have followed up some of them and have now made contact with Mrs Trudy Korda (geb. Wechsler) and

Joe Fuchs in the USA and Mrs Kluger in the UK. We hope to extend our list and to contact more people.

In that regard, we are very excited to hear from Lisa Feder, whose community in the USA has another Ostrava *sefer* and who is also interested in researching the Ostrava Jewish community, so we should have lots of help!



3rd Class, 1938

Reading Left to Right

Back Row:

Greta Teichner; Helga Juker; ?; Cousin Erica; Lydia Folkartova

Second Row:

?; ?; ?; Pavel Gruenberger; Marianka Braunova; ?; ?; ?;

Third Row:

Bedrich Gruen ; ?; Lalli Kranzova; Honza Borger: ?; ?;

Front Row:

Hanka Riessova; ?; Suska Feuerova; Yehuda Bakon: ?; Feiveless (# 5or 6); ?; ?; ?;



Summer 1942, Whole class

Reading Left to Right (boys names only – see girls below)

Back row:

#9 Pavel Gruenberger

3rd Row

2nd boy: Franta Loewy

Front Row

1st boy: Gruen; ?; Yehuda Bakon

Teacher Mr Loewinger, Ziporah Nir's father.

GIRLS

Reading Left to Right:

Back Row:

?; ?; Lydia Folkartova; Teacher, Mrs Reichenbaumova; ?; ?; Lichtenstern

Middle Row:

Erika, Lydia's cousin; ?; ?; ?; ?; Marianka Rosenzweigova; Helga Jukrova; Marianka Braunova

Front Row:

?; ?; ?; ?; Ruthka Riessova; Suska Teichnerova

Our Ostrava Team

Our Ostrava team has recently been strengthened once again. In addition to Peter Hurst, who is now very active in transcribing and summarising some of the videos of interviews we have already carried out, Helen Williams has joined us to help particularly with establishing a user-friendly data base of all our material, which is now much too much to remember and control!

Once we have set the data base up, we hope to make it available for anyone to access through the internet.

OSTRAVAK GET-TOGETHER

On Sunday 16th March, 2008 we will hold an afternoon get-together for all Ostravaks and their families and everyone else who is interested, in our Synagogue in Kingston. We will have a short talk, to bring everyone up to date on the results of our work, have an exhibition of photographs and other materials that we have collected, and then have lots of time for individual chats and reminiscences.

We will arrange tea and sandwiches, to keep your strength up!

Further details nearer the time, but keep the date in your diary!

More Ostravaks and more information needed.

Do you know any other Ostravaks or their families whom we have not yet spoken to spoken to? .If so, please let us know. **If you have any photographs, documents or other records that can be copied please let us know.** We can copy them carefully and return the originals to you (or you could let us have copies) which we can pass on to Libuše. She, in turn, will be able to fill in gaps in your knowledge. We are always looking for more information and detail to help make our story more complete.

Please send your names, suggestions, comments etc to:

Monica Popper,
Ranelagh Cottage, 7 Ailsa Road, TWICKENHAM, Middx., TW1 1QJ. UK
Telephone 00 44 (0)20 8891 3508. email address: monsonn@talktalk.net

Or to David Lawson.

Please note his new email address: lawsonassoc@btinternet.com.

Please use the BT address from now on and NOT the Tiscali address.

His telephone number remains 00 44 20 8390 8142 and his mobile is 00 44 7973 696 370