

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

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Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků
Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis
Our Ostrava Group

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Sir Nicholas Winton



Sir Nicholas Winton, who organised the rescue of 669 children destined for Nazi concentration camps, died on 1st July 2015, aged 106. Sir Nicholas, then a stockbroker, arranged for trains to carry Jewish children out of occupied Prague. He died on the anniversary of the departure of a train in 1939 carrying the largest number of children - 241. Several Ostravaks owe their live to him.

The prime minister described him as a "great man" and the chief rabbi praised his "exceptional courage".

See <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/britains-schindler-nicholas-winton-dies-152024754.html#FfqDxTf> for one of many obituaries.

The Jewish Museum in Prague has quickly created an online exhibition based on a small personal archive and an interview with one of the saved children. It's in Czech only

http://collections.jewishmuseum.cz/index.php/simpleGallery/Show/displaySet/set_id/128

Stolpersteine

On 5th and 6th August 2015, Gunter Demnig will lay 20 Stolpersteine in Ostrava for us. Heinz Vogel has co-ordinated the collection of all the information and the Salomonovič family have, as always, been invaluable in checking on the local sites to ensure they are suitable for laying a *Stein*. Dr Sladovnik has very kindly organised with all the administrative and practical matters with the City and national authorities. We are very grateful to all of them.

Ann Altmann wrote to us about the *Steine* that she has arranged to have laid: "It is very sad to read all the inscriptions on the list. One of the other deportees was deported to Nisko with my grandfather and one, a woman of almost the same age as my grandmother, was deported to and murdered in Minsk with her. Perhaps they offered each other some consolation..."

Trip to Ostrava 2015

The planned trip to Ostrava scheduled for October 2015 has had to be postponed. There were too few people able to go on the selected dates to make it a viable option.

We hope to try again next year, either in April/May or July/August. Please let David or Monica know if you are interested in the trip and let them know which date you would prefer.

The Story of Ostrava and its Jewish Community

Our magnum opus or *Velké Dílo* is progressing. We are very grateful to everyone who has donated towards the costs of the research and translation. Without their help, the work would not have progressed as it has.

Now we are beginning to look for a publisher. If any of you have good contacts with an appropriate publisher or literary agent, please let David know.

Replacement Memorial for the Main Synagogue

You may recall that we announced that the memorial for the destroyed main synagogue had been stolen, probably for its scrap metal value (Newsletter....). Dr Jíří Hrdina and some of his students have designed a replacement and he has written to me about progress:

On the occasion of 140 anniversary of Ostrava's Kehila we installed a temporary memorial. Students are now working on the final version of the memorial. ŽNO received a grant from FŽO, temporary memorial was paid from this grant. (part of money still left - for final version).

 A black and white photograph of the original memorial. It features a large, stylized menorah sculpture mounted on a wall above a plaque. The plaque contains text in Czech and Hebrew. The memorial is located in front of a building with arched windows.	 A black and white photograph showing a man in profile, looking at a new, temporary memorial. The memorial is a rectangular plaque with text in Czech: "MÍSTO STÁLA HLAVNÍ SYNAGOGA KTEROU VYPÁLILI NACISTÉ V ČERVNU 1939". The man is using a tool to adjust the plaque on the wall.
<p>Original Memorial of the Main Synagogue</p>	<p>Installation of the new, temporary memorial</p>



News of Ostravaks

Uri Meretz

Uri Meretz né Jiří (Jirka) Maerz, born 8.8.1924, son of Dr. David Meretz (Dr. Paul Maerz), the last president of the Zionist Organisation in CSR before the German occupation, passed away on February 28, 2015. He was ninety years old

Josef (Pepek) Saklomonovic

To mark the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Flossenbürg Concentration Camp, Pepek was interviewed by the Tagesschau on German television:

<https://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/video/video-80187.html>

Alfred Neumann

Petr Brod sent a link to an article about the architect Alfred Neumann:

http://www.gvuo.cz/vystavy_archiv.htm which will also improve your Czech!

Ann Altman

Ann recently visited Ostrava to seek her family's roots and has posted an interesting write-up about her trip: <http://tinyurl.com/nalfzh6>

Ann wrote to us just before we had to postpone our Ostrava trip:

I hope that you will find sufficient people for your trip and that it is as successful as my trip with Vilem, his son, and John.

Without you, I would never have conceived of the idea of making the trip so, in one sense, your planned trip to Ostrava has already been a major success. You have already brought two "Ostravaks" home!

Warmly, Ann

Vilem, Ann's cousin, also wrote to us:

By the way, we have visited under way also places of my family ancestors – in Moravska Opava we found the Vila Klauber, where my grandfather Walter Bock was born. Interesting is that he and his father were lawyers, my son made an

independent decision to study law and finishes it now and in the family Klauber there were even more lawyers. And guess what is in the Vila now? There is a branch of the Court. Some Spirit of Justice?

Ann has been able to trace the Körner family in Hodonin to Israel Körner born in 1757 and has sent us a photograph of Stepan's parents, Emil and Erna:



Emil was deported to Nisko on one of the first transports of the "Final Solution." He did not return. Erna remained in Ostrava until 1941, when she was transported to Minsk where she was murdered by the Nazis.

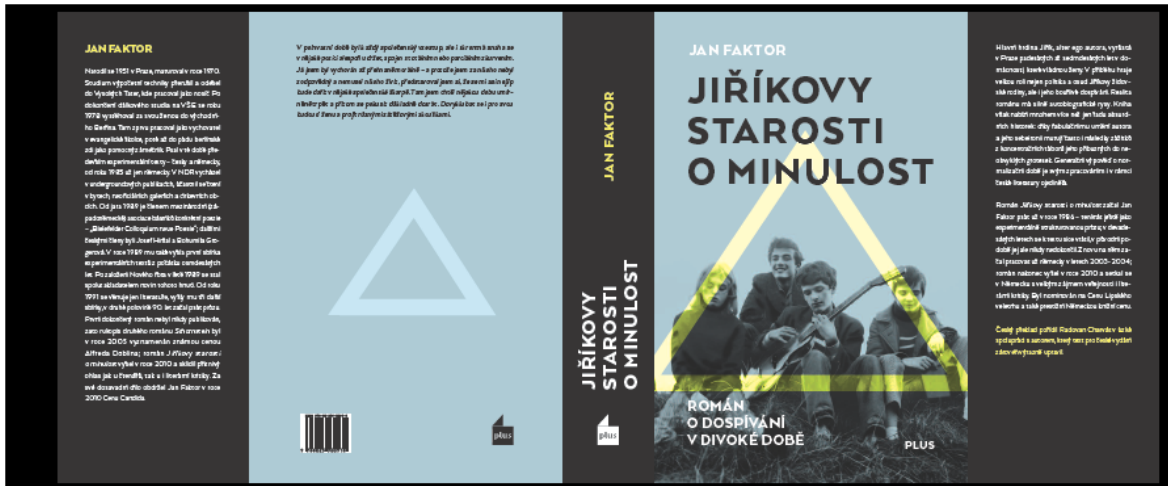
Eva Halfon née Kleinberg

In Newsletter #38, we wrote about Eva Halfon née Kleinberg. Philippa James-Buth found us on the web as she was researching her own family, including Ludwig Kleinberg, Eva's father. We were able to put Philippa and Eva in contact and Eva wrote:

Thank you so much for responding to my request for information about my father's family. I am really excited about anything that I can find out since so much of the history is still a mystery to me.
With kind regards,
Eva Halfon

Jan Faktor

Jan Faktor's novel, originally written in German as "Georgs Sorgen um die Vergangenheit oder Im Reich des heiligen Hodensack-Bimbams von Prag" has now been translated into Czech and published:



Shelly Pomeranz



Shelly continues to provide us with details of the Zehngut family, including this splendid photograph of Henryk, the son of Jakob Zehngut.

Menaše Immerglick

David met Menashe when David spoke about Ostrava and its migrants in Prague in January He wrote:

Both my parents were born on the Czech territory but I don't have their birth certificates. My mother's name was Kaethe Donath (married Immergluek) born 10 August 1913 in Jaegerndorf / Krnov. My father's name was Max Immergluek (Immerglick) and he was born 4 November 1905 but I don't know where (maybe in Troppau / Opava or in its surroundings).

Libuše has found that in 1910 he lived in Vítkovice and between 1910 and 1921 in Ostrava in Guttmanstrasse.

If you can provide any more information, please contact Monica or David

Eva Erben

Eva, married to Peter Erben (né Eisenberg) recently returned to Postřekov, where she was hidden at the end of the war by Kristof and Ludmilla Jahn, and sent this photograph of Eva with her son Alon and his wife, with the present generation of the Jahn family.



Ostrava: 70th Anniversary of the Liberation

30th April 2015 marked the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Ostrava by the Red Army, together with Czech units. You can find information, photographs and videos of the events on: <https://osvobozeni.ostrava.cz/en/hone-en>

Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th - 18th century.

The Jewish Museum in Prague has a new permanent exhibition “Jews in the Bohemian Lands, 10th-18th Century”

Ostrava Photographs.

Victoria Bursa has sent us a couple of links to a set of very interesting photographs of Ostrava and a delightful video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSoFNx5F158&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0drYglU0Js>

If they do not load immediately, copy the link and paste it into Google or your favoured browser

STOP PRESS: Bundespräsident meets Pepek!

On 1st July 2015, Josef Salomonovic was invited to a lunch, hosted by Herr Joachim Gauck, Bundespräsident Deutschland, to commemorate the liberation of the camps and the end of the Second World War.



Bundespräsident Gauck and Josef Salomonovic

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