

Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků
Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis
Our Ostrava Group

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A Light for Lost Neighbours

Petřvald School recently carried out a remarkable and very moving exercise in recalling the stories of their Jewish neighbours whose lives were destroyed by the Nazis. You can watch the 20 minute clip on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJC0nP5d69k>

The dialogue is all in Czech but the story is clear enough. Jan Bettelheim very kindly made a rough translation of the introductory script:

Lights for vanished neighbours.

Comprehensive school Petrvald. Project of 7,8, 9 grade students, dramatic and creative education 2016.

17th October 1939 Czechoslovakia was occupied by fascist Germany (sic. That is incorrect. The actual date was 14th March)

Crowds of Ostrava Jews forced to leave their homes and gather at the main Ostrava railway station

What were their dreams and hopes? What sort of thoughts kept them occupied when they were forced to leave their native city?

The students produced drawings on this topic and carried them in a suitcase through Ostrava. They also remembered the names of some of the Jews and lit a candle in their memory.

The *Stolpersteine* that we have laid provided the inspiration for the families mentioned and Libuše provided the details.

We forwarded the link to all the families mentioned. Pavel Vransky's response was similar to all of them:

Dear David,

Being still alive, I wish to thank you for the video "Light for lost neighbors". In the beginning of the Video is a Picture of my mother, with a lightly misspelled name. I already wrote a letter to the Schoolmaster, to thank for myself and my family everybody who has been engaged in the producing and publishing of the video. It is a very nice and even sad memento of the holocaust. With heartily regards to you and all the Ostravaks. PAVEL Vranský (née Wechsberg)

Newsletter #44 – Follow-Up

We have had several comments about our last Newsletter. We are always pleased to hear from you and to get feedback, especially if it is favourable!

Ron Frank wrote to us, from Australia:

I must tell you that your letters give so much and deserve you receiving heaps of praise and credit as the effort involved is huge.

You may remember that I am Rudolf Goldberger's grandson. My papa and nana Rosa lived most of their European time in Vienna where papa started an electrical repair and element manufacturing business which they continued to run in Perth West Australia.

We have family in Perth (the Adler brothers pastry cooks) that sponsored them to come here and they arrived in 1939 reopened their doors as Gerald's Electric as Auntie Vilma Adler believed that they needed an anglicised trading name. The name was registered with my uncle Hans as the head, my Aunt Grete and papa Rudolf as the partners and traded for many years. Unfortunately mother (Elsa Frank née Goldberger) passed two years ago at 94/1-4 which leaves me as the oldest direct survivor ex Ostrava.

I have a younger brother Robert and we have 4 children between us.

My two have married who have given my wife Val and I, five children where my niece and nephew are still unmarried but the family is starting to grow.

Uncle Hans had two daughters both with children and grand children.

More to tell at another time

Shalom And again thank you for your efforts

Edgar Rose from Chicago noticed a mention of Ariel Friedlander who is a niece of an old family friend and we have been able to put them in touch.

George Tyrell wrote to us:

Dear David, what a good idea to include your Synagogue magazine article in the latest newsletter - it made such nice reading for a Friday evening, so impressively well researched, accurate and informative. It stirred a number of memories. Both my grandfathers came to Ostrava from Poland in 1902 and 1905. Julius Tramer (paternal) from Skotschau attracted by the prosperity of the town. My other grandfather, Samuel Ambor settled in Vitkovice, his butcher's shop was opposite the steel works and he was a member of the Zabrech Synagogue. Rabbi Forscher's widow lived in Golders Green and worked in Aisental's shop for Sidurim and other religious requisites. There is a daughter of theirs living in Golders Green and her son has a shop Called Tora Treasures in Golders Green. I was born in the hospital of the Vitkovice steelworks. Thank you for this very nice experience of being reminded of times long ago! with very best wishes,
George Tyrrell

George Lowy wrote to us from Washington DC – our Ostravak network really does span the world – about Tomáš Novotny, whose ADASH Group provides the backing music for the Lost Neighbours film.

Dr. Tomas Novotny and his wife stayed in our home while the Adash choir gave a series of concerts in the Washington DC area. In the photo is Dr. Novotny with his wife on the right, my wife Edith on the left and several of the Adash girls in front of our home ion Silver Spring, Maryland, in 2003.

By the way, ADASH is an acronym for Ivrit Derech Shira, meaning Hebrew Through Songs



Peter Auerbach wrote, also from the States, “What a wonderful newsletter David, thank you.”

Ostrava Old Photos

Here are some more photographs of old Ostrava, to encourage nostalgia and to remind us of what a great place pre-war Ostrava must have been. Double click on:



ostrava-ins150818.p
df

Victoria sent another, of 1918 Ostrava. She wrote:

It's the main square, Melcer house on the right. Not sure it's 1918, but both houses on the right have a flag out, so it may be to celebrate the Republic



News of Ostravaks

Alice and Colin Anson

It is with regret we have to tell you of the deaths of Alice on 16th June and Colin on 27th June.

Their joint funeral was held at North chapel, Hendon crematorium, Holders Hill Road, Hill, Barnet, London NW7 1NB, on Tuesday 16th August at 2pm

Katz and Weil-Rosa Families

The worldwide stretch of the Ostravak network never ceases to amaze us. We recently spoke to Stella Alexander in N London about how her family left Ostrava for S America and settled in Quito, Ecuador, where she was very friendly with Kitty, the daughter of the Katz family. Kitty is married to Hanford Gross and lives in the USA and is part of our network through her father! We were able to reunite Stella and Kitty!

Helen Bryant (Haas)

Helen wrote briefly about her family:

I know very little about my family who came from Ostrava, my mother Olga Haas was born there, her parents were Daniel and Helen Haas both of whom were murdered in Auschwitz. Olga had one sister Rosl who survived Auschwitz. Olga left at some point during the war and got to England during the war years but died in 1948 in childbirth.

Libuše and our contacts in the Jewish Museum in Prague were able to provide some more information:

Daniel Haas (*12.6.1873), and his wife Helen née Rumplerové (*24.3.1873). Helen was deported on the 4th transport from Ostrava to Theresienstadt and then to Auschwitz, where she was killed on 15.5.1944. Daniel was included in the first transport of Jews from Ostrava to Nisko in October 1939 and did not return. The family lived in Vítkovická ul.83rd.

They had two daughters: Olga (*19.6.1908) who married the Hanus Klein (*1.7.1901) in 1930. He was the son of Berthold and Ružena Klein Kohn and lived in Novy Jicin.

A second daughter Ruzena (*4.6.1910) was twice married. The first marriage was in Hranice to Siegfried Borger (*6.2.1898) in 1928. Siegfried was sent to Nisko, fled to the USSR and died in Kolomea (3.8.1942). Ruzena was deported to Theresienstadt and thence to Auschwitz and Stutthof and was liberated. After the war she married again to Robert Robitscheka (*7.3.1894) in December 1948. This marriage was childless. Robert had children from a previous marriage but their marriages were also childless.

Berthold and Ružena Klein had three children:

1. Hanuš, the father of Helen Bryant
2. Frederick (*22.12.1909), he married Eliska Placzekovou
3. Margaret (*22.1.1897) she married Leo Fuchs and had two sons
 - a. Ernest *28.11.25
 - b. Rudolf *10.1.1930

If you know the family or have any information, please let Monica or David know.

Pavel Vransky

Pavel, who wrote to the Petřvald School about their wonderful project, sent some of his memories:

The main reason for my writing is your latest Newsletter. I enjoyed not only the pictures of Ostrava, which reminded me of my younger days, but also some events and names which I remember.

Our whole family was organized in the Zionistic movement, my mother in WIZO, my father in B'nai Brith and myself and my brother in T'chelet Lavan and Maccabi. I met Teddy Kolek in Israel at visiting my brother, and in a diary written by my mother I also found that I acted as Mordechai in a Purimspiel in 1934. I remember the name of Windholz, most probably a girl about my age, Rufeisen was a leading person in the Zionist movement in Ostrava, and Arnošt or Ernst Hirschfeld, a friend in the same unit in the Middle East and also in the RAF, 311 Sqadron. Otto Hornung, which you most probably met in London has been a close friend from age at about 11 years.

Lindsay Offer

Lindsay had an interesting and fruitful trip to Poland and the Czech Republic, researching her family roots. She discovered that she is related to Michael Gordy (our Ostrava Network is not only widespread, it is also closely inter-connected!). She also discovered some information about her grand-father's imperial connections and an interesting website:

I was doing some research for a book which we are just completing on the Empress Elisabeth in England and Ireland and I came across this site in Czech which may be very useful to some of your Ostrava contingent. Karvina is the administrative district which covers Ostrava and it is quite easy to translate it in Google Translate or similar. I have forgotten most of my Czech.

This link may have to be copied into your browser. This family I was working on hunted with the Empress Elisabeth in Northamptonshire and my great grandfather supplied the family's mines with pit props. There is a lot of other information on this site under Karvina. Click on the link.

[Projekt Stará KARVINNÁ: Rod Larisch-Mönnichů](#)

Sonja Hawkins née Singer

Sonja, also, is relying on you to find out about her family:

My father's name was Felix Singer. He had an uncle Berthold Singer living in Ostrava, who died in Aug. 1933.

His grandfather was Salomon Singer lived in Hof but moved to Opava in old age. His father Albert Singer lived in Biala. Other relatives lived in Hrshau and along that industrial belt. My father was the only one to escape the the holocaust and he told me nothing about them. Can you?

with kind regards

Unfortunately, Singer is quite a common name and even Libuše has been unable to add anything. If anyone does have any information or suggestions, please get in touch with Monica or David

Fred Forster

In Newsletter #44, we wrote about Fred's father and his involvement with the Czechoslovak pavilion at the World Fair in New York. Ariel Friedlander sent us a link to a great story about Fred on the Memorial Scrolls Trust website. Do look at it: <http://www.memorialscrollstrust.org/community/1762/>

Janina Müller

In the same edition, we wrote about Janina Müller who was seeking information about her grandfather. Jiří Muller wrote:

Obviously "your Rudi Unger" is our relative from my grandmothers side born Berger. He must have been most likely cousin of my father.

National Holocaust Centre and Museum

The National Holocaust Centre and Museum is based in Laxton, Notts NG22 0PA. It is not the most convenient place to visit but is very well worth the effort. Hundreds of children and adults visit it each year and are most impressed with it, as was David when he went recently.

The Centre has a Memorial Rose Garden. If you would be interested in having a group of rose bushes planted in memory of the Ostrava Community, please get in touch with David with the donation you would wish to make.



You can remember at The National Holocaust Centre and Museum

The National Holocaust Centre is so much more than a museum. It's a vibrant memorial, a place of testimony and learning.

Since the Centre was established in 1995, it remains the first and only place of its kind in the UK, dedicated to Holocaust remembrance and education. Founded by brothers Stephen and James Smith, following their visit to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, we now welcome over 20,000 visitors every year.

Many of those visitors, and many people who support the Centre, want to find their own, personal way to remember the Holocaust and its victims. That is why our Memorial Rose Garden is so important and so meaningful.

The Rose Garden and you

The scent and sight of 1,000 beautiful white roses in full bloom stands as a powerful, living commemoration of the Holocaust. Each individual rose carries a precious reminder, and together they make a powerful statement. This is a unique and peaceful space of healing, reflection and contemplation for all to share.

Today, you can ensure that our Rose Garden continues to grow and flourish for years to come, you can join with us to say, "I shall never forget".

The Centre celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a service in Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND
RE-COMMITMENT TO MARK THE
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL
HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM



Sunday 26th June 2016
6.30 pm

New Year Greetings

**We wish all our readers and Ostravaks everywhere
a
Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year**

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