

**Londýnský kroužek Ostravák** □  
**Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis**  
**Our Ostrava Group**

**Number 7 New Year 2008**

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**New Year Greetings**

We, the Kingston Ostrava Group, wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

***Velké Dílo – Our Magnum Opus***

In Newsletter #6, we explained that it was our ultimate intention to write, or have written, *The Ostrava Story*. First, we have to organize all our material and enter it in a suitable cross-referenced data base and then to ensure that our whole archive is preserved and is available for future researchers. We are delighted that the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP) will host our archive. Dr Leo Pavlát, the Director of the JMP, writes:

Dear Mr. Lawson,

Thank you for your letter dated 28th August 2008. The Jewish Museum in Prague is very pleased by the offer to take care, in the future, of the archival collection relating to the Ostrava Jewish community. One of the primary tasks the Museum is to safeguard the remnants of the cultural and historical heritage of Bohemian and Moravian Jewish communities. Our archives will therefore be prepared to house your collection, take care of all the materials in a professional manner and provide access for researchers and public.

Depending on the proportion of the materials related to the pre-WWII history of Ostrava Jewish community, the collection could either be filed into the general Archive of the Jewish Museum or into our Archive of the Holocaust History – both branches would be able to provide similar care and access to your materials. As you probably know, the Jewish Museum has created an extensive collection of interviews with Holocaust survivors, and we would be very happy to complement it with your interviews with the „Ostravaks“.

Please contact Vlastimila Hamáková, the head of the Archives and Michal Frankl, the head of the Holocaust Archives regarding the details.

I'm looking forward the cooperation.

Best wishes,

Leo Pavlát

So all the material that you have contributed will be preserved in the JMP. If you have any more material (either originals or copies) that could and should be preserved in this way and made available to future researchers, please let me have it to include in the archive which will be sent to the JMP.

If we can get funding, we hope to employ an archivist in Ostrava part time for a year to help organise the archive and data base and also to try and fill in at least some of the obvious gaps. Any suggestions for funding would be most welcome.

Kingston University are very interested in this work and we continue to talk to them about how we can collaborate on it.

## Next Ostravak Get-together

We hope to see you all on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 here in the Synagogue, both to remember the German invasion of Ostrava, 70 years ago and also to celebrate our being here now, able to talk to each other and to remember.

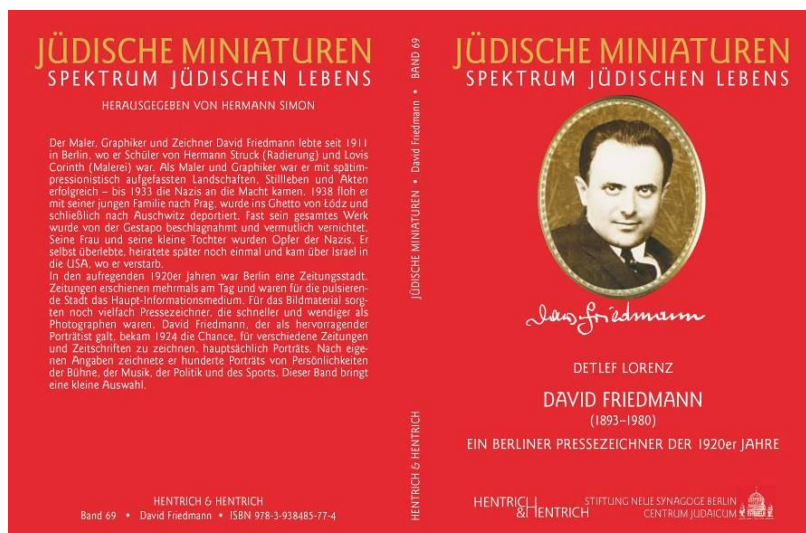
## Exhibitions and Talks

### David Friedmann

There will be a book by Detlef Lorenz from the Jüdische Miniaturen series published by Hentrich & Hentrich in Berlin:

David Friedmann (1893-1980)  
Ein Berliner Pressezeichner der 1920er Jahre  
ISBN 978-3-938485-77-4

The book should be available in time for the David Friedmann Exhibition opening at the Berlin Philharmonic, Saturday November 8 at 18:00. Anyone interested in attending the opening is welcome and should contact Miriam Friedmann-Morris ([MiriFM@aol.com](mailto:MiriFM@aol.com)) for an invitation. The exhibition runs until Jan. 3, 2009.



"Nice Nazis; Ambassadors; a Degenerate Artist, a brass Chanukiah and a Magic Doll: -recent results from Ostrava"

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 8:00 p.m. we will be giving a talk in Kingston Synagogue on some of our recent findings. You are, of course, all welcome to come and we hope to see many of you there (There will probably be a £3 charge, to cover costs of tea and biscuits)

"Steel and Schnapps, Sausages and Soldiers, Scrolls and Survival – The Story of Ostrava"

On Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 we will be giving a talk to Limmud, in Brighton

"How the Law – and Heinz Vogel – came to Kingston"

Heinz and David will be talking to Kingston Rotary Club on 4<sup>th</sup> December, a quick description of the dramatic story of our *sefer* and the equally exciting Vogel family story.

**Memorial Scrolls Trust Museum Opening.**

In our last Newsletter I mentioned Martie Jelinek, from Leicester Synagogue, which also has an Ostrava Scroll. Martie visited us to find out what we had been doing and went with Judith and David to the official opening of the Museum. She wrote a report for her shul on the visit and has allowed me to quote it:

I attended the inauguration of the Memorial Scrolls Museum in Westminster Synagogue. This is quite a grand place in Knightsbridge, tucked in between various embassies. I'd never been before - was impressed! About 200 people attended the museum launch in a rather smart big hall and I might have felt a bit over-awed were it not for seeing several familiar and friendly faces, including Rabbi Aaron Goldstein. Aaron's Northwood and Pinner Synagogue has three of the Czech memorial scrolls and holds an annual Czech weekend, which I'm determined to go to next year! David Lawson kindly introduced me to many people, including two survivors from Ostrava; Heinz Vogel and Jiri Rosenstein (aka George Roden), both lovely gentlemen, now in their 80's. It was a special moment for me to exchange a few words in Czech with Jiri.

The launch speeches were given by a wonderful lady, Evelyn Friedlander, who has led much of the hard work to set up the museum, by Stephen Smith from Beth Shalom - always a moving/powerful speaker - as well as by the a Department head from the JMP and a delegate from the USA where many of the Czech scrolls now live. Afterwards I even got to shake the hand of the Czech ambassador and remembered a polite Czech greeting just in time (hope I got it right!).

I recommend anyone interested to visit the new exhibition. It is very well set up and informative – I found it fascinating. Many of the original scrolls are on show, along with original artefacts. On the walls are panels beginning with background information on Czech Jewish life, and then we learn how and when these scrolls were saved – transported across a war-torn country in the early 40's with Nazi approval (no one really knows why); then stashed away and ignored for 20-odd years in a synagogue on the outskirts of Prague; then sold by the communist authorities, and driven in a truck across Europe to Westminster Synagogue where they were restored, and now loaned out for use by communities like ours.

If you get the chance, do go and visit: the address is Memorial Scrolls Trust, Kent House, Rutland Gardens, London SW71BX – it's a short walk from Knightsbridge Tube Stn. They're open 10am-4pm Tuesdays and Thursdays but you can call at other times to arrange a visit: 020 7584 3741. See [www.czechmemorialscrollstrust.org](http://www.czechmemorialscrollstrust.org).

Perhaps the most moving part of the story is the fact that as these numerous scrolls (1,564 altogether) were arriving in Nazi-occupied Prague during the war, a small group of dedicated people was archiving and documenting them under the most appalling conditions. Can you imagine knowing that you are condemned to death – perhaps living your last weeks or months – and spending that time intensively recording and preserving Torah scrolls from lost Jewish communities? Those people must have felt that the scrolls represented life; that if they themselves could not survive, then they were at least passing on something of themselves and their life to future generations. All but one of these brave archivists was subsequently killed. The museum is dedicated to their memory.

Martie Jelinek

### **Hana Adar (Father was Lehrer Krauss)**

Hana will be 93 on 11 October, although she certainly does not look it:

Hana, with help from the indefatigable Libuše, has written (in German and Czech) the story of the Jewish School in Ostrava and has sent me a copy for our Archive. She says “It tells the story from 1884 to 1939 when the war began and the school burnt down by the Germans. My father was headmaster of this school, my mother came as a young teacher an after 3 years, my father the headmaster married her”.

I myself succeeded to come to Israel and worked for 43 years as pediatrician. Now I am a member of kibbutz Yifat. I have three sons, 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grand children”



### **Zuzana Crouch (geb Deutsch)**

In our last Newsletter we mentioned the toyshop run by Zuzana's grandmother. Bertie Goldberg remembers the shop and the electric trains in the window, especially at Christmas time! Bertie also remembers Zuzana's father and uncle.

### **Hana Connor (geb. Oppenheim)**

Hana has given us the names of two more Ostravaks – **Uri Winterstein** and **Eric Huppert** and we have been in touch with them. We hope to meet them and add to our growing archive.

### **Gita Rind (geb Thieberger)**

Gita has contacted us, all the way from Australia and sent us a wonderful childrens' story based on her real experiences during the war and a book of articles about the war, including some more of her memories. We hope for even more.

### **Michael Gordy (geb Goldberger)**

Michael Gordy is, it turns out, related to Michal Salomonovic! Michael is the grandson of Heinrich Goldberger. He writes: “Thanks in large part to Libuse Salomonovicova, I have pretty good information on the families of my grandfather's parents. Among the surnames that seem to have Ostrava roots are GOLDBERGER, TRAMER, SALOMONOWITZ, BERGER, WELLNER, BETTER, GRAUER, HORNUNG, WEINSTOCK, ENGEL, WURZEL, VOGEL, SCHLACHET, GOLDFINGER, LOEWINGER. I would welcome contact with others in your network who have interest in these surnames.”

Does anyone recognize the names and have any connection to Michael?

### **Prof Gershom Zajicek**

Yehuda Bacon introduced us to Prof Zajicek, who went to Kindergarten with Yehuda. He is an oncologist and now heavily involved in holistic healing. His website is: <http://www.what-is-cancer.com/>

### **Uri Meretz (geb März)**

Miriam Friedmann Morris introduced us to Uri, who writes: “I myself was born 1932 in Ostrava, was lucky enough to leave it 1939 with my parents Helene and Hugo MÄRZ via Prague to Palestine. I did visit the first class at the Ostrava Jewish School, but I do not have significant personal memories from that period.”

### **Tom Auber (Auerbach)**

Tom has sent us this photograph of his grandfather's shop.  
Does anyone remember it?



### **Yehuda Bacon**

Yehuda and Leah Bacon sent the attached New Year Greeting.

### **Class II, 1931.**

George Roden (Jiří Rosenstein) has identified several of the children in the class photograph from 1931 (see Newsletter #6). Can anyone add more names?

Class 1931 - Information from George Roden (Jiř Rosenstajn)



Herr Salter	?	?
	?	Walter Kranz
	?	?
	?	?
Walter Maier		?
		Hana Eichenbaum

Kurt Berger	?	
?	?	
?	?	
?	?	?
?	Gronner	Kahn
?	?	?
Rosenzweig	Schiff	
?	?	

?	?
?	Dick Berger OR Beno Ehrlich
?	?
?	Hanu Berger
Kurt Immerglück	Lizzie Schornstein
Lore Hayek	?
?	Alfie Krieger

**Any more Ostravaks?**

Please pass the word about our group to any other Ostravaks that you know and let us know about them, as well. And please let us have any more news of yourself and your family.

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WISHING YOU A SHANA TOVA

LEAH AND YEHUDA BACON

