

Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis Our Ostrava Group

Number 11 pre-New Year 5770-

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS

This Newsletter appears much sooner than expected as there are important things to tell you and we need your replies as soon as possible. But we must take this early opportunity of wishing all of you and your families a very Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

THE *STOLPERSTEIN* (STUMBLING BLOCK) PROJECT

The *Stolperstein* Project has been running in Austria and Germany for some time and is now starting in the Czech Republic and other countries to commemorate those who were murdered or forced to flee their homes by the Nazis in the Holocaust. See the website: www.stolpersteine.com.

Brass plaques are set into the pavement outside houses or schools etc as a memorial to people who were murdered or forced to flee by the Nazis. Each "stone" is 96mm by 96mm and has inscribed on it:

- Here lived (or studied, or taught etc)
- Name, family and maiden name
- Date of Birth
- Date of Deportation and place to which deported
- Ultimate fate with date of death (if known)
- Children or family members who fled to safety (e.g. on *Kindertransport*) or even who committed suicide under the stress and terrors of the time can also be commemorated with a stone.



A number of Ostravaks have already said that they would like to lay such “stones” in memory of their relations and we are in contact with the authorities in Ostrava and the Stolperstein project organisers about this. We hope that the “stones” will be laid in May or June next year. It would be helpful for us to know approximately how many such stones we hope to lay.

Please, therefore, let Monica Popper know as soon as possible if you would be interested in arranging to have such stones laid and, if so, how many you would want.

The cost of each stone will be approx. £100 (US\$150). Any money left over once all expenses have been paid will be added to our Archive Fund.

TRIP TO OSTRAVA

We are planning a guided trip to Ostrava next year to coincide with the laying of the *Stolpersteine* (Memorial Stones). The date is not fixed yet but we hope it will be in May or June.

The trip will probably be 5 days/4 nights from Sunday to Thursday. We would have a guide and most probably the active involvement of the Salomonovic family. We will hopefully have Kosher food available. The suggested itinerary is:

- Sunday morning:** Fly to Prague (from London Heathrow) with an onward connection to Ostrava. Sunday afternoon in Ostrava
- Monday and Tuesday** In Ostrava. Tuesday evening transfer to Prague, either by air or by rail.
- Wednesday and Thursday morning** In Prague, . Thursday afternoon visit to the Jewish Museum followed by transfer to Prague airport for flight back to Heathrow.
- Thursday evening** Fly back to UK.

The estimated cost: £750- 800 per person, including flights from the UK, all local transport, 3/4 star hotels in twin or single rooms (small suppl. for a single room) and some meals. Flights from other UK airports can possibly be arranged.

Please let Monica Popper know as soon as possible if you would be interested in joining the trip:

1. How many people would be in your party?
2. Do you require kosher food?
3. Would you be interested in a day excursion to Krakow and Auschwitz from Ostrava, if it can be arranged and if time permits?
4. Would you be interested in a day trip to Theresienstadt from Prague, if it can be arranged?
5. **As an alternative**, we could arrange a 5 night trip, from Tuesday to Sunday, allowing us to spend Shabbat in Prague. Would you be interested in doing that? There might be an extra cost.

If you plan to make your own arrangements to fly to Prague/Ostrava and join the party there, there will be a cost reduction of £150-200.

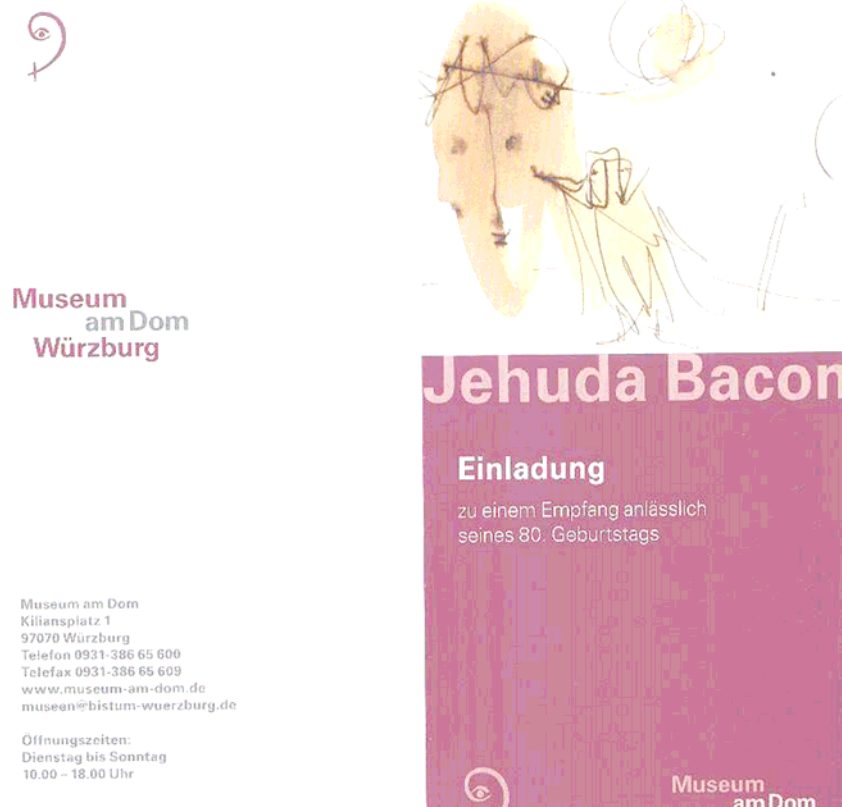
NEWS OF OSTRAVAKS

Through our recent talk to Limmud in Brighton, we made contact with John Werner who was born in 1935 in Ostrava. His father, Theodor Anton, was a psychiatrist and his mother was Emily (geb. Schmelz). Do you know either family?

Paul Rice (geb Pavel Reisz) lives in Marple Bridge near Manchester. His elder brother, Karel, was the film producer and the City of Ostrava are planning to unveil a plaque to him. Paul's father was a lawyer and his grandfather had a café (The family of Ignatz Reisz, from which Paul Rice (Pavel Reisz) came from, lives in Moravska Ostrava. They owned a café house Central on the main square, today Masaryk square. –information from Libuše)

Eve Slatner is Heinz Vogel's cousin. She lives in Berlin but came to London for a visit and we had the pleasure of meeting her and her husband, Ekkehart. Her father was Hugo Slatner and her mother Edith Elsner. Hugo's parents were Leopold Slatner and Emilie Altmann. Do you know any of these families?

Yehuda Bacon celebrated his 80th Birthday with an exhibition of his paintings in the Cathedral of Würzburg



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Öffnungszeiten:
Dienstag bis Sonntag
10.00 – 18.00 Uhr

Jehuda Bacon

Einladung
zu einem Empfang anlässlich
seines 80. Geburtstags

Museum
am Dom

OUR ARCHIVE

Our archive continues to grow! We already had a photocopy of *Juden in Ostrau* by R Drapala, published in 1939 which we received from the Ostrava City Archive. It is, unfortunately, a virulently anti-semitic tract rather than a useful history. However, we have just got *Die Geschichte der Stadt Mährisch Ostrau* by Drapala, published in 1933 and that appears to be a much more historically and academically valuable book. It contains some charming and interesting pictures:



We have also just acquired the story of Moshe Har-El (geb Hans Hecheter in 1931) – *Von Mährisch Ostrau in die Berge der Tatra und nach Israel*.

Shlomo David in Israel has sent us a wonderful picture of the Jewish School in Ostrava in 1941. Can you recognise anyone?



Archive Appeal

You know that it is our intention to write and publish a book on Ostrava and that the first steps will be to organise and complete our archive as far as possible and transfer it to the Jewish Museum in Prague for preservation and to make available to future researchers. To help with the archive, we hope to recruit an archivist in Ostrava who would work with us part-time for a year initially. The lady in question, Hana Sustková, is completing her PhD research in the summer and will be available to start work with us in the autumn. **We still need £6-7,000 before we can start that work!** So we are appealing again to your generosity to make it possible to preserve the memory of your families and the Ostrava Jewish community in this way.

Please send all donations either to Monica or to David.

If you have any documents, photographs, books or other material relating to Ostrava and you would be willing to donate it so that it becomes a permanent part of the Ostrava Archive, ultimately to be kept in the Jewish Museum in Prague, please let us know. If necessary, we will arrange to collect anything you have.

Artists and Ambassadors; Brewers and Bankers; Coal-merchants and a Chanukiah- The ABC of Ostrava.

On 18th August at 1:45p.m. for 2:00 p.m. David will be giving a talk to AJR (The Association of Jewish Refugees) with this title. The venue is in Stream Lane, off Edgware High Street. Phone Hazel Beiny on 07973 201621 the day before and she will explain exactly where it is. Hazel works for AJR and she would be delighted to hear from you.

On 2nd September (at 11:00hrs) AJR in Ilford will have a talk on Ostrava - "*Steel and Schnapps, Sausages and Soldiers, Scrolls and Survival - the Story of Ostrava*". The South Hampstead branch of AJR will have the same talk on 27th October, also at 11:00 hrs. You will be very welcome at any or all of them!

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.

Don't forget your contributions to the Ostrava Archive!

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