

## Londýnský kroužek Ostraváků Der Londoner-Ostrauerkreis Our Ostrava Group

Number 13 Chanukah 2009-

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### Our Barmitzvah Edition.

As with every Barmitzvah, there is some looking back at what we have achieved and a lot of looking forward to what we plan to do in the future, and we are no exception to that. We have found more lovely people and interesting material about Ostrava and have plans for some very exciting events next year.

### *Stolpersteine* –The “Stumbling Block” Project

We now have a firm date -**12<sup>th</sup> June 2010** - from Gunter Demnig and his colleagues for laying the stones in Ostrava. In the very near future we will have to finalise the list of stones to be laid and provide all the detailed information necessary. Heinz Vogel has kindly agreed to collect and co-ordinate all the information so please get in touch with him (or Monica or David) without delay if you would like to have a *Stolperstein* laid in memory of one of your family. His address is:

Heinz Vogel, 4 Firlands, Weybridge KT13 0HR. UK  
Telephone number: 00 44 (0)1932 849 405  
Email: [Heinz@vogel.org.uk](mailto:Heinz@vogel.org.uk)

Many thanks are due to our indefatigable and incredible Libuše for all her help in identifying names, dates and addresses. We are very grateful.

Unfortunately, the exchange rate with the euro has moved against us and the cost of a laying each stone will be £120.00. Cheques should be made out to KS&DS Cultural and Education Committee. Unfortunately, we cannot deal with credit cards etc. Any surplus funds will be allocated to the general Ostrava project.

### Trip to Ostrava

Now that we have a firm date for laying the *Stolpersteine*, we can begin to finalise our plans for the trip to Ostrava. We expect it will be during the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> June and we will send out more details early in the New Year. If you are interested in joining the trip, please let David or Monica know as soon as possible.

## Ostravané Gathering

We are delighted to confirm that the next Ostrava meeting will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010, the exact 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the German invasion of Ostrava. We are honoured that His Excellency Mr Michael Žantovský will be joining us as our Guest of Honour.



Cordially invite you to join them for an afternoon on

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

In the Synagogue, 33-35 Uxbridge Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2LL

***Guest of Honour: H.E. The Czech Ambassador, Mr Michael Žantovský***

Evelyn McGilloway (geb. Rix) who recently retired from her career as a concert pianist will play for us

There will be a presentation of some recent results from the Group with an exhibition of photographs and other documents.

Afternoon Tea will be served and there will be time to meet and chat.

RSVP to David Prager, with the number of people in your group

00 44 20 8398 5901; email [dprager@aol.com](mailto:dprager@aol.com)

Evelyn McGilloway (née. Rix) has very kindly agreed to play the piano for us. She has had a distinguished career as a concert pianist and her family will be well-known to all of you who will remember the RIX Department Store.

To cover the costs of the refreshments, we will make a small charge of £5.00 per person and we hope that some of you will be willing to sponsor us to cover the other costs of the day. Please make your cheque to KSDS Cultural and Education Committee and send it to Monica or David. Any surplus will be added to our general Ostrava Project fund.

## Ostravané round the World

I have had a small Czech lesson and learned that the collective word for people who live in Ostrava is Ostravané or Ostravaci if they are all men or Ostrávački if they are all women (I hope all the accents are in the right place), so we shall try and be grammatically correct in future.

In Newsletter #7, we mentioned Gita Thieberger who now lives in Kangaroo Valley, New South Wales, Australia. To complete the circle of the globe, I am delighted to introduce the first (we think) Ostravačka in Iceland! Ruth Berger (geb. Folkartová) went to visit her new great-granddaughter, born in Iceland at the end of October. Mazal Tov to all the family!

Betty Barton's late husband was **Fred (Alfred) Buchsbaum** whose father, Josef, ran a ladies hairdressing salon in Ostrava which, in 1924, had the first machine to do permanent waving;



Josef and Fred came to England in 1939 as soon as the Germans invaded Ostrava, leaving everything behind. Fred ultimately bought a business making feather hats and one of them was worn by HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Here is Betty in December 2009, wearing one of them:



Jürgen Schwiening is not from Ostrava nor, indeed, from the Czech Republic He writes;

We met **Kate Fielding, née Lichtenstern**, for the first time a few years ago at an AJR (Association of Jewish Refugees) lunch at our house here in Market Bosworth. Käthe/Kate was born in Vienna in 1910, the daughter of Viktor Lichtenstern (born in M-Ostrau) and Olga Loew (born in Buchlowitz). As we got to know Kate better we learnt about her family and her life in Vienna. I began to do some research for Kate. Among other things I made contact

with the present headmistress of the Gymnasium that Kate had attended. Frau Pick was so kind to retrieve some documents relating to Kate's time there from the school archive. All documents, there were of course only copies in the first place, were passed on to Kate. After her death earlier this year, they went to her daughters Marian and Evelyn. I have also made contact with Dorit Lichtenstern. When I saw the family tree I noticed that several members of the family were shown as having perished in the Holocaust. My attention focussed on Rosa Lichtenstern (born 1868) who was deported in 1942 from Theresienstadt to Treblinka, Josef Lichtenstern (born 1915 in M-Ostrau) who died in April 1945 on the death march from Schwarzheide to Theresienstadt and his wife Gertrude (born 1915) who survived Theresienstadt, Birkenau and Belsen. So far I have not found anything about her life after the war. I have yet to find out how Renee Lichtenstern (born 1929 in Ostrava), a daughter of Hans Lichtenstern and Anni is related to 'my' Lichtensterns.

Do any of you know these Lichtensterns?

**Peter Gordy (geb. Goldberger)** writes from the USA:

Our family situation was such that all of our important family belongings were packed in a steamer trunk forwarded to Trieste destined for Brazil. The voyage was interrupted when Italy entered the war and hence, the trunk was stolen, containing all family photo albums (and some of my toys).

Almost all our family was subsequently deported and killed by the Nazis, leaving me with almost no knowledge of my family history. I am now hoping that some of your newsletter readers might remember the Goldberger Family, Ferdinand and Helene (born Tramer), their children Heinrich (my father), Else and Herta or possibly Ferdinand's siblings, Marie, Julius, Siegmund, Gusti, Ludwig, Rudi and Anna.

Much of my families' history has been documented by our son, Michael on the website:  
<http://www.idlirasam.net/omaopa/index.html>

Any information received will be greatly appreciated.

In Newsletter #12 we described the recent unveiling of the new Nisko Monument in Ostrava. A similar report was published in the Review of the British Czech and Slovak Association in December. **Moshe Har-El (geb:Hans Hechter)** writes from Israel:

My father's twin brother was deported in October 1939 to Nisko and never came back. That happened a short time after we moved (I and my parents) to Prague, where we tried to find a way to leave Europe, of course without success. My father was arrested a short time later and sent to Sosnowiecz, near Katowiecz. What happened later you already know from my little book.  
Happy Hanuccah,

Moshe.

**Alice Anson (geb.Gross)** found some postcards and photographs when clearing up some papers, and sent them to us. Here is a photograph (1993) of their family house on the corner of Bahnhofstrasse and Maigasse, where the Gross and Adler families lived. After the war, she and her brother each received £500 for it!



She also sent a postcard of the Café de Europe, which many of you will know:



**Uri Meretz (März)** has explained the difference between himself and Uri Meretz! There are two of them:

Uri (Jiri) Meretz is the senior among us cousins. My own full name is Uriel Meretz. Uri's (Jiri's) father, Dr. David Paul Meretz and my father Eliezer Hugo Meretz, were brothers.

Uriel sent me an article written by his Uncle David, *Juden in Ostrau* which is very interesting. Uriel writes of his Uncle:

“My uncle was not a historian, but a highly learned person and perhaps as the last president of the Czechoslovak Zionist Organization, center of which was in Ostrava, he felt an obligation to write about the town's Jewish community”

The article is a pleasant antidote to the virulently anti-semitic book by Drapala, with the same name.

## Centropa

We were recently introduced to Centropa, the Central Europe Center for Research and Documentation. Although they have many photographs etc from Czechoslovakia, they do not have anything from Ostrava. However, we are now in contact with them, so any enquiries about Ostrava will come to us.

EDWARD SEROTTA

Centropa

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## Lectures

We continue to give talks about Ostrava and our group and, as a result, we find more Ostravané whom we did not know. So the Ostrava story is being spread and our network grows.

## 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.

## The Ostrava Archive

Hana Šústková continues to organise the material we have into a usable Archive which will be placed in the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP). It is slow work, but necessary.

We are still anxious to receive more information, original photographs, documents or artifacts about your families and Ostrava to include in the JMP Archive. Please let me know if you have anything that you are willing to donate.

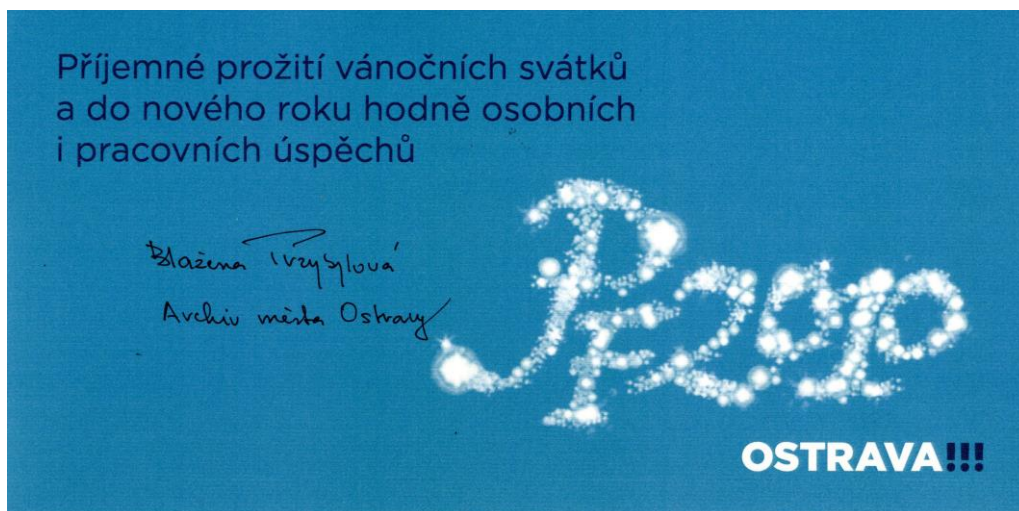
We also need financial support to allow Hana to continue with the work. So far we have received enough to enable her to continue (at 25% of her time) for another few months but more is needed. Please let David or Monica have any contributions.

### Apology

We are very sorry that our circulation list has had gaps in it and that some of you had been left off. I hope we have now corrected it, but please do let us know of any Ostravané you know about who might not receive the Newsletter.

## Festive Greetings

Many of you send Chanukah greetings and it is not possible to include them all, so we have selected two, to represent them all and we wish you all a very Happy Holiday and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.



New Year Greetings from Dr Przybylová, the Ostrava City Archivist

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