

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

33/35 Uxbridge Road
Kingston upon
Thames
Surrey, KT1 2LL

020 8546 9370

www.Kingston-synagogue.org.uk

Number 18 New Year 2010-11

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From the Lord Mayor's Office, Ostrava

Dear David,

The latest newsletter (#17) is really nice, it was interesting to read it. You do a good work.

With best wishes

Zdenek Sladovnik

Matters Financial

Following our very successful trip to Ostrava in July and the laying of the *Stolpersteine* and plaques in the Memorial Hall, I asked the Synagogue's Financial Representative and co-signatory on our cheques to check our accounts. He has confirmed both that the amount of money in our bank account corresponds **exactly(!)** to what our accounts say and also that, we received £1541.48 more in total than we spent, and this amount has now been allocated to the Ostrava Archiving Funds.

Plaques and *Stolpersteine*

We have had some further requests for plaques to be laid in the Memorial Hall of the Jewish cemetery in Slezká Ostrava. We need about six plaques to make it worth -while for the local manufacturer to set up to produce them. The total cost is approx. £100 each, including all the costs of mounting and a donation to the *Kehilla* for maintaining them. If you would like to organise a plaque, please contact Heinz Vogel (email: Heinz@vogel.org.uk. Tel: 00 44 (0)1932 849 405).

Ostrava Archive

Dr Jiří Jung, who is based in Ostrava, has been working fairly solidly for the past six months on organising and cataloguing the first parts of our electronic archive material. Dr Michal Frankl of the Jewish Museum in Prague (JMP) has supervised this and the JMP have used their own funds to pay Jiří for his time. However, this funding will probably not be available in 2011, so we will support the work from our funds.

The new data base should enable anyone who is interested to identify names and link the name to other family members, photographs, family trees and other documents. It will be invaluable for future researchers.

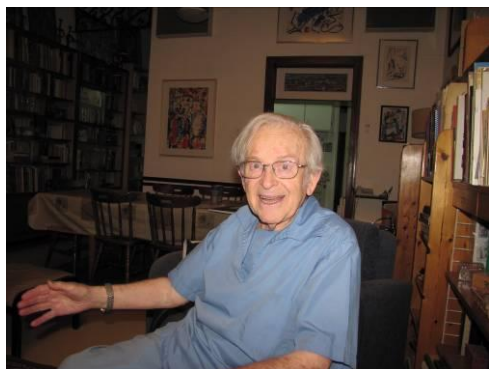
The painstaking work of entering the data will continue and we appeal for more original materials. **Do you have original family photographs, letters, documents, or other materials?** Are you willing to donate them to the JMP or, at least, to allow us to scan them and keep copies in our archive? If so, please let David know as soon as possible. He will make all the necessary arrangements.

Ostrava and the Finkler Question

Howard Jacobson recently won the Man Booker Prize for his book, *The Finkler Question*. Libor, one of the characters in the book, mentions his old Hebrew teacher who came from Ostrava but now lives in London. He is described as very old, deaf, coughs a lot, and "maybe even shed a tear or two, remembering his wife and children, but he speaks a beautiful classical, pre-Israeli Hebrew". I do not know to what extent this is a real description of someone Jacobson knew, but it added to the interest of the book.

Israeli Ostravaks

Yehuda and Leah Bacon



Yehuda Bacon



Leah Bacon

In November, David and Judith went to Israel and met Yehuda and Leah Bacon, for the first time, and had a delightful evening with them in their Jerusalem flat.

Dr Glen Sujo has written a three volume PhD thesis (Courtauld Institute, London) on Yehuda's life and work, including a full-colour catalogue raisonnée. We hope to acquire a copy of the thesis for our Ostrava archive.

Peter and Eva Erben

David and Judith also visited Peter Erben (geb. Eisenberg) and Eva (geb Löwidt). Eva is Czech but not from Ostrava. You might have read Eva's story in Ivrit (*Ima sapri li*) or in the German (*Mich hatman vergessen*) or French (*Oubliée*) translations. Or some of you might have read the Czech version that Eva wrote (*Sen*). Within the next six months, we hope you will be able to read a totally new version, in English, combing the most important parts of the previous editions, with the errors corrected and much new material included. [Watch this space!](#)



Peter Erben



Eva Erben

Hanna Adar (geb. Kraus)

Hanna has written to us about the Children's holiday home in Ostravice and Kitty Leibreich (geb Borger) wrote back with some of her memories. Hanna remembers Kitty's grandfather – Stary Borger. I am sure many of you do, also. Kitty recalls one night time walk from the holiday home:

I don't remember very much, but I know there was a night time outing for children over the age of 15. We were walking up a hill holding hands, because it was so dark, and the boy behind me was very small. I asked him about this, and he told me that he was one of the twins that had been experimented on by Dr Mengele.

Bertie Goldberg also recalls Hanna's father:

I remember Oberlehrer Kraus very well. In fact I would say that I could never forget him. The kindest teacher and the nicest man, who influenced my young years and from whom I received my basic education which stood me in good stead all my life.

Hanna remembers Peter Barber's family both from their time in Ostrava and also from when she visited in London. Hanna comments that Peter's father was one of the cleverest men she ever met!

Uriel Meretz

Uri saw the photo of the Deutsches Gymnasium in our last Newsletter and remembers that his mother Helene Hornung started there in the first grade in 1909.

More Ostravaks

Our international network of Ostravaks continues to grow and we hope to hear from even more, as our fame spreads! Please let Monica or David know if you know of any other Ostravaks.

Vera Harms-Rimplová

Vera's father, Jindrich, was born in Ostrava and survived the holocaust, but his parents, Jakob Judah and Josephine (geb. Gross) were both murdered in Auschwitz. Jakob had a grocery shop in Hornopolni ul. Jindrich became a well-known photographer and there was a retrospective exhibition of his work in Prague in 2006: <http://www.radio.cz/de/rubrik/kultur/heinrich-rimpel-sehnsucht-ohne-rueckkehr>

Maud Beer

Michal (geb Maud) has written to us with a link to her website, which has her life story and family photos: <http://html.index.com.weebly.maudb/>

Maud introduced us to [Renée Lichtenstern](#), who lives in Ecuador. She writes:

Thank you very much for your email and the newsletters. I find it very interesting. Please send me always information about your activities. I have no material about Ostrava only a picture of our school class in Ostrava which I think you have received from Yehuda Bacon or Maud

Renée has just had a major operation but promised to write to us with more family background as soon as she recovers, which we hope will be very soon.

Amanda Meller



Philipp Meller

Amanda writes:

I have very little knowledge of my family. My grandfather was Philipp Meller he was born on 12th March 1893, although I am unsure of where he was born. The only record I found was that he was a "Political Security Jew prisoner" in Buchenwald. He was sent there in 1938 and survived. His mother was Rischel Regina Schacht and father Samuel Meller. I was passed on a name of his cousin Herta Meller born 1918 in Marish Ostrau/Ostrava. She managed to come to Britain in 1939 and married Walter Blowers (I found these records.) It might be possible that she came with a sibling Erich Meller but I can't find firm knowledge of this.

Remarkably, Libuše who is the fount of all knowledge, has not been able to find any information.

Do you know the family? Please let Monica or David know, if you do.

Madeleine Isenberg



Photo of Edith ("Rechi") Goldstein, ca. 1940, in Marisch Ostrawa

Edith "Rechi" Strebinger (geb. Goldstein)

Madeleine writes about her Aunt:

At the outbreak of the war, another aunt of mine, Edith "Rechi" (nee Goldstein) Strebinger and her husband Kurt, were possibly living in MO. Edith's nickname was Rechi. I'm attaching the photo I have of her. As you can see the photo was taken in MO. I never knew them, but I wonder if anyone is still around who might have known them. They also may have been living in Brno, but I really don't know.

Did you know the Rechi or the family? Please let Monica or David know, if you do.

Matthias Zimmerman was looking for the Har-El family and I am delighted that we have been able to put them in touch. Matthias has provided some information about the **Borger** family (Matthias is not related to them, at all:

Oskar **BORGER** came from Ostrava (born there on 3.10.1888), his parents were Marcus **BORGER** and Regina née **RIESENFELD** (see picture). He had a younger brother Fritz (see picture). The parents (or the generations before them) had a tavern in Ostrava (see picture). Unfortunately, I do not have a picture of Oskar Borger himself.

I do not know about the fate of his parents and his brother. But I know that Oskar, his wife and two sons lived in Vienna in 1938. The sons managed to get to England and to Palestine (i.e., before 1948), where their descendants live now. The parents remained in Vienna because Oskar had an important economical position which spared him from deportation. Finally, pressure became too great and with the help on a SS man (!), he and his wife could flee. They had an adventurous journey (e.g., across the Black See in a leaking boat). Finally, they reached Palestine, too, and lived there until their deaths in the 1970s.



Marcus Borger and Regina (geb Riesenfeld)



Fritz Borger



The Borger Tavern

Do you know the Borger family or the Tavern?

Ze'ev Eberhard wrote to us from Israel, about his wife's father, [Leo Paperle](#):

My wife's father was born in Ostrava at 11.11.1924, His name was Paperle Leo. His parents were Moriss and Tony Paperle. He was a survivor from Theresienstadt, as far that we know the only one from his family.

He had a relative that her name after her marriage was Berta Singer (her parents were Helena and Ferdinand). We know that she was born in Ostrava at 16.10.1909, she divorced and she immigrated to Israel at 1948 with her marriage name. We don't know where she was during the war.

Libuše has been able to add some more information:

[Paperle Leo](#) *11.11.1924 Ostrava-Přívoz was extramarital son of [Antonie Paperle recte \(Latin, means correctly or rightly\) Rikler](#) * 23.4.1907 in Mor.Ostrava +8.10.1942 in c.c. Treblinka,

Antonie was the daughter of [Leopold Paperle recte Rikler](#) *21.12.1878 in Nipolowice region Bochnia, Poland +6.9.1943 c.c. Auschwitz and [Sali nee Blonska](#) *12.5.1884 in Bochnia +14.1.1942 in Mor.Ostrava.

Antonie's father was a salesman and Antonie lived with her son Leo together with her parents in Dlouha street 8. She had also a brother [Heřman](#) *29.11.1908 in Ostrava. He had wife [Helena nee Schwarz](#) and son [Arnošt](#) *31.7.1934 in Trenčanske Teplice. They all died in c.c. Auschwitz.

[Antonie Paperlová](#) married 12.2.1935 (civic wedding in Mor. Ostrava) already two times divorced butcher [Ervin Steier](#) *5.4.1897 in Ostrava-Radvanice, who had two sons from previous marriages – [Kurt](#) and [Zikmund](#). Antonie and Ervin were deported by 3rd transport from Ostrava to Terezín and further to Auschwitz, where both died.

Jonathan Holbrook's father was [Tomas Hlubik](#), whose father was [Karel Hlubik](#). He, in turn was the son of [Antonin Jan](#), the son of [Josef](#), all from Vsetin. Josef was married to [Anna Rosenzweig](#), the daughter of [Martin Rosenzweig](#), also from Vsetin. Anne had several brothers and sisters and Jonathan would like to make contact with them. **Do any of you know the family? If so, please let Monica or David know.**

And now for another new "Ostravak". Peter Bintcliffe is the son of Tanya and the great-grandson of Kurt Karel Smulovic. Tanya writes:



Today Peter had his brit milah. His Hebrew name is Shmuel ben Avraham. This is the first brit milah for 130 years in Kurt's family.

Ostravak Get-Together – Date for your diary

The next meeting of Ostravaks will take place on **Sunday May 15th 2011** and our Guest of Honour will be H. E. The Czech Ambassador, Mr Michael Žantovský. Make a note in your diary!

Please let David Prager know if you will be joining us then, together with the number of people in your party, so that we can organise the catering properly. There will be a £5 /head charge to cover the costs of the refreshments etc. David Prager's email is drprager@aol.com and his telephone number is 00 44 (0) 20 8398 5901.

Late news from Peter Erben

The last living member of the Salo Kremer family, which lived in Ostrava and perished in the KZ , Eva Alter née Kramer, passed away on the 23th of December at the age 86. She lived in Jerusalem and was an active member of the Ostrava Nisko remembrance organization

More Ostravaks?

Do you know of any other Ostravaks or their families who are not already on our circulation list? If you do, please give their details to David or Monica.

Jiří Jung, our Ostrava cataloguer, sends New Year greetings:



Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok 2011 přeje Jirka Jung

Monica Popper
Ranelagh Cottage
7 Ailsa Road
TWICKENHAM
Middlesex
TW1 1QJ
UK
Tel 00 44 20 8891 3508
Email: monsonn@talktalk.net

David Lawson
29 Malcolm Drive
SURBITON
Surrey
KT6 6QS
UK
Tel: 00 44 20 8390 8142
Email: lawsonassoc@btinternet.com