



ŽIDOVSKÉ MUZEUM V PRAZE המוזיאון היהודי בפראג

Newsletter

2 2018

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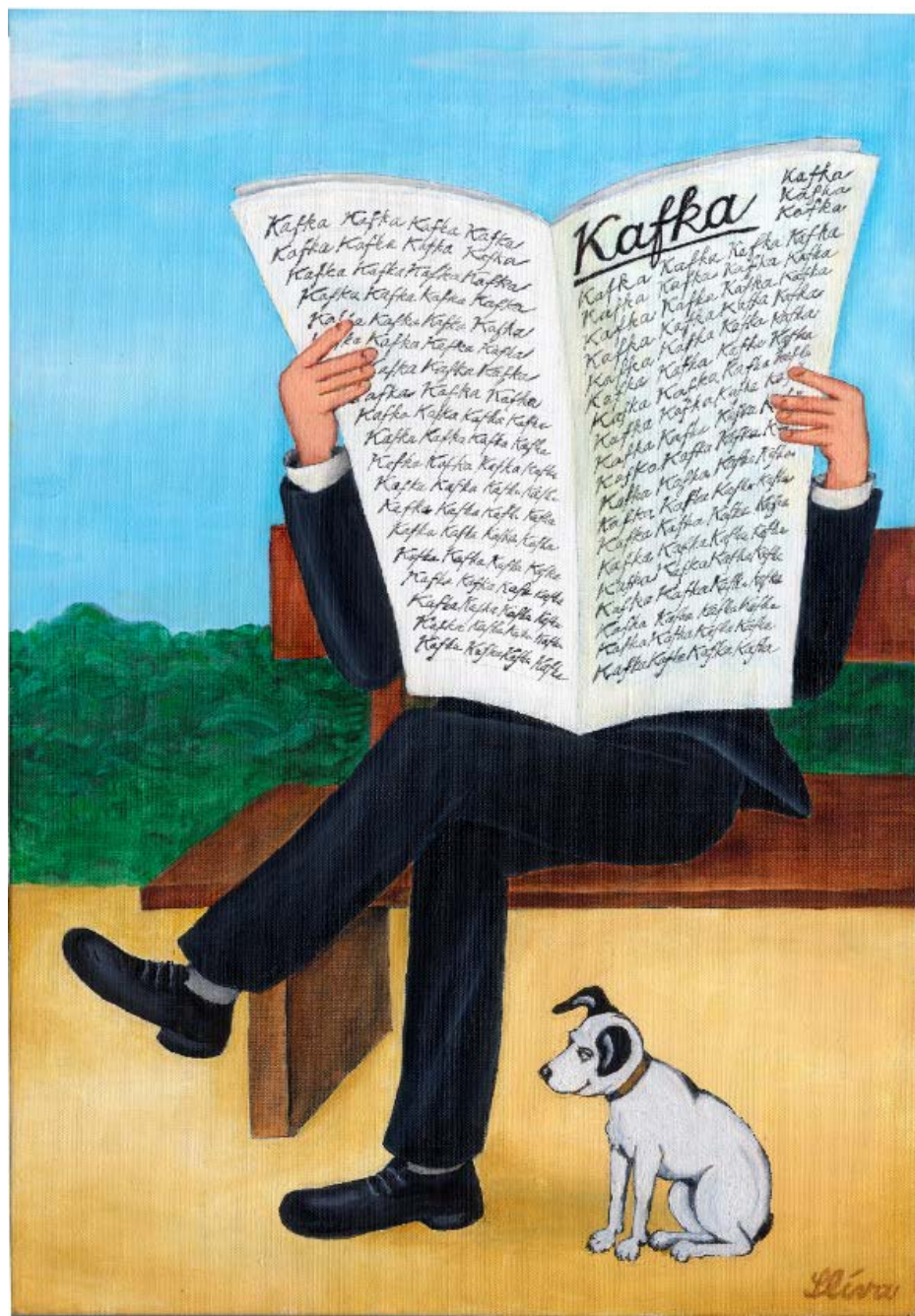
Jewish Museum in Prague

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

“My Cup of Kafka...” Drawings, Prints and Paintings by Jiří Slíva

An exhibition of works by the graphic artist and illustrator Jiří Slíva is showing at the Jewish Museum's Robert Guttmann Gallery. It features a number of drawings, colour lithographs, etchings, pastels and oil paintings on the artist's favourite themes – Franz Kafka, Sigmund Freud, the Golem, Jewish

customs/symbols, and biblical motifs – as well as other material inspired by the works of Jewish writers. Jiří Slíva has been preoccupied with Jewish humour and illustrating the works of Franz Kafka for many years. In December 2017, the Franz Kafka Publishing House published *My Cup of Kafka*, a book featuring Slíva's main artworks inspired by the great writer. A selection of these works is on display at the exhibition. Also on view is a range of Slíva's illustrations from books by the Czech-Israeli writer Ruth Bondy, which are dedicated to the language, names and special idioms of Czech Jews. Slíva's exhibited work also includes depictions of café society and scenes from everyday life, which are marked by absurd humour and a love of jazz, wine and dancing. The exhibition runs throughout 2018.



Neighbours Who Disappeared

The English-language version of the touring exhibition “Neighbours Who Disappeared” – part of one of the Jewish Museum’s projects for secondary school students – has been shown for the first time in the South African Republic. Since 5 June 2018, it has been on view at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre, where it was presented by Zuzana Pavlovská, the head of the Jewish Museum’s Department for Education and Culture. The exhibition will then be moving to Durban and Cape Town, where it will be put on display at a number of schools. It is due to return to the Czech Republic at the end of 2019. The Neighbours Who Disappeared project encourages school pupils and students to trace the fate of Jews who disappeared from their neighbourhoods during the Second World War. The project is a source of methodological inspiration for studying the Holocaust period in accordance with the Czech Ministry of Education’s general educational programme, and also an opportunity to meet with the last generation of Holocaust survivors and witnesses. For more information about the project, see [here](#).



Photo (c) Anna Syková

A SELECTION OF CULTURAL EVENTS AND LECTURES IN PRAGUE

Jewish songs

On 16 April, the Jewish Museum in Prague, together with the civic association MUZIKA JUDAICA, hosted an evening of Yiddish and Hebrew songs in the Maisel Synagogue, Prague.



CESTA za židovskou písní
autorské i tradiční jidiš a hebrejské písně
Lenka Lichtenberg Kvartet
(Kanada, ČR)
Lenka Lichtenberg (zpěv, klavír, Live Looping)
Robert Fischmann (dechové nástroje, zpěv)
Tomáš Reindl (perkuse, tabla, didjeridu)
David Dorůžka (kytara)




Klezmer Chaverim
(Maďarsko)
Patrik Ādám (kytara)
Peter Berec (akordeon)



**7. ročník
malého
židovského
festivalu**

festival je věnovaný Franzí Kafkovi

vstup volný - informace a rezervace:
muzikajudanka@seznam.cz, www.vogelaves.cz
Kudrka Jarmila Blanka Vogelová: 729 020 260, 775 176 684

Memento mori

Questions of death and dying tend to be pushed aside in our culture. We often do not accept death, and it seems as if dying does not exist in contemporary society. Does death belong to life, or is it natural to avoid any encounter with the "angel of death"? These questions were discussed in the Maisel Synagogue on 25 April by Marek O. Vácha (a Roman Catholic priest and head of the Institute of Ethics at the Third Medical Faculty of Charles University, Prague), Martin Voldřich (chief physician at the Inpatient Resuscitation Department at the Clinic of Anaesthesiology, Resuscitation and Intensive Medicine of the Military University Hospital, Prague) and Karol Efraim Sidon, the Chief Rabbi of the Czech Republic. The discussion was moderated by the journalist Jan Neubauer.



Photo (c) Michaela Voldřichová

Literature Night

On 9 May, the Jewish Museum became involved in the European Literature Night in Prague. Every year, this project is held on the eve of the largest book fair in the country – Book World Prague. Since 2006, it has been organized by the Czech Centres in collaboration with the EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture) network, foreign embassies, the Representation of the European Commission in Prague and the Labyrinth Publishing House. This year the European Literature Night took place in the Old and New towns of Prague, and one of the venues that opened its doors to the event was the Maisel Synagogue. The Czech actor Ivan Řezáč read excerpts from the Flemish novelist Jeroen Olyslaegers' book *Wil* [Will], which is set in Antwerp during the Second World War and deals with the Resistance, efforts to help the Jews, and antisemitism. Several hundred people attended this event at the Maisel Synagogue, which took place between 6 and 11 in the evening.

Martinů Voices in the Spanish Synagogue

On 20 May, the Spanish Synagogue hosted a concert by the vocal ensemble Martinů Voices under the baton of the choirmaster Lukáš Vasilka with the Bennewitz String Quartet. The event was organized by the Prague Spring Festival in collaboration with the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Terezín Music Foundation. The programme was tailored to the venue, and all of the compositions were inspired by Jewish culture – such as the origin of the composer or librettist of the works performed, or other non-musical sources.

Concert goers who had tickets to the event were given a 50% discount on the entry fee to the Jewish Museum's exhibitions between 1 May and 30 June 2018.



Hadar Galron on theatre, the Czech Republic and Israel

On 23 May, the Jewish Museum in Prague organized an event at the Maisel Synagogue featuring the London-born Israeli playwright and actress Hadar Galron. In the Czech Republic she is mainly known as the author of the highly acclaimed play *Mikveh*, which ran for ten successful years at the National Theatre in Prague (finishing in June of this year). At the Maisel Synagogue event she was in discussion with Petr Svojtka, the director of her new play *I ♥ MAMMA* (which opened at Prague's ABC Theatre in March) and Eva Salzmánová, who played one of the leading characters in the play *Mikveh*. The event was wonderfully moderated by Hana Ulmanová, a translator and English/American studies scholar.



Hadar Galron in the Maisel Synagogue

BRNO DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE

On 12 April, the names of Shoah victims were read out in public in Brno for *Yom HaShoah Ve-HaGevurah* (Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Heroism), more commonly known as Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). This commemoration marks the anniversary of the start of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943. In the Jewish calendar it falls on the 27th day in the month of Nisan (April/May). The public reading of the names of Shoah victims was held in co-operation with the Brno office of the Jewish Museum's Department for Education and Culture, the Terezín Initiative Institute, the Brno Jewish Community, the Museum of Romani Culture, the Brno-Centre Municipal District, and the public-benefit corporation Káveeska.



This year's public reading of the names of Shoah victims took place in 16 towns across Bohemia and Moravia. In addition to the usual places – such as Prague, Brno, Olomouc, Liberec, Sušice, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Pilsen, Havlíčkův Brod, Ústí nad Labem and Klatovy – there were also readings in Horažďovice, Lipník nad Bečvou, Mělník, Sedlčany and Ústí nad Orlicí.

Veřejné čtení jmen obětí holocaustu

... Je maraton čtení jmen a stručných osudů žen, dětí a mužů,
kteří byli zavražděni během druhé světové války kvůli svému
židovskému nebo romskému původu.



On 19 May, the Brno office of the Jewish Museum's Department for Education and Culture became involved for the first time in Brno's Museum Night. The main attraction for visitors was the exhibition *Kurt Bardoš: Before Everything Changed / Bevor sich alles verändert hatte*. This show features a selection of photographic works by Kurt Bardoš (1914–1945), an amateur photographer of Jewish descent from Brno. Dating from the late 1930s and early 1940s, the photographs on display reflect the classic trends in photography from the inter-war years and almost miraculously survived the dramatic events that followed. For Museum Night, the Brno office also held a lecture about Hebrew script and Jewish traditions and customs. In total, the event attracted about 580 visitors to the venue.



The official opening of the exhibition *Kurt Bardoš: Before Everything Changed / Bevor sich alles verändert hatte* took place on 29 May. For the people of Brno, this is a show with a particularly strong story – both relating to the photographer and to the post-war fate of the albums. The private view of the first exhibition of photography by Kurt Bardoš to be held at the Jewish Museum's Brno office was launched by the educator Táňa Klementová. Helene Cerny informed the guests about the personal story of the Bardoš and Weltmann families, and the Brno House of Arts curator Jana Vránová discussed Bardoš's work in the context of trends in photography in the inter-war years. We highly appreciate the fact that Kurt Bardoš's extended family came from across the world in order to attend the opening show. Our thanks are particularly due to his three nieces, who kindly agreed to copies of the photographs being made for the exhibition. Support for the exhibition was also provided by the Brno Jewish Community and the South Moravian Region.

NEŽ SE VŠE ZMĚNILO



KURT
BARDOŠ

On 1 June, a commemorative plaque to Shoah victims from Prostějov was unveiled at the main train station in Prostějov, from where more than 1,200 local inhabitants of Jewish descent were deported to the Terezín ghetto in late June and early July 1942. The commemorative event was organized by the Hanácký Jeruzalém (“Jerusalem of Haná”) association, motivated by the fact the public spaces of Prostějov had no commemorative markers to honour the local victims of the Shoah. The unveiling ceremony was attended by representatives of the German, US and Israeli embassies and prominent members of the Jewish community, as well as local citizens and members of the Hanácký Jeruzalém association. Thanks to the activities of the latter association, the Brno office of the Jewish Museum’s Department for Education and Culture has entered into co-operation with several schools in Prostějov for the teaching of the museum’s educational programmes, which are set to continue in the next school year.



OTHER NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Pinkas Synagogue alterations approved

Installation of the new permanent exhibition in the Pinkas Synagogue has recently been completed after carrying out various building and technical alterations. The architectural design was done by Petr Franta Architekti, the chief designer of the project. The main contractor was KONSIT a.s., a company experienced in delivering comprehensive construction services for all systems and types of construction, including particularly complex buildings, such as heritage sites.

Outside the Pinkas Synagogue, repairs were done to the facades, paving, sewer connection, rainfall inlets, railings and supporting walls, and the stone features and windows were restored. The CCTV and security system was extended and the courtyard area was covered with a WiFi signal. Inside, lighting alterations were made, the windows, doors and stone features were restored, and the paving and painted decorations were repaired. Most noticeable are the alterations to the entrance hall, where the painted decorations were restored. With regards to technical facilities and equipment, the air-conditioning system was improved, the camera system was extended, internet cabling was installed and WiFi was set up. For safety reasons, the museum has also undertaken to implement a new system for calculating its occupancy figures. Radiant panels were installed in the museum building to improve the temperature stability and the lighting was optimized.

The building alteration works were carried out under the supervision of experts from the Czech National Heritage Institute between September 2018 and April 2018 while the museum was fully operational. The completed works were officially approved on 16 April and the main contractor handed back the site to the Jewish Museum in Prague on 26 April. Work is currently being done on the completion of the digital version of the permanent exhibition at the Pinkas Synagogue, which was put into trial operation in June.



Curator Jana Šplíchalová at the approval inspection of the outdoor section of the exhibition

2018 Culture Against Antisemitism

Once again, the Jewish Museum in Prague – as a partner – was involved in the annual public gathering against antisemitism, which is held on Holocaust Remembrance Day. A goodwill march through the centre of Prague, which was staged by the Czech branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) on 22 April, went from the Old Town Square through the streets of Josefov (the former Jewish Town) and stopped at Náměstí Jana Palacha (Jan Palach Square) in front of the Rudolfinum building, where professional dancers commemorated the victims of the Shoah. The march ended in Wallenstein Garden, where the participants joined the follow-up gathering. For more details (in Czech), see www.vsichnijsmelidi.cz and the Facebook page “Kulturou proti antisemitismu” (Culture against Antisemitism).



Israel after 70 years and its relations with the Czech Republic

On 9 May, the Czech Senate hosted a conference on the topic of Israel after 70 years and its relations with the Czech Republic. The aim of the event was to

assess how Czech-Israeli relations have developed over the last 70 years. Among those taking part were the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Ambassador to the Czech Republic, as well as diplomats, economists, academics and experts from the cultural sector. The director of the Jewish Museum in Prague, Leo Pavlát, also took part in a panel debate.



Photo (c) Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

2018 JudaFest

The 7th annual JudaFest, a festival of Jewish organizations and communities, was held on 3 June in the traditional place – Prague's Náměstí Míru (Peace Square). The event was prepared by the Czech Union of Jewish Students with the support of the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Czech Foundation for Holocaust Victims (NFOH), the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, the Lauder Schools of Prague, and the Prague 2 Municipal District. The aim of the festival is to open up and present Jewish communities to the public through music, dance, food and entertainment.



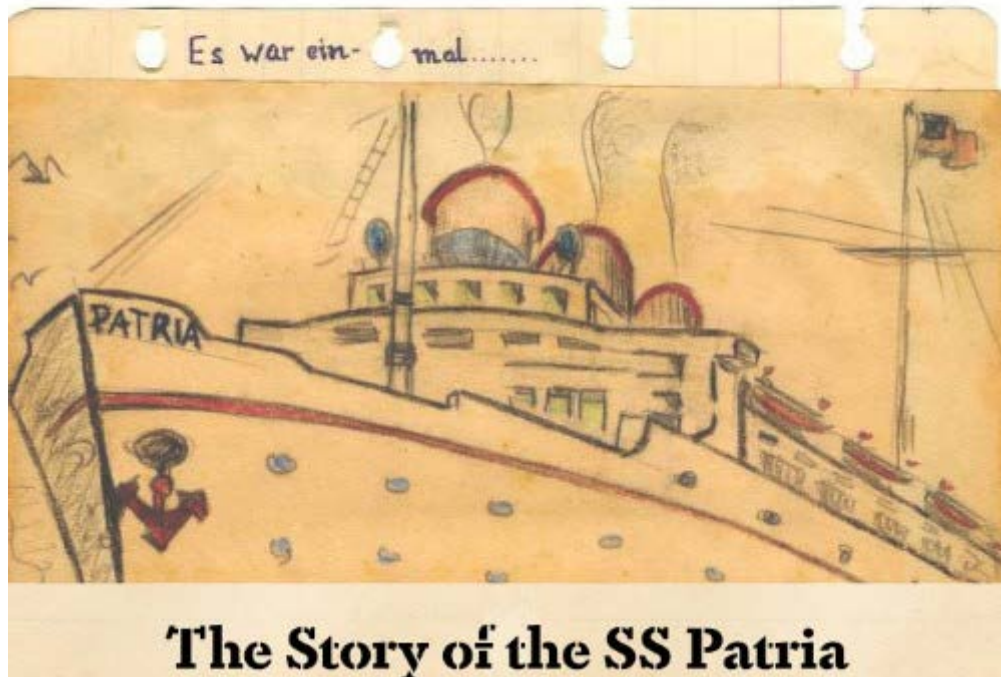
Photo (c) Czech Union of Jewish Students

The story of the ship SS Patria at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

On 5 June 2018, the Czech Embassy in Pretoria, in co-operation with the Holocaust and Genocide Center in Johannesburg, hosted a lecture on the story of the ship SS Patria – an adventurous and sad story of Jewish refugees. The lecture was given by Zuzana Pavlovská, head of the Department for Education and Culture at the Jewish Museum in Prague. In September 1940, 3 600 refugees from Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary embarked three ships heading for Palestine – the SS Pacific, the SS Milos and the SS Atlantic. The British colonial authorities, however, prevented entry into Palestine and deported all the refugees to Mauritius via the SS Patria.

The opening words at the event in Johannesburg were delivered by the Czech Ambassador Michal Král and the Director of the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Center, Tali Nates. The event was attended by several dozen guests, including the Israeli Deputy Ambassador Embassy Ayellet Black.

Zuzana Pavlovská also prepared high school workshops about the history of Judaism in Central Europe for the Center of Holocaust and Genocide in Johannesburg and the Westerford High School in Cape Town.



2018 Prague Museum Night

Once again, the Jewish Museum in Prague participated in Prague Museum Night, now in its 15th year. This cultural event helps to promote the activities of museums and galleries, and since 2004 it has offered the public an opportunity to explore the city's cultural heritage in a somewhat different light. The Maisel Synagogue (with its exhibition on the history of Jews in the Bohemian lands from the 10th to the 18th centuries) and the Spanish Synagogue (with its exhibition devoted to the fate of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia in the 19th and 20th centuries) opened their doors to this year's throng of visitors at 10:30 p.m. on 9 June. A special programme in the Maisel Synagogue was organized for the hard-of-hearing visitors. As in previous years, the public interest in visiting the museum at night was enormous, with people waiting in line for dozens of minutes. Visitors both outside and inside the synagogues were informed of the museum's offerings, discount entries and cultural programmes. The museum handed out information flyers for the event and four volunteers were on hand to help out. In total, 2,566 visitors came to see the two exhibitions between 10:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.



Presentation of the new part of the permanent exhibition at the Pinkas Synagogue

On 27 June, the Jewish Museum in Prague invited members of the Prague Jewish Community, the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic and representatives of the museum's Board of Trustees and Supervisory Board to a presentation and guided tour of the new permanent outdoor exhibition on the grounds of the Pinkas Synagogue.

The exhibition *Journeys with No Return: The Deportation of Jews from the Czech Lands, 1939-1945* (curated by Jana Šplíchalová) is on view in the newly re-opened former Pinkas Street site. It will help to give visitors a specific idea of the timescale and territorial scope of the deportation of Jews from the Czech lands. It also provides information about where Jews from the Czech lands died during the Second World War. As such, it is directly linked to the inscriptions of the names of Shoah victims on the walls of the synagogue memorial. When putting together the exhibition, the curator worked closely with experts from the Terezín Memorial and Shoah survivors/witnesses, whose suggestions were incorporated into the final version.

The basic information on the display panels is supplemented by documents that can be viewed at an interactive kiosk inside the Pinkas Synagogue or via a web interface and mobile applications. The digital resources also facilitate name searches in the database of Shoah victims; the most useful tool is an electronic navigation system, which makes it easier for visitors to find names on the synagogue walls. The digital version of the exhibition is currently in trial operation before its official launch for the general public. This event provided an opportunity to publicly thank all those who had provided valuable advice to the curator, as well as to thank the individuals and companies involved in the implementation of the new part of the permanent exhibition.



NOTICES

Notice of closure of the depositories housing the museum's collections of textiles, metal and other three-dimensional objects

The Jewish Museum in Prague will be limiting access to the depositories that house its collection of textiles (curated by Dana Veselská) and its collection of metal and other three-dimensional objects (curated by Jaroslav Kuntoš) for a period of about three months as of 1 July 2018 in order to conduct periodic inventories. During this time, the objects in these collections will not be made available for any use – i.e., for taking out of or placing in the depositories, lending, digitization, condition appraisal, study/research purposes, or for the provision of information that is not otherwise available in our database or in our other registers and documentation resources. We will let you know in advance of the reopening of these depositories on our website. We apologize for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your understanding.

Notice of closure of the archive research room

The Jewish Museum's archive research room will be closed to the public in July and August 2018.

Notice of closure of the library

The Library of the Jewish Museum in Prague will be closed in August 2018, but you will still be able to use the services of the Multimedia Centre. In addition to providing access to a thematic reference library, the Multimedia Centre provides the following services:

- multimedia – an area for studying audio and video recordings from the museum's library collections

- bibliographic and information services – basic research, Shoah Victims Database and Collections Department Database searches, access to specialized databases
- consultation – referrals to the museum's specialist staff and affiliated organizations
- sale of books published by the Jewish Museum in Prague

Multimedia Centre opening times: Mon and Wed 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. / Fri 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A new monothematic issue of the journal *Judaica Bohemiae* (Vol. 53/2018, 1) was published at the beginning of July 2018. It is focused on a particularly interesting topic from the history of Moravian Jews in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries, which has previously not been sufficiently explored – Jewish political communities in Moravia. The volume includes a selection of extended papers from the workshop “Remnants of the Past or Laboratories of Modernity? The Political Jewish Communities in Moravia after 1848 and their Archival Sources”. This academic event was organized by the Jewish Museum in Prague and the Masaryk Institute and Archive at the Academy of Sciences in co-operation with the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre for Jewish Studies at the Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc in May 2016. The first three papers, by Ines Koeltzsch (*Migration als Herausforderung. Die politischen Judengemeinden in Mähren und ihr ‚Niedergang‘ um 1900*), Peter Urbanitsch (*Die Politischen Israelitengemeinden in Mähren: Entstehung und legitistische Grundlagen, ihre politische Rolle im Nationalitätenstreit, Trennung ihrer säkularen und religiösen Aufgabenbereiche*) and Daniel Baránek (*Die religiöse Funktion Politischer Israelitengemeinden*) provide new insights on important questions relating to these themes – namely, Jewish mass migration and its contemporary discourse, the mixed administrative and religious functions of the Jewish political communities, and the final split between the latter and the religious communities. The fourth paper, by Milan Řepa (*Assailants on the Bench for the Accused: Cases of Violence against Jews at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries at the Regional Criminal Courts in Brno and Uherské Hradiště*), examines the Jewish political communities within the broader historical context of the widespread acts of individual and collective violence that were committed against Jews in Moravia after 1900. In the ‘Documents’ section, Pavel Kocman provides a valuable contribution to the methodology and results of the Yerusha project with an overview of archival sources and literature relating to the topic of Jewish political communities in Moravia. In addition, David Nehyba shows the potential and limits of future research by focusing on the example of the fragmented archival collections relating to the history of the Jewish political

communities in Schaffa (Šafov) and Mißlitz (Miroslav) in the State District Archives in Znojmo. In the 'Reports' section, Marie Crhová provides information about the conference *Reframing Jewish Life: Moravian Jewry at the turn of the 19th and the 20th Centuries*, which was held in Olomouc in October 2017, and Pavel Sládek and Eva Doležalová inform about a discussion panel on the history of Jews in the Bohemian lands at the 11th Congress of Czech Historians, which was held in Olomouc in September 2017. The final section of the journal contains a review by Pavel Kocman of Georg Gaugusch's book *Wer einmal war L-R. Das jüdische Großbürgertum Wiens 1800–1938* (Wien: Amalthea Signum Verlag 2016). Published since 1965 by the Jewish Museum in Prague, *Judaica Bohemiae* focuses on Jewish history and culture in Bohemia, Moravia and the wider Central European area (the territory of the former Habsburg Monarchy). The texts are in English and German.

JUDAICA BOHEMIAE LIII-1



PROMINENT VISITS

April

On 25 April, the museum was visited by a delegation from the Italian towns of Bari and Alberobello, together with representatives of the Discalced Carmelites from Rome.

June

On 5 June, the museum was visited by Maureen Finkelstein, the Chief Operating Officer at the Ronald. S. Lauder Management Corporation, with colleagues on the occasion of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) Executive Committee Meeting in Prague.



Maureen Finkelstein (centre) with colleagues in the Pinkas Synagogue

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