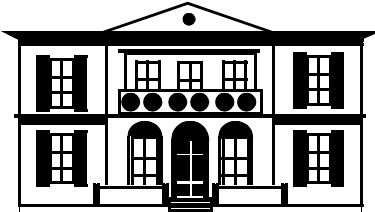


IN TOUCH

WITH OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF HOHENEMS



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SALOMON SULZER

SUSAN SHIMER

Described recently by the New York Times, as “an architect of modern synagogue music,” Salomon Sulzer was born in Hohenems in 1804, and lived there until he moved to Vienna to become Cantor of the new main synagogue, the Seitenstettengasse Synagogue in 1827.

We are told that by the time Sulzer was 13, he was known as the finest cantor in Hohenems. Subsequently, he attended music conservatories at Karlsruhe and in France where he studied composition and singing.

He combined the essen-

tial elements of Jewish musical traditions with the performance techniques of then current European music. Leon Botstein recently wrote that “Sulzer radically reformed the Jewish liturgy and created the basis of the Viennese rite that in turn influenced synagogue cantors all over the world.” His music affected people from all over Europe, not just Jews, but also Christian musicians, such as Joseph Mainzer and Franz Liszt, who, in his diary reported:

“In Vienna we visited the famous tenor Sulzer, who served in the capacity of precentor



in the synagogue, and whose reputation is so outstanding. For moments we could penetrate into his real soul and recognize the secret doctrines of the fathers.... Seldom were we so stirred by emotion as on that evening, so

(Continued on page 5)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

STEPHAN ROLLIN

Susan Shimer our editor of *In Touch* is to be commended for our newsletters head-to-toe makeover. It is certainly now equally as eye-catching as it is informative.

Most of this issue is dedicated to bringing you up to date on the happenings at the Museum. There are also

2004 membership forms. Please circulate this among friends and family members because we need to increase our membership this year as the momentum builds towards our upcoming Meeting in 2005. As we all know, new members are usually gained from the invitation of current members.

On behalf of the editorial team of *In Touch*, may I wish you a successful and happy New Year. ❖



TWO MIRACLES

STEPHAN ROLLIN

I am not much for “miracles” (too much Jewish blood, I guess). However, once I became familiar with the Jewish Museum of Hohenems, I concluded there were two miracles at work.

First, that the Jews not only survived, but multiplied and thrived since 1618 in a difficult environment—Aaron Taenzer is my witness. Secondly, that Otto Amman and others in Hohenems had the perseverance to convince the municipality and the province to finance a Jewish museum. They did so at a time when the situation was far less comfortable for the people of Hohenems than for their neighbors across the border in Switzerland.

As a naïve American businessman I thought when the American Friends was organized, that one day, we the descendants and others in the Americas, could pay for the Museum’s expenses. How wrong I was! The Museum remains dependant upon the generosity of Hohenems, Vorarlberg and Austria for its operating expenses. Our existence, however, is a big morale booster for the Museum’s administration.

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ENERGY, EXPERIENCE AND IDEAS

The new Director, Dr. Hanno Loewy, officially took his position on January 1, 2004, and immediately plunged into the work of the Museum.

He reports that he loves to be at the Museum and to “devote my energy, experience and ideas to its well being

and prospering.” He further reports that the staff must work doubly hard, because, as a result of reduced funding from the municipality of Hohenems and the government of Vorarlberg, the position held by Johannes Inama cannot be filled this year.

Dr. Loewy plans to be in

the eastern United States the last week in October, and we look forward to meeting with him at that time. In the interim, several of our trustees plan to be in Hohenems and, of course, will visit the Museum and Dr. Loewy and members of the Museum staff. ❖

THE SYNAGOGUE RESTORATION

Work on the synagogue restoration continues, as can be seen in the photograph of the construction in progress to your right. The Museum is preparing a book on the History of the Synagogue. The American Friends hope to sponsor an event in New York celebrating the publication of the book while Dr. Loewy is here in October. ❖



WWW.JM-HOHENEMS.AT

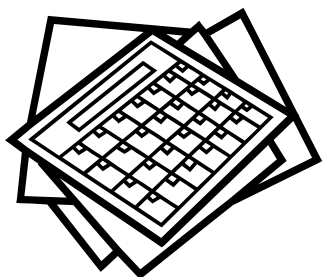


The Museum’s web site now includes much material in English. Dr. Loewy is working diligently to insure that the entire web site is avail-

able to the Museum’s English speaking clientele. Work is proceeding to include more material from the Museum’s archives on the web site.❖

THE MUSEUM'S 2004 PROGRAM

The Museum has set an ambitious program for this year. With the title "Wir sind neugierig auf Menschen" [We are curious about People], the Museum states that people, their stories, their experiences and their memories, are at the center of this year's program.



MARCH 18

On March 18, the Museum will begin programs celebrating the birth two hundred years ago that day of one of its most famous sons, Cantor Salomon Sulzer. An extensive program is planned for the opening at his birth house on Schweizer Strasse as well as at other venues, including the Museum, the Palace and the Pfarikirche. Room 7 of the Museum is devoted to Salomon Sulzer. An article about Salomon Sulzer appears on page 1 of *In Touch*.

MARCH 21 - MAY 23

From the 21st of March through May 23, in collaboration with the Jewish Museum Berlin, the Museum is presenting an exhibit on "Growing up Jewish since 1945 In Austria, Switzerland and Germany". What did it mean for these children to grow up as refugees, migrants or descendants of those who survived the Holocaust?

More than 40 Jewish writers and businessmen, journalists, intellectuals and artists, housewives and husbands, elder and younger, observant and less observant, known and lesser known people, were asked to send the Museum photographs and to tell a story from their childhood and youth: disturbing and memorable experiences in everyday life; moments of joy, of strangeness and belonging; and to give glimpses at the extent and variety of Jewish life since 1945. Together these stories and images unfold a panorama of contemporary Jewish experience in Switzerland, Austria and Germany today.

The exhibition presents 40 Audio installations including the memories

of three descendants, Luisa Jaffé De Winne, Nicole Morvay-Bollag and Pierre Burgauer. This Newsletter contains an excerpt from the presentation of Luisa Jaffé De Winne.

The exhibit will be accompanied by various events, such as educational programs, readings, discussions, films and music. Guest speakers will include Ellen Presser, a journalist from Munich, born in 1954; Doron Rabinovici, a writer and historian from Vienna, who was born in Tel Aviv in 1961; Yves Kugelmann, born 1971 in Basel and active in the Jewish Youth Movement; Valdimir Vertlib, a novelist born in Leningrad in 1966, who spent his youth in Vienna, Israel, Italy and the USA, and now lives in Austria; and Waldimir Kaminer, who was born in Moscow in 1967, but has lived in Berlin since 1990 and writes about every day life in a German multi-cultural society of immigrants, and established a "Russendisko" in Berlin some years ago. The program includes the films *Pastry, Pain and Politics* and *ID Swiss - The Making of a Jew*, followed by a discussion with filmmaker Stina Werenfels.

JUNE - SEPTEMBER

From June to September, the Museum plans a program regarding migration and integration into the Austrian society. As we well know, workers from elsewhere have settled, among other places, in Hohenems and have occupied buildings that were part of the Jewish Community. While this exhibit is prepared in cooperation with the Vienna Museum and is on display there at this time, it is appropriately also being shown in Hohenems.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

From October to December, an exhibit entitled "From Salomon Sulzer to Jazz Singer, Cantors between Liturgy and Entertainment," will be on exhibit. Designed to enlighten us about the lives of Cantors from the 19th century onward, the reform of synagogue music by Sulzer, who brought even non-Jews to the temple, will be the center of this exhibit. ❖

NEWS BITS

AMANN NAMED
"HONORARY
PRESIDENT"

Otto Amann was named "Honorary President" of the Verein at its last general assembly in October 2003. Felix Jaffe attended the meeting and spoke. Ms. Bollag and the sister of the late Kurt Bollag joined the assembly. Rabbi Schmelzer came from St. Gallen and made a very moving speech.

FAREWELL TO INAMA

Johannes Inama retired as director of the Museum and a farewell and welcome party was held on February 14, 2004. The party was attended by representatives of the Town and the County. We wish him well in his new position at a Museum in Liechtenstein. ❖

MEMORIES

LUIA JAFFE



Luisa Jaffé De Winne, the daughter of Felix Jaffe, " was born in Kenya in 1964. She was educated in Geneva, Switzerland and subsequently worked for several multinationals in human resources. In 2001, she graduated after 4 years of studies in an alternative therapy modality. She married a Belgian musician in 2001 and has lived in Belgium since that time.

When I was 13, the American series "Holocaust" was broadcast in Europe. It is probably then that I became aware of the Jewish identity of my father. Born in Berlin in 1924, he moved with his parents to Trieste in 1927 and in 1938 to Lugano, where he was granted Swiss nationality.

As I was in my early teenager years, my father decided to take me on a trip across Europe to show me where my ancestors had lived and introduce me to relatives in Trieste. To me, this meant adding a few more countries to my

precious list. At the time, I was competing with a girlfriend and was sure to win after that trip. Our journey would take us through Austria, Lichtenstein, Italy and Yugoslavia. I was most interested in visiting Lipizza where the renowned Lipizzaner horses are bred.

On a glorious summer day, we drove towards Austria crossing the Rhine River to make our first stop in Hohenems. There we went to the old Jewish cemetery. I believe we never found the tomb of my father's great-great-grand father, which was at the time in a poor state. I was taught the Jewish ritual of placing a stone on a tomb to honor the deceased. We then went into town to look for the Brunner house, which was an insignificant modern building. This house had once belonged to my father's maternal ancestors who emigrated to Trieste during the 19th century. I remember that on the long main street, my father spoke to someone. He came back and told me that the Brunnerstrasse (Brunner is the name of our ancestors) had been renamed Schweizerstrasse. We also walked around the city in search for traces

of mezuzot on houses that had once been inhabited by Jews.

What is now left of my Austro-German origins? My German faded away. I remember some children's stories such as "Max und Moritz" and "Struwwelpeter" as well as Heinrich Heine's "Lorelei" which I immediately recognized when it was recited in a recent German film "Nowhere in Africa".

I felt different from most of my friends whose ancestors had enjoyed a more stable life and were all full Christians. Throughout adolescence and early adulthood, I wanted to convert to Judaism. This process is one that takes several years and actually the rabbi of Geneva did not perform conversions. With a Jewish mother I would have been accepted in the community, with a Jewish father I was an outcast. In the end, I did not convert. However, it is only in my mid-thirties that I realized that having opposite origins does not necessarily induce a split identity; on the contrary, it brings more knowledge, tolerance, an ability to listen and ultimately personal enrichment. At present I

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MEMORIES

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consider myself spiritual without being a practicing Christian or Jew. In

most of Europe, we still have the freedom to choose our faith; I wish it could be true in many

other parts of the world where fanaticism and religious wars are too frequently in the media headlines. ❖

SALOMON SULZER

(Continued from page 1)

shaken that our soul was entirely given to meditation and to participation in the service”

In 1866, the music critic Eduard Hanslick wrote in the *Neue Freie Presse*:

“[Sulzer] is one of the most popular figures of Vienna.... Even today no foreign musician leaves Vienna without having listened to the celebrated cantor. His performance, from the slightest breath to the most powerful of tones, combines the charm of the exotic with the persuasiveness of a glowing faith.”

What remains for us today is the music. And celebrated it is. On February 8, 2004, in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City, the American Symphony Orchestra performed works by, among others, Salomon Sulzer. Among pieces performed on

that occasion was Sulzer's choral harmonization of Psalm 21. Allan Kozinn of the *New York Times* reported that it was based on a theme of Haydn, which was later used for "Deutschland Über Alles."

All his works were published between 1839 and 1865 in two volumes, entitled *Schir Zion*. On the internet, you can visit http://www.shulmusic.org/sulzer/sulz_1.htm. There you will find an internet edition of J. Kaufmann Verlag's 1922 publication in Frankfurt of *Shir Zion, Songs for the "Israeli Religious Services"* by Salomon Sulzer. The introduction is in German. However, Sulzer's music, which is included in this internet edition, can be read there and is universally enjoyable. His music can also be heard on Compact Discs produced and sold by Zamir.

Other indications of his lasting fame is in volume 134 of the *Denk-*

mäler der Tonkunst in der Österreich (Monuments of Austrian Music, the leading publication of the Austrian Musical Community), published in 1983 and devoted exclusively to his music. In 1990, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Sulzer's death, the Austrian government issued a stamp bearing a portrait of Cantor Sulzer and the words "100 Todestag von Salomon Sulzer, 1804–1890, Republik Österreich, 1990."

Sulzer died on January 17, 1890 and was buried in the "Row of the Great" in the Vienna Central Cemetery.

Only two Sulzer descendants attended the Reunion of the descendants in 1998: Robert Woynar, and Marie Merory. We know there are more descendants and hope that they will become actively involved with the Museum and, of course, if they live in the Americas, the American Friends of the Jewish Museum Hohenems. ❖

(Continued from page 2)

Nonetheless, we can and we have done more than that. We can contribute financially to certain aspects directly relevant to the Museum's work, which are not covered by the contributions of the various governments.

For example, our financial support has led to an English website for the Museum. We look forward to contribution to the translation into English of the *History of Hohenems Synagogue*, to be published late this year.

To continue our support, we need yours. So please be generous, when you write your check to the American Friends of the Jewish Museum Hohenems (AFJMH). It is tax deductible you know. Whatever you contribute goes to the support of the Museum. None of our members have ever had a free meal or charged anything to AFJMH, and we intend to keep it this way. Even this newsletter is paid for by private funds; we do not ever intend to seek reimbursement for that expense.

So what is in it for me? In addition to supporting a family history that became meaningful to my children, and yes, even grandchildren, I have also been personally well compensated—I have made new good friends of whose existence I knew not prior to my association with the Museum.

You too, ought to give it a shot! Your continued and increasing generosity is what is helping to keep the memories alive. ❖

The Newsletter of the American Friends
of the Jewish Museum Hohenems, Inc.

IN TOUCH

WITH OUR AMERICAN
FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH
MUSEUM OF HOHENEMS



We're on the Web!

<http://www.jm-hohenems.at>



Jewish Museum of Hohenems, as a regional museum, remembers the rural Jewish community of Hohenems and its various contributions to the development of Vorarlberg and the surrounding regions. The museum also deals with the end of the community, the regional Nazi history, the expulsion or deportation of the remaining members of the community, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Along with these fragmented lines of regional history, it is also devoted to the people and their histories and maintains a relationship with the descendants of Jewish families in Hohenems.

The main topics of Jewish history are made apparent from the point of view of various people. Topical questions of dealing with foreign cultures, religiously traditional communities and social minorities are brought into relation with historical topics.

Reflection about the work of the museum and its integration into international discourse about dealing with Jewish history are of immense importance as this is a Jewish museum in a province where there is no longer any Jewish community remaining and in a Jewish quarter and house whose last Jewish inhabitants were deported and killed. The consolidation of the institution in the region and with the descendants of Jewish families is essential for the activities of the Jewish Museum of Hohenems and its continuing development. ❖

JOIN US . . . BECOME A MEMBER AND LET'S KEEP *IN TOUCH!*



On the occasion of the meeting of the descendants of Jewish families from Hohenems in 1998, the idea to found the American Friends of the Jewish Museum Hohenems, Inc. emerged. The association unites the numerous descendants living in America and supports the Jewish Museum of Hohenems in various ways.

Our annual dues are \$25. We hope we can count on you to become a member today. Due payments can be made to:

PO Box 237

Moorestown, NJ 08057-0237

Any additional contribution

you could make would be very much appreciated and thus enable the American Friends to continue to make important contributions to the Museum at Hohenems as well as to other endeavors designed to contribute to knowledge of the Hohenems Jewish Community as it was when our ancestors lived there. ❖