



THE JEWS OF SAAZ / Žatec



A project of the Förderverein der Stadt Saaz/Zatec e.V.

in cooperation with the Jewish community of Teplice v Cechách, the Regional Museum of Zatec, Heimatkreis Saaz and the Grammar School of Zatec.

Step A.

1. Why we are occupying ourselves with the history of the Jews of Saaz/Zatec.
2. Preparation and discussions: Act of commemoration of the burning of the synagogue in Saaz (Nov. 2007)
3. Commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the burning of the synagogue in Saaz. **(has taken place)**

Step B.

4. Documentation concerning the Jews of Saaz based upon documents from the archives and testimonies of surviving Jews of Saaz, now living in the Czech Republic or in Israel.
(March – June 2010)
5. Setting up a website with a data bank for the project “Jews in Saaz and aryanized houses of Saaz”. (until November 2010)
6. Exhibition “The Jews of Saaz” in the Regional Museum of Zatec/Saaz. (November 2010)
7. Documentation commemorating the airlift Zatec-Saaz to Tel Aviv (Haifa). (Nov. 2010)

Step C.

8. Restoration of the Jewish cemetery and the buildings belonging to it in cooperation with the Jewish Community of Teplice
(2010 – 2015)
9. Setting up of a memorial and an information centre for Jewish culture and religion on the premises of the Jewish cemetery in Saaz/Zatec (2015)
10. Setting up of a temporary or possibly permanent exhibition concerning the airlift Zatec-Israel (2011 – 2012)

Why we are concerning ourselves with the history of the Saaz Jews.

Why do we concern ourselves at all with history? Because without knowledge of the past we cannot understand the present times. Historical records supplement our genetic memory and thereby enable us to form our future in a way not possible to animals. On the other hand we find explanations in history as to why our present time is as it is. Before the war ten percent of the population of Saaz were Jews. Like everywhere in Europe they contributed an important part to the economy and culture which is missing today. If we search for reasons for the condition of the town as it is today, this loss may be one of them. However, people can learn for the future from the mistakes of the past.

