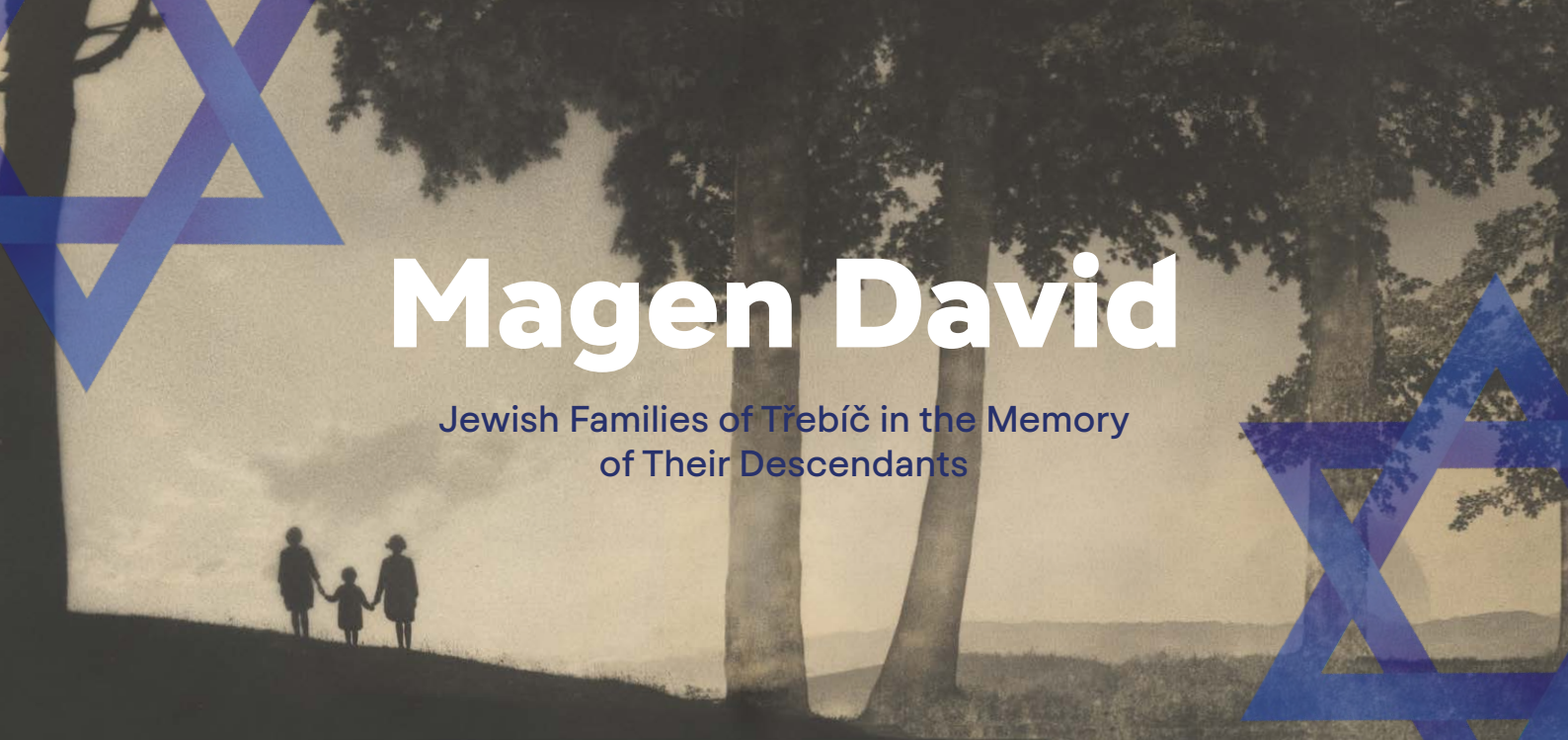


The background is a sepia-toned photograph of a family silhouette (two adults and a child) standing on a grassy hill, looking towards a large, leafy tree. The scene is misty or hazy. Two large, semi-transparent blue Stars of David are overlaid on the image: one in the top-left corner and another in the bottom-right corner.

Magen David

Jewish Families of Třebíč in the Memory
of Their Descendants

Magen David

Jewish Families of Třebíč in the Memory of Their Descendants

Vysočina Museum Třebíč, Castle Stables

July 17 – November 1, 2026

Grand Opening: Thursday, July 16, at 5 p.m.

Musical Accompaniment – Vocals: Andrea Polnauer Bartošová and Petra Ernyei, Guitar: Adam Tvrdý

The fates of its Jewish inhabitants are indelibly inscribed in the history of Třebíč. For centuries, they helped shape the town's distinctive character, forming their own culture and contributing to its economic prosperity. Their presence created a valuable urban complex near the center, today entirely unique in its integrity and rightfully inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. During the interwar period, the Jewish community successfully integrated into majority society, representing an inseparable, dynamic, hardworking, and creative part of it.

Local Jewish families built enterprises whose reputation reached far beyond the region: they operated a significant leather processing factory and a modern coffee roastery, a spirits and liqueur distillery, renowned hardware and homeware stores, textile and shoe shops, as well as small businesses and modest workshops. Within the setting of a small Moravian town, great personalities emerged—a talented photographer and painter, or a famous actor. But above all, there were those who showed quiet courage and extraordinary moral integrity in the face of human hatred and the cruelty of history.

Although the Nazi occupation and the tragedy of the Shoah nearly destroyed the Třebíč Jewish community, its legacy did not perish. Descendants from the Jewish and mixed marriages of the few survivors preserved family memories through uncertain times, safeguarding historical documents, personal photographs, works of art, or mere trinkets of immeasurable value. Today, it is the representatives of the second and third generations who proudly pass on the testimony of their ancestors' lives, returning Jewish identity to the cultural map of Třebíč. In their original home, memories of the Benesch, Bodascher, Fried, Koblitz, Ornstein, Polnauer, and Subak families come to life once again.

Magen David, the Star of David, was abused by the Nazi regime as a brand of shame; it served to dehumanize, segregate, and mark victims destined for liquidation. In this dark context, it became a symbol of social exclusion.

Magen David, literally the Shield of David, originally carries a different meaning, however. It represents protection, belonging, and continuity—and in the history of modern Israel, national identity and pride.

Magen David, the Jewish six-pointed star, thus carries within it a profound duality that reflects both the tragic and triumphant chapters of Jewish history, but above all, the resilience of the spirit and the ability to transform a stigma into a symbol of dignity and sovereignty.

Accompanying Program to the Exhibition:

Children's Grand Opening

Available for school groups by appointment

Guided Tour of the Exhibition

Sept 5 at 3 p.m.

Discussion with Ann Altman following the Stolpersteine unveiling

Sept 24 at 5 p.m.

Public Workshop: Dreidel Making

Sept 19 at 2 p.m.

Public Workshop: Fun with the Hebrew Alphabet

Oct 11 at 2 p.m.

Educational Programs for Schools and Youth Groups

September and October

Public Lectures

Oct 13 and 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Catalogue Launch and Discussion with Descendants

Nov 1 at 3 p.m.

On the front cover: *Silhueta* by Arnošt Benesch.

The project was realized with the financial support of the Foundation for Holocaust Victims.



Vysočina Museum Třebíč, Zámek 1, Třebíč

Opening Hours: Daily except Monday: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

July – August: Open daily | Admission: 60/30 CZK

Tel.: 568 408 890, www.muzeumtr.cz