

GALLERY

Pre-War Jewish Life in Eastern Europe

Shabbtai Sonenson and Teacher



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum / The Shtetl Foundation, photographer Ben-Zion Szrejder

Shabbtai (Shepske) Sonenson takes one of the shtetl's Hebrew teachers for a ride on his new motorcycle, 1941.

Jewish Family in Kalisz



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Frances Hirshfeld

A family in Kalisz, Poland, May 16, 1935.

Friends in Shtetl



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum / Stadtarchiv Pforzheim, photographer Herta Levy Werthei

A group of friends sledding in the shtetl, January 12, 1932.

Kalecka Jewish Elementary School



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Barbara Berkowicz Soloway

Pupils in the second grade work in their classroom at the Kalecka Jewish elementary school in Warsaw, Poland, ca. 1937–1938.

Bar Mitzvah at Zerrennerstrasse Synagogue



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Stadtarchiv Pforzheim

Ludwig Nachmann, the president of the congregation, follows the Torah reading during a bar mitzvah at the liberal Zerrennerstrasse synagogue in Pforzheim, Germany, 1936.

Three Generations of a Jewish Family, Vilnius, Lithuania



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Three generations of a Jewish family in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, in 1938 or 1939. In the eighteenth century, Vilnius (Vilna in Yiddish) was a center of Jewish learning. By the 1920s and 1930s roughly a half of the city's inhabitants were Jews.

A Children's Volleyball Team in Szczuczyn, Poland



CREDIT: Yad Vashem

A volleyball team in Szczuczyn, Poland. In the interwar years, it was not uncommon for Jewish children to participate in school or community recreational activities with non-Jewish children. Despite the lurking danger of antisemitism, Jews often had close relationships with Christians, which led many to believe that Jewish integration was possible and might even be welcomed.

Huber Sisters in Czechoslovakia, 1920



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Fred Deutsch

Irenka and Eliska Huber, sisters, at their home in Czechoslovakia in 1920.

Ensemble of Jewish Musicians in Latvia, 1930s



CREDIT: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Samuel Heifetz

A small ensemble of Jewish musicians performs in Riga, Latvia, in the 1930s.