

David Kraus (*1985 Prague)



David in one of the „Prague Jewish Walks“, an annual educational program of the Czech Union of Jewish Students at the Old Jewish Cemetery in 2012.

David was born into a Czech-German Jewish family of holocaust survivors in Prague, whose ancestors resided in the Prague Jewish Town already in the 16th Century, and learned under the rabbi Löw, the famous Maharal of Prague. David's grandfather was a famous Jewish liberal prewar journalist, writer, anti-nazi activist and a well-known holocaust survivor. The family has a long tradition of being active in the kehila.

David was one of very few Jewish children actively and bravely brought up by their parents and grandparents in the Jewish Community during the „dark ages“ of the communist 1980's era, and remembers vividly the atmosphere of the community, being harassed and spied upon by the secret police, but also growing up amongst many „adoptive“ grandfathers and grandmothers, with whom they all shared common faith and destiny, as well as absolute trust, an atmosphere that is unfortunately long gone from the kehila...

When the 1989: Velvet Revolution came, David's father Tomas played an active role in the Jewish Community's transformation and became one of the leaders of the Czech Jewry in the post-communist era. Subsequently and naturally – following the family tradition – David became one of the leading youth activists of the Czech Jewry in the late 1990's and 2000's. He served as chair of the Czech Union of Jewish Students for over a decade, successfully working with hundreds of young Czech Jews and launching numerous projects, ie. the Birthright, Stolpersteine, JudaFest, Yom HaShoah, March for Israel or the Moishe House in the Czech Republic. David studied at the Lauder School in Prague, then at various universities in Prague, Stockholm and Jerusalem, with focus on Jewish Studies, Political Science and History of Central Europe, which is his long-time passionate field of research.

Believing in education, David became a teacher and a tour guide, based in Prague, though frequently travelling to different places in Europe, working with Jewish and non-Jewish audience alike, and focusing on the Jewish story of Central Europe and the Holocaust.

David has been successfully running a Jewish-interest tour company for many years, but till this day he also retains his role of an active member of the Czech Jewish Community, both internally and in the wider general Czech society.