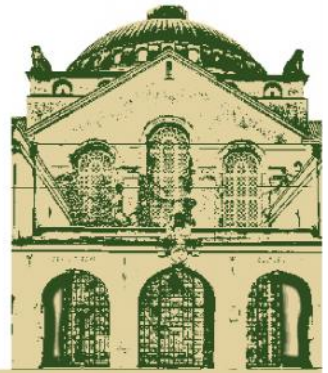


# DESCENDANTS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AUGSBURG NEWSLETTER



June 2018

Volume 1, Number 1

## A New Beginning!

By Diane Castiglione and Bettina Kaplan, Co-Founders  
Descendants of the Jewish Community of Augsburg

It's been about nine months since we started looking into the possibility of creating some kind of organization that would enable former residents of Augsburg and their descendants to stay in touch with each other and with the Jewish Culture Museum Augsburg-Schwaben (JKMAS), strengthening the bonds established at the 2017 Descendant's Reunion. We are therefore proud to announce the "birth" of the Descendants of the Jewish Community of Augsburg (DJCA) and the premier edition of its newsletter!

Our excitement about this endeavor is only exceeded by the positive and passionate responses that we have received from all of you! It confirms that establishing this group addresses a real interest. Our hope is that this newsletter will be the first step toward creating a renewed, "virtual" Jewish community of Augsburg.

Four themes emerged as we thought about what this group should represent:

- ) **Building community:** Former residents and their descendants would like to stay in touch with each other and the Museum.
- ) **Preserving history:** We want to share information about the pre-WWII Jewish community of Augsburg-Swabia and its legacy, providing stories of individual families and where they are now. Through this, we hope to facilitate additional research about the community and these families.
- ) **Outreach:** We would like to find and connect with other former residents/descendants/family members as well as share information about the Jewish community of Augsburg-Swabia with a larger audience.
- ) **Supporting JKMAS:** We would like to be a resource to the museum and support its work.

How will the newsletter address each of these themes? At its core, it is a communication tool through which we can discuss any number of topics. Each issue will feature a theme about which we will seek your contributions. For example, for this issue we asked for reflections on the 2017 Reunion and what it meant for you and your family. We also plan to spotlight individual families and their stories. Through these stories, we will contribute to the body of knowledge about the Jewish community of Augsburg and its history. We hope that there will be a regular column featuring news from the museum so that we can keep up-to-date with their

programs and research. Most importantly, we hope that you will share the newsletter with additional family and friends so that they, too, will join our community.

One of the responses to our call for reflections on last year's Reunion seems to encapsulate what we hope DJCA will come to represent for all of us. Claire Jepsen (Cramer and Untermayer families) wrote that, "*The reunion last year was very interesting for me, as it gave me the opportunity to meet other descendants and realize that many of our parents had been friends, school mates and more. This kind of gave me a new "family."*"

As we embark on this venture, we need to acknowledge several people who have played key roles in getting us launched. We want to thank Loren Jaffe (Einstein family) for designing such a wonderful logo

through which we can create our brand. We are also appreciative that Debbie Rausch (Heilbronner/Steinfeld/Sturm family) has stepped forward to volunteer to be our newsletter editor. Her expertise in this area will be immediately apparent to you as you read through the newsletter.

Without a doubt, none of this would have happened were it not for Dr. Benigna Schönhagen. She has been such an

inspiration to all of us and has been the catalyst for engaging former residents and their descendants in the work of the museum. The Descendant's Reunion was a remarkable and life-changing experience for many of us and we thank her for planting the seed that grew into the DJCA. As Benigna moves on from JKMAS this August, we also acknowledge her many years of work at the museum. Through her dedication, creativity, and compassion, she has created a renewed Augsburg Jewish community that is worldwide in scope and grounded in its strong, vibrant history. We simply cannot thank her enough for her constant and enduring commitment to the Jewish community of Augsburg and its descendants and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

**Welcome to the family!**

Bettina and Diane ☸

## Family

*Like branches on a tree,  
we may grow in different  
directions, yet our roots  
remain as one.* Author Unknown

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## DJCA Editorial Board

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Loren Jaffe

## THE DESCENDANTS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AUGSBURG (DJCA)

NEWSLETTER is published by  
DJCA, a United States-based  
association founded in 2018.

### Our purpose is to:

- ) Build Community
- ) Preserve History
- ) Conduct Outreach
- ) Support the Jewish Culture  
Museum of Augsburg  
*Jüdisches Kulturmuseum  
Augsburg-Schwaben  
(JKMAS)*

### SUBMISSIONS:

The DCJA Newsletter is published  
bi-annually in June and December.  
Articles and family news are  
welcome. Please send all your  
submissions to the editor at  
djcaugsburg@gmail.com.

### DEADLINES:

June Issue - April 15  
December Issue - October 15

Please note that posted deadlines  
for submission of articles are firm.

### JKMAS:

Information about the Jewish  
Culture Museum can be found at  
[www.jkmas.de](http://www.jkmas.de) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/juedischeskulturmuseum/)  
(<https://www.facebook.com/juedischeskulturmuseum/>)

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## Getting to Know Us

**Diane Castiglione, Co-Founder**, is a member of the far-flung Einstein family of Kriegshaber. Her mother is Liese Fischer nee Einstein, who grew up in Kriegshaber until July 1939 when she left for England as part of a Kindertransport. Liese worked as a nurse in Manchester during World War II and came to the United States in 1947. Today, descendants from the Einstein family can be found in the United States, Canada, Scotland, Israel, South Africa, and Australia. Diane currently lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D. C. She has visited Augsburg several times: attending the 1985 rededication of the synagogue and the 2001 dedication of the Holocaust memorial, accompanying her mother for the 2012 Lebenslinien program, and attending the 2017 Reunion. Diane recently retired from a 32+ year career with the U.S. Department of State, which included overseas assignments in Cairo, Egypt and Manila, Philippines. She has one son, Michael, who lives in Arlington, Virginia. Originally from New York, she remains an avid New York Mets (baseball) fan and has been co-opted by Michael into supporting his passion for Arsenal and all things soccer.



**Bettina Kaplan, Co-Founder**, is a descendant of the Arnold and Landauer families. Both families were important German textile business and civic leaders in Augsburg. Her maternal grandmother was Ellen Feldberg née Arnold (1912 -1968) and her great grandmother was Grete Arnold née Landauer (1880-1941). Ellen, with her husband and twin daughters (Bettina's mother and aunt) immigrated to Los Angeles, California, in 1939. Bettina first visited Augsburg in 1974 and did not return until 2013. During this trip, guided by generous locals, and accompanied by her husband who is originally from Bavaria, she had a chance to learn more deeply about her family's history. She returned in 2016 and attended the 2017 reunion. Bettina is retired after working many years in Los Angeles, for the French and Spanish government trade and investment agencies. Perhaps due to having family scattered all over the world, she has always felt like a global citizen. She enjoys languages (French, Spanish, some Italian and a bit of German) and of course, travel! Born, raised and educated in the Los Angeles area, she currently lives with her husband, Erich, in the San Francisco Bay Area.



**Deborah Sturm Rausch, Editor**, is a descendant of the Heilbronner/Steinfeld/Sturm family, which migrated to Augsburg from Ichenhausen in 1861. The family's Augsburg store, Wimpfheimer & Cie, is now the location of the C&A Department Store. Her father, Walter, son of Max and Anna (Steinfeld) Sturm, was taken to Dachau on November 10, 1938. The family eventually made their way to New York City. Walter enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and went back to Europe as part of the Signal Intelligence Corps, earning a Bronze Star for his service. Debbie traveled to Augsburg with her father to attend the rededication of the Synagogue in 1985; attended the family's Lifelines "Lebenslinien" program in November 2010; and was at the Descendants Reunion in 2017 with her children. Debbie, who is now retired, was Director of Communications for several New York State agencies and the City of Albany. She was also Executive Director and Public Relations Director for several nonprofits. She currently serves as a Trustee of Congregation Ohav Shalom and on several other Boards, and was Co-Founder/ Co-Chair of Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice. She enjoys playing bridge, travel, music, and spending time with her grandchildren, children, family and friends. She and her husband Lee live in Latham, NY. ❁



WE WANT TO  
GET TO  
KNOW YOU!



## Congratulations to Dr. Benigna Schönhagen as She Retires



As many already know, Dr. Benigna Schönhagen has elected to retire on July 31, 2018. We are all sad to hear she is leaving the Museum, but extend our collective congratulations to her as she begins this new chapter of her life.

The Jewish Culture Museum has grown in scope and importance over the past 17 years under Dr. Schönhagen's adept leadership. Her experience combined with her warmth and caring nature was the recipe for success.

Dr. Schönhagen has been the director of the Jewish Culture Museum since 2001. Over the years since 2006, she is credited with having developed the new permanent exhibition and many temporary exhibitions. Under Benigna's direction, the Lifelines "Lebenslinien" program was developed. It is this program that brought many of the descendants of Augsburg's Jewry to Augsburg, making our newly established group possible. She has touched countless lives, and enriched our souls as a result of the Museum's programs and services.

*Continued on page 8*

### Letter from Dr. Schönhagen

When, in December 2016, I began writing descendants of the former members of the Jewish Community of Augsburg and inviting them to a Descendants' Reunion on the occasion of the Augsburg Synagogue's hundredth anniversary, I was unsure how many might come. Twenty? Thirty, perhaps? Well, as you all saw for yourselves, in the end nearly a hundred guests made the trip to Augsburg in search of their familial roots. There, you, erstwhile Augsburgers and now citizens of the world, not only (re)discovered the city of your forebears but also established many new contacts amongst yourselves and renewed and deepened long-standing relationships. For us at the museum, meanwhile, the moving encounters and exciting discoveries of the reunion fortified our resolve to carry on researching and preserving Augsburg's Jewish heritage.

I'm therefore delighted that Bettina Kaplan and Diane Castiglione have taken up the suggestion that they found an association of the Descendants of the former Jewish Community of Augsburg (DJCA), and I happily take this opportunity to welcome the association into being.

I believe the DJCA presents an excellent chance for the former members of the Jewish community and their descendants to remain in contact both with each other and with the Jewish Culture Museum Augsburg-Swabia. How frequent or close the interaction will be remains to be seen. I'm certain, however, that under my successor the museum will continue working to maintain its contacts with former community members and their descendants – and I'm equally certain it will require the descendants' support in doing so. As for myself, I'll be happy if there's anything I can do to aid these efforts from my "retirement."

I wish the DJCA many active members and many lively exchanges. May it grow and prosper!

Sincerely,  
Benigna Schönhagen

## Dr. Barbara Staudinger Named New Museum Director

In March 2018, the Jewish Culture Museum Augsburg-Schwaben Foundation appointed Dr. Barbara Staudinger the next Director of the Jewish Culture Museum. She will officially begin her new role on September 1, 2018.

According to the Museum's Facebook post, Dr. Hans-Eberhard Rogue, the Director of Jewish Culture for Augsburg-Swabia said (*loosely translated*) that Dr. Barbara Staudinger's experience and knowledge as a researcher and curator provided many good reasons for selecting her. She has many innovative ideas for development in the areas of programming, education and the Museum's collection. Among her priorities and research are particular interests in Jewish history of early modern times in Austria and southern Germany, Judaism in southern Germany and lower Austria, Jews in Vienna and Prague, Jewish folklore in the 19th century, Jewish history of the 19th and 20th centuries, and Jewish law and cultural history in general.

Dr. Staudinger studied history, theater studies and Jewish studies at the University of Vienna. In 2001 she received her doctorate with a study on anti-Semitism and Jewish legal position on Reichshofrat 1559-1670.

Prior to her new position, she was a freelance curator in Vienna and co-curator of the new Austrian exhibition "Distance. Austria and Auschwitz" in Auschwitz-Birkenau. She previously worked at the Institute for Jewish History in Austria in St. Poelten and was a curator of numerous exhibitions at the Jewish Museum in Munich, the Austrian Museum of Ethnology and the Museum of Ethnology in Vienna, and the Jewish Museum in Vienna.

Dr. Staudinger's experience bodes well for the Museum. We welcome her, and look forward to getting to know her as we work together to continue our legacy as Jewish Descendants of Augsburg. ✻



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### What's in a name?

In a word.... **Everything!**

First impressions mean a lot, so the name of our newsletter is important. **You can help!**

We are looking for suggestions for the name of our newsletter.

Please send your ideas to us at [djcaugsburg@gmail.com](mailto:djcaugsburg@gmail.com).

The deadline for submission is October 15, 2018.



## Introducing the Family Spotlight

### Family Spotlight

We are pleased to announce that the **Family Spotlight** will be a regularly featured column in our newsletter. This is a place where you can help us get to know your family and its history by sharing stories that focus on an event, a family heirloom, your family's contributions to Augsburg, etc. Please include photos (.jpgs please) and contact information with your submission. Thank you!

#### Editor's Note:

We are saddened to let you know that on May 31 2018, shortly after Jim Newton ( ) submitted the following article, he passed away. We extend our deepest condolences to wife Raija, his sons Mika and Timo, his granddaughter Ava, and his entire family, and send them our love, thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. The full obituary can be found here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?n=james-newton&pid=189248903>. We include this article as he submitted it in his memory because it was important to Jim to share this story with our readers. May his memory be a blessing.

## The Partner's Desk

By Jim Newton

Son of Herta (Landauer) and Ernst (Neustatter) Newton  
Oakland, CA

I am fortunate to be in possession of a number of artifacts from the M.S. Landauer family from Augsburg. But **THE** most important physical item can be seen below in two photographs.

This black-and-white photo comes from the illustration/photography section of the official *History of Firma M.S. Landauer* written in 1933 by Otto



Landauer. Otto Landauer also constructed the extensive Stammbaum [Family Tree] of the M.S. Landauer family.

This color photograph was taken in 2017 in Oakland, California at the home of James Newton, great great grandson of M.S. Landauer. **That's me.**



The desk was evacuated from Germany in 1938 to Israel, where it resided in the home of Paul S. Landauer until 1979. It is my belief, not documented, that this piece was acquired by Sigmund Landauer, son of Moses Samuel and was used as what we call today a Partner's Desk in the offices of Firma M.S. Landauer so long as the Firm existed.

Paul Landauer was my grandfather. The family history is that Grandfather Paul's oldest daughter, Elsbet Landauer, married Georg Spiro in Germany in 1933. Grandfather had a formal wedding coat made to order since he had four daughters and he expected to have to use it at least that many times.

As time went on, the next daughter to marry was my mother, Herta Landauer, who married Ernst Neustatter. As difficulties in civil law had already been put in place by the Nazi regime, my parents decided that they would leave Germany in mid-1934 and try for a better life in Italy. It is not often remembered that the Italian Fascist regime under Mussolini were considered to be anti-Nazi / anti Germany at that time. In fact the first attempt at "Anschluss " of Austria by the Nazi's was opposed and ultimately prevented by Italy. Hope does indeed spring eternal.

Herta and Ernst moved to Firenze [Florence] and were married in October 1934. The civil ceremony was held in the Palazzo Vecchio on the Piazza della Signoria, i.e. in the City Hall dating to 14th Century to the time of the Medici on the central square of the ancient city.

Grandfather Paul was still able to obtain an exit and re-entry permit from Augsburg City for himself and Grandmother Hedwig. And they were on the spot when the happy couple were joined in Matrimony. We have no photos of the event but ... my mother was delighted to tell that her father stood up for her dressed to the hilt in his made-to-order wedding ensemble. And that it was the last time he was able to do that.

Sometimes I wonder if the suit made it to Israel along with the desk. The desk was installed in my Grandparent's home in Ramat Gan in Israel and joined me and my family, not Landauer in name but fully Landauer in pride that this item continues in the family. ☘



## My Father... My Hero

By Muriel Spierer-Herz  
Geneva, Switzerland

Herbert Samuel Herz, z"l, my dear father, was born in Augsburg on May 7, 1924. His father Simon, and his mother Meta, lived first in Ingolstadt where my uncle Emanuel was born in 1921 before coming to live in Augsburg.

Simon Herz was not a German nationalist. Unlike many of his fellow Jews who were German citizens of the Jewish faith, he was an early Zionist and in 1923 he chaired the local section of the Zionist movement in Augsburg.

My family was originally from Ingolstadt, Kitzingen-am-Main, Markt Berolzheim, Mainstockheim. It was only in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that the Jews were authorized to live in the cities, before that they lived in the countryside.

My grandfather Simon, and his brother Leo, started a business known as "Gebrüder Herz" (the brothers Herz). They, along with their grandmother, lived above the business, each family on a different floor.

In Augsburg the Jewish social life was intense, with many friends, parties and celebrations. As there was no Jewish school, children attended the evangelic Protestant school. Girls and boys were separated. The Jewish children had a compulsory religious class at the synagogue.

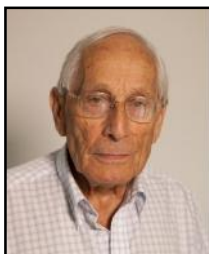
In a big city like Augsburg, the Jewish children did not suffer from antisemitism. But in smaller cities and towns, they felt antisemitism. For example, as a child, Herbert was going to see his grandparents in Kitzingen-in-Main where the Jewish children were often set upon by little blond ragamuffins, soon to be dragooned into the Hitler Youth (*Hitlerjugend*).

In March 1933, as the Brothers Herz were crossing the border to Switzerland, where they had a part of their business, they were arrested and put in prison in Augsburg. They were falsely accused of tax evasion. My grandmother and the accountant of the firm proved it wasn't true, and they were released. Afterwards, my grand uncle's family emigrated to France, followed by my grandfather's family. They settled in Dijon.

Herbert, his mother and brother arrived in August 1934. Herbert was 10 years old. There were many German families living in Dijon, and those who were already there helped the new arrivals when they came.

Sally Herz, a sister of Simon, who was still living in Augsburg where she had a shop, occasionally visited the family in France. When she came to visit in 1938, Simon took her passport to try to force her to stay in France, but she managed to go back to Germany. The German Jews were so well-integrated in Germany that they didn't feel like leaving the country. She was arrested by the Nazis in 1942 in Augsburg, deported and killed, like all the Jews that remained in Germany.

In France my father was arrested on August 26, 1942, in the part of France called "France libre." Many Jews who were not French citizens were arrested the same



day. Herbert was supposed to be deported and sent to a concentration camp, but thanks to a "solidarity chain," he was released, and at the age of 18, he began a clandestine life. He left alone, with only a backpack and his bicycle, and began to work here and there in France from September 1942 to June 1943.

After some adventures he finally arrived in the city of Grenoble and was recruited to enter the French Resistance. He entered in the Resistance movement FTP-MOI in August 1943. The unit was composed of strangers, mostly in the communist Resistance, and mostly Jewish. They were very active and were practicing what we will call nowadays urban guerrilla tactics, in order to sabotage the German war effort. They sabotaged factories working for the Germans, derailed freight trains and took actions against the Nazis and the Wehrmacht.

Not everybody can say, "My father is a hero!" But I can, and I am very proud of him and of his comrades. When I was a child, living in Geneva, Switzerland, the children said that the Jews were taken to concentration camps like lambs to slaughterhouses. I always protested that, saying, "That is not true! The Jewish people fought back, and were in the Resistance."

My father was always telling me stories of the Resistance and when I was an adult I felt the urge to write his testimony. Though I asked him to write the stories himself, he didn't have time. Apart from his work at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, he was also the Jerusalem Yad Vashem Institute's delegate for 25 years. He sought out those who endangered their own lives to save Jews during the Shoah to honor them with the Medal of the Righteous among the Nations. So I began to record him, and together, we wrote "Fighting in the French Resistance," memories of a young German Jew.

We did finally publish this testimony in 2007 in French, and translations in German and English were published in 2011.

Dr Benigna Schönhagen of the Augsburg museum invited Herbert Herz to speak in public and at a secondary school in Augsburg in the Fall of 2006. My father enjoyed going back to Augsburg, and took special pleasure in showing my sister and me the places where he had lived and studied.

In 2011 we created Manny Samuel Editions, a nonprofit association for the purpose of publishing his book, and possibly others that have a similar goal of preserving the memory of our past for generations to come.

The story of Emanuel Herz, who entered Switzerland in 1942, was put in a camp in Martigny, Switzerland, and was rejected by a Swiss border guard directly into the hands of the Vichy police who were working for the Germans, is also part of the book.

My father passed away on August 11, 2016. If he was still alive he would surely be part of our new association of Descendants of the Jewish Community of Augsburg. He was very linked to German literature and poetry and to music.

If you are interested in ordering the book of Herbert Herz, please send me an email at [miouriel@gmail.com](mailto:miouriel@gmail.com).

Best wishes to all. I hope to meet you in the future. ❧





## Reflections on the 2017 Descendants Reunion

The following articles (presented alphabetically by the last name of the author) provide impressions from the reunion of descendants held in June 2017. It was an unforgettable experience that touched the lives of each and every one of the 99 people (pictured right) who traveled from the world over to connect to their Augsburg roots. The gathering's impact can be felt in the words that follow. We look forward to hearing from more of you, and invite you to submit your reflections for the December issue.

### No Place for Complacency

By Michael Castiglione

Michael Castiglione of Arlington, VA is the grandson of Liese Fischer, a member of the Einstein family. She lived in Kriegshaber until July 1939. This article, written a week after the reunion, is adopted from his original Facebook post.

In 1939, my grandmother, Liese Fischer (née Einstein), left Germany as a child refugee to escape the Nazis. In 1943, the rest of her family remaining in Germany were removed from their homes, and deported to Auschwitz, where they were murdered. They have no graves, and until last week, had no physical form of remembrance.

I've been fortunate enough to travel to my grandmother's birthplace on three separate occasions. Each time I learned new things about her life and the life of her family. While interesting, the full gravity of the situation never fully hit me, until my trip last week.



The synagogue her family gathered and prayed in was destroyed. It has now been fully renovated. It now houses a temporary art exhibit, dedicated almost entirely to my grandmother's story. The houses that her family lived in, for the most part, are still standing, and are in use. While they just look like another old home in the city, they now bear markers outside of them, commemorating her family that used to live there. The barn where my family used to house their horses still stands, the second floor remaining almost completely untouched from 1943.

It took 75 years and a lot of work from my family members, particularly my mother, but my great grandparents and great grand aunts and uncles now have some remembrance plaques to commemorate their lives and celebrate their family. 23 members of my family from 6 different countries all came together, most of whom have never met, to have a reunion and install these new plaques.

Our family was murdered for being born in the wrong country, at the wrong time, into the wrong religion. The fact that I'm even alive is a miracle in itself, and 100% due to the strength of my grandmother. Don't be complacent and turn a blind eye to those in need like others did. ☸



### Klein Family - Augsburg Reflections

Reflections from Jonathan Klein, 5/13/18

Jonathan Klein is the son of Hanne Flora Katz Klein. He attended the 2017 Descendant's Reunion with his wife Melinda and daughters Caroline and Emily.

Your timing for this reflections request is perfect. As fate would have it, our daughter Emily was visiting my mom (Hanne) in Dallas and she brought her a book on the Augsburg Synagogue and the city itself. It's not lost on me the wonderful life our family and others in the Jewish community had in Augsburg. Due to nothing they did, they were forced to make sacrifices which created a new life for the benefit of us that followed. As I reflect on last year, my mom was not strong enough to make the trip to Augsburg but she has gained back her strength and vigor to take a trip on the Rhine River next month! The journey of life with its ebbs and flows.

I am very grateful and fully supportive of the work that the Jewish Museum is doing to keep alive the past history, memories and learnings of the Jewish Families of Augsburg and your work with the current Augsburg community. May we all never forget and use this work to create a better world.

### Reflections from Hanne Katz Klein, 5/13/18

Hanne is the daughter of Julius Walter Katz and Marie Landauer Katz. Her family immigrated to New Orleans, LA via New York in 1938 where she lived her childhood until moving to Dallas, Texas in 1955 where she still resides today. She has four children, Brian (Seattle, WA), Kenneth (San Diego, CA), Jonathan (Austin, TX) and Craig (San Antonio, TX) and 6 grandchildren.

(Continued, Page 7)



Emily Klein, visiting her grandmother & Augsburg former resident Hanne Klein, sharing memories and learnings from her Augsburg 2017 summer trip.



## One Year Later - Reflections on the 2017 Descendants Reunion

*Continued from previous page*

### “Come All You Thirsty Here Is the Source”\*

*Jonah Landor-Yamagata, Berkeley, CA Great grandson of Fritz Landauer, one of the architects of the Augsburg synagogue.*

\*Translation of the engraved words on the fountain



At the Augsburg synagogue during the reunion last year my two-year-old son Ansel and his cousin Max were running around the rose-hued fountain in the courtyard.

These two great-great grandsons of the synagogue's architect Fritz Landauer led us in their play to an interesting discovery. Following the boys into the alcove behind the fountain, my wife noticed some text engraved in the back, camouflaged by the marbled patterning:

**In memory of Anna Landauer  
Donated by her husband Joseph Landauer  
1917**

These were the parents of Fritz Landauer; Anna died in 1913, the year before construction on the synagogue began.

Before visiting the synagogue and museum for the first time in 2007 - 90 years later - I knew very little about my family's history or the history of the Jewish community in Augsburg. I wouldn't even have recognized the names of Joseph and Anna, and while I knew that Fritz was an architect and had designed a synagogue, for me the bond to that history had been largely severed. Since that first visit, it has been very meaningful to gradually fill in the picture of a family, and a place and time, which before was like a blank space on a map.

Attending the reunion last summer was a particularly important part of this process. There, among the 99 descendants was also my mother, who for the first time was seeing the synagogue designed by her grandfather. It was an unforgettable experience to be sitting with her under the cupola 100 years after its completion.

Thinking about the reunion and our little discovery on the fountain now brings my thoughts to water again, how it flows from source to destination in an unbroken cycle. Even if we are not aware of its course, be it underground or dispersed, it flows nonetheless. Similarly, rediscovering my family's past, meeting its current members and

uncovering connections buried by time and events have provided continuity and understanding across generations. In that fountain water continues to flow, as do the lives of us Landauers - which reminds me of another message engraved in stone... this one on Joseph and Anna's tombstone in the Augsburg cemetery:

**Die Liebe lebt und wirkt fort  
(Love lives and carries forth) ☞**

*Klein Reflections, Continued from Page 6*

It's strange. My memories of Augsburg are all good, and yet my family's choice back in 1939 was leave or be killed. I can't imagine the difficulty of that choice. The Landauer roots in Augsburg went back centuries. They were stalwarts of Augsburg's business community and central figures in Augsburg's tight-knit Jewish community. They recognized Germany's anti-Semitism, but knew, or so they thought until Hitler surfaced, that they could work around it. They always had. Now our tight-knit family dispersed around the world, some to London, some to Paris, some to various places in the U.S. Our connections kept up through letter writing; many of us never saw each other again.

When we left, I was too young to understand what was happening; at age 3 ½ this looming trip looked like an adventure. My memory wisps of Augsburg were happy ones – walking down the street holding my Bapa's hand, hanging out clothes with Dora, our housekeeper.

And I've been back. One of my children worked for a German bank in Munich, then Frankfurt. My first grandchild was born in Munich. Of course, I've been back! Later I returned as Augsburg's guest, part of an outreach effort that many German cities initiated as a "reconciliation" effort, and also to show formerly banished Jews the new Germany. All of us in our group of nine felt Augsburg's sincerity and warmth. But I was always there as a visitor. The adage, Forgive but Never Forget, always sat in my head. As I commented in a memoir I've been working on, "I may have been born in Augsburg, but I don't think of it as home, former or otherwise."

In my heart, I know that the 2017 Descendant's Reunion trip would have changed that for me. When I visit with and talk to cousins, something I do regularly, it's my husband's family, people whom I dearly love, that I'm talking to. I never knew my own extended family. Oh, how I miss that. What an overwhelming gift it would have been to have suddenly been enveloped by Landauers, my very own people. I think it would have felt like coming home, yes, in Augsburg. ☞

**Editor's Note:** George Sturm wrote this piece on May 3, 2010, and has submitted it as food for thought. We ask you to ponder his ideas, and to respond with your own observations and feelings. Do you share his sentiments? Do you feel a connection to Augsburg? Do you think Augsburg is unique in how it has tried to connect with its former residents and their descendants? We plan to publish some or all of your thoughts in our next issue, so please send them to us ([djcaugsburg@gmail.com](mailto:djcaugsburg@gmail.com)) no later than October 15, 2018. **Thank you.**

## Augsburg

George Sturm is the youngest child of Max and Anna Sturm, brother of Walter and Ilse, and uncle of our Editor, Deborah Sturm Rausch. George and his parents were among the last to escape from Augsburg (November 1939), settling in New York City. His family history is compellingly documented in Volume 3 ("...say farewell to this beautiful world." The Sturm Family of Augsburg) in the Lifelines series published by the Jewish Culture Museum. He and his wife live in Englewood, NJ.



I do not know if the relationship between Augsburg and its inhabitants is unique or if it is

comparable to the intangible bond between other German or other European cities and its present or erstwhile citizens. I do not think that a like relationship exists between New York and New Yorkers, or between Peoria and Peorians.

What I refer to is a dialogue, a true mutuality, rather than a one-way street. It is understandable enough for a young person, born into a given venue anywhere in the world, to develop during his early childhood years a close, intimate, personal feeling of closeness with that venue... a bonding as with a parent, that remains with him throughout his life, often giving rise to a palpable nostalgia, what in German is called *eine Nostalgiewelle*.



institutions, to bear an acknowledged interest in and responsibility for individuals who, at some juncture in their lives, may have been contributors to it. I do not

But what I describe is entirely emotional. It is the associative connection between a person and a place as perceived by that person. What I'm curious about concerns the other direction: the demonstrable desire on the part of a place, a city as represented by its public and private

mean celebrities, persons who have built significant careers or who lay claim to outstanding accomplishments. That a city would be eager to embrace them is self-evident. What I have in mind are plain, simple people whose only common denominator is a connection to a town, large or small, or to a venue with a history.

Perhaps the reason this question interests me is because of the extraordinary history of Augsburg, the second oldest established city in Germany. That I would be proud to have been, by accident of birth, raised in so distinguished a locale among so many parents, relatives, and close friends, and even among colorful yet distant acquaintances, all of whom combined to make so comfortable a childhood world for me, is easy enough for me to understand.

But that Augsburg would go out of its way to acknowledge my personal connection to it, and that of my family - and *that*, after all that has occurred and at a remove of seventy years, I *do* find quite remarkable.

It is the interest of Augsburg in *us* that accounts for my wondering if what I describe is common or uncommon. ✂

*Dr. Schönhagen... Continued from page 3*

The Jewish Culture Museum Augsburg-Swabia Foundation organized a farewell evening for the museum's long-time director in June. More than 120 invited guests came to the ceremonial hall of the synagogue, among them many friends, colleagues and companions. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. Hans-Eberhard Schurk, Chairman of the Board and Dr. Ing. Georg Haindl, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, conveyed the Foundation's thanks for the many accomplishments they credited to her efforts.



Fellow descendant and current Augsburg resident Michael Bernheim read a message of gratitude on behalf of the DJCA at the farewell event. ✂

**NEXT ISSUE**

*Coming in December 2018...*

November 2018 will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht. We are looking for personal stories about Kristallnacht's impact. How did Kristallnacht affect your family? Was a family business destroyed? Were family members arrested? Did it cause your family to reconsider staying in Germany? We also welcome articles for our Family Spotlight column as well as your responses to our "Food for Thought" article. Please send your submission to [djcaugsburg@gmail.com](mailto:djcaugsburg@gmail.com) to be received no later than October 15, 2018. Thank you.