

CONNECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DESCENDANTS OF
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AUGSBURG



June 2019

Volume 2, Number 1

Ways Non-Jewish Germans Helped Members of the Jewish Community of Augsburg *Then and Now*

Saying Goodbye to my Teddy Bear on my Last Day in Augsburg, 1939

*By Henry Stern, who was born and raised in Augsburg, and
now lives in Cold Spring, NY.*

At the end of the festivities at the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Augsburg Synagogue attended by 99 descendants, I turned my head as an older woman called out, "Herr Stern, Herr Stern... I have all your toys."

I replied, "What toys?"

"Your father gave me all your toys when you left Augsburg to emigrate to London," she said.

"And you still have them?" I asked incredulously.

"Yes. Some survived but many were destroyed during an Air Raid by the RAF."

How ironic, I thought. As an 11 year old, I still missed many of my playthings, especially my trusted Teddy Bear that never made it to England. "My Teddy Bear," I said, as the memories came flooding back.

My toys were my best friends at this horrendous period of my life and they all had their own nicknames and personalities, including my old Teddy Bear.

During this period we were forced to make difficult decisions about what to keep and what to leave behind, for we could only take small carry-ons for our travels. The strict border customs officials inspected all of our possessions and necessities, so care had to be taken with our choices. We left many things.

I felt that I was now too old to keep and continue to play with my Teddy Bear and decided that he should be adopted and loved by a younger child.

When we finally left our apartment located at 7 Mozartstraße, my father gave away all the remaining items in the apartment to neighbors and some of the

Continued on Page 7



The Stern Family in Augsburg

The Missing Link Between Me and the Grandparents I Never Knew

By Miriam Friedmann MA, Augsburg

Miriam Friedmann was born and raised in the south of the USA in 1942. She moved back to Augsburg, the birthplace of her parents, in 2001.

Traditionally middleclass German Jews had Christian "servants." Most of them came from surrounding villages. The relationship with their employers was most often one of mutual respect and strong loyalty. This comes from the often-quoted German-Jewish symbiotic relationship. This symbiosis took place mostly on a personal level, rather than in the society as a whole. Here, the term "servant" is not to be seen as a demeaning exploitative relationship, rather as one of mutual respect. These servants usually came from a "socially deprived" class, and their Jewish employers generally came from an upper class, which first and foremost saw itself as German and then, incidentally, Jewish.

Increasingly, after the loss of the first World War, and culminating after the Nazis came to power, Jews were increasingly marginalized. One can say the solidarity of a majority of these servants

Continued on Page 5



Marie Weber

Inside this issue...

- Pg. 2: Message from our Co-Chairpersons; From the Editor
- Pg. 3: Connecting with the Jewish Museum of Augsburg/Swabia: Letter from Dr. Staudinger; Meet the Staff
- Pgs. 4-7: Cover stories, continued: Another Unsung Heroine; Help with Food; Nobody to be forgotten... Memory Posts in Augsburg
- Pg. 8: Family Spotlight - My Two Precious Parents; Die Stille schreit©... The Silence Screams
- Pg. 9: Obermayer Award for Distinguished Service To Schönhagen
- Pg. 10: Recipe Corner - Tzvetchkendaatsche; Kirschkuchen Eingesunken
- Pg. 11: Food for Thought - How Best to Memorialize the Victims



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- Build Community
- Preserve History
- Conduct Outreach
- Support the Jewish Museum
of Augsburg/Swabia
*Jüdisches Museum Augsburg/
Schwaben (JMAS)*

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Please note that posted deadlines
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([https://www.facebook.com/
juedischesmuseumaugsburg/](https://www.facebook.com/juedischesmuseumaugsburg/))

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A Message from our Co-Chairpersons

It's hard to believe that, with this third
issue, we are already celebrating our first
anniversary! We are so gratified by the
positive response that we've had to the
newsletter. Your contributions are what
brings life to this endeavor and we are
thrilled to have such active participation!

We are especially happy to mark this
occasion by announcing that we have a name for the newsletter! We've all had the
experience of looking for something in a store and finally asking a clerk for help,
only to find the item right in front of our eyes. That's pretty much what happened
with our name. After months of wracking our brains for a name, Debbie one day
offered a suggestion that we immediately realized was the perfectly obvious
choice: **Connections**... simple, elegant, perfect.

From the beginning of this endeavor, we have said that we wanted to foster
connections – to our history, among former residents and descendants, between
them and the Jewish Museum of Augsburg and Swabia (JMAS), between this
community and those interested in learning more about our history. We've already
seen several instances in which we've achieved this. One former resident
recognized the name of a friend from Augsburg in the December 2018 issue and
we were able to facilitate their telephonic reunion. We have added to our
community some descendants who found us on the JMAS website. We have
helped JMAS connect with former residents (and/or their family members and
descendants) who left Augsburg as children as part of their planning for an
upcoming exhibit.

Each story that we tell is both unique and part of a larger narrative. Through
these stories, we discover how much we truly have in common. We hope that,
through your involvement with DJCA, you feel more connected to our shared
history and to each other as members of this community.

Welcome to our "first" issue of **Connections!** ☿



L-R: Diane Castiglione and Bettina Kaplan

From the Editor

This issue of the DJCA Newsletter focuses on the theme of
non-Jewish Germans providing help and assistance to
Jewish Germans... then and now. It is a compelling mixture
of stories that highlights the good in people, even during the
darkest of times.

The issue also spotlights two families and continues our
reader-suggested **Recipe Corner** featuring recipes for
Tzetchkendaatche (plum torte) and Kirsch Kuchen
Eingesunken (cherry pie).

We are pleased to present the first of our new "Meet the JMAS Staff" interview
series, featuring Souzana Hazan. We greatly appreciate Michael Bernheim's
assistance with this new feature, and look forward to highlighting a new staff
person in each continuing issue.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue! We hope people will continue
to send us articles, as it is the content provided by you that makes this newsletter
possible.

We invite you to contribute to our December issue, the theme for which will be
**Choices on How to Handle Family Heirlooms and Artifacts. How has your
family handled your heirlooms, papers, books, artifacts? Were they
contributed to a museum? Were they passed down from generation to
generation? Are they papers, photos, family possessions?** If you have
something you'd like to contribute related to the theme, a Family Spotlight, a
Family Recipe or a Food for Thought to share, we hope you'll send it to us. We
look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you. ☿



Deborah Sturm Rausch

Letter from the JMAS Director

Dear Descendants of the Jewish Community of Augsburg - Dear Friends of the Jewish Museum,

Erste Augsburg Desintegrationstage... The Disintegration Days (<https://www.jkmas.de/2018/12/erste-augsburger-desintegrationstage/>) with the Berlin author Max Czollek, which took place from 26-28 March, are over and were a great success for the Jewish Museum. Those were three exciting days with many discussions around memory, culture, the role of Jews in Germany today and new solidarity among Muslims and Jews. One of the highlights was a museum discovery tour, during which Max Czollek and I guided people through the museum's permanent exhibition and examine how Jewish history could be told differently in the museum. We explored new and important stories of Jewish women, and stories of denial, of assimilation, of resistance, and our Jewish history in general.

Noted cartoonist, Paul Rietzl, accompanied us on the tour and will present his drawings about these counter-stories as an intervention within the permanent exhibition.

Another highlight can be expected in July: Our exhibition "Across borders, beyond limits" will open in the former synagogue Kriegshaber on July 11. It tells the stories of Jewish children and adolescents from Augsburg and Swabia who were rescued with children's transports.

Unlike other exhibitions, this one focuses on the various crossings of different types of barriers: the actual national borders, and also the borders - - or limits - - of what is emotionally tolerable. For this we sought assistance from DJCA, and we thank you for helping us contact the families and descendants who are your readers. Thanks as well to the Leo Back Institute, NY.

The exhibition will not only tell the stories of the children's transport children, but also build a bridge to the present. Today, many underage unaccompanied refugees are in Augsburg. And they, too, are traumatized by the loss of their parents, their language and their homes. Therefore, at the end of June, we will have a preview of the exhibition together with the association "Tür an Tür / Door to Door", which takes care of refugee children among other things.

The Viennese artist Julia Starsky will take the stories of the children's transport children into the city through projections at the opening of the exhibition. We are very excited and are very much looking forward to it. In addition, we are pleased to welcome some descendants of the transported children to the exhibition.

The second half of the year at the Jewish Museum also has a lot of exciting things to offer. The programme will be published at the end of June, and you can view all the upcoming events on our homepage, which will be redesigned this summer.

I look forward to many exciting new projects and thank you for your continued interest and support.

Yours,
Barbara Staudinger



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MEET THE STAFF

New Feature

We are pleased to profile a different staff member of the Jewish Museum in this new featured column. The local interviews are conducted by Michael Bernheim, who is a descendant of the Bernheim family and lives (again) in Augsburg.

Meet Souzana Hazan



Introduction:

I am a scientist, curator; I have spent 10 years with the museum in different functions; I was born and raised in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. I have been in Germany for about 20 years. I studied at Freie Universität in Berlin and received a Master's Degree in Jewish studies.

What is your role at the museum? My role is to manage the former synagogue of Kriegshaber and conduct programs, events, guided tours, etc. to preserve the history of the Kriegshaber Jewish community.

What do you like best about your work? I like the variety of tasks I do, not only the science, especially working with different people. I am constantly learning new skills. I also like receiving immediate feedback.

How did you get interested in German Jewish history? My interest comes from my own Jewish roots. Even though I didn't have a deep knowledge of my own background, I spent one year in Israel after finishing high school, and that got me interested. I have a special view on history from the Jewish angle.

What do you feel is the most important aspect of the work being done by the Museum and Descendants of the Jewish Community of Augsburg (DJCA)? Making people curious.

What do you like to do when you are not at work? I like baking, traveling, hiking in the region, and attending cultural events.

What is your favorite food? Depending on the season, I like fruits and vegetables in spring, for example.

What is your favorite travel destination? Bulgaria, Berlin.

What superpower would you like to have? I would like to be able to fly. ☸

Another Unsung Heroine

Submitted by Richard Mayer who lives in Monterey, California and is the son of Julius Mayer.

Note from Richard Mayer: In April 2018 I received a letter from my cousin Carole Peterson (née Ucko, whose parents were Fritz Martin and Johanna née Mayer Ucko, pre-war members of the Augsburg synagogue). In her letter, Carole asked me to decipher an enclosed handwritten card with the following inscription, which she had recently found in a forgotten cache of her family mementos. I translated it for her and then remembered a manuscript that I had once inherited from our uncle Ludwig Mayer Rechtsanwalt, author, and brother of Hansi Ucko, that told of a German lady named Bertha Schehak who had helped our family in Augsburg in their time of troubles. Uncle Ludwig had written this memoir in 1992 at the request of his friend Gernot Römer, who later adapted it for use in one of his books on the Jews of Schwaben. One might guess that this card accompanied some sort of valuable family heirloom in 1936 that Fritz and Hansi were unable to take with them when they left Germany forever. What follows are excerpts from this memoir.

Beehren sich, Ihnen die herzlichsten Glückwünsche zu Ihrer Vermählung zu übermitteln mit der Bitte, beigefügtes kleines Andenken entgegen nehmen zu wollen. I have the honor of sending you the warmest congratulations on your marriage, with the request to accept the enclosed little souvenir.
- Bertha Schehak to Fritz and Hansi Ucko (September 9, 1936)



Ludwig Mayer

Bertha Schehak lived most of her life in Augsburg. I'm not aware of where she was born.

She has lived for some years in retirement in Munich. Her first marriage was to Adolf Gallinger: a Jewish industrialist from Augsburg, and director of the Weimersheimer Leather Company which was one of the leading enterprises in the German fine leather and leather clothing industry. Bertha Schehak was not Jewish. She was possessed by a consuming hatred for the Nazi regime, not only because of her Jewish husband, but also because this repressive regime was deeply abhorrent. She and Gallinger were close friends of the lawyer Leopold Rieser for many years.

A few of her heroic anti-Nazi deeds:

- Since she was afraid that the Nazis were going to confiscate all the Jews' possessions such as gold coins, jewelry, and other metallic items (which they actually later did), she had my mother give over to her and then to me her jewelry, which I took with me over the border to Holland when I emigrated. My mother kept only her diamond earrings.
- Early in 1939, when I was already in the USA, I received a small "package without value" from Zürich from an unknown sender. In the package I found four Tobler chocolate bars. I sold two of them, as I had to watch my pennies. I finally decided out of hunger to eat one of the bars myself. When I broke it in two, one of my mother's earrings fell out. In shock I broke open the other bar, since I was afraid that the other

earring was in one of the bars I had already sold. Fortunately, the other earring was in the bar that I still had in my possession. When I first returned to Germany in 1952, the origin of this mysterious package became clear: Frau Schehak had practically forced my mother to hand over the two earrings she had kept, and had received from Frau Schehak two cheap earrings which resembled the real ones. These originals Frau Schehak sewed into the lining of a new hat that she wore to Zürich. There she bought the chocolate bars, put them on a radiator for a moment, opened the package, and pressed the earrings into the softened chocolate. Then she carefully closed the package and sent it to me in Minneapolis. This was an extraordinarily dangerous undertaking because if this clandestine transfer had been discovered at the border, Frau Schehak could have lost her life.

- Her sister-in-law Gallinger had a number of bonds among her assets. But Frau Schehak was rightly afraid that they would be confiscated, so she had the package of financial instruments transferred to herself in order to obtain the proceeds from the bond transfer and the appearance of ownership, and then took on the responsibility of paying Gallinger's sister-in-law a monthly pension, thereby thwarting the Nazi seizures. Gallinger's sister-in-law died shortly thereafter or was deported.
- When my brother applied for an American visa, it was erroneously announced that the sponsoring affidavit from an American citizen should be sent directly to the American consulate in Stuttgart instead of to the applicant. As a result of Kristallnacht, thousands of affidavits poured in. And as a result of this stampede, the consulate was forced to store the tidal wave of affidavits in wash baskets off-site, which weren't about to be quickly processed, and which consequently led to big delays in the issuing of visas. Frau Schehak went to Stuttgart and found a lawyer there who was in good standing with the consul general, who gave the lawyer permission to have his secretary search all night long through all the mail stored in the wash baskets, until she finally found the affidavit letter for my brother. Shortly thereafter, my brother was invited to come in to get his visa, whereupon he was released from Dachau and went to Stuttgart for that purpose. This trip to Stuttgart on the part of Frau Schehak incurred great time and financial outlays for the lawyer and his secretary.
- Frau Schehak visited our parents every week after we had emigrated, giving them the reassurance and hope that our family would be reunited, and brought them food and bread.
- Frau Schehak cared for her terminally-ill Jewish husband with great self-sacrifice, and at the same time tried to keep their manufacturing business going. In the post-War period – she had become a widow in the meantime – she encountered strong antisemitic attacks, especially during her annual treatments at the spa in Reichenhall where the guests greeted with offensive commentary the presence of sick Israelis who had been damaged by Nazi despotism in body and soul.

comes from their commonality. Their general loyalty is a moving testimony of their courage and kindheartedness in an inhuman time.

Marie Weber, my grandparents' housekeeper (servant), is a prime example of such an attitude.

There was something magic about Marie Weber, the former housekeeper of my grandparents Selma and Ludwig Friedmann. She was a devout Catholic and came from Bobingen, a neighboring village. I met her in 1961 during my first visit to Augsburg. She lived in a room behind the local grocery store, which she ran.

She was unpretentious, straightforward, not sentimental and held "a special presence" for me. Maybe that was because she was the missing link between me and the grandparents I never knew.

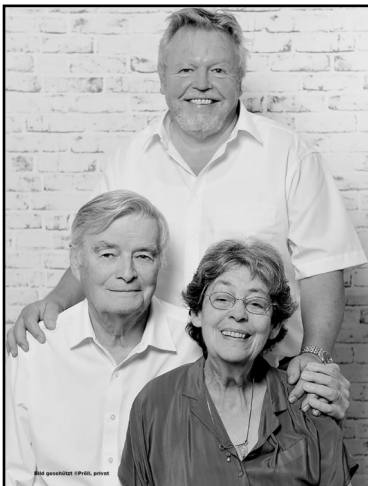
In 1942 a perfidious law was enacted forbidding Jews to buy at the Augsburg market. Their existence had already been threatened, when they previously were forbidden to buy, butter, eggs, meat, etc.

It is reported that Marie, at great risk, prevented them from starving by smuggling from the farm of her father an occasional egg or some butter. From time to time she set a pot of food before their door. The following day she would collect the empty pot and refill it when she could. Had she been caught, she would have paid for this act of kindness with her life.

During my visit Marie pulled out from under her bed two small silver baskets, which she had managed to salvage and had hidden since the time when Jews had to turn over all their silver. I will never forget the moment when she handed them to me. We embraced; we remained speechless.

Excerpts of a letter from Marie (trans. from German):

*Mr. and Mrs. Friedmann were exceptional persons. I mournfully think back on the "Herrschaften" (old-fashioned word for employer). ...What joy they would have had with you.... I am greatly honored that your parents are so dear and good to me and they so wonderfully treat me as part of the family....
I wish you well and send you my love,
As ever faithfully yours,
Marie ☘*



Miriam Friedmann, MA; Josef Pröll the filmmaker of Die Stille schreit®... The Silence Screams® (see page 8) and Miriam's husband Dr. Friedhelm Katzenmeier

Help with Food

By Eva Eckert

Eva Eckert, 92, is the daughter of Else Eckert, one of the children of the Aron Kahn family of Augsburg. Eva lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City.

There were some Christian people in Augsburg who helped their Jewish neighbors with food. Food was scarce to begin with; Jews got even less.

Here are some of the people who helped:

Every Friday before school I had to go to two old ladies to pick up two pieces of Danish pastry for my aunt and her husband. My uncle claimed the danishes were as old as the ladies, and were hard to eat, but they were food and something to chew. They did not last long.

We received mostly monthly contributions. I visited the people who had previously sold us venison. They remembered their former customers and I got packages for my relatives and friends. I went with my covered schoolbag, acting as if I had heavy books, so I could have weight to carry out.

The granddaughter of the former butcher was a few years younger than I and attended the same school. She would come to me at school with a message from her grandmother letting me know to visit her and I would take my schoolbag, ready for new supply. This was a great help.

There was a fish store in town, supposedly without fish, since rumor had it that it was too difficult to transport the long way from the ocean.



The Königsplatz located in the center of Augsburg square

However, they sold a special beet salad, which I would come to get. I took an empty bowl, there was no wrapping paper, and handed it over with the bag. The bag would be returned very heavy filled with rather expensive contents - fish not beets.

Help also came from the former cook and other employees of Jewish families in town. They would bring an egg, a piece of meat, a vegetable - all very welcome for a family with very little food. Often they would bring it to my apartment for distribution to other Jews. They chose our place rather than a "Judenhaus" because it was safer to bring it to my apartment since my Father was not Jewish. ☘



This was the way the intersection of Annastraße in Augsburg looked at that time.

Nobody to be forgotten... Memory Posts in Augsburg

By Benigna Schönhagen, for the Sprecherkreis of the Remembrance Workshop of Augsburg

Everybody who joined the Augsburg Reunion in 2017 knows what a Memory Post (*Erinnerungsbänd*) is because he or she shared the moving experience of installing such a monument.

The small, slightly golden coated markers each commemorate a Nazi victim of Augsburg in the surroundings of his or her former daily life. The signs are installed at eye-level on a lamppost or traffic sign in front of the house where the person lived before he or she was persecuted and killed by Nazis or died as a result of Nazi violence. Generally, the markers are fixed at the last voluntarily chosen address of the victims. They are made of thermally-treated stainless steel. The inscriptions bear the name of the victims, their dates of birth and death as well as the location of their persecution (prisons, camps or hospitals) or deaths. Some carry the names and dates of a whole family.



Installation of the Memory Post - *Erinnerungsbänd*- for Hugo and Lina Steinfeld in the presence of their great-granddaughter Deborah Sturm Rausch (top), great grandson Stephen Felgran (back left), and great-great-grandchildren in June 2017 in front of Bahnhofstraße 18 1/5, Augsburg.

In addition to that, the Memory Posts connect to the online memory book of Augsburg, giving information on the biographies of the persons who became victims of National Socialism (www.gedenkbuch-augsburg.de). Many of the biographies are written by students.

In general, the Memory Posts commemorate victims of any kind of persecution – they do not differentiate whether people were persecuted for reasons of race, belief or for social, eugenical or political reasons. The central message being: “Nobody should be forgotten.” Thereby, we hope that keeping the memory alive helps to prevent the horrors of the past from happening ever again.



Stumbling Stone for Ernst Lossa, who was killed in the hospital of Kaufbeuren because he was Jewish, installed in July 2018 in Wertachstraße 1.

The Memory Posts are the result of a two year long heated debate in Augsburg. When in 2012 the Remembrance Workshop (www.erinnerungswerkstatt-augsburg.de) came up with the idea to set the already well-known Stolpersteine (*Stumbling Stones*) as memorials in the public space, criticism arose – not because of

the purpose but because of the form of the commemoration that the Stumbling Stones represent.

Critics remarked that pedestrians virtually would stamp on the victims' names; others criticized that each decision depends on the artist and not the victims themselves. In Augsburg, Rabbi Dr. Henry G. Brandt, as well as the board of the congregation, rejected the Stolpersteine. The same holds true for the representatives of the Sinti and Roma. Others joined them in their critical review of the Stolperstein-concept.

Finally, the city council – being responsible for all kinds of art work in the public space – chose the since then so-called Augsburg Way of Remembrance. Both kinds of memorials were accepted: Stolpersteine and *Erinnerungsbänd* – the latter having been the result of an art work competition.



Installation of a Memory Post for Josef, Selma, Margot and Trude Herrmann, in the presence of Henry Stern, a cousin of the two girls, and his wife Adele, in January 2019.

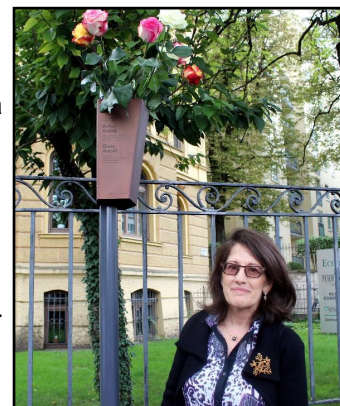
Both remembrance signs are fostered and funded by private persons. Before a memorial can be set up, the descendants' approval has to be requested. If possible relatives are invited to attend the installation ceremony.

The patrons also gather information about the victims, which is needed in order to request permission for placement of the memorial from the municipality. Overall, 18 Stumbling Stones and 16 Memory Posts (remembering 35 persons) have been installed so far. Accommodated by walking tours and other events like a commemoration on Holocaust Memorial Day, the members of the Remembrance Workshop and the Stolperstein group try to keep the memory of the people who once belonged to Augsburg alive. In doing so, we hope that the remembrance helps to fight for humanity and tolerance.

How to request a Memory Post

If you are interested in a Memory Post or a Stolperstein for ancestors or for any other victim, you can write to Felix Bellaire, the city official responsible for the memorial signs at felix.bellaire@augsburg.de.

For further information see www.augsburg.de/kultur/erinnerungskultur/gedenkzeichen/.



Bettina Kaplan next to her family's Memory Post

Continued on Page 7

Teddy Bear, Continued from page 1

people that kept their friendship with us during these troubling times.

They thanked us profusely for the many things we gave to them, and made some disturbing and final comments. I watched my father as he told me in no uncertain terms to keep quiet as he raised his finger to his lips. I remember one family member told my father to tell the English to "start a war with Germany so that we can all finally get rid of Hitler and lead a peaceful and happy life again in Germany." My father did not reply for he was afraid to agree.

Another family present expressed their sadness at our leaving. "You were the *good* Jews and we sincerely wish you could remain here." I noticed my father's hand started to tremble as he asked them "tell me who were the *bad* Jews in Augsburg?" There was no answer, except the words "you know what we mean!"

A group of men were hauling away our refrigerator which they moved clumsily down a flight of stairs breaking all the glass insulated doors. They bemoaned their bad luck but it ended with laughter and schnapps all around.

My older brother Manfred was already in England. He had left on a *Kindertransport* in July, 1939. My father had been concerned about Manfred's lack of fear and his many altercations with his school mates.

When it finally came to leave we were surprised to see the resident priest that occupied the first floor of our building appear at the front door to say farewell. I was very close to this local priest from St. Ulrich. I attended St. Ulrich elementary school. The priest presented me with a chocolate Easter bunny every Easter and I gave him Passover Matzohs in exchange.

I remember at one time he looked out of his living room window and remarked to me, "You see these two men across the street...they're watching me too. They are Gestapo and they are concerned about my youth groups and programs and who attend them."

All of a sudden this priest, while shaking our hands, raised both of his hands and recited the ancient Hebrew benediction: "May The Lord bless you and keep you... May his light shine upon you.....and grant you Peace."

He blessed us, and his blessings remained with us throughout the many years in our new lands and during the difficult periods that all immigrants experience. My father and mother were very emotional for they knew the difficult times that lay ahead and the caring friends we left behind.

Each of us carried one small piece of luggage and I wistfully realized that I missed the comfort and devotion of my toy companions on this long journey.

When we arrived near the Dutch Border we were required to leave the train for luggage inspections. They

asked for my German passport with the large red letter "J" and my Juden Pass which displayed my face in profile like a criminal. The Juden Pass contained a full set of my fingerprints. The officials kept this shameful document and did not return it. I was 11 years old.

As we boarded the train, we passed a travel poster on the platform showing the landmarks of



Henry Stern in 2017 at the 100th Anniversary of the Augsburg Synagogue

Augsburg, particularly the Perlachurm and the City Hall. My mother viewed it and said to me "*Ich habe schon heimweh*" (I am already homesick). I couldn't understand this feeling for we suffered so much in Germany.

Our journey to England started and a new life and future began.

Postscript: Henry Stern has traveled to Germany and other places to tell his story. This teddy bear candle was presented to him by students in Augsburg during his last lecture at the Jewish Museum. ❧



Memory Posts... Continued from page 6



The Einstein family descendants place an Erinnerungsbänd at Ulmerstraße 185, Kriegshaber in 2017.

The cost for a Memory Post is approximately €390. The cost for a Stolperstein is approximately €130.

Where to get assistance

If you need help gathering the information for a Memory Post, please write to the Augsburg Remembrance Workshop team at team@erinnerungswerkstatt-augsburg.de or write to benigna.schoenhagen@gmx.de. For further information regarding the Stumbling Stones please see www.stolpersteine-augsburg.de. ❧

My Two Precious Parents

By Anita Skinner

Anita Skinner, who was born in London, now lives in Australia

My father, Leopold Zinner, was born in Augsburg in 1913. He had one sister, Bertha, who also grew up in Augsburg. She married in Germany and went to live in Buenos Aires with her husband Gunter Leschnitzer. Leopold and Bertha's father, Adolf Zinner, came from Wadowice in Poland. He changed his name from Abraham Ciner when he moved to Germany in an effort to make a better life.

My father's mother, Lina née Rothschild, was born in 1884 in Aufhausen, and moved to Niederstetten with her family at age 16. She met her husband in Niederstetten, married and lived there for a while.

In 1922 my grandparents moved to Augsburg and three years later were followed by my great-grandparents Baruch and Klara (née Rothschild) Adler. Baruch Adler died in 1925 and is buried in the Augsburg Jewish Cemetery - Augsburg Stadtkries.

My mother's father, Julius Goldstein, died when my mother (Hedwig) was 5 years young. Together with her sister Lilli they were placed in the Rothschild Orphanage in Frankfurt-Am-Main where they lived until the war broke out.

My mother was very lucky. She managed to get on the last train leaving Germany three days before war broke out. My maternal grandmother, Selma Goldstein née Bachner, was deported to Theresienstadt where she died.

My grandparents Adolf and Lina had a haberdashery shop on 17 Pfannenstiel Strasse. On April 1, 1933, a boycott of Jewish shops was implemented and in December 1938 the business ceased operations.

My father, Leopold, went to work for Kaufhaus Landauer, a very large departmental store which got aryanized. After that he went to work for Joseph Landman, a furrier. On November 10, 1938, the day after Kristallnacht, Adolf Zinner and my father were arrested and sent to Dachau together with other Jewish men from Augsburg. They were subsequently released from that camp. One month later Adolf Zinner was arrested again and sent to Buchenwald, and later on, sent to Auschwitz where he died in 1942.

Lina lived with her mother Kara at 8 Halderstrasse next to the Augsburg Synagogue. Klara was deported to Theresienstadt in mid-1941 where she later died.

Lina ran a restaurant next to the synagogue on the Halderstrasse from mid-1942 until she was deported to Auschwitz.



Lina and Adolf Zinner looking out the window of their shop

Die Stille schreit®... The Silence Screams®

By Miriam Friedmann MA, Augsburg

"Die Stille schreit®... The Silence Screams®", is a documentary film that was written and produced by Josef Pröll in collaboration with me, Miriam Friedmann. It opened in Augsburg on January 20, 2019 in front of a sold-out house and has continued to sell out all subsequent showings.

The fate of my grandparents from Augsburg has haunted me since childhood and the idea for the movie originated with them. Emma Karolina, née Binswanger, and Eugen Oberdorfer were persecuted by the Nazis and in 1943, were ultimately thrown like trash into a mass grave in Auschwitz. Selma, née Fromm and Ludwig Friedmann, gathered together with their friends the Guggenheimers, Erlangers, and Kohens and committed suicide on the eve of their forced deportation.

Drawing upon more than four years of intensive research, the film depicts the lives and tragic deaths of my grandparents, who are representative of all who shared a similar fate. The film relates in detail how the Nazi regime's complex structure infiltrated and controlled every aspect of daily life, making life intolerable for Jews and others targeted for persecution. Historical images, documents and footage bring the Nazi system of dehumanization, disenfranchisement and, ultimately, murder into devastating focus.

In making the film, we uncovered many disturbing facts that few members of my own and younger generations knew about. For instance, did you know that our family members were *charged 50 Reichsmarks* for their own *one-way* tickets to Auschwitz?

Although the film focuses on Augsburg, drawing upon original film clips and photos, the story could have taken place in any German city. We witness Nazi parades through Augsburg, buildings belonging to our families draped in flags with swastikas, and images of Augsburg today. Without being preachy or sanctimonious, the film reveals uncomfortable truths that, even today, are all too likely to remain hidden.

The Nazi policy of "aryanization" not only robbed its victims of their material possessions, but also of their livelihoods and their humanity. This policy was carried out by the secret police, and by the German administrative state, for example, by the Treasury Department. Many German citizens profited from this policy, laying the foundation for family fortunes which still exist today.

The film challenges the viewer to consider how such inhumane, murderous behavior could become socially acceptable. Filmmaker Josef Pröll said, "When I was working on the film, there were times when I sat in front of my computer and found myself unable to continue. It is vital to tell this story about the consequences of blind hatred and to make clear: 'This must never happen again.'"

For further information about the film, efforts to dub the film into English, and to print a booklet about it, please visit the Die Stille schreit®... *Silent Screams®* official webpage: www.diestilleschreit.de. A DVD of the film will be released in September 2019. ☿



OBERMAYER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PRESENTED TO BENIGNA SCHÖNHAGEN

By Yoram and Ofra Millo, Jerusalem, Israel. Yoram is the son of Ephraim Millo, a native of Augsburg, a descendant of the Muhlhauser family who lived in Augsburg and in nearby Hurlen-Krumbach.

Berlin, January 2019. The freezing cold envelops us as we cross the park towards the meeting place. Outside it is very cold, but inside, our hearts are warm. My wife, Ofra, and I, are on our way to the awards ceremony of the Obermayer Prize, given to our friend Dr. Benigna Schönhagen. Thanks to her and to other dedicated volunteers, our families, the descendants of the Jews who lived in Augsburg and its environs, were not forgotten and are commemorated in various ways.

The Obermayer Prize (<http://obermayer.us/award/index.htm>) is awarded by a Jewish family from the United States to German citizens such as Benigna, who are active and working throughout Germany to perpetuate the existence and presence of Jews who lived in Germany and who were murdered or deported by the Nazi regime and by many of its supporters among the citizens of the German state and outside it.

After the unique experiences we had in Augsburg, thanks to Benigna, and after we got to know her, it was clear to us that she was worthy of receiving the award, and, together with others, we submitted our nomination. When we heard the news that the Obermayer Foundation had approved the award for Benigna, we were very excited! So when we received the invitation to participate in the award ceremony in Berlin, it was clear to us that we would attend.

Other members of the group who had nominated Benigna came to Berlin: Adele and Henry Stern, Bettina and Erich Strohmaier, Diane Castiglione and her son Michael, and Steven and Hilary Anson. Bettina and Diane were the ones who motivated the process of candidacy for Benigna. All these are dear friends among the Descendants of the Jews of Augsburg whom we met for the first time at the reunion in 2017, thanks, of course, to Benigna's amazing initiative.

We, the nominators, began our Berlin experience with an intimate gathering with Benigna and her husband. The atmosphere was warmhearted, friendly and with a sense of closeness as if we were members of the same family.

The next day a dinner sponsored by the Obermayer Foundation was held with all the invitees, among them the awardees, and the Jews from other parts of the world who nominated them. During the evening, all the participants introduced themselves so we all had the opportunity to get to know and become acquainted with the actions of the awardees and their nominators, both personally and directly. There is no doubt that this evening gave all the participants a tremendously exciting experience with a sense of partnership and belonging.

The awards ceremony was held on Monday, January 21, 2019, at the Berlin House of Representatives, a magnificent building that has existed for 120 years, and was, among other things, the Prussian State Parliament. The splendor of the place stood out. This event opened with an impressive speech by the Speaker of the Parliament, Ralf Wieland, followed by Judith Obermayer,

president of the Obermayer Foundation and the wife of the late Arthur Obermayer, the founder of the Foundation and continued with a touching speech by their son Joel.

One after the other, the awardees spoke. Each one told of her/his deeds and vision, and our hearts expanded more and more until they were full.

Benigna received the Distinguished Service Award. Quoting from her speech: "We are all committed to preserving the memory of the extinct Jewish community in Germany, to maintain their legacy, spread knowledge about them, and translate this knowledge into the present."

On our behalf, our friend Henry Stern delivered a speech of praise for Benigna, her initiative and her special and exceptional work.

For us it was a most exciting moment to be present in such a special event, surrounded by many Jews who were honoring German citizens who do so much to preserve our personal and general histories.

And please allow me something personal - if I had been asked ten years ago to write down everything I knew about my family in Germany, I could barely have filled one page. Today, after a serious investigation of my family's history I can fill dozens of pages, if not more. All this is almost exclusively possible thanks to people like Benigna and her partners in Augsburg. In other cities where my family lived, like Speyer, Krumbach, and Wiesbaden, we also found local residents who helped investigate, write, store and share with us every bit of information they had. These people do holy work without any financial or material compensation. They see their work as a mission, and they deserve recognition and appreciation.

To Benigna's credit, the process of investigating our families has not only preserved our history, but it has also, no less importantly, brought us, the descendants of the Jews, closer together.

And this is what I wrote to Benigna a few days after the ceremony: "The feeling that there are somewhere in the world, people you love and can trust, and that they have with us a strong common denominator, is very encouraging and powerful. It is a feeling that is a bit difficult to explain, but all these are thanks to you! If only for this act you deserve an award!"

We hope that, with the Foundation's encouragement, others will be added to this circle of special people.

Great thanks and deep appreciation to the people of the Obermayer Foundation, the administration, the judges and the entire team. Well done! ☘



L-R: Yoram and Ofra Millo, Henry Stern, Bettina Kaplan, Benigna Schoenhagen, Diane Castiglione, Erich Strohmaier, Michael Castiglione, Adele Stern (Not pictured: Steven and Hilary Anson)

Recipe Corner

TZETCHKENDAATSCHÉ® pending (Plum Torte)

also spelled as Zwetschgendatschi.

Submitted by Deborah Sturm Rausch | Latham, NY

My father, Walter Sturm, son of Max and Anna Sturm, grandson of Lina and Hugo Steinfeld, often spoke of the wonderful life he had as a youngster in Augsburg and wanted to pass along as much of our German roots to us as he could. He loved a plum torte made by his grandmother Lina, which he called

Tzetchkendaatsche. Together with my mother Lillian, he worked to recreate it in America. As the Italian prune plums are only available in early autumn, it became a family tradition to make this for Rosh HaShanah. My daughters both make it, and last year, I made it together with my grandchildren. My great-grandmother who perished during the Holocaust lives on in many ways, including through this delicious dessert!

Ingredients:

1 to 2 pounds of Italian Prune plums
1/4 pound butter, allowed to soften
1 egg
2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 cup plus 5 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Special Equipment: large pizza pan

Preparation: Wash prune plums in cold water. Pat dry. Slice the plums in half, remove the pit, and then use your knife to slice into but not all the way through each half. Place the cut halves on a flat surface until needed.

Directions: Whip softened butter with 1/2 cup sugar until fully blended. Add egg and blend. Slowly add 2 cups of flour together with 1 teaspoon of baking powder to mix thoroughly. Dough will be buttery and dense, and should be able to be formed into a ball without any dry flour crumbs. Using the palm of your hand, break small bits of the dough off and press them into the pizza pan until the pan, including the sides, are full covered. Place pan into the refrigerator to cool, for at least 20 minutes. Remove the pan, and lay the plums in a concentric circle to cover the dough completely. Use as many as needed. Make the topping by stirring the cinnamon into the remaining 5 tablespoons of sugar in a small bowl. Sprinkle this over the top of the plums as evenly as possible, using all of it. Bake at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for 1/2 hour. Let cool and serve with homemade *schlag*.

Note: According to The Crazy Tourist website, eating this while in Augsburg is a "must do! The cake has such a place in Augsburg's heart that it is sometimes called 'Datschiburg.' " ❀



Lina and Hugo Steinfeld in Augsburg



Kirschkuchen Eingesunken

Submitted by Claire Jebesen | Kristiansand, Norway

Claire is the daughter of Ernst Cramer who was born in Augsburg on January 28, 1913. Flora Untermayer was Claire's maternal grandmother. She was born in 1892 in Augsburg, and died in 1986 in Pueblo, Colorado. Flora was the daughter of Ludwig and Hedwig Epstein. She was married to Eugene Untermayer (Augsburg). They owned M. Untermayer (leading linen store) located in Untermayer Passage (now Max Passage).



Flora Untermayer pictured with then 2-year-old Marianne Untermayer (Claire's mother) in January 1918

Ingredients:

1/4 pound shortening (butter or margarine)
4 whole eggs
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 pound (about) pitted sour cherries

Directions:

To the 1/4 pound shortening (butter or margarine), Add 4 whole eggs Beat well, then add:
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder



Put all in shallow buttered baking dish and add:
1 pound (about) pitted sour cherries
Bake in moderate oven about 30 minutes or until done. The temperature should be 180 degrees Centigrade (350 degrees Fahrenheit).



Making Connections:

Above is a photo of Claire's mom, Marianne (2nd from L) and Debbie's father Walter (3rd from R) as children in Augsburg. ❀

How Best to Memorialize the Victims

By Deborah Sturm Rausch
Editor

Stolpersteine (Stumbling Stones) began in 1996 as a symbolic art project by Gunter Demnig. Remembering victims of the Holocaust in this way has since become recognized, and the number of these markers has grown to exceed 70,000 Stolpersteine. These markers have now been placed across Europe.

As Benigna Schönhagen tells us (see page 6), Memory Posts commemorate victims of any kind of persecution – they do not differentiate whether people were persecuted for reasons of race, belief or for social, eugenical or political reasons. The central message being: “Nobody should be forgotten.”

But there was controversy about the stones. Some people feel that stepping on the names of the victims was an affront to their memories. *Erinnerungsbänder* or Memory Posts were developed in Augsburg following the 2012 Remembrance Workshop as a way of remembering people without stepping on their names.

As Benigna explains, “Finally, the city council – being responsible for all kinds of art work in the public space – chose the since then so-called Augsburg Way of Remembrance. Both kind of memorials were accepted, Stolpersteine and Erinnerungsbänd – the latter having been the result of an art work competition.”

The issue was covered in The Local, a newspaper that features life in various cities in Europe. You can read the story here: <https://www.thelocal.de/20170504/holocaust-memorial-blocks-at-last-allowed-in-bavarian-city>.

The goal is to keep the memory of the victims alive as a reminder of their existence and to help prevent the horrors of the past from happening ever again.

What are your thoughts/feelings about these remembrance markers? Do you prefer one over the other, or are both acceptable to you?



Please let us hear from you. Your responses are important. *Please email your Food for Thought comments to djcaugsburg@gmail.com. We would appreciate receiving them in time to post them in our December issue. Thank you!* ☿

Do you have an idea for a future “Food for Thought” topic?

If you do, we would love to hear from you! While we are especially interested in hearing thoughts from

grandchildren of survivors, everyone’s input matters! Please let us know what you’d like to discuss on these pages. THANKS!

Please Send Us



Food for Thought IDEAS

us know what you’d like to discuss on these pages.

My Two Precious Parents... Continued from page 8



Anita Skinner holds a photo of her grandparents.

In March 1943 before deportation Lina lived with a group of other Jewish people in Geisberstrasse 14. Leopold Zinner emigrated to England soon after liberation from Dachau. He was sponsored to go to America by Philip Levit and Blanche Salzenstein Levit but the papers for emigration came first from England.

In England is where my parents met. My father, along with many other German Jewish men, joined the British Army in the Pioneer Corp under Montgomery, and was stationed in a few places in England.

After the war, my parents settled in London where I was born, I was there only as a child. I now live in Australia. ☿

Coming in December 2019...

NEXT ISSUE

Our December Newsletter will focus on **Choices on How to Handle Family Heirlooms and Artifacts**. How has your family handled your heirlooms, papers, books,

artifacts? What type of artifacts do you have: papers, photos, family possessions? Were they donated to a museum? Were they passed down from generation to generation? We are looking for stories of your personal experience as well as ideas that have been shared with you by others.

We also welcome articles for our **Family Spotlight** column, recipes that have been handed down (a form of family heirloom), as well as your responses to our **Food for Thought** article.

Please send your submission(s) to us at djcaugsburg@gmail.com to be received not later than October 15, 2019.

Thank you.