

CONNECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DESCENDANTS OF
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AUGSBURG



December 2022

Volume 5, Number 2



Family Spotlight

The **Family Spotlight** is a regularly featured column in our newsletter. This is a place where readers can get to know a bit about your family, its history, or a specific story that focuses on an event, a family heirloom, your family's contributions to Augsburg, or another related matter. We hope you will consider sharing something about your family for our next issue. Thank you.

The Twins

By George Sturm who is the son of Anna and Max Sturm, grandson of Hugo and Lina Steinfeld, and a descendant of the Heilbronner/Steinfeld families of Augsburg. He lives in Englewood, New Jersey.

My mother, Anna Sturm, had a twin sister, Hedwig Engländer, both the daughters of Lina and Hugo Steinfeld. They were as identical as only identical twins can be. They looked alike, thought alike, spoke alike. Even I sometimes had difficulty in deciphering whom I was looking at. When they played piano, four-hands together, they looked like a pair of Dresden dolls. Before buying a gift for someone, they needed to communicate or else they would wind up with the same item.

Came the bad times, Anna and her family were fortunate, at half-past the eleventh hour, to escape to America. Hedwig's husband, the dentist Dr. Paul Engländer, was born in a part of Europe that had belonged to Germany before World War I and then ceded to Poland, which made him ineligible to apply for an exit permit as a German citizen. The couple resolved never to be separated and they remained in Augsburg, hoping for the best.

After the United States joined the Allies in World War II, normal mail service became impossible. Only once in a blue moon would short, cryptic messages arrive via the International Red Cross. Needless to say, my mother hungrily looked forward to having word from her sister. She had become accustomed to life in America and enjoyed the best of health and pleasure in being free and a beneficiary of America's opulence, but of course she worried. I remember her once saying that if she ever found out that her sister was no longer alive, she didn't know if she could withstand it. My dad calmed her down and told her not to be melodramatic.

It was in March 1943 that the Engländers, together with three other families, took their lives on the day prior to their scheduled deportation. We only learned of it the following November when a Red Cross message arrived with the coded text: "Engländers have gone to join the Steinfelds." And



(L-R) Anna and Hedwig Steinfeld as young children in Augsburg.

then we knew. (We had been made aware that my grandparents had made the same choice the prior year.)

We were all surprised to note that my mom had taken the dreaded news quite well, seemingly with a sense of relief that it was over, that they no longer had to suffer.

On the morning of November 23rd - barely a week after the Red Cross letter from Europe - I went off to school as always. But when I came home for the lunch break, the house was empty, the beds were unmade. I ran to the neighbors and was told that my mother had been taken ill and that my father was with her. He soon emerged and from his body language I could see the worst had happened. She had "inexplicably" died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 52.

Inexplicably?

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

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*Please note that posted deadlines
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and on Facebook at
([https://www.facebook.com/
juedischesmuseumaugsbuerg/](https://www.facebook.com/juedischesmuseumaugsbuerg/)).

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A Message from our Co-Chairpersons

Written by Bettina Kaplan

“Collect, Preserve, Share” - these are not
my words but the tag line from the Wiener
Holocaust Library website in London. But
couldn't it be each of our tag lines too? It
reminds me that each of us descendants are a
“living library”! And the DJCA has developed a
platform to “Collect, Preserve and Share” an
important part of history that, we are constantly reminded, many in the world have
forgotten or have not learned.

Collect - We continue to be impressed with the variety of stories that you, our dear
fellow descendants, take the time to write and send every six months. You are not only
looking through your photos, documents, and letters but you are collecting your
thoughts about your Augsburg family history. These may be new thoughts given where
you are in your life. They may be thoughts that you have had for a while and now
understand in a new way. I know I do, as does my mother, who was five years old
when she left Germany with her family.

Preserve - We preserve photos and stories by taking time to write them down and
scan documents, photos, etc. so we can gather them in a logical sense in our
newsletter, **Connections**, and perhaps at some point donate them to institutions like
the Leo Baeck Institute, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, or the Jewish Museum
Augsburg Swabia.

Share - Twice a year we are fortunate to have Debbie Rausch, our amazing editor,
put together these stories in a beautiful cohesive format to share with other descen-
dants and the world at large via the Jewish Museum of Augsburg Swabia's website.

Those of us who know something about our family history are the fortunate ones!
For every family who has stories to tell, there are many more that do not know
anything. And none of us will ever know how many stories we lost when our family
members perished. We hope you will continue to keep your “living library” vibrant by
finding more family stories to “Collect, Preserve, Share” both within your own families
and with us. It is our hope that the history of the Jewish community of Augsburg will be
remembered for generations to come.

We wish you and yours all the best for a happy and healthy new year. ☸



L-R: Diane Castiglione and Bettina Kaplan

From the Editor

Deborah Sturm Rausch

Dear Readers:

It is our pleasure to present you with this issue of **Connections**!
It is once again chock full of compelling stories and articles, taking
us back before WWII and up to the present.

Sadly, we lost Gernot Römer (z”l) since we last published our
newsletter. This loss was a painful one, since Mr. Römer meant so
very much to so many of us. We are so touched that Dr. Elisabeth
Müller (most of us know her as Lizzy!) has provided us with an
article about Augsburg's tribute to Mr. Römer.

We have also heard that a living memorial has been created through the Jewish
National Fund in Israel to help keep Mr. Römer's memory alive. Please see page
11 for information about the Tribute, and to find details about how you can
contribute to this memorial.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the December 2022 issue! We
invite you to contribute to our June 2023 issue with the theme of Visiting
Augsburg.** (See page 17 for further information). Also, please enjoy the *Steamed
Chocolate Pudding* recipe which sounds heavenly. Please send us your hand-me-
down recipes! We and our readers love them! Our Meet Ups section is taking off
and includes a great article on page 14 about a family reunion brought about by
Miriam Friedmann's film, *“It Was All Legal.”* Have you “met up” with a member of
our Augsburg extended “family”? Please tell us about it!

It would be great to hear from some members of the next generation for the
June newsletter! Did you visit Augsburg with your family? Tell us about it, please.

Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, safe, peaceful, and prosperous 2023! ☸



Deborah Sturm Rausch

Letter from JMAS Director Carmen Reichert

Dear descendants of the Jewish community in Augsburg, dear friends of our museum,

This summer, when air traffic returned to pre-pandemic levels (at least to some extent), we have been able to welcome many of you to our museum. For me, these were very moving encounters. Keeping the memory of your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents alive here in Augsburg is one of the main tasks of our museum.

These are intense and challenging times at the museum, in Augsburg, in Europe, and probably almost everywhere in the world. As I write these lines, missiles are falling all over Ukraine. All over Europe, concerns are growing about the conflict spreading. We are bracing ourselves for a cold winter without gas and oil from Russia, with a high probability of blackouts. Our two Ukrainian fellows are in the process of completing our exhibition on Jewish life in Ukraine, despite all the concern for their loved ones. We hope that our exhibition can help also to raise funds for the "Gedankendach" (Roof of Thoughts) Center in Chernivtsi, originally a university institution at the Institute of German Studies, which now provides care and services for displaced persons from all over the country in this less affected region.

Daria Reznik and Andrii Shestaliuk joined us in April and June, respectively, from the Memorial Museum of Totalitarian Regimes "Territory of Terror" in Lviv. How can one curate an exhibition on the history of Jews in Ukraine for an audience that has no prior knowledge of Ukrainian history and in the midst of a war in which loans and object purchases are out of the question?

We were lucky to find two colleagues, Daria and Andrii, who have a lot of experience with eyewitness interviews and videos. And so, we decided not to exhibit objects, but voices. Individual voices show only a small fraction of what Jewish life in Ukraine has been like since the time before the Shoah. But these little insights come together to form a vague overall picture, a kind of mosaic of fragments of memories. It is important for us to show how large and diverse the Jewish community in Ukraine - with its 2.7 million people - was before the Shoah and how Jewish life could develop, especially since the independence of Ukraine. Our own Jewish community has grown due to the arrival of families from Ukraine in the current war.

The exhibition is called "Voices. A Mosaic of Ukrainian Jewish Life" and in German "Voices. Ein Mosaik Ukrainische-Jüdischen Lebens." We decided to use an English main title because the exhibition was created in English. Daria's native language is Russian; Andrii's Ukrainian. We left the interviews in the original languages - Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, English, German. Subtitles in German, English, Russian, and Ukrainian make the exhibition accessible not only to German-speaking Augsburgers, but also to tourists and the Ukrainians and Russians who have come to Augsburg since the 1990s and increasingly again under the circumstances of the war.



Carmen Reichert, Director

Even apart from the work on the exhibition, we are experiencing an intense time at the museum. On July 24, we celebrated the start of renovation work in our building. On the one hand, the work is urgently needed because no fundamental renovation has been carried out since the reopening in 1985. But on the other hand, both the Jewish community and the museum are bursting at the seams. In 1985, the community consisted of 300 members and the museum consisted of its director. Today, the community has grown almost to the number of members it had before the Shoah, and the museum has 12 permanent employees, plus guides and temporary staff. So, the renovation is also a sign of our growth.

Despite all the concern about the overall political situation, we also have reason to look to the future with optimism. We have begun to think about what our new permanent exhibition should look like in consultation with Augsburg's urban community and the DJCA. I would like to hear your opinions and thoughts about what our museum could look like in the future. Stay tuned for news on how we will do this.

Wherever you are - I send you and your relatives the best greetings and wishes from Augsburg, a good and sweet 2023, and a winter full of heartwarming and meaningful encounters. ✎

We are pleased to profile a different staff member of the Jewish museum in each issue. This issue we are pleased to highlight the two Ukrainian fellows who are working at the museum. The local interviews are conducted by Michael Bernheim, a descendant of the Bernheim family, who lives in Augsburg.

MEET THE STAFF

Introduction to the interviews in this issue

By Michael Bernheim

The two interviews with Daria and Andrii took place in the café of the Jewish Museum Augsburg Swabia and lasted for about an hour each. I admit Daria and Andrii were the first Ukrainians I was able to talk to, also thanks to their fluent English. Both young scientists impressed me a lot. Despite the disaster in their country, they were calm and gentle, yet full of energy and determination. And they never complained. It is their intention to make the best use of their time in Germany, as friendly envoys of their home-country. I wish them and their families a bright and peaceful future.

Daria has a scholarship for a PhD program, starting on November 1 at the University of Leipzig. It fitted with her family history and her professional experience that, before going to Leipzig, she could organize the new exhibition for the Jewish Museum Augsburg Swabia. All this had been planned beforehand and then coincided with the Russian invasion. Daria's mother has remained in Donetsk to look after her elderly parents who do not want to leave the country.

Andrii comes from the opposite part of Ukraine but he and Daria met at the University in Lviv. In 2020, he had planned to continue his academic career in Ukraine with a PhD program but was stopped by the pandemic. He will stay at the museum in Augsburg until June next year and then is considering starting his PhD studies at a German university. Thanks to Andrii's background, he can assess the challenges lying ahead of a Jewish community with Ukrainian/Russian/post-Soviet heritage living in Germany.

Meet the Staff continues on Page 4

MEET THE STAFF

Meet Daria Rezyk

Introduction: My name is Daria Rezyk. I was born and raised in Donezk, Ukraine. After graduating from the Ukrainian Catholic University with a master's degree in history, I worked for three years in one of Lviv's museums dedicated to the Holocaust, Nazi, and Soviet repressions in Ukraine. In March 2022, I came to Augsburg.



Daria Rezyk

What is your role at the museum? I am curating the new exhibition "Voices," opening at the former Kriegshaber Synagogue on October 24. It is a mosaic of Jewish life in Ukraine from the Habsburg Empire until today.

What do you like best about your work? The level of knowledge among the German public about Ukraine and its history is very low. Staying in Augsburg and preparing the new exhibition is an invaluable opportunity for changing this.

How did you get interested in German Jewish history? My late father was German Jewish. In addition, the topic of my master's thesis was the Weimar Republic. My work at the museum in Lviv has always been related to German history and themes of the Holocaust.

What do you feel is the most important aspect of the work being done by the museum and the DJCA? Under the present circumstances, bringing people together and giving them the opportunity to talk to each other and share their experiences.

What do you like to do when you are not at work? I devote most of my time to learning languages. I study German and Danish.

What is your favorite food? Anything with fish

What is your favorite travel destination? The Carpathian Mountains, Scandinavia

What superpower would you like to have? I would like to be able to speak every language on Earth.



Meet Andrii Shestaliuk

Introduction: I am Andrii Shestaliuk. I was born and raised in the Galicia region in the west of Ukraine. I studied law and history at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and graduated with a master's degree in history. The subject of my master's thesis was the legal system of the Armenian population in Lviv in the middle of the 17th century.



Andrii Shestaliuk

What is your role at the museum? Curating the new exhibition "Voices" together with Daria Rezyk.

What do you like best about your work? The new exhibition, as well as my entire stay here, present an opportunity for making Ukrainian Jewish life visible in Germany. And curating the exhibition turned out to be a multi-tasking job, involving purely technical issues and many challenges translating between Ukrainian, German, English, and Russian.

How did you get interested in German Jewish history? I grew up in a part of Ukraine with a rich Jewish history. When I was four years old, my grandmother showed me the site of the old Jewish cemetery in a town that was originally 60% Jewish. Almost all the former Jewish citizens were murdered during the Shoah. Only the mausoleum of a famous rabbi, Shlomo Gotlib Karliner, had survived. This made a lasting impression on me. All the synagogues and the Jewish cemetery in the town were destroyed or integrated into new buildings under the Soviet Union. When I grew older, I started traveling to different small towns on my own. Now I see how the new memorial plaques appear. More and more visitors and pilgrims from Israel come to Ukraine each year. This heritage is worth preserving both in Ukraine and here in Germany.

What do you feel is the most important aspect of the work being done by the museum and the DJCA?

The Augsburg Jewish community strives to preserve its self-identity while integrating into the local society. After having worked for some months in the museum next to the synagogue, I wonder what the community will look like in twenty years. What kind of support can we give?

What do you like to do when you are not at work? Hiking, traveling, reading books. At any rate, I enjoy learning new things.

What is your favorite food? I have a sweet tooth, but I also enjoy getting to know Bavarian cuisine.

What is your favorite travel destination? In Ukraine, small multicultural cities in Galicia; or else, Spain

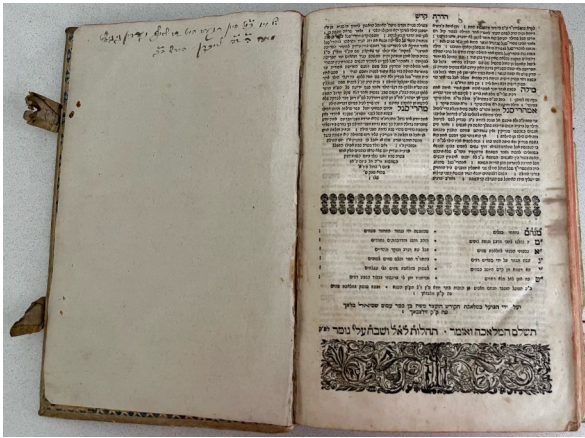
What superpower would you like to have? Being able to travel through time. Being able to communicate with more people by learning languages very quickly. ✂

Two Prayer Books: A Beautiful Heritage

By Helen Einstein who is the wife of Jeff Einstein, a descendant of the Einstein family of Kriegshaber. Helen and Jeff live in Sydney, Australia.

Jeff Einstein received from his father Sigmund Einstein (born in Augsburg in 1914) a beautiful legacy in the form of two very old prayer books from the Einstein family. They are leather-bound books: one for the High Holy Days and one for Shabbat and the festivals.

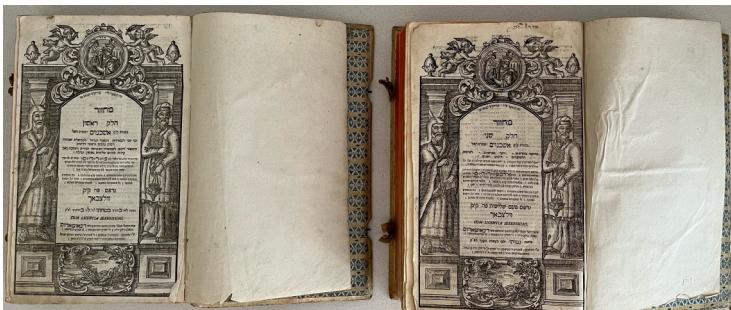
The date these books were transported to South Africa is not known, as the Einstein family left Augsburg at different times, but in speaking to our cousins, Zelma and Sigmund Meinstein, the consensus is that Sigmund Einstein's brother (and Jeff's uncle) Max brought them to South Africa in 1936. This was the year he travelled back to Augsburg as his father Ludwig ("Louis") had passed away and he brought his mother Sophie to South Africa. At the time he visited Augsburg the family still lived in their house on Ulmerstrasse.



These beautiful prayer books were dated to 1719 by an expert, Sharon Liberman Mintz who came to Australia and New Zealand in 2019 with her husband. She is a Curator of Jewish Art at the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, and specializes in the art of Hebrew manuscripts and rare printed books.

Every year, Jeff brings these books to synagogue and follows the service with them. This past Rosh Hashanah, the Rabbi at the local synagogue we attended saw the prayer book and showed it to the congregation. With the theme of his sermon being continuity for our Jewish communities, he expressed the hope that in 303 years' time one of our descendants will hold up our **Artscroll Machzor and Siddur** and show them with pride.

Jeff is truly blessed to use these books each year and to have this heritage.



An Eventful Life That Began in Augsburg

By Peter Bunyard of Cornwall, England. He is the son of Anneliese Bunyard née Lerchental of Augsburg.

My mother, Anneliese "Anneli" Lerchental Bunyard, was born in 1913 in Augsburg, the second daughter of Robert Lerchental and his wife Liesel Schwarz who died of septicaemia from a cut finger in 1928 and is buried in the Augsburg Jewish cemetery. In 1924, Robert, together with Arthur Arnold (great-grandfather of Bettina Kaplan), bought Hochfeldstrasse 2 and divided the property in two equal parts. At that time, Robert who had a degree in chemistry as well as a medical degree, had become director of his uncle's bank, the August Gerstle Bank.



Bavaria, 1928, my cousins, Rudi and Mausie (L), my uncle, Hans (Center), Aunt Gertrud and my mother, Anneli (far R)



Liesel Lerchental née Schwarz

In 1937, the Nazis took over the house and that spurred Robert into action. He left Germany with my mother's younger brother, Hans, and, via Britain, travelled to New Zealand, where he founded a glue factory in Wellington called ADOS. My mother's sister Gertrud, who had married Joachim Kahn and who had a son, Claude, also left Britain *en famille* for New Zealand. She then helped her father in the factory.

Anneli, meanwhile, wished to become a photographer and, after 1933, took herself to Paris to study and begin work as a professional. Once her father had left Germany, she too came to London with the help of Patricia Maufe who, at that time, was a director of Heals, the well-known interior design and furniture store. In London, she met my father, the sculptor, Paul Hamann, who, with his wife, Hilde, had fled Germany in 1933, spending the next few years in Paris before coming to London under the sponsorship of Sir Harold Nicholson. In 1938, a year before I was born, Anneli married Claud Bunyard. He went off to fight and was captured in Crete, spending the rest of the war as a POW. My mother's midwife was Lisa Einstein, a cousin of Albert.

In 1940, Anneli set up her studio in Swiss Cottage. The Embassy theatre was close by and, as part of her work, she would take those shots of performances which were then posted at the theatre entrance. Many of the actors of that time came to my mother for their portraits: people like Churchill's daughter, Diana, Valerie White, Ann Crawford, Valerie Tandy, Jean Kent, Douglas Montgomery, Hugh Williams, Dulcie Gray, and Kenneth Moore, just to name a few. She photographed the actor and director, Martin Miller, who was born Rudolph Müller. He had escaped to Britain in 1939 with his actress wife, Hannah Norbert-Miller, whom my mother also photographed. In London, Miller co-founded the émigré cabaret and theatre at the Austrian Centre, which came to be known as the 'Laterndl'. Here, he made his

Family Spotlight continues on Page 6



Anneli and Peter Bunyard,
Cornwall 1942

name, at least in Britain, through his lampooning of Hitler, which he repeated at the time for the BBC German Service. In the summer of 1942, when I was barely three years old, we went to St. Ives in Cornwall. The idea was for my mother to photograph the constructivist Russian sculptor, Naum Gabo, whom she had already met in London just before the outbreak of war. While there, my mother also photographed the artist, Margaret Mellis, her husband, writer and painter Adrian Stokes, and their young son, Teller. Naum Gabo must have given my mother's photo of himself to Barbara Hepworth, because there it is, without acknowledgement, in the Hepworth Museum in St. Ives.

That visit to Cornwall was one of my first strong memories. The weather was really warm and I was on Porthminster beach with my mother's friend Eileen Findon, a Polish Jewess, who had accompanied us from London. Suddenly, we heard the heavy drone of an aircraft flying low over the sea and there it was, coming straight towards us. As it approached, I could clearly see a man looking down at us from behind a Perspex cover. At that moment he started raking the beach with bullets and the next moment I was pressed hard against the sand as my mother's friend threw herself on top of me. The plane then released a bomb which destroyed the gasworks on Porthmeor. One woman was killed. The Tate St. Ives is built exactly in the same spot as the destroyed gasworks and even follows some of its contours with its circular atrium.

In 1948, Anneli left England for Rome. Her cousin Mausie was there, as was Lotte Dann, also from Augsburg, who had married Paolo Treves, first cousin of Carlo Levi, the author of *Christ stopped at Eboli*.

On New Year's Eve 1949, Anneli died of carbon monoxide poisoning because of a faulty gas fire.

In England, I was then looked after by Molly Glynn, who had been a friend of my mother's family since 1928.

In June 2022, Mausie was still in Rome, going strong, at 109 years old. ☘



Anneliese with renowned artist, Giorgio de
Chirico Rome 1948

Remembering Jacob Binswanger & Cie

Based on a press release issued by Andreas Binswanger, Miriam Friedmann, and Contipark Parkgaragengesellschaft

A plaque honoring the Binswanger family was dedicated on May 13, 2022 at the site of the former "Binswangerhaus" at Ludwigstrasse 28, which is today a parking garage. Andreas Binswanger of Switzerland and Miriam Friedmann of Augsburg represented the Binswanger family at the ceremony.

The company "Jacob Binswanger & Cie" operated their vinegar and liqueur production at this location. The Binswanger family and business moved to Augsburg in 1865 from Osterberg, where their factory building had burnt down. The building they purchased in Augsburg had been built in 1590 by Johan Holl. Over five generations, 34 family members lived and worked there.

On May 9, 1939, the company and the house were expropriated and sold as part of the Nazi "Aryanization" program. The house was completely destroyed during overnight bombing on February 25-26, 1944.

The idea for the plaque was generated when Miriam Friedmann approached Mr. Berger, the manager of the Contipark parking garage, introduced herself, and explained her connection to the site and her idea to place a plaque on the façade of the building. She then contacted her cousin Andreas Binswanger and together they designed and developed the plaque. As Miriam has stated, "For many Jewish fellow citizens there are no places of remembrance; that is why this plaque means more than just a historical citation. Although our families are separated by continents and generations, this building also serves as a connection and reminder of our roots. It is a commemoration of immense misery, suffered in times of oppression. It will be an everlasting testimony to those who lived there."

Contipark, a company with around 590 parking facilities throughout Germany and Austria, issued a statement acknowledging the importance of corporate social responsibility and thanking Miriam and Andreas for drawing their attention to the history of this particular parking garage's location. It also states, "This urgently needs to be told, all the more so at this time when current developments in Europe show that the danger of history repeating itself is far from being over. We are pleased to be able to make a contribution to the culture of remembrance in the city of Augsburg. After all, values such as democracy, peace, and the rule of law are part of our company's self-image. The installation of the commemorative plaque is a reminder of precisely these values by raising awareness of how fragile they still are."

As Miriam and Andreas stated, "This remembrance is intended to contribute in Augsburg, the 'City of Peace,' to understanding and peaceful coexistence between people of different origins and different faiths." ☘



Miriam Friedmann and Andreas
Binswanger unveiling plaque May 2022

After Augsburg: What Happened Next?

This issue's theme focuses on members of the pre-war Jewish community of Augsburg who survived by leaving Augsburg as well as those family members who were left behind. Many never saw those family members again and, luckily, some did. The stories of those who left before the war are important to the effort of preserving the memories of life before Hitler. Our contributors have provided interesting and thought-provoking responses to the following questions: When did your family leave and where did they go? Why did they go to where they went? What were those first few years like for them? How did they adjust to their new surroundings? What difficulties did they encounter? What were the success stories? What, if any, support (i.e., financial, emotional, employment, etc.) did they receive from other family members, community organizations, religious institutions, etc.? How did your family embrace their new life?

All Alone at Square One

By Michael Bernheim, son of Erhard Bernheim. Michael lives in Augsburg.

May 1945 - - the war was over. My father Erhard was staying with his non-Jewish mother and grandmother in the country estate of his mother's family near Immenstadt in the Allgäu. The region was occupied by the French troops. Erhard was free at last, after having escaped from a German labor camp in January and then having miraculously survived, always being on the run. He was twenty-two years old; he had his high school diploma but no further education or training, be it academic or professional. His Jewish father Willy, a French soldier at the time, returned to Paris after the Allied campaign and decided to stay there for good. The relationship with his

mother had always been difficult but was seriously strained now, since, upon his adventurous return from the labor camp in March, she was not happy with the idea of having to hide an escaped half-Jewish inmate. His younger brother Willy was a fourteen-year-old high school

student. The family business, the chemical company in Augsburg, was in the hands of strangers, who had been instrumental in aryanizing the business in early 1933. To make things worse, the company premises in Augsburg's Pfersee district were heavily damaged after a U.S. Air Force strike in January 1945. Erhard was all on his own.

After all, in October 1945, the company, named "R. Bernheim" until 1933 and "Chemische Fabrik Pfersee" from 1933 on, was put under property control by the U.S. Military Government, like all other businesses which had changed owners during the Nazi era under dubious circumstances. Still, in light of Erhard's situation, it was a rather desperate move when he took the first steps for recovering the family business. With the help of Ludwig Dreifuß, Mayor of Augsburg, appointed by the U.S. Military Government, and Holocaust survivor, he was able to contact the American authorities in charge. But it took time and courage, until in May 1946, Erhard, being twenty-three years old, became "boss of a heap of

rumble," as he put it himself. The heap, however, still belonged to the above-mentioned strangers. These "strangers" were former senior employees and sales-representatives, some of them NSDAP (Nazi party) members, who in 1933 seized the opportunity to push the Bernheims out and to become the owners themselves.

Finally, on March 18, 1949, a compromise was reached before the Swabian Restitution Authority in Augsburg between the Bernheim family (50%) and the new owners (50%). Based on the available evidence, the latter had to give up their position that seizing the family's business in 1933 was fully justified, which would have meant no reason for restitution at all. The family, on the other hand, waived its claim to be fully compensated. Erhard preferred a timely, albeit partial, success to a lengthy controversy that might drag on for years. This compromise was one of the earliest successful restitution cases in Augsburg, mainly thanks to my father's energy and stubbornness. Many other cases would never happen. Even the partial success provided early on a sound financial basis for settling in Augsburg again and raising a family. The downside was that for his entire professional life, my father had to deal with, and often pamper, co-owners or descendants thereof who once deliberately ruined his family.

On June 6, 1950 (six years after D-Day), he married his wife Hildegard, my mother. They met after 1945 in the former family company in Pfersee, where she had been working as a lab technician.

How an Augsburg Jew Played a Role in the Consequences of an Historic 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Decision

By Miriam Friedmann, who lives in Augsburg. Miriam is the daughter of F.G. and Elisabeth Friedmann of Augsburg.

Leaving a complicated flight to freedom and the tragic fate of their parents behind, my parents arrived in Tennessee in 1940, where a Binswanger relative of my mother's had provided the necessary "affidavit" required for entry to the United States. The Binswangers had already immigrated in the 19th century and had founded what became the largest and longest-running glass and glazier company in the United States. Sadly, they hesitated to provide the necessary funds to save my grandparents Emma (née Binswanger) and Eugen Oberdorfer. In 1943, Emma and Eugen were deported, murdered, and disposed of like trash in Auschwitz.

Theme articles continue on Page 8



Augsburg's Mayor visits Chemische Fabrik Pfersee (from R to L): Erhard Bernheim, Wolfgang Pepper, Mayor of Augsburg (1964 - 1972), Willy Bernheim

Because we did not live in an area where there were other Jewish refugees and, forever grateful that they could live in the United States, my parents quickly adjusted to life in the South. For better or worse, they left the past behind, but it didn't last forever.

In 1946, we moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where my father F.G. Friedmann was Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arkansas. In those days, segregation of race was the rule of law. Only after the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in which the justices ruled unanimously that racial segregation of children in public schools was unconstitutional would things change, although only after almost civil war conditions. The National Guard and U. S. government paratroopers were called out to restore a semblance of order.

In resistance to this ruling, a special session of the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 10 in 1958 as one of 16 bills designed to bypass federal desegregation orders. The measure required state employees - including my father - to list their political affiliations from the previous five years. Governor Faubus wanted to find out, in this backhanded way, who was in favor of integration. My father, as a former pupil of the Benedictine School of St. Stephan in Augsburg and a man of principle, refused and was fired on the spot!

I am proud to share with you some lines of his lengthy response to Governor Faubus' decision:

"As a former citizen of Germany and a naturalized citizen of the USA, I belong to those millions of people all over the world who, by bitter experience, have learned to appreciate the principles upon which the US have been founded and according to which her most noble citizens have always tried to live... . Among these principals, Sir, is the respect for the human person, regardless of his race, religion or station in life... . I fully realize that the ideal of equality as any other human ideal is not always practiced or practical by man. There is a real and legitimate conflict between our moral goals and the actual situation in which we live... .

Whether by choice or fate, you (Governor Faubus) have become the center of decision upon which the eyes of the whole world are focused. The world, Sir, we must sadly admit does not know and cannot understand what to them must appear fine points of constitutional law. The world has seen pictures of an ugly mob in a Christian country, proud of its traditions of fairness and of peace.

Your choice as I see it, is between playing the role of a political leader with its ephemeral victories and defeats and being a man of greatness, that is of humility, who through his own spiritual struggle and transformation will lead millions of men toward a peaceful and constructive approach to the problems which weigh so heavily, so cruelly on us today."

F.G. Friedmann, 1958

Though my father was a tenured professor he was nevertheless fired on the spot. After living 20 years in the United States and after a chance meeting with Hannah Arendt, in which she encouraged him to accept a position as a full professor at the University of Munich, my parents returned to Germany. Here they brought with them the belief in a post war generation which should be

supported in its difficult path toward a democratic society. On the way, he helped brush off the dust of encrusted authoritarian structures of German university traditions! They never returned to Augsburg, but in death were reunited with their parents in the Augsburg Jewish cemetery.

My father wasn't the only professor who was fired for refusing to comply with Act 10. Four other professors joined him in refusing to sign the loyalty oath. They did not have families so they volunteered to carry through with

F.G. and Elisabeth Friedmann

a "test case" in court. Ultimately, the so-called "Act 10 case" went to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Act 10 was overturned. The fired professors could have been reinstated but, by that time, my parents were in Germany and the others were also somewhere else.

I have letters from the University of Arkansas and from Governor Faubus as he grew old in which he wrote to my dad. They seemed like a kind of apology. It's a wonderfully tragic-beautiful story of my dad's courage and the governor as a "person caught up in a window of time."



After Augsburg: Embracing A New Life in Cali, Colombia

By Jeffrey L. Katz who resides in the Washington, D.C. area and is a descendant of the Landauer family. He is a retired journalist and is writing a book about his family's deep roots in Augsburg, North Rhine-Westphalia, and the movement in Germany of remembrance and reconciliation.

My mother's name is one of the last entries in the sprawling Landauer family tree published in the 1930s, the second child born to Julius Fritz and Else Landauer. She was born Margot Ellen Landauer, in Augsburg, on January 8, 1933 amid worsening political conditions that were formalized when Hitler assumed control of Germany just 22 days after her birth.

Circumstances spiraled out of control over the next few months and years, with the creation of the first concentration camps, book burnings, ban on Jews in public schools, and enactment of the Nuremberg race laws. My grandfather joined the management team of his family's large cotton weaving mill M.S. Landauer in 1929; by 1938 the owners were forced to sell at below market value as part of the push to "aryanize" Jewish owned property.

My mother left Germany that same year, accompanied by her parents, older brother Gerardo, and three of her grandparents. They were bound for a new home in Colombia, South America, looking for safety in the city of Cali, in a valley nestled by hills about 60 miles southeast of a Pacific Ocean port. Any hopes of coming

to the United States had been dashed by their inability to find a sponsor. Latin America was relatively more open to immigrants at that time, though the situation was rapidly changing as borders began quickly closing there, too.



(L-R) Hedwig Landauer, Gerardo Landauer, Flora and Ludwig Morgenthau, Margo, Else and Julius Landauer, Cali, Colombia 1945

My mother recalls other Jewish emigres settling in Cali from Germany, Poland, and Turkey. The three groups formed separate enclaves, attended three different synagogues, and rarely socialized with Jewish emigres from the other countries.

Her parents sent her to an all-girls Catholic school because the public schools were poorly regarded. She remembered there were about ten girls who weren't Catholic and weren't required to cross themselves. "We just stood there," she said, when students gathered for morning prayer.

She wasn't much interested in family conversations about their days in Germany, a place she hardly remembered. But they all spoke German at home because her grandparents never learned Spanish. The family also retained their German sensibilities about a proper upbringing, my mother said, adding, "There was a very strict adherence as to how a child is to behave." My mom quickly adapted to life in Cali, telling me years later, "I was very happy, had wonderful friends, enjoyed my school, enjoyed my surroundings." Antisemitism was not a problem; all of her best friends were Catholic, and she rarely socialized with other Jews.

My mom's life took another dramatic turn when she finished high school and her parents arranged to send her to the United States "because I was going with a Catholic boy, and they did not want me to marry out of my religion." Her destination was Philadelphia, to live with a second cousin of her mother's.

"That was a tough journey. I did not speak English," she recalled many years later. The gist of that message became a frequent refrain at home, whenever my brother or I would complain about doing something we said was difficult. Whatever we faced paled in comparison, she would tell us, because "I came to this country at age 18 not speaking any English."

My mother has never gotten past Germany's persecution of Jews, returning to the country over the years only when necessary and always with an eagerness to leave. But my grandmother reconciled with her birthplace in a big way, which included working for the German consul in Cali for a couple of years in the 1970s. Among the many questions I wished I asked when I had the chance was just how she made the decision to do so.

The Landman family: from Augsburg to Washington Heights

By Rick Landman who is the son of Henry Landman. Rick resides in New York City, NY.

The Landmann (changed to Landman in the United States) family of Hermannstrasse was a blended family. My grandmother's sister (Minna Wolf) moved in with my grandparents Josef and Regina Landmann when Minna's husband died. Her daughter Gusti (Anne) slept in the same bedroom as my two aunts, Joan and Irma. I called Gusti "Aunt Anne" all my life even though she was my father Henry's cousin.

Anne was sent to London on a Kindertransport and never saw her mother again. Minna was deported to Auschwitz with the other Augsburgers. But Anne made it to New York City (NYC) and resumed living with the Landmans in the area known as Washington Heights. I am not sure of the date of her arrival or whether it was during or after the war. Five other Kindertransport surviving cousins of my father's from Leipzig also moved in with the Landmans after losing some of their siblings and their parents.

Henry was arrested on Kristallnacht and sent to Dachau with his father Josef. Josef was released first and went through London to get to NYC in early 1939. Once in London, a lawyer (Charles Aukin) helped him to obtain a Temporary Transit Visa for Henry to get to London.



Aboard the S.S. Harding Henry Landmann with other German refugees 1939 Henry is in the middle in the top row.

So, at age 18, Henry left his mother and two sisters in Augsburg, traveling by himself as an unaccompanied teenager. He spoke no English and lived on very little funds from April to November 1939. His mother and two sisters left Augsburg during the summer of 1939. They were reunited that autumn, and were able to be together for Thanksgiving Day 1939. However, tragedy struck again, as Regina's parents and siblings, as well as Josef's parents and siblings, did not get out and perished in Germany.

As many people now know, Henry became a U.S. soldier and traveled across North Africa, Sicily, Anzio, and France, and was present in Dachau and Augsburg when they were liberated. Colonel Porter let my father go into Augsburg the day before the official liberation to see if Tante Minna survived but she had died with all the other Augsburgers.

Henry then returned to Washington Heights where he met my mother (who was born in Nuremberg). They later got married and had two sons.

My Father's Story

By Maurice Weber who is the son of Wilhelm (Willi) Weber of Augsburg. Maurice lives in Cape Town, South Africa,

Editor's Note: Dates supplied in this article appear in the European form of day, month, year.

My father, of blessed memory, Wilhelm (Willi) Weber, (זאב יהודה בן דוד) was born in Augsburg. He was the son of David and Sofie Weber.

- ◆ David Weber 01.09.1879 - 05.11.1952 (age 73)
Buried in Cape Town
- ◆ Sofie Weber 05.01.1885 - 11.12.1949 (age 54)
Buried in Cape Town

They had five children, my father being the oldest. The siblings were:

- ◆ Wilhelm (Willy) 14.10.1910 - 30.11.1996 (age 86)
Buried in Cape Town
- ◆ Arthur (Adi) 13.02.1912 - 21.09.1984 (age 72)
Buried in Cape Town
- ◆ Emil 1913 - 01.10.1915 (age 02)
Buried in Augsburg
- ◆ Henrietta (Leni) 22.12.1916 - 29.03.2014 (age 97)
Buried in Frankfurt
- ◆ Sigmund (Sigi) 18.12.1922 - 15.01.1999 (age 77)
Buried in Cape Town

My father, Wilhelm (Willy) Weber left Germany in October 1933 together with his brother Arthur (Adi) for France where they were hoping to get papers to depart for the United States of America. During their two years stay in the French town of Nancy, they operated as merchants selling ties and clothing accessories on a door to door basis from a cart.

As the political climate was changing in Europe and became more and more hostile towards its Jewish population, they decided not to risk the wait for permission to emigrate to the USA but to rather move on to South Africa, which proved to be a wise decision. Life for a Jew was not easy in Europe and special papers and permits were required for Jews to move about.

South Africa at that time was also not too welcoming for Jewish immigrants. There was a quota system in place and not all Jews could be accommodated. My father, together with his brother, left Marseilles via Genoa on 7th of November, 1935 and arrived at Cape Town on the 23rd of November, 1935 on a ship named the Duilio, which belonged to the Italia Line. Once here in South Africa, my father managed to bring all of his immediate family out of Germany.

My father met my mother in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia where they were married by the late Reverend Konvisser at the Salisbury Hebrew Congregation on the 10th of November 1946. After the wedding, my mother came to settle in Cape Town with my father.



A lithograph printed in 1922 for travel agency to promote the Duilio and obtained from a painting by N. Zanolio.

Credit: Italian Liners Historical Society

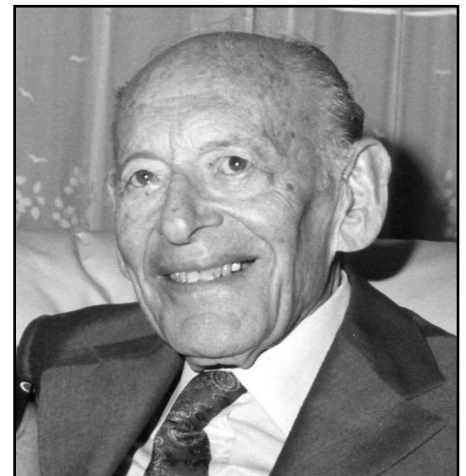
Shortly after my father's arrival in Cape Town, he, together with his brother Arthur, began their business. It all started in 1935 at the Avenue Hotel which was a boarding house in Gardens, an area where most of the new German Jewish immigrants lived. He opened a men's clothing shop which was located in Hannover Street. Hannover Street was part of Cape Town's District Six area in which its inhabitants were forced out during the Apartheid era and forms an integral part of Cape Town's history. Later in time, it was felt that they required the security of owning their own premises and not being dependent on a landlord. This goal materialized in 1945 when another shop was purchased together with the small building in which it was housed. Both these premises were located in the historical District Six area which was demolished by the Apartheid government in 1962. The building was painted blue and became an unofficial landmark to all inhabitants of the area as well as to many other Capetonians. It was commonly known as the "Blue House."

In the late 1940s, production with a staff of six people commenced in the same building manufacturing men's suits. This soon proved to be an unprofitable venture which led to the switch from men's suits to overalls. As time progressed and a strong foundation was established, the names of Elite Clothing manufacturers and its subsidiary Master Overall Company came about. The business moved from its District Six premises to Maitland, another suburb of Cape Town and grew to a work force of 350 employees. After many years of dedication to the trade, the companies were sold to a large public company in 1982 when my father retired.

After my father's death, when clearing out his wardrobe, I discovered much correspondence from family including uncles from Prague, Berlin, Budapest, and other parts of Europe. All of the letters requested assistance to get out of Europe. I also discovered receipts that were paid to the Jewish Shelter in London assisting them as best as he could for their escape from Europe. As my father never spoke of these matters during his lifetime, I have no idea at all what became of all those family members.

My father enjoyed his retirement years and was in exceptionally good health until three months before his death when he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

He passed away in the hospital on the 30th November 1996, corresponding to Shabbos, 21st Kislev 5757 according to the Jewish calendar. ❧



Wilhelm (Willy) Weber during his retirement.



In Memoriam

Please let us know if a former member of the Jewish community of Augsburg passes away. Please send an article and a photo to djcaugsburg@gmail.com. Thank you.

Augsburg Pays Tribute to Gernot Römer

By Dr. Elisabeth Müller, Augsburg, Germany

Sadly, on the 12th of June, 2022, Gernot Römer passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 93. He described himself as a "Glückspilz", a lucky one. It was a long, fulfilled, rewarding, and privileged life, for which he was extremely grateful. On July 25th, the chairman of the German Israeli Society Augsburg (DIG) Professor Dr. Wolf arranged a commemorative ceremony to pay tribute to him and his many achievements in relation to the former Jewish Community of Augsburg and Swabia at the time of the Nazi regime. It was held in the Augsburg City Hall, facing the room housing the glass panels on which are engraved the names of Augsburg's victims of the Holocaust.

Gernot Römer had researched each and every one of the victims himself. It was an enormous and time-intensive feat considering it was before the assistance of the Internet and done while he was still working as the Editor-in-Chief of the renowned daily newspaper the *Augsburger Allgemeine*.

The ceremony was incredibly moving, with eight speakers who paid tribute to him and shed light on many facets of his lifework, his enormous dedication, meticulousness, and untiring research uncovering the atrocities inflicted on the Jews of Augsburg and Swabia under the Nazi regime.

Among the laudatory speakers were:

- ◆ Dr. Dieter Münker, a close friend of Gernot Römer and his immediate successor as chairman of the German Israeli Society Augsburg.
- ◆ Professor Dr. Benigna Schönhagen, former director of the Jewish Museum Augsburg Swabia.
- ◆ Gertrud Kellermann, former head of the Christian Jewish Society Augsburg.
- ◆ Professor Dr. Schurk, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Museum Augsburg Swabia of which Gernot Römer was the honorary Chairman.
- ◆ Dr. Michael Friedrichs, member of the Remembrance Workshop Augsburg.
- ◆ Dr. Bernd Wissner, the managing director of the Wissner Verlag, which published the 18 books authored by Gernot Römer.

All speakers addressed his dedication and untiring commitment to uncovering the family history of the persecuted Jews of Augsburg and Swabia. Being a full-blooded journalist, he began his research out of a sense of responsibility and compassion. But after becoming personally acquainted with surviving victims and their families, it also became a personal mission which subsequently developed into true friendships and affection. This he never tired of emphasizing.

Another objective of his research was to transport his knowledge to the German public in the form of books, presentations, and readings. It was vital to him to communicate this knowledge to a younger generation,

with the aim of sharpening their awareness toward antisemitism. In the words of Primo Levi, "It happened therefore it can happen again."

In 2017 Gernot Römer bequeathed his extensive and treasured archive containing his correspondence with Holocaust survivors (nearly 200 folders) to the Trustees of the Jewish Museum Augsburg Swabia.

Not to be forgotten are the brilliant trips and journeys he organized for the DIG within Germany and abroad, including Israel, countries in Eastern Europe, Belgium, and Morocco. All of these trips were on the pathway of former Jewish communities. A highlight of these trips were evening encounters with Holocaust survivors. His organizational talent made these trips so very special and unforgettable.

He too will remain unforgotten. He was an inspiration for so many. May he rest in peace.



Tribute photo of Gernot Römer

Gernot Römer Memorial Forest

Plant a tree in Israel in memory of Gernot Römer

Thanks to the German Israeli Society of Augsburg, a living memorial to Gernot Römer has been established in the "Wald der Deutschen Länder" (Forest of the German States) in Israel. The Wald is located near Be'ersheva, and is part of an initiative to plant and reforest the Negev.

The memorial was established through the Jewish National Fund/Keren Kayemeth L'Israel. The cost to plant one tree is \$18 or 18€.

Here's how you can contribute to the Memorial Forest (please note that you should enquire with your financial institution to see if any fees may apply):

- **For donations in USD/EUR/ILS using Visa or Mastercard:** https://donate.kkl-jnf.org/lp/?utm_source=KKL_Button_Eng&utm_medium=WEB&utm_campaign=BlueBox&utm_id=KKL_Button_Eng

Check the "Dedicate your donation" box and where it says "In honor of/ In memory of" enter **14136 German Forest-Gernot Roemer**. (See box at right.) *Questions may be sent to moked1@kkf.org.il.*

- **For donations via wire transfer or Pay Pal:** <https://www.jnf-kkl.de/spenden/> Use the reference **Jüdischer Nationalfonds IBAN: DE50 37020500 0000 0170 80 Gernot Römer**.



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May his memory be a blessing.☞

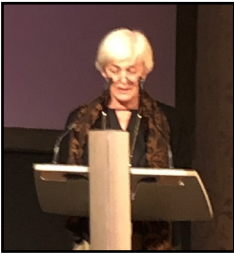
The Erinnerungswerkstatt (EWA) Turns Ten

By Angela Bachmair, Spokesperson, Remembrance Workshop Augsburg

All seats were occupied at the Augsburg Textile Museum, when, on July 29, 2022, the Erinnerungswerkstatt (EWA) celebrated its tenth anniversary. Many interested and active citizens were in attendance. Augsburg Mayor Eva Weber and German Secretary of Culture Claudia Roth brought their congratulations and expressed their gratitude. Both politicians emphasized how important it is to remember the crimes of National Socialist terror, especially in these times, as new antisemitism is growing.

In an on-stage discussion with high school students, teachers, local politicians, and volunteer authors, Benigna Schönhagen, the first director of the Jewish Museum, described the important stages of the first ten years of the EWA. The EWA, which formerly was an informal initiative and is now a registered association, (see New Status, right column) is growing and has increased responsibilities and tasks. The online Remembrance Book has a new software platform and now has an option for an English translation.

A special highlight of the evening was the video message from Descendants of the Jewish Community of Augsburg. The amicable relationship with the descendants of Augsburg's Jewish families is a great gift for the EWA. ✻



Above L-R: Angela Bachmair opens the event, Augsburg Mayor Eva Weber gives remarks, Federal Culture Secretary Claudia Roth, the keynote speaker

Below: Dignitaries in the front row (left to right): Thomas Weitzel, City of Augsburg, Remembrance Office, Dr. Karl Murr, Director Textile Museum, Claudia Roth, German Secretary of Culture, Angela Bachmair and Verena von Mutius, EWA founding members



New Status for EWA

By Michael Bernheim, a descendant of the Bernheim family, who lives in Augsburg.

The Augsburg Erinnerungswerkstatt (EWA) Remembrance Workshop was founded ten years ago by a group of ambitious people as a private initiative. Since then, it has gained in experience and visibility and its tasks have grown. Given its role and its importance, it became clear over time that it needed a better-defined legal status. Based on a decision by the founding and other active members, EWA is in the process of becoming a registered association, a legal entity. This will increase the Workshop's business capacity; it will be entitled to close contracts, to collect membership fees, and will be eligible for subsidies and donations.

Since most of the founding members (the "Speaker's Council") are withdrawing from EWA's active work for professional or private reasons, a new board has been formed. It consists of longtime members, each with strong personal motivation and ample experience. This will ensure continuity and a smooth transition. Board members are Fritz Schwarzbäcker (chair), Michael Bernheim (deputy chair), Michael Friedrichs, Alfred Hausmann, Claudia Huber, Inge Kroll, and Wolfgang Poeppel. ✻



Above: Benigna Schönhagen (far right) moderating the panel discussion

Below: Screenshot of the DJCA leadership delivering their video message





Ask the Historian

will appear periodically as a way to provide greater context to the history of Augsburg's Jewish community. It will primarily focus on the 1800s and pre-World War II years. We will be working with the professional staff of the

Jewish Museum Augsburg Swabia to respond to your questions about Augsburg's history, so please feel free to submit them to us at any time at djcaugsburg@gmail.com

Q - How did rights accorded to Jews in Augsburg evolve over time?

The following was provided by Nathalie Jäger, M.A., Research Assistant, Digitization Project "Bavarikon"

A - The development of the legal rights for the Jews in Augsburg did not take a linear course. It is characterized by alternating concessions and restrictions. The Jews in Augsburg and Bavaria only experienced constitutional equal rights with the founding of the German Empire in 1871. Unfortunately, this phase of legal equality for the Jews of Augsburg and Bavaria lasted only until 1933. Below is a summary of Jewish emancipation in Augsburg from the Middle Ages until the rise of National Socialism.

Middle Ages - the first municipality

Jews were first documented in Augsburg in 1212. As were all Jews in the Roman-German Empire, they were under the protection of the king of the Roman-German Empire and had to pay high taxes. The Jewish community formed an independent corporation with a seal and had an autonomous infrastructure with a synagogue (1276), a community hall (1290), a ritual bathhouse (1290), and a cemetery (1298). There were two residential districts for Jews, but they were by no means separated from the Christian majority. Most Jews worked as traders or as lenders. Guilds were closed to Jews, except for specific activities that served the Jewish community such as kosher butchers. In 1276, Augsburg became an Imperial City of the German-Roman Empire, meaning it was a self-ruling city with a certain amount of autonomy from the local nobility. With this new status, the Jews enjoyed citizenship. Yet the community's situation remained uncertain.

In the middle of the 14th century, the relationship between Christians and Jews deteriorated throughout Europe. Approximately 130 Augsburg Jews were murdered during the plague pogrom in November 1348. Soon after, however, a new community was established.

The ring-shaped sign, which Jews were obliged to affix to their outer clothing from 1434, heralded the end of the medieval Jewish community. In 1438, the city council decided to expel the Jews from Augsburg. Thereafter, Jews were denied settlement in Augsburg until the 19th century. Nevertheless, they were allowed to trade in the city.



Seal imprint (enlargement) of the Jewish community in Augsburg of 1298 © JMAS

The Bavarian Jewish Edict of 1813*

At the time that the Kingdom of Bavaria was founded in 1806, different regulations prevailed for Jews in the various regions. In 1813, the kingdom unified these rules

with the Jewish Edict. It granted Jews a secure civil right, but at the same time aimed to reduce their numbers. Therefore, it forbade the immigration of foreign Jews and specified the number of Jews admitted per place in a registry. Until 1861, only those who had a matriculation certificate could become Bavarian citizens. Those who lacked it were not allowed to marry. The Edict still restricted the religious autonomy of the Jewish communities, which had been in place until then. They were combined with the respective Christian community to form an overall political community. However, the Edict also contained positive innovations: Jewish children were now allowed to attend Christian schools and learn a trade. The relaxation in the economic sphere helped some families to prosper and to rise into the bourgeoisie. Nevertheless, numerous Jews continued to live in poverty. It was not until 1871 that Jews were given constitutional equal rights when Germany became an Empire.



Front page of the Jewish Edict of 1813 © Bavarian Main State Archives, Munich, Submitted by JMAS

Beginning of the Second Congregation in Augsburg

In 1803 the magistrate allowed three financially strong Jewish bankers, namely Westheimer & Strassburger, Ullman, and Obermayer, to settle in the city again. Ten years later, the Jewish Edict enabled 13 Jewish families to live in Augsburg in return for a weekly payment. Finally, in 1861, the Kingdom of Bavaria granted freedom of settlement to all Jews, leading many to move from the countryside to the more attractive cities. While new communities were founded in Augsburg and Nördlingen, formerly flourishing rural communities such as Pfersee and Kriegshaber slowly dissolved. The Jews that came to Augsburg contributed a lot to the economic development and the cultural life of the city. The civil equality was to last only a few decades until the National Socialists came to power in 1933.

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*English translation of the Bavarian Edict of 1813: http://www.rijo.homepage.t-online.de/pdf/EN_BY_JU_edikt_e.pdf ¶



We are hearing that descendants of the Jewish community of Augsburg are meeting up with other descendants and we could not be happier about this! If you meet up with one of us, please take a photo and let us know about it! Please send your information to us at djcaugsburg@gmail.com. Thank you!

A Good Deed Remembered 83 Years Before Links Grandsons

Adapted from an article by Sharon Mail for the Scottish Edition of the Jewish Telegraph in June 2022.

Glasgow couple Steven and Hilary Anson had very special guests staying with them in June 2022. Their visitors were Michael and Maria Feller and their 13-year-old son Moritz from Augsburg, Germany and it was the first time they had met their hosts and visited Glasgow. What brought them to Scotland was the recent discovery that Michael and Steven's grandmothers were good friends back in Augsburg, Bavaria, Germany before World War II.

Steven and Hilary were shocked to discover that his grandmother Ida Einstein featured briefly in a documentary film *"It Was All Legal"* by Joseph Pröll in collaboration with Miriam Friedmann from Augsburg. This documentary tells the story of the fate that befell Jewish families in Augsburg when the Nazis "aryanised" or legally stole their business. Ida was mentioned in relation to an incident that took place in May 1939.

Ida Einstein and her good friend and neighbour Anna Feller (Michael's grandmother) alighted from a tram together in Kriegshaber (a district of Augsburg). Anna helped her friend Ida carry her heavy suitcase. A nosey neighbor noticed this small act of friendship and kindness and because Ida Einstein was Jewish, reported Anna Feller, who was Catholic, to the authorities.

Beate Einstein (back row, third from left) as a student at the Maria Theresia Gymnasium in 1933 with her teacher Otto Feller (far right).



As Anna Feller had broken the Nuremberg Racial Laws, there could have had serious consequences for her and her family. She was reprimanded by Nazi officials and was expelled from both her local German Red Cross branch and from the German National Socialist Women's Organization.

The discovery of the incident led to the two grandsons meeting online and becoming friends. Michael announced that he and his family were planning to holiday in Scotland and the Ansons offered to host them in their home in Glasgow. To reciprocate the generosity, the Feller family brought the Ansons a blue Delft pottery vase from Augsburg as a gift to commemorate a similar gift given to Michael's grandparents by the Einstein family on the occasion of their marriage in the 1920s.

The Fellers met the rest of the Anson family on the Friday night they were in Glasgow, and thereafter spent five days touring Oban, Ft. William, and Inverness with

Steven and Hilary. For young Moritz, the highlight of the holiday was riding the Jacobite/Harry Potter steam train to Mallaig, with the family taking pictures as it crossed the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct.

Michael Feller is a retired senior surgeon. He served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the German Army, including in Kabul, treating British and American troops. Speaking of his mother's action in helping her friend, he said, "She was just behaving normally, but under the circumstances that existed, that could have been dangerous. It was polite behaviour you could expect between friends but in a way it was brave. The families were friends and I still have a vase that was given to my grandparents for their wedding by the Einstein family."

"My grandmother was a traditional housewife and an impressive woman. She had a stroke before I first met her in the early 1960s and for me as a child it was hard to understand her as the stroke affected her speech, but she continued to cook and lived until she was 80. There was a good relationship between the Jews and their neighbours in Kriegshaber. I remember my Aunt Trudie telling me that she was invited to and visited a Jewish family's Succah. Then the Germans lost the First World War and after that they were looking for someone to blame. The Jews became the scapegoats."

The seven Einstein brothers and their families were very influential in the Swabia area, working as cattle dealers. Steven's great-grandfather went to the local synagogue in Kriegshaber – casually called the Einstein synagogue as the family paid for the upkeep. At one point the Jews were in the majority in the area and contributed to the bells of a newly built Catholic church in Kriegshaber as a sign of friendship between the two different religious communities.

While in Inverness, the Fellers and Anson's met two ladies from the Inverness-Augsburg twinning association, who invited them for a Scottish afternoon tea with scones at a prestigious local hotel. It transpired that they have annual visits from pupils from Augsburg's Maria Theresia Gymnasium Municipal High School – the school that Steven's mum Beate attended and where Michael's grandfather Otto was a teacher. A recently discovered 1933 photo confirmed that Otto was, in fact, one of the teachers that taught Steven's mum.

Last year, the Augsburg Town Council decided to change the name of a Kriegshaber street that had been used in Nazi propaganda. It is now the Familie-Einstein-Strasse in honor of the Einstein family. It is quite rare for a street to be renamed for a family, rather than an individual. The Ansons and other members of the Einstein family are planning to commemorate the official street renaming event in the future.

The two grandsons are looking forward to continuing their friendship, with Steven and Hilary planning to visit the Feller family in Germany next year. ☸



L-R Maria, Michael, and Moritz Feller with Steven and Hilary Anson in Scotland

The Augsburg Reunions of 1988 & 1993

By Rick Landman who is the son of Henry Landman. Rick resides in New York City, NY.

Back in 1987, my father, Henry Landman, and Lia Greenbaum were having lunch and realized that it was almost 50 years since Kristallnacht when so many Augsburg Jews had to flee. They knew of formal Augsburg programs (Rededication of the Synagogue, Kristallnacht memorials, and invited visits from the city) but they wondered if the former Augsburgers would want to get together for a fun and informal weekend in the Catskill Mountains of New York. Most of the refugees were now living in America. So, they sent out letters to their friends and relatives asking if they would want to join in and to send a copy of the letter to others. The response was overwhelming. Henry contacted Gernot Römer who had a list of former Augsburgers from all over the world. Positive responses came back from Germany, Israel, and even South Africa. Then Henry got advice from a friend about hotels in the Catskills and he booked enough rooms for just under 100 guests. The rest is history. About 88 people showed up for the first 3-day reunion at the Fallsview which included schmoozing, walks, tennis, meals, and some more formal programs where people shared photos, etc.

There was enough interest for a second reunion at the Nevele in 1993. My father did all of the organizing without a computer or even a typewriter. I was my father's secretary, photographer, and assistant for both of the reunions. I still have all the letters, charts, albums, articles, awards, etc. that came of those reunions, much of which can be found at www.infotruer.com/videos.html (scroll down to "Augsburg -The Reunions of 1988 and 1993 in the Catskill Mountains in New York").

Former Augsburg Eileen Erlund (formerly Irmgard Hirsch) traveled from Denmark for the event at which she spoke about "reflections on a refugee of our days." She later reflected further on the reunion: "What a meeting! I looked at nameplates to identify names and asked for the period of year everybody was born or enquired about events we might have had in common. Emotionally maybe this was the high point of our lives: Our childhood lay wide open before us!

And there was so much to remember! The faces had grown older, there were wrinkles here and there to replace the smooth teenage skin, or the figure had expanded somewhat - but all in all this involved no problems. We easily recognized each other, chatted about certain incidents, and will take those memories as well as new ones back home as precious souvenirs. We all had become seniors, but that fact had not held here!

Henry rushed about in his quiet manner to relieve everybody, to meet any possible requirements, and the hotel management did not stand back, and served lavish meals to suit any demand. LIFE WAS WORTH LIVING!

More talk to follow in various corners, watching the show... There would be speeches in the morning, there

would be casual get-togethers and walks around the picturesque lake during the afternoon, and there might be a cocktail party in the evening.

Yes, we did rise once more to a day mingled with past and present. It is not easy to be confronted by 41 - or rather 72 - destinies within 45 hours and to absorb everybody's life story for the rest of my days!.....There was so much to listen to, to learn, and to remember!

I reached the following conclusion: Everybody had started from scratch, had fought hard to make a living and to find him/herself a place in the new world, to create a minimum existence in order to survive, to make friends and apparently managed to survive and make a success of life in their own way."

She reflected on humorous speeches by Carolyn, Martin Anson and Paul Rosenau ended the event with a poem before "Everybody found their car and within a few minutes our Augsburg family had dispersed in all directions, Americans as well as parties bound for Canada, Germany, Switzerland, France, Great Britain and Denmark..."

Note: The following is an excerpt from a letter from John Englander in which he reflects on the 1988 reunion.

"And, once having sent in their acceptances, which one of us could have failed to be just the slightest bit apprehensive about how it would go and what we would find?

And that is where the shining moment really gleamed in all its splendor, as far as I was concerned. Even pleading guilty to perhaps idealizing the situation, which one of us did not feel wonder about a life and culture long deemed extinct suddenly coming back to life for a brief weekend? To the point of almost suspending the realities and yes, the trials and tribulations of our daily lives? Was anyone heard to voice the always uppermost problems with Social Security, Medicare, lousy help, or tardy repairmen? Or, for that matter, any other kind of "Tsores"? All that I could see, at least, were happy faces and not a few throwbacks to the less complicated and more innocent days of our youth together."

Source of excerpts: Files of the late Ralph Dreike donated by his daughter Rosemary Mark to Bettina Kaplan. ☞



The 1988 Augsburg Reunion in the Fallsview Hotel, Ellenville, NY

Top row: Arnold Metzger, Eva Eckert, Lou Metzger, Gernot Römer, Hans Schwab, Gretl Bealin, Ellen Römer, Trudy Rabb, Margot Stein, Eva Englander, Gerda Bachner, Robert Bachner, Jordan Hillman, Karen Hillman, Miriam Lehrberger, Norbert Lehrberger, Ernst Cramer, Irmgard Hann, Ralph Dreike, Walter Hann, Doris Schocken, **Middle row:** Otto S. Young, Dodo Young, Graham Fleming, Carl Drechsler, Fred Buff, Irene Drechsler, Kathy Farnbacher, Kurt Farnbacher, John Farnbacher, John Lehman, Peter Lehman, Fred Rosenau, John Englander, Ann Weil, Paul Rosenthal, Hugo Rosenau, Mrs. P. Rosenau, Carol Rosenau, Erich Teutsch, Eric Weil, Howard Felgram, Johanna Sturm **Bottom row:** Ruth Dreike, Sally Farnbacher, Louis Fleming, Else Oettinger, Elizabeth Ozer, Gertrude Schwab, Hilde Teutsch, Lotte Buff, Ilse Felgram, Trudy Metzger, Pauline Jacobson, Ruth Heiman, Lisl Sundheim, Ann Rosenau, Maurice Ozer, Kurt Marx, Helmuth Veith, Carolyn Veith, Leni Marx, Lisa Landman, Henry Landman, Lia Greenbaum, Fred Lehman, George Sturm

BINSWANGER STEAMED CHOCOLATE PUDDING

Submitted by Dan Goldberg, son of Ursula Binswanger Goldberg. Dan lives in El Cerrito, California and Fidenza, Italy. The extended Binswanger family moved to Augsburg from Osterberg in 1864 when Jakob Binswanger & Cie vinegar and liquor producers purchased the property between Ludwigstrasse 28 and Im Thale 19 which became known as the Binswanger Haus.

When my mother as a young teenager was sent out of Nazi Germany by her parents in the late-1930s, this recipe went to England with her in a very small notebook containing a few of the family's most important recipes, handwritten by her grandmother. My grandparents and great-grandparents were finally able to escape as well. But others in the family did not survive. The family policy seemed to have been to get the children and recipes out first.

I've always applauded their priorities of children and recipes first! As I have my mother's, grandmother's, and great grandmother's handwritten cookbooks, I know that this recipe is consistent throughout. My great grandmother Luzie was born in 1868, after the family moved from a "dorf" to Augsburg.

In the notebook, this recipe is simply called "Schokolade Pudding." It is a pudding, but a steamed pudding, and I'll wager it's unlike any other chocolate pudding you've ever eaten. It's puffy but dense, not very sweet but just sweet enough, and the chocolate flavor is pure. It's served with whipped cream and part of the pleasure is the delectable contrast between the hot pudding and the cool cream and the way the pudding almost melts on your tongue. Yet although it seems ethereally light, if you eat a second piece, you'll feel too full. Hence my rule of serving it only when there are six or eight people at the table; otherwise, the temptation to overeat is too great.

I love it as I love no other chocolate dessert. In our family it was only served on special occasions and with a lot of fanfare. The pudding was steamed in a fluted mold and there was always worry about whether the pudding would unmold properly, or stick and emerge broken, or collapse once it came out of the mold. I can't remember the pudding ever actually collapsing or breaking apart, though. And when I began making the recipe myself, I always had good luck with it. Once when I was traveling I made it for some friends who (oddly enough) had no steamed pudding mold, forcing me to use a coffee can. The pudding slid out perfectly. Now I wonder if all the angst around the pudding's arrival at the table was just drama intended to underline the importance of the occasion and the family ties the pudding had come to symbolize.

The family record of the recipe was nothing more than a list of ingredients. While I never had a problem making the dessert, the process wasn't very elegant and the pudding seemed to come together awkwardly. Several years ago I served it to my late friend, chef and cookbook author Madeleine Kamman, who knew not only all the hows of cooking, but all of the whys as well. She immediately knew what the problem with the recipe was and was kind enough to help me write instructions for the recipe.

In the old days, my grandmother, after much hemming and hawing, would yield to her friends' entreaties by giving them a version of the recipe - not the real thing, but close enough to work, more or less. I only discovered this after she died and a few people sent me copies of "Bertha's recipe" and each one was just a little different. But the recipe here is the real, unadulterated original and I urge you to try it.

Ingredients:

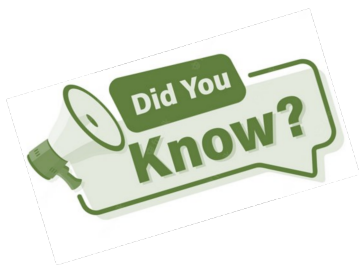
Unsalted butter (for greasing the mold)	5 tablespoons/71 g - flour	4 tablespoons/57 g - unsalted butter
Matzo meal (or substitute fine breadcrumbs)	Pinch of salt	1 cup/240 g - cold milk
1/2 cup/100 g - sugar divided	4 1/2 ounces/128 g - unsweetened chocolate	5 large eggs, separated

Directions:

1. You will need a 1.5-liter metal steamed pudding mold with a cover. Grease the mold with unsalted butter and dust it with matzo meal or fine breadcrumbs.
2. Reserve one tablespoon of the sugar. In a saucepan, mix the remaining sugar, a tiny pinch of salt, and the flour. Gradually blend in the warmed milk (the sugar absorbs it easily and prevents the flour from lumping), stirring until smooth. Put on medium heat, stir constantly, and simmer until fully thickened.
3. Meanwhile, put the chocolate and butter in the top of a double boiler. Melt and mix together. Stir in the egg yolks, one at a time. Add the still warm flour-and- sugar mixture and blend thoroughly.
4. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry, adding the reserved tablespoon of sugar toward the end. (To test if the egg whites are whipped enough, take a whole in-the-shell raw egg and place it on the surface of the whipped whites. If they're ready, the egg will only sink in 1/2 inch.)
5. Mix one quarter of the whites into the chocolate mixture. Fold in the remaining whites until the mixture is homogeneous.
6. Fill the pudding mold evenly and cover. Place the mold, preferably on a rack, in a large deep pot or kettle filled with 2 inches of boiling water. Turn the water down to simmer, cover the pot, and steam for 1 hour.
7. Remove the mold from the pot. Allow the mold to cool for two minutes. Then open the mold, place a serving platter on top and turn it over. Serve immediately with whipped cream sweetened with a little powdered sugar. ☘



A birthday party for one of the sons of Oswald Binswanger



Whether or not you watch the Marvel Universe movies, we thought this would be of interest to you! We learned recently that Augsburg has a small role in the superhero movie based on the 1941 **Captain America** comic books entitled **Captain America: The First Avenger** (2011). The character of Dr. Abraham Erskine, a renowned German Jewish scientist with a conscience, is from AUGSBURG! He's the inventor of the Super-Soldier Serum that turns Steve Rogers into Captain America. The role of Dr. Erskine is played by the well known actor, Stanley Tucci. **Spoiler alert** - Dr. Erskine is killed by Nazi spies in the first part of the movie. ☿



NEWS BRIEFS

We have no **News Briefs** for this issue, as all the news we received was worthy of independent articles. If you have a News Brief to share for the next issue, we encourage you to send it to us. A News Brief is a condensed version of a story with the specific purpose of sharing newsworthy information in a quick and efficient manner. **Please email your News Brief to us at djcaugsburg@gmail.com. Thank you!**



We welcome your feedback!

Please send your comments, suggestions or corrections to the editor at djcaugsburg@gmail.com. We are grateful to have received feedback from our readers on our June 2022 issue.

We are pleased to post a few of your responses below.

"....All manner of fascinating connections that I would never have known about were it not for the newsletter, which my cousin Sophie Kahn, granddaughter of my Aunt Gertrud and her husband Joachim Kahn, had told me about.

Anyhow, I am so pleased to have found these connections through you all....and Adam Yamey."

With very best wishes,

Peter Bunyard, Cornwall, England



Many thanks for the new newsletter. You are doing a great job!

For me who was a seven-year-old boy in 1945, it was especially interesting to read the article about the Ritchie Boys (Ernst Cramer was also one). We owe them many thanks because they believed in us young children.

Sincerely yours,

Dieter Munker, a friend of Gernot (Römer) and his successor as Chairman of the German-Israeli Society Augsburg



Many thanks for this issue of Connections – very cool! I've shared it with my siblings and a friend in the States. Thank you so much for your efforts!

Best wishes,

Cynthia Byrne, Augsburg, Germany ☿

NEXT issue

Coming in June 2023... The theme for our next issue is:

Visiting Augsburg



Many former residents were reluctant to return to Augsburg after the war while others were more eager to visit. In some cases, it wasn't until they had families of their own that they were willing to travel to Augsburg in order to share the stories of their family. Some visits were prompted by milestone events such as the 1985 rededication of the synagogue, the 2001 dedication of the Holocaust memorial, or the 2017 Descendant's Reunion. For others, visits were more private. Many descendants have also participated in these events or may have traveled to Augsburg on their own in a quest to learn more about the place where their parents or grandparents grew up.

We'd like to hear your reflections on your visits to Augsburg. What prompted you to travel there? Did you travel with family members who were former residents? How did you feel about the trip beforehand and did anything change as a result of the visit?

Additionally - - Do you have any tips to share for people planning a trip to Augsburg? Are there experiences that you found particularly meaningful? On a more practical level, do you have any recommendations regarding places to stay or eat?

We look forward to hearing about your family's experiences. Please submit your article(s) to us at djcaugsburg@gmail.com no later than April 15, 2023. **Thank you.**