STOLPERSTEIN-VERLEGUNG

October 27–30, 2026, in Frankfurt am Main to commemorate the victims of National Socialism



Biographies
for the Stolpersteine installations on Thursday, October 29, 2026

10:00	Ostend	Uhlandstraße 48	Menasche Moritz, Hinda Helene, Hermann, Isidor Leib, Rosa, Ida, Berta, Paul and Josef **Kampler**
10:50	Nordend	Eckenheimer Landstraße 9	Simon, Sara and Iwan Yitshak **Cohn**; Charlotte and Alfred **Idstein**
11:35	Nordend	Eckenheimer Landstraße 30	Elias Aron and Jetta Necha **Ehrlich**
12:25	Nordend	Baumweg 32 (formerly 38)	Isidor, Lina, Herbert, and Norma **van Elkan**; Minna **Levy**
14:30	Nordend	Hermesweg 14	David, Johanna, Arthur, Lilli, and Hulda **Gans**; Erna **Aretz**; Klara **Seligmann**
15:15	Ostend	Sandweg 42	Josef, Jeanette, and Ludwig **Sondheimer**
16:00	Nordend	Sternstraße 33	Louis, Fanny, Auguste, Carl, Hedwig, and Rosy **Grebenau**

Latest schedule updates and biographies from the other days can be found at
https://www.stolpersteine-frankfurt.de/en/news

Schedule for the other three days of Stolpersteine ceremonies:

Tuesday, Oktober 27, 2026 –Stolpersteine unveilings

10:00	Innenstadt	Rechneigrabenstr. 5	Nathan **Weisberg**; Zlata Laura, Rosa, Martha, Paula, and Sigmund **Korn**
10:45	Innenstadt	Neue Mainzer Str. 58	Fritz, Lucie, and Doris **Nathan**
11:30	Nordend	Sternstraße 12	Moritz Moses and Sophie **Prager**
12:10	Nordend	Fichardstraße 53	Meyer Martin, Selma, Walter, and Paul **Oppenheimer**
15:05	Nordend	Fürstenbergerstr. 169	Meier Martin, Laura, Martha, and Vera **Adler**
15:50	Ginnheim	Höhenblick 34	Dr. Werner, Charlotte, Gerhard, and Wolfgang **Thormann**
16:40	Dornbusch	Reinhardstraße 8	Paul **Lissa**

Wednesday, Oktober 28, 2026 – Stolperstein installations

10:00	Bockenheim	Am Leonhardsbrunn 16	Dr. Adolf, Anna, Gerhard Ludwig, and Irene Eleanor **Salomon**
10:40	Bockenheim	Hans-Sachs-Straße 3-5	Georg Gerson, Charlotte, Erich, Else, Grete, and Ferdinand **Freudenstein**
11:30	Westend	Unterlindau 17	Max, Grete and Heinz **Gross**
13:25	Westend	Wolfsgangstraße 98	Simon, Rosalie and Hilde **Weinmann**
14:20	Westend	Im Trutz Frankfurt 32	Dr. Fritz, Margarete, and Thea **Rosenberg**

17:30 Reception "**Evening of Encounter**" for the victims' descendants and invited guests

Friday, Oktober 30, 2026 – Stolperstein unveilings

10:00	Nordend	Friedberger Landstr. 120	Erich, Amalie, Edith, Kurt, Lucie, and Helga **Sommerfeld**
10:40	Westend	Niedenau 72	Jakob, Nora, Julius, Martin, Theo, and Herbert **Stern**
11:20	Westend	Telemannstraße 12	Adele **Knobloch**
11:55	Westend	Friedrichstraße 36	Julius and Clara **Grünebaum**
14:15	Sachsenhausen	Brückenstraße 42	Hans **Reinhardt**
15:00	Oberrad	Offenbacher Landstr. 295	Renate Ulrike, Dr. Julius, Karoline, Rosa, Lothar, and Jeanette "Lina" **Wolf**

Ostend
Uhlandstraße 48

Menasche Moritz Kampler
Date of Birth: 21.3.1882
„Polenaktion“ October 1938 Beuthen
„Schutzhaft“: 9.9.-15.11.1939 Prison Frankfurt, 16.11.1939 KZ Sachsenhausen, Sept. 1940 KZ Dachau. 12.7.1941 KZ Buchenwald, 11.3.1942 Tötungsanstalt Bernburg a. d. Saale
Date of Death: 11.3.1942

Hermann Kampler
Date of Birth: 15.1.1910
Escape: 17.9.1938 USA

Isidor Leib Kampler
Date of Birth: 4.4.1911
Escape: 23.7.1938 England, 27.7.1938 USA

Rosa Kampler
Date of Birth: 25.8.1913
„Polenaktion“ October 1938 Beuthen
Escape: May 1939 England

Ida Kampler
Date of Birth: 4.9.1915
„Polenaktion“ October 1938 Beuthen
Escape: July 1939 England

Berta Kampler
Date of Birth: 18.8.1917
„Polenaktion“ October 1938 Beuthen
Haft: 7.2.1939 Prison Frankfurt
Escape: April 1939 England

Hinda Helene Kampler, née Kratzer
Date of Birth: 1.5.1884
„Polenaktion“ October 1938 Beuthen
Deportation: 1942 „Toward the East“
Date of Death: unknown

Paul Kampler
Date of Birth: 22.2.1920
„Polenaktion“ October 1938 Beuthen
Detention: 19.6.-8.8.1939 Prison Hammelsgasse Frankfurt, 9.9.1939 Prison F-Preungesheim, 18.11.1939 KZ Sachsenhausen, 6.9. 1940 Prison Hammelsgasse Frankfurt, February 1941 KZ Sachsenhausen, liberated, survived

Josef Kampler
Date of Birth: 19.12.1921
„Polenaktion“ October 1938 Beuthen
Escape: 1939 Belgium
Internment: Camp Merksplas, Halle (Belgium), Saint-Cyprien, Gurs (France)
Deportation: August 1942 Transit Camp Drancy, 31.8.1942 KZ Trzebinia, November 1943 Auschwitz Birkenau, KZ Eintrachthütte, end of 1944 Auschwitz-Monowitz, February 1945 KZ Mittelbau-Dora, death march, liberated, survived

Menasche Moritz Kampler (also Menasse, Menashe, Manasse, Menasze) was born in Tarnów what then was Austrian Galicia and what is now Poland. He was the son of Chaim (Heinrich) Kampler (1858–1936), a merchant from Tarnów, and his wife Bertha. Shortly before the turn of the century, the family emigrated to Frankfurt. Menasche Kampler had eight siblings, five of whom were born in Frankfurt.

Starting in 1897, Chaim Kampler lived with his family at Fahrgasse 36 and at other addresses in the Old Town and in the Fischerfeld area: Klostergasse 9, Heiligkreuzgasse 16; he then moved in 1907 to Brückhofstraße 3, where he lived until 1932.

Menasche Kampler became a tailor. On November 15, 1908, he married Hinda Helene Kratzer at the East London Synagogue in London. Her family was also from Galicia. She was born in Zmigrod, now Poland, the daughter of Josef and Mirel Kratzer, and had two sisters and three brothers. Many members of the family moved to Pirmasens to work in the shoe industry there.

Before the wedding, she lived with her mother in Mannheim. The reason for holding the wedding in London—which was officially recognized in Germany—was the lack of birth certificates, which made a civil marriage in Germany impossible.

After the wedding, Menasche Kampler worked as a tailor, and the young family initially moved to Klingerstraße 5, where their sons Hermann and Isidor Leib were born. The twins Dora and Gustav died at birth in 1912. After moving to Wollgraben 12, their daughter Rosa was born, and her sisters Ida and Berta were born at Rechneistraße 3. As an Austrian citizen at the time, Menasche Kampler fought in World War I in the Austrian Army on the German side on the Russian front.

After the war ended, the Kamplers were Polish citizens and remained subject to foreigner laws. The family moved to Schützenstraße 4 in 1918, where they lived until 1933. Their two youngest sons, Paul and Josef, were born there.



Hinda and Menasche Kampler, about 1938.

Hinda Kampler's family connections to the shoe industry in Pirmasens paved the way for the family's entry into the shoe business. In the mid-1920s, Hinda and Menasche Kampler opened several shoe stores at Schnurgasse 67 and Zeil 6, and later at Uhlandstraße 48. Hinda was the businesswoman of the family. Menasche's brother Josef also worked in the shoe stores.

Like many Jews from Eastern Europe, the Kampler family was Orthodox. The children attended schools run by the orthodox "Israelitische Religionsgesellschaft": the Israelite elementary school on Röderbergweg; their son Isidor Leib attended the Talmud school at the Salomon Breuer Yeshiva for one year; and Ida, Berta, Paul, and Josef attended the Samson Raphael Hirsch secondary school. The children had many relatives and friends—both Jewish and non-Jewish—first in the Fischerfeld neighborhood and later in Ostend.

After elementary school, the eldest son, Hermann, first worked in his parents' shoe store, then from 1930 to 1938 as an employee at the Thalmann and Schwab food wholesale business. Isidor Leib completed a business apprenticeship at the firm Gustav J. Rapp at Seilerstraße 19, was hired there, and at times managed the women's belts department. His sister Rosa attended the vocational business school from 1927 to 1930 and subsequently worked in her parents' shoe store. After completing her "Einjähriges" (intermediate school leaving certificate) in 1932, Ida Kampler began an apprenticeship as a seamstress with Lisa Rausch on Elbestraße. Her goal was to become a fashion designer. Josef Kampler began training as an upholsterer.

In 1934, the family moved into a large apartment with six rooms and two commercial spaces on the first floor of Uhlandstraße 48.



Kampler family, August 1938 in Frankfurt in the backyard of Uhlandstraße 48. Back: Ida, Rosa, Hinda, Hermann, Menasche, Berta, front: Josef, Fred, Paul.

The family's situation began to deteriorate as soon as the National Socialists came to power in 1933. Ida was not allowed to continue her training as a seamstress. She now sewed for private clients but was unable to earn a certificate. Berta was unable to pursue her desire to earn her high school diploma and attend college. After completing her "Einjähriges" in 1934, she attended the Jewish commercial school and then worked in her parents' business. Isidor's company, Rapp, was "aryanized" in 1938, and he was fired. Thanks to its predominantly Jewish clientele, the shoe business continued to function reasonably well, but the retail stores on Schnurgasse and Zeil had to be closed by 1938. Sales now took place at Uhlandstraße 48. Everyone knew that emigration was the only way forward. The only question was where and when. Hermann and Isidor applied for visas to the U.S. early on. In preparation for a possible emigration to Palestine, Berta began retraining as a gardener at the Jewish Cemetery.

Isidor Kampler married Perla Scheiniak (also Szajnik, 1913–2004) on October 6, 1936. He lived with her at her parents' home at Schwanenstraße 7 before they were able to flee together to England in July 1938 and from there continue on to New York aboard the "Aquitania."

Shortly thereafter, in September 1938, Hermann was also able to leave on the "SS Britannic" from Ostend to join a girlfriend in the United States.

In October 1938, the family members who had remained in Frankfurt were affected by the so-called “Polenaktion”, the forced deportation of Jews with Polish citizenship from the German Reich. The family was escorted by the police to the Jewish Community Center, where they were forced to hand over money and jewelry. Amid insults from onlookers, they were taken to the main train station and from there to the Polish border at Beuthen. However, since the Polish authorities prevented them from crossing the border, everyone was able to return to Frankfurt at their own expense.

On November 9–10, 1938, the terror of the November pogroms also struck the Kamplers. The parents managed to hide a few valuables in the basement, while the girls hid in the attic with their valuables as a group of Nazis—some in SS uniforms—smashed the apartment and the storefronts to pieces with hammers and axes. All the shoes were thrown out the window onto the street and later picked up by a truck. The building superintendent stole some of the daughters’ valuables. When confronted by Berta Kampler, she denounced her, whereupon Berta was arrested by the state police on February 7, 1939, on the charge of “having spoken disparagingly about the present times.” The Jewish Agency in Frankfurt was able to secure a visa for England for her. She was released and was able to flee to England.

Rosa and Ida Kampler also managed to escape to England in May and July, respectively, where the three sisters eked out a living as domestic helpers. After the pogroms, Menasche Kampler went into hiding in the rear building and with acquaintances. In June, he, too, applied for permission to leave the country. Paul Kampler also tried to obtain a visa for Australia or South Africa. Josef, the youngest son, was initially able to flee to Belgium in May 1939 with the help of smugglers.

His brother Paul was imprisoned from June to August 1939 as part of an investigation into “foreign exchange offenses” because he had helped Jewish refugees clear their luggage through customs.

Following the Wehrmacht’s invasion of Poland, Menasche and Paul Kampler, along with Menasche’s brother Wolf, were taken into “Schutzhaft” (“protective custody”) on September 9, 1939, as Polish Jews, and deported to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in November.

For Paul Kampler, this marked the beginning of more than five years of suffering in Sachsenhausen. This ordeal was interrupted only briefly when, due to the ongoing customs investigation, he was transferred from September 1940 to February 1941 to the Hammelsgasse prison in Frankfurt, where his mother was able to visit him. After his innocence was established in the proceedings and the arrest warrant was revoked, he was immediately handed back over to the Gestapo and transported back to Sachsenhausen, where, over the next few years, he was subjected to forced labor, severe abuse, illness, and injuries, and wasted away to just 39 kilograms. He was forced to spend several months in the infirmary. He managed to avoid both the transfer of Jewish prisoners from Sachsenhausen to other concentration camps beginning in 1942 and the evacuation of the camp as the Red Army approached in April 1945. Thus, on April 22, 1945, he was liberated—likely as the last Jewish prisoner remaining in Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

In contrast, his father Menasche, as well as his uncle Wolf, were deported in September 1940 first to the Dachau camp and then, in July 1941, to the Buchenwald camp. In March 1942, both

became victims of “Aktion 14f13,” in which Jewish prisoners unfit for labor were murdered in the gas chambers—developed for the “euthanasia” killings—of sanatoriums that had been converted into killing centers. On March 11, 1942, Menasche Kampler was “transferred” to the Bernburg an der Saale killing center and was likely murdered there on the same day. To conceal the murder, the Weimar Registry Office issued a false death certificate stating that he had died on March 23, 1942, in Buchenwald. An urn supposedly containing his ashes was sent to Hinda Kampler and interred at the Jewish cemetery in Frankfurt.

After Menasche Kampler’s arrest in 1939, Hinda Kampler was forced to give up her apartment on Uhlandstraße and move to Hölderlinstraße 12. There she lived with her sister-in-law Edith Kratzer, who had moved there from Pirmasens, and Edith’s son Joseph. All three were deported from there to the East in 1942. In April, Hinda wrote to her children abroad that her deportation was imminent. It is not known exactly where and when they were murdered.

Meanwhile, her son Josef, who had fled to Belgium, was interned at Camp Merksplas in the province of Antwerp as an “enemy alien” when the war began. After some time, he was transferred to the Hall camp near Brussels, where he was able to begin an apprenticeship as a shoemaker. Amid the turmoil of the German invasion beginning on May 10, 1940, he made his way to France, but was interned there as well at the Saint-Cyprien camp in southern France. After the armistice with the German occupiers, he was detained there as a Jew, and a years-long odyssey through many concentration camps began. In October, he was transferred to Camp Gurs near Pau and performed forced labor for the French Vichy government in road construction, as a lumberjack and farm laborer, and in the disposal of gas bombs. After attempting to hide, he was arrested in August 1942 and transported to the Drancy transit camp near Paris. From there, on August 31, he was deported in cattle cars toward Poland—with a brief stop at Frankfurt’s Südbahnhof.

Starting in August 1942, he was put to forced labor at the Trzebinia concentration camp, where he contracted typhus. In November 1943, he was transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he was selected for forced labor in arms production at the Eintrachthütte satellite camp of the “Oberschlesischen Maschinen- und Waggonfabrik”. At the end of 1944, he was sent to the Auschwitz III Monowitz camp, part of the Buna Works of IG Farben. Thanks to his skills as an upholsterer and shoemaker, he was able to secure small advantages by providing services to the guards and function prisoners in the camps, which enabled him to survive. On January 18, 1945, the Auschwitz camp complex was “evacuated,” and the surviving prisoners were sent on a long death march—first on foot to the Gleiwitz camp, then in cattle cars to Olomouc in the Czech Republic, crisscrossing Austria and Germany, and finally, in February, to the Mittelbau-Dora concentration camp, where V2 rockets were produced by slave labor in the mountain tunnels. In April 1945, the death march continued on foot to the Ravensbrück camp, nearly 300 km away, where the SS guards eventually fled. While in hiding with French prisoners of war, he encountered Red Army soldiers and was liberated.

He made his way on foot and by bicycle to the American zone and from there to Belgium. To obtain the papers needed to enter England and join his sisters, who had fled there, he used a contact with the Jewish Brigade of the British Army. Wearing a Brigade uniform, he made it to England. In July 1946, they were reunited in Manchester. In March 1947, he was able to emigrate to the United States with his brother's affidavit. There, he worked again as an upholsterer and married Ruth Lilian Berman (1921–2012) in 1948. They adopted two children, Martin and Sharon. Sharon Alge lives in Boston today. Josef Kampler died on October 19, 2004, in Florida.



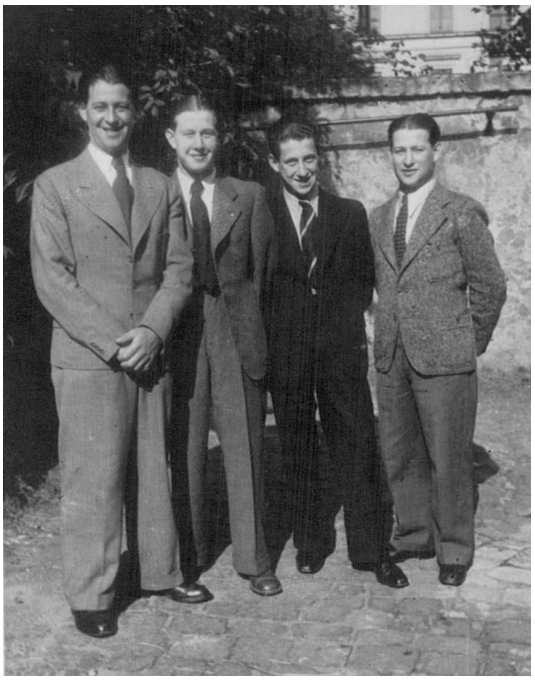
Josef (l.) and Paul (r.) with cousin Max Kampler, June 1946 in London. Josef wears the uniform of the Jewish Brigade.

After his liberation from the concentration camp, his brother Paul spent five months in hospitals—first of the Russian Army, then of the British Army in Berlin—and was subsequently transferred to a hospital in England, where he remained until the end of 1945. In February 1947, he, too, emigrated to the United States, but required years of treatment for health problems he had suffered in the camp. He initially lived with his brothers in New York and Boston and later worked in the printing industry in Pennsylvania. He married Vicki Roth in 1958, and they had three children: Nina Kampler, who now lives in Teaneck, New Jersey; Michelle Schwartz (who lives in Baltimore, MA); and Menashe (Mark), who lives in Israel. Paul Kampler died on January 10, 2005, in Philadelphia.



Reunion of the siblings, July 1946 in Manchester: from left to right: Berta, Paul, Rosa, Josef, and Ida.

The eldest brother, Hermann (Herman), lived in New York after fleeing in 1938 and worked as a truck driver. There, on October 9, 1938, he married Hedwig Stern (1913–2007), who was born in Hintersteinau and had fled to the United States in 1935. The couple had one son, Mark Menashe Kampler (died 2009). From May 1943 to October 1945, Hermann served in the U.S. Army. He died on March 25, 1987, in Baltimore.




After the war, the four Kampler brothers – and the three Kampler sisters.

Isidor Leib Kampler adopted the first name Fred in the United States. His wife, Perla, now called herself Paula. They arrived in New York on the "Aquitania" in July 1939, lived in Manhattan for a year, and settled in Boston. They had a daughter, Corinne Sue Slade, who lives in New York today. Fred Kampler worked in the handbag business and died on October 28, 1986, in Boston.

Rosa Kampler married (Heinz) Harry Brauner (1913–2009) in England in March 1942. The couple emigrated to the United States in November 1947, initially living in Boston, and had two children: Muriel (who died in 2020) and Robert, who lives in Israel. Harry Brauner was a carpenter; Rosa was a homemaker. She died on May 30, 1999, in Boston.

Ida Kampler arrived in the U.S. from England in December 1947 on the "Queen Mary." In March 1949, she married Arthur Stein in New York. They had no children. Ida worked as a seamstress in Manhattan's Garment District. She died on January 1, 2000, in Florida.

Berta Kampler arrived in New York in July 1947 aboard the "Marine Jumper." She married Leo Rapp (1910–1991), who was from Groß-Umstadt, and had a daughter, Helene (Berkowitz), who now lives in Eagle Woods, New Jersey.

Many relatives of the Kampler and Kratzer families were murdered in the Shoah, including Menasche Kampler's brother Wolf Kampler, his wife Golda, and their children Jakob, Benno, and Berta Schwab; Menasche's sister Rifka R. Riemer and her husband Rubin; and Hinda's sister-in-law Edith Kratzer and her son Joseph.

Since 2023, Stolpersteine at Fischerfeldstraße 12 have commemorated Menasche Kampler's murdered sister, Rifka Rachel "Rosa" Riemer, and her family.



Grave and memorial stone for Menasse and Hinda Kampler, erected after the war at the Alter Jüdischer Friedhof in Frankfurt.



The Kampler siblings with their partners, about 1959.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Nina Kampler (New Jersey), the daughter of Paul Kampler, and by Dr. Georg D. Falk. The stones were funded by Tim Amme, Martin Dill, Maik Hofmann, Berkan Ipek, Fabian Koschitzki, Christiane Michel, Rupert Ganzer, and Stephanie Zachariae.

Research: Martin Dill

Nordend
Eckenheimer Landstraße 9

Simon Cohn
Date of birth: 1.11.1865
Deportation: 15.9.1942 Theresienstadt
Date of death: 30.10.1942

Sara Cohn, née Sulzbach
Date of birth: 9.12.1871
Date of death: 5.8.1937

Charlotte Idstein, née Cohn
Date of birth: 29.5.1904
Escape: 1939 England

Alfred Idstein
Date of birth: 13.6.1935
Escape: 1938 'Kindertransport' Belgium

Iwan Yitshak Cohn
Date of birth: 30.4.1911
Escape: 1938 Belgium, France, Italy
Interned, forced labor: Camp de Gurs, France

Simon Cohn was born in Frankfurt, the second child of teacher Moses Jesaias Cohn from Altona and Rosa, née Schwab. He was married to Sara Cohn, née Sulzbach, who also came from Frankfurt, the daughter of the Judaist Abraham Sulzbach (1838-1925), who taught at the Israelite Realschule in Frankfurt, and his wife Charlotte, née Glauburg. When Simon and Sara Cohn were married on March 14, 1902, they lived at Königswarterstraße 11. They had four children: Rosel, Charlotte, Moses Yeshaya (who died at the age of 10), and Iwan Yitshak.



Sara and Simon Cohn (middle) with their daughters Charlotte (right) and Rosel (left), 1920s.

Together with his brother, Simon Cohn founded and ran a linen business at Börnestraße 52, where he also lived with his family until 1933. In that year, he moved to an apartment at Eckenheimer Landstraße 9. The Cohn family belonged to the orthodox "Israelitischen Religionsgesellschaft" ("Khal Adat Yeschurun") in the tradition of Samson Raphael Hirsch.

Their daughter Charlotte was born in Frankfurt, attended the Samson Raphael Hirsch-Schule. From 1922 to 1924, she was trained at "D. Becker & Co.," a company for trading and disposing of technical chemicals at Schwedlerstraße 5 and worked from 1924 to 1925 at the metal and chemicals company "Altheimer, Speyer & Co." in Gärtnerweg 50, then at the cloth store Ferdinand Freudenstein in Kaiserstrasse 74, and from 1930 to 1934 at her father's business. She was also active in the Orthodox Jewish youth association Esra. In 1934, she married Ludwig Max (Eliezer) Idstein, who was born in Bad Homburg in 1894. Charlotte and Ludwig lived in Bad Homburg, near Ludwig's parents. In 1935, their only son Alfred was born in Frankfurt.

Ludwig Idstein passed away of a brain tumor on November 19, 1937, and was buried in Bad Homburg.

Charlotte's brother Iwan also grew up in Frankfurt and completed a commercial apprenticeship. From 1934 to 1937, he operated an agency for toiletries for the “G. Oppenheimer” company and for women’s belts, working from the family home at Eckenheimer Landstraße 9.

Sara Cohn died on August 5, 1937, and is buried in the "Khal Adat Yeschurun" cemetery in Frankfurt am Main. The widowed daughter Charlotte, along with her two-and-a-half-year-old son, moved to Frankfurt to live with her elderly father. She assisted him with the household and his business, which had been impacted by restrictions imposed by Nazi policy. In August 1938, she purchased a Singer sewing machine to support her family by doing sewing work. For young Alfred, Simon Cohn became a fatherly figure who deeply influenced him.



Ludwig Max, Charlotte, and Alfred Idstein in Bad Homburg.

Shortly before, in April 1938, Iwan Cohn was the first to decide to flee and managed to escape to Brussels.



Iwan Cohn, about 1937.

During the November Pogroms in 1938, rioters broke into the Cohns' house, destroyed furniture, and threw books, blankets, and other items out the window into the street. During one of their visits to her parents-in-law in Bad Homburg, Charlotte and Alfred passed by the destroyed synagogue in Bad Homburg on the tram. The three-year-old Alfred cried out, “Our beautiful synagogue used to stand here. Bad people destroyed it”. His mother quickly put her hand over his mouth. Shortly after, on January 1, 1939, Simon Cohn had to close his business for good.

Charlotte Idstein tried unsuccessfully to obtain a joint exit visa for herself and her son. She therefore decided to send Alfred to Belgium on a Kindertransport at the end of 1938. She was able to accompany him on the train to Cologne With a heavy heart, she left Alfred on the train to continue his journey alone, without saying "Goodbye"; she was afraid of the reaction of the three-and-a-half-year-old boy.

He arrived in Brussels, and with the help of his uncle Iwan, Alfred was taken to the Rothschild family, who embraced him as their own child. He grew up in a loving atmosphere alongside their four children, spending most of his time with their slightly older daughter, Jacqueline. Alfred had

to learn French. During the Holocaust years, Alfred and Jacqueline lived partly in a Jewish orphanage in Brussels. When the family's safety was threatened, they organized alternative hiding places for the two kids: in a village outside Brussels, at a Catholic boarding school, and at monasteries.

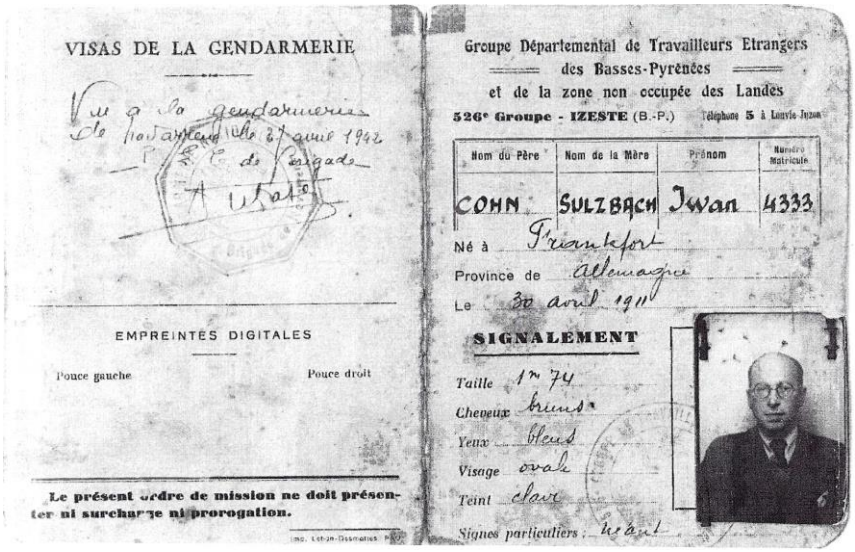


Alfred Idstein and Jacqueline Rothschild, Bruxelles 1942.

In April 1939, his mother escaped to England, leaving her father, Simon Cohn, behind in Frankfurt. Upon her arrival, she found work as a home servant in Manchester. On December 20, 1943, she married Anselm Cahn, a widower who had also fled Germany and brought his 14-year-old daughter, Esther, with him. For six long years, Charlotte endured the pain of being separated from her only child, rarely receiving letters with minimal information. Despite her efforts, Charlotte was unsuccessful in keeping in touch with him. She didn't even know whether he still spoke German, which would have helped their communication.

Simon, a man over 70 years old, was left alone in Frankfurt; his three children were far away from him: Rosel in Palestine, Charlotte in England, and Iwan was hiding throughout Europe. On April 26, 1939, he was forced to move to Gaußstraße 20, a "ghetto house" where persecuted Jewish had to live before their deportation. On September 15, 1942, Simon Cohn was deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto, where he was murdered on October 30, 1942.

Meanwhile, his son Iwan Cohn was fleeing from the Nazis. In September 1939, he was arrested in Brussels as an enemy alien and transferred to the Gurs internment camp in France (Camp de Gurs). When the Vichy regime took power, the camp was transformed into a detention center for Jews who were not French citizens, subjecting them to forced labor. In April 1942, he was assigned to the GTE 526 forced labor group in Izeste. While working as a forced laborer, he was injured in a traffic accident and hospitalized for several weeks. In September 1942, during his recovery, he discovered that he was on a deportation list to the East. Fearing for his safety, he escaped and hid on a farm near Nay. He attempted unsuccessfully to flee to Spain.


VISAS DE LA GENDARMERIE

EMPREINTES DIGITALES

Pouce gauche Pouce droit

Le présent ordre de mission ne doit présenter ni surcharge ni prorogation.

Groupe Départemental de Travailleurs Etrangers
des Basses-Pyrénées
et de la zone non occupée des Landes

526e Groupe - IZESTE (B.-P.)

Nom du Père	Nom de la Mère	Prénom	Numéro Matricule
COHN	SULZBACH	Iwan	4333

Né à Frankfort
Province de allemagne
Le 30 avril 1911

SIGNALEMENT

Taille 1m 74
Cheveux bruns
Yeux bleus
Visage ovale
Teint clair
Signes particuliers : néant

Iwan Cohn's identification card as forced labourer of the 526. „Groupe Départemental de Travailleur Etrangers", 1942.

Iwan Cohn managed to obtain forged identity papers and travelled to Toulouse, hoping to continue on to Switzerland from there, but he was denied entry. In the summer of 1943, he arrived in Savoie, near the Swiss-Italian

border. He crossed the Alps into Italy, believing the country was safe following Italy's surrender to the Allied forces. Unfortunately, his hopes were shattered when he discovered that German forces had already invaded. He hid in Rome, frequently changing his hiding locations, until the Allied forces entered the city in June 1944.

In 1945, Iwan Cohn immigrated to Israel. He married Rebekka, and they had three children: Sarah, Shimon, and Eli. and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He passed away in 1997, at the age of 86, and was buried in Bnei Brak.



Alfred Idstein, Anselm Cahn, Charlotte and Esther, Manchester 1947.

Alfred Idstein survived for nearly six years in hidings in Belgium. Finally, in May 1945, he travelled by military flight to London, where he was reunited with his mother. He joined his mother's new family in Manchester: Anselm Cahn and Esther. In England, he had to learn his third language, English, and began attending school. Alfred's step-sister Esther was very friendly; they played together, and she inspired his love of classical music. His stepfather, Anselm Cahn, loved him as his own son and took him to the synagogue. Anselm passed away on November 28, 1947, just a few months before Alfred's Bar Mitzvah.

In March 1949, Charlotte Cahn and Alfred immigrated to Israel. They initially lived with her sister Rosel in Kiriat Shmuel, near Haifa, before moving into their own home. Charlotte worked as a seamstress at Kfar Hanoar Hadati. Alfred had to learn his fourth language, Hebrew, and continued his schooling in Haifa and Tel Aviv. In 1954, he changed his name to Shlomo Deshen. In Hebrew "Deshen" means the ashes that remain after the burnt offering in the Jewish Temple in ancient Jerusalem. He felt as a residue of the Holocaust victims. He studied sociology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and became an internationally renowned professor of sociology and anthropology at Tel Aviv University. He married Hilda Goldberg and had five children: Ezri (Eliezer), Elisha, Hillel, Gavriel, and Efrat. His mother moved to be closer to his family in Jerusalem and Kfar Sava.

Charlotte Cohn-Idstein-Cahn passed away in 1994 at the age of 90. Shlomo Deshen passed away in 2020 at the age of 85. Both are buried in Kfar Sava.

Charlotte Idstein's sister-in-law Therese Idstein and her mother-in-law Franziska Idstein were both murdered in the Shoah: Therese on June 11, 1942, in the Sobibor extermination camp,

Franziska on September 18, 1942, in the Theresienstadt ghetto. They are commemorated by a plaque at the memorial site on Elisabethenstraße in Bad Homburg.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Ezri Deshen (Israel), son of Shlomo Deshen (Alfred Idstein), and Jan Kutscher. They were financed by Sabine Hinzmann, Isabel Karl, and Stefan Euler.

Research: Mechthild Gunkel, Martin Dill

Nordend
Eckenheimer Landstraße 30

Elias Aron Ehrlich
Date of Birth: 18.11.1870
"Polenaktion" 1938, Internment in Lemberg
Escape: 1939 Italy, France
Internment: 1944 Drancy
Deportation 13.4.1944 Auschwitz
Date of Death: unknown

Jetta Necha Ehrlich,
née Teitelbaum
Date of Birth: 17.10.1875
„Schutzhaft“ 1938
Escape: 1938 Italy, France
Date of Death: 9.6.1942

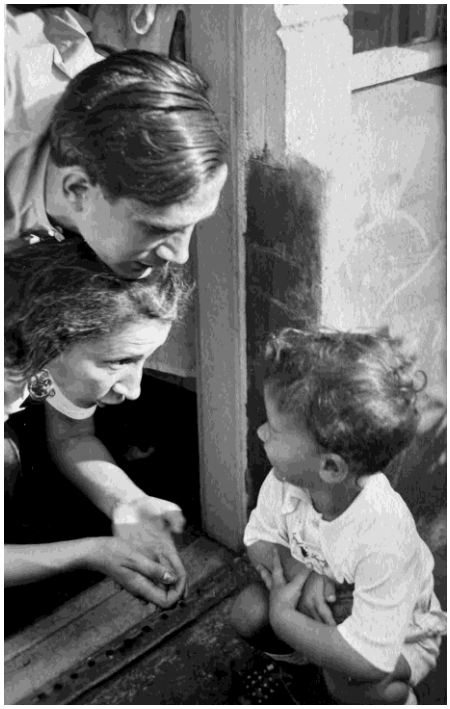
Elias Aron Ehrlich was born to Josef and Ester Ehrlich in Stanislave, Bukovina, which at the time was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and is now part of Ukraine. He married Jetta Necha Teitelbaum. Both were of Jewish faith. They had six children: Max (born 1894), Herman Aba (1895), Henriette (1898), Benjamin (1900), Toni (1901), and Recha (1906).

Around 1900, the family emigrated to Frankfurt. An Elias Ehrlich (merchant) is already listed in the 1900 address book. In 1902, Elias Aron Ehrlich, a watchmaker, opened a watch and jewelry store at Vilbeler Straße 25. Jetta Necha Ehrlich was the owner. The family initially lived at Vilbeler Straße 3. In 1913, the family was able to purchase the house at Eckenheimer Landstraße 30, into which they then moved. The store was now located at Zeil 81, and from 1927 onward at Zeil 111.

During World War I, Elias Aron Ehrlich served in the Austro-Hungarian Army. After the war ended, the Ehrlichs held Polish citizenship.

In 1921, their youngest daughter, Recha, died. Their eldest son, Max Ehrlich, remained unmarried and emigrated to Argentina, where he died as early as 1928. Their second-youngest daughter, Toni, died that same year during surgery in Frankfurt. Her brother Herman Aba also remained unmarried; he lived in Austria and became an Austrian citizen. Henriette married Norbert Kriegel and lived with him in Berlin-Schöneberg. The youngest son, Benjamin, also

moved to Berlin later on and married Käthe Schiffmann in 1935. Their son Michael was born in Vienna in 1936.



Benjamin, Käthe and Michael Ehrlich in Berlin, August 1938.



Benjamin and Käthe Ehrlich with son Michael, April 1939.

In his biographical memoirs on family history, written in 1972, Benjamin Ehrlich describes the Nazi attacks on his father's jewelry store at Zeil 111 in April 1938. As early as 1933, the Nazis had called for a boycott of Jewish businesses. In April 1938, they intensified these measures. The goal of these Reich-wide anti-Jewish measures was the seizure of companies, real estate, and businesses—a process known as "Aryanization." In Frankfurt, Jewish businesses on the Zeil were specifically targeted. SA members and Nazi supporters stood in front of the stores and intimidated customers. The livelihoods of Jewish businesspeople were systematically destroyed. These measures in April paved the way for the even more radical events of the November pogroms of 1938. During the attacks on the Ehrlichs' jewelry store on the Zeil, they assaulted Elias Aron Ehrlich and threw stones at the store. When his wife stood up to the crowd and criticized them, she was arrested, mistreated during interrogation, and charged with disturbing the peace. Despite being acquitted, she was taken into "Schutzhaft" ("protective custody") by the Gestapo for several weeks in a camp and expelled from Germany with immediate effect. After her release, she fled to San Remo and from there on to Nice in France, which was still unoccupied at the time.

During the so-called "Poland Action" in the fall of 1938, which targeted Polish Jews living in Germany, Elias Aron Ehrlich was also arrested, deported to Poland, and subsequently interned for eight months in a camp near Lemberg. After his detention, the jewelry store had been vandalized and looted. As a result of these attacks, the business had to close after 38 years, and the family began preparing to leave for France. Elias Aron did not receive an exit permit to Italy until May 1939. Like his wife, he also fled via Italy to Nice in unoccupied France.

To facilitate their departure, the couple had compiled the required detailed shipping lists of all their belongings and handed them over to a shipping company. But none of it arrived in France. After the war, the shipping company told their children, who were investigating the matter, that the belongings had been destroyed in bombing raids. Presumably, like other possessions of Jewish refugees, they were confiscated by the state and sold off.

Like her parents, daughter Henriette and her husband, Norbert Kriegel, found refuge in Nice when they fled Berlin for France in 1939. A cousin who lived in the United States provided them with financial support.



Benjamin Ehrlich with son Michael, Nice 1939.

After fleeing Germany and spending some time in Paris, the two brothers, Hermann and Benjamin, also arrived at their parents' home in Nice. Without waiting for French exit visas, Benjamin and his wife Käthe fled with their son Michael via Spain to Portugal. Shortly thereafter, their brother Hermann followed them.

Benjamin Ehrlich's granddaughter, Yamit Maman, describes how they managed to escape even without exit visas: "I remember my grandfather telling me that when they reached the French border and presented their passports, the border guard returned them, saying, 'The visas are missing from the passports.' Benjamin then pushed the passports back toward the border official and said, 'Yes, the visas are in there; take a closer look.' Benjamin had tucked money between the pages of the passports; the border official understood, took the money, and let them cross the border. My grandmother Kate (Käthe) always complained that they didn't even have water to drink during the train ride through Spain; upon their arrival in Portugal, however, they were welcomed with open arms by the Portuguese, with long tables laden with food, drinks, and all sorts of goods. It was precisely this warm welcome that led them to decide to stay in Portugal, even after they had received visas for the United States, since they didn't know what kind of reception awaited them there."

From Lisbon, Benjamin Ehrlich and his brother Hermann sent their parents and their sister and her husband the necessary entry visas for Portugal. However, since they did not dare to travel without French exit visas, they remained in France for the time being.

Jetta Necha Ehrlich died on June 9, 1942, in Nice from a liver condition and was buried in the local Jewish cemetery.

After the complete occupation of France in November 1942, Elias Aron Ehrlich, his daughter Henriette Kriegel, and her husband Norbert went into hiding with a French family. They were denounced in 1944 and arrested by the Germans. They were taken to the Drancy transit camp near Paris and from there, on Transport 71 on April 13, 1944, to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The exact

dates of their deaths are unknown. In his account, Benjamin Ehrlich writes that the two men were murdered immediately upon arrival, and Henriette in September 1944.

Benjamin and Käthe Ehrlich remained in Portugal. Benjamin died there in 1984. His son Michael, who now called himself Miguel, moved to Israel. There he completed his military service and married Juana Yolanda Roisman. Miguel and Yolanda had two children: Federico and Marina, who changed her name to Yamit Maman.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Yamit Maman (Israel), the great-granddaughter of Elias Aron and Jetta Necha Ehrlich. They were funded by Sabine Meder.

Research: Christian Moeller

Nordend
Baumweg 32 (formerly Baumweg 38)

Isidor van Elkan
Date of Birth: 23.10.1885
Detention 30.9.1938 KZ Buchenwald
Deportation: 15.9.1942 Theresienstadt,
16.10.1944 Auschwitz
Date of Death: unknown

Lina van Elkan, née Levy
Date of Birth: 10.7.1888
Deportation: 15.9.1942 Theresienstadt
Date of Death: 5. Oktober 1942

Norma van Elkan
Date of Birth: 22.2.1913
Date of Death: 24.6.1937 in Frankfurt

Herbert van Elkan
Date of Birth: 31.5.1921
Escape 1939 Australia

Minna Levy, née Ries
Date of Birth: 4.11.1856
Deportation: 15.9.1942 Theresienstadt
Date of Death: 11.10.1942

Isidor van Elkan was born in Dörnigheim/Hanau, the son of Meyer Simon van Elkan and Mathilde, née Zeller; he had four siblings: Leo (born 1890), Klara (1892), Sophie (1893), and Johanna (1899). The family later moved to Hanau, where his parents ran a clothing store as well as a business cleaning comforters and mattresses.

As a young man, Isidor emigrated to the United States. He settled in New York in 1907, lived there with his sister Sophie, and worked in the clothing wholesale business. Although he had applied for American citizenship in 1910, he returned to Germany around 1912 for unknown reasons. He married Klara Stern from Weisskirchen (born 1884) in Frankfurt and moved with her to Bethmannstraße 20, where he ran a secondhand shop on the ground floor. Their daughter Norma was born in Hanau in 1913. The following year, on March 31, 1914, 29-year-old Klara died in their shared apartment at 20 Bethmannstraße.

During World War I, Isidor van Elkan served as a German soldier and was awarded the Iron Cross and the Cross of Honor. In 1919, he purchased the house at Baumweg 38, and in 1922, the house at Bethmannstraße 32 in Frankfurt. (The address Baumweg 38 no longer exists today. The house was located on what is now the property at Baumweg 32.)

Around 1919–1920, the widowed Isidor van Elkan married Lina Levy in his second marriage. Her parents were Aron Levy, a teacher, and his wife Minna, née Ries. Lina was born in Berwangen near Heilbronn, where her father worked as a religious education teacher, cantor, and shochet (ritual slaughterer), following in the footsteps of her grandfather Samuel Ries. Her siblings were Recha, later married Koppl (born 1884, murdered in Auschwitz in 1942), Else, later married Reis (1894–1974, Los Angeles), Siegfried Levy (born 1897, died in 1917 in Frankfurt from war injuries sustained during World War I), and Julius Levy.

In 1921, Linas and Isidor's son Herbert was born in Frankfurt. In 1925, Linas's father, Aron, retired in Berwangen at the age of 75.

To be closer to their daughter, Lina's parents subsequently moved to Frankfurt, to Börneplatz 4—a house owned by the Israelite Men's Health Insurance Fund. In 1926, the van Elkan family moved to Schnurgasse 20, where Isidor opened a men's clothing store that also specialized in the sale of suitcases and travel goods. In 1930, the store moved to Fahrgasse 130, and the family moved into the first floor of their own house at Baumweg 38. After elementary school, their son Herbert attended the reformed Realgymnasium Philanthropin from 1931 to 1935.

Because Jewish children were largely excluded from secondary schools and universities after the Nazis came to power in 1933, Herbert was unable to fulfill his wish to study medicine. Instead, he completed a "voluntary apprenticeship" at the electrical engineering firm Richard Lippold, which he finished in 1938. Although, because he was Jewish, he was denied formal training, the Lippold company accepted him on a voluntary basis. As a result, he worked without pay and received no official certificate of training. Lina's father, Aron Levy, died in Frankfurt in 1933. The widowed Minna Levy then presumably moved in with the van Elkan family at Baumweg 38. She was born in Buchen, the daughter of the cantor and teacher Samuel Ries and Fanni, née Fröhlich. She had lived in Berwangen near Heilbronn after her father had taken up a teaching position in the local Jewish community. There, in 1879, she married his successor, the teacher Aron Levy, with whom she had five children. One son, Siegfried (born April 30, 1897), died as a soldier in World War I. On July 7, 1929, Aron and Minna Levy celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Frankfurt; on July 9, 1929, the Jewish Community of Berwangen published a tribute to the longtime teacher in *Der Israelit*, in which Minna Levy was also mentioned:

"(…) Mrs. Levy, a daughter of our unforgettable teacher Ries, was universally beloved by the entire community for her modest, friendly, and gracious nature. The happy couple showed great hospitality. Rarely was a poor person absent from their table (...) and his wife had been a member of the board of the interdenominational women's association since its founding."

The policies of the National Socialists also meant ever-increasing restrictions for Isidor van Elkan and his family, as well as the loss of their livelihood and their assets: In 1937, Isidor van Elkan was evicted from his store at Fahrgasse 130 by the City of Frankfurt, the building's owner. That same year, on June 24, 1937, Isidor's daughter Norma, from his first marriage, died at the age of only 24. Little else is known about her. In 1938, Isidor van Elkan was forced to cede his

residential property at Bethmannstraße 32 to the City of Frankfurt. The payment he received amounted to one-third of the property's tax assessed value at the time. No compensation was provided.

During the November pogrom of 1938, Isidor van Elkan was arrested and imprisoned in the Buchenwald concentration camp (prisoner number 24876). While he was away, members of the Hitler Youth broke into the family's apartment at Baumweg 38. There, they smashed mirrors, windows, furniture, and other household items. Herbert later recalled that men in black uniforms arrived in a large black car in front of the house and ransacked the apartment. He managed to preserve one of the large iron keys used in the raid as physical evidence of the violence perpetrated against his family and later took it with him to Australia.

In December 1938, Isidor was released from the concentration camp after his wife, Lina, had paid for his release as part of the "Jewish Property Tax." By that time, Isidor had already applied for visas to the United States; however, their high number on the waiting list prevented them from leaving the country before the emigration ban in October 1941. However, in 1939, their 17-year-old son Herbert had the opportunity to flee to Australia on his own. The "Australian Jewish Welfare Society" financed his journey by train to Rotterdam, then by ship to Colombo, and on to Melbourne. The principal of his former high school issued him a detailed character reference in connection with his emigration application. It reads: "Herbert van Elkan possesses a lively temperament, a friendly, cheerful, and very pleasant disposition, as well as natural, amiable, unpretentious, kind, and winning manners. ... Just as in sports, which he masters admirably, he also embodies the principle of 'fair play' in life." Company owner Richard Lippolt also issued a letter of recommendation for Herbert.

Herbert owed his successful escape to some Dutch women with whom he shared a train compartment: At the German border, guards checked passports and removed Jewish passengers from the train. When the women realized he was Jewish, they shielded him from the inspection. Once they arrived in Australia, Herbert and his parents—through contacts in the Netherlands—continued to exchange letters for another year, until Australian wartime censorship finally banned correspondence with occupied Europe. In one of her first letters to her son, Lina wrote that she had begun writing new poems. She promised that he would receive the first printed copy. In 1940, Isidor was forced to sell his house at Baumweg 38 below market value as part of the systematic expropriation of Jewish property. After the sale, the family continued to live there as tenants for about a year and a half. The buyer—a local postal official—attempted to extort additional money from Isidor and Lina after the sale, under the pretext that they had sublet an attic room without his consent. The new owner demanded both a higher monthly rent and a retroactive reduction in the purchase price. After the Nazi authorities had stripped Isidor van Elkan of his clothing store and its inventory, he was conscripted into forced labor and had to work as a locksmith and machine fitter. Around February 1942, Minna, Isidor, and Lina, along with all the other Jewish tenants, were forced to leave Baumweg 38 and move into a so-called "ghetto house." The Elkans became subtenants at Ostendstraße 1.

On September 15, 1942, Minna, Lina, and Isidor were deported from Frankfurt to the Theresienstadt ghetto and concentration camp. Of the 1,359 people on the same transport (number XII/3), only 83 lived to see liberation by the Allies. Lina died three weeks later, on October 5, 1942. Her death is noted in an official record in a matter-of-fact, indifferent tone:

“She died there in October 1942. Death certificate to be submitted later.” Minna, who was 85 years old, died a week later, on October 11, 1942. Isidor remained there for two more years. On October 16, 1944, he was deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz, where he was likely murdered immediately upon arrival.

Herbert built a new life for himself in Australia. Since it was illegal to export large sums of money from Germany, he arrived with just one Australian pound in his pocket; he spoke hardly any English and knew no one. Nevertheless, he earned a college degree in electrical engineering by attending evening classes while working full-time. His first job in Melbourne involved designing a motor for the electric drive of rotating gun turrets on Australian warships. After the war broke out, however, he was dismissed because, as a “foreigner,” he was prohibited from working on sensitive projects. In 1940, he found a position at another electrical engineering firm. He eventually acquired this company, which designed, manufactured, and installed electric motor systems for large industrial firms in Melbourne.

At the end of the war, in October 1945, Herbert received Australian citizenship. In 1947, he married Florence Ella Tonkin. The couple had three children: Miriam, Daniel, and Rachel. Starting in the 1970s, Herbert frequently returned to Germany, in part to meet a former apprentice from the electrical engineering firm where he had completed his apprenticeship before fleeing.

He died on May 1, 2001. His legacy lives on through four generations of descendants; he left behind more than 20 great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. One sister of Lina van Elkan, née Levy, was murdered in the Nazi camps. The other siblings managed to flee to England and the United States. Of Isidor’s siblings, three survived the Holocaust by emigrating to the United States (his sister Klara had already died in July 1940).

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Rachel van Elkan (Washington, DC, USA), the daughter of Herbert van Elkan. They were funded by Daniel Firmenich, Angelika Heyer, Stefan Janisch, Fritz Schweizerhof, and Jan Tiemann.

Research: Dieter Nittel

Nordend
Hermesweg 14

David Gans
Date of Birth: 25.5.1874
Escape: 1939 Argentina

Hulda Gans, née Spiegel
Date of Birth: 5.9.1873
Humiliated, disenfranchised
Date of Death: 29.1.1938 in Frankfurt

Arthur Gans
Date of Birth: 25.8.1903
Escape: 1937 Italy, Belgium
Internment: Camp Mechelen (Malines)
Deportation: 20.9.1943 Auschwitz

Lilli Gans, geb. Horowitz
Date of Birth: 7.12.1906
Escape: 1937 Italy, Belgium
Internment: Camp Mechelen (Malines)
Deportation: 20.9.1943 Auschwitz

Johanna Gans
Date of Birth: 18.8.1905
Escape: 1939 England

Erna Aretz, née Gans
Date of Birth: 18.12.1916
Escape: 1935 Argentina

David Gans was born in Leer, East Frisia, the son of Michael and Jesine Gans (née van Wien). In Versmold near Halle in Westphalia, he married Hulda Spiegel, who was born in Versmold and was the daughter of Levi Spiegel and Nanny (née Leffmann). Both were Jewish.

He moved to Frankfurt around 1900 with his wife and their daughter Regina, who was born on May 21, 1899, in Versmold. The first entry for him appears in the Frankfurt address book that year. It is unclear what David Gans did for a living prior to this, nor where the family lived before. In Frankfurt, he opened the "Aachener Stofflager," which suggests that he may have come from Aachen. By moving to Frankfurt, he may have hoped for better sales opportunities for his business as well as connections through the city's Jewish community. The store was initially located at Schnurgasse 59 and later at Hermesweg 14. During their early years in Frankfurt, the family moved frequently until, in 1918, they first rented and then, starting in 1920, owned the property on Hermesweg, which became the family's residence. They lived there on the second floor until 1939, and according to witness accounts, their home was furnished in a middle-class style.

David Gans employed five workers in his fabric warehouse. Based on their living conditions, it can be concluded that he ran his business successfully.

The couple had six more children: Alfred (born July 28, 1901) and Arthur (1903), the twins Johanna and Lina (1905), and two other daughters, Rosa (born 1908) and Erna (1916).

The eldest daughter, Regina, married Leo Rohr, who was originally from Poland, in 1919. They had two children: a daughter, Lotte, born on December 14, 1921, and a son, Kurt, born on August 10, 1923. The Rohr-Gans couple also ran a fabric store, where Regina worked as a bookkeeper. According to business tax records, they initially prospered financially and employed two domestic workers. They lived at Humboldtstraße 7, Musikantenweg 38, and finally at Petersstraße 2. In 1925, the company was on the verge of bankruptcy; from then on, the business operated under Regina Rohr's name, and her husband intensified his travel to showcase fabric samples.

Their son Alfred attended the Philanthropin, the Reform school of the Frankfurt Jewish Community. He, too, went into business for himself as a cloth merchant. In 1922, he married Jenny Geduld(t), who had converted to Judaism. The couple first moved to Bergerstraße 255; later, they lived at Am Siegelschlag 18 (1929), Wöllstädter Straße 24 (1933), Schleidenstraße 23 (1935), and finally at Friedberger Landstraße 28 (1936). They had a daughter named Ursula, who was born in 1923. Alfred Gans was considered a well-to-do merchant with his own business.

Arthur Gans also attended the Philanthropin; he then completed an apprenticeship at his father's business and went on to work as a sales representative for his father's cloth store. He lived with his parents on Hermesweg. In 1934, he married Lilli (Lilly) Victoria Horowitz (also Horowicz), who was born in Mannheim. She was the daughter of Maximilian Horowitz (1875–date of death unknown), a merchant of Polish origin who had moved to Frankfurt around 1904. After the wedding, Arthur moved in with Lilli and his father-in-law at Obernhainer Straße 6.



Arthur Gans.

Their daughter Johanna attended the Merian School from 1911 to 1919; she then worked first as an apprentice and later as a saleswoman at the "Schuhhaus Speier" shoe store. She, too, lived in her parents' home.



Hulda Gans with daughter Rosa Begach-Gans and grandchildren Lotte and Kurt Rohr.

The only thing known about their daughter Lina is that she was living in Mannheim with her husband Hans Glaser and their daughter Edith as early as 1933.

Her daughter Rosa attended the Lyceum at the Heinemann Institute on Theobaldstraße until she earned her secondary school diploma, after which she attended business school. She then worked as an accountant in her father's fabric store. She married Hermann Begach, who was a pharmacy assistant and ran the Rosenapotheke in Groß-Umstadt am Main. She moved to Groß-Umstadt to be with him and had one child.

Erna attended the girls' high school (Lyceum) at the Philanthropin from 1926 to 1930 and worked as a saleswoman in a shoe store until 1935. She lived with her parents on Hermesweg.

After 1933, life for the Gans family deteriorated in various ways. The siblings' plans for their professional and family lives were shattered by the increasing marginalization and legislation resulting from Nazi policies. Uncertainty and fear of the

events to come—arrests and reprisals—increasingly shaped the family's daily life.

Their mother, Hulda Gans, died on January 29, 1938, and her daughter Johanna later described how much her mother had suffered under the radically changed living conditions and her worry for her children.

In 1934, Rosa Begach's husband fled out of fear of the Gestapo to Paris after being denounced. After living with her father in Frankfurt for a year, Rosa followed her husband to Paris in 1935. Her flight took her on to Warsaw, then back to Paris. With financial help from David Gans, they were able to flee by ship from Le Havre to Buenos Aires. However, their marriage soon fell apart, and Rosa Begach had to support herself and her child by working as a tailor.

Erna married Leo Aretz, a penniless painter, in 1935. They left Germany with financial support from her father and settled in Buenos Aires. They had two children, but Leo Aretz had to take on odd jobs, and the family fell into financial difficulties. He left his family in 1940. Erna worked from home to support herself and her children. As a widow, she married a second time and moved to the United States. She then went by the name Seifert.

Arthur Gans and his wife Lilli fled first to Italy in 1937 and later to Belgium. After the Wehrmacht occupied Belgium and they were arrested, they were interned at the Gurs camp in southwestern France from October 29, 1940, to July 14, 1941, and subsequently at the Mechelen transit camp in Belgium. From there, both were deported to Auschwitz on September 20, 1943, on Transport XXII, and murdered there. Although Lilli did not live on Hermesweg, we commemorate her here together with her husband Arthur, with whom she had to endure her suffering all the way to Auschwitz.

In June 1938, David Gans was forced to sell the house at Hermesweg 14 but continued to live in his apartment as a tenant. On the night of the pogrom, November 9–10, 1938, the Gestapo forced their way into the Gans family's apartment, where only David Gans and his daughter Johanna were still present. They threatened and abused the father and daughter, destroyed parts of the interior furnishings, and confiscated the money they found. David Gans subsequently managed to flee on the steamship "Antonio Delfino" from Hamburg to Buenos Aires, with a stopover in Rio de Janeiro. He died on August 8, 1950, at the hospital of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires.

Johanna Gans, who had helped her father plan their escape, was the last to leave the house. In the summer of 1939, she fled to Great Britain via the Netherlands. She lived in various refugee shelters and married Max Ernst Samuel in 1944. The marriage remained childless. Johanna suffered her entire life from the humiliations she endured in Nazi Germany and the loss of her family.

David Gans's son Alfred was arrested by the Gestapo on November 11, 1938, as part of the November pogroms—designated an "Aktionsjude" (Jew targeted in the roundup)—in his apartment at Friedberger Landstraße 28. He was detained in the Festhalle and deported to Buchenwald concentration camp. Since his wife Jenny was able to provide proof of their imminent departure, he was released after eleven days. The family was able to flee from Hamburg to Montevideo, Uruguay, aboard the ship "Cap Arcona." Their apartment and business were confiscated, and their remaining assets were auctioned off. Alfred Gans had to earn a living for his family as an ice cream vendor and later as a laundry sales representative. He died in Montevideo in 1951.

Daughter Lina, who lived in Mannheim, and her husband Hans Glaser managed to flee to Switzerland in 1938. In May 1949, they emigrated to the United States via Southampton on the "Queen Mary."

Their eldest daughter, Regina, had closed her business on September 30, 1938. Through her marriage to Leo Rohr, she had become a Polish citizen. In late October 1938, as part of the so-called "Poland Action" ordered by Heinrich Himmler, all Jews of Polish descent and their relatives were deported to Poland. In her postwar compensation proceedings, her daughter Lotte describes how she and her parents were picked up from their apartment on Petersstraße on October 28, 1938, and taken to police headquarters by uniformed officers. The family was then transported with other arrested Jews in a sealed train across the Polish border and arrived in Katowice. When the war broke out, Lotte lost track of her family.

Her husband, Leo Rohr, was forced to perform hard labor after the German invasion of Poland. He managed to flee to Russia, where he was convicted of espionage and sentenced to a labor camp in Siberia; he was released in 1946. After the war, he returned to live in Frankfurt and died in 1958. Regina Rohr was apparently able to return to Frankfurt for a short time. There, on June 24, 1939, she submitted an application to take household goods with her. She listed the apartment on Hermesweg as her address. After that, all trace of her is lost. It can be assumed that she was deported to the East during one of the later deportations and murdered. Her daughter, Lotte Rohr, survived in Poland. In 1947, she married the Polish Jew Tuvia Kleiner and lived with him in Israel and Germany. They had two children. She died in Wiesbaden in 1980. Her brother Kurt also survived and later lived in Israel. He had one son.

Lilli Gans's widowed father, Maximilian Horowitz, was also most likely a victim of the Shoah. He was deported to Poland in 1936 on charges of alleged "Rassenschande" ("racial defilement" - the Nazi term for sexual relationships between Jews and non-Jews) and lived there in miserable conditions. The last sign of life from him was a postcard from Krakow in August 1939. He presumably was deported to a camp and murdered.

Klara Seligmann
Date of Birth: 9.3.1881
Deportation: 19.10.1941 Łodz/Litzmannstadt Ghetto
Date of Death: 28.3.1942

Klara (Clara) Seligmann was born in Frankfurt as the eldest daughter of the merchant Siegfried Seligmann and his wife Jettchen, née Adler. Her parents were married on December 30, 1878, in Bornheim, which was still an independent municipality at the time. Klara's brother Arthur was born on August 21, 1882, and her sister Rosa on January 21, 1884; Rosa lived only one day.

Not much information could be found about Klara Seligmann's life, her education, or her career. She was unmarried and likely lived with her parents. Her mother, Jettchen Seligmann, died on April 14, 1900.

The 1900 address book contains an entry for "S. Seligmann Jr., wine merchant and agent" at Langestraße 43, as well as an entry for the merchant Siegfried Seligmann at the same address. In 1906, the wine shop is listed at Rechneigrabenstraße 13, as is the merchant Siegfried Seligmann. A telephone number is also noted here for the first time.

His brother Arthur emigrated with his wife Lilly to New York via Rotterdam in 1914.

That year, the address of the wine shop and that of Siegfried Seligmann—with the same phone number—are listed at Hermesweg 38. By 1929, there is no longer an entry, though in 1931, "Clara Seligmann, Miss" is listed at Hermesweg 14 under the same phone number. It is likely that her father had passed away in the meantime.

We do not know how Klara Seligmann experienced the subsequent years of persecution by the Nazis. During the Nazi census in May 1939, she was still living at Hermesweg 14, but in 1941 she had to give up her apartment and move in as a subtenant with a Jewish family at Palmstraße 12. Her "Devisenakte" and a seizure order dated October 18, 1941, list her new address and indicate that Klara Seligmann had no income or assets. The 60-year-old at the time stated that she was receiving support from relatives in America. She reported that she was in poor health and suffered from cataracts and diabetes.

On November 25, 1941, the file was closed with the standard notation "evacuated," a term used to obscure deportation and murder. During the first major deportation from Frankfurt, Klara Seligmann was deported to the Łódź ghetto and murdered there.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Laurette Artois and Vincenzo Colli. As a resident of the building, Ms. Artois had already conducted her own research into the history of the Jewish residents and thus contributed to this memorial. The Stolpersteine were funded by Laurette Artois, Martina Feldmayer, Viola Krause, Klaus-Dieter Müller-Heuss, Thomas Weiler, and Jonas Wilzewski.

Research: Heidi Stögbauer

Ostend
Sandweg 42

Josef Sondheimer
Date of Birth: 3.12.1858
Escape: April 1939 Australia

Jeanette Sondheimer, née Elsoffer
Date of Birth: 25.9.1881
Escape: April 1939 Australia

Ludwig Sondheimer
Date of Birth: 7.3.1914
Detention: 14.11.1938 bis 18.1.1939 KZ Dachau
Escape: February 1939 England, August 1946 USA

Josef Sondheimer was born in Zell an der Mosel, the son of the merchant Moses Sondheimer and his wife Sarah, née Oster. After living in various other places, including Milan, Josef Sondheimer settled in Frankfurt. He worked as a textile merchant and married Adelheid Hess, born on March 22, 1873, in

Birstein (Gelnhausen), on December 6, 1910, in Frankfurt. She was the daughter of the tailor Libermann Hess and his wife Sara, née Seligmann.



Friedel, Sophia, and Ludwig Sondheimer.

On September 18, 1911, their daughter Sophia was born in Frankfurt, and two and a half years later, their son Ludwig. Both children lost their mother at a very young age: Adelheid Sondheimer died on February 2, 1916, and was buried in the Jewish cemetery on Rat-Beil-Straße.

Shortly thereafter, Josef Sondheimer remarried. Jeanette Sondheimer (née Elsoffer), who was from Elsoff in the Westerwald and 23 years younger than her husband, took care of the young siblings, Sophia and Ludwig, from then on. In 1919, Jeanette gave birth to Josef's third child, Friedel. The family attended the Börneplatz Synagogue on holidays, observed kosher dietary laws, and considered themselves moderately Orthodox. They initially lived at Rechnei-Straße 4, and from 1933 onward at Sandweg 42.

At the age of 14, Ludwig began an apprenticeship as a commercial clerk at the firm "Katz und Nachfolger" on Schnurgasse (Old Town). Starting in March 1931, he worked as a warehouse clerk and shipping clerk at the firm "Tuchhaus Weichsel und Wolf" on Taunusstraße. Ludwig had both Jewish and non-Jewish friends and initially experienced very little anti-Semitism in Frankfurt.

Starting in 1935, however, the family began to consider how they could leave Germany. The eldest daughter, Sophia, who had been married to Max Reinhardt of Heusenstamm since 1936, emigrated to South Africa with her husband shortly after their wedding. The youngest daughter, Friedel, fled to Australia with her husband, Hans Kiefer, a short time later.

On November 9, 1938, during the November pogroms, only Josef, Jeanette, and Ludwig were still in the apartment at Sandweg 42. Thanks to their non-Jewish neighbors, who told the attackers, "No Jews live here," the Sondheimer family initially escaped unscathed.

The next day, however, police officers came to the apartment at Sandweg 42 and took Ludwig Sondheimer away—first to the police station, then to the Festhalle. From there, he was deported to the Dachau concentration camp on November 14, 1938. On January 18, 1939, he was released on the condition that he leave Germany within a short period of time.



Josef and Jeanette Sondheimer before the war in Frankfurt.



Ludwig Sondheimer after his release from Dachau.

Ludwig's intended destination was actually the United States. However, because his visa application at the American consulate in Stuttgart had a very high quota number, it was not possible to travel there within the given timeframe. With the help of his older sister, Sophia Reinhard, who had already emigrated to South Africa, he finally obtained a "guarantee permit" for England. On February 28, 1939, Ludwig traveled to London. Since he was unable to obtain a work permit there, he lived off the 500 US-Dollar that Sophie sent him for living expenses, which he repaid over the years.

Meanwhile, in Frankfurt, Ludwig's father Josef, who was over 80 years old, and his stepmother Jeanette were trying to arrange their emigration from Germany. Their youngest daughter, Friedel, had obtained an entry permit to Australia for them. Since the Sondheimers themselves no longer had any assets, they were dependent on the 300 Reichsmarks provided to them by the Jewish welfare organization to cover the cost of their ship passage. To obtain permission to take some of their possessions with them, they needed the signatures and stamps of the police chief, the tax office, the foreign exchange office, the customs investigation office, the main customs office, and the Chief Finance Officer in Kassel. "Due to the regulations governing the use of Jewish property," Jeanette Sondheimer was forced to sell two gold rings and two brooches to the Municipal Loan Institution for 13.23 Reichsmarks. All items to be moved had to be made available for inspection—until the end of February 1939 at their apartment on Sandweg, and thereafter at the moving company's premises. This is because on March 1, 1939, Josef and Jeanette Sondheimer were forced to leave Sandweg 42 and move into a "ghetto house" at Sternstraße 15, a forced residence for Jews who had already been expelled from their homes—prior to their flight or deportation.

Despite repeated written and personal requests and appeals to the "Devisenstelle" (exchange office) on Goethestraße, it was not until April 4 that the Chief Finance Officer in Kassel granted permission to leave the country. They barely made it in time to board the ship "Remo" from Genoa to Sydney. On May 10, 1939, Josef and Jeanette Sondheimer arrived in Sydney. Josef lived in his new home for another five years, until June 20, 1944. Jeanette outlived him by nearly 30 years. She died on June 25, 1973.



Ludwig Sondheimer during the war in London.

Meanwhile, Ludwig Sondheimer found himself caught up in the turmoil of World War II. On May 16, 1940, because of his German heritage, he was interned as an "enemy alien" at Kempton Park, a camp on the Isle of Man. From there, he was transferred to the Sherbrook camp in Canada for two years. By August 1942, he was back in England, and starting in 1943, he held a work permit that—despite his low-paying and menial jobs—allowed him to earn the money needed for a visa and emigration to the United States. In London, Ludwig met Regina Zylbersztein, who was originally from

Warsaw. Regina received a visa for the U.S. shortly thereafter. It was not until two years later, on August 8, 1946, that Ludwig also set sail from Antwerp to New York.

On October 19, 1946, Ludwig and Regina were married in New York City. They had a son, James, who was born on March 3, 1950, in New York City.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by James Sondheimer (Bloomfield, MI, USA), the son of Ludwig Sondheimer. They were funded by Dominik Como, Katrin Endlich, and Nina Steffen.

Research: Doris Stein



Ludwig and Regina Sondheimer's wedding 1946 in New York City.

Nordend
Sternstraße 33

Louis Grebenau
Date of Birth: 14.5.1870
Humiliated, disenfranchised
Date of Death: 16.9.1939 in Fankfurt

Auguste `Gustl´ Grebenau
Date of Birth: 9.5.1907
Escape: February 1935 France, Palestine

Hedwig Grebenau
Date of Birth: 24.9.1910
Escape: July 1934 Jugoslavia, Palestine

Fanny Grebenau, née Stern
Date of Birth: 6.8.1880
Deportation: May 1942 Lublin region
Date of Death: unknown

Carl Grebenau
Date of Birth: 27.6.1909
Escape: June 1933 France,
November 1933 Palestine

Rosy Grebenau
Date of Birth: 28.3.1912
Escape: January 1935 France, March 1935 Palestine

Louis Grebenau was born in Hanau. He was the son of the manufacturer Karl Grebenau and his wife Auguste, née Schottenfels, and had a brother named Max. Nothing is known about Louis Grebenau's childhood and youth, nor about any other siblings.

Starting in 1883, the family lived in Frankfurt. His father, Karl Grebenau, founded a business selling gold and silver goods. His son Max was a goldsmith and silversmith, and his son Louis was a precious metals dealer.

Louis Grebenau married Fanny Stern in Würzburg in 1904. She was the daughter of wine wholesaler Josef Stern and his wife Karoline, née Kaufmann. Fanny had seven siblings. After the wedding, Fanny moved in with her husband at Röderbergweg 39 in Frankfurt. Both were of the Jewish faith.

In November 1905, their son Josef Herbert was born, followed in May 1907 by their daughter Auguste, known as Gustl. In May 1908, their firstborn, Josef Herbert, died at the age of two. In 1909, their son Carl was born; in 1910, their daughter Hedwig; and in 1912, their daughter Rosy Grebenau.

All four children attended the Orthodox Jewish Samson-Raphael-Hirsch Secondary School run by the Israelitischen Religionsgesellschaft.

The family moved from Röderbergweg to Uhlandstraße 21 in 1911 and to Sandweg 16 in 1919. From there, the family moved to Sternstraße 33 in 1931, their last voluntarily chosen place of residence.

After graduating from secondary school, their daughter Auguste attended the “Städtische Kindergärtnerinnen- Seminar” at Unterweg 4 from 1923 to 1927 to be trained as a kindergarten teacher. In order to become a youth leader later on, she completed several internships in Hamburg, Berlin, Bad Kissingen, and Bad Dürrheim as a kindergarten teacher, educator, and live-in maid. She then founded a daycare center with a colleague in Frankfurt at Friedberger Anlage 13.

Her brother, Carl Grebenau, completed a commercial apprenticeship at Lindheimer & Co. after graduating from secondary school in 1925 and subsequently worked as an employee at various companies. In May 1931, he went into business for himself as a sales representative for the Reiss wine wholesaler in Würzburg.

Their sister, Hedwig, attended secondary school through the first year of high school and passed her final exam in September to become a kindergarten teacher and after-school care provider. She then worked as an intern at a Jewish kindergarten in Frankfurt and at the Israelite Friedrich-Luisen Hospice in Bad Dürrheim.

The youngest daughter, Rosy, completed a home economics apprenticeship in Hofheim am Taunus after finishing school and attended courses at the Jewish Home Economics School in Frankfurt until the end of 1929. She then gave up her career to run the household for her ailing mother, Fanny.

With the Nazis’ rise to power, the four siblings had no future in Germany. While Louis and Fanny Grebenau moved into the Pension Hirsch at Grüne Straße 30 around the turn of the year 1933–1934, their children were preparing to flee Germany.

Auguste, who had since married the Leipzig wholesaler Max Weitz, managed to obtain immigration papers for Palestine in late 1934. She fled with her husband first via Strasbourg to Paris and then from Marseille to Palestine in February 1935.

Carl Grebenau, who had been forced to give up his work as a wine merchant in May 1933, fled to France in June 1933. Since he was unable to obtain a work permit, he emigrated from there to Palestine in November 1933.

After her marriage in June 1934, Hedwig Grebenau lived with her husband, the merchant Ludwig Kellermann, at Hanauer Landstraße 27. In July 1934, the couple fled to Zagreb. Since they were unable to establish a livelihood there, they, too, emigrated to Palestine in March 1935.

In January 1934, Rosy Grebenau joined a Jewish youth group that received a year of agricultural training in Obernai, Alsace. Afterward, she worked in Obernai in the household of Rabbi Jerome Levy, returned once more to Frankfurt, and finally fled in January aboard the steamship "Champollion" via Marseille to Haifa in Palestine.

While the four children tried to settle in Palestine, their parents, Louis and Fanny, hoped in Frankfurt that their situation would improve. At the urgent request of their son Carl and Fanny's brother Siegfried Stern—who had also fled to Palestine—the couple began the "Aliyah" (Jewish immigration) process to Palestine in March 1939. In the midst of the preparations, which were delayed by bureaucratic harassment, Louis Grebenau—who had since become unemployed—died in Frankfurt on September 16, 1939.

In January 1940, Fanny Grebenau made another attempt. By then, she was no longer able to freely dispose of her assets. Furthermore, in May 1940, she was sentenced by the Nazi judiciary to three years' probation, allegedly because her late husband had failed to declare two insurance policies to the tax office. This conviction made it impossible for her to leave the country.

In May 1942, Fanny Grebenau was deported to the Lublin region during one of the two major May deportations. The exact date of her death and the location where she was murdered are unknown.

The Stolpersteine were initiated on behalf of the descendants by Eliyahu Raful, the great-great-grandson of Louis and Fanny Grebenau. They were funded by Simon Mait and several anonymous donors.

Research: Robert Gilcher

All image rights are protected: private by the families Kampler, Deshen (Cohn/Idstein), and Maman (Ehrlich), as well as the USC Shoah Memorial and the National Archives of Belgium.

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Since 2003, the volunteer-run **Initiative Stolpersteine Frankfurt am Main** has organized the installation of more than 2,300 Stolpersteine in 34 neighborhoods of Frankfurt. Approximately 150 new Stolpersteine are added each year. The initiative researches and documents the fates of the victims, coordinates the installations, and informs the public.

The Stolpersteine, a Europe-wide project by artist Gunter Demnig, commemorate victims of National Socialism at their last freely chosen place of residence. Many of the stones commemorate persecuted Jews—others commemorate politically persecuted individuals, victims of the murder of the sick and disabled, persecuted homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Sinti and Roma, forced laborers, or people stigmatized as "asocial."

At the same time, they remind us of the crimes committed by Nazi Germany and serve as a warning to us all today of where hatred, racism, anti-Semitism, and the disregard for human dignity and democracy can lead.

A particular focus of the initiative is to connect with the descendants and relatives of the victims, who often attend the stone-laying ceremonies in Frankfurt.

The City of Frankfurt welcomes this initiative. Many institutions support it, including the city's Cultural Affairs Office, the Jewish Community of Frankfurt, the Jewish Museum, and the Institut für Stadtgeschichte . Schools, church congregations, and organizations are involved and actively participate in the installations.

In Frankfurt, the technical preparations for the Stolperstein installations by artist Gunter Demnig are handled by the city-owned company FES, which also carries out the installation of the Stolpersteine on behalf of the initiative; these are then ceremonially unveiled.

At least twice a year, the Stolpersteine are cleaned by "cleaning sponsors"—on the Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day "Yom HaShoah" and on November 9–10.

The Stolpersteine are funded by donations from the local community, known as "Stolperstein sponsorships." Anyone can sponsor a Stolperstein for 120 euros per stone.

The life stories and experiences of persecution of these individuals can be found online at

www.stolpersteine-frankfurt.de/en/documentation

and on the official website of the City of Frankfurt at

frankfurt.de/frankfurt-entdecken-und-erleben/stadtportrait/stadtgeschichte/stolpersteine

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