STOLPERSTEIN-VERLEGUNG

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



Biographies

for the Stolpersteine unveilings on Friday, October 30, 2026

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**

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	Sternstr. 12	Moritz Moses and Sophie **Prager**
12:10	Nordend	Fichardstr. 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	Reinhardstr. 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

Thursday, Oktober 29, 2026 – Stolperstein installations

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 und Iwan Yitshak **Cohn**; Charlotte, and Alfred **Idstein**
11:35	Nordend	Eckenheimer Landstraße 30	Elias Aron and Jetta Necha **Ehrlich**
12:25	Nordend	Baumweg 32 (früher 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**

Nordend
Friedberger Landstraße 120

Erich Sommerfeld
Date of Birth: 10.10.1881
Deportation: 15.9.1942 Theresienstadt
Date of Death: 1.11.1942

Amalie Sommerfeld, née Kahn
Date of Birth: 18.2. 1879
Deportation: 15.9.1942 Theresienstadt
Date of Death: 26.11.1943

Edith Sommerfeld
Date of Birth: 8.6.1905
Admission: January 1938 - 1940 „Heil- und Pflegeanstalt“ Weilmünster
Date of Death: unknown

Kurt Sommerfeld
Date of Birth: 23.5.1914
Detention: „Rundfunkverbrechen“ July-December 1938 remand prison Frankfurt, December 1938- July 1939 Preungesheim prison
Escape: 1939 Shanghai
Internment: February 1943- August 1945 Hongkou Ghetto

Lucie Sommerfeld, née Lind
Date of Birth: 9.11.1912
Detention: „Rundfunkverbrechen“ July-December 1938 remand prison Frankfurt
Escape: 1939 Shanghai
Internment: February 1943- August 1945 Hongkou Ghetto

Helga Sommerfeld
Date of Birth: 11.11.1937
Escape: 1939 Shanghai
Internment: February 1943- August 1945 Hongkou Ghetto

Erich (Meier) Sommerfeld was born in Berlin as the youngest child of a Jewish family. His parents were the textile merchant Hermann Sommerfeld (1848–1922) and Maria Sommerfeld, née Behrendt (1847–1921). He had five siblings: Siegbert (born July 27, 1874), Georg (July 21, 1875); Abraham Arthur (September 16, 1876); Sara Sella (June 11, 1878); and Margarete (January 28, 1880).

Erich Sommerfeld attended elementary school in Berlin and became a merchant. On September 29, 1904, he married Amalie Kahn in Berlin. She was also born into a Jewish family in Welschbillig on the Moselle and was the daughter of Bernhard Kahn and Rosa Kahn, née Schweich. The young couple moved into an apartment at Jovinarstraße 38/39, where their daughter Edith Beila was born in June 1905. Erich was working as a salesman at that time.

The family must have moved to Frankfurt around 1908–09, as Erich Sommerfeld is listed for the first time in the Frankfurt address directory in 1910 as a “merchant” at Gabelsberger Straße 21. His brother Siegbert had already been living in Frankfurt for several years and married there in 1910. In 1912, Erich moved with his family to the first floor of Friedberger Landstraße 120. On May 23, 1914, their son Kurt was born. Erich Sommerfeld worked as a salesman at the “Hermann Wronker” department store on the Zeil. As early as 1914, there was a store called “E. Sommerfeld & Co. Herrengarderobe” at Börnestraße 49, listed as being owned by Martin Steinberg. “Erich S.” is also listed as a partner in a “Hamburg factory warehouse, Weil & Sommerfeld, Men’s Clothing” at Kaiserstraße 59. By 1925 at the latest, he was the owner of the store “Men’s Ready-to-Wear Monthly Wardrobes – Erich Sommerfeld” in the “Würzburger Eck” building at Schnurgasse 2.

On November 11, 1921, Erich's mother died in her apartment in Berlin-Wilmersdorf. His father followed her less than a year later, on November 2, 1922, and on March 9, 1923, his oldest brother, Siegbert, died in Hamburg.

His son Kurt attended the Merian Elementary School in Frankfurt from 1923 to 1931. He then began a business apprenticeship at the Frankfurt firm "Alex Cahn & Co.", located at Taunusstraße 47, which he had to abandon after one year due to illness. He subsequently worked at the Hotel Excelsior in Frankfurt as a telephone operator and elevator operator. He lost his job at the Reis company on Hanauer Landstraße in 1934 after a serious bicycle accident in which he sustained such severe injuries to his leg and foot that he was left with a slight walking disability. From that point on, he was unemployed and made a living doing odd jobs.

Nothing is known about his daughter Edith's educational background.

After the Nazis came to power in 1933, the family's life changed fundamentally. During the Nazi anti-Jewish boycott on April 1, 1933, Erich Sommerfeld's men's clothing store at Schnurgasse 2 was completely destroyed, forcing him to close it in September 1933. Between February and May 1936, he had registered a business selling stationery and cleaning supplies, which he operated from his apartment on Friedberger Landstraße.



Kurt Sommerfeld, passport photo.

That same year, on September 24, 1936, Kurt Sommerfeld married Lucie Lind from Offenbach-Bürgel. She was the daughter of master baker Max Moses (Mosche, Mosé) Lind from Hüttengesäß near Hanau (born August 12, 1877) and Mathilde, née Grünebaum, from Bürgel (born 1875), and had grown up in Bürgel together with her older brother Curt (born February 6, 1906). Her father ran a bakery there at Kreuzgasse 31, which he was forced to sell to an "Aryan" in 1935.

Lucie had attended elementary school in Offenbach am Main and subsequently enrolled at the Studienanstalt Offenbach, which she left after her first year of high school. After one year at the Higher Commercial School in Offenbach am Main, she completed an apprenticeship from 1929 to 1931 at the firm "A. N. Schmidt & Co., Leather Goods Import and Export" in Offenbach, at Frankfurter Straße 55–57, where she specialized in international correspondence in English and French. She took another job as a commercial clerk with the Offenbach raw leather importer Fritz Gutenstein at Luisenstraße 77, which she had to give up in 1934 because her employer was arrested by the Gestapo for alleged foreign exchange violations. Her next job, as an invoicing clerk at the Frankfurt-based company "Adolf Solniza" on Kaiserstrasse, which exported leather belts to England and the colonies, ended in 1936 when the owner fled to England.



Lucie Sommerfeld, passport photo.

After their marriage, Lucie and Kurt Sommerfeld tried to settle in Switzerland and Hungary, but returned to Frankfurt each time after a short while because they were unable to obtain residence and work permits in those countries. Lucie soon found a job again in Frankfurt at a textile import company, which provided for both of them.

When Lucie and Kurt rented a room with kitchen access in the Wald family's apartment on the second floor of the building at Gaußstraße 14 in August 1937, Lucie was already pregnant. In November 1937, their daughter Helga was born. Lucie's parents, Max and Mathilde Lind, were still able to celebrate the arrival of their granddaughter before they fled to Milan in January 1938, where their son Curt, Lucie's brother, was already living.

In January 1938, Kurt's sister Edith Sommerfeld was admitted to the Weilmünster Sanatorium and Nursing Home near Limburg. The diagnosis noted in the admission log is presumably "Epil.," the abbreviation for epilepsy. At the facility in Weilmünster for the mentally ill, the number of patients rose sharply in 1938, which was accompanied by an austerity program and the systematic underprovision of care for patients. Edith was housed there in a "ghetto ward" for Jewish patients, where living conditions due to deliberate underprovision were even worse than in other wards.

In early 1938, Kurt Sommerfeld bought a shortwave radio that could also pick up banned foreign stations. Their landlord, Salomon Wald, knew how to tune in to stations such as "Deutscher Freiheitssender 29.8," through which Germans in exile broadcast from Madrid to their compatriots in Germany between January 1937 and March 1939. At Wald's suggestion, they met regularly in the evenings in the Sommerfelds' room to listen to this station together and discuss the broadcasts afterward. In addition to Salomon Wald and his son Julius, a friend of the Sommerfelds, Ernst Fischmann, was also present.

On May 31, 1938, Kurt and Lucie moved out of the Wald family's home with their infant and into an apartment on the third floor at Gaußstraße 41, a few houses down the street. They were likely subletting again, as they were preparing to flee to Argentina. They had already paid for their papers and a passage with Hapag from Hamburg on September 24, 1938, aboard the steamship "CAP Arcona" to Buenos Aires. But they did not make it out of the country. Following a denunciation, Kurt and Lucie were arrested by the Gestapo on July 27, 1938, and imprisoned in the Frankfurt remand prison. There they also encountered their former neighbors, the Walds, and their friend Ernst Fischmann. All were charged with "committing high treason by jointly listening to and discussing communist radio broadcasts."

Because her parents were in prison, Helga, who was only eight months old, was placed in the children's home run by the Women's Welfare Association at Hans-Thoma-Straße 24.

During 1938, Amalie and Erich Sommerfeld were evicted from their apartment on the first floor of Friedberger Landstraße 120, where they had lived for more than 25 years, and were forced to move to Schwanenstraße 6 in Ostend, a house owned by a Jewish landlord.

It is unclear whether Erich Sommerfeld, who was 57 at the time, was arrested during the pogroms in November 1938 and imprisoned in the Buchenwald or Dachau concentration camps.

On November 2, 1938, Kurt and Lucie, along with their co-defendants Salomon and Julius Wald and Ernst Fischmann, were transferred from the Frankfurt remand prison to the Kassel-Wehlheiden penitentiary in a mass transport. Their trial took place on December 9, 1938, before the Criminal Division of the Oberlandesgerichts Kassel (Higher Regional Court). During the trial, their former landlord, Salomon Wald, was identified as the "principal offender" and sentenced to two years in prison—without credit for time served in pretrial detention—and

stripped off “his civil rights for a period of three years.” Kurt Sommerfeld received a one-year prison sentence for “aiding and abetting the preparation of an act of high treason,” with credit for time served in pretrial detention. Lucie was acquitted due to lack of evidence. She returned to Frankfurt and, after her release from prison, moved in with her parents-in-law at Schwanenstraße 6. On December 17, 1938, Kurt was transferred from the Kassel-Wehlheiden prison back to Frankfurt to the Preungesheim prison, where he had to serve out his sentence.

Before his release from prison on July 27, 1939, Kurt had been forced, under threat of being sent to a concentration camp, to agree to leave Germany within a week. For this reason, Kurt and Lucie decided to flee to Shanghai, China, immediately after his release, since it was possible to enter the country there without a visa or a guarantor. They were among the approximately 20,000 Jewish refugees for whom this city, with its international status, became a refuge. Lucie and Kurt Sommerfeld picked up their daughter Helga, who was now one and a half years old, from the children’s home and left Germany on July 31, 1939, with only 10 Reichsmarks in cash and 20 kilograms of luggage per person. Refugees from the German Reich were no longer permitted to take more than that with them. They traveled by train from Frankfurt to Trieste, where they embarked on a long sea voyage to Shanghai. They arrived there on September 2, 1939, at the start of World War II.

In 1954, Kurt Sommerfeld described his family’s escape to Shanghai to the compensation authority: “On July 31, 1939, I traveled with my wife and my daughter Helga, who was 15 months old at the time, from Frankfurt am Main to Trieste (Italy), and we arrived in Shanghai on September 2, 1939, aboard the steamship ‘Guilio Cesare,’ with barely enough clothes to change into. We were unable to take even a single item of any value with us. Our entire fortune consisted of $3. At first, I was able to support my family as best I could by doing odd jobs. In February [1943], the Japanese forced us into a ghetto that we were not allowed to leave. All means of earning a living were prohibited; in the summer we suffered from terrible tropical diseases, in the winter from bitter cold without any means of heating, and throughout the year from terrible hunger.”

On September 3, 1945, the Sommerfeld family was liberated by Allied troops from the Honkou Ghetto in Shanghai.

On June 6, 1940, Edith Sommerfeld was discharged from the Weilmünster Sanatorium and Nursing Home and returned to Frankfurt am Main. Since then, there has been no trace of her.

Erich Sommerfeld, who had remained in Frankfurt, declared to the tax authorities in September 1940 that he no longer had any assets and had been living on support from the Jewish Welfare Organization for three years.

On September 15, 1942, 60-year-old Erich and 62-year-old Amalie Sommerfeld were deported from Frankfurt on the ninth mass deportation (Transport XII/3-1041) to the Theresienstadt ghetto and transit camp. There, Erich Sommerfeld perished after only a few weeks, on November 1, 1942, due to the inhumane conditions. Amalie Sommerfeld survived for about another year and died on November 26, 1943.

Kurt and Lucie Sommerfeld were able to emigrate to the United States with their ten-year-old daughter Helga on November 10–12, 1947, aboard the passenger steamship “SS General Meigs.”

They arrived in San Francisco and then lived in Pittsburgh, and later in Detroit. Kurt found a job as a nurse at the State Hospital in Woodville. Lucie worked as a saleswoman. She Americanized her last name to Sommerfield.

After many difficult years of persecution, flight, and exile, a harmonious family life in the U.S. proved impossible. Consequently, their daughter Helga, who called herself Helen in the U.S., left her parents' home at an early age. She had already begun working as a housekeeper and nanny after her ninth year of school. On June 5, 1960, her son Tracey Lee (Harvey David) was born out of wedlock in Detroit. Since she did not feel able to raise her child alone, she gave her son up for adoption. On July 11, 1961, the one-year-old was adopted by a Jewish family who, as he himself emphasizes, lovingly raised him in the Jewish faith alongside two other adopted children and later enabled him to attend college. Helga (Helen) converted to Catholicism and moved to New Orleans after the adoption. There, she married Robert Apablaza and had two daughters with him, Carrie and Stacy, whom she raised on her own for a time and sent to Catholic schools. She worked for the Catholic Church as a childcare provider and was active in helping the homeless.

Kurt and Lucie Sommerfeld lived in Las Vegas during their final years and both died there - Kurt on September 15, 1972, and Lucie on July 7, 2003. Helga (Helen) Apablaza also lived in Las Vegas in her final years and died there at the age of 81 on June 18, 2019.

Since Kurt Sommerfeld, his wife Lucie, and their daughter Helga lived only briefly in sublet apartments before embarking on their shared ordeal, we commemorate all three together with Stolpersteine at the site of the Sommerfeld family's home at Friedberger Landstraße 120.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Harvey Bichkoff (USA), son of Helga (Helen) Sommerfeld (Apablaza). They were funded by Peter Beckmann, Daniela Grätzsch-Austen, Julia Lange, Otmar Schwarz, and Heidi Wächter.

Research: Renate Hebauf

Westend
Niedenau 72

Jakob Stern
Date of Birth: 25.7.1883
Escape: 1938 England, USA

Nora Stern, née Ries
Date of Birth: 8.6.1904
Escape: 1938 England, USA

Julius Stern
Date of Birth: 12.2.1925
Escape: 1938 England, USA

Theo Stern
Date of Birth: 27.8.1929
Escape: 1938 England, USA

Martin Stern
Date of Birth: 2.10.1926
Escape: 1938 England, USA

Herbert Stern:
Date of Birth: 5.9.1930
Escape: 1938 England, USA

Jakob (Jacob) Stern was born in 1883 in Harburg/Donauwörth, the son of Moritz Löb Stern and Sara, née Deller. The merchant had been living in Frankfurt since 1904. His future wife, Nora Ries, the daughter of Julius and Jenny Ries, was born there that same year.

Nora Ries grew up in a devout Jewish family. Her father, Julius Ries, was originally from Michelbach in Württemberg. He worked as a traveling salesman before settling in Frankfurt and marrying Jenny Sundheimer. With the support of his father-in-law, he built a hotel on Allerheiligenstraße. Later, he purchased the Hotel Ullmann, which was initially located at Zeil 118 and later moved to Bethmannstraße 52. It was a strictly kosher hotel under rabbinical supervision. Nora Stern recalled a happy childhood in Frankfurt, despite the early deaths of two older siblings.

Nora's future husband served as a front-line soldier in World War I and was proud of his decorations. "I fought in the war as a front-line soldier from start to finish, spent four years in the Brist Forest and near Verdun, and was awarded the Iron Cross Second Class and the Cross of Honor."

Together with his partner Gustav Levison (Levisohn), the merchant established the lining fabric wholesale business "Jakob Stern & Co." in 1922, which was located at Kaiserstraße 51.

Nora Ries, who was 20 years his junior, met Jakob Stern through his cousin Recha, who worked at the Hotel Ullmann. Although Nora and Jakob were fond of each other, Jakob had reservations about asking the young woman to marry him because of the large age difference. Eventually, after some complications, he did propose to her. "I'd rather spend just ten years with this man than a lifetime with someone else," she explained to her concerned father, according to Nora Stern in an interview with her daughter-in-law Margot.



Nora And Jakob Stern.

Jakob Stern and Nora Ries were married in April 1924, at a time when the aftermath of World War I and inflation were still being felt. Housing was scarce. At first, they lived in an apartment with two other couples. The couple had four sons: Julius (born 1925), Martin (1926), Theo (1929), and Herbert (1930). The family was strictly religious, and the boys attended the Orthodox Samson-Raphael-Hirsch School in Frankfurt's Ostend neighborhood. The family eventually settled at Niedenau 72 in Frankfurt's Westend neighborhood.



Jakob Stern with his four sons.

The Nazi regime's rule dramatically changed the family's life. "We enjoyed a comfortable family life. Once the Hitler years began, there was fear and abuse. We left in haste after Kristallnacht." This is how Herbert Stern, the youngest of the four brothers, described his family's situation before his visit to Frankfurt in 2012.

In 1938, his father's business had to be liquidated. With a heavy heart, Jakob Stern decided to emigrate with his wife and four sons. Attached to the list of household goods compiled for this purpose. in which every item the family intended to take with them had to be meticulously listed, there is a letter in which Jakob Stern informed the authorities of his plan to move to North America in early December: "I am a merchant and am 56 years old; I have a wife and four minor children who are emigrating with me." Like so many Jewish soldiers of World War I, he had hoped that his service to Germany which he emphasized in his letter might protect him and his family from the worst. In addition to Jewish literature, the list of household goods includes classics such as Goethe's *Faust*, Hauff's fairy tales, *Winnetou*, and *The Jungle Book*.

The planned emigration had already been arranged, visas and tickets were ready, when the November Pogrom of 1938 began. The Hotel Ullmann, now run by Nora's brother Albert Ries, was completely devastated: mattresses and down comforters were slashed, and all the sinks were smashed. Albert Ries was arrested and deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Jakob Stern was also arrested and taken to the Festhalle. He was presumably released because his emigration had already been arranged. Nora Stern recalled that Jakob had agreed to accompany a blind fellow citizen, who had also been arrested, from the Festhalle back home. At Nora's urging, Jakob Stern left the country immediately after his release and was able to find temporary lodging

with relatives in London. Nora Stern took care of all the formalities, such as shipping their household goods, before she was able to follow with the children two weeks later. After a brief stay in Great Britain, the family fled together to the United States in December 1938.

The family arrived in America on a Shabbat. Their household goods, their "Lift", did not arrive until several weeks later. Much of their silverware and various religious objects were missing, but Nora considered the loss insignificant compared to the family's survival.

Several family members had not managed to escape. Among them were Albert Ries, his wife Berta, and numerous other family members.

Jakob Stern, together with his brother-in-law, built up a business making artificial flowers under difficult conditions, which provided for the families during the war years.

Memories of the difficult early years in their new homeland are mixed. The family had lost everything, had to start over, and had to learn a new language. Furthermore, during the war years, their relationship with the locals was marked by mistrust toward Germans.

All four of the couple's sons started families of their own and were successful in their careers. Jacob and Nora spent the Jewish holidays with their four sons and their families. They had eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Jakob Stern died on December 9, 1968; his wife Nora on June 2, 1986; Julius on August 3, 2022; Martin on August 27, 2024; and Theo on July 29, 2022.

The youngest of the brothers, Herbert Stern, had long hesitated to accept the invitation from the City of Frankfurt. In 2012, he and his wife Margot, who was from Bonbaden, took part in the City of Frankfurt's visitor program; their son Michael and grandson Yacov joined the visitor program for subsequent generations in 2025.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Jon Stern, the son of Theo Stern. They were funded by Brigitte Keyser-Posselt and Tony Keyser, Sibylle Klingebiel, Hartwig Langer, Inge Seelig, and Peter Steinmetz.

Research: Angelika Rieber

Westend
Telemannstraße 12

Adele Knobloch, née Grünebaum
Date of Birth: 25.4.1880
Deportation: 19.10.1941 Łodz / Litzmannstadt Ghetto
Date of Death: 28.3.1942

Adele Grünebaum was born in Gießen. Her parents were Kaufmann Grünebaum and his wife Rosine, née Bamberger, from Michelstadt. She had four siblings: her brothers Julius (1869–1942) and Alfred (1876–1942), and her sisters Amalie (1867–1942) and Berta (1874–1935).

Adele Grünebaum married Heinrich Knobloch on June 13, 1903, in Frankfurt; he was born on October 17, 1878, in Frankfurt. He was the son of merchant Isaac Knobloch and his wife Malchen, née Liebermann. At the time of the wedding, her husband was living in Kassel, and Adele Knobloch moved in with him to share their apartment. Heinrich Knobloch ran two shoe stores in Kassel, and his wife worked alongside him as an authorized signatory.

On September 17, 1907, their son Karl-Heinz was born. Their second child, Wilhelm, died on September 15, 1914, at just two months old.

There is no information available about Karl-Heinz's school years. He completed an apprenticeship in the shoe trade and worked as a sales representative.

Starting in 1933, the economic situation became more difficult due to Nazi boycott measures. Adele Knobloch and her son Karl-Heinz now worked as partners in the shoe stores. When Heinrich Knobloch died on April 8, 1935, his wife sold the stores, moved back to Frankfurt, and rented an apartment at Telemannstraße 12. There she lived with her brother Alfred, who had fled from Kassel to Frankfurt and moved into her apartment. In 1939, her sister Amalie Diefenbronner had to give up her apartment at 71 Reuterweg and then also moved in with them.

The three siblings were deported from Frankfurt to the Łódź ghetto in the first major deportation. According to the death register of the hospital in the ghetto, Adele Knobloch died of diabetes. This diagnosis on the death certificate usually masked the actual cause of death, which was malnutrition and the terrible living conditions in the ghetto. Her brother Alfred and her sister Amalie also died in the Łódź ghetto.

Her son, Karl-Heinz Knobloch, could no longer imagine continuing his life in Germany and fled to Buenos Aires in 1935. He married there, but returned to Germany after his divorce. He died on October 4, 1973, in Hamburg.

Adele Knobloch's brother, Julius Grünebaum, and his wife, Clara (née Oppenheim), were also murdered in the Shoah at the Theresienstadt ghetto. Since October 2026, Stolpersteine at Friedrichstraße 36 have commemorated them.

A Stolperstein is planned for Reuterweg 71 in memory of Adele Knobloch's sister, Amalie Diefenbronner, who was also murdered in Łódź. Efforts are underway to install a Stolperstein at her brother Alfred's last voluntary place of residence in Kassel.

The Stolperstein was initiated by the Dreikönigsgemeinde in Frankfurt. Adele Knobloch's sister, Berta, was the wife of Anton Urspruch (1869–1942), who was the pastor of the Dreikönigsgemeinde at the time. The Stolperstein was funded by Lieselotte Henning-Reiß.

Research: Heidi Stögbauer

Westend
Friedrichstraße 36

Julius Grünebaum
Date of Birth: 20.7.1869
Deportation: 1942 Theresienstadt
Date of Death: 23.9.1942

Clara Grünebaum, née Oppenheim
Date of Birth: 17.2.1870
Deportation: 1942 Theresienstadt, Treblinka
Date of Death: unknown

Julius Grünebaum was born in Gießen. His parents were Kaufmann Grünebaum and his wife Rosine, née Bamberger, from Michelstadt. His father worked as a merchant. Julius Grünebaum had four siblings: his brother Alfred (1876–1942) and his sisters Amalie (1867–1942), Berta (1874–1935), and Adele (1880–1942).

On June 9, 1899, he married Clara Oppenheim, who was also born in Frankfurt. Her parents were Siegfried Oppenheim, a merchant, and Thaila Oppenheim, née Mayer. Their daughter Hedwig was born on April 3, 1900, and their son Walter Karl on September 25, 1905. Starting in 1911, the family lived in their own home at Wöhlerstraße 20.

Julius Grünebaum was initially a co-owner of a shoe store founded in Frankfurt by Sally Spier at Große Friedberger Straße 7, which had six branches in other parts of Frankfurt. From 1900 onward, the business operated under the name "Spier's Schuhwerk," and from 1911 onward, under "Spier Nachfolger." From 1925 to 1930, two additional owners were listed: Julius Grünebaum's son-in-law, Moritz Lubasch, and his widowed sister, Amalie Diefenbronner. She also served as the company's authorized signatory.

Julius Grünebaum served at times as a board member of the District Association of Shoe Merchants, as an appraiser for the City of Frankfurt's Price Office, and as an expert witness in Frankfurt courts.

His son, Walter Karl, attended the Realgymnasium at the Wöhlerschule, the Oberrealschule in Heilbronn, and the Odenwaldschule. He then graduated from the Higher Commercial School in Frankfurt. During the postwar compensation proceedings, he explained that his true passion lay in music. He had been learning to play the piano since the age of seven and, after graduating from high school in 1924, devoted himself to studying music at the Hoch'sche Konservatorium. In 1925, he moved to Leipzig to work as a voice teacher at the conservatory there and, beginning in 1927, pursued further studies at the Vienna State Academy. He eventually secured a position at the Wiesbaden State Theater as an assistant opera director to Artistic Director Paul Bekker. He also worked as a voice teacher on the side.

His sister Hedwig attended the Elisabethenschule and later the commercial school. She married Moritz Lubasch on August 24, 1924. Their daughter Ilse was born on September 9, 1925, and their daughter Ellen on October 18, 1926. The family moved to Hamm in Westphalia in 1929, as her husband had become the owner of a shoe store there.

Julius Grünebaum's business ran into financial difficulties in 1929. His son put his musical career on hold, worked for his father, and tried in vain to save the shoe store. On June 1, 1931, bankruptcy proceedings had to be filed, and on September 15, 1931, the business was deregistered for business tax purposes. It was removed from the business directory in 1933.



Walter Grünebaum, passport photo.

Julius and Clara Grünebaum must have had to sell their house, as they moved into the apartment at Friedrichstraße 36 in 1932. Their son, Walter Karl, had been living at Staufenstraße 32 until then and had returned to work as a singing teacher. Feeling threatened and seeing no future for himself professionally, he fled to England in 1933. He changed his name to Gruner and was able to continue his musical career there. He worked as a teacher at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. From England, he wrote articles for the Frankfurter Zeitung until it was banned in 1943. He was married and had a daughter.

His sister Hedwig Lubasch returned to Frankfurt after her husband's death in 1935 and lived briefly at Lersnerstraße 24 before moving to Berlin. There, she completed a course to become a pedicurist and worked in that profession until 1938. After being denounced, she fled with her daughters, initially to England. With a visa, she arrived in Australia in 1939, continued to work there as a pedicurist, and married Rudolf Frank in 1950.

For Julius and Clara Grünebaum, after their forced eviction and another move to Holzhausenstraße, an odyssey began through increasingly smaller apartments and a sublet in a boarding house, culminating in their stay at the Jewish nursing home at Feuerbachstraße 14. From there, they were deported from Frankfurt to Theresienstadt ghetto during the seventh mass deportation in 1941. Julius Grünebaum died a few weeks later; his wife Clara was transported to the Treblinka extermination camp on September 23, 1942, and murdered there.

Julius Grünebaum's siblings Alfred, Adele, and Amalie also fell victim to the Shoah. Alfred Grünebaum lived in Kassel. Under the pressure of persecution, he moved in with his sister Adele Knobloch at 12 Telemannstraße in Frankfurt; from there, together with her and his sister Amalie Diefenbronner, he was deported to the Łódź ghetto on October 19, 1942, as part of Frankfurt's first mass deportation, and murdered there.

Since 2026, a Stolperstein in front of the house at Telemannstraße 12 has commemorated Julius Grünebaum's sister Adele Knobloch. A Stolperstein is planned for his sister Amalie Diefenbronner at Reuterweg 71. Efforts are underway to install a Stolperstein for her brother Alfred at his last voluntary place of residence in Kassel.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by the Dreikönigsgemeinde in Frankfurt. Julius Grünebaum's sister, Berta, was the wife of Anton Urspruch (1869–1942), who was the pastor of the Dreikönigsgemeinde

at the time. The Stolpersteine were funded by Emilia Babski, Dr. Bastian Bergerhoff, and Dr. Gabriele Britz.

Research: Heidi Stögbauer

Sachsenhausen
Brückenstraße 42

Hans Reinhardt
Date of Birth: 3.1.1905
Forced sterilization 1935
Admission: May 1942 Psychiatric Hospital Frankfurt-Niederrad,
„ transferred “ June 1942 „Landesheilanstalt“ Eichberg
Date of Death: 7.11.1942

Hans Reinhardt was born in Frankfurt, the son of Hermann Reinhardt, a vice sergeant and later a local government official. and his wife Margarete, née Scholl. His father was originally from Michelbach near Marburg. Hans’s mother died a year after his birth, and his father remarried. From this marriage came their daughter Elvira. From around 1909, the family lived at Brückenstraße 42.

Hans attended the Sachsenhausen Oberrealschule (today the Carl-Schurz-Schule) and is said to have been a good student there. At around age 14, he suffered an epileptic seizure, but this remained an isolated incident at first. At age 17, he contracted “head flu,” a term commonly used at the time to describe meningitis. This triggered an escalating series of epileptic seizures, which required inpatient treatment, including at the neurology ward of the municipal hospital at Sandhof, and made it impossible for him to continue attending school. Hans completed a commercial apprenticeship, which he presumably was unable to finish. From August 16 to September 15, 1932, he was hospitalized at the Niederrad Psychiatric Hospital. By this time, a significant change in his personality had already occurred; he was described as “lacking drive to the point of apathy, yet agitated and aggressive when under pressure.”

In 1935, Hans Reinhardt was forcibly sterilized. His father unsuccessfully attempted to challenge this decision in court. The “Institut für Erbbiologie und Rassehygiene" (Institute for Hereditary Biology and Racial Hygiene) on Gartenstraße had certified him as having “congenital mental deficiency”; his father pointed out, to no avail, that Hans had successfully attended a secondary school for ten years.

In 1942, his father arranged, through the “Gesundheitspolizei" (Health Police), for Hans to be placed in a care facility, as he and his wife could no longer manage their son’s care and supervision in their own apartment. The father himself had suffered a heart attack, and the son had started a fire in his room during an “agitated phase.” Hans was subsequently admitted to the Niederrad Psychiatric Hospital.

Starting in May 1942, Hans Reinhardt was in the Niederrad Psychiatric Clinic; he was mostly calm to the point of apathy, but at times suffered several seizures a day. On June 16, 1942, Hans Reinhardt was transferred from Niederrad to the Landesheilanstalt Eichberg on the orders of the municipal health police. According to a record at the Erbach Registry Office, he died there on November 7, 1942; the reported cause of death was “cardiac arrest due to epilepsy.” However, it is reasonable to assume that Hans Reinhardt was murdered at the Landesheilanstalt Eichberg. After the official end of the centrally organized murders of mentally and physically ill people in gas chambers (Aktion T4) in August 1941, patients in the previously “intermediate institutions”, such as Eichberg, were increasingly and on a large scale murdered through neglect, drug overdoses, or toxic injections. This is also documented for the Landesheilanstalt Eichberg.



Hans Reinhardt. Photo from his patient file

Hans had no children, and neither did his sister Elvira.

The Stolperstein was initiated by Matthias Koch-Schirrmeister, a great-nephew of Hans Reinhardt, and funded by the Carl Schurz School, the predecessor school where Hans Reinhardt was a student.

Research: Robert Gilcher

Oberrad
Offenbacher Landstraße 295

Jeanette „Lina“ Wolf, née Reiß
Date of Birth: 6.4.1860
Humiliated, disenfranchised
Date of Death: 14.12.1936 in Frankfurt

Dr. Julius Wolf
Date of Birth: 25.6.1884
Escape: May 1937 Palestine

Karoline Bettina Wolf
Date of Birth: 27.8.1890
Escape: 1936 Holland
Internment: 29.9.1943 Westerbork transit camp
Deportation: 1.2.1944 KZ Bergen-Belsen, liberated

Rosa Carola Wolf
Date of Birth: 21.11.1894
Escape: 1936 Holland
Internment: 29.9.1943 Westerbork transit camp
Deportation: 1.2.1944 KZ Bergen-Belsen, liberated

Ulrike Renate Wolf
Date of Birth: 26.5.1896
Detention: November 1938, April 1939 police prison Frankfurt
Deportation: 12.11.1941 Minsk Ghetto
Date of Death: unknown

Lothar Wolf
Date of Birth: 23.12.1899
Detention: Nov. 1938 KZ Buchenwald
Escape: 1939 Holland
Internment: Dec. 1938 - May 1940 camp Hoek van Holland
Detention: 1940 several prisons in Ruhrgebiet, Sept. 1940 Expulsion to France
Escape: Dominikanische Republik

Jeanette Reiß, known as Lina, was born in Bad Orb to a Jewish family. Her parents were Michael Reiß, a cattle dealer and butcher, and his wife Johanna, née Eisenmann. On September 5, 1883, Jeanette Reiß married the butcher Wolf Wolf in Wächtersbach. He had been born on March 27, 1855, in Dietesheim, the son of the butcher Lazarus Wolf and his wife Babette, née Schönemann. The couple settled in Oberrad in 1883, which was still an independent municipality at the time. There, their children were born: Julius (1884), Karoline (who later called herself Bettina, 1890), Rosa (who later called herself Carola, 1894), Ulrike (who later called herself Renate, 1896), and Lothar (1899).

The house at what was then Frankfurter Straße 62—now number 295 on Offenbacher Landstraße—served as both a residence and a butcher shop. Bettina and Lothar later described the household of their childhood as one “with maids and servants” and a rear building with stables and a laundry room; they described their parents as wealthy butchers.

Their father, Wolf Wolf, died as early as April 16, 1910. Their mother, Jeanette, continued to run the butcher shop. In Oberrad, in addition to the house at Offenbacher Landstraße 295, she owned another house at number 261 as well as several plots of land.

The three daughters attended the Höhere Mädchenschule (High School for Girls) in Offenbach am Main, which later became today’s Albert Schweitzer School. At that time, the school building was located on Geleitsstraße.

Renate also studied piano and music theory at the conservatory. She then attended the local School of Applied Arts and, according to her sisters, was the first woman to work on structural calculations at the Frankfurter Eisenbahnbaugesellschaft (Railway Construction Company).

Lothar attended the Kaiser-Friedrich-Gymnasium in Frankfurt am Main (now the Gagern-Gymnasium) until the second year of high school and left school at age 16. He then began a business apprenticeship at the Frankfurt firm “Collin und Co.”

The five siblings took very different paths in life yet remained closely connected. All of them continued to live in their parents’ home in Oberrad.

Julius earned his doctorate in law and was admitted to the bar in Frankfurt in 1910; in 1924, he also became a notary. His law office was initially located at Zeil 68; in 1919, he opened a large practice with five rooms and three employees at Taubenstraße 25. In addition to institutions such as the Landesbank and various guilds and labor unions, his clients included many livestock dealers and butchers from Oberrad.

Renate established a shop selling arts and crafts and wool, initially next to the Goethe House at Großer Hirschgraben 19. There she sold wool, handwoven textiles, and handcrafted arts and crafts based on her own designs. She gave needlework lessons on the radio until she was prohibited from doing so because she was Jewish.

Bettina and Carola jointly ran an art and antiques shop at Römerberg 10, specializing, among other things, in Jewish religious objects.

Lothar completed a commercial apprenticeship. During World War I, he served in Russia and on the Western Front. Afterward, he worked as a sales representative and, in 1928, established a vegetable garden at Offenbacher Landstraße 295, which was still listed in the records of the Horticultural Trade Association as late as 1937.

With the exception of Julius, all of the siblings remained unmarried.

After the Nazis came to power in 1933, their livelihoods were destroyed one by one.

Bettina and Carola were forced to close their antique shop in November 1934 by order of the Reich Chamber of Art. In 1936, they fled together to the Netherlands. They stored their merchandise in the shop of their sister Renate. In June 1936, they opened an antique shop in Amsterdam.

Lothar Wolf’s income from his gardening business fell to about half of what it had been starting in 1934.

On December 14, 1936, their mother Lina died after a brief, serious illness.

In 1933, Julius Wolf was stripped of his notary license, which had been the source of the majority of his income. In 1935, he was forced to downsize his office, relocate it to Fellnerstraße 10, and close it entirely a year later. He had to sell the furniture at bargain prices; the rest he stored in his mother’s houses, where it was looted in 1938. On March 16, 1937, he married Felicitas Joseph, born in 1885, from Ehringshausen. Shortly thereafter, the couple was able to flee to Palestine.

Renate’s business on Großer Hirschgraben also suffered from the anti-Semitic boycotts. In 1937, her store had to move to Große Bockenheimer Straße 6–10. Renate fought back through years of correspondence against tax assessments she considered incorrect; in November 1936, she demanded a full audit of her books and wrote that it would become clear that she was being wronged by the additional tax assessment.

On the night of November 10, 1938, the November pogrom struck those who had remained in Frankfurt. Renate’s store on Große Bockenheimer Straße was vandalized and looted, along with the inventory of her sisters’ antique business that was stored there. The house on Offenbacher Landstraße was also

ransacked and looted, as was Lothar’s nursery. Lothar Wolf was arrested that very same day and deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Renate and her mother’s sister, who was 84 at the time, were arrested and held for a week, while the looting of the house continued with the help of trucks.

The siblings were now forced to sell the properties at Offenbacher Landstraße 295 and 261. They were not allowed to use the proceeds: the money was deposited into an escrow account, and the "Devisenstelle" had to approve every withdrawal.

Lothar Wolf was released from Buchenwald in December 1938 and fled with a cousin to the Netherlands, where the immigration police immediately detained him. This marked the beginning of a year and a half at the Hoek van Holland camp near Rotterdam. Following the occupation by the German Wehrmacht, German authorities brought him back to Germany as a prisoner in May 1940, holding him in several prisons in the Ruhr region. At the end of September 1940, he was deported via Metz to France, with an expulsion order to the unoccupied zone. There he lived without papers or a work permit, supported by the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, and aid organizations, until he found a ship. According to two of his affidavits, he departed from Casablanca on the Nyassa on February 3, 1942, and reached the Dominican Republic on March 18, 1942; other documents date this to as early as 1941.

In Amsterdam, Bettina and Carola Wolf were caught up by their persecutors following the German invasion in May 1940. In 1942, the German occupation administration appointed a trust company to manage their antique shop, with the intention of liquidating the business. On September 29, 1943, both were arrested and taken to the Westerbork transit camp. From there, they were deported to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on February 1, 1944. Shortly before the end of the war, they were placed on an evacuation transport bound for Theresienstadt. Bettina contracted typhus during the journey and was unconscious for about 14 days. On April 23, the transport was stopped and liberated by the Red Army near Tröbitz. They both survived.

Renate Wolf was the last to remain in Frankfurt. In April 1939, she was interrogated in the police jail for helping relatives smuggle the family silver out of the country. In August 1940, she was forced to move to Hynspergstraße 3. In June 1941, her tax advisor informed the tax office that she was working on her emigration but had no prospect of carrying it out yet. She was forced to perform hard labor in the Frankfurt parks and on a farm. On November 12, 1941, she was deported from Frankfurt to the Minsk ghetto as part of the second mass deportation. She sent a postcard from Warsaw while en route, and then nothing more was heard from her. Based on reports from soldiers returning home, her sister Bettina later described how Renate had been put to work performing technical calculations for bridge construction. It is not known when or where she was murdered.

Julius Wolf, who had fled to Palestine, could no longer work there as a lawyer and notary. He lived off the proceeds from a small leased field, hourly wages earned working in other people’s gardens, and support from relatives. In 1952, he lived in a one-room apartment in a prefabricated building, and his only assets were about 50 chickens. His first wife divorced him, and he remarried Miriam Laska. In 1955, he considered a return to Germany out of the question; he lacked the money for the trip and the strength to start over. He died on July 21, 1957, in Ramataim.

After their liberation from the camp, Bettina and Carola Wolf returned to Amsterdam. Upon her return, Bettina weighed just around 30 kilograms; her illness left her with permanent hearing loss. Carola weighed 31 kilograms. In September 1946, they rebuilt their Amsterdam business. In the postwar years,

Bettina became the family's guardian: Bettina died on February 25, 1978, and Carola on October 12, 1986, both in Amsterdam.

Her brother Lothar lived in the Dominican Republic in the settlement of Sosúa, where he and other refugees cleared virgin forest before any crops could even be planted. The settlement association provided for the settlers until 1946. He became a farmer and rancher; he had to take out a loan for his start-up capital. He contracted malaria several times and spent years paying off his debts. No date of death is recorded in the documents reviewed; the file ends in 1966.

None of the five siblings of this Oberrad family returned to Frankfurt. Four survived in Israel, the Netherlands, and the Caribbean. Renate Wolf was murdered.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Cary Drud (Initiative Stolpersteine Frankfurt am Main) and funded by Cary Drud, Bernhard Mark, Tobe Levin, Baroness von Gleichen, and the Bürgerverein Oberrad e.V.

Research: Cary Drud

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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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