

## **They are not forgotten**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear family Keh, represented by Elaine Sinclair, Susan Devan, Michael Marber and Prof. Dr. Didier Keh, dear Yvonne and Bernard Mocatta, dear Marianne and Hannah Sutin!

When I informed you about the opening of this exhibition you immediately agreed to attend. Thank you very much for your coming. We really do appreciate that.

I am Giesela Kunze. I started doing research work for memory sheets in 2009. Inge Naumann Götting was part of the team from the very beginning in 2005. Inge thank you for your support and help

Friends and acquaintances sometimes ask, why I spend my leisure time with such a sad topic. „There has to be an end at some point“, one of the remarks is, and in „the memory sheets you always read the same“: Loss of rights, humiliation, exploitation and deportation.

That also is the opinion of the local Wiesbaden press.

Yes, that task sometimes is depressing. You would have wished so much for the people to have succeeded in leaving the country. They often had all the necessary papers for escaping and in the end it did not work out.

And then that horrible last sentence in the memory sheets: murdered in.... Flight into death at... That is not easy to pronounce.

How can you face the descendants again afterwards?

But the reaction of the descendants often is: „It is good that everything is talked about openly“ or: „We appreciate that people are dealing with the history of our family.“

There is a before and an after. Before they lost their rights and were persecuted, these people were valuable members of the urban society. And afterwards, survivors kept silent for decades, because their psychological injuries were too great

**Arthur and Anna Straus – for example** - were employees of the Jewish Congregation. They helped Jewish people organise their emigration. Later they were forced to help with the deportations. Their son **Walter** urgently asked them to leave the country. But they decided to stay because they felt responsible for those who could not leave. Walter, who loved the German literature, language and music very much, never returned to Wiesbaden. His emotional injuries were too great.

So we are very happy that Walter's daughter Marianne and his granddaughter Hannah are here today. Marianne was in Wiesbaden in 2018, when stumblingstones for her grandparents and her father were laid. She sang an emotional song then.

For the composer **Heinz Lewin** a memory sheet was presented in 2018, a stumblingstone was laid in 2019 with an audience of about 100 persons. Heinz Lewin, son of a tobacco manufacturer, began composing at a very young age. His operettas and musical comedies were extremely popular at the beginning of the last century. They were performed at the Walhalla theatre and the Residenztheater in Wiesbaden as well as on renowned German speaking stages.

More than 80 years later, two of his songs were performed again at the presentation of his memory sheet. They are still available on the homepage of the AMS, so is the moving speech of his granddaughter Yvonne. I am very glad that you Yvonne and Bernard are here.

A lot has happened since then. Musical pieces of Lewin have been performed at the Staatstheater Wiesbaden, in Australia, France and England. A film about his life was produced by Carol Falling, a Wiesbaden city historian and his name is mentioned in connection with the naming of streets.

**Rosa Keh**, later **Rose Marber**, survived in England. You can see her in the family photo in the memory sheet. During the research process for her father Kalman and her brother Heinz, we phoned and exchanged mails. Her children Elaine, Susan and Michael are here today, so is her nephew Didier Keh.

Rose Marber's memories became part of the text. She proofread the text and agreed to its publishing.

When laying the stumbling stones in Bertramstraße 9 in 2011 we were allowed to enter the former family flat. Elaine called her mother from the flat.. There was even a storage room with the nameplate „Keh“. That was very moving. And after decades of silence Rose Marber started talking about her childhood and youth.

**Dr. Alice Golsen** – born as Alice Goldstein in Wiesbaden – was one of the first women to gain a doctorate in Natural Sciences at Frankfurt university. Her doctoral thesis „Die Messung des Strahlendrucks“ is the basis for example for the production of phone chips or the possibility to scan objects.

Her experimental set-up has been reproduced in an exhibition called „Licht und Materie“ at the Deutsche Museum in Munich. Her biography is presented as the life of the unknown scientist. Biographical data comes from our research.

**Family Gutwirth** had six members. Only little Regina survived. At the age of five she was sent on a „Kindertransport“ to England. Her brother Bernhard was sentenced to nine months prison. He was 19 at the time. A work colleague had denounced him for criticizing the Nazi regime. The accusation was the following sentence: It would be better for the Jews if Hitler lost the war.

After publishing the memory sheet, we received an email from Regina's son, who warmly thanked on behalf of his mother for the research on her family. This feedback makes you happy and ashamed at the same time and it encourages to go on working.

We occasionally receive feedback via the internet such as: „I was very excited when I found the memory sheet of my great grandmother...“ or „I am still very excited that I found a report about my mother on the internet.

In the memory sheet of family **Berney** there also is a denunciaton mentioned. Look at the photo of Beate. She looks into the camera with the expression: world here I am.

**Therese Schwarz**, married Köbig, a dentist, was a brave and courageous woman. She provided desperate people with pills when they wanted to end their lives before getting deported.

**Ottile Herz** a philanthropist, was handicapped from early childhood. Nevertheless she took part in social and cultural life and generously supported friends and institutions.

**Jenny and Ingeborg Mendel**, a widowed mother and her daughter, who - though the conditions were hard- mastered their lifes.

All the persons, I mentioned, are strong personalities. That is not always the same as some people think. These are individual life stories, that is full life .And when will that project come to an end?

It will end, when every single person, every family is remembered. Our team has grown. Birgit Bietz, Jürgen Kaucher and Roberta Donath joined us. Thank you for helping.

In many cities and regions remembrance work takes place. In Wiesbaden these life stories are publicly and regularly presented in the City Hall. That has a high symbolic value. We thank the city authorities for this offer.

A short press release would emphasize the importance of this action.

**They are not forgotten!**

Thank you for listening!

G.Kunze 2025