



Stolpersteine

(stumbling stones)

in Bad Mergentheim
a walking tour
tracing the past

Walking Tour

This flyer provides informative examples of victims of the Nazi regime in Mergentheim. Questions throughout are designed to provoke reflections on the past.

Further information can be found here:
<https://stolpersteine-mgh.de/>



(1) The Adler Family

Frieda Adler (left) can still be seen smiling at us in this picture.



She and her sister Erna were the daughters of businessman Aron Adler, who had been elected city counselor in 1928 by both Christians and Jews. Frieda and her husband Ernst emigrated to Holland in 1938. "Early enough, but not far enough," she later said, again and again, about her emigration. Her story is reminiscent of Anne Frank's story. Frieda was hidden by the Dutch resistance in three different places for three years. Yet Frieda was luckier than Anne. Members of the Dutch resistance often asked themselves this question: "Why are we putting ourselves in such great danger?"

Would I put myself in such danger?

(2) The Würzburger Family

Why are there so few pictures of the murdered victims in this flyer? The answer often lies with the fate of victims. In contrast with the Adler family, none of the seven members of the Würzburger family survived. All reminders of the family vanished with them.

The family ran a small liqueur factory. After 1933, operations became increasingly difficult because of the growing repression; the factory ceased to operate in 1938. Samuel Würzburger was the only family member to flee Germany. To what degree of success?

Starting in 1937 Ferdinand Würzburger tried hard to find a buyer for his property – he found him too late.

How could the fate of the family have changed if someone had bought the factory, in spite of its poor condition, as early as 1938?

Did potential buyers ask themselves this question when they heard about the fate of the family?

(3) The Fröhlich and Eckmann Families

Six Stolpersteine to ponder. Six lives, four locations of death.

What was going through the minds of the people who deported and murdered 90-year-old Anna? Carolina, Anna's daughter, was murdered in 1941. What lasting thoughts did Carolina's surviving children, Gretel (1909-1990), Hans (1911-1995), and Fredel (1917-2002) have throughout their lives?



(This picture shows Anna with her granddaughter Lieselotte and her son Max. Max was awarded the Iron Cross in WWI for his bravery. Max and Lieselotte survived. Lieselotte's daughter Jill and her husband Thomas translated this brochure into English.)

(4) Synagogue

What is a community without a synagogue?
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The synagogue stood here from 1762 until 1957. Its construction and subsequent expansion in 1912 are testament to the growth of the Mergentheim Jewish community; its destruction signifies its end.



Should it not have been torn down?

Hermann Fechenbach writes about the desecration of the synagogue during the November Pogrom:

"On November 8, 1938, the Nazi devils emerged from hell [...]. The furnishings of the synagogue

were destroyed and the Torah ark was smeared with pork. In the school, prayer books and notebooks were ripped to shreds; bottles of ink and windows were smashed. No Jewish house was spared, and their residents were left unprotected from brutal mistreatment." The last head of the synagogue, Ferdinand Würzburger, saved the religious articles of the synagogue by storing them with the Mühleck moving firm.

(5) The Strauß and Rothschild Families

The first Stolpersteins placed in Mergentheim can be found in the courtyard of the former synagogue.

Louis Rothschild's stone points to an unusual death. The former livestock merchant lived here in a so-called "house for Jews", and avoided his impending deportation by committing suicide. On April 24, 1941, his wife and his daughter were deported to the Izbica Ghetto, and thereby to their death. When asked by her daughter Käthe what she should wear for deportation, Hannchen answered, "your death shroud."

How much must happen for a father to choose death?

(6) The Furchheimer Family

Fanny und Emanuel married in 1890.

For how long were they married?

How must Emanuel have felt when he learned in Theresienstadt that his wife Fanny had died?

Why did a furious mob threaten to massacre Sigmund on grounds of "miscegenation"?

Why didn't Sigmund flee Germany like his siblings Julius and Selma?

How could the German state turn into a state of theft and murder?

(7) The Igersheimer Family

In the Kapuzinerstraße, Sigmund and Fanny Igersheimer owned and operated a fourth-generation shoe and clothing store. Under growing pressure, they were forced to sell their business and thereby lost their source of income. In 1938 they moved to Stuttgart and later to Baisingen. The last "sign of life" of Fanny and Sigmund are their names on the deportation list for the first transport of Jews

from Stuttgart, which departed for Riga on December 1, 1941.

How did shopkeepers feel when it was first announced on April 1, 1933, "Don't buy from Jews!?"

What would I have done on that day? Would I have postponed shopping to another day, or would I have taken my business to a non-Jew?

(8) Memorial for the Jews of Mergentheim

In 2010 the memorial for the Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust (Shoah) was unveiled in the outer courtyard of the castle.

97 names are listed – the oldest victim was 90, the youngest not even 6 when his life ended.

Why did it take 65 years for this memorial to be erected?

What does its form express?



Stolpersteine

Stolpersteine (literally "stumbling stones") are remembrances. They remind us of the fate of the people who were murdered, deported, forced out or driven to suicide during the Nazi regime.

Those who stop and lean forward not only read the names, dates of birth, of deportation and of death of a woman, man or child, but also symbolically bow their heads in respect to the victims themselves.



One of the goals of the artist Gunter Demnig is to return the names to the victims, who were reduced to numbers.

Since 2009 Stolpersteins have commemorated Jewish citizens of Bad Mergentheim. The first Stolpersteins were installed on private property in the courtyard of the Sankt Bernhard school.

The organization "Stolpersteine Bad Mergentheim" was founded in 2018. Since then, the organization has had Stolpersteins installed in 10 further locations, both in the center of town and in the outskirts Edelfingen and Wachbach.

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Stolpersteinverein Bad Mergentheim e.V

<https://stolpersteine-mgh.de>

Further information as well as dates for the next public tours can be found here:

<https://stolpersteine-mgh.de>

If you would like a guided tour of Mergentheim's Jewish history and the Stolpersteins, please contact us at:

stolpersteine-mergentheim@gmx.de