



The Society of German-Israeli Friendship Ingelheim e.V. (DIF)

Annual Report 2020



Events 2019

Traces of Jewish life in Ingelheim

January 27th, 2020: On the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Nationalism invited the members of the Anti-Racism society to follow traces of Jewish life in Ingelheim:

- The Renate Wertheim Place
- The “Stumbling Stones” (Stolpersteine) in front of the last chosen domicile of the Neumann Family
- The largest Jewish Cemetery of Ingelheim in the Hugo-Loersch-Street.

The large group of people listened with great attention.

Renate Wertheim, ein Ingelheimer Mädchen



**Wir erinnern anlässlich des
Gedenktages für die Opfer des
Nationalsozialismus
am 27.01.2020:**

**Jüdische Spuren in Ingelheim
(Führung)
Mittwoch, 5. Februar 2020
im 13:00 Uhr am Haupteingang des SMG**



organisiert von der
Schule ohne Rassismus
- Schule mit Courage AG
des SMG

Antisemitism – Jewish Stereotypes of Enemy and Other

Manfred Levy showed in his lecture of February 4th, 2020 that antisemitic attitudes are still present on the German population. Anti-Jewish resentments never disappeared instead are by now well established in the public sphere. “You Jew” od “Jew Action” still are part of daily abusive vocabulary in German School Yards.

Every das antisemitism, often enough leading to violent behavior, is not limited to right wing groups. It does belong to mainstream society as an opinion or prejudice.

The lecturer presented motives, talked about causes, and spoke different developments: Different positions toward Israel and the notion of Antizionism as well as Muslim forms of Antisemitism.

Manfred Lewy works for the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt a.M. The lecture was presented in cooperation with the Fridtjof Nansen Academy for Political Education Ingelheim.

News from the Michael-Sternheimer Forest

The ongoing work of our Society was interrupted by the Corona pandemic as well. Due to cancellation of all air traffic Klaus Dürsch wasn't able to return from his Israel visit. That led to an opportunity to visit the Michael Sternheimer Forest in the Camel Mountain Range.

A signed “Healthy life Path” begins at the “Carmel Forest Spa Resort.” Ronit Arazi, the sister of Michael Sternheimer, contacted the local ranger and the Forest Fire Brigade to show me the place. What a surprising development: 1500 year old terraces have been restaured an replanted with native fruit trees. We were able to harvest mulberries and laurel leaves. We would like to thank all the donors and active members for their support. Further information and photos can be found on our home page (www.difingelheim.de).



A coworker of Keren Kayemet, a Druze living close by, explains the changes. A fire engine of the Forest Administration in the back.



Mulberry Harvest in the Sternheimer forest. By now calm and beautiful nature.



The wild fire uncovered 1500 old terraces They have been cleared an restored.



The large trees in the back survived the wild fires in 2010. Smaller vegetation had to be replanted.

Political Situation before the elections in Israel

Torsten Seibold is the European representative of “Givat Haviva” – the national education center of the Kibbutz Federation in promoting reconciliation between Jews and Arabs. Givat Haviva is the oldest and largest institution dedicated to the work of Jewish-Arab understanding.

Seibold gave a lecture on Wednesday, March 11th 2020. He talked about the domestic situation and foreign policy of Israel after the election as well as the consequences for Jewish Arab relationship in Israel. Afterwards he answered questions from the public. For further information please visit Givat Haviva Homepage, www.givathaviva.org.

Another demonstration

Regretfully the small group “The Right” registered for another demonstration in Ingelheim. The DIF was present and participated in rallies in honor of the German Constitution (“Grundgesetz”) on Friday, August 13th, 2020.

Saturday, August 14th, 2020 we had again to guard the Renate-Wertheim Platz under the banner “Renate Wertheim – protect children from racism. We were supported by the Anti-Racism Society of the Sebastian Münster High School and the “Integrierte Gesamtschule Kurt-Schumacher Ingelheim.

**Demokratie stärken
und Gesicht zeigen
für Menschenwürde
und gegen Rassismus**

**Freitag, 14.08.2020, 18:00 Uhr
Fridtjof-Nansen-Platz, Ingelheim**

IN-RAGE



Visit at the Jewish Cemetery: Day of Public Viewing of Monuments

On the Day of Public Viewing of Monuments, Sept. 13th, 2020, the DIF invited to follow Klaus Dürsch on his way to present the Jewish Cemetery of Ingelheim. The theme for 2020 was „Under the Sign of Sustainability“: Because of the Corona restrictions our reports could only be viewed on-line.

For example one contribution presented a guided tour tracing the life of Renate Wertheim Ingelheim: Imagine a 4 year old Renate in 1939. Her grandmother, 65 years old Sophie Oppenheimer, would take her by her hand, and they would go visit the graves of their ancestors. What would they see on the Jewish cemetery in the Hugo-Loersch-Straße? Perhaps the grave of their oldest forefather, Veit Hirsch, from 1844?

They are back again ...

We had to return to the Renate-Wertheim-Platz on October 3rd, 2020 to protect our town from racist movements. The fate of Renate Wertheim serves as a warning. Therefore we gather on this place and guard it whenever racism shows its ugly head in our town.

We were again supported by the Anti-Racism Society of the SMG, the IGS Ingelheim and the Animal Farm of a Children- and Youth Club. On October 3rd 2020, the National Day of German Unity, the Anti-Democratic Right had again a permit to march. Whenever that happens, the number of guardians of the Renate-Wertheim-Platz increases. You could feel, that many, including young people and their teachers, act when democracy is in danger



Cleaning the “stumbling stones” (Stolpersteine)

The “Stumbling stones” were cleaned on Saturday, November 3rd 2020. We couldn’t assemble a cleaning crew so “InRage” organized an on-line partnership. Whoever wanted to clean the stones could sign a doodle list. It worked. The photomontage below shows many ideas our participants had. Many thanks!

In the Mainzer Straße the stones had been removed from the pavement. They will be returned after road construction is finished.



Fotos: DIF

Ceremony to commemorate the November pogroms of November 9th/10th, 1938

Only a small Remembrance Ceremony, limited by the Pandemic, took place. Lord mayor of Ingelheim, Ralf Claus, and Chair of the DIF, Klaus Dürsch, laid down a wreath and lit candles at the appointment time. A small group of spectators attended. Our contribution to the Memorial in Ingelheim was published on the homepage of the DIF.

Thanks to Birgit Solano for the English translation.