Remembrance plaques in Alsergrund

translated by Frank Beck

Memories of Jewish life Remembrance of Jewish residents

Stations 1–15

Verein Steine der Erinnerung www.steinedererinnerung.net

Remembrance plaques In Alsergrund

Remembrance of the Jewish population

Alsergrund was traditionally a borough with many Jewish residents. Before the Nazi assumed power the Jewish population was 30 percent, and in Rossau it was even 50 percent. In 1938 these people were deprived overnight of their rights, their status and their property. People in Alsergund were forced to leave their homes and move into collective residences locally or in Leopoldstadt. People from other boroughs were relocated in Leopoldstadt, for example into the Jewish old-age home in the Seegasse. Those who were unable to escape - there were 6910 of these in Alsergrund - were deported and murdered.

No-one can reverse the tide of history and undo the dispersion and murder of the Jewish population. But we can give the people who lived here a place in their former domicile.

To this end we would like to make a change to the outdoor environment by making it reflect a piece of Vienna's history. We hope in this way to contribute to the healing of this deep wound.

Elisabeth Ben-David Hindler Karl Jindrich Vally Steiner Zahava-Hindler Ernst Fitzka Daliah Hindler

Verein Steine der Erinnerung an jüdische Opfer des Holocausts

HIER WOHNTEN REGINA NATHAN ROSENZWEIG GUTTMANN GEB. ZEISEL 3.11.1879 20.4.1888 **ERMORDET 1942 DEPORTIERT 1941** IN SOBIBOR NACH LODZ SOPHIE HILDA GUTTMANN GUTTMANN 21.4.1884 10.1.1911 **ERMORDET 1942** FRMORDET 1942 IN SOBIBOR IN SOBIBOR

Station 1 Ingen Houszgasse 4

Collective residence
Door number 12

Regina Rosenzweig

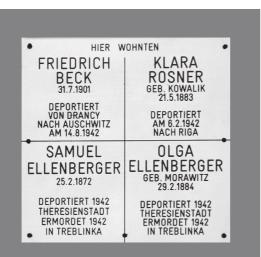
Text by Franzi H.

My mother was a cheerful happy woman. She had a talent for teaching, and for a time worked in a Jewish orphanage. She sent me to the Dr Eugenie Schwarzwald school which at that time was considered progressive. One aim of the school was to enable a new generation of girls to have access to higher education. This school gave me a sense of selfworth and a sound foundation for life. I thank my mother to this day for giving me this opportunity.

Alas, my mother was not politically aware and only realised after the pogrom night of November 10 that the situation was life-threatening for Jews. She even secured a post as a domestic servant in England, but some of the documents necessary for emigration were still missing when the war broke out. At that point all possibility of escape was barred. I myself had the luck, as a child, to leave on the 29th of September 1939. Until 1941 We were able to receive letters through Switzerland and Belguim. In one of her last letters she wrote to me: "little chick, you fell out of the nest", and at the same time advised me in a coded manner that she was being sent to Poland. In 1946 I ascertained from the Red Cross that she was last known to be in the Lodz Ghetto I have been unable do discover her fate after this. As she has no known grave, I am grateful that this plaque is there to commemorate her



Regina Rosenzweig, 1938



Station 1a Gussenbauergasse 2

Friedrich Beck

My father Friedrich was born on July 31 1901 in Vienna, to Ferdinand Beck and Luisa Fränkel. Ferdinand's father was a poor Jewish religious scholar (a scribe or Sofer) called Jonas Beck. I believe his wife Cissie was a wealthy chicken farmer's daughter and that this was what enabled him to devote himself to religious pursuits!

Ferdinand was a shoe merchant and became very successful. He had shops in the Währingerstraße, Mariahilferstraße and business interests elsewhere. He was a Kommerzialrat.

Friedrich worked in the family shops, and in due course managed one of them. Everyone in the Beck family helped in the shops, including my mother.

After the Anschluss Friedrich gave his shops over to a non-Jewish employee.

We lived at flat no 17, first flat on the right on the first floor. I was an only child.

My mother escaped to England with me as a domestic servant, putting me into a hostel for Jewish refugee children.

My father escaped to France, hoping to get US visas for all three of us. He preferred this solution to becoming a butler in England, which would have been possible as Butler-Maid combinations. "Married Couples" were a possible way of getting residence in England. He didn't like the idea of being a domestic servant, and of course he didn't have the benefit of our subsequent knowledge.

He fled to the unoccupied south of France, where he was finally interned at Les Milles. All this time his family in America was still trying to get him a visa. Finally, he was sent ,for labour in the East' to Drancy and then to Auschwitz where he was killed.



My father, Friedrich Beck, with me

The entire Beck family escaped to Cuba, and thence to the United States.

My grandfather Ferdinand Beck once drew up a list of nearly 50 of his relatives to second cousin level who perished in the Holocaust. (Families were big in those days!)

Frank Beck



Station 2 Grundlgasse 5

Our Grandparents

Text by Hans Steiner and Vally Steiner (Grandchildren); Rella Steiner (Daughter-in-Law).

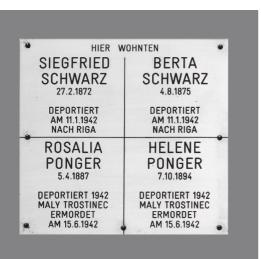
Our Grandmother Valerie Steiner (nee Lederer) came from a Jewish family in Pottenstein an der Triestling. Our Grandfather Heinrich Steiner, who learnt the trade of a leatherworker, came to Vienna from Bjelovar in Croatia in 1906. They lived together in this house 1929 to 1941. From 13.6.1941 to 26.1.1942 they were obliged to live in a collective residence, from which they were deported to Riga.

In 1923 our Father Herbert was born. An only child, he always spoke of his happy childhood and youth. In 1938 all Jewish children were excluded from schooling. Together with a 15 year-old friend he managed to escape via Holland to England. The grandparents remained behind. They had neither the financial resources to escape nor a country which would accept them.

Numerous letters arrived from them in England between 1938 and 1940. We treasure these letters, so personal and moving, for through these our grandparents come to life with all their hope, strength, affection, love of life, and even humour in the face of the most fearful humiliation.



Last family photo of Valerie, Herbert and Heinrich Steiner, 1938



Station 2a Rotenlöwengasse 17



Grandfather Elias Ponger with his daughters Rosa and Lisa

Station 3 Rögergasse 18

My grandparentsText written by Ariel Avriel-Sheffer

My grandmother Käthe Hirsch, born Heller, was the only one in the family who was actually born in Vienna (23.5.1895). She was an only child, to her parents, Moritz and Dorothea Heller who died in the early,30 and are buried in Vienna. She married my grandfather Ernst in 1920 and five years later my mother, Liesl was born. She was an only child too. My grandmother came for a modern religious house and kept a kosher household.

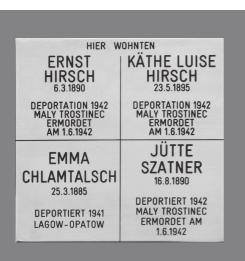
As many other Jews my grandfather, Ernst Hirsch (born 6.3.1890 in Maschau, Bohemia) served in the Austrian army in WWI. He was decorated with the Iron Cross of the 2nd degree for bravery. Later on, during the Nazi regime he used to wear his medal in the vain hope that they would spare someone who was ready to sacrifice his life and health for

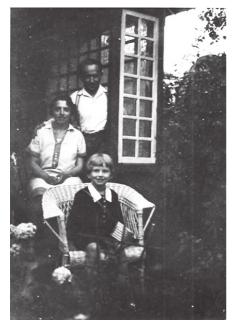


Ernst Hirsch, 1938



Käthe Luise Hirsch, 1938





Käthe and Ernst Hirsch with their daughter Liesl

his country. It was of no use, of course.

In view of the incessant persecutions, my grandparents decided to flee Austria. Late 1938 they went to a farm near Vienna to learn agriculture which would come handy if they had to settle in Palestine. They also learned professions: new useful arandmother made aloves with elaborate designs and my grandfather learned to become a shoemaker. He made secret compartments in the shoes for the immigrants to put their jewellery and valuables in. My grandparents were sure they would be able to leave illegally shortly after my mother left in December 1939 with the Jugend Alija. They sent all their belongings ahead (total weight of more than a ton) to Italy in the vain hope to be able to send for them when they arrive in Palestine. They never made it and were deported together on the same transport to Minsk and were killed together on the same day, 1.6.42.

May they be commemorated by the stones set in front of their house today.

Station 4

Porzellangasse 49a

Flat Number 24

Armin und Margarethe Weisz

Extracts from an address given by Ephraim Levanon at the consecration of a memorial plaque for his parents in November 2005

When I was still in my extreme youth my Mother, here in this very house, told me fairy tales. These featured only good people and evil ones. Each tale ended in the triumph of the good ones.

I grew up to discover that in our world there are not only good and bad, but grey people.

They are in the majority, these grey ones. They are indifferent, and think only of themselves. Then came the year 1938 and its successors. In Austria, in Germany, in Europe, the bad people came to power. They were in due course overthrown by



the good of the world, but the price of their defeat, and what a high price, was paid by the Jewish citizens of Europe, Austria, Vienna, people of Vienna, of the 9th Bezirk, of the Porzellangasse, and including Armin and Grete. They were demeaned, robbed, driven out and locked up. 60 000 Austrian Jews were murdered, without a grave, without a trace, and the grey ones looked away. They closed their eyes, their ears and their hearts to the suffering of their neighbours.

Decades passed. This year I decided that I owe my parents some eternal memorial. Not in my own country Israel, but here,



Armin and Margarethe Weisz

where they lived and loved. Two ordinary and undistinguished people, like you and me. I wanted to dedicate a little tablet to their memory here in the house. But I soon discovered the the grey ones had by no means died out. The owner of the house didn't want to know about my grandparents. She didn't see or understand, and in conclusion she refused permission. And I thought: it's the same Austria as it was in 1938.

But luck won out: the good ones gained the upper hand. They extended their helping arms to me, and my request for this memorial was granted after all. So I stand here today, with my family, and it is probably the happiest day of my life.

Let us hope that this inscription inspires passers-by to remember to remember what happened. Let us hope that never again, anywhere in the world, any group suffers a similar misfortune. If that happens, my parents will not have died in vain.

Station 4a Glasergasse 4a

My grandparents lived here since before the First World War (1913) and had 10 children. Two aunts had a dressmaking workshop in this house. The family had two other shops in Glasergasse, an aunt had a milliner's at Number 11 and an uncle had an electrical equipment store at Number 3. My grandfather also had a rubber stamp business in the same building.

In 1940 my grandparents lived with two unmarried daughters, Erna and Rosa in the flat. The husband of Gusti, Heinrich Kohn, had already been arrested in 1938 and sent to Buchenwald where he was murdered on the 21st July 1940 Their six year old daughter Elsie came to England through the Kindertransport. (I presume that after Heinrich was deported, Elsie's mother Gusti also lived in this flat).

My grandmother still died in her home in 1941 and was spared much.





Grandfather Abraham Vulkan



Rosa Vulkan and Gusti Kohn with her daughter Elsie

In the following year the family was forced out of the flat and sent to a 'collection flat' (with many other families) at Förstergasse 8, Second District.

My uncle Leopold Vulkan and his wife Mathilde lived in Gersthof (a suburb) and were sent to Opole in February 1941 and were murdered there (also Mathilde's mother and disabled brother).

My parents and I lived in the 9th District at Schlickplatz 4 left Vienna overnight after a warning, in September 1938.

The last news from the family was a quickly written pencilled letter from Erna, folded small and sent first to Switzerland (relations of Flsie – Switzerland was neutral and had post both with Germany and England) and from there to London. The letter was not even signed. It was dated 24 August 1942. This letter was the first my father knew that his mother had died. Exactly what happened on that day we will never know. Shortly after this my three aunts were sent to Opole and my 80-year old grandfather to Theresienstadt (Terezin). None survived the deportation...

The last letter from Aunt Erna

,My very dear ones,
As we now finally have to think
about resettlement and although we start the wanderings
fully trusting in God, we still have
to reckon with all eventualities
and if it is God's will that it will
be a long time or maybe never,
I want to use this letter to say
farewell to you my dear and precious family.

Don't weep over our dear good mother - I was also indescribably in despair over her loss, but today I can see that God loved her when he took her to himself. She was spared much... She still died in her old flat in familiar surroundings and passed away peacefully, although with unfulfilled longing in her heart for her children whom she had so wanted to see again. She had the deepest worries about Leo who she knew was suffering under the worst conditions. Her last words referred to him, her fever made her imagine him at home – she suddenly said during the night: ,we must bake a Lebkuchen'. To my surprised question why, she



Aunt Erna Vulkan

replied: Because Leo has come home'. Thus as she slipped away at least in her imagination he had come home! And at that time there was still regular post from him – now there has been nothing since the 25th April. Mail to and from Opole near Lublin has now been stopped and so we know nothing about him and Tilda. Both, according to his letter of the 25th April were ill and felt very weak. Only God knows what has happened to them, and may the Eternal One help that all should be well.

Can you imagine what pain our dear mother suffered under these circumstances?? And that is not all - now she would have had to face separation from us.... People over 70 are being sent to Theresienstadt and the vounger ones to Poland and so sadly, sadly, we will be separated from our dear father. Can you imagine how we feel? And all this suffering and pain must be borne and accepted, but don't ask how. Our poor father - he had ten children and now at 80. half blind, he has to go all alone. Is this not bitter?

Grandmother Eva was sent to Theresienstadt in June; since the departure of Ancsi, Robert and Mrs Spatz she was in Hohenwarte hospital. There is no news from her as post there is also forbidden. Armin and Mela were sent to Yzbica a/Wr. Aunt Selinger is in Beudsburg, Gutstrasse 29, Upper Silesia. Whether she can stay there is not known.

For now I cannot continue; the moment of departure has come. Perhaps I can continue later. In any case may God protect and guard you, and also us! Amen! May it be His Will that we should see each other again!'

Station 4b Glasergasse 18

This station was initiated by the house owner Andreas Nader. The commemoration of the former tenants and their cruel destinies is important for him. All the more since his mother's family barely escaped a similar destiny.

ZUM GEDENKEN
AN ZWEI JÜDISCHE
HAUSBEWOHNER, DIE VON
DEN NAZIS DEPORTIERT
UND ERMORDET WURDEN

ALEXANDER SCHWARZ 2.4.1879

DEPORTIERT AM 14.9.1942 NACH MALY TROSTINEC ERMORDET AM 18.9.1942 RUDOLF LICHTENSTEIN

> DEPORTIERT AM 15.5.1942 NACH IZBICA IM HOLOCAUST ERMORDET



Station 5a

Seegasse 9

The memorial plaques are to be found in a niche to the left of the entrance

Hospital and Old Age Home

In 1698 the court banker Samuel Oppenheimer founded the Jewish hospital in the Seegasse. Its gable carries the inscription "Hospital for suffering humanity, built by the local Israelite community". In 1844 the noble Sigmund of Wertheimstein founded an adjacent hospice, opened in 1854. On the occasion of the Emperor Franz Joseph's 40th Jubilee in 1888, a new building, the home for the care of the elderly of the Israelite cultural community, was erected by Wilhelm Stiassny.

In 1935 the building was modernised and became a 2-storey annex. The old title of "care home" was replaced by "Old Age Home (with a sick bay attached)".

It had accommodation for 454 people and was among the biggest and most modern of such facilities in Europe.

Source: Historikerkommission; Kulturführer Alsergrund

In 1942 the deportations of old people to Theresienstadt started. Many of these died soon after arrival, from weakness, sickness or plague, in the awful conditions prevailing. Those who survived were transported to extermination camps and murdered there.





Regine Silberstern

Station 5b Jewish Cemetery



The cemetery is to be found in the courtyard of the retirement home Seegasse 9-11
Opening times: Monday – Friday 7am to 3pm
Entry is through the retirement home.

The oldest extant cemetery in Vienna was started after the great expulsion on the Jewish community in 1421. The oldest gravestone is dated 1540. It is the only Jewish cemetery with exclusively Hebrew inscriptions. Before the second expulsion of 1670/71 it was bought by the Fränkel brothers for 4000 guilders in order to secure "perpetual rights". Under Kaiser Joseph

Il it was closed for further use, as were all cemeteries within the city limits.

Under the National Socialist regime, the cemetery was destined for destruction. In order to prevent desecration of the gravestones some zealous members of the remaining Jewish community – nobody knows how – moved some of the stones to the Centralfriedhof and buried them there.

These stones were discovered in 1981 and as far as they could be found, returned to the Seegasse. With the aid of old plans they were re-erected in their original locations.

In 1984 the cemetery was reconsecrated.

Tombstone of Rabbi Horowitz Quelle: Jüdisches Städtebild Wien Hrsg.: Martha Keil

FfM, 1995



Station 5c Seegasse 20-22/ Hahngasse 37

Karl and Etelka Bettelheim Text by Wilhelm Bettelheim

My uncle Karl Bettelheim was born in 1892 in Vienna. He was the son of Karl and Sophie nee Castek. He married Etelka nee Schwarz. Both came from old established Jewish families. In 1922 their son Kurt was born.

My uncle ran a textile business for ladies' underwear and men's and women's hose, here at 37 Hahngasse. He was a philanthropist and was much liked for his charitable work. He gave to the poor although he was by no means affluent.

He was also very cultured and educated. In the first World War he had been a non-commissioned officer in the Royal and Imperial Army.

Aunt Etelka was the very model of a virtuous Jewish housewife from the old Austrian provincial city of Bratislava..

In 1938 she had to vacate the flat and move to a collective residence in Thungasse 17/8.

Both of them had to do forced labour. Uncle Karl had to work under inhumane conditions, sorting garbage in the inundation area of the Danube. He was beaten and mishandled by the guards. The long walk between the inundation area and the collective residence had to be accomplished on foot. Aunt Etelka was a slave-labourer in a warehouse. As a result of mistreatment by her guards she fell and broke her arm.

Karl Bettelheim retained his pride and said a dignified farewell to my father when he was transferred to a collective residence in the Castellezgasse, although he was fully aware of his impending fate.

The parents were very happy to know that their son was able

to emigrate with the aid of the Swedish embassy. They left on the transport still in possession of the last letter from their son.

HIER BEFAND SICH BIS 1941 EIN JÜDISCHES WAISENHAUS. 78 BUBEN IM ALTER VON 6 BIS 19 UND 42 JÜDISCHE FRAUEN UND MÄNNER, DIE HIER LEBTEN, WURDEN VON DEN NAZIS DEPORTIERT UND ERMORDET.



Station 6 Grünentorgasse 26

Orphanage and Home for Apprentices

Here was found the "Jewish Apprentices Home of the Future" belonging to the society for the education and support of Jewish apprentices. It provided a home and training facilities for children who were in need. The society helped the Jewish apprentices to find positions and ensured their spiritual and cultural development. The young folk could also take advantage of language courses, sports facilities, religious instruction and theatre visits. In 1938 the home housed 118 orphan boys.

Source: Historikerkommission; Kulturführer Alsergrund

Walter Aberbach was only 8 when on the 9th of September 1942 he was murdered at Maly Trostinec. (Photo from Ingrid Schubert, nee Aberbach).

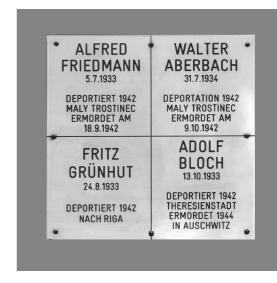
Alfred Friedmann, foster child of my grandparents

Text by Marina Malyar

Alfred Friedmann was born on 5 July 1933.

As a foster child he came to live with my grandparents Bertha and Alexander Külsam and their daughter Gertrude in the 16 Bezirk. Soon after the Nazi takeover Alfred was denounced by a neighbour and taken away in spite of his age.

Μv grandmother and her daughter Gertrude survived only because Alexander Külsam, who was a Christian, stood by his family. Notwithstanding this, they were persecuted and tormented and the daughter was thrown out of school. They had of course to wear the star of David. The family was liberated by the Russian army just in time; only hours earlier and in nearby roads Jewish residents were still being murdered.



The foster child Alfred unhappily did not survive to celebrate his tenth birthday. He was deported to White Russia and mercilessly killed. An innocent child, who in his short life never harmed anyone, he was a victim of inhumanity and complicity.

My grandmother tried, after the war, to bring the Nazi denouncer to Justice. Sadly, she failed. He lived out the rest of his life almost next door in that council house in Sandleiten, Ottakring.

IN DIESEM HAUSE WOHNTEN	MARJEM LINDAUER 25.7.1897 DEPORTIERT 1941 NACH LODZ ERMORDET IN CHELMNO
LEO	GISELA
LINDAUER	LINDAUER
14.7.1932	24.10.1933
DEPORTIERT 1941	DEPORTIERT 1941
NACH LODZ	NACH LODZ
ERMORDET	ERMORDET
IN CHELMNO	IN CHELMNO

Station 6a

Rögergasse 4

Marjem Lindauer

Text by Susanne Schönbrunner

Marjem was born on 25.7.1897 in Kolomea, which at the time was in Galicia. She was the daughter of Reizel Buchhalter and of Schaja Glaser, who had a glazier's workshop in the town.

The family, with 12 members, lived in straitened circumstances. Marjem had 5 brothers and 6 sisters, and they lived in 2 rooms. The children had to help their father by doing window replacements in the vicinity.

Marjem apparently arrived in Vienna during or at the end of the World War, where her sister Frieda had been living since 1911. They lived together at Blumauergasse in the second Bezirk, and later, when Frieda married Benzion Lindenbaum (subsequently Bacher), at 45a Obere Donaustrasse.

Marjem bore 8 children between 1919 and 1937, of which two died in early infancy.

The identity of the father of all these children is not evident to this day, since she never actually married. There is, however, a strong suspicion (from things that were said by grandchildren of Frieda and Benzion) that Benzion was also the father of all these children.

The very crowded living conditions and the problematic relationships led to Marjem putting all her children into care or up for adoption soon after birth. This had the effect of saving two of them (Cäcilia and Anna) from the Holocaust. One of the others returned from Galicia but has not been heard of since.

The youngest one, after finding himself in 5 foster homes in the first four years of his life, then survived by being put on a Kindertransport to Holland. As Marjem never became a naturalised Austrian citizen, there were numerous attempts, always resisted by her, to send all the children back to Poland.

In November 1941 she was commanded to pack up and prepare for transportation East. At this point she moved to a collective residence in the Sperlgasse,

where she had the opportunity to meet up with two of the children – Leo and Gisela – for the first time in many years.

All three of them were put on the 5th transport to the Lodz ghetto, where they were housed in two rooms in the Rembrandtstrasse together with 17 strangers.

As a result of the insufferable conditions and as part of the oncoming Final Solution, Marjem and both children, aged 8 and 9 by that time, were sent on again, this time apparently some 70km away to the extermination camp at Kulmhof. Whether their deaths occurred on the journey or after arrival in not known.

The official report states "Uncertified Death". Some months later the "Völkischer Beobachter" carried a report to the effect that the "fortune" of Marjem, Leo and Gisela Lindauer had been impounded.

Remembrance plaques in Alsergrund



1	Ingen-Housz-Gasse 4	Steine der Erinnerung
1a	Gussenbauergasse 2	Steine der Erinnerung
2	Grundlgasse 5	Steine der Erinnerung
2a	Rotenlöwengasse 17	Steine der Erinnerung
3	Rögergasse 18	Steine der Erinnerung
4	Porzellangasse 49A	Steine der Erinnerung
4a	Glasergasse 4a	Steine der Erinnerung
4b	Glasergasse 18	Steine der Erinnerung
5a	Seegasse 9	jüdisches Altersheim
5b	Seegasse 9	alter jüdischer Friedhof
5c	Seegasse 20-22	Steine der Erinnerung
6	Grünentorgasse 26	jüdisches Waisenhaus
6a	Rögergasse 4	Steine der Erinnerung
7	Servitengasse 6	Gedenktafel HausbewohnerInnen
8	Serviteng. 11/	Denkmal für die jüdischen
	Grünentorgasse	BewohnerInnen d. Servitengasse
		(www.servitengasse1938.at)
9	Grünentorgasse 19	Steine der Erinnerung
10	Müllnergasse 21	Gedenktafel für die Synagoge
11	Liechtensteinstraße 2	Steine der Erinnerung (2010)
12	Liechtensteinstraße 73	Steine der Erinnerung
12a	Fechtergasse 19	Wandtafel
13	Nussdorferstraße 77	Steine der Erinnerung
13a	Dreihackengasse 10	Steine der Erinnerung
13b	Löblichgasse 6	Steine der Erinnerung
14	Schlagergasse 4	Steine der Erinnerung
15	Tendlergasse 11	Steine der Erinnerung

Station 7 Memorial Tablet

On the front of no. 6 Servitengasse W-1090 Alsergrund Text by Barbara Kintaert

In 2003, Four residents of this block, Barbara K (the initiator), Peter K, Alix P and Martin K, were interested in discovering what had happened in their building in 1938. Soon the researches of Birgit J in the archives bore fruit. The results were shocking.

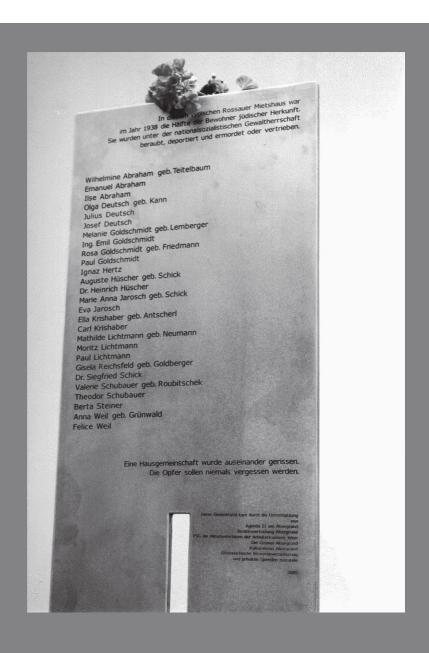
Up to 1938 there were 28 tenancies in the house (at that time 23 flats and 5 shops), half of them being Jewish. (14 flats and 2 shops). Some of the older ones were widowed, or their children had left the nest. In all, 27 Jews dwelt or had shop here before the Anschluss.

Nine of them were deported to concentration camps and killed. (Wilhelmine Abraham, Olga and Julius Deutsch, Emil Rosa, Paul Goldschmidt, Carl Krishaber, Gisela Reichsfeld and Siegfried Schick).

Nine others succeeded in emigrating legally, albeit with the loss of their property and fortune, and never returned.

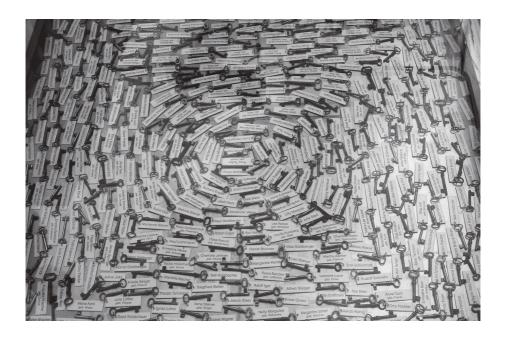
Of the remaining nine people, it is known that they escaped by illegal routes, but nothing is known of the fates of most of them. In the case of Marie Jarosch it is known that she managed to escape to the apparent safety of Yugoslavia, where she nevertheless fell into the hands of the Nazis and was murdered. She had previously managed to send her 7 year-old daughter Eva to safety in Holland and thence to England.

This tablet has been in place on the front of 6 Servitengasse since 20.9.2005



Station 8

Keys of Remembrance



Since the spring of 2004 the Citizen Group "Servitengasse 1938: fate of the disappeared" has been working on the project of tracing the fates of those Jews from the Servitengasse in 9th district of Vienna who were exiled and murdered.

This project, unique in Vienna, for investigating the Jewish and non-Jewish residents of an entire street and following their

fates, had initially the aim of dedicating a visible symbol to these people.

To this end the Group in collaboration with the university for applied arts organised a competition. The winning design, by Julia Schulz, was realised thanks to the support of numerous sponsors.



462 keys lying on the floor, as if forgotten 462 keys which have disappeared? 462 keys which each observer can find 462 keys with labels carrying names 462 people who once lived here ...

"Keys of remembrance" consists of a glass display case in which 462 keys are open to view. Each key has a label attached, carrying the name of a victim. All round the display is the legend: "To the memory of the Jews and Jewesses, resident in the Servitengasse or owning houses or businesses there, who were exiled and murdered".

On the 8 April 2008 some Servitengasse survivors were able to be present at the unveiling of this memorial.

The home page for information on this project can be found at: www.servitengasse1938.at

A publication on the project exists:

Birgit Johler, Maria Fischer (Hg) 1938: Addresse Servitengasse Eine Nachbarschaft auf Spurensuche

Mandelbaum Verlag 2007.

This book describes the efforts of a concerted citizens initiative to return the expelled and murdered neighbours to their places in the Servitengasse.

ANNA IN DIESEM HIRSCH HAUSE 8 2 1868 WOHNTEN **DEPORTATION 1942 NACH RIGA BERTA** FANNY BACHELES HIRSCH GEB. HIRSCH 12.11.1880 7.9.1869 **DEPORTATION 1942 DEPORTATION 1941 NACH RIGA** NACH LAGOW-OPATOW

Station 9 Grünentorgasse 19

"Die Tanten"

Text written by Ariel Avriel-Sheffer

The Hirsch family originated in the tiny village of Maschau, Bohemia.

My grandfather, Ernst, was the youngest of 12 children born to his parents, Isak and Aloisia, 6 of whom died as infants. Around the turn of the century, after Isak's death, Aloisia moved to Vienna with her children and lived in the apartment in Guenentorgasse 19 until her death in 1913. My grandfather's sisters, who never married (except for one, Bertha, who was a divorcee), lived together in this same apartment until they were deported and killed by the Nazis. First was Bertha who was deported to Lagow on 12.3.1941. Later to be deported were Anna, the eldest, together with Fanny who were deported to Riga on

the same date, 26.1.42. Another sister, Rosa, was lucky to escape deportation. She died in 1940 in Vienna.

My late mother who escaped with the Jugend Alija as late as December 1939 loved her aunts very much, and used to mention them often. She used to refer to them together as "Die Tanten". They actually took part in raising her, as her mother was working to support the family. I remember especially her story about the Kristallnacht which she repeated every year on November 10th. She told me about the ransacked apartment and her frightened aunts who were accused of keeping a weapon a bayonet my grandfather had brought back as a souvenir form WWI which was confiscated on that occasion. She also mentioned the synagogue across the street which was torched by the Nazis and its dome collapsed during the fire.

May the stones set in front of their house today commemorate these three innocent women.



Anna Hirsch, 1938



Berta Bacheles, in front of the house



Here stood a synagogue, built 1888/1889 after plans from Max Fleischer, destroyed in the "Reichskristallnacht" on 10. November 1938

Station 10 Müllnergasse 21

Synagogue

This Synagogue – the main entrance was at Grünentorgasse 13 – was central to the religious lives of the Jewish population of Alsergrund. It was erected in 1888 by Max Fleischer in the neo-Gothic style. Architecturally it resembled a Christian house of worship. It differed from traditional synagogue design in that it had no separate area for women; the central aisle had 322 seats for men and the side aisles 248 seats for women.

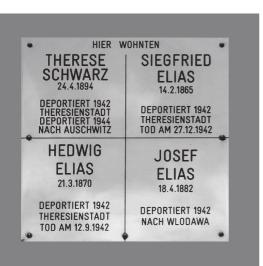
The building also housed the women's guild, which provided clothing for poor Jewish school-children.

On the night of the pogrom (9/10 November 1938) the building was destroyed by units of the 89th SS Standarte.



Virtual reconstruction of the main chamber of the synagogue

Source: Niessner, Georg; Virtuelle Rekonstruktion dreier Synagogen in Wien von Max Fleischer (Diplomarbeit TU-Wien) Wien 2004



Station 11 Liechtensteinstr. 2

Therese Schwarz

Text by Elisabeth Rosental nee Schwarz

My mother, Therese Schwarz nee Tausky, was born in Vienna and considered herself a born and bred Austrian. She brought me up in this tradition, but to her bitter disappointment (at the time) this ambition was doomed to failure

She considered the Anschluss to be a tragic misunderstanding on the part of a large number of Austrians. It was many months before she lost her trust in her fellow citizens. She ascribed the first steps to the fact that "the government has yet to be organised," and assumed that with the return of law and order everything would be corrected. She observed that things like this did not happen in Germany proper.

After I had escaped to Palestine and my father to Shanghai, she moved to Cologne to an orphanage in the "Jewish enclave", where she worked as a children's nurse. Under no circumstance was she prepared to go to Asia.

From there she was transported together with her charges to Theresienstadt, then to Auschwitz where – in all probability together with the children – she was murdered. The exact timing is unknown.

Her last resting place is a sort of mass grave – far from her formerly beloved Austria. May she rest in Peace there.





Daughter: Grete, born 1.5.1916

Station 12 Liechtensteinstr. 73

Flat number 7

The Blotner family

Text by Walter (Ephraim) Blottner I was born here in Liechtensteinstrasse, had an enjoyable childhood, and from here I had to emigrate against my will and find another country to live in.

Father lost his sight as a child and was consequently raised in the Israelite Institute for the Blind in Hohen Warte. The children had only two career choices: brush making or piano tuning. My father learnt piano tuning. He was trained at Bösendorfer and was afterwards employed for many years as a piano tuner at Hoffmann and Czerny in the Linzerstrasse.

My parents married on the 27.6.1915 and from that time lived always in the same flat at no 73 Liechtensteinstrasse.

I had an enjoyable childhood. My parents were Social Democrats, and the children joined the "Kinderfreunde" and subsequently became members if the Red Falcons. Gretelwas a member of the SAJ. In 1934, after the coup, these organisations were proscribed, and I joined the Scouts instead.

I attended the elementary school in the Marktgasse and the secondary school in the Glasergasse.

The economic situation in Austria got worse, and my father lost his job at the piano factory. So we children had to help out, Grete was a salesgirl and I obtained a post as a probationer at the head office of a spinning and weaving concern under Jewish management in the Gonzagagasse.

I ended my apprenticeship on 15.10.1938 and received a diploma signed by the appropriate official.

In the meanwhile the search for possibilities of escape had begun.

Grete was still waiting for permission to enter the USA. An American uncle had promised to provide it but it transpired that he never applied. I reported at the Palestine agency and was able to obtain a certificate for



Father: Albert (Abraham) born 25.8.1880, Mother: Fanny born 15.7.1895

Palestine at the last moment. (The age limit was 17). On the 6.2.1939 Heft my parents and my sister in Vienna forever.



Son: Walter (Ephraim) born 18.12.1921

SIMON CHANA WFINRFB WEINREB 6.3.1883 20.3.1884 **DEPORTIERT 1942 ERMORDET** NACH MALY TROSTINEC IN SCHLOSS HARTHEIM FRMORDET **IM AUGUST 1940** AM 15.6.1942 OLGA ROSA GRUBER GRUBER 11.7.1883 4.7.1924 **DEPORTIERT 1941 DEPORTIERT 1941 NACH KIELCE** NACH KIELCE IM HOLOCAUST IM HOLOCAUST ERMORDET **ERMORDET**

Station 12a Fechtergasse 19

My parents Simon and Chana Weinreb

Both of my parents were born in Galicia. My father Simon was born 1883 in Wygnanka. My mother Chana nee Ebner was born in 1884 in Biala.

Chana had one brother: Felix Ebner

1913 they had their first child named Ossias. During period of First World War 1914-1918 they moved to Vienna. Also Chana's mother accompanied them.

At first they lived in the 2nd district and then they moved to the 9th district. Their flat was in Fechtergasse 19. Simon had a shop selling material for furniture, which crafts repairmen needed for upholstery. Simon lived a successful life, which he dedicated to his family.





Chana looked after her family and also after the extended family.

In 1926 another son was born and named Josef. After the Germans invaded Austria her life became very difficult. The frightening conditions affected her nerves more and more.

In 1939 both sons managed to escape to England. They never saw them again. Chana became unwell and was hospitalized. In 1940 she was taken to Schloss Hartheim, where she was mur-

dered in a very cruel manner. In 1941 Simon was forced to move to Große Sperlgasse in the 2nd district which was like a Ghetto. In May 1942 Simon was deported to Minsk. It is not known if he survived the journey and was then murdered or died during the journey. My father was a good husband, father and a very fine man. My mother was a very good kind person and loved by all who knew her. They were murdered for being Jews.

Joe Winroope, son

HIER WOHNTEN KARL (KOPEL) **BRUNO** STEIN **KLEINROCK** 16.5.1890 22.12.1896 **DEPORTIERT 1942** SCHICKSAL **NACH RIGA** UNBEKANNT CORNELIA SUSANNE **KLEINROCK KLEINROCK** 10.3.1902 1.12.1930 **DEPORTIERT 1943 DEPORTIERT 1943 VON MALINES VON MALINES NACH AUSCHWITZ NACH AUSCHWITZ**

Station 13 Nussdorferstraße 77

Stones

Hans Reiter

(loose translation from the German)

When heaven's deaf and will not speak My sounds from stones I'll go and seek Where tears, emerging from the dust Express emotions of the just

The Jews from here, now so long dead Have naught but paving for their bed Woe to a world of rocks and stones bereft When justice leaves, there's really nothing left

Source: Die Wände stehen noch Österreichische jüdische Lyriker Herausgegeben von Herbert Kuhner



Station 13a Dreihackengasse 10

Marie Hilfreich and Olga Treuer

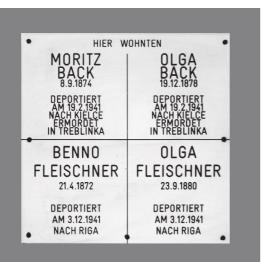
Written by Heinz Klein

Marie Hilfreich was my grandmother. She lived out her entire life upstairs in this house. She had a hard life. After losing her husband very early she had to raise her three daughters alone. The youngest daughter, my aunt Jennie, unfortunately died very young and left behind a daughter called Olly. My grandmother then had to bring up her granddaughter Olly as well, and they all lived together until under Hitler they were all exiled or transported. From the start Olly was my favourite cousin - she was 5 years older than me - a bright young lady who showed herself to be politically active. She was reluctant to abandon her grandmother, and so they remained together until the bitter end, which occurred in Theresienstadt or in Auschwitz

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to set this memorial with the names and dates of Marie Hilfreich and Olga Treuer. This satisfies my mother's last wish, set down in her last testament shortly after the war: she asked that a memorial for her and her grandchildren be set in a plot which my grandmother had owned before the war in Floridsdorf. After all these years this wish has been fulfilled: such a memorial now exists, not quite in the private plot in question, but in the centre of the town, open and for all to see, at the address where my grandmother and my cousin spent their entire lives



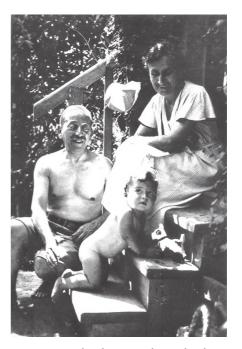
Olga Treuer



Station 13b Löblichgasse 6

Text by Uri Ponger

My grandfather Moritz Back was a respected master signpainter. As life in Vienna became precarious in 1938, he held courses for young Jews and issued diplomas of competence in the hope that these might help them when they arrived in countries of refuge. Together with my grandma Olga (born in Tobitschau, Czech Republic), he tried to escape to Palestine or Switzerland. They were unable to get permission from the government of the British mandate, and the Swiss refused their application on the grounds of "overpopulation by aliens". They were therefore forced to move into a small flat in the 2nd Bezirk and then into the ghetto of Kielce in Poland. My parents received Red Cross postcards from them until 1943. when these fell silent.



Moritz and Olga Back with their grandson Uri



Station 14 Schlagergasse 4

Flat number 4

Georg Heller

Text by Walter Heller

George Heller was the second son of Andor and Ida Heller. He was born on 7 May 1922. There were three siblings: Ernst (27.1.1921) emigrated to the USA at the age of 17. He died in Michigan in July 1994. Walter (22 November 1923) stayed in Vienna.

George attended primary and secondary schools until 1937and then entered an apprenticeship in fine workshop practice until the "Anschluss" of 1938. After the Kristallnacht he emigrated to Hungary on the 22 November 1938. There he continued his workshop training and gained a mastership qualification. In 1943 he was transported to a work camp in Szaszregen, Romania. The war approached the Hun-



Georg Heller

garian border, until by the beginning of 1945 they found themselves behind the front and had to seek refuge with peasants in the forest. On the 23 March 1945, the day before the occupation of the town of Jasd by the Red army, 5 Jewish prisoners from the work-camp, my brother amongst them, were arrested and commanded to be shot. This area suffered remarkably heavy fighting, and correspondingly heavy casualties. The corpses were bulldozed into trenches and covered

I escaped after the Kristallnacht on the 28 November 1938, also to Hungary. There I worked in a factory. After the occupation of Hungary by the German Army on the 19 March 1944 I was also sent to a labour camp at Jolsva, at that time in the Slovakian part of Hungary. From there the prisoners were sent to work in munitions factories first in Miskolc and then in Budapest.

I was escorted by the gendarmerie in Budapest, in November 1944, to the Josefstätter goods depot. The train to Auschwitz stood ready. The diplomat Wallenberg was able to take me off the train and move me to a safe house under the protection of the Swedish government. It was from this house that on the 15 January 1945 I was liberated by the Red Army and survived.

ROSA CHAJE GIMPEL GEB. WERTHER 26.8.1893 DEPORTIERT 1942 NACH THERESIENSTADT IN AUSCHWITZ IM OKTOBER 1944 ERMORDET

Station 15 Tendlergasse 11

Rosa Chaje Gimpel

My dear father who died 20 years ago was very reticent about his early family years which he kept as a secret. So, unfortunately, I know very little about my family. In 1987 I and my wife Ann went to Vienna, where we discovered through a copy of my father's birth certificate from the Kultusgemeinde, who my grandparents were and where they lived. We also visited my grandfather's grave. He died in 1932.

The story my father Josef told me was that Jakob, his father, collected him from school and they went home to their flat where Jakob had a heart attack. Jo was only 11 years old at the time and he was unable to get any help. He said Rosa was working in the hospital. But I'm not sure in what role. I don't think she was a doctor.

Rosa was born 15 or maybe 25 August 1896 in Sambor.
Jakob was born 4 April 1890 or 1892 in Ustrzyki Dolne.
They married in Sambor in 10 February 1920. Jo was born 22 April 1921 in Vienna.

After my father could flee to England, my grandmother was forced to leave her flat and to move to a "Sammelwohnung" in the 18th district. From there she was deported to Theresienstadt in 1942.

In October 1944 she was murdered in Auschwitz.

Anthony Gimpel, grandson



Destinations of Deportees

All information from the archives of the Austrian Resistance at www.doew.at

Izbica, Modliborzyce, Opole and Wlodawa

Locations in the Polish district of Lublin

Kielce, Lagow-Opatow

Locations in the Polish district of Krakau

In all these places – they had a large Jewish population – ghettos were established by the Nazis. To all these ghettos Jewish men, women and children were sent from Austria and the so-called "Altreich". In the course of the "Aktion Reinhart" these ghettos were liquidated in 1942, and all inhabitants of the Lublin district were sent to the extermination camps of Sobibor, Belzec and Majdanek. The Jews from the Krakau district were murdered at Treblinka.

Kovno-Kaunas

Location in Lithuania. All deportees with this destination were shot on arrival.

Lodz/Litzmannstadt

The ghetto of Lodz was one of the biggest in Poland. In the autumn of 1941, 5000 Austrian Jews were deported to Lodz. Many of these perished under the unbearably harsh conditions there. In 1942 the survivors were gassed.

Majdanek

Concentration and extermination camp in Poland

Maly Trostinec

Domain in the vicinity of Minsk. It was the location where the majority of Austrian Jews were murdered. The deportees were shot in trenches immediately after their arrival. After 1942 gas vans were installed.

Minsk

Capital of White Russia, in which a ghetto was installed. From 1941 there were killing sessions.

Nisko

Those men who were deported here in 1939 were chased by gunfire over the German-Soviet border. There they were transported for forced labour.

Riga

Capital of Latvia, where a ghetto was installed. Most of the Jewish deportees who arrived here were killed, or perished from the frightful conditions.

Theresienstadt

Ghetto, from which the majority of the inhabitants were deported to extermination camps.

Auschwitz, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka

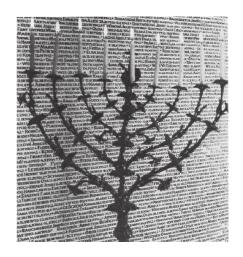
Extermination camps in Poland

Drancy

Camp in the neighbourhood of Paris, from which refugees were deported in 40 transports to Auschwitz.

Westerbork

Jewish transit camp in the Netherlands. From here Jews were sent to Auschwitz, Sobibor or Theresienstadt.



Dachau, Buchenwald, Ravensbrück, Stutthof

Concentration camps in Germany

Mauthausen

Concentration camp in Austria

Sabac

Location in Serbia. In the course of "expiation" 2100 people were shot here.

Supporters

The Stones of Remembrance Association would like to thank all its supporters – not only for their monetary contribution, but also for spreading the idea and helping with words and deeds.

from Israel Franzi Heidenreich

Ariel Avriel-Sheffer Walter Heller
Ephraim Walter Blotner Daisy Klein
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Chawa Levanon Rosa Lyon
Ephraim Levanon Ulrike Mader
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TEERAG ASDAG Setting of the "stones"

Wiener Städtische Versicherung Insurance

Wiener Volksbildungswerk Support of the opening ceremony

Information

Stones of Remembrance Society www.

steinedererinnerung.net

Contact:

Dr. Elisabeth Ben David-Hindler

Address:

Kafkastr. 10/36, 1020 Vienna, Austria

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