

Rolf Kießling

Stumbling Stones in Forchheim



The events in distant Berlin or other large cities also took place in small towns – and Forchheim was no exception. After Hitler’s “seizure of power” in 1933, here as well Jewish citizens were systematically disenfranchised, harassed, persecuted and murdered. With specially perfected killing mechanisms, carried out with “German thoroughness” and brutality that no longer seemed human.

The Jewish Path and the Stumbling Stones that have been laid in Forchheim since 2018 illustrate this: Jews lived in the heart of the town for generations, alongside and together with their Christian neighbours. They ran businesses that ensured the supply of the population with everyday goods or created jobs in their factories.

After 1933 many people from Forchheim managed to emigrate to the USA, Cuba or Australia. Those who stayed behind were mostly old people, women and the sick. In the end there were 14 Jewish residents still living here. From 1941 to 1944 they were deported and murdered in the concentration camps. This brought Jewish life in Forchheim to its end.

In 1992, the artist Gunter Demnig started his Europe-wide campaign and commemorated the persecuted Jews in 24 countries by laying the “Stumbling Stones”. The Stumbling Stones are laid at the last freely chosen places of residence. Not in the literal sense, but mentally, one should “stumble” over the stones with brass plates. At this moment those on whom immeasurable suffering was inflicted resurface in our consciousness.

In Forchheim Demnig’s idea was taken up by broad-based civic engagement, schools were involved and the lives of the people killed were researched. Today, 14 Stumbling Stones in Forchheim commemorate the persecuted Jewish residents.

This brochure summarises the idea and is intended to help keep the culture of remembrance alive. It prepares the biographies of the people for whom the Stumbling Stones are set. What has started is being completed and is also connected to the design of the Jewish path which now leads through the entire town to former Jewish residences. It tells the Jewish history of Forchheim in short stories and illuminates the fates of individuals.

Our special thanks go to Rolf Kießling, whose book “History of the Jews in Forchheim” published in 2004 was a valuable contribution and who wrote this brochure, as well as to Mr. Emmerich Huber, who played a key role in initiating and organizing the laying of the Stumbling Stones in Forchheim.

Our thanks also go to everyone involved in laying the Stumbling Stones: the pupils of the Ritter-von-Traitteur-School (Ms. Seyhan Reyhan), the Herder-Gymnasium (Ms. Sonja Döbrich), the Georg-Hartmann-Realschule (Ms. Judith Hill),

Dr. Uwe Kirschstein
Principal Mayor

the Ehrenbürg-Gymnasium (Ms. Kerstin Mayer), the “Network for Respect and Tolerance” comprising the alliances “Bunt statt Braun” and “BügEx”, the Protestant (Reverend Christian Muschler) and Catholic parishes (Mr. Ahr and Dean Martin Emge). May the Stumbling Stones remind and commemorate, but also constantly urge mutual respect and togetherness, tolerance and humanity, which are the basic requirements for peaceful coexistence in a society.

Dr. Annette Prechtel
Mayor

Stumbling Stones name the victims of the Nazi regime and point out the injustice which was suffered, not only, but mainly by Jewish citizens.

As in many other towns the artist Gunter Demnig has also set Stumbling Stones in Forchheim.

It is commendable that the two local alliances against extremism organized the Stumbling Stones campaign. It was also pleasing that students from various schools were involved and made their contribution to this commemorative action together with teaching staff. The installation of the stones was carried out in an appropriately dignified manner which was widely reported in the local press.

But is that enough? The names on the Stumbling Stones represent people who lived in the town of Forchheim and experienced joys and sorrows here each in their own way and with a personal attachment to their home.

When trying to assess the injustice perpetrated on Forchheim's Jewish

citizens it seems appropriate to try to trace the individual lifelines of the victims. Even if personal testimonials such as letters and other records are missing, and in some cases not even a photo is to be found, it appears all the more important to reconstruct the individual life stories.

The names of the deportees and important biographical data were included in my book published in 2004 (presently out of print) "Jews in Forchheim". Additional research was not always straight forward and occasionally unexpected obstacles were encountered.

The present brochure is based on my current knowledge. I have collected and collated the data and facts to the best of my ability. For my portrayal I have deliberately aimed at a sober unemotional choice of words. I leave it to the individual reader to envision the outrageous discrimination and disenfranchisement, deportation and murder suffered by German citizens of Jewish origin.

Rolf Kießling

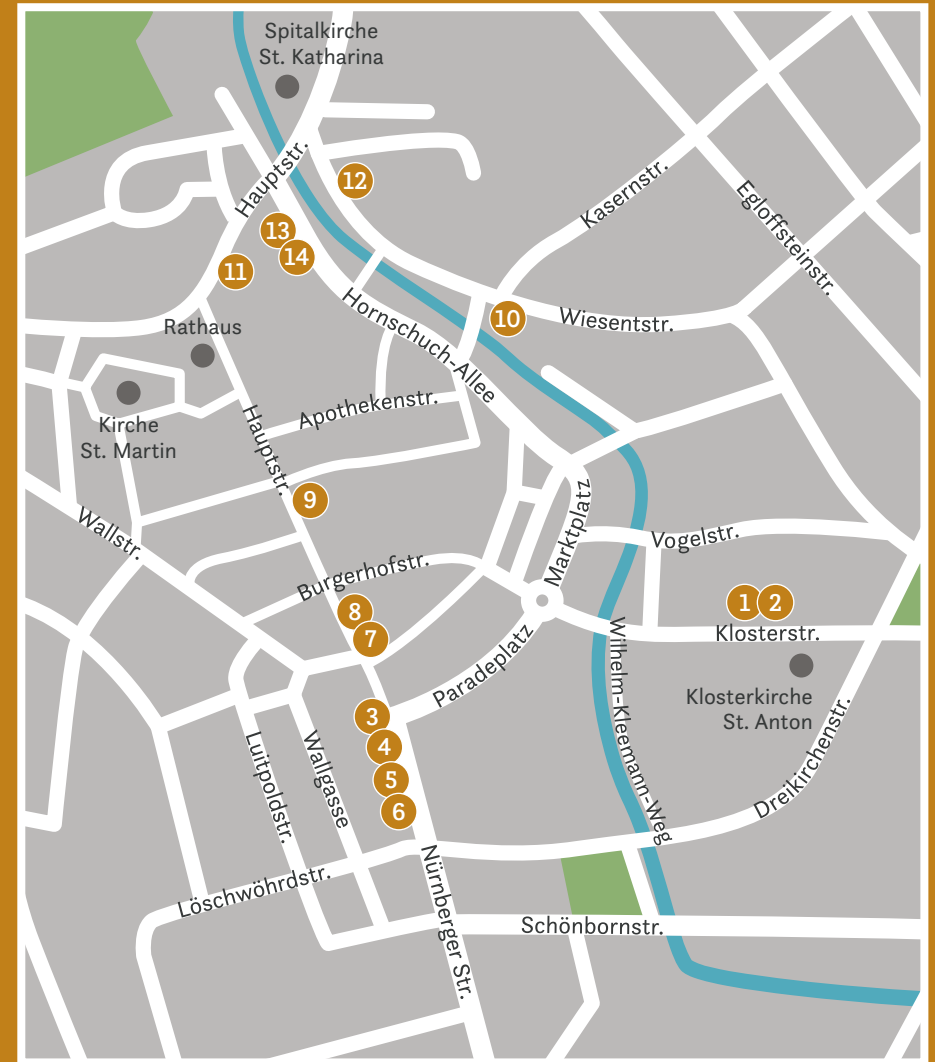


The deportation of Forchheim's Jews begins on 27 November 1941 at the Paradeplatz. A lorry is ready. The luggage has already been loaded. The people in charge are waiting for the six women and two men who are to be deported that day. A woman who was employed at the Luthardt photo shop, owned by Erich Brüggemann, Paradeplatz 3, starts taking photos of the "event". The 13 photos in total were later exhibited in a showcase and offered for sale.

Stumbling Stones

Fourteen Stumbling Stones have been laid in Forchheim.
They are in remembrance of:

1	Gottlieb Braun	Klosterstraße 13	p. 8
2	Rosa Braun, née Asch	Klosterstraße 13	p. 8
3	Ilse Israel, née Braun	Paradeplatz 4	p. 11
4	Emma Rosalie Braun	Paradeplatz 4	p. 12
5	Julius Moritz Prager	Nürnbergger Straße 2	p. 14
6	Sera Rosenbaum, née Prager	Nürnbergger Straße 2	p. 15
7	Jenny Abraham, née Gröschel	Hauptstraße 65	p. 16
8	Leo Abraham	Hauptstraße 65	p. 16
9	Ida Schönberger	Hauptstraße 45	p. 18
10	Flora Heller	Wiesentstraße 16	p. 19
11	Grete Zeidler	Hauptstraße 11	p. 20
12	Berta Sundheimer	Wiesentstraße 1	p. 21
13	Rosa Tiesler, née Becker	Hornsouchallee 4	p. 22
14	Sophie Kotz, née Sternberg	Hornsouchallee 4	p. 24



Detail of the town center of Forchheim

Klosterstraße 13

The Jewish Braun family came from Kunreuth, a former manorial village east of Forchheim.

Julius Braun, born in 1840, belonged to the Jewish community of Kunreuth and was married to Karolina Hirschaider. The marriage produced ten children. The move to the town of Forchheim took place in 1879. In that year, Julius Braun bought the house at Paradeplatz 4 and opened a “department store”, a shop for feather beds and down. After his death in 1911, his widow Karolina and daughter Emma Rosalie continued the business.

One of his sons, Gottlieb Braun, remained in Forchheim and worked as a real estate agent.

Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Braun initially lived at Eisenbahnstraße 1. Their daughter Ilse Cilly was born there on 28 September 1911. On December 22, 1921, during the period of hyperinflation, Gottlieb Braun was able to acquire the house at Klosterstraße 13, which up till then had been Luthardt’s photo shop.

During Pogrom Night, the National Socialist mob broke into the Braun’s home; Gottlieb Braun was mistreated,

arrested, imprisoned and taken to the Dachau concentration camp on November 11, 1938. He was only released from so-called protective custody on 5 December 1938.

In 1939, Gottlieb Braun was forced to sell his house at Klosterstraße 13. Konrad Merz, the NSDAP local group leader, acquired the property. Several plots of land owned by the real estate agent Braun were bought by other members of the NSDAP. Gottlieb Braun and his wife Rosa were accommodated in the house at Paradeplatz 4, which belonged to his mother Karolina and which had been declared a “Jews’ house” by the National Socialists.

On November 27, 1941, a total of eight Jewish residents of Forchheim, including Gottlieb Braun, his wife Rosa Braun and his daughter Ilse Israel were deported from Paradeplatz. The journey on an open truck initially ended in Bamberg, Zinkenwörth 17. Two days later they were moved on to Nuremberg. On November 29, 1941, around 1,000 Franco-German Jews were deported from Langwasser station to the Riga-Jungfernhof camp in Latvia, their last known place of residence from December 3, 1941.

Photo on the right: Gottlieb Braun with a bundle of rolled-up blankets being transported to Bamberg



Paradeplatz 4



The woman in the light coat with the Star of David is probably Ilse Israel. She was 30 years old when she was deported.

Ilse Cilly Braun was born on 28 September 1911 in Forchheim as the only child of Gottlieb and Rosa Braun.

From April 1925 Ilse Braun attended the Maria Stern monastery school in Nördlingen. It was a secondary school that Protestant and Jewish girls could also attend. In 1928 Ilse Braun returned from Nördlingen and lived with her parents again.

In March 1936 she moved to Rohrbach near Heidelberg.

She met the merchant Sally Israel, whom she married on March 11, 1936. On April 1, 1936, the Israel couple moved from Wiesloch to Heidelberg. Ilse Israel's husband Sally emigrated to the United States on October 26, 1938. Ilse Israel remained in Germany.

In 1939, the Second World War broke out. The situation of the Jewish population was getting worse day by day. Ilse Braun's parents had to move into the house at Paradeplatz 4, where Karolina Braun who was both very elderly and suffering from dementia lived.

Ilse Israel returned to her home town of Forchheim on September 10, 1941, presumably at the request of her parents. She now lived with her relatives under the same roof. Other Jews who had lived in rented accommodation had also been accommodated in the house at Paradeplatz 4. A few weeks later, on November 27, 1941, Ilse Israel and her parents were deported from Forchheim to Nuremberg and from there to Riga-Jungfernhof. It is not known what the members of the Braun family had to suffer there nor how they died. Probably, like other inmates of the Jungfernhof camp, they were shot in the forest of Bikernieki, east of Riga.

On May 8, 1945, Ilse Israel was declared dead by the district court of Forchheim, presumably at the instigation of her husband Sally. He had returned to Heidelberg after the Second World War. He died on 2 October 1950 and is buried in the New Jewish Cemetery in Heidelberg.

Paradeplatz 4

Emma Rosalie Braun was born on June 23, 1877 in Kunreuth.

She was the second eldest daughter of Julius and Karolina Braun. In the circle of family and friends she was called "Salie". After the death of her father, she and her mother continued her father's business, which mainly sold bed feathers and down, but also complete bedspreads.

Salie Braun remained single. When her mother suffered from dementia in old age, she supported and took care of her. This was the sole reason why Salie was spared from the first deportation on 27 November 1941. But after Karolina Braun died on February 18, 1942, the order for the deportation of her daughter Salie was quickly issued.

On March 24, 1942, Salie Braun, along with her former neighbours Julius Moritz Prager and his sister Sera Rosenbaum was transported to Nuremberg. From there, 990 Jews were deported from Franconia. The destination was the small town of Izbica in eastern Poland, south of Lublin.

What awaited the deportees there was indescribable. The town, with its squalid wooden houses, was hopelessly overcrowded. At times, more than 19,000 people lived in a village which originally had 4,500 inhabitants. Izbica served as a transit ghetto. From there, rail transports went to the Belzec and Sobibór extermination camps. Salie Braun is considered "missing". It is not possible to provide information about the circumstances and date of her death.

*Photo on the right:
Julius Braun's department stores'
at Paradeplatz 4*



Nürnberger Straße 2

Julius Moritz Prager was born on January 15, 1895 in Forchheim. On March 1, 1915, the 20-year-old Julius Prager had to enlist as a recruit in the 19th Infantry Regiment and was soon deployed to the Western Front. On August 23, 1917 he received the Iron Cross, Second Class.

In the spring of 1918, the German High Command in an attempt to win the war started a major offensive on the Western Front. The strategic goal was the capture of Amiens. However, the attempt to take the city failed.

During this major offensive on May 25, 1918 Julius Prager was badly wounded near the village of Hamelincourt in northern France. He suffered several serious injuries from shrapnel: fractures of the upper and lower legs on both sides, fracture of the upper left arm and a shot in the right back.

After the war, due to his severe war injuries he received 85 % of the full pension of a common soldier. Returning to his home town of Forchheim, the war invalid Julius Prager, together with his sister Ida, founded a shoe shop at Paradeplatz 13.

After they seized power, on March 31, 1933, the National Socialists called for a boycott of Jewish businesses as they did throughout the German Reich.

Julius and Ida Prager's shoe shop was included in the list of Jewish shops to be boycotted.

In 1935 there was a change of residence. The siblings moved to Klosterstraße 16.

Julius Prager, although a war invalid, was not spared during the Night of Broken Glass from November 9th to 10th, 1938. Like the other Jewish men in the town, he was arrested. He was even forced to walk the long distance from his apartment at Klosterstraße 16 to the police station.

On November 25, 1938, just two weeks after the Pogrom Night, Ida Prager died at the age of 58. Julius Prager was put under duress to close his shoe shop. He had intended to hand it over to his assistant (saleswoman) Erna Wetzel, who would continue the business. But the National Socialists would not allow it – with the flimsy justification that there were already enough shoe shops in Forchheim.

On March 23, Julius Prager together with his sister Sera Rosenbaum and the house owner Salie Braun were “shoved off” to Nuremberg, i.e. taken away by the police. On March 24, 1942, a second transport with Franconian Jews left Nuremberg for Izbica in eastern Poland.

Nürnberger Straße 2

Sera Rosenbaum was one of Julius Moritz Prager's three sisters. Born on November 29, 1888, she left Forchheim in 1909 and moved to Frankfurt am Main. A year later she was living in Nuremberg. She probably worked as a domestic servant in both cities. From February 1, 1911, Sera Rosenbaum was once again registered in Forchheim. On August 20, 1911 in Gaustadt near Bamberg she married the significantly older merchant Benno Rosenbaum.

The Rosenbaums lived in Nuremberg. The marriage remained childless. Benno Rosenbaum was probably still working at the age of 68. An accident with serious consequences happened on one of his business trips. On Thursday, November 2, 1933, the following report appeared in the “Rehauer Tagblatt”:

“Yesterday, Wednesday afternoon, at Rehau railway station, a traveller, Benno Rosenbaum from Nuremberg, due to his own negligence was hit on the platform by the incoming passenger train and suffered head injuries. The railway doctor

Dr. Nagel was there immediately and the casualty was taken to the hospital in an ambulance.”

Benno Rosenbaum died in Rehau on November 2, 1933, was transferred to Nuremberg and buried on November 5, 1933 in the Jewish cemetery at Schnieglinger Straße 155.

After the death of her husband, Sera Rosenbaum returned to her hometown of Forchheim in 1934. In Forchheim she lived with her siblings Ida and Julius Prager at Nürnberger Straße 2. In 1935 they moved to Klosterstraße 16.

On June 16, 1940 they were forcibly moved to the house at Paradeplatz 4.

On March 23, Sera Rosenbaum, née Prager, was “shoved off” to Nuremberg together with her brother Julius and the homeowner Salie Braun. The next day, a second transport with Franconian Jews left Nuremberg for Izbica in eastern Poland. The ghetto there was merely a way station to one of the large extermination camps in eastern Poland.

Hauptstraße 65

Little is known about Leo Abraham. He was born on January 8, 1875 in Hohenhausen (Lippe district) in East Westphalia. He had completed a commercial apprenticeship.

In 1920 Leo Abraham married Jenny Gröschel, a merchant's daughter from Forchheim. He married into a Franconian-Jewish family that had a good reputation in Forchheim and became a partner of his brother-in-law Bernhard Gröschel. The marriage remained childless.

The Gröschel family came from Wiesen-thau. Philipp Gröschel (* 1847), Jenny's father, moved to Forchheim with his family and opened a shop here selling household linen at Hauptstraße 64. The children Jenny (* 1877), Bernhard (* 1878) and Adelheid Pauline (* 1881) were born in Forchheim. Bernhard Gröschel continued his father's business. After Jenny had married the merchant Leo Abraham, another ready-to-wear shop for women's fashion was opened in the opposite building at Hauptstraße 65.

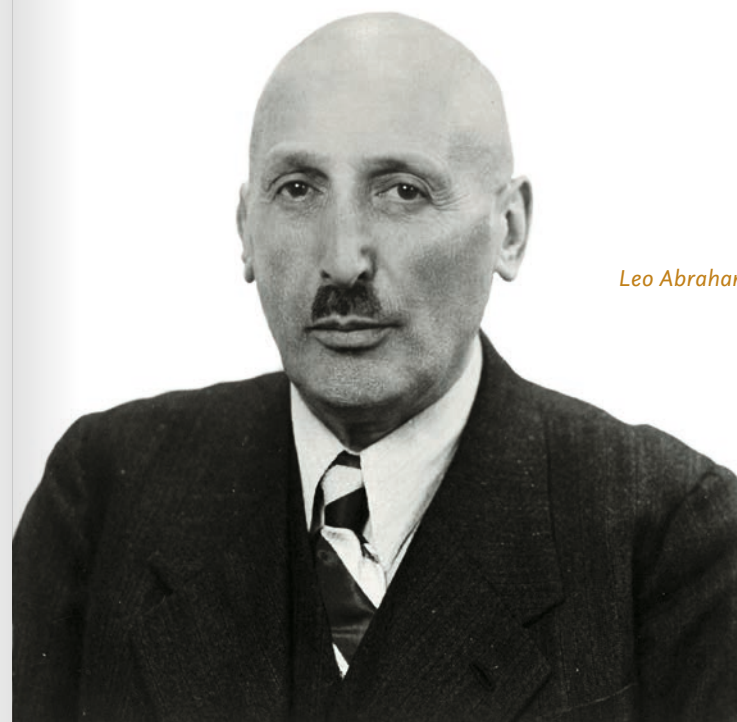
Under pressure from the National Socialists, not only were the shops boycotted from 1934 onwards, but the owners were also taken into so-called protective custody in the Dachau concentration camp. After Jenny's brother Bernhard had been released from the camp, he managed to bring his daughter Irma to safety via Switzerland and emigrate to the USA with his wife. The Abrahams did not manage to leave the country, apparently they could no longer obtain a visa. They had to stay

in Forchheim and move to the house at Paradeplatz 4, where most of the remaining Jews in Forchheim were "concentrated". The couple were deported on November 27, 1941 and are considered "missing". The passport photos of the pair have been preserved. These were necessary to apply for a visa. The Abrahams were among the first eight people who were abducted from Forchheim and never came back. Jenny Abraham, née Gröschel, was declared dead on July 3, 1953 by the Forchheim District Court.

Jenny Abraham, née Gröschel



Leo Abraham



Hauptstraße 45

Ida Schönberger was born on March 11, 1885 in Ermreuth. Ida probably came to Forchheim as a child with her parents Salomon and Jeanette Schönberger. The family rented a house at Hauptstraße 45.

Ida's father Salomon died in Forchheim on August 18, 1917 and was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Baiersdorf. Ida's mother Jeanette Katz (* 1854) came from Adelsdorf. On March 6, 1925, she "passed away gently after a short illness at the age of 71," as the obituary

stated. Ida Schönberger was apparently the only daughter. Her brother Leopold had emigrated to America.

Ida Schönberger remained unmarried. The single woman lived a secluded life in the middle of the small town. As early as November 27, 1941 she was deported together with seven other Jewish men and women from Forchheim via Bamberg and Nuremberg to Riga in Latvia. It is no longer possible to determine when and how Ida Schönberger died.



Hauptstr. 45
in 2023

Wiesentstraße 16

Flora Heller was a daughter of Lehmann (Lämlein) Heller and his wife Sophie, née Prager. Her parents were both from Mittlerweilersbach. In 1874, Lehmann Heller, who was still unmarried at the time, took the decision to move to Forchheim. He married Sophia Prager (1853–1912). The marriage produced four children:

Max	* 21.06.1878 ** 26.11.1929
Sigmund	* 15.04.1880 ** 09.08.1916
Flora	* 13.03.1886 deported on 27.11.1941
Marie	* 10.11.1890 1942 deported from Fürth

On November 16, 1880, the Heller's bought the house at Wiesentstraße 16 from Adolph Lederer, who had bought it at a foreclosure sale a few months earlier. Lehmann Heller died in 1890. His son Sigmund Heller was drafted in World War I and served on the Western Front in northern France. On August 9, 1916 he was shot in the head near the village of Aubers.

Flora Heller lived with her brother Max in the house Wiesentstraße 16. Both remained unmarried. The cattle dealer Max Heller died in Forchheim on November 26, 1929 and was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Baiersdorf. Flora Heller was deported to Riga-Jungfernhof on November 27, 1941. She is considered missing.



The Stumbling Stone in
remembrance of Flora Heller

Hauptstraße 11

The unmarried Grete Zeidler came to Forchheim from Kulmbach on November 1, 1938 with her mother Martha Zeidler. The two women lived at Hauptstraße 11 (which had been renamed Adolf-Hitler-Straße), in the building that housed the Rosenthal department store.

The Zeidlers originally came from Prussia. Parents Benno and Martha Zeidler lived in Strausberg near Berlin. There, on November 30, 1889, their daughter Grete (Margarete) was born. The siblings Georg (* 1891) and Wally (* 1897) followed.

Father Benno Zeidler moved to Kulmbach with his family on November 11, 1898. He was the owner of a clothing store. The merchant died in Kulmbach on February 24, 1933. His wife Martha continued to run the business, but was forced to close down in September 1938. When the pressure of persecution increased, Martha Zeidler and her daughter Grete moved to Forchheim to live with her sister Klara Lefèvre, née Rosenthal. The women probably hoped for help from their Forchheim relatives.

But barely a week after their move, they had to witness the riots of the Reich's Pogrom Night. In the court transcript there is a reference to two elderly women who were arrested. While the related Wertheim family managed to get a visa to Cuba together with Klara Lefèvre, mother and daughter Zeidler had to stay in Forchheim.

During the war, Grete and Martha Zeidler were forced to change their apartment several times within a few months. They found accommodation in various "Jewish houses": Vogelstraße 1 (with the Bayreuther family), Paradeplatz 4 (with Emma Rosalie Braun), Wiesentstraße 16 (with Flora Heller).

Martha Zeidler died on October 18, 1941. Grete Zeidler was deported just a few weeks after her mother's death. On November 27, 1941, she was arrested along with seven other Jewish residents of Forchheim, first deported to Bamberg, then on November 29 from Nuremberg to Riga-Jungfernhof. She is recorded as missing.

Wiesentstraße 1

Berta Sundheimer was the daughter of Isidor and Katharina Sundheimer, née Frühauf. The couple originally lived in Mittlerweilersbach, the wife's village of origin. There a daughter Berta was born to the couple on November 10, 1872. In 1876 the family moved to Forchheim. Isidor Sundheimer worked as a commission agent, i.e. he took goods on commission and resold them. His wife Katharina died on May 15, 1903, Isidor Sundheimer on April 30, 1924.

Berta Sundheimer lived in the house at Wiesentstraße 1, which her father had bought. She had two children but was not married. In 1904 her daughter Käthi was born. Her son Ludwig, born in Forchheim in 1908 and named after her

brother Ludwig, who was born in 1880, died in the year of his birth.

At the time of the persecution of the Jews, the single woman was bedridden and dependent upon medical care which she received from the Forchheim doctor, Dr. Greisinger. Nevertheless, on August 6, 1942, she was fetched from the room she last occupied and taken to Bamberg, Zinkenwörth 17. A month later she was deported from Nuremberg to the Theresienstadt ghetto on September 10, 1942. She died there on December 6, 1943.

Berta's brother Ludwig Sundheimer, born in 1880, was also a victim of the Holocaust. He lived in Munich and was murdered in Auschwitz in 1943.

Wiesentstr. 1
in 2023



Hornschuchallee 4

Rosa Tiesler née Becker lived for forty years in Forchheim. Then, like countless other people, she fell victim to the racial fanaticism of the National Socialists.

She originally came from West Prussia, from the small town of Zempelburg. She was born there on May 15, 1877 as the daughter of the horse trader Salomon Becker, her mother's name was Fritze, née Friedländer. At that time the town had around 3,500 inhabitants, of whom around 2,000 were Protestant and around 800 were Catholic Christians. The Becker family belonged to the Jewish minority, which numbered 650 people.

Rosa Becker was engaged to the Protestant merchant Karl Heinrich Paul Tiesler, who came from Bunzlau in Silesia. It is unclear when and where the two met and why they chose to live in Forchheim.

Paul Tiesler's future wife decided to convert. On Sunday, August 23, 1903, she was baptized at the age of 26 in St. Johannes Church in the presence of her godmothers, Jadwiga Countess von Bentzel-Sternau, who lived in the Jägersburg, and the pastor's wife, Margareta Küffner. Three members of the church council and three deaconesses were also baptismal witnesses.

The marriage took place on August 25, 1903. The couple Paul and Rosa Tiesler ran a grocery store in the house at Paradeplatz 13. The marriage remained childless. Paul Tiesler died on January 16, 1924.

The widow moved several times after her husband's death. At first she continued the business at Hauptstraße 55, then she lived at Hauptstraße 62 and Wiesentstraße 21.

The National Socialists had been in power in the German Reich since 1933. They were also in control in Forchheim. Rosa Tiesler, "the baptized Jewess", was "an offense to the rabid members of the party". The once respected businesswoman was now treated like an outcast by many.

On January 1, 1941, Rosa Tiesler was given refuge in Sophie Kotz's home at what is now Hornschuchallee 4. She was also widowed and of Jewish origin. The two women were relatively vulnerable and were repeatedly subjected to harassment by the Nazi regime. For example, an overzealous police officer encountered Rosa Tiesler in Kanalstraße in October 1941 without the prescribed Jewish star. She was then summoned to the local police station and questioned about her "offense."

Being so harassed and cornered, the defenseless woman even considered taking her own life. Her fears grew day by day, until finally the police told her that she was to be "evacuated" on April 24, 1942. The parish records of St. Johannes tell us:

Rosa Tiesler "received Holy Communion from the local priest ... on the evening before she left. Crying bitterly, she said goodbye, in the clear knowledge that she would not survive."

Rosa Tiesler was first "shoved off" to Bamberg, i.e. removed like a criminal. From there she was deported to Poland with a group of Lower Franconian Jews: the destination was Krasnystaw in the Lublin district, between 1940 and 1942 a ghetto for 4000 Jews. The inmates were later deported to the Izbica transit ghetto and finally murdered in one of the nearby mass extermination camps.

In 1998, the parish of St. Johannes had a commemorative plaque erected for Rosa Tiesler in the porch of the church – in remembrance: that she should not be forgotten!

Hornschuchallee 4
in 2023

Hornschuchallee 4

Sofie Kotz came from Kirchheim (district of Würzburg). There Sara Sternberg – her original name – was born on August 26, 1860 as the daughter of the grain merchant Löb Sternberg and his wife Rika, née Scheuer. Her parents last lived in Heidingsfeld near Würzburg.

On February 27, 1883, the Jewess Sofie Sternberg married the Protestant musician Simon Brückner, who came from Lauf an der Pegnitz. Their son Georg Brückner was born on November 12, 1883 and baptized as a Protestant. The family lived on Bärenschanzstraße, later on Mittlere Kanalstraße. Simon Brückner died on October 10, 1887 at the age of 33.

In 1888 the widow Sofie Brückner moved with her son to Forchheim and ran the household of the master craftsman Johann Kotz who was also a widower. Kotz had two sons from his first marriage and needed help. In January 1889, Sofie Sternberg expressed the desire to

be baptized as a Catholic. She intended to marry the widower Kotz. The civil marriage took place on July 26, 1890. The marriage resulted in two children: Karl (* 1894) and Maria Theresia (* 1896).

In 1899, a shop selling spices and haberdashery was registered at Alleestraße 4, now Hornschuchallee 4. In 1920, Johann Kotz bought the house from Kunigunda Münster, Lazarus Münster's widow.

Johann Kotz died on January 18, 1926 at the age of 77. His widow Sofie supplemented her livelihood by ironing laundry for other Forchheim residents. Despite her advanced age, Sofie Kotz was deported from Nuremberg to the Theresienstadt ghetto on January 17, 1944. Apparently her relatives could not prevent the evacuation. After a few months, the 84-year-old widow Sofie Kotz died in Theresienstadt on October 13, 1944.



The photo shows the deportation of Franconian Jews on November 29, 1941 from Langwasser railway station in Nuremberg. Among them were eight Jews from Forchheim. Gottlieb Braun (with the rolled-up blankets) and his daughter Ilse Israel (with light-coloured coat and hat) can be seen behind him on the right.

“Jews’ Houses”

The term, coined by the National Socialists, referred to Jewish-owned houses in which only Jews were to live. The move to a “Jewish house” was ordered by the authorities.

Bamberg, Zinkenwoerth 17

The house in Bamberg’s old town, a former inn, belonged to the Jewish community. Jews from abroad were temporarily housed there before they were finally deported.

Nuremberg-Langwasser

The train station in the south of the city was the starting point for two deportations of Franconian Jews.

Riga-Jungfernhof

The camp, a former manorial estate, was outside the Latvian capital. The first deportation from Franconia ended there on December 3, 1941.

Izbica

The small town in eastern Poland with a predominantly Jewish population was the destination of the second deportation from Franconia in March 1942.

Theresienstadt (Terezin)

The fortified town south of Leitmeritz, named after Empress Maria Theresia, was converted into a ghetto. Jews from Bohemia and Moravia as well as from Austria were deported there. Many ghetto residents were murdered in Auschwitz. Old Jewish people from the “Reich” were also sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto, where they had to live under degrading conditions.

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