

December 2016

Dear Friends,

at the end of the year we want to inform you about our latest activities and publications. The incidents in Berlin do not allow us to proceed to the agenda without letting you know, how we feel about this attack. At the moment-there isn't enough evidence to be sure about the background of the crime. The day after the attack there was an impressive commemorative service in the Gedächtniskirche in Berlin, right there where the attack took place, with representatives of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic communities. It was an impressive and encouraging service, because all speakers declared themselves firmly resolved to fight together for peace and against intolerance and violence. This is a challenging task, but we will continue and develop our work for dialogue and a better understanding.

VISITING PROGRAM IN 2016



This year's visiting program took place at the end of May. As a start our project invites the guests and representatives of schools for a get-together. In 2016 Dr. Sylvia Asmus of the German *Exil Archive 1933-1945 of the German National Library*, Angelika Rieber of the *Projekt Jüdisches Leben in Frankfurt* and Ministerialrat Stillemunke of the *Hessian Board of Education* (Ministry of Education in Hesse) gave opening speeches. At the request of several visitors we put Mr. Stillemunke's speech on our website. Later in the evening the students and teachers of the participating schools and the visitors were engaged in lively conversations. 18 encounters took place in 13 schools with a positive feedback from both visitors and the

participants of the schools.

Several articles were published in the local newspapers and some of the schools reported about the visit on their websites. Links to these articles are provided on our website.

Photos and report: <http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/english/news.html>.

New biographies

New biographies about visitors' families 2016 have been added on the website:

the Flesch-Family, Trudel Grossmann, Reni Hanau, Nathan Mannheimer and Elisabeth Rothstein, The Morgensterns, George and Ilse Sakheim, Charles Scheidt, the Schwarzschilds, the Stelzers and the Novins

ABOUT US – HISTORY OF THE PROJECT IN ENGLISH

Our project consists of volunteers who research the history of the invited families and organize school talks during the visiting program. Over the years a successful cooperation has been built on mutual respect between the City of Frankfurt and the project.

For our English speaking visitors we have put an English version about the history of the *Projekt Jüdisches Leben in Frankfurt* on our website:

<http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/english/about-us.html>

AWARDS

Walter Sommers awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany



In recognition of his exceptional services in promoting peace and tolerance by talking about his personal experience and by teaching German history, the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck, awarded Walter Sommers, a former Frankfurt citizen, the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. Walter Sommers emigrated 1939 to the USA. The ceremony took place in the CANDLES Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana on August 6th, 2016 where the award was given to Walter Sommers by Consul General Herbert Quell. We wholeheartedly congratulate Walter Sommer and his family and are especially happy because Walter Sommers is a former visitor (Frankfurt 1992).

The Order of Merit is the highest tribute that Germany bestows on individuals— Germans and foreigners—for social, political, economic, charitable or philanthropic services to its nation. For further information: <http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/english/news.html>

Angelika Rieber was awarded the Frankfurt Badge of Honor

On November 16th, 2016 Angelika Rieber received the Frankfurt badge of honor. Stephan Siegler, head chairman of the city council and Christoph Stillemlunkes, ministerial advisor of the education board for the state of Hesse held the laudatory speeches. In his laudatio, Stephan Siegler highlighted Angelika Rieber's long-time contribution to the research of the history of Jewish life in Frankfurt, her commitment in the field of intercultural education and the founding of the *Projekt Jüdisches Leben in Frankfurt* in the 70s. We cordially congratulate Angelika Rieber and wish her good luck for the future.



More information under: <http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/news.html>

Obermayer Award

On January 23rd, 2016 the *Projekt Jüdisches Leben in Frankfurt* will receive the prestigious Obermayer Award at the Abgeordnetenhaus of Berlin, the home of the Berlin Parliament. Annually individual volunteers - and for the first time this year - our volunteer **group** will be awarded for the research of Jewish life in Frankfurt and for forging meaningful relationships with former residents and descendants of those who once lived in Frankfurt.

KINDERTRANSPORT



Several participants of the past visiting programs were rescued by Kindertransports. We therefore initiated a project for a Kindertransport memorial in Frankfurt. Several events in March 2017 have been planned with former citizens of Frankfurt who were saved by the Kindertransports. There is a background text on the website, which we are going to translate into English in the near future. You can also find several biographies of participants of Kindertransports on our website: *Renata Harris, Thomas Leo, Elisabeth Reinhuber, Ilse Sakheim, Felix Weil and Dorothy Baer* (http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/files/am_schuetzenbrunnen_13_ostend_188_bis_202_kl.pdf)

Background text: <http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/home/kindertransporte.html>

HAYMATLOZ – EXILE IN TURKEY

In November we organized 5 school talks with Ingrid Oppermann who was born and raised in Istanbul. In 1934 her father found refuge in Turkey after he had been expelled in 1933 from the university in Breslau on account of a Jewish grandfather. In 1958 he returned to Germany and became a professor of astronomy at Frankfurt university.

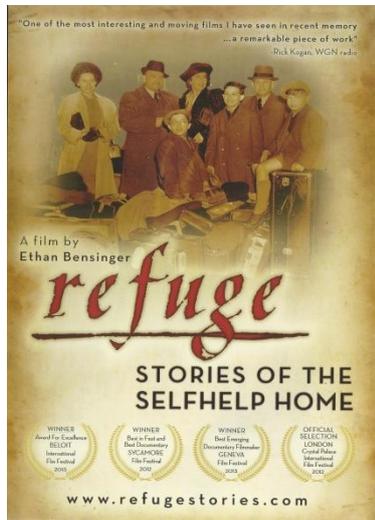
The resonance in the press was large and coincidentally a documentary film called “Haymatloz“ (Displaced person) had its première in Frankfurt. The movie features the fate of five German Jewish professors, who emigrated to Turkey during the Nazi-time.

Biography of Ingrid Oppermann's father Wolfgang Gleissberg: <http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/english/home/biographies-and-encounters/biographies-g-l/wolfgang-gleissberg.html>

Biographie of Licco Amar: <http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/home/biographien-und-begegnungen/biographien-a-f/licco-amar.html>

Movie HAYMATLOZ: www.haymatloz.com

REFUGE – STORIES OF THE SELFHELP HOME



In November we showed the film *REFUGE - stories of the Selfhelp* at Wöhlerschule and at the Emma and Henry Budge Retirement Residence. Ethan Bensinger, the director of the movie, was present and answered the questions of the audience.

The film is about the different fate of six residents of the Selfhelp Home in Chicago who fled the Holocaust. The film received a very positive feedback and we already have requests for more film shows in 2017.

Biography of Ethan Bensinger and his family:

<http://www.juedisches-leben-frankfurt.de/home/biographien-und-begegnungen/biographien-a-f/ethan-bensinger.html>

About the film: www.refugestories.com

On behalf of the board and the members of our project we wish you a joyous holiday season with peace & cheer in the New Year!

Angelika Rieber

(chairwoman)

Till Lieberz-Gross

(deputy chairwoman)

Gaby Thielmann

(treasurer)

Gretel Ghamsharick

(assigned by the Hessian Board of Education)