

Detmold, 05.12.2023

Dear members, dear friends,

we would like to draw your attention to the laying of stumbling stones in Schwalenberg and Blomberg:

Thursday, December 07, 2023 and Friday, December 08, 2023

Laying of Stumbling Stones in Schwalenberg and Blomberg

Over the last decades, the "Stumbling Stones" project by artist Gunter Demnig has become an integral part of the culture of remembrance in Germany and Europe.

The town council of Blomberg has approved the laying of Stolpersteine for the victims of National Socialist tyranny, as has the town council of Schieder-Schwalenberg. Both towns actively support the project so that there will now also be stumbling blocks in Blomberg and Schwalenberg for the first time.

One of the victims of the National Socialist tyranny in Blomberg was the Jewish Königheim family, who owned a business and residential building on Kurzer Steinweg on the site of today's Volksbank building. In the 1920s of the last century, they were respected citizens of the town, well connected and also active in the shooting club. As a result of National Socialist racial policies and severe reprisals, their life in Blomberg became increasingly difficult, so they decided to emigrate to Argentina in 1937. Another stone will be laid for Emma Lipper, who was forced to move to a Jewish old people's home in Unna in 1942, from where she was deported to a concentration camp and murdered.

The Jewish Bachrach family had a respected business in Schwalenberg in the first decades of the last century. In 1938, the family was forced to give up their business and sell it. They

were then forced to live in Hanover. From there, they were deported to Riga on 15 December 1942 and murdered.

Places and times of the Stumbling Stones:

7.12.2023 Marktstraße 5, Schwalenberg 1 pm followed by a cultural programme at Haus Bachrach Städtische Galerie.

8.12.2023 Kurzer Steinweg 10-14, Blomberg 10 am. In the evening at 6.30 pm there will be a cultural programme in the Blomberg town hall.

A stumbling stone group has been set up in Blomberg and Schwalenberg for the first laying of the stumbling stones, which will organise the supporting events for the laying of the stones.

It is very important to the Stolperstein groups, of which I am a member, to invite the descendants of the families who now live in Israel and the USA to the laying of the stones in Schwalenberg and Blomberg. Contacts already exist. We consider it to be an important sign that family members of the victims of that time are willing to come to us and remember their ancestors and their history with us at . This is an active sign of understanding and reconciliation against marginalisation and isolation.

Pastor Bettina Hanke-Postma
Representative of the Lippe Regional Church for Jewish-Christian Dialogue

Further information can be found in the flyers [Invitation Stumbling Stones Schwalenberg](#) and [Stumbling Stones Blomberg](#)

Kind regards

Kristina Panchyryz - on behalf of the entire Executive Board