

Detmold, the 17. 2. 21

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear members and friends,

1700 years of Jewish life in Germany,

is the main theme of this newsletter. It is to be understood in a double meaning. First, in the year 2021, Jews have provably been living on the territory of present-day Germany for 1700 years. This is a festive occasion. Secondly, we provide references to regional, significant events or topics in connection with German-Jewish history.

The goal of the 2021 celebration year is to make Jewish life visible and tangible. By creating understanding and emotional moments, bridges are to be built, encounters made possible and clear signs set against growing anti-Semitism. To mark the occasion, public figures and important institutions have joined forces to celebrate the event under the leadership of a specially founded association. For more information, visit www.2021jlid.de.

Under the name "**#2021JLID - Jewish Life in Germany**", around a thousand events are organized nationwide. These include concerts, exhibitions, music, a podcast, video projects, theater, films ... The Jewish Museum Augsburg, for example, which was founded in 1985 as the first independent Jewish museum, is showing the special exhibition "Shalom*Sisters". More can be found at www.jmaugsburg.de. The life-affirming, cheerful special stamp (80 cents) for the anniversary year, bears the Hebrew lettering "Chai", which stands for "life" and "joie de vivre".



The kick-off event "1700 Years - Celebrating Jewish Life in Germany" will be broadcast on February 21 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on the First Program (ARD). Around this broadcast, the channel broadcasts a series of exciting contributions.

In this context, we would also like to draw attention to the poster **campaign** "**#beziehungsweise: jüdisch und christlich - näher als du denkst**" (#respectively: Jewish and Christian - closer than you think). This involves monthly changing posters, each of which parallels a Jewish and Christian festival or occasion. The German Coordinating Council of the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation accompanies the campaign with a monthly podcast, currently about [Purim](#). The campaign originally started from an East German idea, but quickly developed into a nationwide campaign and is now supported by both the DBK and the EKD. Embedded in the association "1700 Years of Jewish Life," the campaign is also supported by the German government. More detailed information can be found on the homepage www.juedisch-beziehungsweise-christlich.de. Under this [link](#), we have also added an explanatory text by our Protestant chairperson, **Pastor Bettina Hanke-Postma**.

On 26.01.21, one day before the international day of remembrance for the victims of National Socialism, the "Tolerance Tunnel" was presented at a federal press conference. **Professor Dr. Matitjahu Kellig**, chairman of the Jewish Community Herford-Detmold, is a board member of this NGO. His contribution, which is well worth seeing, can be viewed at www.toleranz-tunnel.de. Tolerance tunnels are to be displayed in public places as a reminder of extreme examples of group-based hostility toward people. Respect, tolerance, civil courage and humanity are propagated as countermeasures to contribute to peaceful coexistence. You can find an informative flyer in this [attachment](#).

In addition, we would like to refer to the essay worth reading by our member the **historian Gudrun Mitschke-Buchholz**. The essay deals with the Jewish synagogues in Detmold and especially with the prayer house. It can be downloaded at www.stadtarchiv.detmold.de/startseite.

Our member, **theologian Dr. Oliver Arnhold**, reveals in his recent book, "*Entjudung von Theologie und Kirche. The Eisenach Institute for Research and Elimination of Jewish Influence on German Church Life, 1939-1945*, Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 12/2020, exposes the machinations of völkisch Christians. Members of the institute tried to reconcile Christianity and National Socialism. Oliver Arnhold denounces this: "It is Christian duty to act against anti-Semitism. Judaism is the mother religion of Christianity," he says in the LZ of 27.1.2021.

The two journalists **Yvonne Glandien** and **Janet König** have created a very impressive video about our honorary chairwoman Karla Raveh. The film has the title [„Karla Raveh - die unvergessliche Geschichte einer Holocaust-Überlebenden“](#) (Karla Raveh - the unforgettable story of a Holocaust survivor). It is very well researched and deeply touching. The account of Karla Raveh's life is illustrated by carefully selected photos and interviews. "I was really a happy, wild girl, but then it was over," Karla Raveh said in 2015. The film elicits painful but also hopeful feelings. The link to the video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkFCxMbrzU&t=7s>.

The central event of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was organized by the **Detmold Realschule I** on 27.01.21. Under the theme "Humanity and Inhumanity Then and Now", school members created a remarkable and stirring video. It begins and ends with the question, "What is humanity for you?" The range of topics is spread out in an engaging manner and with particularly well-founded content. It is a dignified, lively and comprehensive video. Karla Raveh, who wanted a resistant youth, as she said in the interview, and was committed to this goal, would also have liked it very much. To see the video and online exhibition for the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of National Socialism, go to: www.realschule1detmold.de.

With best regards on behalf of the entire Board of Directors

Barbara Klaus