

STOLPERSTEIN-VERLEGUNG

**14 to 16 May 2023 in Frankfurt am Main
in memory of victims of National Socialism persecuted in Frankfurt.**

Biographies of the victims of the Stolperstein laying by the artist Gunter Demnig on Sunday, May 14, 2023.

10:00	Westend	Schumannstraße 64	Martha Amanda, and Elsbet Bodenheimer
10:30	Westend	Mendelssohnstraße 45	Edith and Robert Felsenthal
11:00	Westend	Savignystraße 53	Rosette Una and Flora Babette Dreyfuss
11:30	Westend	Rheinstraße 23	Edgar and Camilla Stuedner
12:00	Westend	Rüsterstraße 10	Paula, Rudolf, Ilse, and Wilhelm Merzbach
14:00	Bahnhofsviertel	Marienstraße 15	Antonie, Gustav, Ernst, and Kurt Fleischmann
14:35	Westend	Böhmerstraße 50	Karl, Sidonie, Kurt, and Lotte Jeselsohn
17:00	Reception " Evening of Encounter " for the descendants of the victims and invited guests		

Schedule of all three days at <https://www.stolpersteine-frankfurt.de/en/news>

Westend

Schumannstraße 64

Martha Bodenheimer, née Neumond

Date of birth: 5.12.1882

Escape: 1938 USA

Elsbet Bodenheimer

Date of birth: 22.5.1919

Escape: 16.9.1937 USA

Elsbet Bodenheimer was born in Frankfurt in 1919. Her father, Jacob Bodenheimer, died in 1922 when she was three years old. He had owned a paper mill in the Bockenheim district of Frankfurt. His wife Martha Amanda, born in Kaiserslautern in 1883, came from the Neumond banking family. Martha was one of 14 children of Leopold Neumond and his wife Ida.

Jacob and Martha Bodenheimer had three children, the oldest daughter Gretel, son Hans (1914) and the 'nestling' Elsbet (1919). The family belonged to the liberal Westend Synagogue and had close ties to Rabbi Salzberger there.



Martha and Jacob Bodenheimer

The Bodenheimers lived at Sophienstraße 12 from the early 1920s and from 1935/36 at Schumannstraße 64 on the second floor.

Elsbet attended the nearby Viktoriaschule, today's Bettinaschule, which she had to leave in 1934 because of her Jewish ancestry. Actually, she wanted to study musicology. But she was not allowed to attend the conservatory either. Instead, she received private lessons from a piano teacher.

The transition to the Jewish school, the Philanthropin, was difficult for Elsbet. She left school and began an apprenticeship as a dressmaker. In 1937, with the support of a cousin, she managed to escape: on September 16, 1937, she arrived in the USA via England on the ship 'Manhattan'.

Martha Bodenheimer followed her daughter in June 1938. As business had declined sharply since 1933 due to the boycott of Jewish banks, the banking house Neumond & Co at Taunusanlage 6 had to cease operations. Martha's brother Adolf Neumond, once managing director of the bank, could no longer dispose of his assets as early as September 1938. During the November pogrom in 1938, he was arrested and taken to the collection point in the Festhalle, but was released that evening for reasons of age. With his wife Johanna, he fled to the USA via England in August 1939. They never received their belongings. It was confiscated in Antwerp in 1942. The constant humiliations had taken their toll on Adolf Neumond's health. He died of a heart attack in New York in 1941.

In New York, Elsbet first stayed with an aunt, then with her brother. She struggled along as a dressmaker, nanny and dental assistant. But Elsbeth managed to further her education in evening classes and attend music courses. There she met her future husband, Morton Wayne, whom she married on September 17, 1942. The couple had three children. Although she was unable to realize her desire to become a ski instructor, she became a music teacher and later became known as a music critic.

Her brother Hans, born in Frankfurt in 1914, was forced to end his medical studies in Frankfurt and fled to the USA in March 1935. Since he was penniless, he was unable to continue his studies. He died early at the age of 34 in New York.

Elsbeth Wayne visited her former home in 1963 to visit her former nanny. She accepted the invitation of the city of Frankfurt in 1993, and her two daughters Gwen and Judith visited their mother's birthplace in 2014 and 2015.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Renate Rauch and Judith Wayne, and financed by Claudia Layer and Nathalie Reum.

Westend**Mendelssohnstraße 45****Moritz Robert Felsenthal**

Date of birth: 26.6.1894

Escape: 2.10.1937 USA

Edith Felsenthal, née Hirschberg

Date of birth: 5.9.1909

Escape: 2.10.1937 USA

Robert Moritz Felsenthal was born in Bochum. He was the son of Ernst Felsenthal (1859-1925) from Bochum and Franziska Felsenthal, née Rosenthal (1868-1959) from Wetzlar. He had four siblings: Fritz Fred, Walther, Louise Dorothea, and Erich.

Robert Felsenthal married Edith Friederike Hirschberg on March 23, 1934, in Bochum. She was born in Bochum as the daughter of Julius and Regina Hirschberg and had a sister, Ilse.

The couple moved from Bochum to Frankfurt in 1935 and lived there until 1937 at Mendelssohnstraße 45. Moritz Robert Felsenthal worked as an accountant at the leather goods company 'Rosenthal Häutevertrieb GmbH' on Mainzer Landstraße. Edith Felsenthal worked as a French interpreter. Both were very interested in classical music and opera.

Moritz and Edith Felsenthal left Frankfurt because the National Socialists had "Aryanized" the family business, "Rosenthal Häutevertrieb," and Moritz lost his job there. The family saw no way to earn a living in Germany anymore and fled on October 2, 1937, on the ship "Veendam" from Rotterdam to New York in the USA.



Edith and Robert Felsenthal 1934 in Frankfurt

Edith Felsenthal's parents, Julius and Regina Hirschberg, attempted to leave via Cuba on the St. Louis in 1938. They were denied entry, but were dropped off in England on the return journey. The dramatic journey of the St. Louis later formed the basis for the bestseller Ship of Fools and the Hollywood film of the same name. Julius was interned as an "enemy" German in an English prison on the Isle of Man. Regina lived with a relative in London. In September 1940, they were allowed to leave England and enter the USA. Moritz's mother Franziska Felsenthal and her daughter Louise left Germany in January 1939 and went to England. They remained there until 1940, when their visas expired and they were also able to flee to the USA.

Moritz and Edith Felsenthal had two children. Peggy was born in 1938 and Jerry in 1948. Starting a career in America at that time was difficult. Robert Felsenthal was unable to find work as an accountant and ended up working in a tannery with cow hides. Edith Felsenthal worked in an office. After the birth of her children, she worked as a nanny. After Robert

Felsenthal was able to start his own business as a jewelry sales representative, his wife ran the office of his company, Robal Co.

Their daughter Peggy worked as a teacher, has three children and now six grandchildren. Jerry worked as a lawyer and also has three children and seven grandchildren. Jerry's wife's parents were Hungarian Jews who were deported to Auschwitz in 1944 and put to forced labor. They survived the "death marches."

Robert Felsenthal died on June 26, 1972, in Chicago, and Edith died on June 28, 1991, in Chicago.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Jerry Felsenthal and financed by Martina Klee and Diane and Daniel Wolf.

We would like to thank Mr. Franz-Josef Wittstamm (Bochum) for additional information on the biography.

Westend

Savignystraße 53 (former number 55)

Rosette Luise Una, née Mayer

Date of birth: 20.2.1854

Arrested for deportation 19.10.1941

Date of death: 11.5.1942 Jewish retirement home at Wöhlerstraße 6

Flora Babette Dreyfuss, née Una

Date of birth: 16.12.1876

Deportation: 19.10.1941 Ghetto

Lodz/Litzmannstadt

Date of death: 24.10.1941

Rosette Una lived with her husband Siegmund, who was born in Hanau on September 13, 1843, in the house they built in 1896 at Bockenheimer Landstraße 76 in Frankfurt's Westend. Here they lived with their grandmother, Bettchen Una (4/26/1819-6/10/1898). Their three daughters, Bessy Deutz, Alice Buseck and Flora Dreyfuß also lived in the Westend after their marriage. Out of grief over the death of her newborn daughter, Bessy took her own life in September 1900. Siegmund Una died on April 25, 1904, and was buried in the Jewish cemetery on Rat-Beil-Straße, near Bessy's Art Nouveau grave.

In 1926 Rosette Una sold the baroque villa and moved first to Wiesenau 49, later to Brentanostraße 8, together with her daughter Alice Buseck-Una, who had been widowed since 1912. Her daughter Irma had married Gustav Fraenkel, a merchant from Berlin, in 1920; their children Günther and Yvonne were born in 1923 and 1924. The four of them were able to flee into exile in Kenya in February 1939. Flora and Eugen Dreyfuss had a daughter, Nelly (8/15/1899-9/5/1942), who had professional training as a secretary; after her divorce from Berthold Kirsch, she went to Berlin with the journalist of the Frankfurter Zeitung, Bernhard Diebold, and worked in the film industry there.

In 1939/4, Rosette Una and her two daughters, who were widowed in the meantime, moved with two maids to Savignystraße 55, but they had to move out again in a hurry at the end of August 1941, because the apartment was claimed by an NSDAP member. They were forced to move into a small two-room apartment in the Dorner Dorée boarding house at

Staufenstraße 31, losing most of their valuable furnishings and fittings, as they were unable to move them into the small apartment or sell them in an appropriate manner.

The files in the Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden tell of the disenfranchisement of the Jewish Una family, the systematic robbery of private property by the foreign exchange offices of the tax authorities in anticipation of the deportation and murder of Frankfurt citizens who had been born, raised and lived here. As early as December 1, 1940, the foreign exchange office sent out a notice, based on the deportation lists for October 19, 1941, that " the property of the person named below (Wwe. Flora Sara Dreyfuss, Ffm, Staufenstraße 31) has been confiscated for the benefit of the German Reich. Thus, any disposal of all assets of this person is inadmissible, unless it is carried out by the tax office responsible for the confiscation in the district of Groß-Frankfurt Außenbezirk".

On October 19, 1941, a Sunday, the three women were arrested by the Gestapo and the SA and taken from their small apartment to the assembly point in the Grossmarkthalle, from where the two daughters were deported. Rosette Una, however, was not deported, but - possibly because of her age and frailty - was sent back.

The Jewish community certified on January 20, 1942, "that, as we have ascertained today, Mrs. Rosette Sara Una ... is still in Frankfurt and is registered as living with Dorner-Dorée at Staufenstraße 31, unchanged."

She was later admitted to the old people's home at Wöhlerstraße 6, which now also served as a collection point for those persecuted as Jewish before their deportation, and died there on May 11, 1942. She is buried next to her husband in a now unmarked double grave in the Rat-Beil-Straße Jewish cemetery. The grave inscriptions of metal letters were removed by the Nazi authorities for the collection of materials for war production.

The granddaughter Nelly Dreifuss, Flora's daughter, was arrested in Aachen while trying to escape to Holland and was taken to Berlin. From there she was deported to the Riga ghetto and murdered. The date of death is given as September 5, 1942.

The granddaughter Irma, Alice's daughter, who fled to Kenya, and her husband Gustav Fraenkel made efforts after the end of the war, partly in vain, to recover the property left behind and the inheritance of the mother. After Gustav Fraenkel's death, Irma moved to London. A relative born in 1939, Peter Lobbenberg, still lives there today. He is the grandson of Lony Rabl, née Fraenkel, a sister of Irma's husband Gustav. Lony Rabl was deported from Holland via Westerbork and Theresienstadt to Auschwitz, where she was murdered.

For Alice Maria Buseck-Una, a Stolperstein was already laid in 2022 in front of the previous apartment at Brentanostraße 8.

The Stolpersteine were initiated and financed by the historian Christine Hartwig-Thürmer.

Westend
Rheinstraße 23

Edgar Steudner

Date of birth: 29.6.1894

Persecuted, "Mischehe", excluded

Camilla Steudner, née Kuder

Date of birth: 20.4.1897

Humiliated /deprived of rights,
survived in hiding

Edgar Steudner was born in Frankfurt. After completing elementary and secondary school, he did a commercial apprenticeship and worked in the hotel business as a waiter in Germany, England, Switzerland and France. In 1923 he married Camilla Kuder, a Jewish woman. Her parents were the merchant Leopold Kuder and his wife Ida, née Vogel.

Camilla Steudner attended the Fürstenberg secondary school and the technical school for shorthand and typing. After a commercial apprenticeship, she worked in a law office. After her marriage, she switched to the hospitality industry and lived with her husband first at Große Bockenheimer Straße 37 in 1930 and, after further moves, at Rheinstraße 23 from 1939 to 1942.

Edgar Steudner worked as a head waiter and in 1937 founded a coffee-cocoa-tea distribution business with his wife.

At first, they were able to live relatively unmolested in a "mixed marriage" after 1933. However, starting in 1937, Edgar Steudner was repeatedly asked to divorce his wife, otherwise he would lose his livelihood. Since he refused, he had to give up his sales business and was initially unemployed. The authorities also confiscated his car.

On September 15, 1941, his wife was to be arrested by the Gestapo. She suffered a stroke in the process and the Gestapo left her "lying there as if dead." Camilla Steudner did not recover from the consequences of the stroke, was paralyzed on one side for months and lost her speech. She continued to live in the apartment, but spent most of her time hidden in a closet for fear of being arrested again. According to her husband's later statements, the other residents of the house helped protect his wife from discovery and provided her with food.

Fearing further persecution by the Gestapo, Edgar Steudner took his wife to his parents' house in Hofheim one night in 1943, with great difficulty and danger, and hid her there in the cellar until the end of the war. He had his papers marked "widower".

Camilla Steudner was now considered dead by the authorities and therefore no longer received any ration cards. Edgar Steudner fed his wife and himself only with his own card. Their living situation was constantly burdened by the fear of discovery and made more difficult by the fact that he had to continue living and working in Frankfurt. Six weeks before the end of the war, Edgar Steudner was ordered to join the "Volkssturm" in Hofheim. This allowed him to be closer to his wife and take care of her.

Only after the end of the war was the couple able to live together again. However, Camilla Steudner, like her husband, suffered lifelong from the effects of racist persecution by the Nazis.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Gloria Schieback, whose parents lived in the same house as the Steudners in Rheinstraße. They supported Camilla Steudner as far as possible. After the war, Edgar and Camilla Steudner became the godparents of Gloria Schieback. The Stolpersteine were financed by Bianca Boysen and Christian Steinle.

Westend

Rüsterstraße 10

Rudolf Merzbach

Date of birth: 1.2.1881

Detainment: 1938 KZ Dachau

Escape: March/April 1939 England, 1940 USA

Paula Merzbach, née Kirchheim

Date of birth: 21.11.1891

Escape: March/April 1939 England, 1940 USA

Ilse Merzbach

Date of birth: 25.2.1921

Escape: 1939 *Kindertransport*
(accompanying person) England, 1940 USA

Wilhelm Merzbach

Date of birth: 7.4.1924

Escape: 1939 *Kindertransport* England,
1940 USA

The lawyer and banker Rudolf Merzbach (1881-1955) was a partner in the Offenbach Merzbach Bank. The bank was founded in 1832 by Siegmund Merzbach, as the onset of industrialization had led to a great demand for capital. Siegmund Merzbach and his wife Röschen had 14 children, of whom their sons Heinrich (1841-1911) and Hermann (1843-



Rudolf and Paula Merzbach

1904), Rudolf's father, took over the Offenbach banking house.

Rudolf's later wife, Paula Kirchheim (1891-1982), looked back on a long and proud family history in Frankfurt, which can be traced back to 1304.

With the start of World War I, Rudolf Merzbach became a soldier in the Air Defense Forces and was fortunate to survive unharmed. After the war, Paula Kirchheim and Rudolf Merzbach met and married in 1919, and the couple had two children, Ilse (1921-2013) and Wilhelm (1924-2017). The family lived in Frankfurt

at Rüsterstraße 10.

Ilse attended the Viktoria School, now the Bettina School, but she had to leave it in 1936. She transferred to the Philanthropin, the lyceum of the Jewish community. Her brother Wilhelm also had to leave the Goethe Gymnasium in 1936 because of his Jewish background.

Since it was no longer possible for the children to study in Germany, Ilse went to Berlin after her secondary school leaving certificate to begin training as a kindergarten teacher. At her mother's request, however, she returned to Frankfurt after the November pogrom.

The year 1938 was momentous for the Merzbachs. The family was forced to move from Rüterstraße to Rheinstraße 20. The Merzbachs had also had to give up the banking house at the beginning of 1938. The decisive turning point in the family's life occurred with the November pogrom of 1938.

Rudolf Merzbach was arrested and taken to the Dachau concentration camp. Ilse's mother Paula therefore decided to immediately apply for



Ilse and Wilhelm Merzbach

visas to the USA. With this application number and the fact that Rudolf had been a soldier in World War I and had received the Cross of Honor for special bravery, her husband was released from Dachau on December 9, 1938, after three weeks in prison, and returned to Frankfurt. There, the family vigorously prepared to flee Germany.

In March 1939, the children were the first to leave Germany. As a 17-year-old young adult, Ilse accompanied a "Kindertransport" to England, in which her younger brother Wilhelm also took part. The parents followed a few months later and were able to stay temporarily with Rudolf's sister until they received permission to enter the USA.

The new beginning in the USA was difficult. Paula Merzbach worked as a cleaning lady and as a nanny, her husband as a brush seller, later as an ice cream seller.

William (Bill) Merzbach, just 19 years old, joined the American Army and participated in the Normandy invasion on D-Day in June 1944.

Ilse married Kurt Jesselson, also born in Frankfurt. Their son Robert, born in 1949, became a cellist and music professor.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Bob Jesselson, Ilse Merzbach's son, and by Sibylle Stein; financed by Sibylle Stein and Gerrit Vierbacher, Marion Jakob, Christel Euler, and André Lange.

Bahnhofsviertel
Marienstraße 15

Antonie Fleischmann, née Koch
Date of birth: 11.11.1897
Escape: July 1936 South Africa

Gustav Fleischmann
Date of birth: 14.4.1894
Escape: July 1936 South Africa

Ernst Martin Fleischmann
Date of birth: 7.12.1924
Escape: July 1936 South Africa

Kurt Fleischmann
Date of birth: 9.8.1930
Escape: July 1936 South Africa

Gustav Fleischmann was born in Hanau as the son of Meyer Fleischmann and Gotha Fleischmann, née Schwab. He attended the Oberrealschule in Hanau up to the Obersekunda and had to leave it after his father's stroke in 1911 with the mittlere Reife. He did a commercial apprenticeship in Frankfurt at the Aumann Rapp company in Kaiserstraße. From 1914 he served at the front throughout the First World War, finally



The Fleischmann family in Frankfurt

as a vice sergeant. Until his marriage he worked for various companies. Antonie Koch, came from Gau-Odernheim. Her parents were Louis Koch, who died in 1909, and Babette Koch, née Hamburger. She attended elementary school in Gau-Odernheim and then the Higher Girls' School in Alzey. After her father's death, she went back with her mother to her birthplace, Aschaffenburg. At the local girls' high school of the Daughters' Association, she earned her high school diploma. She continued her education in shorthand, typing and bookkeeping and worked continuously from 1914.

She went to Frankfurt and worked first until 1915 as a clerk at the Frankfurt firm 'Gutmann & Weinberg', Am Tiergarten 12, then at 'Geschwister Weinberg' in Stiftstraße 19, from 1916 to 1919 at the 'Frankfurter Gewerbekasse' at Börsenplatz, then at the firm 'Sinai', Eschersheimer Landstraße 350, and at the firm 'Ludwig Meier & Co', Große Friedberger 7-11. In 1921 she was employed by the 'Deutsche Bank' and in 1922 moved to the 'Bankhaus Dreyfuss', Taunusanlage 3.

On August 30, 1923, Gustav Fleischmann and Antonie Koch were married in Frankfurt. They had two sons Ernst Martin and Kurt. The family lived, among other places, at Hegelstraße 9, Eschersheimer Landstraße 370, and from 1934/35 until the escape at Marienstraße 15.

After the wedding Gustav Fleischmann started his own business with the company 'Gustav Fleischmann Agenturen', in 1929 he became a partner of the company 'Simon Mayer'. Antonie worked in her husband's company as a correspondent from 1923.

In 1933 Gustav Fleischmann was the owner of the company 'Simon Mayer, Textilvertretungen', in Kronprinzenstraße 33. As a result of the anti-Semitic persecution, he was at first only allowed to visit Jewish producers, then in 1936 all agency contracts were terminated and he had to close his company, The son Ernst Martin was expelled from school, the younger son Kurt was forbidden to attend kindergarten.



*Kurt and Ernst in the garden at
Marienstraße 15*

After the enactment of the Nuremberg Laws, the family decided to flee. In July 1936, the family arrived in South Africa on the ship 'Athlone Castle' via Amsterdam, London and Southampton. Before that, they had to sell their furnishings of the 5-room apartment at Marienstraße 15 far below value.

The family initially lived in Johannesburg. With little success, Gustav Fleischmann set up a small store in 1937 and an old clothes store in 1940.

Ernst (Ernest) Fleischmann became intensively involved with music as a youth in South Africa and made his debut as a professional conductor in 1942. He earned a degree in accounting at the 'University of the Witwatersrand' and a degree in music at the 'University of Cape

Town'. From 1956 he organized the music for the Johannesburg Festival, for which he commissioned William Walton to conduct the Johannesburg Festival Overture in honor of the city's 70th anniversary. In 1953 Ernest Fleischmann married Elsa Levisieur, who worked as an architect and landscape designer in South Africa, the United States and England.

In 1959, he accepted a position as general director of the London Symphony Orchestra after turning down an offer from the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra. In London, he saw to it that the orchestra performed each year at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and commissioned works by Richard Rodney Bennett and Sir Arthur Bliss. He also gave exchange concerts with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1967 he left the LSO and worked for a short time as European director of CBS Masterworks Records.

Ernest Fleischmann became executive director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1969, where he did much to improve the orchestra's financial situation. With the construction of Walt Disney Concert Hall, for which he was responsible for fundraising, the creation of a modern concert hall with improved acoustics fell in his 30-year tenure. He worked with many conductors in Los Angeles, including Zubin Mehta, Carlo Maria Giulini, Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen and, as of 2009, Gustavo Dudamel. Los Angeles Times critic Mark Swed credited Fleischmann with "transforming a second-rate provincial orchestra into one of the best in the world." Fleischmann declined an appointment as general director and artistic director of the Paris Opera in November 1985.

After retiring from the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1999, he continued to work as a consultant with the organization and with orchestras and artists around the world. From 2001 to 2003, Ernest Fleischmann was director of the 'Ojai Music Festival'.

Kurt Fleischmann trained as a pharmacist in the 1950s and began a pharmaceutical career in Johannesburg. In 1957, Kurt married Catherine Hyman. The couple were active in the anti-apartheid movement and emigrated to London in 1959. Kurt pursued a career there as a prominent medical PR journalist. His clients included the International Epilepsy Association, for which he organized their annual conference. He published several influential medical journals on epilepsy, midwifery, and diabetes. In the last decade of his life, he combined his experience in pharmacy and public relations to build up the British business of Dohler, a Germany-based global food technology company. He was a passionate clarinetist and an avid listener of classical music.

Gustav Fleischmann died in London on October 25, 1967. Antonie Fleischman returned to Germany (Düsseldorf) in 1973, where she lived until her death on February 17, 1976.

Kurt Fleischmann died in November 1977 at the age of 47. He is survived by his wife Catherine, three sons, Peter, Hugo, and Mark, and five grandchildren.

Ernest (Ernst) died on June 13, 2010, in Los Angeles, leaving behind two daughters and one son.

Four of Gustav Fleischmann's siblings who lived in Frankfurt, Alexander, Jettchen, Rosa, and Adolf, were murdered in Lodz/Litzmannstadt and Dachau. *The Stolpersteine were initiated by Peter Lieser and financed by Peter Lieser, Holger Rönitz, and Marion Hesse.*

Westend
Böhmerstraße 50

Karl Jeselsohn

Date of birth: 16.6.1874
Escape: 1939 USA

Sidonie Jeselsohn, née Katz

Date of birth: 18.5.1890
Escape: 1939 USA

Kurt Jeselsohn

Date of birth: 16.5.1912
Escape: October 1935 USA

Lotte Jeselsohn

Date of birth: 19.8.1914
Escape 1935 England, 1937 USA



Lotte and Kurt Jeselsohn

Karl Jeselsohn was born in Neckarbischofsheim as the son of Max Jeselsohn (1843-1913) and Lena Jeselsohn, née Bär. The family had been resident there for generations. They owned real estate and agricultural land there, had two stores, a general store and a brewery with a schnapps distillery. On November 10, 1938, the synagogue and the Jewish school were destroyed. Karl Jeselsohn's brother Samuel Jeselsohn (1870-1955) led the Jewish community for more than 25 years. He was arrested on November 10, 1938, and was to be taken to Heidelberg for deportation in the afternoon, but he was released at Neckarbischofsheim station because of his advanced age. He fled to Tel Aviv in February 1939.

In 1911, Karl Jeselsohn married Sidonie Katz (1890-1944), a native of Mannheim. They went to Frankfurt and lived at Am Schützenbrunnen 14, today Alfred-Brehm-Platz. Karl Jeselsohn worked as a textile salesman based at Neckarstraße 7, where he also ran the company 'Frankfurter Wäscheverleih GmbH'. In 1912 their son Kurt was born, two years later their daughter Lotte. In 1929/30 the family moved to Böhmerstraße 50. In 1938, apparently due to persecution, there was another move to Vogtstraße 52.

Kurt Jeselsohn attended the Musterschule up to the lower secondary level, then the commercial school for two years. He completed his three-year apprenticeship at the leather goods and jewelry company 'Philipp Deutsch' in Neue Mainzer Straße. From 1931 he was employed by the Tietz department store in Frankfurt as a salesman in the leather goods department, from where he was transferred to the head office in Cologne in 1932. In August 1933 he was dismissed because he was Jewish. After that, Kurt Jeselsohn worked in his father's company, the 'Frankfurter Wäscheverleih GmbH', until his escape to the USA in October 1935.

Lotte Jeselsohn was a student at the preschool and lyceum of the Philanthropin. After passing her school-leaving exams, she attended the Städtische Höhere Fachschule für Frauenberufe in Seilerstraße for three years starting in 1931 and then completed internships at the Jüdische

Haushaltungsschule and at the Leidenheimer company. She wanted to become a trade teacher. Like her brother, she was active in the Jewish Boy Scouts, with whom they went on numerous trips. To protect their daughter from anti-Semitic hostility, her parents sent her to England in 1935. From there, Lotte Jeselsohn temporarily returned to Germany. In 1937, she fled to the USA.

In 1938, the previously "Aryanized" 'Frankfurter Wäscheverleih GmbH' was dissolved. In the *Stürmer*, the company was denounced as a "Jewish enterprise" and people were "warned against the company."

Karl and Sidonie Jeselsohn managed to escape to the USA in August 1939, shortly before the start of the Second World War. They settled in New York. There Karl died already on December 12, 1942, his wife Sidonie only two years later, on April 2, 1944, ill, as a result of the excitement, according to their daughter Lotte later.

Lotte Jeselsohn was not able to continue her education in the USA. After tough early years, she was able to look back on a successful professional life as an accountant. She traveled the world and in retirement volunteered at the Museum of Natural History. In 1991, she visited Frankfurt, the city of her birth. Twenty years earlier, she had been drawn to Germany. Her nephew Robert was studying music in Freiburg at the time. She used her trip to Germany for a short detour to Frankfurt.

Lotte's brother Kurt, like many young refugees from Germany, was assigned to the American military and to interrogate German prisoners of war from 1943-1946. In 1947 Kurt Jesselson, as he now called himself, and Ilse Merzbach, who was also from Frankfurt, met. They married the same year in New York, and their son Robert was born in 1949. Robert Jesselson became a cellist and taught as a professor at the University of South Carolina.

The Stolpersteine were initiated by Bob Jesselson, son of Kurt Jesselson, and Sibylle Stein; financed by Sibylle Stein and Gerrit Vierbacher, Doris Franzmann, and Bettina von Bethmann.



Kurt Jeselsohn, passport photo 1933

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