

Reuven Stern, Nachfahre der Familie Behr

Lueneburg, November 9, 2018

Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are excited and honored to be here today and participate in the new Synagogue monument dedication ceremony.

I wish to briefly tell you about our mother. I believe her story represents the stories of many Lueneburger Jews.

Our mother, Lisa Behr (Stern), was born here in Lueneburg 100 years ago. Her family lived here for many years and was very much integrated in the town's life.

Her parents owned the well known shoe store "N Behr" at Bardowickerstr. 12.

In 1933, when Hitler came to power, our grandmother, Lucie Behr- Baden, and her friend Paula Less read "Mein Kampf" and realized what was going to happen. Their husbands, who had been soldiers in the great war, were sure that they and their families would not be harmed since they had not committed any crime.

With the establishment of the Nazi regime, our mother's life became unbearable. She had to quit school before graduating, she became socially isolated and was unable to find a job. She decided to accept her brother's advice and at the age 18 she emigrated to Palestine, where she attended

an agricultural school. In her memories she wrote "I was dying of longing for my family".

Exactly 80 years ago, on kristallnacht our grandfather Salli was arrested and confined in Sachsenhausen for 3 and a half months. He came back as a shadow of his former self.

In the dark days of the NZ period, there were a few people who took enormous risks by providing our family and other Jewish families food or shelter, thus helping them in their day-to-day struggle for survival.

Lisa's sister Ruth with her husband and baby daughter, managed to emigrate to Australia. Lucie and Salli were finally able to acquire certificates and ship tickets to Australia, but September 1, 1939 was 5 days short of their planned departure date. In 1941 they were both deported from Hamburg to Riga. Salli died in Ghetto Riga, Lucie was murdered in Minsk.

Lisa got married and had three children. Until the last day of her life, she did not stop longing for her parents. But despite her big pain and extremely hard feelings vs. the German people, she was able to identify some people who were real friends. When she had the opportunity, she rebuilt these connections, which later developed into tight friendships between members of the next generation.

It is very moving to see young and old people, related and unrelated, from all over the globe, gathered here to unveil this monument of remembrance .

We hope that this memorial site will be a small contribution to the prevention of such events from ever happening again.

In the name of descendants of Lueneburger Jews, we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to everyone who worked very hard to build this very impressive site of memory and put together this special ceremony.

Special thanks to: Anneke de Rudder, , , , ,

אני אבקש מאנקה רשימת האנשים שצריך להודות להם