

Jewish life
in Lockenhaus
Shalom.Nachbar



Jewish life in Lockenhaus

Beside to the famous *Seven Communities* (Sheva Kehillot or “Sieben Gemeinden”) in Burgenland under the protection of the Esterházy Family, Jewish life took place as well in several other small villages in Burgenland.

Jewish families lived in Lockenhaus, a historic market community in central Burgenland, until the year 1938. A private synagogue with a women’s gallery and a mikveh, a traditional Jewish bath, was built by Maier Isidor Stössel in the year 1880 near the main square. Jewish families from the region came to Lockenhaus to celebrate their High Holy Days and Jewish summer

visitors from Vienna liked to spend their holiday weeks in Lockenhaus. The *Beth Olam*, the cemetery for Jewish families who once lived in Lockenhaus is situated in nearby Lackenbach.

Around the year 1850 the families Stössel, Hoffmann, Leitner and Kopfstein ran “Gemischtwarengeschäfte” (small groceries) in Lockenhaus and later on small farms. Robert Meir Blum, a Holocaust survivor and relative to the Jewish farmer Maier (Maitsch) Stössel, wrote about those facts in his private memoirs “Familienwurzeln”.

So far it has been impossible to determine how many Jewish people still lived in Lockenhaus in the year 1938, the year of displacement, because documents of the municipality for the years 1938 – 1945 have vanished without a trace.

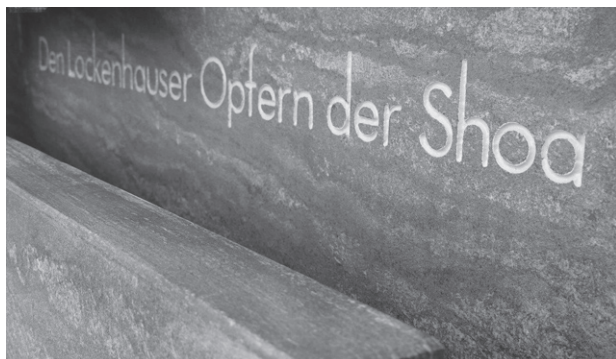
More information is contained in the booklet *Mensch und Nachbar* (in German language only). The historian Mag. Denise Steiger wrote in the booklet about the little-known facts about Jewish life in Lockenhaus. The booklet is available in the library of Lockenhaus or you can simply request a copy at: shalom-lockenhaus@aon.at

Get more information: shalom-lockenhaus.at or on Facebook *1938.2018 Shalom.Nachbar in Lockenhaus*.

Lockenhaus, Burgenland, Austria

Impressum: Idee, Redaktion & Fotos: Ruth Patzelt | Grafiken: Wolfgang Seierl | Layout: Marion Christandl | Druck: Bösmüller Print Management | Lockenhaus 2019 | Für den Inhalt verantwortlich: Ruth Patzelt | Alle Rechte vorbehalten und verbleiben bei den Urhebern

Shalom.Nachbar



The Shoa

In April 1938 all members of those Jewish families who still lived in Lockenhaus were deported to Vienna. There, they lived in "Sammelwohnungen" (collection flats) in Leopoldstadt, Vienna's 2nd district, until 1941 or 1942. Malzgasse 2, Herminengasse 10, Tandelmarktgasse 8 und Flossgasse 3 und 9 were their last known addresses in Austria. The deportation took place via the railway station Aspernbahnnhof in the 3rd district. The trains brought the Jewish residents of Lockenhaus to various concentration camps. Theresienstadt, Maly Trostinec, Modliborzyce and Łódz, one family later to Auschwitz or Dachau. Some members of the Stössel family managed to escape to England or Israel and survived the Holocaust.

Contemporary witnesses of Lockenhaus acknowledge the Jewish doctor of Lockenhaus, Dr. Alexander Samuel Suess, who retired in 1931 as a “Medizinalrat”, a kind and warm-hearted man. He died in Theresienstadt. His daughter, Irene, was murdered in Maly Trostinec. The couple Regina (Recha) and Max Mordechai Stössel and four of their children, Gerty, Sophie, Johanna and Wilhelm died in Auschwitz where they were deported to from Theresienstadt with one of the last transportation trains in 1944. A very touching letter from Gerty, written in Theresienstadt to a friend in Vienna is saved in Yad Vashem. The younger son, Moritz, died at only 24 years old during the last days of the war in 1945 in Dachau.

Other members of the Stössel family in Lockenhaus, the farmer Maier, his mother Berta and his aunt Jultscha, Emanuel Stössel and, according to a Page of Testimony in Yad Vashem, also Recha Deutsch (née Stössel) and her daughter Berta, died in the concentration camps Modliborzyce or Łodz.

The Holocaust Memorial in Lockenhaus (designed by Barbara Horvath) was erected in 2008 on the occasion of the 70 years commemoration. It is a visible and clear sign for the remembrance of the Jewish victims of Lockenhaus. The memorial is located between the houses No.21 and No.23 at Hauptstraße – near to the place of the former synagogue – close to the main square.

Never again!

“All hopes are naive, but we live on them” (Primo Levi)



1938.2018

Shalom.Nachbar

A commemoration week for the displaced Jewish people of Lockenhaus took place in November 2018. Three relatives of the Stössel family from Israel visited the opening and took part in the ceremony with a Hebrew prayer for their family. The Holocaust Memorial in Lockenhaus is now restored and two names of victims were added. A temporary art installation, called *Mezuzah*, created by Ruth Patzelt and Barbara Horvath, reminded the visitors of the missing doors of the vanished Jewish houses in Lockenhaus. On November 9th, in cooperation with the choir *Musica Sacra Lockenhaus*, a touching ceremony in memory of the *November Pogrom* in 1938 was held beside the

Mezuzah. The students in Lockenhaus joined the events with workshops and their own projects and visitors were invited to various lectures and exhibitions. Gertraud Horvath led through a memorial evening reminiscing about Janka Baron (née Stössel) and Thomas Ziegler gave a lecture about the famous actor Ludwig Stössel, born in Leká (Lockenhaus) and well known in Hollywood for a supporting role – Mr. Leuchtag – in the film *Casablanca*.

André Heller gave the impulse to initiate the project *1938.2018 Shalom.Nachbar* by suggesting: “You have to speak with the people!” and Michael Köhlmeier caught our attention with his speech in front of the Austrian Parliament, when he asked: “Will you claim to be in the dark about all this?”

The team of the project *1938.2018 Shalom.Nachbar* (Ruth Patzelt, Barbara Horvath, Gertraud Horvath and Denise Steiger) has resumed the research into the Jewish history of Lockenhaus and it will be continued. Still remaining unclear is the fate of some Jewish residents of Lockenhaus. What has happened to Caroline Hoffmann, Hermine Hacker, Rabbi Schwartz, Recha Deutsch and her children and maybe more nameless victims?

“If we do not forget, it will never happen again”.

This is the key sentence of the booklet *Mensch und Nachbar* and that is why commemoration is important, necessary and valuable. Visit the Memorial for the victims of the Shoa in Lockenhaus!



Mezuzah Kunst-Installation | art installation
Lockenhaus, November 2018



