

A TRIBUTE

THE OBERMAYER GERMAN JEWISH HISTORY AWARDS

PRESENTED TO

LOTHAR BEMBENEK &
DOROTHEE LOTTMANN-KAESELER

KLAUS-DIETER EHMKE

CORDULA KAPPNER

JÜRGEN SIELEMANN

CHRISTIANE WALESCH-SCHNELLER

ABGEORDNETENHAUS, BERLIN

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HONORING THE WINNERS

The Obermayer German Jewish History Awards were established to pay tribute to Germans who have made significant voluntary contributions to preserving the Jewish history, culture, and material remains in their local communities. A large number of outstanding nominations for the awards were received from throughout the world, especially from Jews who had a keen appreciation for the dedication and contributions of these German citizens. The jury, composed of individuals with broad familiarity with these types of activities and projects in Germany, selected the five prize winners.

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OBERMAYER GERMAN JEWISH HISTORY AWARDS

A WORTHY TRADITION



This year marks the fourth annual presentation of awards that were created to honor the past and enrich the future. German life was once filled with contributions made by Jewish scholars, writers and artists. Music, science, literature and architecture were often collaborative efforts that brought diverse talents together. The collective history of Germans and Jews was profoundly connected and served to benefit the world.

The Nazi regime and its obliteration of the German Jewish community ended a long period of collaboration and mutual trust.

However, many German citizens, ranging from academics to those working in business and professions, did not let go of their interest and commitment to Jewish history and culture. Many worked at great personal cost to preserve and reconstruct aspects of Jewish life, which had contributed to the cultural richness of their lives and the lives of their respective communities. These individuals have researched, reconstructed, written about and rebuilt an appreciation of Jewish culture that will enrich life today and in the future.

In many cases, diverse individuals, without thought of reward, have helped raise awareness about a once vibrant community. Their ongoing efforts pay tribute to the importance of Jewish subject matter and its value to German society as a whole.

Many volunteers have devoted years of effort to such projects, but few have been recognized or honored for their efforts. The German Jewish Community History Council and its cosponsors believe it is particularly important for Jews from other parts of the world to be aware of this ongoing work. The annual Obermayer German Jewish History Awards provide an opportunity for the Jewish community worldwide to acknowledge German citizens who have rekindled the spark of Jewish thought that once existed in Germany. The award winners have dedicated themselves to rebuilding destroyed institutions and ideals. Their achievements reflect a personal connection to Jewish history and a willingness to repair a small corner of the world.



Awardee

LOTHAR BEMBENEK & DOROTHEE LOTTMANN-KAESELER

Wiesbaden, Hessen

*Nominated by Ruth Aach, Englewood, NJ; Eric Kahn, Swampscott, MA;
Kurt Pressman, Newton, MA; and Ruth Pewzner, Bat Ram, Israel*

When Lothar Bembenek began teaching in 1975, he was dissatisfied with the curricular materials. "It didn't make what had happened clear," remembers the 57-year-old from Wiesbaden in Hesse. But he found his own ways to bring it to life. He knew a communist, for example, who had twice been in concentration camps and interviewed him, recording it for his class. "My students were really fascinated," he says. "After that, I thought I should do more and started to conduct research."

More than a quarter of a century later, 200 co-workers have joined his efforts. His initiative led to the creation of the Aktives Museum Spiegelgasse für Deutsch-Jüdische Geschichte in Wiesbaden (the Active Museum Spiegelgasse for German-Jewish History in Wiesbaden), which for the past 13 years has been under the vigorous leadership of Dorothee Lottmann-Kaeseler.

Bembenek feels comfortable doing research and work in the background; Lottmann-Kaeseler is exceptionally talented at communicating, organizing and networking. She cultivated contacts that Bembenek had established with survivors and emigrants and made them a vital part of the institution's activities. Under her leadership—for the first years as a volunteer and since 1998 as part-time director—the Aktives Museum has preserved the oldest Jewish building in the city and provided a means for commemorating and disseminating information, often involving young people. She also answers genealogical inquiries, strengthens the museum's relationship with other institutions and implements new projects. "Dorothee is a very energetic person with a sense of humor. She has a lot of ideas about how to bring the residents closer to the history of the Jews in their German community," says Ruth Pewzner, who has roots in Wiesbaden.

Bembenek himself had acquired a long record of accomplishments before he founded the Aktives Museum. Since the 1970s, he has researched Wiesbaden's local history. He collected more material about resistance and persecution during Nazi times than any other archive in town: an extensive collection of photos, documents and interviews on video and audio tapes forms the basis of the museum's archive. "I found Lothar to be a very modest man, very kind and understanding, but always questioning to learn as much as possible," says Eric Kahn, a former Jewish resident of Wiesbaden who was interviewed for the museum's archive.

In 1985, Bembenek provoked a public outcry in his hometown when he interrupted a commemoration ceremony on Germany's Memorial Day, a martial event

organized by SS veterans. The ceremony was changed. As a teacher, he visited jailhouses because some files were archived there, and he started to write to former Jewish residents. For four years, on nearly every school holiday, he went to Israel with an audio recorder and a camera. "I was confronted with personal histories, and each conversation showed me that I had to continue," he explains.

The goal of founding the Aktives Museum became more concrete when Bembenek learned that the third-oldest building in Wiesbaden had once been a mikvah (a Jewish ritual bathing house). "The idea was not only to preserve this remnant of Jewish past, but also to commemorate the victims and start research on a broad basis," he says. Lottmann-Kaeseler, who was raised in Essen and moved to Wiesbaden in 1978, met him in 1987. She began working on the project during her spare time while raising her children and gradually became more committed to it. "I realized quickly that I actually knew little about the Holocaust here," the 60-year-old says. "I knew quite a bit about Auschwitz but nothing about Wiesbaden."

The pair and their supporters intended it to be more than a typical museum where the past is simply preserved. One of the first projects, documenting the deportations from Wiesbaden in 1942, was a mobile exhibit displayed at several locations around town. "For us, it is important to give victims back their names and faces, to make clear their role in society and their cultural contributions," explains Bembenek. About 3,000 citizens, each with information about the life, work and death of a deported Jew, joined a "commemoration march" in 1992. "People realized that [the past] touched their schools, their houses and their offices," Lottmann-Kaeseler remembers.

The museum also reaches out to younger residents. Wiesbaden students produced a virtual reconstruction of a synagogue in Alsace and came up with new ideas to save the building. Additionally, as many as 20 computer and design students worked from 1998 to 2000 to virtually reconstruct Wiesbaden's Michelsberg Synagogue, which had been destroyed during Kristallnacht, exclusively from photographs, creating a three-dimensional, interactive program that makes the now-nonexistent Moorish-style synagogue seem real again. The resulting exhibit and video has been installed in City Hall. "Most young people just know Jews from television," Lottmann-Kaeseler says, "and we want to teach them to interact unbiasedly, so they don't acquire prejudices out of ignorance or insecurity."



Awardee

KLAUS-DIETER EHMKE

Berlin

*Nominated by Rachel Esner, Amsterdam, The Netherlands;
Friederike Gänsslen-Hahn, Berlin, Germany; and Ines Walter, Herzliya, Israel*

Klaus-Dieter Ehmke is an unconventional man. The residents of Niederhof, in Western Pomerania in the former East Germany, discovered this when he started to search for gravestones taken from a forgotten Jewish cemetery nearby. “I will disassemble your staircase, but I will build a new one for you,” he remembers telling people when he thought a stone had been misused as construction material. “I examined them staircase by staircase, and when I found one, I returned with a wheelbarrow to pick it up.”

The youthful 45-year-old medical doctor, a Berlin resident since finishing his studies in the 1980s, did more than find 15 stones and fragments this way. Due to his initiative and continuing work, the Gute Ort cemetery has been put in order and saved from oblivion. He also made German-Jewish history part of his and others’ daily life—organizing projects at his place of work and in his church community, as well as providing Russian-Jewish artists from Israel with opportunities to exhibit their work.

A student of history and religion as well as medicine, Ehmke was raised in the small northern German village of Dennin and schooled in nearby Anklam. He had been fascinated by German-Jewish history in his youth and was interested in stories of resistance and persecution during Nazi times. His attention to Germany’s Jewish past intensified when he discovered, during a bicycle tour in 1979, the oldest Jewish cemetery in Western Pomerania, which had been in disrepair since 1857. “It was completely overgrown, and the inscriptions were illegible,” he remembers. He started to read about the Gute Ort and its stones and took photographs with precious film imported from West Germany.

Soon he discovered that gravestones had been used in construction or as stepping stones, and he began searching for them. The people of Niederhof watched him suspiciously, taking him for a peculiar guy from Berlin. Recognizing this, Ehmke wouldn’t ask for a stone directly, even when he knew exactly where he could find it; he preferred to make conversation over the garden

fence, drinking schnapps and talking about growing potatoes just to turn the conversation to what an interesting history certain stones had. “I never wanted to scare people. Instead, I tried to encourage them to discover history for themselves and recognize the cultural value,” Ehmke explains. Klaus Marsiske, an architect and friend who later took part in the search, knows the benefit of Ehmke’s tactic: “One of his many talents is to turn situations of daily life into something really charming,” he says. “Ultimately, the people thought they had themselves decided to give back the stone.”

Before Ehmke recovered the first gravestones in 1999, he brought visitors and villagers on guided tours of the cemetery and arranged for the grounds and the remaining gravestones to be cleaned. When the old inscriptions became visible, he made rubbings and exhibited them in Berlin and northern Germany. A class from a local school helped with his work, and eventually the pupils published a short book about it. “I wanted to involve the youth,” Ehmke explains. “What young people experience for themselves stays in their souls.”

Word of his work at the Gute Ort has spread. He has been invited to the Czech Republic next year to make rubbings of gravestones with a group of young people; another group, this one from Anklam, will help him research the town’s German-Jewish history and present it in an exhibition. “His commitment is contagious—that’s why he always finds like-minded people who join him in his work,” says Friederike Gänsslen, a journalist and friend.

Eventually the villagers in Niederhof came around, as well. Today Ehmke doesn’t have to haggle as if he’s at a bazaar or visit families several times to convince them to give up a gravestone—people tell him on their own if they’ve found something. “For me, that’s the real miracle,” he says. “The people have started to regard the cemetery as something important, as part of the village’s history.”



Awardee

CORDULA KAPPNER

Hassfurt, Bavaria

Nominated by Elizabeth Levy, Mevassaret Zion, Israel

Cordula Kappner will not be intimidated by anyone, anywhere. She speaks up, whatever the consequences. “I am no angel of peace,” explains the lively 62-year-old champion of ethnic minorities. “I don’t want to spread false harmony.” Although she is a gentile, her philosophy has led to anonymous anti-Jewish mail. She once found a Star of David scratched onto her car; another time, one was sprayed on the walls of her house, with a message telling her, as cryptically as menacingly, “Remember this!” “‘She is too Jewish-friendly’ people say, never directly, but in a small town you get to know something like that,” says Irmtraut Neubert, a teacher and a friend of Kappner’s.

A former director of the Hassfurt county library and the daughter of a Protestant preacher, Kappner has spent the past 20 years researching the German-Jewish history of the Franconian town and the region. She has presented the results—including material about all the Jewish families with roots there—in multiple exhibitions, written books and articles for local papers and made guided tours. With the help of school classes and interested residents, she documented seven Jewish cemeteries, and she reestablished contact with many survivors. “It made me connect to, and appreciate, my heritage and intimately get to know my grandfather—whom I never met—and my other relatives,” Doron Zeilenberger, who now lives in the United States, says about Kappner’s work.

Although her exhibitions found much interest in general, they produced opposition. But Kappner has never been one to float with the current. Even today, to avoid anyone prescribing what she should do, she pays all her own expenses, including for annual research visits to Israel since 1983. “Independence is the most important thing for me,” she explains. While at high school in Dresden in the late 1950s, she ventured to criticize the Communist collectivization of agriculture and was nearly kicked out for it. Later, after moving to Geesthacht in West Germany, Kappner—who originally wanted to become a German language

and history teacher—built up a system of private lessons for Turkish immigrant children. “She always stood up for those who are not accepted in society; that’s a thread in her life,” says Doerte Eggers, who knew Kappner there.

In the early 1980s, then living in Hassfurt, she began doing research in archives and tried contacting survivors worldwide. Her camera always with her, Kappner drove around the region’s villages and interviewed residents, managing to loosen tongues with her disarmingly straightforward manner. “If I saw old people, I just sat beside them,” she remembers. “We would get into conversation, and I asked what they remembered and whether they had old photographs.”

In this way, Kappner collected material for her first exhibit, in 1983, which depicted deportations from Lower Franconia using a particular family from the region as an example. She concentrated at first on the persecution of Jews and the Holocaust and later broadened it to the 19th century, mounting exhibits in the Hassfurt county library, in schools and in nearby villages. “I want to reach the ordinary people in the villages,” she explains. “I want them to know what happened and what value was lost.” She published her results in an anthology.

Kappner took special care to reach young people with her work. In front of the library, she initiated a memorial for the region’s Holocaust victims. Pupils from the local high school painted the names onto bricks, and students at a vocational school built the wall.

Today she has a folder for each of the 250 Jewish families that had once lived in and around Hassfurt, including photographs, interviews with contemporary witnesses, documents and articles. And Kappner has taken a separate exhibit—34 in all—to each village in the region that once had a Jewish population. Although she retired from the library in January, she has not thought about stopping. “I would like best to start over again,” she says. “It’s so interesting, and one forgets some details.”



Awardee

JÜRGEN SIELEMANN

Hamburg

*Nominated by Helga Heilbut, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany;
Rene Loeb, Zurich, Switzerland; and Sallyann Amdur Sack, Bethesda, MD*

Just as Hamburg's harbor once served as the gateway to a new future for millions of emigrants, the city's archive today is the entrance hall for journeys to the past. Its doorkeeper is Jürgen Sielemann, a 59-year-old expert on the history of Jews and other minorities in Hamburg. His activities, however, have gone far beyond what his archival job requires. Widely considered a leader in Jewish genealogy in Germany, he has helped thousands open doors to this history, even in times when others wanted to keep them closed. Thanks to his initiative and persistence, the archive had a leading role in opening new sources for historical research. Other essential genealogical files were made accessible through an Internet database. He founded Germany's first and only society for Jewish genealogy and was an inspiration for research. His *gedenkbuch* (memorial book) commemorates nearly 9,000 victims.

A Hamburg native, Sielemann's speech and manner hint at a man of encyclopedic knowledge and firm conviction; his politeness is tempered by short bursts of laughter and a dry sense of humor, well-known to those who have worked with him. "Calm and unperturbed, he does his work without making a fuss about it, but he does not rest until everything is finished," says Gabriela Fenyes, a journalist and former member of the executive council for Hamburg's Jewish congregation.

Since the 1970s, he has filled many file folders with correspondence to genealogists and ex-Hamburgers, from research he did in his spare time. He had wanted to institutionalize this network of relationships for decades and succeeded in 1996, when he initiated the founding of the Hamburg Society for Jewish Genealogy. He served as its leader until 2001 and is still the vice president.

One person grateful for his efforts is Miriam Gillis-Carlebach, the daughter of Hamburg's last rabbi. After 45 years, she returned from Israel to her birthplace to research the fate of her family. With Sielemann's help, she found the name of the non-Jewish family who lived in the same flat as her parents until their deportation. She was eager to meet them, but also anxious. "I didn't know how to get there, so he went with me," she says,

"and he even brought flowers to make the extremely exciting meeting somehow easier for me."

For a long time, however, his personal commitment found little support. He started his professional career at the Hamburg state archive in 1966 because of a general interest in history, and "half by chance" he chose Jews and other minorities as his field of responsibility. In charge of something regarded as an unpleasant subject among some colleagues and historians—just as it was generally at that time—Sielemann's services were seldom requested. "I felt like an outsider—like on an island," he remembers. In the midst of the silence surrounding him, the survivors who contacted him at work and the sources he studied confronted him with the past. "I soon realized what contributions the Jewish communities once had made to Germany," he recalls, "and I saw how, after the war as well, Jews were treated abjectly."

Sielemann has taught since the 1980s about emigration from Hamburg and the importance of the sources available in the Hamburg archive. Recently, he initiated a project to post on a Web site the complete lists of the 5 million emigrants, mostly from Eastern Europe, who came through the port of Hamburg, a boon to anyone researching family history. He also tries to broaden the basis for historical research. "Due to his persistence and efforts for many years, the files of the *Oberfinanzdirektion*, a fundamentally important source for research on the Nazi party, came to the state archive," explains Ina Lorenz, vice president of the Hamburg Institute for the History of German Jews. "He doesn't put himself in the foreground, but he is the one who does the most crucial work." The Hamburg Jewish community entrusted its post-war files to the archive.

Having learned early on that Hamburg once had a large Jewish community, genealogy became, in Sielemann's eyes, a way to explore German-Jewish history and identity. "I wanted to bring back an institution to Hamburg that already existed before Nazi times and that was a piece of Jewish culture," he says. "To date, I haven't spread the idea of a genealogical society to other cities in Germany, but I'm optimistic that it will happen."



Awardee

CHRISTIANE WALESCH-SCHNELLER

Breisach am Rhein, Baden-Wuerttemberg

*Nominated by Werner L. Frank, Calabasas, CA; Hans-George Hirsch, Bethesda, MD;
Carl N. Steeg, New York, NY; and Elaine Wolff, New York, NY*

There is a house in Breisach, Baden, that until 1940 was the center of Jewish life in the town. Slated for demolition only a few years ago, today the Blaue Haus is a place for research, education and culture—and it has become the nucleus for a new generation of German Jews. “We want to revive history again,” explains Christiane Walesch-Schneller, the leader of the group behind the building’s preservation, “not just on our own, but together with Jewish individuals who have roots in Breisach, as well as those interested in the project.”

With the help of others, Walesch-Schneller, a 53-year-old psychoanalyst and Hanover native, founded the Förderverein Ehemaliges Jüdisches Gemeindehaus Breisach (Society for the Promotion of the Former Jewish Community Center in Breisach) to preserve the historic building and undertake related projects. The förderverein researches local German-Jewish history, organizes visits for Jews originally from Breisach and elsewhere, and offers symposia, exhibitions, lectures and musical programs. And three Jewish families new to Breisach have already held several Shabbat services at the center. “It is an attempt to establish active, ongoing relations again,” Walesch-Schneller explains. For her, the association’s most important task is to involve as many individuals as possible in dialogue, rather than being an institution where that work can be delegated. “She doesn’t settle for the mayor coming with a wreath on the 9th of November [the anniversary of Kristallnacht], she doesn’t rest until the town grasps Jewish history as part of its own,” says Günter Boll, a member of the förderverein and a former German-Jewish History Award recipient.

It took time for Walesch-Schneller to become active. She heard nothing about the Nazi era in school, and her family never talked about it. But interactions with an acquaintance, a daughter of a Holocaust survivor, left her uneasy and questioning. She remained in restless silence until she met Josef Kornweitz in 1998. Kornweitz, a psychotherapist who worked with several descendants of Holocaust victims, inspired Walesch-Schneller in her pursuits. Today, he is a member and adviser of

the Breisach association. “He helped me overcome my reluctance,” she says. After that, approaching the past became a matter of “how,” not “whether.”

Then in June 1999, Ralph Eisemann, a former Jewish resident, revealed to her that the Blaue Haus—which the owner wanted to tear down—was the one-time Jewish Community Center. As if to make up for time lost in reluctance, action took over in an outburst of energy. “I asked the owner whether he could wait for half a year,” Walesch-Schneller remembers. Within those six months, she contacted supporters, organized a training program, raised funds and planned an event each week—the whole time not knowing whether there would be enough support or financial means. Initially, eight Breisach citizens agreed to found a society to preserve the Blaue Haus; by November 1999, they had grown to 40. The förderverein achieved its first goal in July 2000 and bought the house. The restoration was completed in 2003, and 240 society members maintain it today.

But facing history and reestablishing relations produces conflicts. In 2000, Walesch-Schneller discovered that a high-ranking SS officer from Auschwitz had gotten an honorary grave in the region and that the state was still paying for it. She researched the story and made it public. Boll says she promotes worthwhile causes even if it upsets officials.

Despite these difficulties, Walesch-Schneller’s outreach has led to more than just contact with descendants of former Jewish residents. Her work “has renewed a sense of belonging and harmony among us, the former members and their descendants of the Jewish community of Breisach,” says Carl Steeg, whose mother lived there. For Elaine Wolff, Steeg’s cousin, the benefit is more intimate. “Breisach has come to mean so much to me now,” she says, “not just because of the richness it brought to my mother’s early life but also because of the connections I’ve made to my mother’s friends, to my newfound family, to the ever-growing group of people who have joined Christiane in this work.”



BOARD MEMBERS AND JURY

German Jewish Community History Council

ERNST CRAMER is chairman of the Axel Springer Foundation. Born in Augsburg in 1913, he managed—after a stay at Buchenwald concentration camp—to immigrate to the United States in 1939. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and later with the American Military Government in Germany. Since 1958, he has been in top management and journalist positions at the Axel Springer Publishing Group, the largest European news enterprise.

KAREN FRANKLIN is director of the Judaica Museum in Riverdale, N.Y., and director of the Family Research Program at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City. She is former president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and past chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums. Mrs. Franklin currently serves on the board of the American Association of Museums (AAM), the first director of a Jewish museum to be elected to this position. She also serves on the AAM Ethics Committee.

WERNER LOVAL was born in Bamberg and at 13 escaped to England with the Kindertransport. He then lived in Ecuador and the United States before immigrating to Israel in 1954. Until 1966, he served in the Israeli diplomatic service in the United States and Latin America. He is a founder and director of Israel's largest real estate brokerage company; former president of Har-El, Israel's first Reform Synagogue; and a governor both of Hebrew University of Jerusalem and of B'nai Brith World Centre. In 1999, he was named an Honorary Citizen of Jerusalem. He is a frequent visitor to Germany.

ERNEST KALLMANN has been writing family histories within a broader historical perspective, especially with the Cercle de Genealogie Juive, Paris. He was born in Mainz, escaped to France in 1933, and has lived there since (except 1942-45), primarily as a telecommunications and computer management consultant.

WALTER MOMPER, President of the House of Representatives of Berlin and historian, as represented by Hendrik Kuebler. Walter Momper has been active in city politics and was Governing Mayor of Berlin when the wall came down in 1989. Kuebler has been in the Referat Protokoll since 1992.

SARA NACHAMA was raised in Israel, graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, moved to Berlin at the time of her marriage, and has worked for German television doing documentary films. From 1992 to 1999, she did volunteer work for the annual Berlin Jewish Cultural Festival (Juedischen Kulturtag). She is currently the vice president of the support group for the Berlin Jewish hospital. From 2001 to 2003, Mrs. Nachama was the executive director of the Berlin branch of Touro College (NY); in October 2003, she became Dean of Administration of Touro College Berlin and remains its executive director.

ARTHUR OBERMAYER is a high-tech entrepreneur in the Boston area who has been involved in many philanthropic activities. He is an officer and board member of the American Jewish Historical Society, chaired the Genealogical Task Force of the Center for Jewish History, started a Jewish museum in his ancestral German town of Creglingen, was on the board of the Internet genealogy supersite JewishGen, and initiated its German component.



SPONSORS

GERMAN JEWISH COMMUNITY HISTORY

COUNCIL. The organization operates under Obermayer Foundation, Inc., which has sponsored and directed projects in various parts of the world. In Germany, it has also provided the seed funding and continuing support for the Creglingen Jewish Museum. In the former Soviet Union, it produced in the early 1990s about 20 popular television programs on market economics shown primarily on their principal TV network (Ostankino). One series, which compared the conditions in Russia (1995) with those in Weimar Germany, alerted Russians to the potential dangers of fascism they faced. Also, the Obermayer Foundation publishes American Editorial Review, a biweekly emailed compilation of editorials from major American newspapers related to peace possibilities in Israel. Furthermore, it supports the Black-Jewish Economic Roundtable, which catalyzes business interactions between these groups.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BERLIN.

President Walter Momper sponsors these awards. For many years, the Parliament has been commemorating the German Holocaust Memorial Day of January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Concentration Camp. The decision was made in the year 2000 to have this event as its principal observance.

GERMAN JEWISH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF JEWISHGEN.

This is an internet-based organization with more than 900 daily participants who are involved in German-Jewish genealogy. It has been operating since 1998 through its discussion group and web site at www.jewishgen.org/gersig.

PREVIOUS AWARDEES

This year's awardees join the ranks of these seventeen outstanding award winners from previous years:

HANS-EBERHARD BERKEMANN campaigned to preserve synagogues and the Jewish history of Bad Sobernheim, Rheinland-Pfalz through exhibits, publications, and ceremonies

GISELA BLUME restored a cemetery, prepared a Holocaust memorial and *Gedenkbuch*, and developed genealogical records in Fuerth, Middle Franconia

GUENTER BOLL uncovered lost objects and preserved history from a synagogue and cemetery records in the counties of Baden and Alsace

IRENE CORBACH identified and communicated with former students of a Jewish high school in Cologne and organized lectures and exhibits

HEINRICH DITTMAR preserved the history of the former Jews of Alsfeld, Hesse by restoring its cemetery, publishing a book, and compiling statistics and archival material

OLAF DITZEL researched history, preserved a cemetery and prepared exhibits in small towns in Thuringia

JOACHIM HAHN authored eight books on the history and culture of southwest Wuerttemberg

GERHARD JOCHEM & SUZANNE RIEGER prepared and maintained a German/English website focusing on the history of Jews in the region around Nuremberg

OTTMAR KAGERER restored vandalized tombstones in the Weissensee cemetery in Berlin

MONICA KINGREEN authored numerous books and articles and initiated exhibits in communities of Hesse

JOSEF MOTSCHMANN wrote books and restored a cemetery and synagogue in Upper Franconia

CARLA & ERIKA PICK headed a group that encouraged active participation of survivors using visits, lectures, exhibits and archives in Borken, Northrhine-Westfalia

GERNOT ROEMER prepared books, articles and exhibits and educated youth on Schwabian life

MORITZ SCHMID restored a synagogue in Ichenhausen, Schwabia

HEINRICH SCHREINER planned, organized and raised funds for the restoration of a synagogue in Mainz, Rheinland-Pfalz

Profiles: Hendrik Klein Editors: Joel Obermayer, Lani Harac Other Content: Nancy Korman

