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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Project Reports of the Student Groups (Excerpts)

Garden and Maintenance Work at the Jewish Cemetery

The cemetery is only about 400 meters from the Anne Frank School. In the context of the project "Traces of Jewish Families in Bonn," students from the school's tenth-grade classes decided to take over the care and maintenance duties at the Jewish cemetery in Schwarzrheindorf.... Maintenance duties had to comply with the following conditions: nothing could be dug up in the Jewish cemetery; profuse overgrowth of elderberries, chestnut, maple trees, and poplar had to be pulled out or, if they were too large, cut back in the older sections of the cemetery. No new planting could be done, as that would have changed the modest natural design. The ivy that covered some gravestones completely was to be cautiously removed in order to make the tombstone inscriptions readable again; ivy was also removed a certain distance from every gravestone to prevent obscuring inscriptions.

Small stones left at the graves by visitors as signs of respect and remembrance were not disturbed. Dried leaves and dead branches were removed, and main paths were cleared; other work had to be completed later due to seasonal conditions.

So that the tranquility of the dead would not be disturbed, nineteen students divided into three groups

and worked in shifts. This was also appropriate as many students were not accustomed to hard physical work. All breaks were taken outside the cemetery....

Visitors to the cemetery welcomed our work throughout the project. Our enthusiasm and engagement was enormous. In the future, we intend to continue our work as facilitators to prevent others from forgetting "our" cemetery.

Symbols on Jewish Graves

Our group of eight students looked at all of the gravestones and sketched the most common symbols. Some of the students later took photographs of those gravestones they considered especially beautiful. [see Visuals]

We borrowed a lot of books to research the meaning of these symbols. We tried to read as much as possible and to summarize relevant information in short texts. [see Document 3]

A few of us made sketches of the different symbols and also practiced writing the Hebrew letters.

Our

teacher lent us a computer program that taught Hebrew handwriting.

We discussed Jewish burial traditions and compared them with Christian and Islamic traditions.

We

compiled our findings in written form.

We wanted to be able to present our work in an attractive manner and chose gray cardboard, on which

we posted our photographs, texts, and pictures. We then framed these panels.

Our group enjoyed the work and learned a great deal. We felt that more should be done for "our"

gravestones, which should be considered works of art. We hope that other students will also want to work on this project.

Research about the Deceased in the Cemetery

We chose our topic after a class visit to the cemetery. Our teachers first introduced the history of the cemetery, and we subsequently researched Jewish burial traditions at the library. We also picked a few well-preserved gravestones and decided to research the biographies of the individuals buried in those plots.

We spent a week doing research in the city archive, the university library, and in the city library. This type of research was new for us, and it was not easy to use the city archives or the university library. However, we quickly became used to working in these settings. The information we found was very exciting. We also received professional help from Dan Bondy, who had written an academic book about the history of the cemetery. Using the information we had assembled, each student wrote about his or her "family." Our teachers naturally corrected everything and helped us substantially. We also met two survivors who knew descendants of the families buried in the cemetery. Although the work was very time consuming, we enjoyed it immensely.

Jewish Stores in Bonn in 1938

After beginning the project and working through information about Judaism in the classroom, we were not sure what to choose as our specific research topic. We got our idea when an older woman told us that the current department store, Kaufhof, had previously been Jewish-owned. We then decided to research whether or not there were other stores that had previously belonged to Jewish owners.

Members of the local synagogue gave us documents about the stores that had been destroyed in November 1938 during the so-called *Kristallnacht*. We were able to locate all but two of these stores and identify the new owners [see Document 4]. The documents also included a city map from 1935. We copied and enlarged the section of the map showing the town center of Bonn. We then entered the locations of former Jewish-owned stores on this map....

The television station, Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR), filmed us as we did our research in the city. They filmed us at 2 Friedrichstraße, the location of the former watchmaker Firma Marx — now a tailor's shop....

Creating a Model of the Beuel Cemetery

...Our group decided to build a scale model of the Jewish cemetery in Schwarzhemdorf. The scale was

1:200. It was Waldemar and Nickolai's job to paint the north bridge on a piece of wood. This was the sidewall of the exhibition case. They took their art supplies to the north bridge several times to sketch it. The result turned out quite well. Obvious when viewed from the point of entrance into the cemetery, the model clearly replicates the layout of the cemetery.

Thorsten and Michael often went to the Rhein dike to prepare measurements for the model. The replica for the dike was built with plastic materials, while the other parts were built from a model railroad.

Visits to libraries, a lot of reading, and getting supplies supplemented our work.

A Jewish Family on Sabbath Eve

We have all decided to portray a Jewish family celebrating the Sabbath on a Friday evening. [see Visuals] This subject was very interesting for us because we were familiar with the topic through schoolwork. We learned that the everyday life of Jewish families was no different from other families. The only differences were their religious practices. We chose this topic because we all come from different countries (Morocco, Spain, Turkey, Zaire, and Germany), but we know that families all around the world celebrate the same way....

Each of us contributed materials. For example, Boushra brought a small candlestick. The work was divided up, and we began. Because Sima was best at sewing, she made clothing for the dolls we were using. Vera made carpets; Tahereh, Sükran, Hatun, and Anna made furniture. Keywan and Ralf built the sides of an exhibition case from plywood. This had to be painted on one side, and it required wallpaper on the other side. The main problem at this point was finding wallpaper that fit

the time period. Everyone tried to help and do his best.

The work required much patience and time, because it was frequently difficult to assemble the smaller pieces. We did, however, finally reach our goal. Class lectures furthered our knowledge of this topic through schoolwork.

We researched our topic by using library books; several members of the group read the literature and then advised those applying this information to their construction. We enjoyed this work very much and felt honored to participate in this project.

Jewish Citizens in Beuel

After lectures in class, we wanted to know where Jewish citizens in Beuel had lived. Our research began in the city archives. We obtained a city map from 1905, and we determined that most street names corresponded to those from 1930. We prepared a list of the names and addresses of Beuel residents based on the monograph by Johannes Bücher. We could proceed with our project only after comparing the current street names with those from 1935. We found that most of the addresses still existed, although the houses are now relatively old and, of course, have different owners.

Waldemar and Nickolai ... enlarged the map of the inner city area of Beuel and marked in green those streets where Jewish citizens had lived. Our aim was to determine whether a ghetto had been created in Beuel. The map showed that there had not been.

We compiled a list of names from Jewish gravestones in the Beuel Jewish cemetery. We already had a list from 1848 of all Beuel citizens, and we were able to locate many names in this manner.

Our next task was to draw the Beuel synagogue of 1903, because we were not able to locate a photograph of it.... Trips to do research at the libraries in Bonn and Beuel and to purchase supplies took much of our time.