

Rede Haim Sobol, Sohn der Überlebenden Miryam Sobel am zoom meeting der Initiative „erinnern - ehren - versöhnen“ zum 29 April 2021

Dear Mayor Dehmer, Eva, Matthias, Rosemarie, Herman, Geislingen citizens and guests.

My name is Haim Sobol from Israel, the son of Maria Kaufman (Miryam Sobel) and the grandchild of Rebeka (Rivka) Kaufman, two of the 820 Jewish women working at the concentration satellite camp WMF / Geislingen during 1944-5.

As a child growing with my sister in a family, which both our parents were a holocaust survivors, the Shoah existed constantly within our life either by direct influence from stories (mainly from my mother) or by in-direct influence unconsciously effected our behavior and decision making during all our life period.

Examples of direct influence:

1. **Food** – our refrigerator at home was always full with food, every day lunch includes 3 meals, special mixer for fruit juice, my mother operated daily, was the first in all our neighborhood. This is directly linked to the lack of food, which they suffered.
2. **Education** – at the age of 5 the first piano in our neighborhood was at our apartment, encouraging daily to success at school with a vision to become an engineer (which I am...). This is directly linked to what they missed during their childhood.

Examples of in-direct influence:

1. **Behavior** – in-order to constantly please my parents existed significantly in my life and continued with my behavior with my wife and especially with my children (we have in Israel “Get Taxi”, we have in my family “Get father”...).
2. **Family** – the importance of the family to be close and unified is one of my important values, which I try as possible to keep.

Our communication with Geislingen started on 2014 by the initiative of Rosemarie and Herman Schneider, which concluded on May 2015, by participate in the first commemoration event in Geislingen. A big team from our family including my mother participated in this event; we came back to Israel with many emotional memories. Unfortunately, my mother passed away few weeks after she closed this life cycle, at the age of 88.

Further, we participate on April 2018 at another memorial event in Geislingen.

I have many years of experience working together with German people (from your bigger sister – ULM) and never discussed with them about the history. Within both the above events, I had the first opportunity to meet with German people that are willing to meet, learn and remember the “Black” history of their place; this is very much appreciated by me. Special relationship and friendship between our family to Rosemarie, Herman and Eva is a good sign for a better future. Let’s continue this way for our next generations.

Thank you for your patient.

Haim Sobol, Israel