

As a young girl in the Geislingen concentration camp

History As a girl, Hanna Mann was an inmate of the concentration camp in Geislingen, her daughter tells high school students.

Geislingen. About 300 students are sitting in the canteen of Michelberg High School. Nevertheless, it is almost completely silent in the hall: the young people listen attentively to Malka Zissman. In English, the former history teacher from Israel tells the story of her mother Hanna Mann, who was interned as a girl in the Geislingen satellite camp.

Until she was 15, Hanna lived with her parents and four siblings in a small village in Transylvania, Romania. Her mother was a good student, says Malka Zissman. Her grandmother had a small corner store, and her grandfather was a primary school teacher. "Everything was normal, then all of a sudden it started." After Hungary annexed Transylvania in 1941 by order of Nazi Germany, expropriations, humiliations and violence were the order of the day from then on, she said. When the Germans finally occupied Hungary in 1944, they set the extermination machine in motion there as well. Hanna, her parents and siblings, and other Jewish families from her home village were crammed onto a train and deported to Auschwitz. Together with her family, Hanna stood in line there during the "selection," Malka Zissman impressively tells the students. An officer grabbed Hanna by the sleeve and dragged her to the other side - to the prisoners who were classified as "fit for work." "That saved my life," her mother Hanna told her. The other prisoners, including many elderly people and children, were murdered in the gas chambers. Hanna's parents were also able to work, but did not want to part with their younger children. Hanna was never to see them again. Her entire family was murdered in the extermination camp.

After a short time, Hanna was taken to the satellite camp in Geislingen as a forced laborer. There she had to work hard every day: either from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. or from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.. Many of the inmates were teenagers like 15-year-old Hanna: "They were all your age," Malka Zissman makes clear to the students. For her mother, it was a matter of survival: "You work, you live." But Hanna never gave up hope for freedom, says Malka Zissman. In April 1945, the dream finally came true. But where was Hanna Mann to go after her liberation? "She had no house anymore, no family, no money," Malka Zissman points out. At the age of 18, Hanna Mann finally found a new home in the recently founded state of Israel.

Stefanie Schmidt

remembering, honoring, reconciling.

History 350 people show their colors against anti-Semitism and xenophobia and march in remembrance of the horror in the Geislingen concentration satellite camp. There a memorial was dedicated.

by *Claudia Burst*

350 citizens show their colors marching silently to the former concentration satellite camp and demonstrating against



anti-Semitism and xenophobia. Foto: Claudia Burst

Anti-Semitism also exists in Geislingen. "Shit Jews, shit Jews," scream two women wearing a headscarf and a boy yesterday in a hateful voice, as the silent march of 350 people with the Israeli banner and a corresponding flag pass their house in Hohenstaufenstraße. It is thanks to the accompanying security that the verbal attack does not erupt into a quarrel.

This is a depressing proof of the legitimacy of the remembrance event "Remembering. Honoring. Reconciling." of which this march is a part of.

With their participation in the event initiated by the Evangelical Alliance, the participants demonstrate how important it is for them to remember the crime of the Nazis in the Third Reich. Especially in Geislingen. And here is why: to oppose racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia right now and in today's world. The silent march leads from the WMF gate to where the satellite camp used to be in 1944 and 1945 - the route that 800 shorn, silenced forced laborers had to walk every day in wooden clogs.

As in the past, many people watched the march inconspicuously from the closed windows.

The fence of the former concentration satellite camp was located where the new bike path runs to the Eybacher valley today. Right there the organizers dedicate a memorial at the end of their march. It consists of three elements: a piece of replica fence with barbed wire, two commemorative plaques and the inmates' wooden shoes - made of metal as a donation from Heidelberger Druckmaschinen. Rabbi Yehuda Pushkin speaks a prayer.

Commemoration ceremony at WMF

Before the silent march, a commemoration ceremony had taken place at WMF communication center. All 200 guests were searched before entry. In addition to main initiator Matthias Lotz, Jan Steinert from the management of WMF, Senior Mayor Frank Dehmer, the Israeli Consul General Sandra Simovich, it was especially the Israeli ambassador to Finland and Estonia, Segev-Steinberg, whose personal memories filled the eyes of many of the audience with tears: "My aunt and my grandmother were in the concentration camp here in Geislingen." Even the translator's voice failed again and again while describing these events.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ORGANIZERS OF THE EVENT

The organizers are: Evangelical Alliance, City of Geislingen, SPD, CDU, Alliance 90 / The Greens, Free Voters, School of Economics and Environment, culture club Rätsche, IG Metall, Friends of Nature, Youth Council, Catholic and Protestant Church, Protestant Adult Education, New Apostolic Church.

Segev-Steinberg came as a member of the former camp inmates Regina Kaufmann (his grandmother) and Miriam Sobol (aunt). Varda and Haim Sobol came from Israel as relatives of Miriam Sobol. Malka Zissmann, Gizella Mann and Tsely Mann are related to Helen Jeckel.

Members of the youth council read out loud all the names of the 800 camp inmates.