

### A project that gets under your skin

Migy teacher Anne Käbbohrer has struck a chord with her students with her project on the subject of the concentration camp in Geislingen. They even work on it in their free time.

The fact that the windows of an Israeli grocery store in Senden were smashed with stones in October was the moment when Anne Käbbohrer decided to carry out the "I'll tell your story" Project. "I had already been thinking about taking up the topic of the subcamp in Geislingen for years," explains the German teacher from Michelberg High School (MiGy) in Geislingen.

In January, she began to provide the students of the two German advanced courses from year 11 with various texts - biographies of inmates, facts and figures, texts about the subcamp - and let them work with them. They were to retell the stories of the forced laborers in "first person".

In order to do this professionally and comprehensively, she contacted Rosemarie Schneider, the person responsible for the Geislingen initiative "Remembering-Honoring-Reconciling" ([kz.geislingen.de](http://kz.geislingen.de)) and talked to Hansjürgen Gölz, a long-standing member of the Geislinger Art and History Association, who has also dealt intensively with this topic. When she met Rainer Grätsch from Radio Fips in Göppingen and told him about her project, he was enthusiastic and suggested making a one-hour radio program out of it.

The project picked up speed: The students from the two German courses conducted a survey of the entire MiGy school community to find out how much knowledge there was about the subcamp. They interviewed principal Martina Bach as well as Rosemarie Schneider and Mayor Frank Dehmer, both of whom have invited Holocaust survivors from Geislingen to Geislingen on several occasions.

And they spoke on the phone with a former inmate of the concentration camp, Rosalie Simon, who is still alive, as well as with a son and three grandchildren of other female forced laborers from Geislingen. These interviews took place in the radio studio and were recorded.

"It really got under our skin," said Anne Käbbohrer. She will never forget Rosalie Simon's answer to student Phuong Hoang's question "What would you like to pass on to the youth generation of today?". Rosalie Simon replied: "That you know that there are always good people among all the bad people!"

Mordi Zissmann, a grandson of Hanna Mann, spoke to his grandmother about what happened during the Holocaust for the first time in 1998. Another year later, she told him that she had met the SS camp doctor Josef Mengele in Auschwitz, who later became known as the "Angel of Death". He decided that all of Hanna Mann's family members, except herself, had to go to the gas chambers.

Emma Kralisch conducted a telephone interview with Chaim Sobel, the son of Miryam Sobel. "It's different to be told by someone whose mother had to go through it than to just read about it," says the 16-year-old. However, she was "really moved" by the interview with Rosalie Simon, "because she cried when she talked about that time and how her sister died."

The 24 students working on the texts talk a lot about the topic, exchange ideas and now find it really bad when someone makes antisemitic jokes. But above all, the ten who were and still are active in the afternoons at Radio Fips, where they conducted the interviews - some of them in English - and are now helping to prepare the texts for broadcasting the one-hour radio programs, which now last six hours, are extremely moved by the topic.

"In stories, it's just classroom material, without these feelings, but this one affects us - it makes us much more sensitive to what's happening today," says Amelie Mietz. Her classmate Christian Kaiser finds it astonishing that "something like this happened in a small town like Geislingen and everyone claimed afterwards that they hadn't noticed".

Investing so much time in addition to lessons and even spending time in the radio studio during the vacations is "absolutely worth it" for the students, as Emma Kralisch emphasizes.

"The topic is important, which is why we cover it in such detail," says radio presenter Rainer Grätsch. He thinks the project is "absolutely brilliant" because, in his opinion, the students learn a lot from the stories, because, in his opinion, through the stories, the students "get to know the events and the effects of National Socialism so much better than with the monologues of the teachers".

The interviews with those affected parties, but also with Mayor Dehmer, who could "really say a lot with content", are also "impressive" for the professional, as he says. "When I hear in the news that right-wing politicians are again talking about deportation and what else does their creation of the word 'remigration' not mean, then I find it extremely important that such projects are carried through in schools."