

Nürnberg, 17.05.2017

Dear Mr. Hirschmann and family,

It was in Israel end of February when I participated in the 4th edition of BIPA (Bavarian Israel Partnership Accelerator) where I learned how to google professionally. Also there grew the want to contact the family who owned the house in Nuremberg, Eichendorffstrasse 15 (in Glenzegen)

Where my Mum Karin and my aunt Helga Muhr grew up/lived.

All I knew was that this house had been owned by a Jewish family and that the owner was able to make it to the USA on the last ship that made it ^{to} there during the 2nd World War. My aunt had told me that after the war the two sons of the family visited and that the house after the war had to be bought for a second time for a realistic price.

I am 45 years now and it is a shame that I never looked into the Nazi-past of my family. I should have realised earlier that there is a Nazi-past of course. We were all taught at school about Hitler Germany and the horrific crimes which were committed. But it was lessons filled with numbers, data and facts of the deeds of "them"-the Nazis and we felt that all this was something which was awful but that it happened in a far-away past. And I did not connect these history lessons to my family. My sister and I enjoyed a very happy childhood and connecting family with gruesome horrors did not work. I know that this was the same for my friends.

I am deeply ashamed for what us Germans did to yourself, your family and to your friends and relatives and to the members of

it must have been to live through this.

It seems to be only now that we - the grandchildren generation of the men and women who became criminals - start to ask tough questions of the degree and way our families have been involved and actively contributed not only to a war but to the SHOAH.

Last week I went to the archives of the city of Nuremberg and looked through the inhabitants' books.

For the Eichendorffstrasse 15 the information I found was (* signifies owner):

1938 * Hirschmann, J., Direktor

1939 ~~FF~~ * Treuhandverwaltung, Blumenstr. 9
Hirschmann J. Jsr., fr. Direktor

1940 * Verwaltungsstelle des Grund- und Hausbesitzer-
vereins e.V. Färberplatz 12
Muhr W., Kaufmann

1941 * Muhr W., Kaufmann

I am not sure about the role of my grandfather Willi Muhr in this, but what I read about the "Wilde Arisierung" makes me doubting the narrative of my helping your family to escape to the USA. My grandparents Muhr both died before I was born and also my aunt Helga is dead, there is no one in the family left who has the answers.

After my research in the Nuremberg archives I looked in the internet for the Jewish family Hirschmann and found the two articles about Peter Hirschmann in the nizkor.org.

Especially the two articles about the men who returned as a soldier and then as family father to Germany moved me. I am very touched by the family picture included in the article.

I will be travelling to Israel for another 2 weeks tomorrow 18.5. In September I started learning Hebrew.

The more I think about family history and all those immeasurable and ungraspable crimes committed against the Jews with the fact being that this was not "long ago", but Holocaust-survivors are still living ... the more I understand that the passage in the bible telling that sin is running down the generations. There is no way to say "it is all past" - us Germans need to deal with remembering. I do think that this is the task for my generation, handed down from the grandparents - "we did not know" - generation via the parents "we were not allowed to know" - generation to us. Us Germans touched God's eyeball, the Jews, and with this comes the obligation to remember and not to shy away any longer from tough questions.

I wish you all the best,

The pictures included show the house that it is now (my aunt sold it in the 70s) and the dedication my aunt Helga wrote into the church songbook she gave to me when I was 14 years old.