

Prof. Dr. Peter Aufgebauer, Historical Society for Göttingen and the surrounding area

Ladies and gentlemen, dear members of the Fränkel and Löwenstein families, a warm welcome and Shalom.

On behalf of the Göttingen Historical Society, which is supporting the "Stumbling Stones for Göttingen" project together with the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation and in cooperation with the city the City of Goettingen, I would like to welcome you to the laying of the stumbling stones for Hermann Fränkel, his wife Lilli and their three children Hans, Edith and Brigitte, as well as for Toni Löwenherz, her daughter-in-law Florence Löwenherz and the children Renate and Vera.

"A place and a name": the central memorial for the murdered Jews of Europe in Jerusalem is named after the biblical words „Yad Vashem“ (Isaiah 56:5). In Göttingen, as in several hundred European cities, the commemoration and admonishing remembrance of the persecuted, expelled and murdered Jewish citizens can also be expressed in thousands of „stumbling stones“ with "place and name".

Place and name: today we can relate this to the Stolpersteine, which document the names of those persecuted, expelled or murdered by the Nazi regime in front of the last home they chose for themselves. Little by little, we are bringing the memory of each persecuted and murdered individual back to our city and our present.

This remembrance can and should take place at any time, in everyday life, in street life. In order to bring place and name - Yad Vashem - together, in order to find out which name is on a Stolperstein, who is being commemorated here, you have to bend down, and that also means bowing down to the victim.

With the Stolpersteine for Hermann Fränkel and his family and the colloquium in his honor, the Georg August University is also involved in the commemorative work of the Stolpersteine project in a special way for the first time. Around one hundred members of the university, Nobel laureates, other outstanding scholars, scientific and

other staff members were treated with hostility, expelled and many of them eventually murdered.

The freedom of research and teaching as the basis of the university was sacrificed to a criminal ideology. And there was no resistance, no opposition, especially from within the university. We must also remember this when we lay the Stumbling Stones today.