

Last year we celebrated the centennial year of founding the Austrian Republic in 1918. As you know it's not really a story of only success,. First the political parties had contradictory goals, most of the Austrians didn't feel as an own nation. And in the struggle of survival 1934 the idea of Austria as a barrier against Nazism and as a substitute to the further Jewish state was not supported by Socialdemocrats. The young Jewish people were torn back and forth between their German education and their Zionist movement. The Austrian resistance started in 1933 and some of these resisters used their experience in the resistance-networks 1941-1945, but their merits were played down by the political major parties 1945, as they wanted to win the former Nazis as voters. In 2018 once again we were confronted with the question, if Austria should be called as a or as the first victim of Nazism or as an accomplice of the NS-crimes against humanity. In my opinion the Austrian broadcast ORF in its special programs in March and November 2018 failed to show the patriotism of the Jewish compatriots and also the role of Austria in protecting or delivering the Austrian Jews.

In 2018 I finished the 4th volume to the trilogy "Portable Homeland":

"The Heritage lives. Despite traumatized Families and charged History". Because of problems with the funding commitment the 4th volume could not be published last year, it will come out in autumn 2019. This year I also offer the workshop "Portable homeland" for higher schools in our area together with the psychotherapist Mag. Nina Diesenberger. I invited her to write for the fourth volume a guest post on her own family story with ancestors of Jewish victims and also Nazi-perpetrators. The 4th volume also contains other guest posts on career of members of our compatriot Jewish families on the experience of descendants of resistance fighters, on the exemplary commemorative culture in our area.

I myself wrote about theories on Austrian history 1933-1955; on the Christian-Jewish dialogue; I comment texts of Jewish and resistant authors, connected to our area. Supported by some descendants I contribute and complete Jewish family stories (Fried, Kraus, Rind, Schanzer and two Sommer-families) and stories of international Jewish art deco dealers and of a famous Jewish vacationer in our area. And I reconstruct the networks of Austrian resistance, I describe the career of a NS-scientist and a NS-journalist, the NS-organization of a city in the landscape, the NS-ideology of a protestant parish. I refer a prominent example of a failed restitution of a property. With these subjects I hope to give an impression about the role of our Jewish compatriots in the public discourse today in Austria and also in our special area. The school-workshops should enable to compare acts of discrimination today with discrimination measures relating to Shoah: not playing down the Nazi criminals but to perceive raw civility and group related misanthropy today against Jews and Judaism and against all minorities. Learning from history isn't possible without historical comparison.

In 2018 we had to say good bye to Elfriede Kreuzer in Laimbach. She lived the Christian-Jewish dialogue in a very personal way as a leader of a Catholic church choir. Her Funeral ended with the Kaddish. We had to say good bye also to Ruth Mauthner from Pöchlarn, who after WW II followed her father to Sweden. In 2008 she came to her former home and in her old school she impressed with memorized poems and ballades from Goethe and Schiller. An example of her humor: If God would have finished his creation on day 5, crimes against humanity never could have happened.