

Staircase triptych

of the pupils in the orphanage of the Jewish Community of Berlin

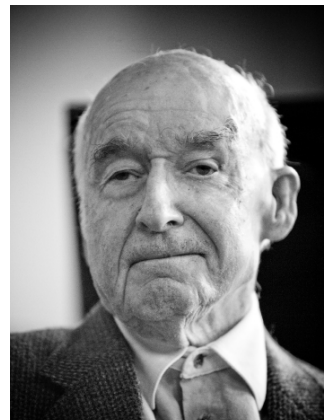
2001 The gift and legacy given to us by the pupils
after the Shoa



Günther Goldbarth

went into hiding in Holland after his escape from Nazi Germany and the murder of his family:

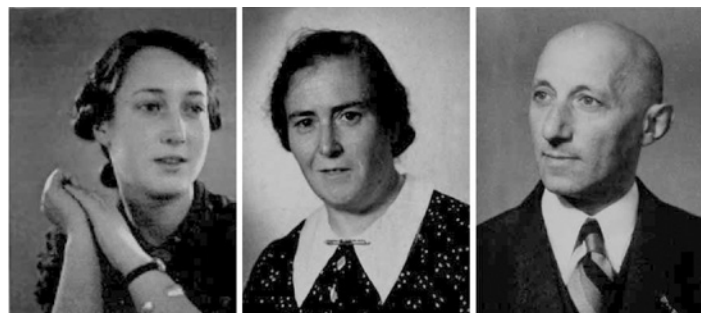
„The work of reconciliation and understanding with the victims of fascism are the two maxims that should absolutely continue and prevail in the future, taking into account the past. I wish the German people all the best for the future!“





Leslie Baruch Brent

Saved by the 1st Kindertransport to England (1938),
murder of his sister Eva-Susanne, his mother Charlotte
Baruch and his father Arthur Baruch
on 29 October 1942 in Riga:



„With the help of the orphanage reunions, I have succeeded in making friends with modern and revitalised Germany; I can face Germans today with an open heart and a free mind and I am happy to have such good friends in Berlin – Jews and non-Jews alike!“

In his autobiography (Ein Sonntagskind? 2009, p. 342) he writes: „Has the world really learnt nothing from history? Since 11 September... intolerance and hatred towards Muslims has been growing in Britain and elsewhere, and in many cases the inhuman and unjust treatment meted out to them threatens the relationship between the Western and Muslim worlds, upsetting the balance of the entire globe.“



What does this mean for us today?

After the greatest 'crimes against humanity' against millions of European Jews, peaceful and emphatic rapprochement has been gratefully experienced and proven for the friends of the orphanage after 11 years of visits by former orphanage pupils.

A lasting legacy!

2010

Exhaustion and a slow farewell



Renate Bechar

Daughter of the murdered director of the orphanage and concentration camp survivor:

„We will always have fond memories of our time in Berlin – you all went to such lengths with us old people – simply touching. I have already written and told you several times that I can now think of Berlin with love and joy and not just with bitterness and melancholy, and I have you to thank for that.“

2023

The legacy

What does the empty staircase of the orphanage teach us?



In 2019, Leslie Baruch Brent, whose name this former prayer room now bears, was the last former pupil of the orphanage to pass away.

**We must preserve the legacy of the pupils
and continue to call out with them:**

**Reconciliation, instead of supplying weapons,
is the order of the day!**

The **Palestinian** Bassam Aramin, central figure in the book „Apeirogon“ (2021), said in his Spiegel interview on 4 November 2023:

„The Israelis did not kill six million Palestinians, and the Palestinians, unlike the Germans, did not murder six million Jews. And yet Israel and Germany are friendly nations today. There is a German ambassador in Tel Aviv and an Israeli ambassador in Berlin. What does that mean? It means we can do it too. All we need are courageous leaders who can lead us away from the horror and pain of the past.“

So it is not a chimera, not an idealistic reverie, but here – in this former prayer hall – **messages for peace that have become real:**

- A traumatised view of the past prevents us from looking to the future.
- A criminological truism says: violence begets violence! So: terrorism begets terrorism, you can't bomb it away. Only positive antipodes can help, as Pascal Gemperli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 6.12.23, p.19) is currently admonishing:

**Peace must be set against violence!
Empathy and co-operation alone can overcome racism!**

Solutions must therefore be sought on both sides in a comprehensive way that improves and promotes structures: Weapons do not help Israel! All countries that bear responsibility for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (and these can be quickly identified as current pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian arms suppliers) must help both conflict countries, Israel and Palestine, to rebuild and establish economic and social stability.

According to *Immanuel Kant*, „perpetual peace“ (1781) can be achieved through *geopolitical trade mechanisms based on economic reason*. And not only in the Middle East, if I may be more precise today – especially with regard to the war in Ukraine.



*Staircase triptych
of the pupils
in the orphanage
of the Jewish Community
of Berlin*

*Greeting and closing words
by Peter-Alexis Albrecht
for the 67th orphanage talk
on 13.12.2023*



On 21.12.2023 the Muslim Tuba Altan, born as a Turkish woman in Berlin, commemorated the anniversary of the death of Leslie Baruch Brent (21.12.2019). He cleaned the stumbling blocks of his parents and sister. From this house they were deported to their deaths in Riga in 1942. Tuba Altan photographed Leslie Baruch Brent cleaning the stumbling blocks.



IMG_0311.jpg
4 MB

Von: Tuba Altan <altan.tuba1991@gmail.com>
Gesendet: Donnerstag, 21. Dezember 2023 14:07
An: kontakt@cajewitz-stiftung.de
Betreff: Leslie Baruch Brent

Hallo, in liebevollen Erinnerungen an den 21.12.2019 gedenke ich heute Leslie Baruch Brent. Seine Begegnung regten meine Hinterfragungen des Mensch sein sehr auf und ich muss oft an diese Begegnung zurück denken und als ich seine Geschichte erfahren habe ist mir nach langer Überlegungen ein kräftiger mächtiger Gedanke im inneren meiner Augen entstanden, den ich gerne mit seiner Familie und seinen alten Freund Peter- Alexis Albrecht teilen möchte.

Mord verändert die Zeit. Menschen bringen ihr Lebenswerk nicht zu Ende, somit bleibt die Zeit stehen auf unbestimmte Zeit, wir leben Millionen Jahre in der Vergangenheit.

Tuba Altan

