

## Introduction

Today is *International Holocaust Memorial Day*. On this day the world remembers the over six million Jews and countless other victims who were murdered during the Nazi-regime. On January 27<sup>th</sup> 1945 the Red Army liberated the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland, which was then part of German-occupied territory. In addition to Jews thousands of Sinti, Roma and Poles were murdered here, also Russian prisoners of war and prisoners of other nationalities.

The Nazis had decided that “Jews had no right to live”. To fulfill this goal they established a killing machinery of gigantic dimensions. Furthermore they tried to eliminate all traces of their victims. This is why we come together to remember their names in this memorial hour.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> 1933, almost 80 years ago, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of the *German Reich*. On this date the catastrophe of the Holocaust began. In the election for the Reichstag in March 1933 the Nazi party was very successful in Obermenzing receiving 44 percent of the vote. Other sources estimated even 60 percent for this radical, anti-democratic party with its anti-Semitic and malicious ideology. According to the local press, due to “the radical intervention” of the mayor of Obermenzing, Georg Oberpriller, “the takeover of the community council by the Nazi party happened swiftly and efficiently.”

From 1907 until his death in March 1934 Georg Oberpriller, owner of the local mill on the river Wuerm, had shaped the wellbeing of this small community. Obermenzing gained considerable celebrity, because he was the first German mayor who was a member of the Nazi-party, and this as early as 1926. “Thanks to his engagement Obermenzing became a center of the movement.” according to “*Völkischer Beobachter*”.

Surrounded by this environment of Anti-Semitism several Jewish families tried unsuccessfully to survive. Evelyn Lang will read their names. Tablets for the ten victims from Obermenzing are shown in the exhibition.

Almuth David, member of the *Geschichtswerkstatt*, will talk about Trina Kuttner, about her life in Apfelallee in Obermenzing and about her death in Theresienstadt, half a year after her arrival. Doris Barth, another member of the *Geschichtswerkstatt*, will give us some historic background information about the Theresienstadt-Ghetto. That was also the focus of our November memorial at the sculpture of the *Bent Empty Chair* in Pasing.

Dietrich Weiss will recite a poem of Nelly Sachs, *The Chorus of the Saved*, even though none of the Obermenzing Jewish residents was saved. No one returned from Kaunas or Theresienstadt. He will recite another poem related to the nearby memorial for the *Death March from Dachau*.

Oliver Klenk will accompany this memorial with a selection of clarinet music.

Thanks to everybody for participating.

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