

Neuwied in September 2015

Dear Friends of Neuwied,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Shalom,

as in every year we would like to send you, your families and friends our kindest regards and best wishes for the celebration of the High Holidays in 5775/76: Rosch HaSchana on September, 14 and 15, Yom Kippur on September, 23, and Sukkoth on September, 28 and 29.

The Jewish Community of Neuwied will celebrate these Holidays in their synagogue in Saffig. You can inform yourself about the community and their activities on their new website www.liberale-juden.de/Gemeinden/Neuwied .

Apart from the routine the focus of the work of the board was last year put on the project of the "Stolpersteine" ("stumbling stones") in Neuwied. When Rolf Wüst started his investigations ten years ago, he had no idea what would become of it with all the help from all over the world. The artist Christine Welter is a great help to him in the research of victims and their families. The implementation of the findings into a website lies in the hands of an IT-specialist. We hope we can put the website online in autumn. Of course you will be informed about it.

The website will not be put online too early, because some users might be disappointed and turn away. It must be really worthwhile immersing into it. But even then we hope for ongoing corrections and amplifications by its users. We hope for a worldwide exchange of information with descendants and researchers. Each single victim will have a page of its own with their destiny and biography together with a map with the exact position of the stone. The family members will be linked among each other, and - if possible - photos and diverse documents are added. At the moment we are particularly trying to get more of such personal material and material concerning the former communities in the surrounding villages. If you can help us, please do so to rolf.wuest@rz-online.de . It is our aim to build a platform for the remembrance of the NS-victims that might bear witness for the future.

In 2014, we again commemorated the annual recurrence of the Pogrom Night of 1938 in several events. The highlight was the exhibition "**Stolpersteine in Neuwied – Erinnern für die Zukunft**" ("Remembrance for the Future"). In its documentary part it presented a range of fates of victims by means of short texts and photos on a wall of remembrance, designed by Christine Welter, and another wall with all the stones of Neuwied, 255 by now. With the help of city maps visitors could locate each single stone. In the artistic part the exhibition was complemented by pieces of art by Waltraud Hemmerich and Christine Welter. The exhibition was opened after the traditional meeting at the place of the former synagogue. A great number of people visited the opening and the exhibition in the following weeks.

Rolf Wüst gave a lecture on "**Erinnern und Gedenken zwischen Gestern und Morgen**" ("Remembrance between Yesterday and Tomorrow"). As the last event of that November lyrical texts were read under the topic "**In jenen Tagen war die Zeit gefroren**" ("In those Days Time was Frozen") .It was a profound and very moving bow to all the victims.

On January 27, 2015, the Auschwitz Memorial Day, an ecumenical service was celebrated under the motto “**Zukunft braucht Erinnerung**” (“Future needs Remembrance”).

We would be very happy to hear from you. But you can also contact us through our website www.dif-neuwied.de and thus keep yourselves informed on our activities. We wish you all the very best, peace and well-being for you and your families, for Israel, the region and the world. Our thoughts are with you. Shalom!

Best regards from Neuwied, also from Dieter Melsbach and Rolf Wüst,



Werner Zupp, Pastor
(Chairman)



Gerd Anhäuser
(Deputy Chairman)