



Jüdischer Friedhof
Währing



REMEMBRANCE OF A DESTROYED WORLD

1774–1879



A unique testimony of the past

Günther W. Havranek
association chairman

This association was founded in 2017 and has taken on the task of making the culturally important Jewish cemetery in Währing accessible to the public again. This cemetery is a unique testimony of the history of this city. It is a monument of Viennese culture from a time when Jews and non-Jews lived together successfully.

The state of preservation of the cemetery grounds was extremely poor. The repair work started in March 2019 is already having an effect. Of the almost 9,000 tombstones, around 500 have been renovated by the end of 2021. Together with the Federal Monuments Office and the Jewish Community of Vienna, work is ongoing on further repairs. This work is financed exclusively through public funding from the federal government and private donations.

The goal of the association is still to support the necessary renovation projects. The establishment of a showroom and regular tours increase public awareness of this very important place in Vienna.



A coalition of rescuers

Dr. Ariel Muzicant,
President of the Vienna IKG 1998-2012

Until March 11, 1938, 200,000 Jews lived in Austria. Then they were persecuted, humiliated, robbed, displaced, and killed. Their cemeteries remain: 450,000 graves at 64 places.

The Währing Cemetery is without a doubt one of the most beautiful and valuable cemeteries for cultural history. The Nazis, war, weathering, and decades of neglect have left their marks. After years of struggle, a coalition of rescuers has been established.

Together we want to preserve this jewel of our cultural history for future generations. The Republic of Austria and the city of Vienna are doing their part. The "Rescue the Währing Cemetery" association would like to do the rest.

Let's all help implement this project.

The Währing Jewish Cemetery is a unique record of Viennese culture, art, business, and society from the Biedermeier period. In the time when the cemetery was used (1784-1879), there were groundbreaking trends that have set the tone up to our time for the character of the city, the entire region, and the state.

As a burial place for all members of the Jewish community in Vienna at that time, it is a reflection of that part of the population that had a significant impact on the Industrial Revolution and the culture of the Ringstrasse as well as the formation of a modern society, the social infrastructure, and arts and sciences. The Währing Jewish Cemetery is the only remaining testimony that provides a

thorough, visibility of this destroyed Jewish portion of Vienna's, Austria's, and Central Europe's past that is widely unknown today.

These grounds that are over two hundred years old have preserved the unique character of a Jewish Biedermeier cemetery and are very much worth being preserved because of the architecturally unique



SIEGFRIED PHILIPP WERTHEIMBER

1777 Bayreuth – 1836 Vienna, tomb

He was one of the prominent “tolerated” Jews of Vienna. Emperor Joseph II had issued residence permits to select individual people by his Patent of Toleration. Anyone in the household of a “tolerated person” declared as a family member could obtain the right of residence in Vienna. Wertheimber’s family constructed a valuable tomb for him with pillars in an Egyptianizing style.



JOACHIM EPHRUSSI

1791 Odessa – 1864 Vienna, sarcophagus

The founder of the dynasty, a grain wholesaler, was originally buried here before he was transferred to the family crypt of his sons at the Vienna Central Cemetery. A sarcophagus still adorns the grave and is placed on the earthen grave as a decoration.

design of the tombs. Every grave stone gives a self-image and a claim to individuality, but every grave stone also expresses the community of the Jewish population in Vienna as a self-made monument that is created according to individual needs, material means, and contemporary tastes.

The cemetery not only has the ritual function of a stone archive, but it is also an outdoor museum. All important developments of the 19th century can be seen in the cemetery in a highly memorable way and can give an understanding to interested audiences from around the world. In addition to the family clusters of the court Jews and Ringstrasse founders, special attention should be given to the extremely large, historically important, and artistically uncommon Sephardic section of the Turkish-Israelite Community of Vienna that is unique in all of Europe.

Barukh Atah Ha Shem, Mechaje Hametim.

Praise to thee, thou eternal one,
who resurrects the dead.

History

The grounds in Währing are a Biedermeier ground, Jewish equivalent to the well-known St. Marx Christian cemetery where W. A. Mozart is buried. Both of these cemeteries were established in 1784 because of Joseph II's Sanitary Ordinance that closed the cemeteries in the densely populated urban area for sanitary reasons. Part of the then newly laid out, state-managed Währing Cemetery directly outside of the Linienwall took the place of the now oldest preserved Jewish cemetery on Seegasse street.

This area that was approximately two hectares big was solely reserved for Jewish burials and was separated from the Christian cemetery by a wall. It was extended three times and ultimately ran East to West to the main street of Döbling (Döblin-

ger Hauptstrasse). Up until 1879, it served as the official burial place of all deceased Jews in the imperial capital and residence city of Vienna – presumably a total of 30,000 people. This not only included adherents to the Jewish faith living in Vienna, but also those who died while passing through Vienna and were not able to be buried in their hometown.

**Schm'a Jisrael:
Adonaj
Elohejnu,
Adonaj Echad!**

**Hear, O Israel: The Lord
our God is one Lord!**

One third of the graves, 10,000 of them, were originally given gravestones. Today approximately 8,000 of these monuments have been preserved. The Währing Jewish Cemetery was officially closed in 1879 when the Central Cemetery was put into operation with its own Jewish section at Gate 1. A few families still buried their relatives in the Währing Jewish Cemetery until the late 1880s, but after 1898 no more new burials were made. While the Währing Park was built over the Local Währing Cemetery in the following years, the Jewish area remained in existence.

The grounds were only carefully transformed by the Jewish Community itself into a layout similar to a park. According to Jewish religious law, the Halacha, Jewish graves belong exclusively to the dead. They are inviolable for eternity. According to the religious commandment, therefore, Jewish graves, their Jewish gravestones, and Jewish cemeteries as a whole must remain in existence for ever.

Destruction

During the Nazi time, far more than two thousand graves were destroyed by excavation work for an air raid shelter in 1942. What is more, in the name of National Socialist “studies of races,” the remains of entire families were exhumed – a total of over four hundred people – and were brought into the Natural History Museum of Vienna where they remained until some of them were reburied in mass graves at Gate 4 of the Central Cemetery in 1947.



**JONAS BARON
VON KÖNIGSWARTER**

1807 Fürth – 1871 Vienna, tomb

Jonas Baron von Königswarter, also an “imperial royal privileged” wholesaler, was one of the most influential bankers in Vienna, and president of the Religious Community of Vienna. He was made an Austrian knight in 1860 at Vienna and was made an Austrian baron in 1870. Königswarter was also awarded the Order of the Iron Crown 3rd Class, and Emperor Francis Joseph awarded him the Order of the Iron Crown 2nd Class for his commendable work. His wife Josefine (1811 Vienna – 1861 Vienna) was the director of the Jewish Women’s Association and left behind an important foundation.



SCHEY/LANDAUER FAMILY

Grave group

The oldest group of graves of the Schey family, who made an important contribution to the Viennese Ringstrasse era, at the Währing Jewish Cemetery. Friedrich Schey (1815 Güns/Köszeg – 1881 Lainz) constructed the Ringstrasse Palace at the Goethe Monument, and he financed educational institutions such as the academy of commerce, the artists' house, and the Music Association of Vienna.

Barukh Schem Kawod, Malkhutho le'Olam va'Ed!

**Praised be the name of glory, his
dominion forever and eternally!**

The cemetery was expropriated from the Jewish Community of Vienna by the Nazi government and transferred to the ownership of the city of Vienna in 1942. The Jewish Community had been able to move the graves of around two hundred dignitaries – founding fathers of the IKG and rabbis – to the Central Cemetery as part of a rescue operation by the museum in 1941 before the planned desecration. After the war, the cemetery was returned to the newly formed Vienna IKG. The newly formed IKG transferred the destroyed area to the city of Vienna that in return obligated itself to respect the religious commandments and maintain the area that it took over as a park area. A few years later a not-for-profit residential building was built there, which is the still existing "Arthur-Schnitzler-Hof." The then newly constructed and still existing wall put several hundred graves in the parking lot area outside of the actual cemetery.

Status quo

The condition of the existing area has rapidly deteriorated within the last twenty years. All of these historically and architecturally unique gravestones are now acutely threatened. In addition to the destruction in the Nazi time, there has been severe damage to the tombs from improper handling, cleanup activities, and vandalism. The situation is precarious because of continual environmental influences such as acid rain, frosts, fungi, lichens, and ivy growth. Many gravestones made out of sandstone have now been weathered to the extent that they are unidentifiable, and at other places huge broken stones have been made into piles that are several meters high. The signs for the grave fields were removed so that it is impossible to navigate in the area without help. The historical stand of trees needs ongoing professional care, and falling branches and tree parts repeatedly cause severe damage. Some family crypts along the cemetery wall have been open since the Nazi time and are a source of imminent risk.

**This cultural jewel can only
be rescued and preserved for
future generations
by joint efforts.**

Gravesites of important personalities



Jüdischer Friedhof
Währing

- A Funny Sulzer
- B Epstein – Teixeira de Mattos
- C Regine Lichtenstein
- D Jonas Freiherr von Königswarter

- E Joachim Ephrussi
- F Siegfried Philipp Wertheimer
- G Franziska Freifrau von Arnstein
- H Familie Schey/Landauer





FRANZISKA BARONESS VON ARNSTEIN

1758 Berlin – 1818 Vienna, tomb

The daughter of the prominent Berlin court Jew Daniel Itzig (1723 Berlin – 1799 Potsdam) married into a prominent Viennese court Jew family. This financial backing made it possible for her as the first Jew in Vienna to have a salon in her house that was entirely in line with the Enlightenment (Hebr. Haskala). Fanny von Arnstein soon became the most important salonière in Vienna of her time and introduced the Christmas tree to her household as the first Jew of Vienna probably in memory of her childhood in Berlin. During the Congress of Vienna, her salon and the salon of her sister Cäcilie Eskeles (1760 Berlin – 1836 Vienna) played an important role as a meeting point for diplomats, artists, scientists, and journalists. Nathan Adam Arnstein, Fanny's husband, was exhumed in the Nazi time, and his tomb is missing from the tombs of the Arnstein and Eskeles families.



FANNY SULZER

1809 Polná – 1855 Vienna, small mausoleum

The wife of the world-famous head cantor of the Jewish Community of Vienna and important composer of the First Viennese School Solomon Sulzer (1804 Hohenems – 1890 Vienna) was buried here. A small mausoleum stands over Fanny's grave that is unique in its form north of the Alps. It was possible to restore it by private effort.



EPSTEIN - TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS

Cluster of graves

The family of the well-known entrepreneur Gustav Ritter von Epstein (1827 Prague – 1879 Vienna) is buried here. He was a banker and co-founder of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway that led into the coalfields of Silesia and supplied the imperial capital and resident city of Vienna with this important raw material. In 1870, he had the well-known architect Theophil Hansen build the prominent palace on the noble Ringstrasse. His sister Anna (1835 Prague – 1890 Venice) married Henri Joseph (1828 Amsterdam – 1898 Vienna) and thus married into the renowned Portuguese family Teixeira de Mattos.



REGINE LICHTENSTERN

1809 Triesch/Třest – 1851 Vienna, tomb

The tower on the grave of Regine Lichtenstern is designed in the historical orientalizing style and shows light and star symbols. The sandstone is heavily corroded, and this unique specimen is threatened with immediate disintegration.

Information

Cemetery information point

Schrottenbachgasse 3, 1190 Vienna

Hours of operation:

on the second Sunday of the month
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
from January to December

Contact:

office@jued-friedhof18.at
www.jued-friedhof18.at
Visit us on Facebook.

Volunteer work

For many years, we have been heartily inviting everyone to keep the vegetation in check at the Jewish Cemetery in Vienna-Währing together with us.

Participation is possible on opening days without registration.

Online grave search

www.ikg-wien.at/friedhofsdatenbank

With the friendly assistance of:

HFP

Steuerberater

ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDE WIEN



ONB

OESTERREICHISCHE NATIONALBANK
EUROSYSTEM

Bundesministerium
Kunst, Kultur,
öffentlicher Dienst und Sport

Stadt Wien
Wiener
Stadtgärten

ZukunftsFonds
der Republik Österreich

**WIENER
STÄDTISCHE**
VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP

**PRIVAT
STIFTUNG**
B&C

COLUMBUS
Columbus Immobilienvermittlungs Ges.m.b.H.

ERSTE
Stiftung

PRINT ALLIANCE

UNIQA

DIE GRÜNEN
WIEN.GRUENE.AT

GRUPPE2000
Unser Service für Ihren Erfolg

Account for donations

Donations to our association are tax-deductible due to a cooperation agreement with the national heritage agency Bundesdenkmalamt. The donations are administered by Bundesdenkmalamt without any deductions.

BAWAG-PSK / Bundesdenkmalamt 1010 Wien

IBAN: AT07 0100 0000 0503 1050

Action code: A283, first name, surname, date of birth
(please fill in field reason for payment)

BIC: BUNDATWW (for foreign bank transfer)



Jüdischer Friedhof
Währing

Media owner and publisher

Verein Rettet den Jüdischen Friedhof Währing
Goldschmiedgasse 10, 1010 Vienna
office@jued-friedhof18.at | ZVR: 953840753
www.jued-friedhof18.at

Imprint:

Photo credits: Andrea Schellner, David Friesacher
Production and printing: Print Alliance HAV Produktions GmbH
Design and preprint stage: Sonja Rotter