

“The ‘Stones of the Disappeared’ refer to the victims of the Holocaust” – *Naše Město*, July-August 2018, 1, 13

In front of house no. 455 on Freedom Square, you will notice eight golden cubes in the sidewalk, which were placed here on June 6. These are the famous ‘Stones of the Disappeared’ which commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.

These plaques are paving stones, 10 x 10 cm, with the individual's data engraved on a brass plaque on its surface. The stone is placed in the sidewalk so that it does not protrude. The project organizers always try to put a few stones together so that the members of the murdered families are together at least in this way.

The ‘Stones of the Disappeared’ were inspired by the ‘Stolpersteine’, created by the German artist Gunter Demnig. They memorialize the fate of individuals who were deported by the Nazis and then murdered in concentration camps or expelled from their homes or driven to suicide. The project has spread from Germany to other European countries. Under the name ‘Stones of the Disappeared’, it has been operating in our country for several years.

To the list of places where the "Stones of the Disappeared" can be found, Třešť was added on Wednesday, June 6. That afternoon, in front of house no. 455 (Freedom Square, in front of Faunazona), a sacred ceremony took place in which eight of these plaques were laid. Those who assisted in the ceremony included Anne Newman from the USA, Boris Barak Selinger, a member of the Brno Jewish Community council, and Vladislav Hynek, mayor of Třešť. Members of the “In the Footsteps of Disappeared Neighbors” project in Třešť were also invited to this important event.

The stones bear the names of Anne’s relatives who were members of the Meissner and Grünberger families: Leo Meissner, Norbert Meissner, Žofia Meissner, Charlotte Meissner, Petr Grünberger, Eleonora Grünberger, Hilbert Grünberger and Albert Grünberger.

Adding to the atmosphere of the ceremony was music provided by Vojtěch Hynek and teachers Katrin Dvořáková and Jakub Lojda from ZUŠ Třešť.

Anne Newman is an American, but her family has roots in the Czech Republic. Her father, Ernest Newman, was born in Brno and his parents came from a long line of Czech Jews. Part of the family escaped by fleeing abroad, but the eight members of the family to whom the stones are dedicated, remained in Třešť and perished in concentration camps. Anne Newman is familiar with Třešť as she has visited several times over the years. After visiting Třešť this time, she continued to France, where she also has family members.

Anne Newman was asked to respond to questions provided by students who are involved in the project known as "In the Footsteps of Disappeared Neighbors". Although Anne has been learning Czech for four years, she is not yet ready to be interviewed in Czech. The students

provided the questions in English and you will be able to read her answers in one of the next issues of Our City.

Finally, it is necessary to comment on something published recently in *Jihlavské listy*. There was a misunderstanding there – Anne’s grandmother Rosa was not from Růžená, but her name was Růžena.

Romana Šťastná and the team of “In the Footsteps of Disappeared Neighbors”: Helena Štumarová, Pavla Škarková and Ondřej Burian