

Detmold, 12 March 2026

Dear members and friends of the GfCJZ,

There are a few interesting events coming up again this spring:

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**Thursday, March 19, 2026, 19:30**

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## **Books and Shards**

### **Three Jewish authors from East Westphalia**

**Commented reading with Frank Meier-Barthel**

**Frank Meier-Barthel (Protestant adult education and managing director of GfCJZ Herford)**

Josefa Metz (1871–1937), who was born in Minden and grew up in Bielefeld, Ruth Michaelis-Jena (1905–1989) from Detmold, and Jenny Aloni (1917–1993) from Paderborn – three different life paths, three different life's works, three things in common:

They came from our region, they came from Jewish families, they had to deal with persecution by the National Socialists.

This evening, their lives will be recounted and readings from their works, which are unfortunately far too little known, will be given.

Further information can be found in the [flyer](#) .

In cooperation with Ev. Erwachsenenbildung, Lippische Landesbibliothek, Theologische Bibliothek Detmold, Jewish Community Herford-Detmold and GfCJZ Lippe.

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Admission is free, but registration is requested at 05231 926660-12 or by email at [auskunft@llb-detmold.de](mailto:auskunft@llb-detmold.de)

The reading will take place in the old foyer of the Lippische Landesbibliothek, Hornsche Straße 41 in Detmold.

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**Saturday, March 21, 2026, 14:00**

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## **Between silence and responsibility**

### **A family history in the shadow of National Socialism**

#### **Jacqueline Gies**

Jacqueline Gies does not tell an ordinary family story, but rather a personal testimony about memory, responsibility and dealing with a burdened past. Burdened by her family name, she searches for the truth and asks how one can live with an inheritance of guilt. Her grandfather, Robert Gies, was Karl Hermann Frank's chief of staff in Prague. During this time, thousands of people were persecuted, deported and murdered.

Her lecture is an appeal to face one's own history in all its facets and to have the courage to break the silence between generations.



Jacqueline Gies (born 1967 in Trier) studied art history and German language and literature and now teaches at a secondary school in Berlin. As the granddaughter of SS-Standartenführer Robert Gies, Karl Hermann Frank's ministerial chief in Prague, she has engaged intensively with her family's Nazi past. Since 2017, she has been speaking publicly about her history, including at the House of the Wannsee Conference memorial, the Anne Frank House and the Centro Ana Frank in Buenos Aires.

She is committed to promoting a vibrant culture of remembrance and emphasises the responsibility of future generations.

#### **anno 1578**

Mittelstraße 70 in Lemgo

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**Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 14**

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## **Laying of stumbling stones in memory of the Rülff family, Elli and Max Alexander and Hedwig Block**

### **A family history in the shadow of National Socialism**

Our Stolperstein Working Group cordially invites you to the laying of Stolpersteine in memory of [the Rülff family](#), [Hedwig Block](#) and [Elli](#) and [Max Alexander](#), on 27 May 2026. The laying ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at Elisabethstraße 24. Other locations for the laying ceremony are Freiligrathstraße 13 and Lemgoerstr. 49.

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As not all of the Stolpersteine have been financed yet, we welcome donations for this purpose!

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Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 19

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## **"Should Jews be proselytised? The Protestant Church and Jewish Mission"**

**Lecture by Jan Christian Pinsch**

"Israel remains God's chosen people, even though it has not accepted faith in Jesus as its Messiah": this was the position taken by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) in 2000, clearly rejecting an institutionally organised mission to convert Jews. But it had been a long process to reach this point. In his lecture, Jan Christian Pinsch shows that behind the mission to the Jews lies an anti-Jewish attitude that shaped the Protestant Church from the Reformation period until well into the 20th century. Only slowly, after 1945, did voices rise in favour of a readjustment of Christian-Jewish relations. At the same time, there are still evangelical circles within and outside the regional churches whose claim to truth and understanding of mission are diametrically opposed to distancing themselves from the mission to the Jews.

Jan Christian Pinsch is a research assistant for modern church history at the Institute for Protestant Theology at the University of Paderborn. His research focuses on anti-Semitism and conspiracy myths, the Protestant Church and right-wing populism, among other topics.

Haus Münsterberg, Hornsche Straße 38, Detmold

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We are also pleased to announce an event next week and a concert series that is well worth listening to:

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Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 11

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## **Democracy History Day 2026**

Detmold is much more than just the greenest city in Germany; it is more than just the seat of many authorities or the centre of the Lippe region with a castle.

The Federal President, who was born in Detmold, has now called for initiatives for the "Day of German Democracy History" on 18 March 2026, and the Grabbe Society has applied with a special project. Two literary walks (with Dr Peter Schütze and Hans Hermann Jansen) will take you to the most important places in the city's democratic history in around 90 minutes. Everyone is invited to join in. The meeting point is at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the town hall steps at the market square.

An additional poster campaign on the Ameide features the famous quote by Ferdinand Freiligrath, a journalist and writer from Detmold during the 1848 revolution: "We are the people!". It was designed by Helena Haverkamp, who is involved in the implementation of various formats for the project together with the KMH creative collective.

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The Grabbe Society is a keen partner in providing useful information and background on German democratic history and would like to network the initiative for 18 March with the project "Strong Words. Strong Places: Democracy through Culture" as part of the federal programme "Aller.Land". There, participatory cultural formats will be developed nationwide by 2030 that will lead to more cooperation and a new sense of community in society.

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**Saturday, May 09, 2026 - Sunday, June 14, 2026**

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## **Concert "Eisnacht" (Ice Night) with songs by Jewish composers**

Pia Viola Buchert, mezzo-soprano – Tatjana Travenau, piano

The six composers whose songs feature in this programme were born between 1890 and 1924. Their compositions, written between 1917 and 1997, reflect the stylistic diversity of the 20th century, ranging from Hans Gál's expressive, late Romantic style to Felix Wolfe's atmospheric polyphony and Ruth Schonthal's highly individualised songs. What the six artists have in common is that the persecution of Jewish people during the Nazi dictatorship led to radical changes and breaks in all their lives.

Their respective life paths, places of exile and the social environments in which they continued their compositional careers influenced and shaped the further development of their compositional styles. At the same time, the lyrics of the songs, some of which are up to 500 years old, reveal exclusion, persecution, expulsion and exile as constants in human history. With this programme and the CD "Eisnacht" (Genuin, 02/2026), we would like to contribute to the reception of these songs and pay tribute to the fact that these people had the strength and creativity to cope with their experiences emotionally and artistically. In doing so, they created independent works of art whose artistic significance far exceeds the processing of biographical events.

Text: Tatjana Dravenau

### **Dates :**

**9 May 2026, 6 p.m.: Lemgo, St. Marien parish hall**

**10 May 2026, 5 p.m.: Zionskirche Bethel**

**14 June 2026, 4 p.m.: Herford Synagogue**

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Kind regards,  
Philipp Wagner and Kristina Panchyrz  
(Management)