

Detmold, 5 May 2025

Dear members and friends,

we would like to inform you about important changes to our Board of Directors:

At our last general meeting, we said goodbye to our Catholic chairperson Barbara Klaus and our Protestant chairperson Jan-Christian Pinsch. We would like to sincerely thank Barbara and Jan for their dedicated work and valuable contribution over the past few years. We wish them both all the best and hope to continue to benefit from their experience and expertise in the future.

At the same time, we are particularly pleased to welcome Cordula Marx as the new Catholic Chairwoman and Renate Zimmermann-Grob as the new Protestant Chairwoman to the Board. We look forward to working together and to many new impulses in our Board work!

We would like to draw your attention to the following interesting events in the coming weeks :

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 14:00 und 15:00

Laying of stumbling stones in memory of the Höveler family and Mr and Mrs Kauders

Our Stolperstein-AG cordially invites you to the laying of stumbling stones in memory of the [Höveler family](#) and the [Mr and Mrs Kauders](#) on 14 May 2025. The laying will take place **at 2 pm in Pivitsheide, Oerlinghauser Str. 122**, and **at 3 pm in the city centre, Lange Str. 36**

8 May 1945 - The consequences and interpretations in both German states

Lecture by Prof Dr Arnd Bauerkämper

The Second World War ended in Europe on 8 May 1945. The Germans found it difficult to recognise this day as the "Day of Liberation". With the capitulation, there were no more bombs to fear, but there was a great lack of orientation, even among those who were critical of the National Socialists. At the time of the capitulation, it was uncertain whether Germans would ever be able to assume political responsibility again. And even long after 8 May, it seemed a certainty that this was a military defeat and a national catastrophe.



In his lecture, historian Prof. Dr Arnd Bauerkämper (Free University of Berlin) explains the significance of 8 May 1945 for the history of Germany. The collapse of National Socialism and the end of the Second World War made the division of Germany possible in the first place, which then led to the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR. But was this inevitable? And what different memories of the "Third Reich" emerged in the two German states? What after-effects can still be felt today?

The central event organised by the city of Detmold to commemorate the end of the war 80 years ago will begin with a welcome address by Mayor Frank Hilker. The event will be moderated by city archivist Dr Bärbel Sunderbrink and VHS director Claudia Biehahn.

Admission is free.

Prof Dr Arnd Bauerkämper was Professor of 19th and 20th Century History at the Free University of Berlin until 2024. He grew up in Lage, studied and completed his doctorate at Bielefeld University before moving to Berlin. His research focusses on German-German history and interpretations of National Socialism. In 2012, he published his book "Das umstrittene Gedächtnis. The memory of National Socialism, fascism and war in Europe since 1945."

For more information and to register, call 05231/977-8010 or visit www.vhs-detmold-lemgo.de .

Stadthalle Detmold, Kleiner Festsaal

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 19:30

10. May - Commemorative event on the day of the book burning

"Thomas Mann - German listeners" is the title of Michael Girke's presentation of radio contributions by Thomas Mann from exile. The reading will be accompanied by Willem Schulz on the cello.

Thomas Mann's books were not burnt by the National Socialists, but they were banned. From 1940 onwards, Mann addressed the German population directly from his American exile - in the form of regular BBC radio speeches. Some of these speeches will be presented on this commemorative evening. They are moving documents of their time. The writer Thomas Mann attempted to speak into the consciences of the Germans, he scolded, ridiculed and harshly condemned the Nazis and all those who sympathised with them. As it turns out, these speeches are still astonishingly relevant today.

The event is a co-operation between the Jewish community of Herford-Detmold and the Kuratorium Erinnern, Forschen, Gedenken.

Participation is free of charge.

Synagoge in Herford, Komturstraße 21



Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:30 bis 17:00

Public conference on the 150th anniversary of the Hermann Monument

The Hermann Monument continues to challenge us to analyse it from different perspectives. Even 150 years after its inauguration, scholars are still examining the history of its ancient background, its creation and its reception.



The public conference, which is aimed at all interested parties, will focus on various topics: What new insights are there into the history of the Germanic tribes? What artistic influences characterised Ernst von Bandel, who had an impact far beyond Lippe? What effect did the memorial project have on its immediate surroundings, the town of Detmold and the climatic health resort of Hiddesen? How was it able to develop its extraordinary impact as a tourist destination, but also as a place of nationalist longing? And finally: How can we deal appropriately with nationally charged places today?

For the programme, see [Flyer](#).

Haus des Gastes in Detmold-Hiddesen

Ancestry as a state doctrine - genealogy in the context of National Socialist racial policy

12. Detmold Summer Talk

90 years ago, on 16 September 1935, the Nuremberg Race Laws were promulgated. They were a key element of the Nazi racial and persecution policy. In the racial ideology on which they were based, descent was a central criterion, from which membership of race, clan and people as well as ties to land and property were derived. The practical population policy measures were aimed at the purification and breeding of those who were valuable from a Nazi perspective and the elimination of undesirable groups of people. Biological descent thus became decisive both for personal advancement and for the loss of rights and life.

Genealogy was massively upgraded and moved from an auxiliary historical science or a private passion to the status of an important instrument of National Socialist racial policy. Personal sources became indispensable for proving ancestry, and the archives and institutions that held them became much more important.

The conference deals with this "dark side" of genealogy. The presentations will focus on four main topics: the ideological and legal framework, the actors in the context of the preservation and accessibility of personal sources, different persecuted groups and persecution situations as well as private genealogy in the context of Nazi racial policy.

For the programme see [Flyer](#)

Landesarchiv NRW Abteilung Ostwestfalen-Lippe, Willi-Hofmann-Straße 2

Kind regards

Kristina Panchyryz
(Management)