

The Act of Remembering - Stolpersteine in Germany and Stones of Remembrance in Vienna.

A talk by Judy Vasos about her experience of having commemorative plaques laid in Nuremberg, Germany for her husband Tony's maternal grandparents, Hugo and Clemy Mosbacher and in Vienna, Austria for his paternal grandmother, Natalie Baczewski. All were Jews and murdered by the Nazis for being Jewish.

Stolpersteine/Stumbling Stones in Germany and beyond

In Germany and across Europe the plaques are known as Stolpersteine or Stumbling Stones. One does not literally stumble over them but rather discovers them in the sidewalks when strolling through a European city.

The project was initiated in 1996 by Berlin-born artist, Gunter Demnig. He expanded outside the borders of Germany and there are now some 70,000 stones placed across Europe to remember Jews and others who were murdered by the Nazis.

The plaques are 4x4, brass plated and cost approximately \$140.00 to manufacture and install. They are placed in the sidewalk in front of the last residence of choice of the person being remembered. Inscribed on the plaques are the words "Here Lived" followed by the person's name, year of birth, when and where deported and when and where murdered.

There is an English version of the Stolpersteine website at info@stolpersteine.eu for information about the stones and the process of requesting one.

Stones of Remembrance in Vienna

The project in Vienna began in 2005 by the Association of Stones of Remembrance. The plaques are 8x8 inches and can have one to four names inscribed on them. The cost to manufacture and install is \$768 for one **or** four names. The inscription and the location of where the stone is laid is the same as the Stolpersteine.

In Vienna the plaque is laid **before** the ceremony, in Germany laying the stone is **part** of the ceremony for family, friends, city officials, residents of the building and people passing by. In both places the gathering at the site where the plaque has been placed is a powerful and moving way to remember the person where they once freely lived and enjoyed life.

The website in English for Stones of Remembrance is steinedererinnerung.net. You can get further information and if you wish to lay a stone, click on "I wish to lay a stone."

In both Germany and Vienna there are many requests to install a stone and there is currently a one to two year waiting list.

A video - "My Grandparents, Hugo and Clemy: from Nuremberg to Auschwitz" about laying the plaque in Nuremberg will be shown and can also be seen on YouTube and the website for Judy Vasos - www.judyvasos.com.

Judy Vasos, Historical Detective, judyvasos@gmail.com, www.judyvasos.com