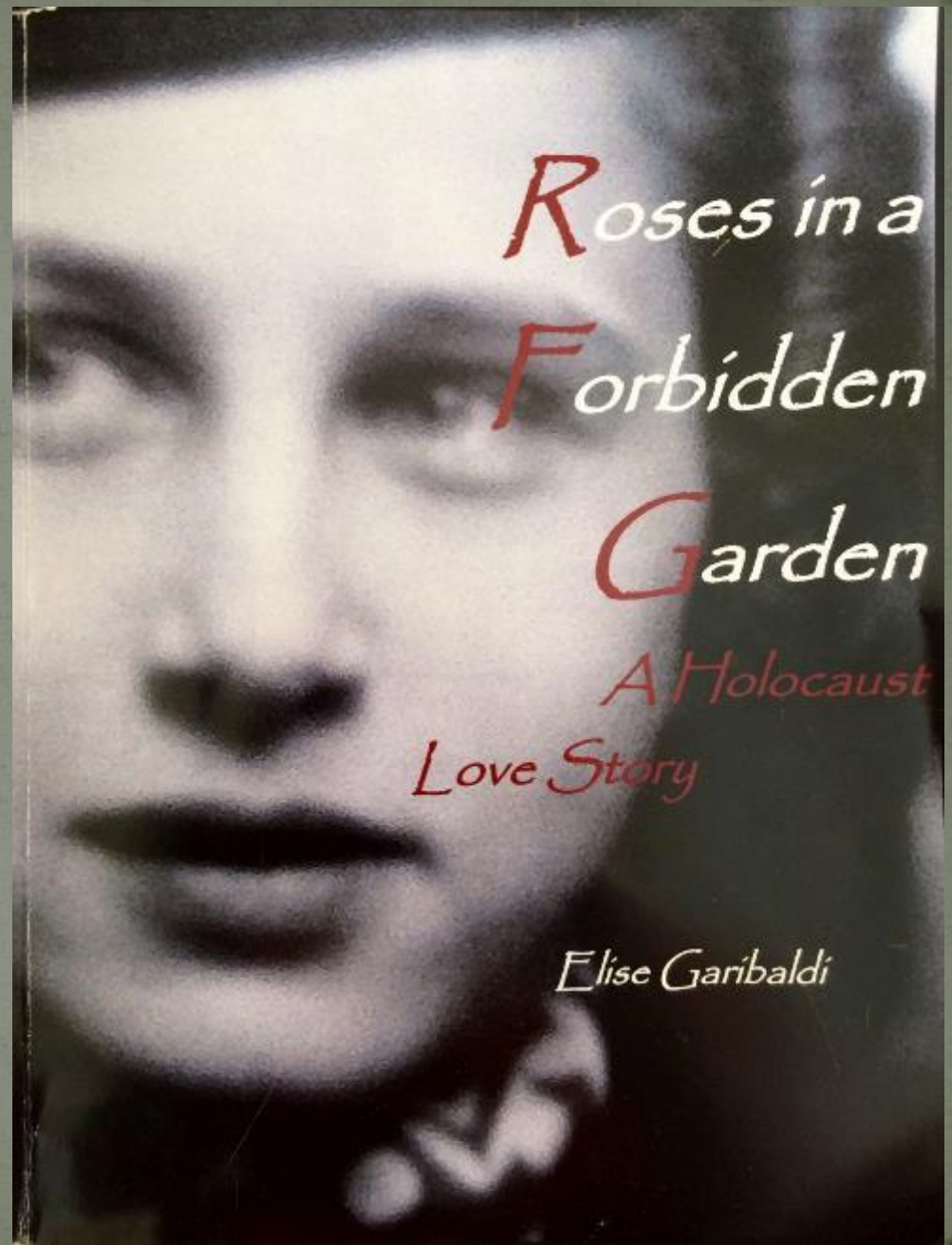


The
Book



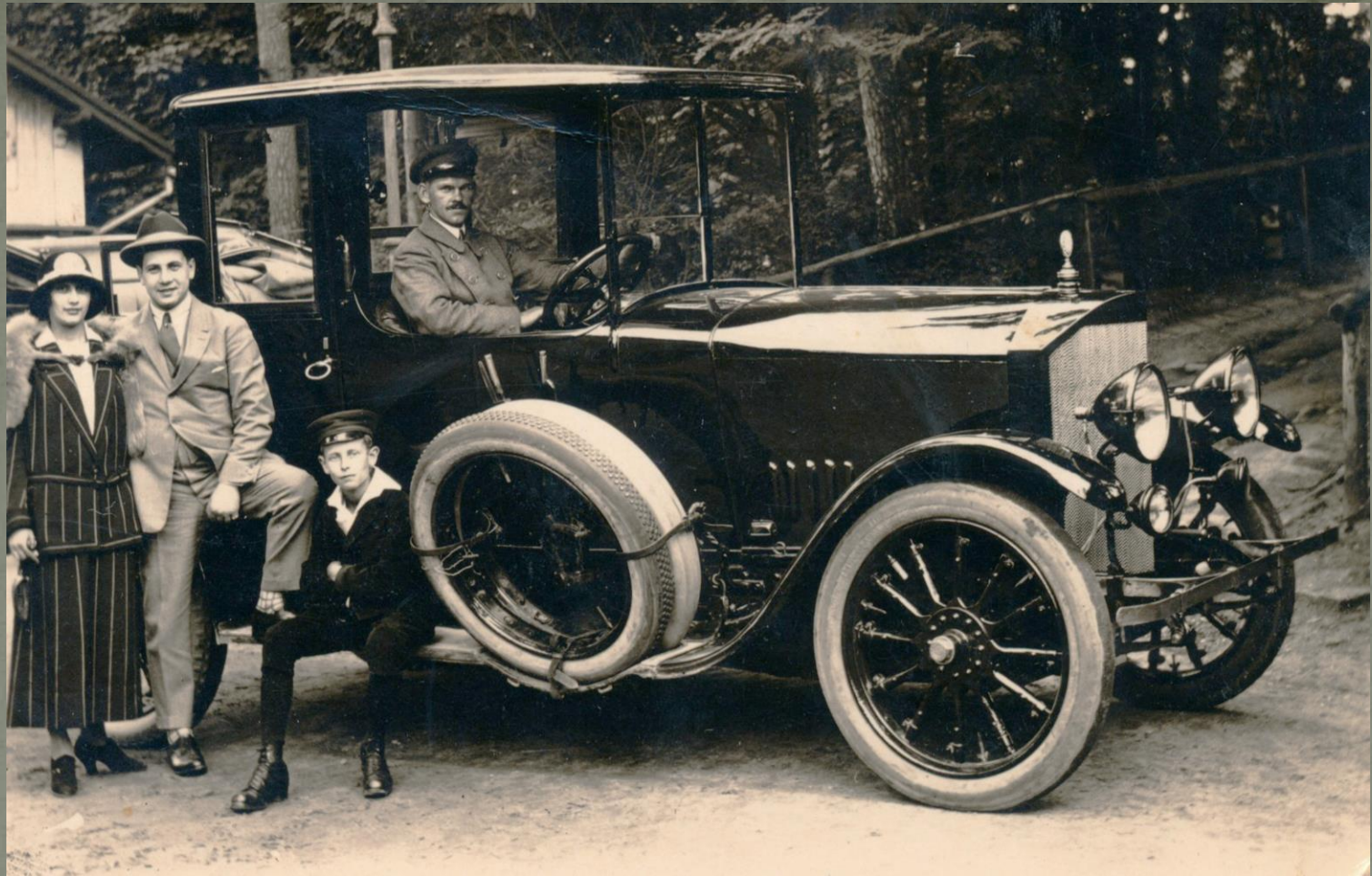
Inge's Family:
Pre War

Background:

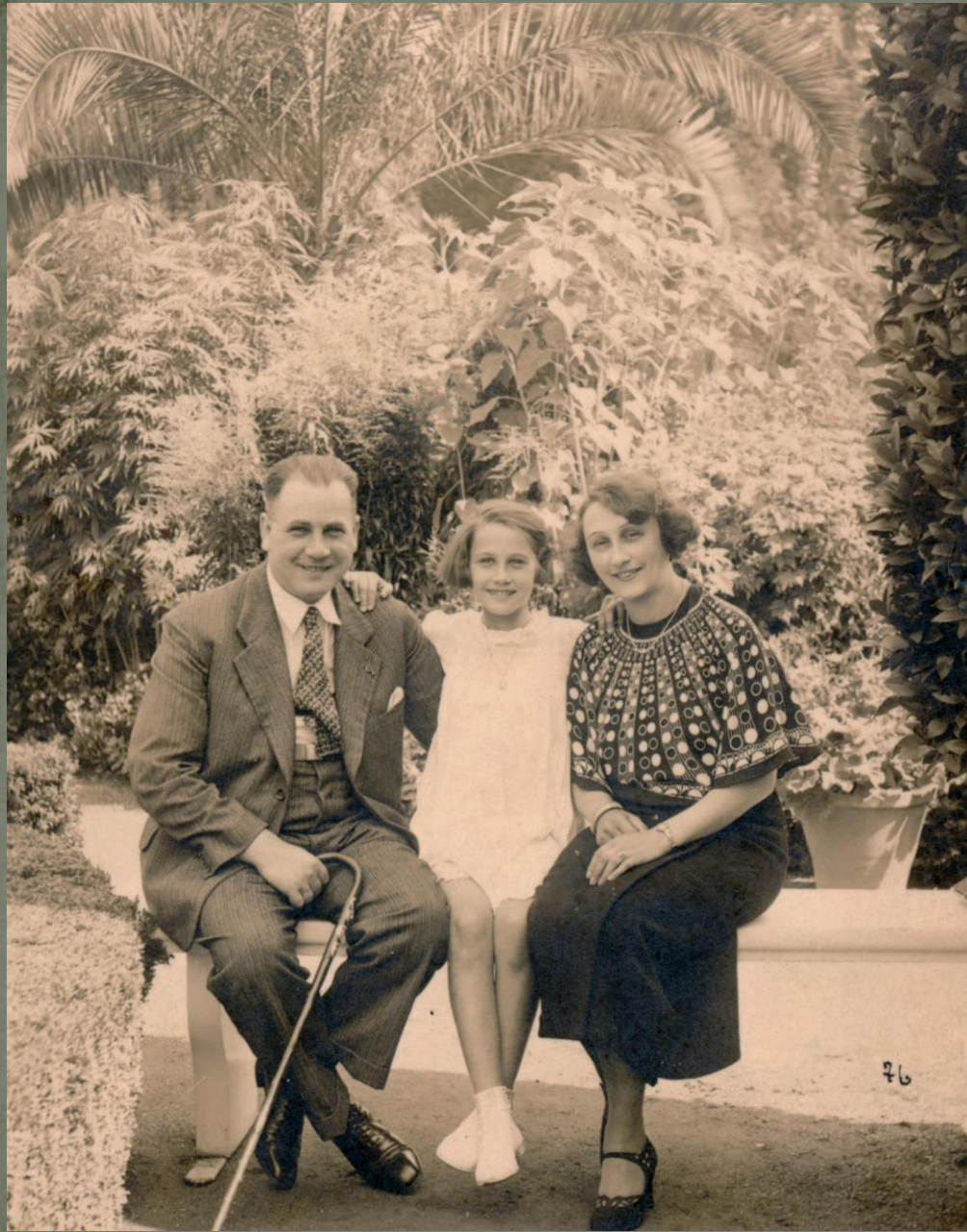
In the early 1930's, the German Jews were largely urban, middle class, prosperous in the professions (mainly medicine and law), and of course in business. They were culturally integrated but represented less than one percent of the total population. They were socially integrated and participated in German intellectual, economic and political life. These Jews were seldom fully accepted as social equals in German society.



Carl Katz volunteered to fight for Germany during World War One, for which he was awarded a medal.

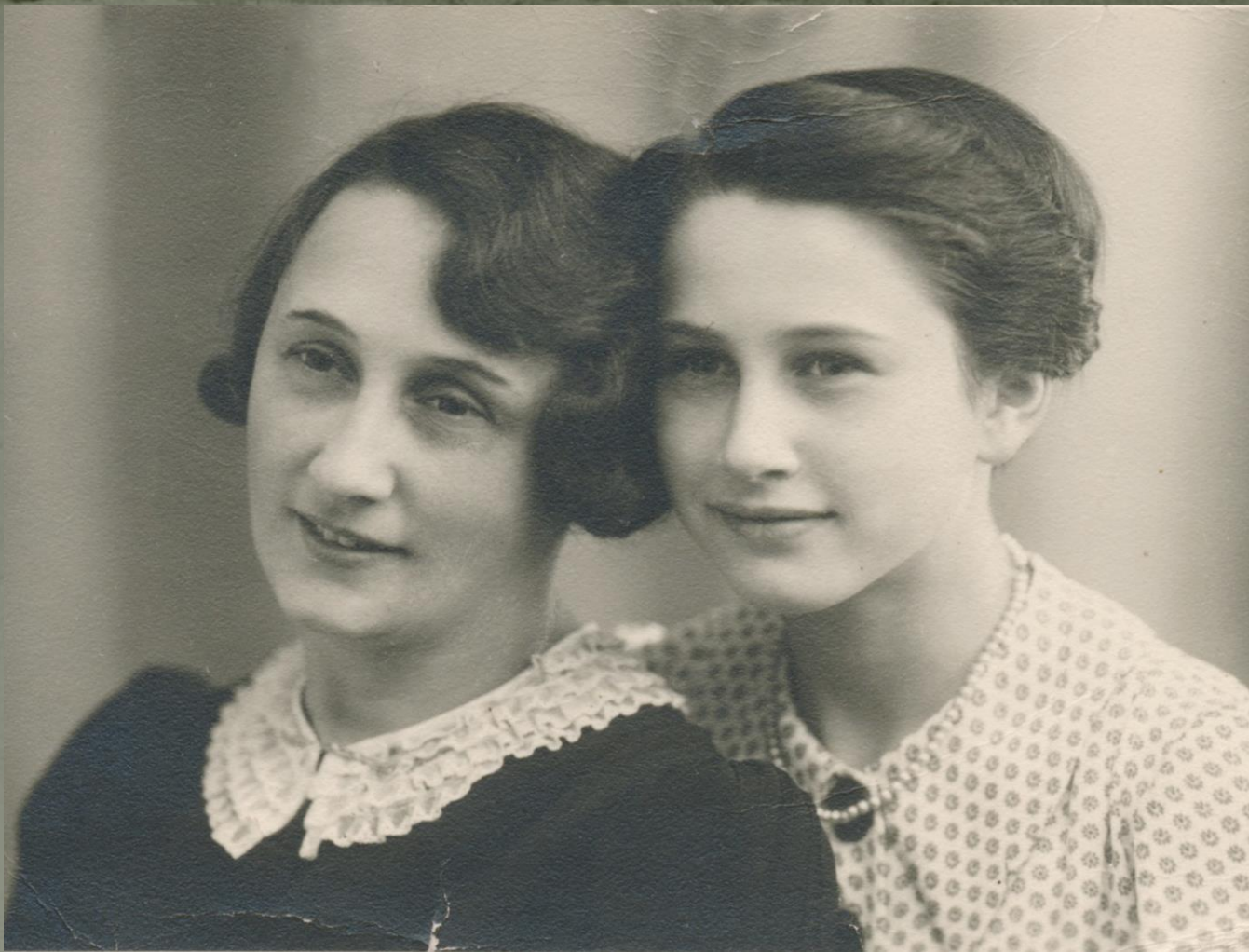


In August of 1923 Carl & Marianne Katz were married in Bremen, Germany. They then proceeded on to their Honeymoon. Both Carl & Marianne had fond memories of their early years in Germany.



Carl Katz, Marianne Katz, and Inge Katz are well dressed in the fashion of the times. They are enjoying the benefits of a prosperous life and taking care of their health.

This photo was taken at a Germany spa town in the early 1930's.



Marianne & Inge Katz (an only child) had a very tight bond. They, along with their extended families, were very attached to each other. (1938)

Hitler Comes to Power

Background:

On April 1, 1933 the Nazis called for a boycott against Jewish shops, doctors and lawyers. This boycott marked the beginning of a downward spiral for the Jews that would eventually end in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. There would be, in the twelve years of Hitler's government, over 400 laws and decrees targeting Jews and robbing them of one right after another. Nazi spokesmen claimed the boycott was an act of revenge against both German Jews, and foreigners, including U.S. and English journalists who had criticized the Nazi regime.




Carl Katz is prohibited from entering a Jewish shop on Obern Street of Bremen, Germany. These SA troopers, called “Brownshirts,” are blocking the entrance and refusing to let Carl Katz enter.

Am 1. April 1933 riefen die Nationalsozialisten zu einem Boykott gegen jüdische Geschäfte, Ärzte und Juristen auf. SA-Trupps blockierten die Eingänge. Besonders in der Obernstraße kommt es zu großen Menschenansammlungen. Unser Foto zeigt mit dem Rücken zur Kamera den jüdischen Kaufmann Carl Katz, wie er von „Braunhemden“ am Betreten eines Geschäftes gehindert wird.


fo/tr


Kennort: <i>Lauen</i>	
Kennnummer: <i>A 000 210</i>	
Gültig bis <i>13 März 1944</i>	
Name	<i>Ratz</i>
Vornamen	<i>Ingeborg Tara</i>
Geburtsstag	<i>24 Juni 1924</i>
Geburtsort	<i>Lauen</i>
Beruf	<i>ohne</i>
Unveränderliche Kennzeichen	<i>kein</i>
Veränderliche Kennzeichen	<i>kein</i>
Bemerkungen: <i>Rain</i>	

Rechter Zeigefinger



Linker Zeigefinger





Ingeborg Tara Ratz
(Unterschrift des Kennarteninhabers)

Bremen, den *13. März 1944*
Polizeipräsident
J. A.
(Ausstellende Behörde)

Fehrschke
(Unterschrift des ausfertigenden Beamten)

Beginning in 1939, all German Jewish men must be called "Israel," and all German Jewish women must be called "Sara." The Nazis decreed that any letters Jews write to governmental agencies must be written in their official "Jewish" names so that the authorities will know that they are dealing with Jews. The Nazi Ministry of the Interior stated that Jewish newborns must only be given Jewish names and are forbidden to have German names at all.



Inges stayed with her Aunt Berta in Berlin. Her Aunt had recently sent her two young daughters off to Palestine. (1939)



Since Jews were no longer allowed to attend schools, the Berlin Jewish Community organized courses for their members who needed to learn a trade. Inge, a hopeful seamstress, enrolled in a sewing course and later credits the course with helping to save her life. (1939)



Inge (left) and Ruthie (right) in front of *Das Judenhaus* in their coordinating handmade overalls.

Das Judenhaus was a collection of designated homes for the Bremen Jews and those living in its outskirts. Many families were forced to occupy a single home.



On September 1, 1941 the Nazi Government decreed that all Jews over six years of age in the Reich, Alsace, Bohemia-Moravia and the German annexed territory of western Poland, are to wear the yellow star of David on their outer clothing at all times.

The word "Jew" is to be written inside the star in the local language. The Nazis used the badge not only to humiliate, but to segregate and control the Jews as they were prepared for deportation.



Nine hundred and seventy-one Jews were deported from Bremen, Germany to Minsk on November 18, 1941. The Jews were deceived into believing that they were being sent ahead to prepare the settlement for the elderly Jews who were soon to follow. The head of the Jewish community in Bremen was also on this transport so that left the next in line, Carl Katz to take over the reigns of Head of Bremen's Jewish Community. The Jews brought 48,700 Reich marks, appliances and many provisions along for the deceptive new life.



Carl Katz is shown standing on the far left of the top row. He is helping his relatives and acquaintances at the holding station on the day prior to their departure. Carl and Inge were also at the main railroad station the following day to ensure the comfort of the deportees. Inge volunteered to give them fresh bread and wanted one final opportunity to bid farewell to her friends and relatives. She comforted them with promises that they would all soon be reunited. This is what the Nazis had told her, and this is what she believed.

Theresienstadt Concentration Camp

Background:

Theresienstadt has long been remembered for its culture, its famous prisoners and its visit by Red Cross officials. Yet, within this serene façade, lay a concentration camp with all its horrors. There were also many resident artisans that made beautiful souvenirs, drawings and wooden items.



“Arbeit Macht Frei”
“Work Will Set You Free”

This sign and these words hung over the entrance to the concentration camp Theresienstadt, located 62 km outside of Prague.



The Nazis confiscated every Jewish possession of value. From silverware and artwork to property and businesses, confiscated Jewish wealth paid for nearly one third of the Nazi war effort. When the Katz family received orders that they were to be deported from Bremen, they were told to bring one soup spoon per person. Pictured above are the four spoons, each with the letter “K” engraved on the handle. One for Grandma Rosa, Carl Katz, Marianne Katz and Inge Katz. A sharp contrast to the bowl provided by the camp, the spoons stood as reminders of their life in Bremen.



Oma Rosa Gruenberg
1874-1942

Grünberg Rosa 2.8.42.

Cohen Alfred

Scheurenberg Adolf

Zacharias Benni

Mannheim Lilla

Deichmann Julius

Baar Rike

Steinberg Walter

Hakrenskin Lina

Lery Lemmy

Brensohn Aron

Seligmann Siegfried
26.8.42. ✓

Continental-Ballonreifen

de Jonge Pauline

Margolius Beralel

Meyer Estelle 30.8.42

Leser Mary 5.9.42.

Plabber Feige 22.9.42.

Weingarten Flora 21.9.42.

Behrens Geanette

de Taube Johanna 4.10.42

de Jonge Friedr. 7.10.42.

Altgenug Berta 8.10.42.

Linsberg Emma 9.10.42.

Löwenberg Hermann

Continental-Gartenschläuche

Inge kept a list of those who passed away during her stay in Theresienstadt. The first entry is that of her Grandmother, Rosa Gruenberg, who passed away after two weeks in the camp. Whenever Inge would hear of a death she would record it in her notebook. Inge also kept poems, letters, drawings and any document that she was able to rescue.

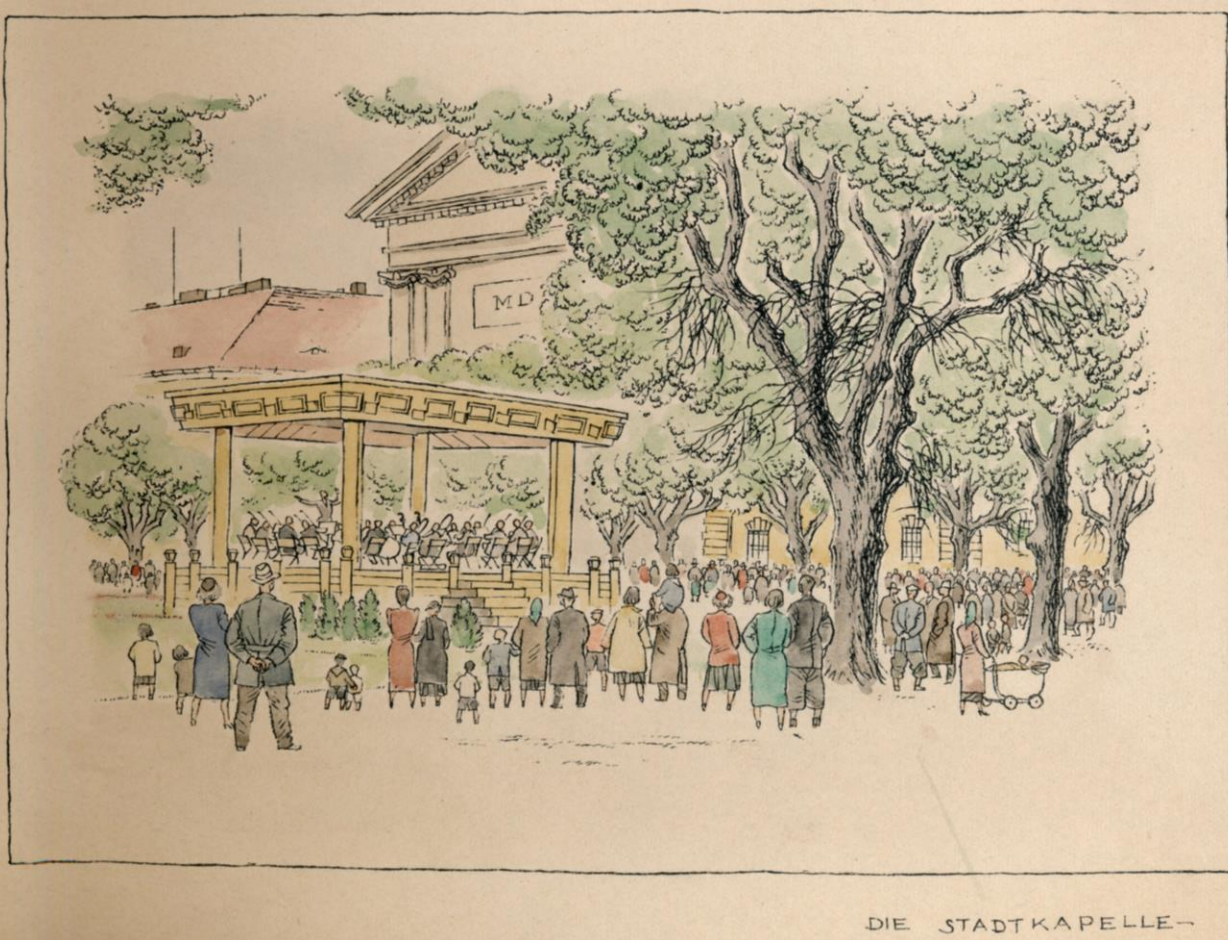
She had taken on, unbeknownst to her, the roll of a historian.



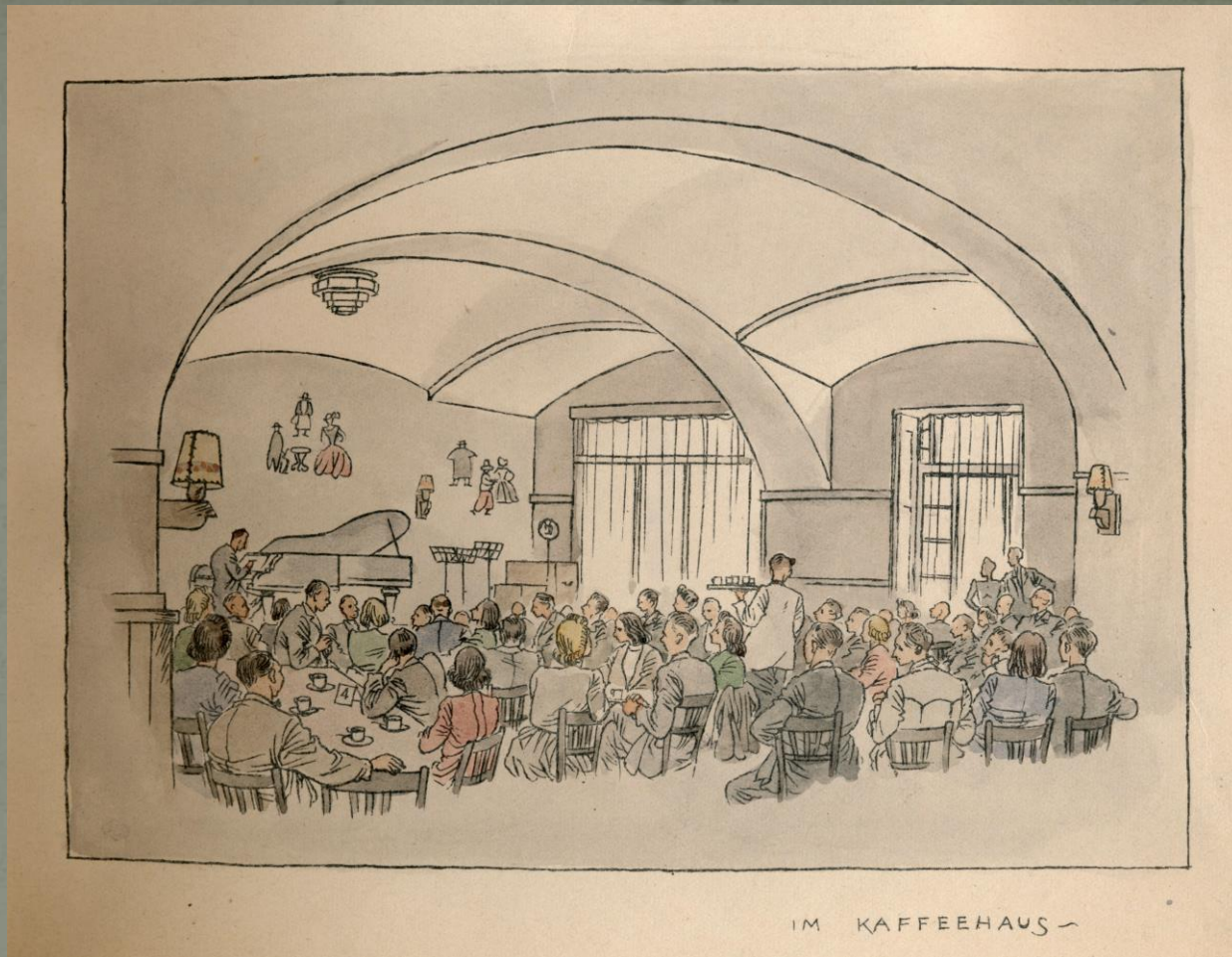
These notes were designed by one of Theresienstadt's inmates, the young artist Petr Kien. His original design taken from a pendant that his Jewish mother had given him, was not approved by Adolf Eichmann. Eichmann considered Moses to be too Aryan and ordered that Moses should have a hooked nose, curly hair and more wrinkles on his forehead. Life in the ghetto had little in common with the lavish design of the currency. These notes are another example of the ruse that was Theresienstadt.



The petals of this rose that Schmuel risked his life to obtain for Inge have been preserved by her to the present day.



The famous Red Cross visit to Theresienstadt came about because the government of Denmark was concerned about their Danish Jews who had been sent there beginning in 1943. The Nazis used this occasion to disseminate propaganda by presenting the ghetto in the most favorable light. These drawings, given to the Red Cross representatives, come from a collection made by the Dutch artist Jo Spier.

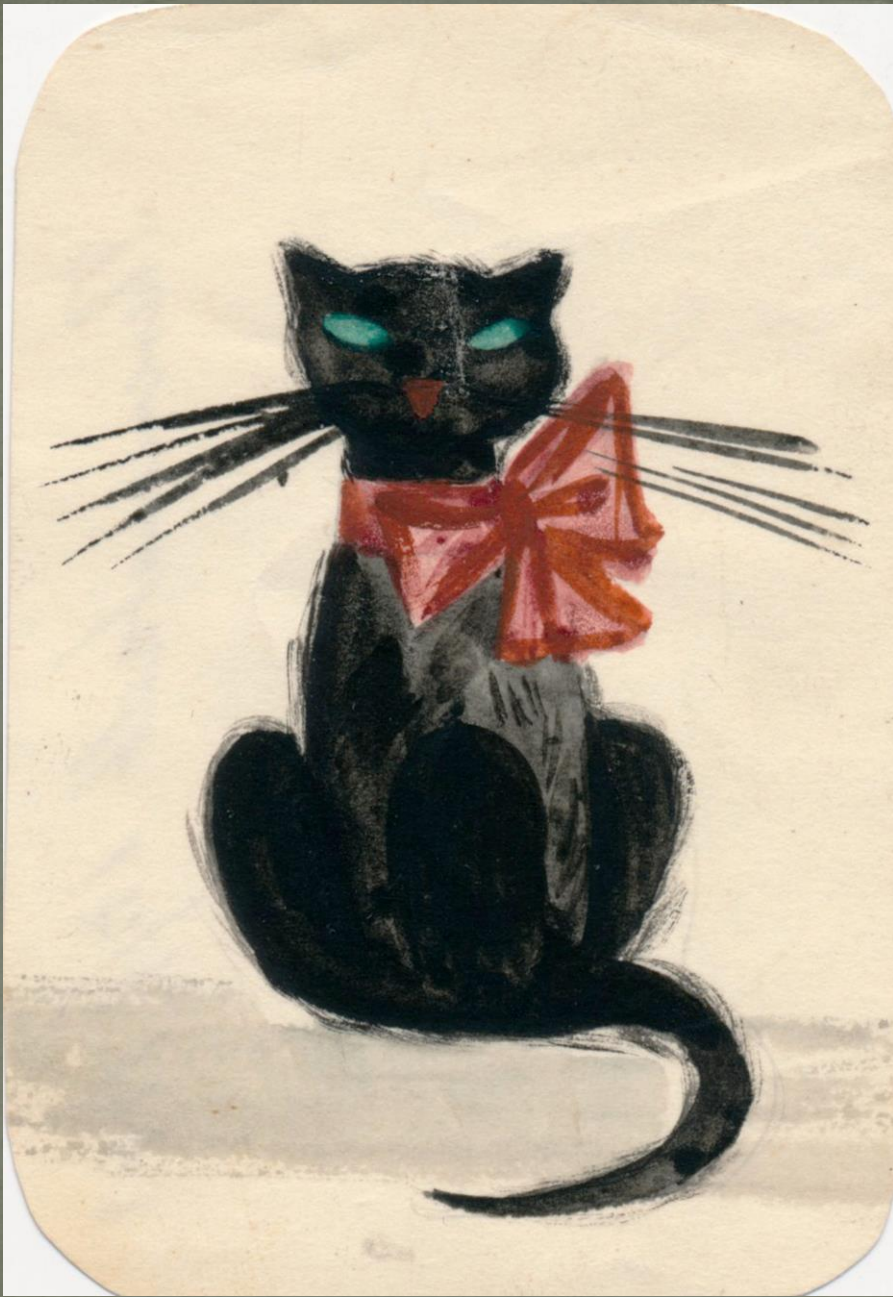


These drawings are idealized versions of life in the ghetto. They were made to resemble life in the outside world and to make it appear as though the inmates were well fed, culturally entertained, prosperous and generally had a sense of well-being.



This drawing was given to Carl Katz by a fellow inmate. This card shows the artist's true feelings towards the ghetto and not an idealized version as required by the Nazis.

The inmates kept the tradition of giving greeting cards for birthdays, Jewish New Year and the secular New Year.



A birthday card given to Carl
Katz from a fellow inmate.

September 14, 1943



Herzliche:
Geburtstagswünsche
Theresienstadt,
den 24. 6. 1943
Der Hausälteste u.
die Belegschaft:
Kruskova

A birthday card given to Inge Katz
from a fellow inmate.

June 24, 1943



A drawing of Jews
praying on the New
Year.

Was given as a card to
help commemorate
the New Year.

(1943)



The photo that Schmucl gave to Inge on the night before his transport out of Theresienstadt in 1944.

After the War

Background:

Theresienstadt was liberated on May 8, 1945 by the Russian Army.



Touring Bremen in a Jeep.

Given all of the attention Inge received by Allied Soldiers, she was often driven around the American occupied zones of the city in one of the military vehicles.



Wedding photo in June 1947



Family portrait with Ruthie (left) Hanna (right)
in 1951.



Carl Katz as a successful businessman in Bremen, Germany.



Order of Merit of the Federal Republic
of Germany, First Class.

Given to Carl Katz in 1960

HANDELSVEREIN E.V.

28 BREMEN 1 - AM MARKT 18 - TEL.: 0421/3234 90 - TELEX: 02 44876

BUNDESREPUBLIK
DEUTSCHLAND

DEUTSCHE
DEMOKRATISCHE
REPUBLIK

INFORMATIONSBRIEF Nr. 2 / 72

7. März 1972

wo/t

- Inhalt:
- I. Carl Katz, 1. Vorsitzender des Handelsverein e. V. BRD - DDR, am 12. Februar 1972 verstorben.
 - II. Neukonstituierung des Vorstandes.
 - III. Termin für die Vollversammlung betreffend das Geschäftsjahr 1971.
 - IV. Freiliste 1.
 - V. Eröffnung eines Numerik-Centrums für NC-Werkzeugmaschinen aus der DDR in München.
 - VI. Mitteilung der Geschäftsstelle.

Zu I.): Carl Katz, 1. Vorsitzender des Handelsverein e. V. BRD - DDR, am 12. Februar 1972 verstorben.

Der Vorstand hatte mit Schreiben vom 14. v. M. seine traurige Pflicht zu erfüllen, Sie von dem unerwarteten Ableben des langjährigen 1. Vorsitzenden Carl Katz zu unterrichten. Carl Katz verstarb am 12. Februar 1972 im 73. Lebensjahr. In zahlreichen Nachrufen wurde das Leben und Wirken des Verstorbenen gewürdigt.

Der Vorstand möchte auf diesem Wege für die vielen Beweise aufrichtiger Anteilnahme beim Heimgang des Verstorbenen aus dem Kreise unserer Mitgliedschaft seinen herzlichsten Dank sagen.

Carl Katz was the president of the East-West German Commerce Association until his death in 1972.



In August 1945, upon Carl Katz's return from Theresienstadt, he reestablished the Jewish Community in Bremen and was its president until his death in 1972. This photo shows the new Synagogue that Carl helped build and inaugurate in 1961.



Inge and her family on the ship to the USA in 1955.

In New York: Her new home.

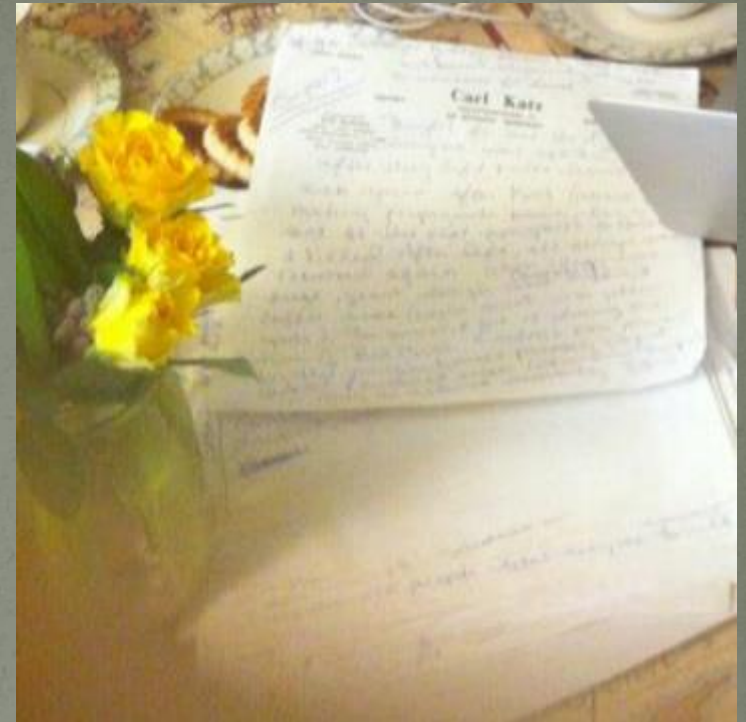




Schmuel with his siblings and their spouses. All Holocaust survivors, ten years after liberation.



The descendants of the Katz family in the White House Oval Office in 2012



A year and a half long interview process completed solely on Carl Katz's business stationery.

Elise Garibaldi interviewing her Grandmother Inge.



Inge's 90th birthday celebration with her immediate family. (June 2014)



The Birthday Present