

# Silent Heroes

## Memorial Center

### Resistance to Persecution of the Jews in Europe 1933–1945



#### Jānis Lipke – so Viele retten wie möglich

Jānis Lipke: Save as Many as Possible

Jānis Lipke hat ein Netzwerk von Helfern und Helferinnen auf dem Gebiet der Lettland- und Litauen-Regionen des Reichskommissariats Ostland aufgebaut. Er hat die Flucht von Juden und anderen Verfolgten ermöglicht und ihnen die Möglichkeit gegeben, in andere Länder zu emigrieren.

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## **Tours and Seminars**

The Silent Heroes Memorial Center offers a variety of activities for groups. Registration must be made in advance. Admission is free of charge.

Both general and themed tours of the exhibition are available. They are designed for adults or students (8th grade and up). Tours—in German, English, French, or simple German—last roughly 90 minutes.

The Silent Heroes Memorial Center also offers various seminars for adults or students (8th grade and up).

For comprehensive information please contact us at: [bildung@gedenkstaette-stille-helden.de](mailto:bildung@gedenkstaette-stille-helden.de)

**All events are free of charge.**

Please register at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to the desired date. For details on all events offered, go to: [www.gedenkstaette-stille-helden.de](http://www.gedenkstaette-stille-helden.de)



„Während unserer Erschießung verdeckte mich mein Großvater mit seinem Körper und stieß mich lebend in die Schlucht hinunter. Durch die Kälte und das Gewicht, das auf mir lag, kam ich nach einiger Zeit wieder zu Bewusstsein.“

“While they were shooting at us, my grandfather covered me with his body and pushed me into the ravine alive. Having lost consciousness, I came to after some time from the cold and the weight of the bodies on me.”

Nelli Gordon in einem Erinnerungsbild, 1997  
Nelli Gordon in an account of her recollections, 1997



Nelli Gordon, Discrepanzen  
Nelli Gordon kann die Mauer-  
durchbrechung überleben. Sie kommt  
bei der Familie Sobkow, einem Juden,  
unter und überlebt. Die Erinnerungen  
an die Kämpfe sind für sie  
ein Teil ihres Lebens.

The Silent Heroes Memorial Center was located from 2008 to 2017 at Rosenthaler Straße 39 in Berlin-Mitte. In February 2018 it reopened after moving to exhibition space connected to the German Resistance Memorial Center. Its new permanent exhibition “Resistance to Persecution of the Jews in Europe 1933–1945” is on display from October 2020.

The permanent exhibition presents information about the persecution and plight of Jews facing imminent deportation, about how some of them decided to resist the threat to their lives by going underground, and about the actions and motivations of the men and women who helped them. Not only successful rescues are documented, but also failed attempts.



Jah war froh, etwas zu tun, amten den ganzen Tag Däumchen zu drehen. ... Im Laufe der Zeit haben wir Tausende von Kettenbriefen in ganz Deutschland versandt.

"I was happy to have something to do, ratted off just twiddling my thumbs all day. ... Over the course of time we sent thousands of chain letters throughout Germany."

Eugen Hermann, Paderborn, 1943



Members of the Community for Peace and Reconstruction, Paderborn, 1943.

Members of the Community for Peace and Reconstruction, Paderborn, 1943.

**Widerstandsgruppe Gemeinschaft für Frieden und Aufbau**

Community for Peace and Reconstruction Resistance Group

Im Herbst 1943 gründeten Eugen Hermann, Helfer Hans Winkler und der ebenfalls zeitweise bei ihm untergetauchte Werner Schaff eine Widerstandsgruppe. Die bis zu 30 Mitglieder der Gemeinschaft für Frieden und Aufbau stammen aus dem Freundeskreis der beiden Gründer. Sie halfen untergetauchten Jüdinnen und Juden und verfassten Flugblätter, in denen sie zum Widerstand gegen das NS-Regime aufrufen. Eugen Hermann beteiligte sich an der Verbreitung der Flugblätter. Im Herbst 1944 wurde zahlreiche Mitglieder der Gruppe durch die Gestapo festgenommen.

In the fall of 1943, Eugen Hermann helped Hans Winkler and Werner Schaff, who sometimes also stayed there in hiding, founded a resistance group. The Community for Peace and Reconstruction had up to thirty members from the founders' circle of friends. They helped Jews in hiding and wrote flyers calling for resistance to the Nazi regime. Eugen Hermann participated in distributing the flyers. In the fall of 1944, numerous members of the group were arrested by the Gestapo.



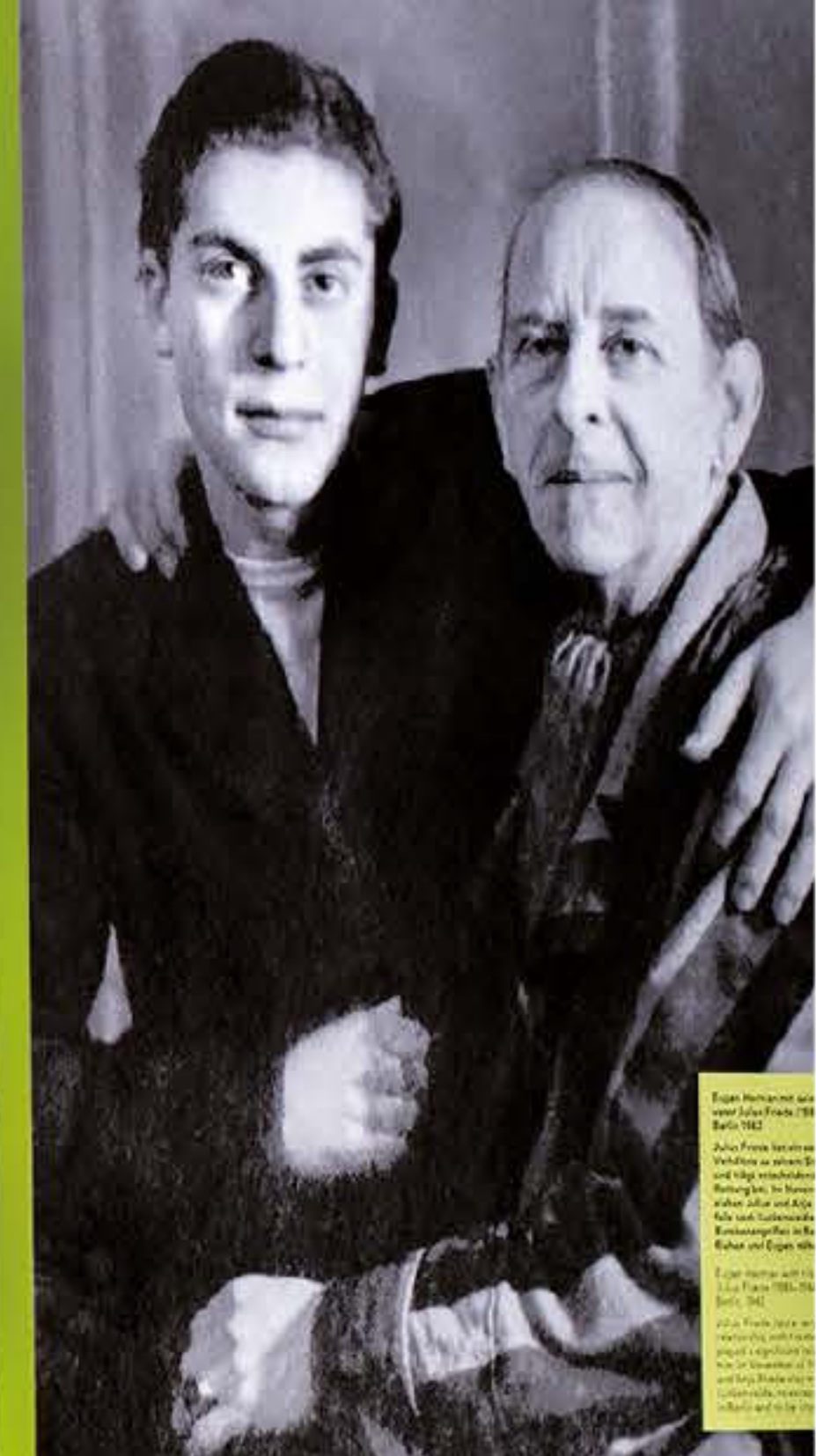
Werner Schaff (1913-1945), Berlin, ca. 1941.



Paula Grün (1904-1945), Jan 1933.

Werner Schaff (1913-1945), Berlin, ca. 1941.

Paula Grün (1904-1945), Jan 1933.



Eugen Hermann and his wife Julia (1904-1945), Berlin, 1942.



**The Silent Heroes Memorial Center**

commemorates Jewish men and women who resisted National Socialist persecution, and those who helped them to do so. The example set by these helpers—often referred to as “silent heroes”—shows that it was in fact possible to help people at risk.

Throughout Europe there were Jews who attempted to escape the deportation and murder. Their survival was usually only possible with the help of people willing to offer support. Putting themselves at risk, these “silent heroes” procured food and forged identity cards, helped people escape, arranged lodgings, or hid people in their homes. In view of the mass murder of European Jews, going “underground” or into hiding as well as saving individual Jews must be seen as part of the resistance to the National Socialist dictatorship.

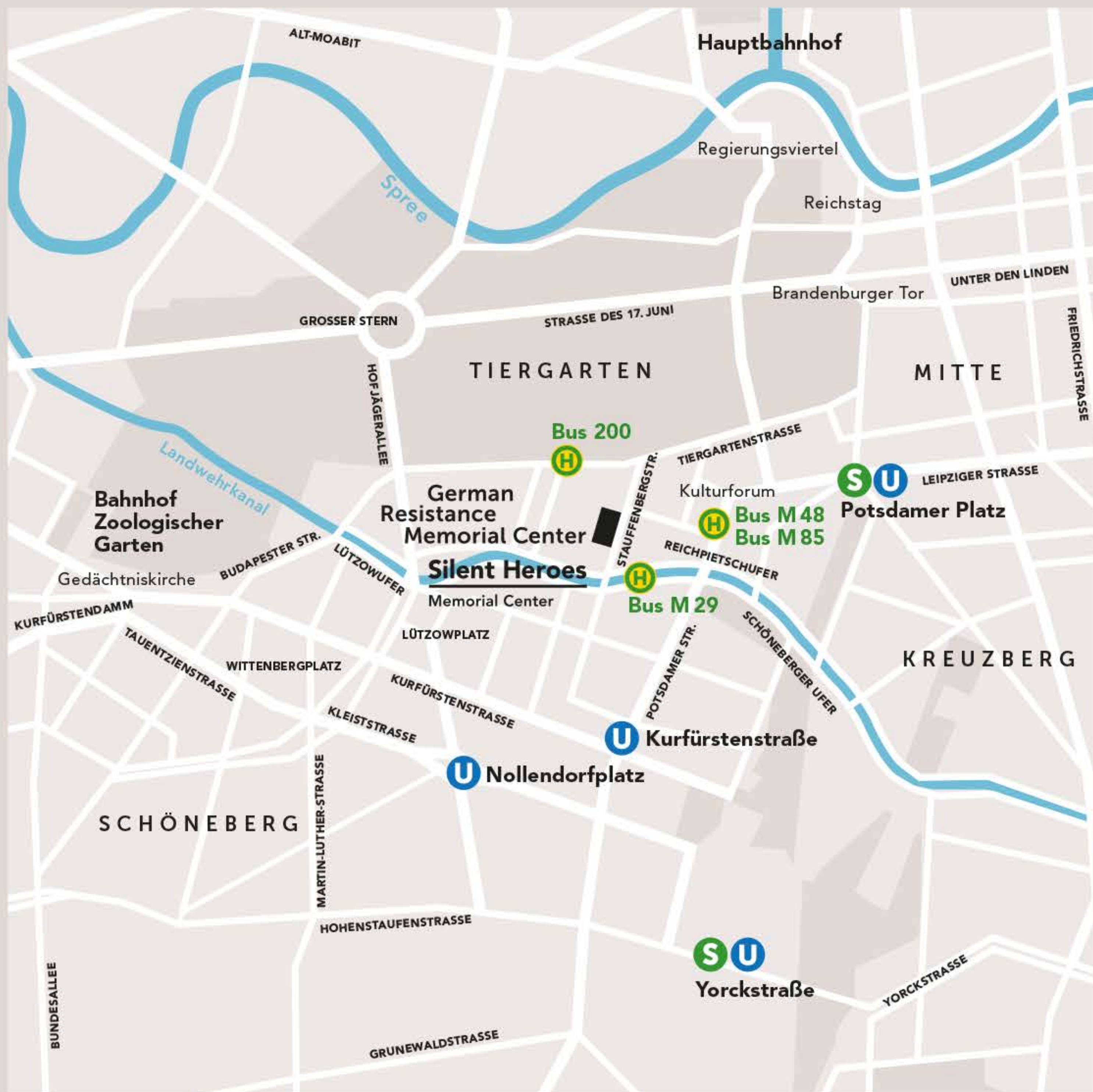




The exhibition tour offers an overview of various aspects of the topic “Resistance to Persecution of the Jews in Europe 1933–1945.” The focus is on seven examples of rescue attempts in various European countries. The exhibition showcases non-Jewish and Jewish helpers and rescue networks, successful and failed rescue attempts. It also looks at persecuted Jews, who had to make an active decision to resist the National Socialist policies of persecution and murder.

The Silent Heroes Memorial Center in the German Resistance Memorial Center Foundation is continuing to collect reports, photographs, and documents, and to archive video and audio recordings of oral history accounts of events.





## Getting here

### Bus M29

Bus stop: Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand

### Bus M48, Bus M85

Bus stop: Kulturforum, approx. 5-minute walk

### Bus 200

Bus stop: Tiergartenstraße, approx. 5-minute walk

### U1, U3

Station: Kurfürstenstraße, approx. 10-minute walk

### U2, S1, S2, S25, S26

Station: Potsdamer Platz, approx. 10-minute walk

## Opening hours

Mondays to Fridays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Closed December 24 to 26, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day

## Free admission

# Silent Heroes

## Memorial Center

Gedenkstätte Stille Helden  
in der Stiftung Gedenkstätte  
Deutscher Widerstand  
Stauffenbergstraße 13-14  
10785 Berlin-Mitte, Germany  
Third floor  
Entrance via the  
commemorative courtyard

## Contact

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