

Rosch Haschana 5699



לשנה טובה תכתבו!

Wir wandern aus...

Das ist das Motiv unserer diesjährigen Rosch Haschana.

Die Kinder wissen noch nicht davon. Helen ref. nur, das die Bekannte nach Amerika, Afrika, Holland, England, Palästina u. v. v. gehen u. ref. noch "Geographie", die Kinder mit properen Kinder nicht verstehen. Die Kinder leben S. v. B. keine Sorgen. Später werden sie sich mal wundern, was ihre Eltern in diesen Zeiten alles ertragen mussten. Wir wandern aus.



HAMBURG

Ob sich die Schwestern Helen und Eva Hesse irgendwann noch an das diesjährige Rosch Haschana erinnern würden können? Für ihre Eltern Wilhelm und Ruth Hesse jedenfalls war das Neujahrsfest 1938 eine Zäsur. Die Familie hatte die Entscheidung gefasst, aus Hamburg auszuwandern. Helen war zu diesem Zeitpunkt fünf Jahre alt, ihre kleine Schwester Eva gerade einmal zwei. Ihr Vater führte in dieser Zeit ein Tagebuch für seine beiden Töchter. Den Eintrag zu Rosch Haschana 5699 überschrieb er mit großen, gedruckten Lettern: „Wir wandern aus“, das „Motiv“ des diesjährigen Neujahrsfestes, wie Wilhelm handschriftlich ergänzte. Seine Töchter sollten bis dahin allerdings möglichst sorgenfrei leben. Dass es ihren Eltern ganz anders ging, wird zum Ende des Tagesbucheintrages klar. Dort schrieb Wilhelm Hesse: „Später werden sie sich mal wundern, was ihre Eltern in diesen Zeiten alles ertragen mussten. Wir wandern aus.“

QUELLE

Leo Baeck Institute – New York | Berlin

Sammlung Helen und Eva Hesse Familie, AR 25327

Archivbox 1, Ordner 3

GESTERN UND DIE TAGE ZUVOR

25. SEPTEMBER

FLIESSEND ENGLISCH!

7. SEPTEMBER

STAATENLOS DIE EINEN, TATENLOS VON DACHAU NACH DIE ANDEREN

23. SEPTEMBER

BUCHENWALD

Handout

"We're emigrating." A new year, a new start: Family Hesse from Hamburg

September 26, 1938: The Hamburg lawyer Wilhelm Hesse recorded a grave resolution for the Jewish New Year in 1938: he and his young family would join the thousands of German Jews who were leaving their homes behind in hope of finding safety abroad.

Topics

Jewish Holidays: Rosh Hashanah 5699; emigration; family biography; Hamburg region

Source

<https://www.lbi.org/1938projekt/detail/we-are-emigrating/>

Type: Diary, Photographs, Collage

Date: September 26, 1938

HAMBURG

Would the sisters Helen and Eva Hesse remember this year's Rosh Hashanah someday? For their parents, Wilhelm and Ruth Hesse, the new year's celebration of 1938 was a break with tradition. The family had made the decision to emigrate from Hamburg. Helen was five years old at this point in time. Her little sister Eva had just turned two. Their father kept a diary for both his daughters during this period. Over the entry for Rosh Hashana 5699 in large, typeprinted letters are the words: "We're emigrating," the theme of this year's new year celebration. The rest of the entry Wilhelm wrote by hand. Until then, however, he wanted his daughters' lives to be as carefree as possible. That it went very differently for their parents is clear at the end of the diary entry. There Wilhelm Hesse wrote: "Later they'll be amazed what their parents had to suffer in these times. We're emigrating."

Transcript

"We're emigrating—that is the theme of Rosh Hashanah this year. The children still don't know anything. Helen only knows that her friends are moving to America, Africa, Holland, Palestine, etc..., and she knows more "Geography" than even much older children used to know. Thank God the children have no worries. Later they will be amazed at all their parents had to endure in these times. We are emigrating."

"Leshana tova tikatevu (לשנה טובה תכתבי)": May you be inscribed for a good year.

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Background Information

Glossary

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. The Hebrew term signifies “head of the year”. Rosh Hashanah is part of the High Holidays, the most important Jewish Holidays. Typical greetings for Rosh Hashanah are: “Shana Tovah” (a good year) , “Shana Tovah Umetukah” (a good and sweet year) and “Leshana tovah tikatevu” (May you be inscribed [in the Book of Life] for a good year).

Biographical information

Wilhelm Hesse was the son of an Orthodox Jewish businessman. A lawyer with a doctorate, Hesse had been laid off already in April 1933. He resided in Hamburg with his wife Ruth and his two little daughters, Helen and Eva. Wilhelm Hesse was a loving and profoundly involved father. Since the births of his daughters, Helen (pictured, b. 1933) and Eva (b. 1936), he had meticulously documented the girls’ development in diaries which he kept for them. In addition to little texts and poems he composed, he included numerous photographs as well as material referring to Jewish holidays. Occasionally, the frequently humorous, sometimes even childlike tone is interrupted by material documenting the political situation, such as a call by Rabbi Leo Baeck for Jewish unity and solidarity in the name of the Reich Representation of German Jews. The photographs, newspaper clippings and notes provide information about the life of the young family in the shadow of Nazi dictatorship. But Helen and her sister Eva were lucky enough to be too young to grasp what was looming around them. The daughters were sent unaccompanied on a Kindertransport to England, and the family was reunited in London the following year. From there, they migrated to the United States, where Eva Hesse became a sculptor and one of the leading figures of the “Process Art” movement.

Further information

Further information as well as additional source material can be accessed through the English finding aids:
Guide to the Papers of the Helen and Eva Hesse Family 1882-1956 AR 25327 / MF 979
<http://diqifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=347022>

Analyzing source material

- *What kind of source is depicted?*
- *When does it date from?*
- *Where was it written?*
- *For which audience?*
- *From which perspective is the story told?*
- *How does the person describe the situation?*
- *Which words is he/she using?*
- *Which feelings are being expressed?*
- *What are the main points?*
- *How can the source be put into its historical context?*

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Additional sample Questions

What do you know about Jewish Holidays? (or if previous knowledge exists: How is Rosh Hashanah celebrated? Why does one eat apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah?)

What do you know about emigration? Are there differences or similarities to today's situation? How would you describe your own everyday life?

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