

**The Circle of Remembrance @ GSS Field Trip 1.0:
Discovering the Roots of the NS-Dictatorship in Munich, Bavaria and
honouring the victims of the Concentration Camp Dachau**



Report written by: MM Madden (07.06.2024)

Question: Do you know who Max Mannheimer was?

For the very first time at GSS the newly minted extra-curricular club, **The Circle of Remembrance @ GSS**, was offered for 9th graders interested in the Holocaust the connection between Antisemitism, Germany and Europe. The students were curious to explore life in Europe 100 years after the liberation of Germany from the NS-Dictatorship. Questions like...
What are the similarities to today's Germany and the political movements within the EU?
What are the differences? Who are we now and what can we learn from the past?

The Circle of Remembrance @ GSS is a concept developed one of most experienced History teachers in our school, Simone Herzig. Before her days as a teacher she had spent several summers in The Dachau Memorial as an intern, her expertise was of great help. She partnered up with the staff at the Karl Arnold Stiftung (<https://karl-arnold-stiftung.de/>) and developed this program (The program seminar can be viewed at the end of this report)
We had a wonderful guide, Benedict Müschenborn from the Karl Arnold Stiftung. He was very knowledgeable, accommodating and fun to be around.

In early 2024 a field trip was planned for the München area with stops at Dachau (<https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de/en/>), The Max Mannheimer Foundation (<https://mmsz-dachau.de/studienzentrum/>), The LMU University (The White Rose Resistance Group) <https://www.weisse-rose-stiftung.de/white-rose-foundation/> and a NS-Documentation Museum <https://>

www.nsdoku.de/en/. This documentation center is new and highlights the connection between Munich, the National Socialist Party and the rise of Adolf Hitler dictatorship.

Fun Fact: The Israeli Embassy is located right next door, quite symbolic.

Participants included 25 students (14 boys and 11 girls) between the age of 15-16 that took part in this 5-day seminar. Ms Madden (formerly Tenge-Rietberg), the Erasmus+ Coordinator and member of the History Department at GSS, joined in to escort us and brought in some Erasmus+ expertise. Along with the journey was the DiGi Box from a former Erasmus+ project Be A.C.T.I.V.E, Be Happy! (KA229-C0D5DD75). This concept was developed in Sweden for our digital detox project from 2020-2023. It is a box in which we collect cell phones before we start lessons, The students get the cell phones in return at the end of the lesson, museum tour, etc. There are no cell phones allowed at meal times. At that time it is important to discuss the events of the day

The DiGi box was brought to each of the seminars in order to decrease the focus on cell phone and social media activities. In the end, guides and students both commented on how useful this tool is in order to increase collaboration and concentration.

Our current Erasmus+ project, KA120-NW-22108925, H.E.R.O. (Help Everyone, Reach Out) was also highlighted as the goal is to increase service learning, civil courage, volunteering and standing up for what you believe in (Democratic and European Values). The name of our school is, indeed, The Geschwister-Scholl Realschule, Gütersloh, NRW and visiting the memorial located in the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich was especially important and meaningful. It became quite clear to the participants who the members of White Rose Resistance Group were and what they risked and undertook for freedom. They did not die in vain, they are role models and heroes for us today. They encouraged their fellow students to stand -up and fight for a change in politics and policy under the dictator, Adolf Hitler and save the fate of Germany.

Another interesting aspect of **The Circle of Remembrance** is the fact that several of our members have migration backgrounds and have no personal connection to the history of Germany in WWII, however realise that current events in Germany and Europe are concerning and democracy and history have a connection. Students of German heritage were able to answer some of the most compelling questions that have plagued them, "How could this happen?". No matter what the personal motive, the students were trained and sensitised to the importance of reading the news and staying informed of what is going on around them, especially days before the EU election, where some students are qualified to vote.

The core message: **NEVER AGAIN!**

In a free democracy one must be aware in order to effectively watch and defend human rights. This visit was an exceptional opportunity for our students to honour the dead and to pay tribute to the many heroes that risked their lives for freedom and civil courage.

In June 2024, Europe and the US celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the beginning of the end of WWII, the Liberation of Europe. One that operation alone an estimated 10,000.00 soldiers dies (Allied Forces and Germans combined).

Next year, in 2025, the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe and the beginning of its journey into a free world respectful of human rights and the rule of law.

We are looking forward to teaming up Erasmus+ on a few new projects to deepen our mission with our European neighbours and friends.

In addition, we would like to thank the following sponsors for financially supporting our new Club:

Circle of Remembrance @ GSS

The Karl Arnold Stiftung
Stiftung Kolpinghaus Gütersloh
Stadt Gütersloh, Culture Department



Karl-Arnold-Stiftung e.V.

Zertifiziert durch den Gütesiegelverbund Weiterbildung

- vorläufiges Seminarprogramm -

Thema: „Modell- und Musterlager“: Geschichte und Bedeutung des Konzentrationslagers Dachau im NS-Herrschaftssystem
Zielgruppe: Politisch interessierte Schülerinnen und Schüler aus NRW
Tagungsort: Dachau
Tagungstermin: 03. Juni - 07. Juni 2024
Seminarnummer: 24007
Tagungsbeitrag: 363,5 €

Montag, 03. Juni 2024

08:00 Uhr Abfahrt ab Gütersloh
12:30 Uhr **Mittagspause**
(auf eigene Kosten)
17:00 Uhr **Eintreffen in der Unterkunft, Zimmerverteilung**
Jugendherberge München-Park, Miesingstr. 4, 81379 München, Tel: (089) 7857677-0, www.jugendherberge.de/de-de/jugendherbergen/muenchen-park249/portraet
18:00 Uhr Abendessen
19:00 - 20:30 Uhr **Begrüßung, Vorstellung, Einführung in das Seminarthema und Abfrage der Erwartungen**

Dienstag, 04. Juni 2024

08:00 Uhr Frühstück
09:00 Uhr Abfahrt zur KZ Gedenkstätte Dachau
10:00 - 12:00 Uhr **Thematische Einführung und Vorbereitung auf den Gedenkstättenbesuch**
In der Einführung gibt es einen ersten Überblick über den Kontext der Gedenkstätte und ihre Bedeutung in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart.
Gespräch und Diskussion
Max Mannheimer Studienzentrum
12:00 Uhr Mittagessen
13:30 - 17:30 Uhr **Das Konzentrationslager Dachau: Symbol der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft**
Die interaktive Rundgang durch die Gedenkstätte vermittelt Grundkenntnisse über Geschichte und Bedeutung des Lagers im nationalsozialistischen Herrschaftssystem.
Kommentierte Führung
KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau
17:30 Uhr Rückfahrt zur Unterkunft
18:30 Uhr Abendessen

Mittwoch, 05. Juni 2024

07:00 Uhr	Frühstück
08:00 Uhr	Abfahrt zu KZ Gedenkstätte Dachau
09:00 - 12:00 Uhr	Das Konzentrationslager Dachau: Symbol der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft Fortsetzung des Gedenkstättenbesuchs mit eigenständigen Recherchen Kommentierte Führung <i>KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau</i>
12:00 Uhr	Mittagessen
13:00 - 15:30 Uhr	Masel Tov Cocktail - Filmworkshop zu gegenwärtigem Antisemitismus Der Film "Masel Tov Cocktail" erzählt aus der Perspektive von Dima, einem jüdischen Jugendlichen in Berlin, von gegenwärtigem Antisemitismus und seinen verschiedenen Formen, gleichzeitig gibt er den Zuschauer*innen Einblick in die Vielfalt jüdischen Lebens in Deutschland. Workshop <i>Max Mannheimer Studienzentrum</i>
15:30 - 16:15 Uhr	Nachbereitung der Studientage Gespräch und Diskussion <i>Max Mannheimer Studienzentrum</i>
17:00 Uhr	Rückfahrt zur Unterkunft
18:00 Uhr	Abendessen

Donnerstag, 06. Juni 2024

07:15 Uhr	Frühstück
08:15 Uhr	Abfahrt zum NS Dokumentationszentrum München
09:00 - 10:30 Uhr	München und der Nationalsozialismus Die Ausstellung im NS Dokumentationszentrum gibt Einblick in den Aufstieg der NSDAP seit ihrer Gründung in München und den Alltag der Münchner*innen während der NS Zeit. Kommentierte Führung <i>NS-Dokumentationszentrum München</i>
11:00 - 12:45 Uhr	Gespräch mit einem Zeitzeugen In einem Gespräch mit einem Verfolgten des Naziregimes erhalten die Teilnehmenden einen Einblick in dessen Schicksal während der NS-Zeit und haben die Möglichkeit, sich mit diesem darüber auszutauschen. Gespräch und Diskussion
12:45 Uhr	Weiterfahrt zur LMU München
13:00 - 14:00 Uhr	Lunchpakete
14:00 - 15:00 Uhr	Sophie Scholl und die Weiße Rose Die Weiße Rose ist heute eine der bekanntesten deutschen Widerstandsgruppen. Zu ihren wichtigsten Mitgliedern gehört neben Hans Scholl, Alexander Schmorell, Willi Graf und Christoph Probst und Professor Kurt Huber Sophie Scholl. Sie studiert damals wie ihr Bruder an der Münchner Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität. Im Lichthof der Universität erinnert eine Ausstellung an ihre Geschichte und die der Weißen Rose. Kommentierte Führung