



VGKN Newsletter Number 1 - July 2020

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1. Reopening of the memorial sites

Museum KZ Bisingen | Reopening

Next Sunday, 7 June 2020, the Museum KZ Bisingen will open its doors again. Visitors are once again warmly welcome during the usual opening hours, subject to the rules of hygiene and distance. These are: Sundays from 14 to 17 hrs. Admission is free. On a tour of the exhibition, which was completely revised and redesigned only last year, visitors can learn about the history of Bisingen concentration camp and how this part of local history was dealt with in a detailed and vivid way. | Guided tours for small groups with a maximum of six participants are currently also possible again by appointment. | Registration under: doris.muth@bisingen.de

Kochendorf Concentration Camp Memorial Site | Remains closed

Unfortunately, this memorial will no longer be open to visitors in 2020. The way there leads through a tunnel system and is only seasonally passable even in virus-free times. But now the Südwestdeutsche Salzbergwerk AG (SWS) has decided to cancel all entrances to the mine for this year.

Echterdingen-Bernhausen Memorial | Freely accessible

This memorial is located in the open air and can be visited at any time as before. Guided tours can be offered on request.

Eckerwald Concentration Camp Memorial Site | Free Access

Our three memorial sites: the Eckerwald Memorial Trail, as well as the concentration camp cemeteries in Schörzingen and the concentration camp cemetery with the Schömberg/Dautmergen learning site are located outdoors and are therefore freely accessible at all times, just as they were before corona times. Please, on your own behalf, pay attention to the required safety distances.

KZ Hailfingen-Tailfingen Memorial | Reopening

From Sunday 21.06.2020, the memorial can be visited on Sundays outside school holidays and on bridge days, from 15:00 to 17:00, see also <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-hailfingen-tailfingen.de/.../oef.../oef...> | For whom? For all who are healthy and do not complain about corona symptoms. | No registration required. | Protective measures required? For documentation room: Wear a mask, comply with the protective requirements, maximum 5 persons in the documentation room. For outdoor areas (runway, memorial, mass grave etc.) freely accessible.

KZ-Memorial Site Volcano in Haslach in the Kinzig Valley | Reopening

The memorial is now freely accessible again. No registration is necessary. The restrictions and protective measures are analogous to the legal requirements for public spaces. | Registration for guided tours with Sören Fuß, Tel. 07832 2105; info@gedenkstaette-vulkan.de

Initiative KZ Memorial Hessental e.V., Schwäbisch Hall / Baden-Württemberg

Unfortunately, some guided tours this summer had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. But from July 4th on we will open the wagon with its exhibition about the death march again this weekend. We ask you to keep your distance, especially inside the wagon. We are now offering guided tours again. Here is the overview: Wed, 8 July, 6 p.m.; Sun, 16 August, 11 a.m.; Sun, 6 September, 4.30 p.m., European Day of Jewish Culture; Sun, 13 September, 11 a.m., Open Monument Day; Sun, 11 October, 11 a.m. During all guided tours, we ask you to keep your distance from other guests, if necessary.

KZ-Memorial Leonberg | Reopening

Fortunately, the Leonberg Memorial can now reopen. On the 1st Sunday of each month, on 7.6., 5.7., 2.8., 6.9., 4.10. and from 14:00-17:00 o'clock. Prior registration is not necessary. Please keep to the mask obligation. The volunteers of the Leonberg Memorial will be pleased to greet and welcome you again.

Neckarelz concentration camp memorial site | reopening

The Neckarelz Concentration Camp Memorial Site will be open for individual visits every Sunday from 14.00 to 17.00 hours from 10 May 2020. The usual hygiene and distance rules apply. The number of people per room is limited, but due to the size and number of rooms this should hardly lead to bottlenecks. All rules are indicated by signs. | We ask all visitors to bring their own mouth and nose covers. We also have masks available for one-time use. | The history trail "Goldfisch" in the forest near Obrigheim offers an opportunity to combine nature experience and historical information. It is accessible at any time. The path connects the above-ground remains of the underground armaments factory "Goldfisch" and also tells the most important facts about the history of the concentration camp subcamps on the Neckar. The walk begins at the former railway tunnel on the Kalksberg and leads over 10 stations and 2.5 km of footpath back to the starting point. The flyer with further information and a description of the stations can be found here. The path has a stairway of more than 100 steps as its heart, so it is not barrier-free.

Mannheim-Sandhofen concentration camp memorial site | reopening

Due to the relaxation of the Corona Ordinance, museums and memorials in Baden-Württemberg are allowed to open again. The concentration camp memorial Sandhofen can therefore be visited again from June onwards as part of the monthly Sunday openings. Until further notice, the following precautionary measures must be observed: In order to be able to observe the prescribed distance rules, the memorial site can only be visited by 6 people at the same time. Therefore, prior registration (by e-mail to marco.brenneisen@mannheim.de, Tel. 0621-2937485) is required for your visit. Registrations for the Sunday opening are possible for the periods 14-15 h, 15-16 h and 16-17 h. | Tours can - weather permitting - take place exclusively in the outdoor area (schoolyard). Unfortunately, no guided tours are currently possible in the memorial. The usual hygiene and distance rules apply. All rules are indicated by signs. | We ask all visitors* to bring their own mouth and nose covers. However, we also have masks available for one-time use.

Initiative KZ-Gedenken in Spaichingen e.V., Spaichingen / Baden-Württemberg | Guided tours available on request

Guided tours of the concentration camp initiative in Spaichingen can be arranged on request by Dr. Ingrid Dapp, Tel 0171 30 11 215 or by e-mail at dr.ingrid.dapp[at]gmail.com. The memorial is located outside. We can guide you from the historical place to the memorial (up to 1 1/2 hours). We follow the Corona guidelines.

Vaihingen/Enz concentration camp memorial site | reopening

Since Sunday, July 5, 2020, the concentration camp memorial Vaihingen / Enz has reopened under the special corona-related hygiene regulations. This means, among other things, that group visits are not possible at present. In addition, every visitor* must wear a mouth and nose protector. Opening hours: Sunday from 14.00 to 17.00 hours.

Working group "Wüste" | No guided tours for the time being

At the moment no guided tours can be offered. We will keep you up to date!

Margit Horváth Concentration Camp Memorial Centre | Reopening

The memorial is always open to the interested public on the first Sunday of the month (March to November) from 13:30 to 17:00. No registration is required for these openings. |Mask is currently required. |The concentration camp nature trail can always be walked on, as it is located in the forest. Public guided tours must be registered with the Margit-Horváth Foundation (Cornelia Rühlig) or the Mörfelden-Walldorf Museum (Claudia Battistella).

Initiative KZ-Katzbach | No guided tours possible for the time being

Unfortunately, guided tours are not possible at present. We will inform you as soon as changes occur!

2. Reopening of Struthof

On 30 May, under the hygienic precautions and for the first time partially open to the public.

visiting hours: Wednesday to Sunday from 09:30 to 17:30 Reduced entrance fee for all (due to the restrictions below): 3,-€ / person

*"It is mandatory to wear a mask when visiting!

No masks are provided, but it should be noted that the sites that contain narrow spaces and therefore too little space for the safety distance must remain closed. This concerns the gas chamber and the cell block. Some sites will only be able to accommodate a limited number of people.

The cafeteria, toilets, the "Kartoffelkeller" (exhibition room with selected exhibits) and the Forum (exhibition room with art) will also remain closed.

Further information on the reopening

3. Farewell to Dorothee Roos

"Dear Dorothee, we representatives of the memorial sites in the former concentration camp complex Natzweiler would like to thank you for your tireless work on the VGKN projects, for your perseverance and restless nights when projects threatened to topple and your constant efforts for diplomacy. We very much hope to continue to welcome you at our annual meetings and wish you, your family, your children and your grandchildren an energetic time together. Thank you for everything! „

Our founding member and first chairperson since the beginning, Dorothee Roos, is retiring from the board after four years of commitment.

Dorothee Roos, then Chairwoman of the Neckarelz Memorials Association, transformed an initial Franco-German friendship with Frédérique Neau-Dufour (then Director of CERD) into a fruitful collaboration fueled by mutual euphoria. This cooperation led to the founding of the VGKN and the application for the European Heritage Label.

The European Cultural Heritage Label brought many far-reaching transnational projects with it, of which Mrs Roos was the most passionate supporter of the Franco-German teacher training courses. Which she is now placing in the hands of the newly elected second chairman Dr. Tobias Markowitsch.

4. The VGKN Board of Directors 2020/2022 introduces itself

1st Chairman: Dr. des. Marco Brenneisen

Since 2009 I have been a volunteer in the association KZ-Gedenkstätte Sandhofen (Mannheim), where I hold the office of deputy chairman. Since 2017, I have also been a member of the MARCHIVUM (formerly Stadtarchiv-Mannheim-ISG), where I am responsible for the scientific and organisational management of the memorial. I am a graduate social scientist and historian and in 2019 I submitted my dissertation to the University of Mannheim, in which I analysed the "post-history" of the satellite camps of Natzweiler Concentration Camp in southwestern Germany as well as the developments in the culture of remembrance in these places since 1945. The history of the Natzweiler subcamps is therefore as familiar to me as the memorial landscape in southwestern Germany; especially since I have been a member of the spokesman's council of the State Working Group of the Memorials and Memorial Initiatives in Baden-Württemberg (LAGG) since 2016. Last year, I was a member of the VGKN board of directors as deputy chairman.

I look forward to serving as the 1st Chairman of the VGKN in the future and to continuing the work carried out by Dorothee Roos with untiring commitment. It is important to me to continue the networking, cooperation and exchange between the memorial sites and to promote public awareness of the memorial landscape through joint projects. At the same time, the successful Franco-German cooperation with the CERD and other partners is to be continued. In the medium term, therefore, the further development of the Natzweiler database by VGKN, CERD and Prof. Robert Steegmann (Strasbourg) will be one of my main tasks on the board.

In the future, I hope to be able to extend the cooperation in the field of research and historical-political education to other countries, especially Poland.

2nd Chairman: Dr. Tobias Markowitsch

I have been an active member of the KZ Neckarelz Memorial Site e.V. since 1993. Over the past 25 years or so, I have had the opportunity to experience, research and shape the history of the Neckarelz camp and its main camp Natzweiler-Struthof in a variety of ways. In addition to exhibition concepts, visits to the archives, youth projects and discussions with contemporary witnesses, together with Katrin Zwick I wrote a comprehensive overall presentation of the Neckarelz camp (Goldfisch und Zebra - Die Geschichte des Konzentrationslagers Neckarelz - Außenkommando des KZ Natzweiler-Struthof, 2nd edition 2011). My dissertation, published in 2018, focused on the post-war history of the relocation project A8/Goldfisch

(„Verlagert – demontiert – ausgeschlachtet: Goldfisch 1944-1974. Vom NS-Rüstungsbetrieb zur Maschinenfabrik Diedesheim)

The aim of my work at the VGKN is to familiarise teachers with the subject of "Natzweiler-Struthof and its subcamps" - by designing teaching materials and training courses, by

accompanying projects and by deepening Franco-German cooperation with thematic references and various cooperation partners.

Treasurer: Dr. Albrecht Dapp

Ever since my childhood I have been occupied with coming to terms with the Nazi past - in view of the fact that my family was affected by the Naziicides. Since I came to Spaichingen in 1986, I have also devoted myself, as far as my scope of activity in addition to my job as chief physician in a small clinic allowed, together with some fellow citizens, to the commemoration of the Natzweiler subcamp which existed there from 1944 to 1945. As a representative of this initially only loose association, I took part in the founding of the VGKN in 2016 and, at the suggestion of the two chairmen at the time, Dorothee Roos and Brigitta Marquart-Schad, took over the office of treasurer. In order to intensify the memorial work in Spaichingen, we founded an association called "Initiative KZ-Gedenken" in Spaichingen in 2018.

The work as treasurer during the build-up phase of the VGKN and the many challenges and information associated with it are attractive tasks and bring a variety of ideas, now that I would like to devote myself as a retiree to further interests outside of medicine. I would like to contribute to the successful continuation of the manifold projects of this important commemoration work.