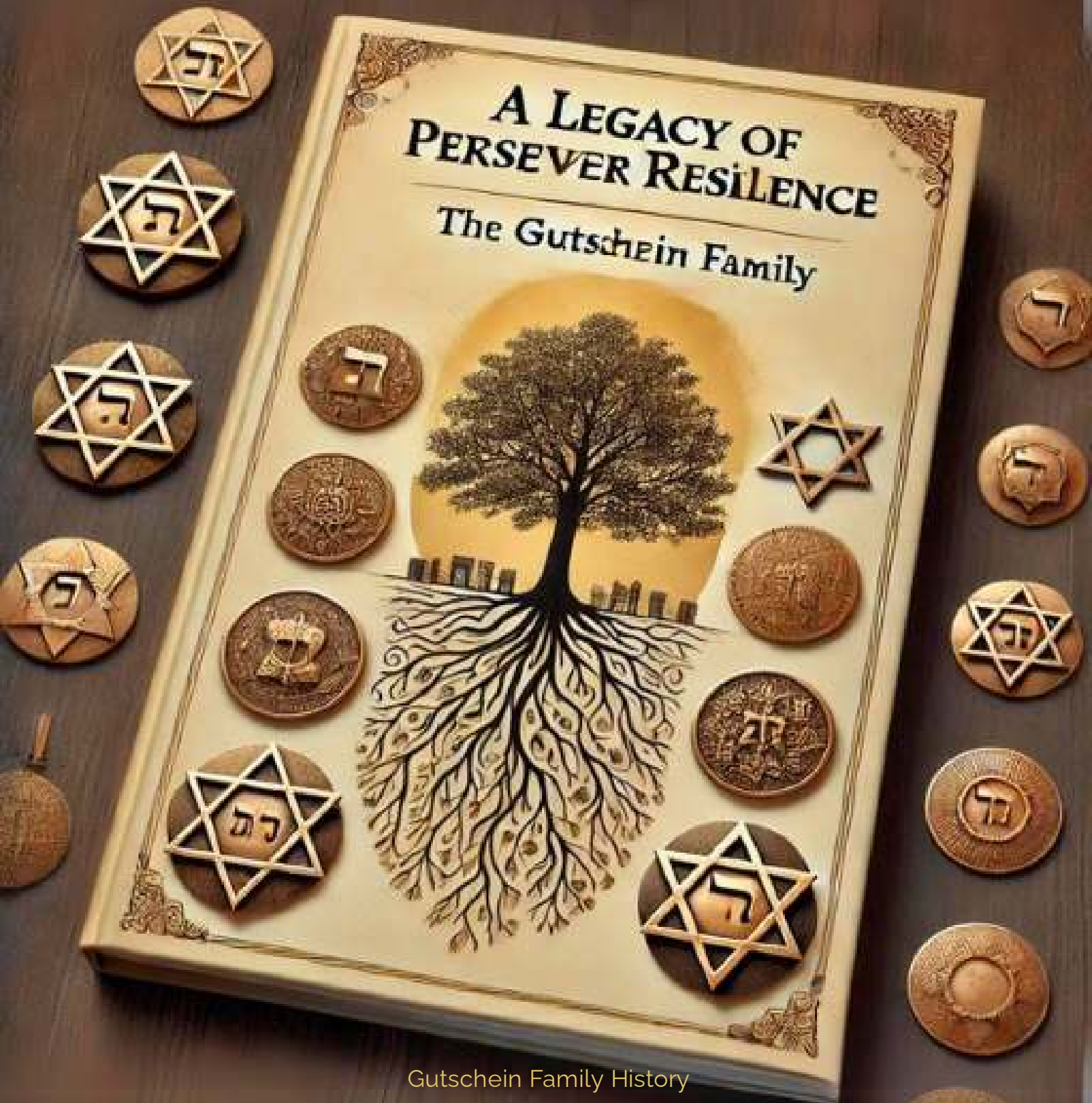


*Our Family History:
A Legacy of Resilience and Memory*



Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Commemoration of the Stolperstein for Adolf Gutschein

September 23, 2024 – Berlin

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the memory of **Adolf Gutschein** and all the members of our family who suffered the atrocities of the Holocaust. With the placement of a **Stolperstein** in Berlin, we honor not only Adolf's life but also the legacy he left for his descendants. This book serves as a reminder of his sacrifice and a celebration of the strength and resilience of our family.

Chapter 1:

Adolf Gutschein – A Journey of Hope from Poland to Germany

Chapter 1: The Beginnings of a Family – Adolph (Abraham) Gutschein

Adolph (Abraham) Gutschein was born in **1864** in **Bedzin, Poland**, a town rich in history, yet marked by the struggles of its Jewish inhabitants. In **1891**, Adolph married **Sara (Sura) Bleicher** in Bedzin, beginning what they hoped would be a future full of promise. Together, they brought two children into the world: **Jacob**, born on **May 31, 1892**, and **Bertha**, born on **March 10, 1895**, both in Poland.

Their life, however, was not without tragedy. Sara died around two years after Bertha's birth, leaving Adolph to raise their young children alone. Despite the profound loss, Adolph's resolve to provide for his family never faltered. He made the bold decision to move from his homeland to **Berlin, Germany**, in search of better opportunities and a brighter future for Jacob and Bertha.

In Berlin, Adolph started to rebuild his life. It was here that he met **Jeanette**, his second wife, who became a steady presence for his growing family. Berlin, a city that at the time stood as a symbol of modernity and possibility, seemed to promise a secure future.

Bertha, full of youthful ambition, met and married **Aaron Goldberg** in **1920**. The couple decided to emigrate to **Toronto, Canada**, where Aaron knew some of his siblings resided, a move that would prove to shield them from the looming threats in Europe. In Toronto, they had three children: **Sylvia**, **Reta**, and **Sender**, and lived out their lives far from the dark clouds gathering over Europe. Although they were fortunate to escape Germany long before the rise of Nazism, their story remains a significant part of the **Gutschein** family legacy.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Meanwhile, **Jacob** followed in his father's footsteps. In **1920**, he married **Sonia (Balsam)** in Berlin, and they had four children: **Ruth, Max, Edith**, and **Dora**. Jacob worked alongside his father in the family business, navigating the challenges of a rapidly changing world. However, in **1934**, the situation in Germany was becoming increasingly more difficult for the Jewish population, and the family was forced to flee.



While Jacob and his family sought safety, it is believed that **Adolph** and **Jeanette** remained in Germany for several more years. Even after his business and home were taken from him, Adolph held onto hope. Though the exact details remain unconfirmed, it is thought that Adolph was forced to return to Poland in **1938**, where he was ultimately deported to **Auschwitz**, perishing alongside millions of other Jews during the Holocaust.

Chapter 2: Fleeing Berlin and the Separation of the Family

In **1934**, **Jacob Gutschein** saw the writing on the wall in **Germany**. He understood the looming danger posed by the rise of Nazism and desperately pleaded with his father, **Adolph**, to leave the country. However, Adolph, a proud and determined man, refused. He held on to the belief that as a successful businessman, well-respected in his community, he would be treated fairly, underestimating the severity of what was to come.

Butzow-	Levetzowstr. 19 a	felde-Ost,
k, Große	Gutmann, Wern, Dahlem, Rhein-	Gutfeld, Pa-
	babenallee 20	steinische
Emser	Gutmann, Willy, Halensee, Mark-	Gutfeld, R
	graf-Albrecht-Str. 14	Prinzreg
Land-	Gutmann, Willy, S 14, Neukölln	Gutfeld, Sa
	am Wasser 12	Louise-Str.
	Gutmann-Levy, Leopold, O 34,	Gutfeld, T
Rechts-	Tilsiter Str. 20	Singer-St
erischer	Gutnick, Hanny, N 113, Carmen-	Gutfeld, V
	Sylva-Str. 31	meisterst
enadier-	Gutowitz, Dr. med. Hermann,	Gutfreund,
	S 59, Kottbusser Damm 82-85	straße 20
tenburg,	Gutreich, Aron, S 59, Kottbusser	Gutfreund,
	Damm 86/87	Homuths
Rechts-	Gutreich, Salo, S 59, Gräfe Str. 90	Guttkind, S
str. 20	Gutsatz, Moses, W 30, Bayreuther	burger S
ennstr. 2	Straße 27/28	Güttler, Er
msee,	Gutsch, Johanna, Reinickendorf-	Straße 4
	Ost, Ägistr. 5	Guttmann,
renadier-	Gutschein, Abraham, N 54, Linien-	Parkstr.
	straße 27	Guttmann,
V 62,	Gutschein, Hendel, Charlotten-	Elsasser
	burg 1, Krumme Str. 14	Guttmann,
, Grena-	Gutschein, Jakob, O 27, Kraut-	anwalt,
	straße 13, b. Kutter	straße 1
Bendler-	Gutshyster, Samuel, SO 16,	Guttmann,
	Köpenicker Str. 109 a	goldstr.

Realizing that he could not convince his father to leave, **Jacob** made the difficult decision to flee with his young family. Their first stop was **France**, where his wife **Sara** had relatives. However, they were not allowed to remain in France, so they continued their journey, eventually settling in **Barcelona, Spain**.

In Barcelona, life was far from easy. When **Franco** came to power, he established his own labor camps, and it is believed (though not confirmed) that **Jacob** and his son **Max** were imprisoned in these camps for **two years**. After their release, the family was presented with an opportunity to relocate to **Palestine** (modern-day Israel). Without hesitation, **Jacob, Sara, Max**, and **Dora** moved to Israel, where they began to rebuild their lives.

Meanwhile, **Edith** had married **Ernesto** and was allowed to remain in Spain, and **Ruth** emigrated to **Venezuela** where she married and had her children.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

This period marked a heartbreaking separation for the family, as the siblings were scattered across different countries. Many years passed before they were able to find one another again, either personally or through their descendants.

Jacob and Sara endured immense struggles through the many adversities of their lives, yet they continued to persevere. Both eventually passed away in **Israel**, a place where they had sought refuge and created a new chapter in their family's journey.

The Memory of Adolf and Sarah Gutschein: As Told by Fernando Gutschein

Adolf Gutschein was my great-grandfather, a strong and protective man, as my mother, Edith, remembered him. Although I never met him personally, I carry his last name with pride. My mother always described him as a man with a great work ethic, successful in business, and deeply committed to his family. After escaping Germany, his life took a dramatic turn. He had fled from Poland, and despite the challenging circumstances, he managed to prosper again. For a time, he even sent financial support to his family, until one day it all stopped. We can only imagine what must have happened.

Interestingly, my older brother, Ernesto, bears a striking physical resemblance to him, not only in appearance but also in his hardworking and intelligent character. The genetic connection to Adolf runs deep in many of us, his descendants.

If I could witness, even through a small hole, that moment when Adolf and Sarah faced their terrible end at the hands of their executioners, it would be an unbearable sight, not only for me but for all of us. It is something unimaginable, yet we know it truly happened. Their unjust fate is a tragedy we carry in our family's memory.

Through the stories and memories passed down, I know that as a family, we have chosen not to harbor resentment toward those responsible for their suffering. However, we feel a deep obligation to never forget. The harm inflicted extended to the generations that followed, severely affecting their lives with irreparable consequences. What Adolf and Sarah endured remains a wound in our history, one that we can never fully heal but must keep alive in memory to ensure it never happens again.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Chapter 3: A New Beginning in Israel: The Registry of Hope

The journey of the Gotschein family to Israel was a true rebirth. Aboard the ship "Nyasa" in February 1944, Max, along with his parents Yaakov (Jacob) and Sarah (Sonia) Sofia, and his sister Dora, left behind the horrors of war-torn Europe. For them, Israel represented not only a safe haven but also the promise of a new life in a land where they could rebuild their dreams and hopes.

מחלקת העה"ל של הסוכנות היהודית לא"י		לשכת המזכירות		רשימת עולים שבאו לא"י		היום		4.2.1946		המ"מ		החזרת		החזרת	
סדר	החשבונית	החש	נול	סדר	החש	החשבונית	החש	סדר	החש	החשבונית	החש	החשבונית	החש	החשבונית	החש
1	מסלילין	כ"ג-כ"ד	27	2	ירושלים	כ"ג-כ"ד	27	3	ירושלים	כ"ג-כ"ד	27	4	ירושלים	כ"ג-כ"ד	27
2	מסלילין	החשבונית	28	5	ירושלים	החשבונית	28	6	ירושלים	החשבונית	28	7	ירושלים	החשבונית	28
3	מסלילין	החשבונית	29	8	ירושלים	החשבונית	29	9	ירושלים	החשבונית	29	10	ירושלים	החשבונית	29
4	מסלילין	החשבונית	30	11	ירושלים	החשבונית	30	12	ירושלים	החשבונית	30	13	ירושלים	החשבונית	30
5	מסלילין	החשבונית	31	14	ירושלים	החשבונית	31	15	ירושלים	החשבונית	31	16	ירושלים	החשבונית	31
6	מסלילין	החשבונית	32	17	ירושלים	החשבונית	32	18	ירושלים	החשבונית	32	19	ירושלים	החשבונית	32
7	מסלילין	החשבונית	33	20	ירושלים	החשבונית	33	21	ירושלים	החשבונית	33	22	ירושלים	החשבונית	33
8	מסלילין	החשבונית	34	23	ירושלים	החשבונית	34	24	ירושלים	החשבונית	34	25	ירושלים	החשבונית	34
9	מסלילין	החשבונית	35	26	ירושלים	החשבונית	35	27	ירושלים	החשבונית	35	28	ירושלים	החשבונית	35
10	מסלילין	החשבונית	36	29	ירושלים	החשבונית	36	30	ירושלים	החשבונית	36	31	ירושלים	החשבונית	36
11	מסלילין	החשבונית	37	32	ירושלים	החשבונית	37	33	ירושלים	החשבונית	37	34	ירושלים	החשבונית	37
12	מסלילין	החשבונית	38	35	ירושלים	החשבונית	38	36	ירושלים	החשבונית	38	37	ירושלים	החשבונית	38
13	מסלילין	החשבונית	39	38	ירושלים	החשבונית	39	39	ירושלים	החשבונית	39	40	ירושלים	החשבונית	39
14	מסלילין	החשבונית	40	41	ירושלים	החשבונית	40	42	ירושלים	החשבונית	40	43	ירושלים	החשבונית	40
15	מסלילין	החשבונית	41	44	ירושלים	החשבונית	41	45	ירושלים	החשבונית	41	46	ירושלים	החשבונית	41
16	מסלילין	החשבונית	42	47	ירושלים	החשבונית	42	48	ירושלים	החשבונית	42	49	ירושלים	החשבונית	42
17	מסלילין	החשבונית	43	50	ירושלים	החשבונית	43	51	ירושלים	החשבונית	43	52	ירושלים	החשבונית	43
18	מסלילין	החשבונית	44	53	ירושלים	החשבונית	44	54	ירושלים	החשבונית	44	55	ירושלים	החשבונית	44
19	מסלילין	החשבונית	45	56	ירושלים	החשבונית	45	57	ירושלים	החשבונית	45	58	ירושלים	החשבונית	45
20	מסלילין	החשבונית	46	59	ירושלים	החשבונית	46	60	ירושלים	החשבונית	46	61	ירושלים	החשבונית	46
21	מסלילין	החשבונית	47	62	ירושלים	החשבונית	47	63	ירושלים	החשבונית	47	64	ירושלים	החשבונית	47
22	מסלילין	החשבונית	48	65	ירושלים	החשבונית	48	66	ירושלים	החשבונית	48	67	ירושלים	החשבונית	48
23	מסלילין	החשבונית	49	68	ירושלים	החשבונית	49	69	ירושלים	החשבונית	49	70	ירושלים	החשבונית	49
24	מסלילין	החשבונית	50	71	ירושלים	החשבונית	50	72	ירושלים	החשבונית	50	73	ירושלים	החשבונית	50
25	מסלילין	החשבונית	51	74	ירושלים	החשבונית	51	75	ירושלים	החשבונית	51	76	ירושלים	החשבונית	51
26	מסלילין	החשבונית	52	77	ירושלים	החשבונית	52	78	ירושלים	החשבונית	52	79	ירושלים	החשבונית	52
27	מסלילין	החשבונית	53	80	ירושלים	החשבונית	53	81	ירושלים	החשבונית	53	82	ירושלים	החשבונית	53
28	מסליל														

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Jacob Gotschein, the head of the family, was a man of strong principles and unwavering faith. Alongside his wife, Sarah Sofia, also known as Sonia, they led their family through an arduous journey, guided by the desire to provide a better future for their children. Sarah, a resilient and compassionate woman, was deeply committed to her family's survival and success. Her strength was pivotal during the difficult transition from the chaos of Europe to the uncertainties of a new life in Israel.

The early years in Israel were not easy; the family faced challenges of adaptation, a new language, and the need to integrate into a constantly evolving society. However, their arrival did not go unnoticed. Official records documented their first steps in this promised land, reflecting not just their physical entry but also their desire to belong and contribute to the new Jewish community.

These records capture a family determined to rebuild their identity and find a place in a land that promised hope after so much loss. Max Gotschein, inheriting his parents' tenacity, became a symbol of resilience. Beyond the numbers and names on immigration lists, he and his family embodied a story of overcoming adversity and perseverance. Jacob and Sarah Sofia's efforts to maintain the family's unity and spirit in the face of incredible odds were crucial to their survival and success.

The records of those early days in Israel became silent witnesses to their bravery, capturing the essence of those who arrived with little more than their lives and the firm intention to start anew. Through this chapter, we explore how Jacob, Sarah Sofia, Max, and the rest of the Gotschein family not only survived but thrived in a new country that offered them the chance to rebuild their history.

Their arrival in Israel was more than just a relocation; it was the embodiment of hope and resilience for those who, despite everything, never stopped believing in a better future. The story of the Gotschein family stands as a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the importance of keeping alive the memory of those who fought for a new beginning.

Chapter 4: Max Gutschein – A Legacy of Resilience and Hope

Max Gutschein was born in 1920 in Europe, into a Jewish family during one of the darkest periods in history. Together with his parents, Yaakov and Sarah (Sonia), and his sister Dora, Max escaped the horrors of the Holocaust, embarking on a journey that would change their lives forever. On February 4, 1944, they crossed the seas aboard the ship "Nyasa" to Israel, leaving behind a past filled with pain and persecution and embracing the promise of a new beginning.



From L: Dora, Max & Edith Gutschein in Barcelona

The early years in Israel were not easy. Max faced the challenges of adapting to a new country, a new language, and a different culture, but his strong character and unwavering determination allowed him to thrive. He dedicated himself passionately to rebuilding his life and integrating into the Jewish community, becoming a pillar for those who, like him, had survived misfortune.

Max not only rebuilt his own story but also became a symbol of strength for those around him. His personal records, preserved in the family search section of the Jewish Agency under the number S104P\32089, tell the story of a man who, despite losing everything, never stopped fighting for a better future. These documents bear witness to his arrival in Israel, his settlement process, and his constant efforts to keep his family connections alive.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Max was a man of deep values and an iron will, always committed to his family and community. His daughter, Zippy, remembers him not only as a survivor but as a friend and mentor who, despite his personal struggles, offered love and wisdom to those around him. Max was a bohemian at heart, a lover of the arts who always dressed elegantly and whose social circle included artists and musicians, reflecting his free and creative spirit.

Although his life was marked by challenges, including a battle with alcoholism that he admirably overcame, Max found constant inspiration in his family and photography. He excelled as a wedding photographer and was recognized for his work with the philharmonic orchestra and brass band, earning him a reputation as a master photographer in Israel.

Max left behind a legacy through his children: **Zippy**, **Jacob**, and **Isaac ZL**, who continue to pass on the **Gutschein** story today.



Chapter 5: Ruth Gutschein – Strength Amidst Adversity

Ruth, daughter of **Jacob**, was a woman of incredible strength. **Ruth** left Barcelona for Paris after recovering from injuries sustained during the Spanish Civil War. A few years later, around 1950, she traveled to Venezuela in search of a better future. It was in Venezuela that **Ruth** married with Erich in 1957.



Erich had left Germany from Karlsruhe, thanks to the help of a priest who, under the pretext of "selling Jews," managed to get his entire family onto the last ship to America in 1937, covering them with prayer hebrew books. His father, mother, and brother made it to Colombia, but things did not go as they had hoped, so my father ended up in Venezuela, where he married my mother.

Ruth, was a woman of immense strength, very loving and extremely cultured, despite not having been able to receive a formal education. She loved reading stories and always believed that she would not be able to have children, due to the multiple traumas she experienced, not only from fleeing Germany, but also because of the deep impact of the Spanish Civil War.

Her son Miguel was her great surprise, and she always considered him her beloved son.

When **Ruth** was pregnant of **Vivian**, already 40 years old, at a time when women of her age took risks, she decided to go ahead. Ruth was always my unconditional support, she gave me wings to fly and I owe her for having taught me to dream in order to achieve my goals.

Ruth led a quiet Jewish life, always attentive to the festivities, but her traumas never disappeared. She loved Edith and Max, and she told stories about them that sometimes I wonder if they were real or simply the product of her longing to find them again.

How did Vivian get here?

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

The first time when i know my family in Israel Date: 6 May 2016 Nissim Zippy David and Vivian



Following the approval of aid for heirs of the Holocaust, I thought I had nothing to lose and I began the long road of questions and inconclusive answers, without any documents at hand. I went to the German embassy and registered my mother, Ruth, saying that she had siblings in Barcelona, mentioning Edith and that Max had disguised himself as a Palestinian to get to Israel.

They told me to go to the Spanish embassy, and there the doors to this incredible journey opened.

After 50 years without contact with the family, one day I received a call from my dear Pilar saying: "It's me, Edith's daughter." My world turned upside down. My mother spoke to her, to Edith, but unfortunately she was already too ill to be able to travel and meet up with Edith, Max and David in Barcelona in the 90s.

My mother passed away on March 10, 1992.

When my mother passed away, I found an endless amount of letters between Edith and her that she had never shown me. It was at that moment that I understood that the stories she told me were not just the fruit of her imagination or longing, but that they were true. All those stories about her life, about Edith and Max, took on new meaning, and I could see the deep connection she had with her sister all those years, even though the distance separated them.

Chapter 6: Edith Gutschein – A Life of Strength and Family Love

Edith Gutschein, sister of **Ruth, Max, and Dora**, lived through some of the most difficult moments in her family's history, yet extraordinary resilience defined her life. From a young age, Edith witnessed the tragedies that affected her family. Born in Berlin in 1924, she was just a child when Nazi persecution forced her family to flee Germany, leaving everything behind. Edith often shared the story of how, when leaving their home in Berlin, they threw the keys into a sewer grate and left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. This act symbolizes a life marked by loss, but also by an incredible ability to overcome adversity.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory



After fleeing Germany, Edith and her family settled in Spain, a country that was soon to be ravaged by the Spanish Civil War. Arriving in a new land did not bring respite for Edith, who, along with her parents and siblings, faced hunger, fear, and uncertainty in the midst of a brutal conflict. Adding to the hardships of war was the emotional instability within the family, exacerbated by her parents' alcoholism. This created an unstable home environment and intensified the challenges she faced as a teenager. The situation worsened when her father Jacob and her brother Max were detained and sent to a concentration camp in northern Spain, further fracturing the family.

At just 17 years old, Edith was faced with a life-defining decision: to follow her family to the nascent state of Israel or stay in Barcelona, where she had found a small sense of stability. She chose to stay, seeking solace in the Catholic Church, where she converted, and later built a family with Ernesto, with whom she had four children: Ernesto, Pilar, Fernando, and Susana.

Despite building a new life, the remorse of leaving her family behind never left her. This burden accompanied her throughout her life, manifesting in mood swings and tears shed in silence. Edith lived with a divided heart, deeply loving her new family in Barcelona but feeling the heavy weight of being separated from her parents and siblings.

With Ernesto, Edith found stability, and together they began a new chapter, raising a loving family. Each of her children reflects the values she instilled: strength, dedication, and a deep love for family. Edith not only survived but went on to build a beautiful life filled with devotion to her loved ones.

Her eldest son, Ernesto, has chosen not to work and instead dedicates his time to helping his sister Pilar with her creative projects. Though he does not pursue a formal career, Ernesto plays an important role in the family, offering his energy and commitment to supporting Pilar's artistic and literary endeavors.

Pilar, on the other hand, has become a renowned artist and writer. Her passion for creativity has led her to publish several books and create beautiful works of art. Pilar's accomplishments in both painting and writing are a source of pride for the family, and her creative spirit embodies the resilience and determination she inherited from her mother.

Fernando, the third child, is an enthusiastic sports lover. His passion for physical activity reflects his commitment to well-being and the pursuit of excellence in everything he does. Fernando's enthusiasm for sports has made him a vibrant figure in the family, embodying the spirit of perseverance that his mother instilled in him.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

In her later years, Edith was affected by Parkinson's disease, which confined her to a chair for long hours. She was always surrounded by photos of her loved ones: her parents, her siblings Max, Ruth, and Dora. Though physically separated from them, her connection with her family never faded from her heart or mind. The remorse of having distanced herself from them, combined with the deep love she felt for her children and her husband, made her life a complex mosaic of emotions.

Thanks to the efforts of her daughter Pilar, the family reconnected with their relatives in Israel, bringing a sense of closure and relief to a story that had felt incomplete. This reunion not only allowed Edith to reconnect with her roots but also gave her children and grandchildren the opportunity to discover their heritage and better understand the decisions that shaped their mother's life.

Edith's life is a story of overcoming immense challenges and of how love for her family was the pillar that sustained her through the darkest times. Through her children, she passed down the values of perseverance, creativity, and family loyalty. Whether through Pilar's artistic achievements, Fernando's passion for sports, Susana's entrepreneurial success, or Ernesto's quiet support of his sister, Edith's influence continues to shape the lives of her descendants.



Edith passed away in 2003, but her legacy lives on in her children and grandchildren, each of whom carries in their hearts the memory of a woman who, despite her suffering, knew how to love, nurture, and protect her family with unwavering courage. Her story is a tribute to the power of family love, resilience in the face of adversity, and the deep connection that unites all members of the Gutschein family—a bond that will endure for generations to come.

This chapter is a tribute to Edith, a woman whose life was defined by love for her family and an unbreakable strength, qualities that continue to inspire all who remember her.

Chapter 7: Dora Gutschein – Mother and Family Pilar

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Dora Gutschein, the youngest of the **Gutschein** siblings, may have been the youngest, but she carried forward a legacy of resilience and love that profoundly shaped the next generations. Dora's life was deeply intertwined with the strength of her family, and through her children, she left an enduring mark that continues to keep the family connected and united.



Dora had three children: **David Gabay**, **Jacob Gabay**, and **Nissim Turgerman**. These three men grew up to become more than just brothers—they became the pillars that kept the familial ties alive, ensuring that despite the trials of the past, the **Gutschein** family's love and support for one another would never wane.

David Gabay: The Keeper of Family History

As the eldest of Dora's children, **David Gabay** naturally took on the role of the family historian. He was deeply invested in keeping the stories of the past alive, sharing them with his children, **Lilach** and **Or**, and ensuring that they understood the importance of their heritage. David's commitment to preserving the family's history has played a vital role in maintaining the strong bonds between generations.

Jacob Gabay: Guardian of Family Traditions

Jacob Gabay, Dora's second son, was known for his dedication to the family's traditions. Through his life, he maintained the rituals and practices that were passed down to him by his mother, creating a bridge between the old world and the new. Jacob's efforts helped preserve the cultural identity of the family, grounding them in their shared past while looking forward to the future.

Nissim Turgerman: The Protector of Family Unity

The youngest of Dora's sons, **Nissim Turgerman**, brought his own unique strength to the family. He embodied the quiet yet steadfast commitment to family unity that was instilled in him by his mother. Through Nissim's care, the family's connections were maintained, and his dedication to his siblings and cousins ensured that the **Gutschein** legacy continued to flourish.

Dora's Legacy Lives On Through her three sons, **Dora Gutschein's** memory continues to live on within the **Gutschein** family. The strength of her love and the values she imparted have been passed down through her children, ensuring that the family remains united. Her legacy is not just one of survival but one of deep family connection, a connection that spans continents and generations.

Dora's role as a mother and a family pillar stands as a testament to her unwavering dedication to her family. Her influence is still felt today, as her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren continue to cherish the bonds she helped create, keeping alive the spirit of unity, love, and resilience that defines the **Gutschein** family.

Chapter 8

Bertha Gutschein: A Legacy of Love, Family, and Resilience

Our grandmother Bertha was a remarkable woman who loved family above all.

Bertha was born March 10, 1895 in Bedzin Poland to Sara and Adolph Gutschein. She was the younger sibling to Jacob born two years earlier. Sadly their mother died when Bertha was only 2 years old. Shortly thereafter their father moved his young family to Berlin, where our grandmother was raised.

She met our grandfather Aaron, who was a young tailor in her father's business and they fell in love and ultimately married in 1920. They moved to Toronto, Canada right after their marriage and had their three children Sylvia, Reta and Sender, all born in Toronto.



Bertha was always welcoming and opened her home to anyone who needed a feeling of family, a Shabbat dinner or a holiday meal. Her holiday tables, overflowing with homemade delicious food and baking, always included a visiting relative or at least one or two additional people beyond her immediate family. She was a true "balabusta".

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Bertha and Aaron were both very involved in their synagogue, and respected their Jewish heritage. They adhered to all of the Jewish traditions, which they passed along to their children and grandchildren, which helped make the holidays like Passover, a large joyful gathering that everyone looked forward to.



Bertha also participated in and gave of her time as a volunteer in many Jewish organizations, like Hadasdah, her way of giving back to her community.

Her pride and joy was her family....her children and grandchildren. She was so proud of all them and was a wonderful Bubie to all her grandchildren, both in Canada and Israel. Unfortunately she didn't see her grandchildren in Israel as often as she wanted to, and she never stopped missing her daughter Sylvia, who left Canada to join other Zionists helping to establish Israel in 1948.

Sadly Bertha died too young but she left many lasting memories and indelible impressions on all those she touched and especially her grandchildren. We loved her dearly.

Chapter 9:

Sylvia, Reta, and Sender – The Legacy of Bertha's Children

The lives of Sylvia, Reta, and Sender, the children of Bertha Gutschein, form an integral part of the Gutschein family legacy. Each sibling, in their own unique way, contributed to the rich history of the family, marked by resilience, love, and deep familial values. Their stories, woven together, have shaped the family's identity and continue to influence the generations that followed.



Aaron Goldberg, sender, Sylvia, Reta and Bertha their mother.

Sara (Sylvia) Ahuvia – A Life of Dedication to Family and Nation

Sara (Sylvia) Ahuvia, the eldest of Bertha's children, was a remarkable figure in the family's history. Not only was she instrumental in leading the efforts to seek restitution for the family's lost heritage, but she was also a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Alongside her husband Shmuel, Sylvia built a life deeply rooted in family values and community.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

One of the most significant chapters in Sara's life was her decision to leave her home in Toronto in her early twenties to join the effort to build the state of Israel in 1948. This decision was a reflection of her courage, passion, and sense of duty. She was a socialist and a Zionist, and joined a kibbutz in the newly formed state - kibbutz Nezer Sereni, where she met and married Shmuel. Leaving behind the comfort of her established life to contribute to the birth of a new nation was a testament to her commitment to her roots and her values. This chapter of her life, rich in history and personal sacrifice, should be remembered and passed down to her descendants, as it shaped not only her life but also the legacy she left behind.

She was a light hearted and loving person, and a beloved teacher remembered by her students for many years. Throughout their lives, Sara and Shmuel traveled all around the globe and filled their home with all kinds of curiosities from different countries, instilling curiosity and openness in their grandchildren.

Sara and Shmuel had three daughters: Ruhama, Carmit and Tovit.

Ruhama and Efraim Even had three children: Liron, Gilad and Yaarit.

Carmit and Moshe Zofi had three sons: Ohad, Omer and Yonatan.

Tovit and Amir Neuman had three children: Alma, Nadav and Talya.

Today, Sara's grandchildren have children of their own.

Sara's tireless work with lawyers during the restitution process ensured that justice was served for the family. It was through her perseverance that many members of the family learned, for the first time, about the tragic fate of Adolf Gutschein and the loss of their relatives during the Holocaust. Her life was one of service, dedication, and love for her family, and her contributions continue to be felt today through her children and grandchildren.

Reta – A Matriarch of Love and Dedication

Reta, Bertha's second daughter, also left an indelible mark on the Gutschein family. She married Harold Cott, and together they created a family of six children. Reta revolved her life around her deep love for her six children: Elaine, Judy, Ricki, Jerry, Brian, and Kevin. Her home was always filled with warmth, laughter, and the joy of family gatherings.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory



From left Aaron Goldberg, Sender, Bertha , Reta (1950)

Reta was a warm and loving person who demonstrated incredible strength in the face of life's adversities. She raised her six children alone, instilling in each of them the importance of family, education and kindness and generosity to others.

Her home, like that of her parents, was always open to friends and other family, and she loved to entertain. It was the place where all her children's friends loved to congregate and she welcomed them all.

Each of Reta's children went on to create their own families, continuing the legacy of love and connection that she instilled in them:

- Elaine, married to Tony (now deceased), had one son, Kohji.
- Judy has two children: Barbara and Richard.
- Ricki, married to Mark, has two children: Lindsay and Brett.
- Jerry, married to Beverley, has three children: Shaun, Matthew, and Briana.
- Brian, married to Julie, has two children: Jordan and Maddy.
- Kevin, once married to Shirley (now divorced), has four children: Haley, Corey, Jesse, and Riley.

In total, Reta was blessed with 14 grandchildren, who became the lights of her life. She involved herself in the lives of all of her grandchildren, babysitting, attending their programs and activities, and just loving them. They all adored her. Today, her family has expanded even further, with 13 great-grandchildren, ensuring that her legacy of love continues to grow.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

Reta's life was a testament to the enduring power of family bonds. Her deep devotion as a mother, and grandmother, is cherished by every member of her extended family, and her memory lives on through the love she nurtured.

Sender – A Quiet Life of Compassion

Sender, the youngest of Bertha's children, lived a quiet but deeply compassionate life. Although he never married, Sender found fulfillment in his love for animals, dedicating his life to their care. He lived and worked in Toronto, where his compassionate nature left a lasting impression on those who knew him.

Sender's life, though simple, was a tribute to kindness and compassion. His love for all living creatures reflected his kind heart, and while he did not have children of his own, his presence was a treasured part of the Gutschein family. His legacy lives on in the memories of those who knew and loved him, a gentle reminder of the importance of kindness in all its forms.

Together: The Legacy of Bertha's Children

Sylvia, Reta, and Sender each carried forward the values passed down to them by their parents, ensuring that the Gutschein family's story would never be forgotten. Through their unique contributions, they wove a tapestry of love, resilience, and connection that continues to inspire future generations.

The lives they led were not only a part of the family's past but remain a vital part of its present and future. Whether through Sylvia's dedication to family and nation, Reta's devotion to her children and grandchildren, or Sender's quiet life of compassion, the legacy of Bertha's children continues to grow, a living testament to the strength and love that defines the Gutschein family.

Chapter 10: Ricki Harris – Guardian of the Family Legacy

Ricki Harris has emerged as the steadfast guardian of the **Gutschein** family's memory and legacy. Her journey to uncover the hidden history of her family began with the legal claim for properties confiscated during the **Nazi regime**, a quest that would reveal the long-lost story of her ancestors. This discovery not only opened the door to a deeper understanding of her family's past but also connected her with previously unknown cousins in **Spain** and **Israel**, bridging decades of separation and bringing the family closer together.



As a **lawyer** by profession, Ricki has always carried with her a deep sense of justice. Her legal expertise and unwavering dedication enabled her to navigate the complex process of restitution, a challenge she faced with both determination and love. But for Ricki, this endeavor was not just about legal victories—it was about ensuring that the stories of her ancestors, particularly her **great-grandfather, Adolf Gutschein**, were remembered and honored.

Through her tireless efforts, Ricki has worked to place a **Stolperstein** in **Berlin** in honor of **Adolf Gutschein**, and the rest of his family forced to flee their life in Berlin, marking the place where he lived and reminding the world of the life that was tragically taken during the Holocaust. This small yet powerful monument represents more than just a name—it is a symbol of the family's resilience and their refusal to let their history fade into obscurity.

Ricki's journey has been a labor of love. Her work to recover her family's memory has not only connected the present generation with the past but also ensured that future generations will never forget. The **Stolperstein** stands as a testament to her dedication, and thanks to her, the **Gutschein** family can now gather to honor Adolf's memory with pride and reverence.

Ricki's legacy within the family is one of courage, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to justice. She has become the keeper of the family's story, ensuring that the past is not only remembered but celebrated. Through her tireless efforts, the **Gutschein** name continues to live on, a legacy that will endure for generations to come.

This chapter is a tribute to **Ricki Harris**, whose passion for justice and dedication to her family has brought the **Gutschein** legacy back to life, allowing the family to reconnect and honor their shared history.

Chapter 11: The Claim for Restitution – A Journey of Rediscovery and Healing

The struggle for the restitution of our family's lost history was a long and arduous process, led by my aunt **Sylvia Ahuvia** and my mother, **Reta**. It was **Sylvia** who, with tireless determination, took on the responsibility of carrying this mission forward. For years, she worked relentlessly, facing a never-ending tide of paperwork, legal documents, and conversations with lawyers. Her effort was not merely about recovering material loss, but more profoundly, about restoring a sense of justice that had been denied to our family for so long.

The path toward restitution was winding and full of challenges. Yet, after years of perseverance, the day finally came when a payment was made in symbolic acknowledgment of what had been taken from us. Although no amount of money could ever truly compensate for the pain, this settlement represented much more than a legal agreement—it was a recognition of injustice, a small yet powerful act of justice for the legacy of our ancestors.

It was through this legal process, in the midst of the documents and papers that arrived in my hands on behalf of the family, that I learned a truth that would forever change my perspective on our family's history. As I sifted through the paperwork, I discovered for the very first time that my great-grandfather, **Adolf Gutschein**, had perished in **Auschwitz**. This revelation was a deep shock, a key piece that fit into the puzzle of our family's story, linking together fragments of a past I had never fully known.

But that was not the only truth that emerged from those documents. They also revealed the fate of my grandmother's brothers and their families—people I had known nothing about until then. It was as if our family history suddenly expanded, opening up new branches on our family tree, branches filled with stories of loss, resilience, and survival. It was a transformative moment, a living connection to the past that made me realize the depth of what we had inherited—not just in material possessions, but in memory, history, and strength.

For me, this was more than a legal victory. It was a personal rediscovery, a moment when the past reached out and touched the present, reminding me of the strength of our lineage, of the sacrifices made by those who came before us, and of the legacy of courage that continues to shape who we are today. It was a reminder that even in the face of unimaginable horrors, the spirit of our family remained unbroken.

Now, as we prepare to honor **Adolf** with a **Stolperstein**, I feel a profound connection to all those who came before me. Their stories, their struggles, and their perseverance live on in us, shaping the course of our family and reminding us of the incredible strength that has carried us through generations.

Chapter 12: The Commemoration of the Stolperstein for Adolf Gutschein

On **September 23, 2024**, the **Gutschein** family will gather in **Berlin**, a city that once represented both promise and tragedy for their ancestors, to honor the memory of **Adolf Gutschein** with the placement of a **Stolperstein**. This solemn yet significant occasion is not only a tribute to a man who lost everything during one of the darkest periods of human history but also a celebration of the enduring strength of his descendants, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that his story is never forgotten.

The **Stolperstein**, or "stumbling stone," may seem small in physical size, but its symbolism is monumental. It is a brass plaque embedded in the sidewalk, placed at the last known freely chosen residence of a victim of the Holocaust. For Adolf, this represents both his life in **Berlin**, where he built his family and his business, and the devastating loss he experienced as his world was torn apart by the rise of Nazism. His Stolperstein is a powerful reminder that beneath the surface of everyday streets lie stories of unimaginable pain, but also of unshakable resilience.

For the **Gutschein** family, this commemoration is not just about Adolf's tragic fate—it is about reclaiming his place in history and ensuring that future generations understand the importance of remembering the individual lives that were shattered during the Holocaust. It is a day of reflection, not just on the past, but on the enduring legacy of courage that continues to define the **Gutschein** family today.

The gathering of the family in **Berlin** on this day will be a moment of reconnection, bringing together relatives from across the world. Some will be meeting for the first time, while others will reunite after years of separation. Together, they will stand as a testament to the fact that, despite the horrors their ancestors faced, they survived, and they thrived.

The Stolperstein for **Adolf Gutschein** will also serve as a reminder to the public, a small but poignant interruption in the everyday hustle of the city. As people walk by and stumble—both physically and metaphorically—on this tiny brass plaque, they will be reminded of the history beneath their feet. The Stolperstein demands attention, asking passersby to pause, to reflect, and to remember that every name represents a life, a family, and a story that deserves to be told.

For the **Gutschein** family, this day will be filled with mixed emotions—grief for the losses they can never fully comprehend, pride for the resilience that has carried them forward, and hope for a future where such atrocities are never repeated. As they lay flowers, light candles, and share stories of **Adolf**, they will also be sharing stories of their own lives—of how his legacy has shaped them, how his strength has been passed down through the generations.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

This commemoration will also be an opportunity to express gratitude. Gratitude for the perseverance of family members like **Ricki Harris**, whose efforts made this Stolperstein possible. Gratitude for those who survived and ensured that the **Gutschein** name would continue. And gratitude for the future, for the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who will carry the family's story forward, ensuring that Adolf's life and the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten.

As the day unfolds, the **Gutschein** family will reflect not only on what was lost but on what has been gained—strength, unity, and a deep understanding of their place in history. The **Stolperstein** for **Adolf Gutschein** will stand as a permanent marker of his life and legacy, ensuring that his story is remembered by the world and that his name, his memory, will never fade.

In a world that sometimes forgets the importance of history, this Stolperstein is a powerful reminder that the past is always with us, and it is up to us to carry the memories of those who came before us with dignity, love, and responsibility.

Chapter 13: Places of Life and Loss: Where the Members of the Gutschein Family Lived and Are Remembered

Here lived members of the Gutschein family, whose stories are marked by persecution, exile, and in some cases, survival. The **Stolpersteine**, or "stumbling stones," placed at the following addresses in Berlin, honor their memory and remind us of the horrors of the Holocaust.

Linienstraße 27, 10178 Berlin

Here lived:

ADOLF GUTSCHEIN

Born in 1864. Fled to Poland, but was deported to Auschwitz, where he was murdered.

JEANETTE GUTSCHEIN

Born Jeanette Surin in 1874. Expelled to Poland in 1938 and later deported to Auschwitz, where she was murdered.

Krautstraße, in front of the recreation center, between Singerstraße and Kleine Markusstraße, 10243 Berlin (historically: Krautstraße 13)

Here lived:

JACOB GUTSCHEIN

Born in 1892. Fled to Spain in 1934, where he survived.

SONJA GUTSCHEIN (née BALSAM)

Born in 1892. Fled to Spain in 1934, where she survived.

MAX GUTSCHEIN

Born in 1920. Fled to Spain in 1934, where he survived.

RUTH GUTSCHEIN

Born in 1922. Fled to Spain in 1934, where she survived.

EDITH GUTSCHEIN

Born in 1924. Fled to Spain in 1934, where she survived.

DORA GUTSCHEIN

Born in 1929. Fled to Spain in 1934, where she survived.

Each stone represents a life marked by Nazi persecution and the resilience of a family that, despite adversity, fought to survive and preserve their legacy. The Stolpersteine, placed at these locations, invite us to reflect on the past, honor those who were lost, and recognize the courage of those who managed to escape death.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Perseverance and Resilience

The story of the Gutschein family is much more than a tale of love and resilience; it is a living testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of family unity. It is a bridge that connects generations, keeping alive the memory of those who came before us and paved the way we walk today. Through this eBook, we aim not only to ensure that future generations remember the stories and sacrifices of our family but also to feel the deep love and strength that bind us together.

Each Stolperstein is not just a stone on the path but a beacon that shines on the legacy flowing through our veins, a promise that we will never forget. Despite the hatred, persecution, and attempts to erase our existence, here we stand, stronger and more united than ever. Our story is not just one of survival but of the triumph of life over hate and darkness. Am Israel Chai.

This eBook is an eternal tribute to the strength and spirit of our family. It is a legacy we wish to share so that every family member can read it, live it, and pass it on to future generations. It is a tribute to those who came before us and an inspiration for those who will follow. If you feel something is missing, if there are more memories to add or details to improve, please let me know. This is our story, and together we will ensure that its memory endures forever.

Our Family History: A Legacy of Resilience and Memory

We are here to celebrate the memory of the Gutschein family, not as something left in the past but as a living force that remains present in each of us. Despite all the challenges, we keep moving forward, proudly remembering who we are and where we come from. Because our story is one of perseverance, resilience, and the triumph of life. We are still here, and we will always be. Am Israel Chai.