



76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION

PROGRAMME
APRIL 29 – MAY 2, 2021



Comité International de Dachau

KZ-Gedenkstätte
Dachau | STIFTUNG
BAYERISCHE GEDENKSTÄTTEN



The first celebration of liberation, on May 1, 1945

FOREWORD

This year the ceremony commemorating the 76th anniversary of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp will once again be held as a wholly virtual event due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. The Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, the Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten and the Comité International de Dachau invite all guests and interested parties to visit the Memorial Site website at <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de/liberation> from April 29 to May 2, 2021, and join an extensive programme of digital events in a variety of formats. The content of these online events will also be made available online.

We had been looking forward to welcoming many survivors and liberators and their families to the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, and deeply regret that this year's events must again take

place without the many personal encounters and conversations. However, the wealth of support we received from contemporary witnesses and their descendants has enabled us to create a diverse and varied programme for the digital commemoration.

Events will begin on April 29 with a silent remembrance ceremony and wreath-laying at the International Memorial at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. The ceremony will be held as a small gathering without public presence. It will be followed by the "Workshop of Memory", an extensive programme of digital events. While the historical focus of the programme is directed at various levels at the event of liberation itself and the personal stories of the former inmates, it also addresses the future and explores the form that commemoration may take in years to come. We hope that the personal stories and messages from numerous survivors and liberators will create a place for encounter and exchange in the virtual space. A further important area of focus is on the descendants of the survivors, who contribute personal video messages. In addition, the family of Max Mannheimer has agreed to take part in a live interview.

On May 2, a central commemorative event will take place as an official act of remembrance of the victims of the Dachau concentration camp and the liberation of survivors by the US Army on April 29, 1945.

Our warmest thanks go to everyone supporting and involved in this work for their contributions, their dedication and their efforts. We very much hope to see you again in person next year.

Warm regards, and stay healthy

DR. GABRIELE HAMMERMANN
Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp
Memorial Site

KARL FRELLER
Director of Stiftung
Bayerische Gedenkstätten

GENERAL JEAN-MICHEL THOMAS
President of
Comité International de Dachau

OVERVIEW OF EVENTS

APRIL 29, 2021

11 am COMMEMORATION
SILENT REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AND WREATH-LAYING

2 pm LIVESTREAM
WORKSHOP OF MEMORY

2.20 pm INTERVIEW WITH CONTEMPORARY WITNESSES
SURVIVORS' STORIES: PETER GARDOSCH

4.30 pm HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION
THE HOUR OF LIBERATION

MESSAGES OF REMEMBRANCE
FROM SURVIVORS OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

APRIL 30, 2021

10 am LIVESTREAM
WELCOME AND REVIEW

10.20 am INTERVIEW WITH CONTEMPORARY WITNESSES
SURVIVORS' STORIES: GEORG HELLER

2 pm LIVE DISCUSSION
SCHOOL STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS IN DIALOGUE

5 pm LIVE DISCUSSION | IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF AUGSBURG
WHAT REMAINS OF MEMORY? THE ROLE OF CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL SITES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

VIDEO SERIES
PORTRAITS OF INMATES

MAY 1, 2021

10 am LIVESTREAM
WELCOME AND REVIEW

10.20 am LIVE DISCUSSION
**MEMORY AND FAMILY REMEMBRANCE:
THE FAMILY OF MAX MANNHEIMER**

4.00 pm AWARD CEREMONY OF THE CID
**THE STANISLAV ZÁMEČNÍK RESEARCH AWARD OF THE CID
AND GENERAL ANDRÉ DELPECH AWARD OF THE CID**

MESSAGES OF REMEMBRANCE
FROM SURVIVORS OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

VIDEO SERIES
PORTRAITS OF INMATES

MAY 2, 2021

9.20 am COMMEMORATION
**COMMEMORATIVE EVENT OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF THE ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDEN IN BAYERN**

10 am COMMEMORATION
ECUMENICAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

10.30 am COMMEMORATION | LIVESTREAM
CENTRAL COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

1 pm COMMEMORATION | LIVESTREAM
**COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
AT THE FORMER SS SHOOTING RANGE AT HEBERTSHAUSEN**



**THURSDAY
APRIL 29, 2021**

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION

11 am

COMMEMORATION

SILENT REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AND WREATH-LAYING

We commemorate the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp 76 years ago with a small gathering held at the site.

OPENING SPEECH

Dr. Gabriele Hammermann

Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

Karl Freller

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament,
Director of Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten,
First Vice President of the Bavarian State Parliament

IN THE PRESENCE OF, AND WITH SPEECHES BY

Abba Naor

Survivor of the Dachau concentration camp, Vice-President of CID

Ilse Aigner

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament,
President of the Bavarian State Parliament

Joachim Herrmann

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament,
Bavarian State Minister of the Interior

2 pm

LIVESTREAM

WORKSHOP OF MEMORY

The "Workshop of Memory" directs the historical focus of the programme at various levels at the historic event of liberation itself and the personal stories of the former inmates, while also addressing the future and exploring the form that commemoration may take in years to come.

INTRODUCTORY SPEECHES

Dr. Gabriele Hammermann

Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

Karl Freller

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament,
Director of Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten,
First Vice President of the Bavarian State Parliament

General Jean-Michel Thomas

President of Comité International de Dachau

Subtitles in DE and EN

2.20 pm

INTERVIEW WITH CONTEMPORARY WITNESSES SURVIVORS' STORIES: PETER GARDOSCH

Peter Gardosch, born in 1930, was transported from Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp to the Kaufering-III camp in June 1944. Kaufering-III was a subcamp of the Dachau concentration camp, part of an extensive complex of subcamps at Kaufering. He was liberated by US troops on April 29, 1945. In this recording from March 2021, he recounts his personal experiences and memories.

Languages: DE with EN subtitles

MESSAGES OF REMEMBRANCE

MESSAGES OF REMEMBRANCE FROM SURVIVORS OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

The survivors address the audience from their own personal perspective, giving insights into the persecution they experienced and their lives after their incarceration. In their messages, they emphasize the enormous importance of remembering and appeal to the coming generations to never forget.

INTRODUCED BY

Employees of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

*All video messages with original audio in the original languages
(DE, EN, FR, IT, RU, HU, PL, PT)*

4.30 pm

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION THE HOUR OF LIBERATION

Drawing on historical photographs, documents and objects, we look back to the time when the Dachau concentration camp was liberated on April 29, 1945, accompanied by video messages from liberators and with commentary by employees at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site.

PRESENTER

Dr. Christoph Thonfeld

Director of the Research Department, Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site



FRIDAY
APRIL 30, 2021

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION

LIVESTREAM

10 am

WELCOME AND REVIEW

Live from the Memorial Site Visitors' Center, Dr. Stefanie Pilzweger-Steiner, senior research advisor at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, welcomes you with a brief review of the previous day and a preview of the day to come.

10.20 am

INTERVIEW WITH CONTEMPORARY WITNESSES

SURVIVORS' STORIES: GEORG HELLER

Georg Heller was transported from the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp to the Mühldorf subcamp in January 1945 at the age of 22. He was liberated by the US Army on April 29, 1945.

Languages: DE with EN subtitles

2 pm

LIVE DISCUSSION

SCHOOL STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS IN DIALOGUE

Based on a project by students at Pestalozzi-Gymnasium high school, Munich, three former volunteers from the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site talk to Memorial Site Director Dr. Gabriele Hammermann about their personal engagement with history and the impact which their work at the Memorial Site and their encounters with survivors there has had on their lives.

TAKING PART

Dr. Gabriele Hammermann

Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

Franziska Müller, Lukas Bernstein, and Antonia Spitzer



VIDEO SERIES
PORTRAITS OF INMATES

Research advisors from the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site and school students present the life stories and experiences of 20 inmates of the Dachau concentration camp, based on sources including historical photographs, documents, and quotations.

INTRODUCED BY
Employees of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

*Original recordings and original languages (DE, EN, FR, IT, DK)
Subtitles: DE*

5 pm

LIVE DISCUSSION

**WHAT REMAINS OF MEMORY? THE ROLE
OF CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL SITES
IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

Many concentration camp memorials are facing the need for wide-ranging review of the concepts on which they are based. Exhibitions need to be revised and updated, historical buildings require refurbishment. Power presentations and a live discussion provide answers to questions on the future work of memorial sites and encourage debate.

TAKING PART

Dr. Axel Drecolli

Director of the Brandenburg Memorials Foundation,
Director of the of the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum

Prof. Dr. Jens-Christian Wagner

Director of the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp
Memorials Foundation

Dr. Gabriele Hammermann

Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

PRESENTER

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Süß

Chair of Modern and Recent History, University of Augsburg

IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF AUGSBURG



10 am

LIVESTREAM

WELCOME AND REVIEW

Live from the Memorial Site Visitors' Center, Dr. Christoph Thonfeld, Director of the Research Department at Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, welcomes you with a brief review of the previous day and a preview of the day to come.

10.20 am

LIVE DISCUSSION

MEMORY AND FAMILY REMEMBRANCE: THE FAMILY OF MAX MANNHEIMER

The next generation of memory: Eva and Judith Faessler, daughter and granddaughter of Dachau survivor Max Mannheimer, talk to Dr. Gabriele Hammermann, Director of Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site.

76 years after the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp, there are only a few contemporary witnesses to provide first-hand accounts of events at the time. But the second and third generations have long taken up their role in preserving memory and actively furthering the work of commemoration. The consequences of concentration camp internment for the survivors' families are examined here.

FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION

MESSAGES OF REMEMBRANCE FROM DESCENDANTS OF FORMER INMATES

4 pm

AWARD CEREMONY

STANISLAV ZÁMEČNÍK RESEARCH AWARD OF THE COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE DACHAU AND GENERAL ANDRÉ DELPECH AWARD OF THE COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE DACHAU

Two awards presented by The Comité International de Dachau honor historical research on the Dachau concentration camp and the role of those who further the work of commemoration.

Presentation of the Stanislav Zámečník Research Award of the Comité International de Dachau to Johannes Meerwald for his master's thesis "Spanische Häftlinge im KZ-Komplex Dachau (1940–1945). Deportation, Lagerhaft, Folgen"
[Spanish Prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp complex (1940–1945): Deportation, Internment, Consequences]

Live discussion with General Jean-Michel Thomas, President of Comité International de Dachau, Prof. Sybille Steinbacher, chair of the judging panel, Dr. Barbara Distel (award presentation speech) and Johannes Meerwald

Presentation of the General André Delpech Award of Comité International de Dachau to Dee Eberhart, veteran of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, US Army and liberator of the Dachau concentration camp

With speeches by General Jean-Michel Thomas, President of Comité International de Dachau, and Dee Eberhart, veteran of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, US Army

MESSAGES OF REMEMBRANCE

MESSAGES OF REMEMBRANCE FROM SURVIVORS OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

The survivors address the audience from their own personal perspective, giving insights into the persecution they experienced and their lives after their incarceration. In their messages, they emphasize the enormous importance of remembering and appeal to the coming generations to never forget.

INTRODUCED BY

Employees of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

All video messages with original audio in the original languages (DE, EN, FR, IT, RU, HU, PL, PT)

VIDEO SERIES

PORTRAITS OF INMATES

Research advisors from the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site present the life stories and experiences of 20 inmates of the Dachau concentration camp, based on sources including historical photographs, documents, and quotations.

INTRODUCED BY

Employees of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

*Original recordings and original languages (DE, EN, FR, IT, DK)
Subtitles: DE*



SUNDAY
May 2, 2021

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION

9.30 am

COMMEMORATION

COMMEMORATIVE EVENT OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDEN IN BAYERN

Commemoration A live stream of the commemorative event of the regional organization of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinden in Bayern will be available via a link on our website.

10 am

COMMEMORATION

ECUMENICAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Held jointly by Karmel Heilig Blut Dachau, the Catholic Pastoral Care Ministry at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Germany, and the Evangelische Versöhnungskirche at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site.

The service will be available via a link on our website.

10.30 am

COMMEMORATION | LIVESTREAM
CENTRAL COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

A central commemorative event will be held in remembrance of the victims of the Dachau concentration camp and the liberation of survivors by the US Army on April 29, 1945.

OPENING SPEECH

Dr. Gabriele Hammermann

Director of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

Karl Freller

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament,
Director of Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten,
First Vice President of the Bavarian State Parliament

General Jean-Michel Thomas

President of Comité International de Dachau

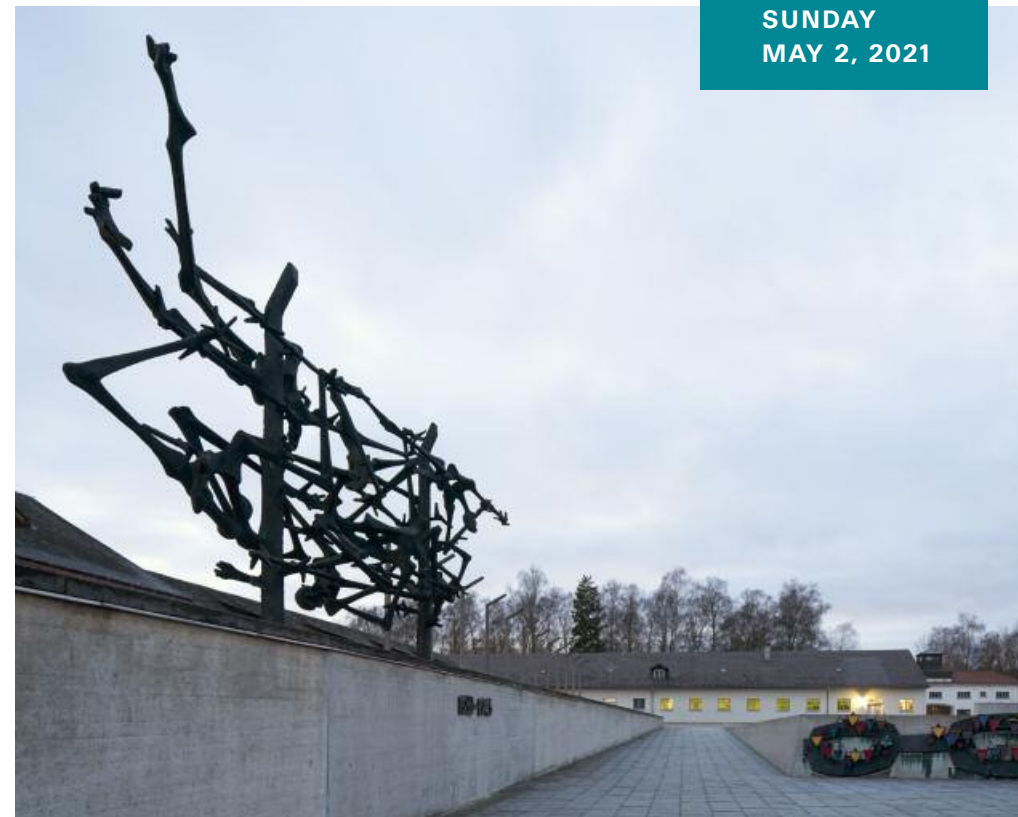
SPEECHES

Prof. Monika Grütters

Member of the German Bundestag,
Minister of State and
German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

Prof. Dr. Michael Piazolo

Member of the Bavarian State Parliament,
Bavarian State Minister of Education and Culture



MESSAGE FROM A LIBERATOR
OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

Hilbert Margol

42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, US Army

MESSAGES FROM THREE SURVIVORS
OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP

Abba Naor, Elly Gotz, and Leslie Rosenthal

Music at the event will be provided by the Chamber Ensemble of the Bavarian State Opera under Peter Wöpke with conductor and violinist Christoph Poppen.

Languages: DE, EN; Subtitles: DE, EN



1 pm

COMMEMORATION | LIVESTREAM
**COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
AT THE FORMER SS SHOOTING RANGE
AT HEBERTSHAUSEN**

In 1937/38 the SS set up a shooting range in the small town of Hebertshausen, around two kilometers north of the Dachau concentration camp, and murdered over 4,000 Soviet prisoners of war there.

The service is held by Lagergemeinschaft Dachau e.V. in remembrance of the victims.

SPEECHES

Ernst Grube

President of Lagergemeinschaft Dachau e.V.

Irina Grinkevich

Biographies

Frank Uttenreuter

Trumpet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our warmest thanks go to all those who assisted and supported us in preparing for the 76th anniversary and in carrying out the virtual events of commemoration and remembrance:

All contemporary witnesses, their descendants and families for their outstanding support and numerous contributions.

Eva and Judith Faessler, daughter and granddaughter of Dachau survivor Max Mannheimer, for their agreement to take part in a live discussion and their valuable contributions.

All speakers from the German Federal Government and Bavarian State Parliament.

The students of the Pestalozzi-Gymnasium high school, Munich, for their statements, and the former volunteers at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, Franziska Müller, Lukas Bernstein, and Antonia Spitzer, for taking part in the live discussion.

Prof. Dietmar Süß from the University of Augsburg, Prof. Axel Dre-coll from the Brandenburg Memorials Foundation, and Prof. Jens Christian Wagner of the Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorials Foundation for their fascinating discussion.

Reiner Holzemer and Veronika Mayer from Reiner Holzemer Film for their enormous support in recording and presenting the messages, interviews with contemporary witnesses, introductory presentations and videos.

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Geraldine Raithel – design wirkt for the graphic design.

The Bavarian State Opera Chamber Ensemble and Christoph Poppen for their musical contribution.

The Max-Mannheimer-Studienzentrum for their kind support with studio equipment.

All members of staff at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten, and Comité International de Dachau. The research advisors at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site for their support and assistance in preparing for the digital commemoration of the liberation by providing translations, archive research, and preparation of video messages.

And all other participants and providers of support and assistance!

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Unterricht und Kultus



Comité International de Dachau

KZ-Gedenkstätte
Dachau | STIFTUNG
BAYERISCHE GEDENKSTÄTTEN

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