

# The Rosenstrasse Protest: Remembering the Brave Women



## Who stood up for their Jewish Husbands

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### Introduction

In 1933, The National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi Party) rose to power, with Adolf Hitler becoming the sole leader of Nazi Germany. From 1933 leading up to 1945, the Nazi party began persecuting Jewish individuals, imprisoned through force in concentration camps and into inhumane living conditions in ghettos. However, Jews Married to Aryan (Non-Jews) spouses were not subject to this same treatment, despite that under The Nuremberg Laws, interfaith marriages were deemed illegal. (1-2) On February 27th, 1943, the Nazi regime implemented the "Final Roundup" and 2,000 Jewish men were forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned at a Jewish Community Center in the heart of Berlin, Germany. As their wives began to learn the news, they protested outside of the Community Center, regardless of threats of violence and death by Nazi soldiers. These brave women began chanting "Give us our husbands back" Civil disobedience by non-Jewish people had been seen throughout the Holocaust, but not this openly. (3) The Rosenstrasse Foundation was created to document a database of the women who participated in the Rosenstrasse protest, allowing future generations to continue sharing their stories of bravery. These women stood in the face of danger against an authoritarian and oppressive regime, risking their lives for their Jewish husbands. The Rosenstrasse Foundation has also been successful in documenting the stories of many women so far, but there are still hundreds of women whose stories have yet to be told. The foundation has also organized conferences to educate the community, and is continuing to build a community of descents to continue the legacy of these brave women.

### Methods

- Utilizing Ancestry.com to find government documents, and national Holocaust survivor databases, genealogical research was conducted using the women's full legal names and where they lived.
- Some documents were in foreign languages, and had to be translated.
- Any information or documents found were shared with the foundation.
- If possible, family trees were found or crafted, and living relatives will be contacted if they could connect with the foundation to provide information on these women's.

### Preliminary Results

The results of research on who the protesters were and the totality of their experiences are still preliminary. For both Ella Selma Luise Jacob (4) and Charlotte Goldschmidt (5), Ancestry.com provided information on where these women were living before and after the Protest, marriage records, birthdays, and similar information on their husbands. Family trees were also located, which provide valuable information to contact descents in the future. Oral interviews from the United States Holocaust Museum were found for women like Helene Weiss (6). All three women were protestors at Rosenstrasse, and fought for the freedom of their husbands. The next steps in this research are to continue going through the list of protestors, finding more documents, and writing biographies.

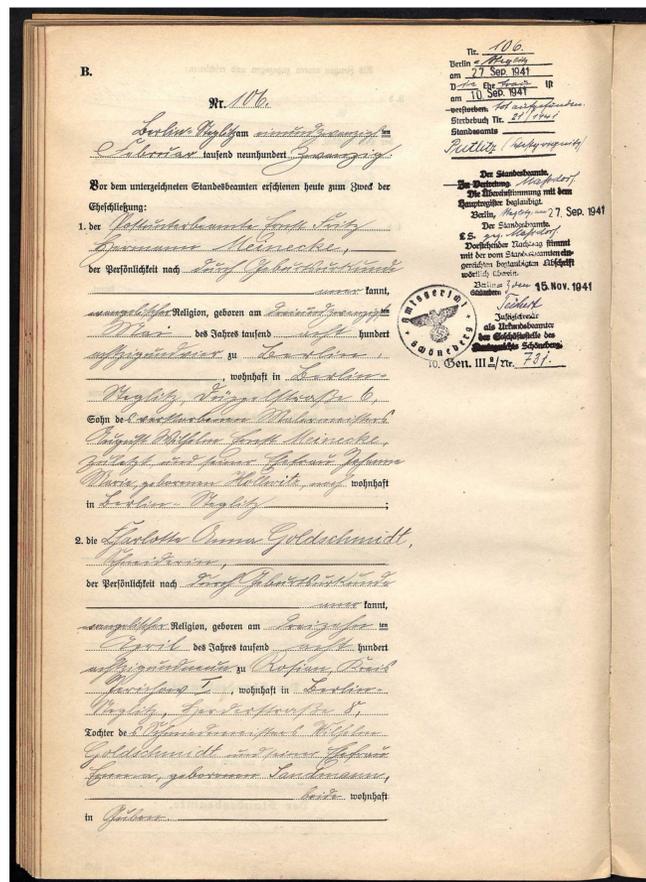


Figure 1: Birth Certificate of Ella Selma Luise Jacob. Born Berlin on May 9th, 1898, she would marry Emil Walter Ernst Widemann on August 14th, 1920. Following the Rosenstrasse Protest, the couple continued to live in Berlin and Ella Jacob would pass away on March 11th, 1973.

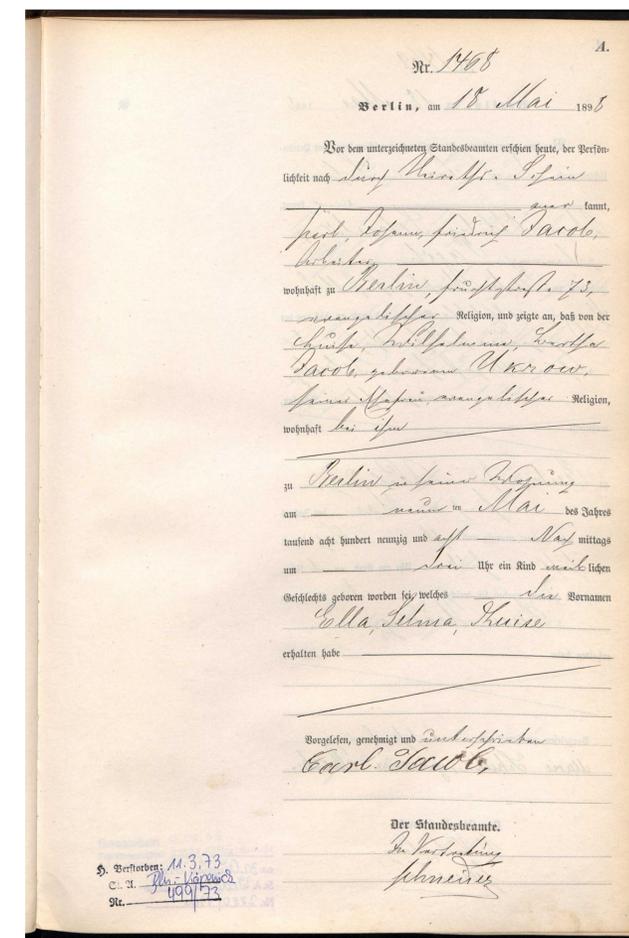


Figure 2: Marriage Certificate of Charlotte Goldschmidt Ernest Fritz Hermann Meinecke. They were married on February 21th, 1920 in Berlin, Germany. Charlotte Goldschmidt was born on April 13th, 1889 in Berlin, Germany.

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