



# ROSENSTRASSE PROTEST: FINDING THE ARYAN WIVES WHO FOUGHT FOR THEIR JEWISH HUSBANDS

By: Sarah Barlow, Liam Wirsansky, Michelle Beebe, Alyson Martinez, Arianna Beracasa, Nelly Hayford-Jackson, Paige Coker, Sarah Bass, Emma Rieser



## Abstract

During Nazi Germany, it was common for Jewish men to marry Aryan women, this is called intermarriage and saved the men from being taken by the government and sent to concentration camps. On February 27, 1943 the Nazis became impatient and kidnapped 1,700-1,800 Jewish men and placed them in the Jewish Community Center. When their wives realized where they were, they began a protest, now called the Rosenstrasse protest, until their husbands were finally released on March 6, 1943. There were approximately 6,000 women who protested. Information about Nazi Germany is well known to the public, however, information about the Rosenstrasse protest is not. With this, our research primarily focuses on finding the women protestors' and spreading awareness about the injustices their families faced.

## Introduction

The Rosenstrasse Foundation has set a goal to build an association of rescuers to honor civil courage in Hitler's Germany. Another goal is to spread awareness and educate others about the protest itself. The Foundation is focusing on acknowledging women-led defiance and making it known to the world about their acts of civil courage. Our website is a public place where we are able to share the information we find about these protestors with those looking to learn more about the Rosenstrasse Protest. While also providing a space for the protestors and their family to connect with each other. We also hope this can inspire a new generation to stand up for what they believe in. At the Foundation we have different research groups that all contribute to the success of our project. One group primarily focuses on editing the Rosenstrasse Protest page on Wikipedia.com to ensure it stays accurate and does not show bias. Another group, which is the group I am a part of, is the Genealogy team. On this team, we aim to find protestors and their families to connect with them and ask if they would like to be a part of our website.

## References:

Engelman, Uriah Zevi. "Intermarriage among Jews in Germany, U.S.S.R., and Switzerland." *Jewish Social Studies* 2. no.2 (1940): 157-178.  
Kaplan, Thomas P. "Jews and Intermarriage in Nazi Austria." *Social History* 37 no.2 (2012):254-255.  
Potter, Hilary. *The Dynamics of German Remembering: The Rosenstraße Protest in Historical Debate and Cultural Representation*. University of Bath: Doctoral Thesis, 2014.  
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## Methods

### Primary Materials:

List of Protestors at Rosenstrasse

### Secondary Materials:

- Ancestry.com
- Google Sheets

### Analysis Strategies:

For the genealogy research I primarily focused on, I would use the first and last name of the protestor along with known dates of birth provided on our shared Google Sheets document. In order to find them on Ancestry.com, I would input their name and as much preexisting information as we had on them into the search bar. I would then go through all documents provided by the site to see if any were relevant to the protestor and provided any leads on them. Once found, I would then input the information found into the Google Sheets document.

## Results

The main results have come from transcribing Protestors' information into Google Sheets. Results will continue to be in progress while we transcribe more Protestors' information and continue to edit the Wikipedia page to ensure accuracy. One challenging aspect of this project was finding documents on Ancestry.com that accurately correlated with the protestor. In the future, I will utilize other sites such as, Jewishgen.com and Familysearch.com.

## Conclusion

The Wikipedia pages will continue to be edited to ensure historical accuracy and no bias. We will also continue searching for protestors and contacting them to ask permission to tell their story on our website. Hopefully, our effects will allow a spread of awareness about the Rosenstrasse Protest. We are hosting conferences to honor the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will also be hosting a research game night and developing a student organization to expand our presence at Florida State University.