

Surviving with nothing but your fists – this year's Nienburg Forum of Remembrance focuses on the life story of Hertzko Haft as narrated by the internationally known graphic novelist Reinhard Kleist of Berlin. Like millions of fellow Jews, Sinti, Roma and other victims of Nazi terrorism, Hertzko Haft, born in Poland in 1925, was caught by the German Holocaust machinery and dragged through several concentration camps. Hertzko Haft, however, survived by virtue of his fighting spirit and started a new life as a boxer in America after the war.

„Sports“ in the context of the Holocaust has many faces: torture and punishment of the persecuted and imprisoned, entertainment and distraction for the Nazis and their willing executors, channelling and weakening of the potential for resistance, but also a means of physical and psychic survival for those who still had the force to resist. With this focus at the Forum, we also want to promote the drama “Gypsy Boxer”, a play on the life and fate of Rukeli Trollmann, a Sinto boxer perished in the Holocaust, performed at the Leintor Secondary School and at the Budox Sports Park on **8 April, 2013.**

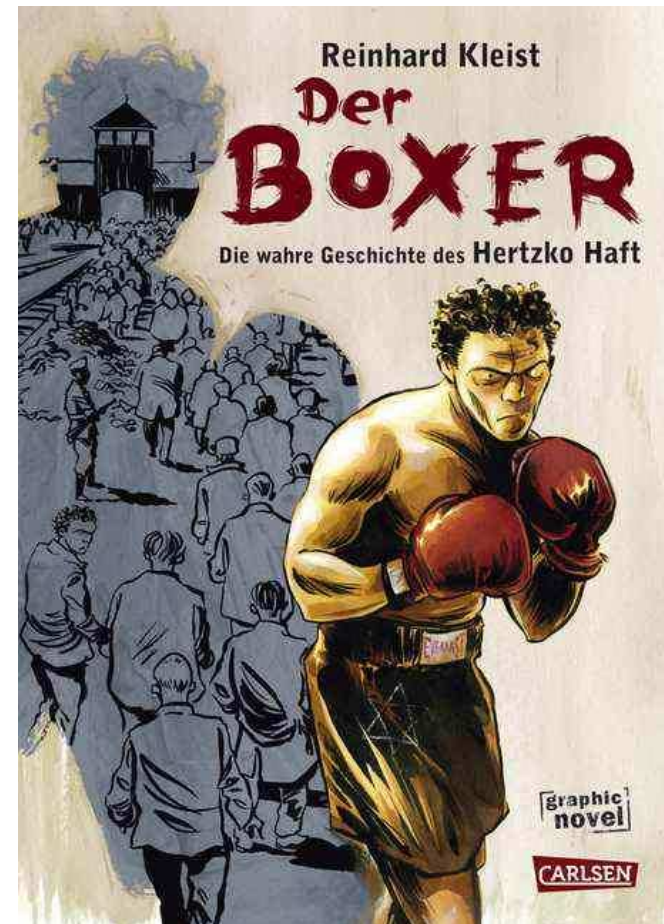
As always, Nienburg youth also takes over responsibility for the commemoration programme, sharing their experience with projects and discussing what they learned by researching vor „stumbling stones“ or visiting Auschwitz and other memorial sites.



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26/27 January 2013:
Events to commemorate
the liberation of Auschwitz
on 27 January, 1945



Arbeitskreis Gedenken Nienburg
Stadt Nienburg (Weser)

Saturday, 26 January, 2013

Forum of Remembrance, City Hall

09:30 hrs – Reports from Projects and Workshops

Researching the Holocaust

- Project by the politics course of the Adendorf „Schule am Katzenberg“: a stumbling stone for the Sinto boy Helmut Mirusch.
Ruthild Raykowski reports.
- Memory and Minorities – how do we deal with the past and our fellow human beings?
Workshop for Peace, Rastede Secondary Grammar School

10:30 hrs – Reading and Presentation

Surviving with nothing but your fists

Reinhard Kleist: The Boxer

Author and Cartoon Artist Reinhard Kleist presents his “Graphic Novel” about the true story of Hertzko Haft.

12:00 hrs – Film Documentation

Traces of the Nienburg Jewish Community

Felicitas Badtke, Julia Schröder und Johanna Wittneben (Marion Dönhoff School) show their video film, documenting their research of the Jewish past of Nienburg and the destruction of the Jewish Community.

Sunday, 27 January, 2013

City Hall Lobby

11:15 hrs – Opening of the exhibition

**They didn't want to see us winning
Sports in the flames of the Holocaust**

**An exhibition by the Arbeitskreis Gedenken Nienburg
Introduction Thomas Gatter**

**Following the opening of the exhibition, flowers sponsored
by the City may be laid down at the Memorial Plaque for the
Jewish Community in front of the City Hall Lobby.**

*15:00 hrs – Commemoration at the Jewish Cemetery,
Bruchstraße*

Prayer

**Pastor Horst Seivert and young members of the parish of
Saint Martin, Holtorf**

The City of Nienburg and the Arbeitskreis Gedenken cordially invite all citizens to join the events on the occasion of International Holocaust Memorial Day (Liberation of Auschwitz Concentration Camp, 27 Januar, 1945)