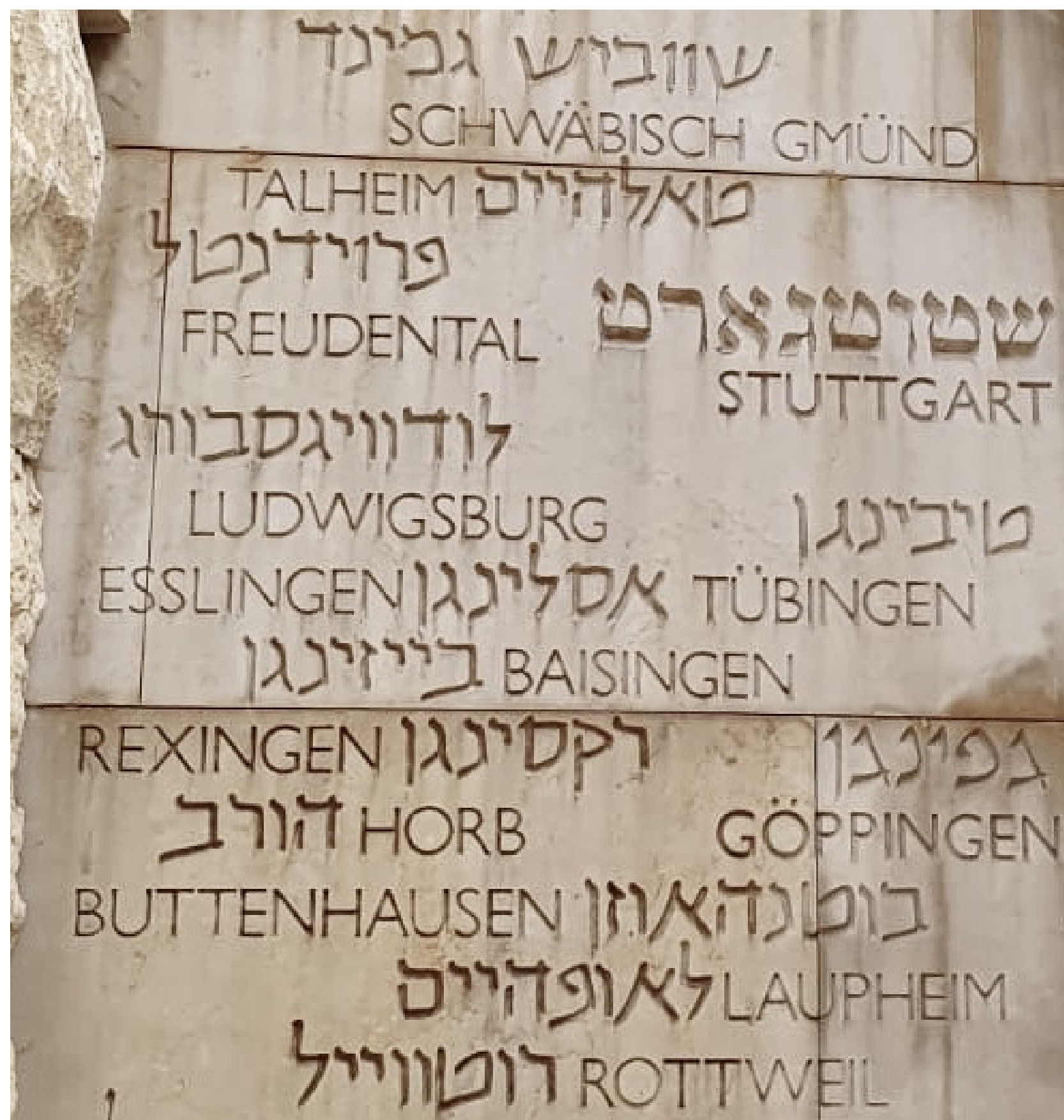


Irreversible loss and new beginnings

Jewish life in Esslingen after 1945



After the destruction of the Jewish community in the Shoah, only a few Jews lived in Esslingen after 1945. It wasn't until the collapse of the Soviet Union that a significant number of Jews moved to Esslingen. Between 1991 and 1993, the refugee center in Esslingen accommodated 3000 Jewish immigrants as they arrived in Germany from the former Soviet Union. They remained for a few months before being resettled to other homes for refugees.

The Esslingen Synagogue reopened in 2011. With nearly 300 members, the synagogue formally belongs to the Württemberg Jewish community in Stuttgart. A new Torah scroll was escorted through the old town and brought to the synagogue in 2016.

The names of over 5000 Jewish communities destroyed during the Shoah are engraved on the stone walls in the Valley of the Communities in Yad Vashem.

1991-1993

Esslingen accommodates Jewish immigrants when they first come to Germany

2016

New Torah scroll paraded through the old town on the way to the synagogue

2012

Reopening of the synagogue



The new Torah scroll is escorted to the synagogue on June 7, 2016
Source: IRGW Stuttgart

“Today the burned letters of the Torah scroll have been returned and reassembled.”

Rabbi Netanel Wurmser on June 7, 2016

“It was very special that something like that took place in Esslingen”

Eva Schwecher on the Jewish religion class which she attended from 2013 onwards in Esslingen.



Extracts from an interview with Eva Schwecher on her childhood in Esslingen (in German)

