

Speech manuscript of Anne Reyersbach on occasion of the reception on June 4, 2024

First I want to thank you for your welcome and for the hospitality shown to my friend Sarah and me. Also huge thanks to all of you who sponsored the stolpersteine.

The placing of stolpersteine to my family and to many others sends an important message to those tempted to follow the far right. We have seen a rise on anti-semitism and Islamophobia in many countries-greatly exacerbated by the desperate situation in Gaza and the taking of hostages. It is a moving tribute and a timely reminder of what happens when people are persecuted for their faith and culture.

My mother and her parents spoke about their life here with great affection and nostalgia. That they left here so late-only after Kristallnacht was in part because of their life here. In Oxford their new life was not easy. My grandfather was interned as an enemy alien on the Isle of Man. My grandmother was so disturbed by this she sleep walked. But they were alive. My Mother spoke fluent English and then taught English becoming a Deputy Headteacher. I was also a teacher.

She married a 2nd time and travelled including returning here. She was delighted to meet some of you. She died in 2018. By the time of her death with Alzheimer's she was speaking more and more in German!