



**INFORMATION POINT
ROSENBAUM SUKKAH**
Judenhof 1 a, 97299 Zell a. Main

OPENING TIMES
The Rosenbaum Sukkah is open for guided tours only.
The display boards outside the sukkah can be viewed during the whole year.

CONTACT / GUIDED TOURS
Persons or parties who are interested in guided tours, please contact Rathaus (City Hall) Zell at official opening times. Tel.: 0931 46878-11 or email: info@zell-main.de. On weekends, contact Mrs. Annette Taigel, Tel.: 0157 71 706 231

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The Rosenbaum Sukkah

Information Point for Jewish Culture and History



The wooden mechanism for opening the roof inside the sukkah

The Information Point 'Rosenbaum Sukkah' was inaugurated in October 2018. It displays many aspects of Jewish life in Lower Franconia. Outside the building, several richly illustrated display boards provide information about former Jewish life in Zell a. Main. Inside the sukkah, one can see the remains of the historical mechanism for opening the roof, as well as information about the feast of tabernacles, its meaning and ceremonies. There is also a display of a series of photographs of sukkahs in today's Jewish communities in Germany.

THE BEGINNINGS OF JEWISH LIFE IN ZELL

Around the year 1820, Mendel Rosenbaum (1783-1868) and the brothers Josef and Joel Rosenthal bought large parts of a former convent which had existed in the village from about 1221 to 1803 but which at the time lay almost in ruins. The first three Jewish families moved into these buildings of the secularized convent in 1823. From then on, both Jewish and Christian families lived there peacefully until the year 1909.



Remains of mesusa
and its indentation as can be seen at the door of the sukkah

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES IN UNTERZELL

The Rosenbaum family celebrated Sukkoth according to the biblical rules. In order to comply with biblical regulations, it was necessary to build an opening mechanism into the existing roof of the sukkah. Below that, a wooden grid was installed, making it possible to cover it with a fresh layer of foliage from neighbouring trees for each Sukkoth. In this way, the religious community could gather and have meals during the seven days of Sukkoth below a roof of fresh foliage with an open view of the sky. The Christian neighbours could easily see the opened roof from outside. The original foliage of the last Sukkoth has survived until this



Lulav
One of the 23 ritual bouquets (lulav) found under the roof of the sukkah

day. It apparently originated from a Canadian black poplar (*Populus canadensis*) that grew nearby on the bank of the river Main. Inside the sukkah, one can see the remains of the foliage and learn about the workings of the original opening mechanism.

THE FAMILY OF THE REB MENDEL ROSENBAUM

Mendel Rosenbaum s.A. (1783-1868) was born into a well respected Jewish family in Theilheim (now part of Waigolshausen, near Schweinfurt). His father, Isaac Löb, was a cantor (Chasan) in the synagogue and therefore responsible for the services, religious feasts, the kosher kitchen and the Mikve. He also taught Torah and Talmud to the members of the Jewish community of Theilheim.



Reb Mendel Rosenbaum
(1783-1868)

With the edict of 1813 (Edikt über die Verhältnisse der jüdischen Glaubensgenossen im Königreich Baiern) (Edict regarding the situation of the Jewish religious community in Bavaria) and the Bavarian constitution of 1818, Jews were granted more rights, such as the permission to settle and to trade. They obtained freedom of religion and conscience. Under these new rules, Rosenbaum hoped to establish a safe Jewish life.

In their expansive estate with its plentiful supply of water, the Rosenbaum family developed and engaged in several commercial activities that would benefit the aspiring market community.



Findings
from the property Judenhof

They owned a nail factory and the first import grocery store of Zell. They traded in nails and stakes for the vineyards, had a kosher bakery and sold kosher food and wine.

They also offered rare employment opportunities with working hours that were compatible with Jewish holidays and traditions. They lived out their Jewish life and traditions as well, and in this way set an example for and offered support to many Jews in Lower Franconia. Mendel Rosenbaum set up a prayer room in his estate near the sukkah, and established a small but, at the time, reputable Talmud school.

A CHAMPION OF JEWISH EMANCIPATION

The edict of 1813 included a 'Matrikelparagraph', which strictly limited the number of Jewish families in a municipal district. Mendel Rosenbaum and a group of Jewish delegates therefore travelled three times (in 1853, 1854 and 1855) to the Bavarian King, Max II, in Munich to fight for the annulment of the paragraph – which was indeed suspended in 1861. Rosenbaum therefore gained a reputation of respect among Jewish and non-Jewish citizens as an advocate (Schtadlan) and as the 'Jewish Bishop of Zell'.

In 1855, eight Jewish families comprising 70 members were living in Unterzell. It was most likely during this time that the property came to be called 'Judenhof' by the locals.

THE END OF JEWISH LIFE IN ZELL

In 1883, Lippmann Wolff (1856-1914) married Rachel (1858-1937), one of Mendel Rosenbaum's granddaughters. Wolff dealt in inks for writing and printing. He sold the family property in 1909 and moved to live with his son in Gunzenhausen. From that time on, no more Jews lived in Unterzell. When the National Socialists took power in Zell a. Main in 1933, there were no Jews living in Unterzell. For that reason, no deportations took place here. Many Jews who were born here, however, fell victim to the anti-Semitic and racist Nazi ideology, and were either murdered or forced into exile. These citizens are also commemorated at this Information Point.



Former layers of paint
from the inside walls of the sukkah

