

## We Meet Each Other

This is how our story begins. Coincidentally, we are working on the Dottenheimer house, and we make contact with Faye.

In many e-mails, she told us the things she herself has only just learned about. But she wasn't satisfied with that. The institute of NS-research in Nürnberg receives an order to find out anything about the family that is not yet known.

## The new Residence of the Breastplate

The Dottheim-family lends the breastplate to the Jewish museum in Fürth for an extended period of time.

They has only one condition, by which we were deeply moved:



The youngest daughter, Kara, is celebrating her bat mitzvah on February 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2003. This celebration can be compared with the evangelist holy communion or confirmation.

And for this celebration, the breastplate shall be brought to New York and set up in the synagogue.

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There was even an article about this breastplate from Gunzenhausen in the New York Times.

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# Museum Helps Jewish Family Regain Relic Nazis Stole

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By CELESTINE BOHLEN

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Last fall Dr. Bernhard Purin, director of the Jewish Museum of Franconia in Fürth, Germany, began an Internet search for descendants of Siegmund Dottenheimer, the original owner of an early-18th-century Torah breastplate in the museum's collection.

When he had no luck with the full name, Dr. Purin began to shorten it, just as an immigrant to the United States might have done. He happened on a Web site belonging to the children of Fred J. Dottheim who fled Nazi Germany for St. Louis in 1937 and was the son of Siegmund Dottenheimer, a wine merchant from the Bavarian village of Gunzenhausen who perished in Auschwitz.

This month the city of Fürth and Dottenheimer's heirs negotiated an agreement whereby the breastplate — an intricately decorated object of gilt and silver, featuring distinctive unicorn heads, used to shield the mantle on the Torah scroll — will return to the family in 2003, on the occasion of the bat mitzvah of Dottenheimer's great-granddaughter, Kara Brooks, in New York.

Until then it remains on loan to the Fürth