

Herbert Steiner, born on December 8, 1927 in Göppingen, died on January 15, 2025 in San Francisco

Herbert Steiner is one of two former schoolchildren of the Göppingen Jewish School with whom we were able to get in touch during their lifetime. Therefore, we owe him many detailed memories, which have been included in our text on the Jewish School.

Herbert was the second child of Martha Steiner, née Ebstein (1899 - 1995) and Dr. Albert Steiner (1896 - 1955). Dr. Albert Steiner ran a law practice in Göppingen, which had already been founded



by his father Max Steiner and which was located in the Gutmann house at Bahnhofstraße 6. The house belonged to members of the Gutmann family; Herbert's grandmother Mathilde (1871 - 1957) came from this Göppingen factory owner's family.

Dr. Albert Steiner also held leadership positions in the Göppingen Israelite Community. Herbert's older brother Erich Steiner (1925 - 2022) was still able to attend the 'Evangelische Knabenschule' (Protestant Boys' School) until he transferred to the Realgymnasium, but he also had bad experiences with anti-Semitism among his classmates.

Dr. Albert and Mathilde Steiner with their sons Erich and Herbert (on his father's lap)

(Source: Initiative Stolpersteine Göppingen)

Herbert, on the other hand, was expelled from the 'Evangelische Knabenschule' after two years of school, when it became the 'Deutsche Schule' ('German School') in the summer of 1936. The Steiner family, who had lived at Seefriedstraße 17 since about 1927, sold their beloved house in the 'Hailing' district and moved to Bahnhofstrasse 6, where the lawyer's practice was located. The background to this was that Dr. Albert Steiner could not walk from his home to his workplace without being endangered by hateful 'fellow citizens'. Herbert also remembered the challenge of getting from Bahnhofstraße to the school in Freihofstraße undamaged.

Herbert remained at the Jewish School until his family fled on November 25, 1938, two days after his father, Albert Steiner, returned from the Dachau concentration camp. The family settled in San Francisco, where Herbert was pleased to find that his knowledge of mathematics, which he had acquired not least at the makeshift Jewish School, was superior to that of his classmates. In 1947, he began his studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1951 he began his doctoral studies. In 1956, after receiving his doctorate, he became a research physicist at the UC Radiation Laboratory (now Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) and a lecturer in the physics department at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1961, he joined the department of physics at Berkeley and served as chairman of the department from 1992 to 1995. In 2000 he became professor emeritus.

The highly qualified nuclear physicist Dr. Herbert Steiner was married to Emilie Grüninger, who was born in Munich, and the couple had no children.

***Herbert and Emilie Steiner visiting
Göppingen***
(Source: Initiative Stolpersteine
Göppingen)

