

Ruth Vollweiler, born on August 30, 1927 in Stuttgart, died on September 5, 2001 in Buenos Aires/Argentina

Ruth Vollweiler was the only student at the Göppingen Jewish School who lived in Kirchheim/Teck. There she had initially gone to the state Volksschule (elementary school) and was expelled from school a few days after the pogrom night in November 1938. After that, she had to take the bus from Kirchheim to Göppingen, about 20 km away, every day in order to be able to go to school. In March 1940, the Vollweiler family was able to flee to Argentina; it is not known exactly how long Ruth continued to attend the Göppingen school.



Ruth was the sixth and youngest child of Johanna (1884 - 1963) and Moritz (1879 - 1957) Vollweiler. Two first-born girls died shortly after their birth, so that Ruth grew up only with her brothers Walter *1911, Kurt *1913 and Fritz *1917. Ruth's father successfully ran a horse trade in Kirchheim/Teck.

Ruth as a child

(Source: Ludwigsburg State Archives)

Due to the exclusion and persecution during the Nazi era, Ruth's brothers fled first, and in March 1939 Moritz, Johanna and Ruth also managed to flee to Argentina, where Fritz Vollweiler already lived. In Buenos Aires, Ruth was lucky enough to be able to complete her school education at a German-speaking Pestalozzi school. She then completed an apprenticeship in the fashion industry.

In 1948 she married Arthur Zeller; after his death, she married Gerd Frankenthal in 1972, a widower who brought three children into the marriage, whom she remembers as a loving mother and good cook.

Ruth Zeller-Frankenthal, née Vollweiler with stepsons

(Source: Roberto Frankenthal)



In 1886, Ruth Zeller-Frankenthal, accompanied by her son Roberto, travelled to Kirchheim for the first time, where stumbling stones were later to commemorate the Vollweiler family. Ruth Zeller-Frankenthal, née Vollweiler, died in Buenos Aires in September 2001.