

Because of all of the e-mailing over the Atlantic, the family decided to take a trip to Germany in March of 2002. This is when our class met up with them.

The Dottheim-Brooks' visit in March 2002



The family Dottheim-Brooks visited our class in March 2002. We asked them questions about their family and their lives in small groups.

We tried to communicate with our best possible English.

David Brooks wrote us a Jewish prayer in Hebrew and told us much about his life in New York.



Mrs. Dottheim-Brooks showed us a street map of Manhattan, where the family lives, and we talked about September 11th 2001.



Kara told us about her school. We tried to teach her some German, and she learned fast.

Joanna and her group discussed her upcoming visit in June 2002 to our class.



This was the first day we

experienced the family in real life. It was exciting and wonderful for all of us. Even though they don't speak a word of German, and our English is not the very best, we had interesting and funny conversations. We were happy that the whole family regarded us with openness and without any discrimination. It is not easy for us to interact with Jewish people with knowing what our folk did to them all those years ago here in Gunzenhausen, and in all of Germany. We are ashamed of this and would like to find a resolution.

Faye and her family made this easy for us.

Joanna's Visit in July 2002



Joanna, daughter of Faye and David Brooks has decided to learn German, so she will be able to read our website in the future. Faye is also dismayed that she does not understand the language of her ancestors. So we invited Joanna to attend our school, for a time, so she could learn German. She visited us in July 2002 for about four weeks. She had decided that by the time she went home she would be able to speak some German. After

the usual beginners problems, she learned pretty well.

She spent the afternoons with us students. Two of us always went somewhere with her. This way she got to know the country and the country-life better, something that was totally new to her. Joanna tried everything there was to try, tractor driving for example. She had lots of fun spending the afternoons with us.

We shot some photographs together.





She made friends with many of us, and some still have e-mail contact with her. Before she left, Joanna decided she would come back in 2003. We are looking forward to see her and her family again very often.

Return of the Breastplate

In February, Kara will be celebrating her bat mitzvah. This huge celebration has been made even more important because the family breastplate will be returned on this day as well. It will be brought to New York by several selected guests, including the mayor of Gunzenhausen, Herr Gerhard Trautner, our principal, Herr Franz Müller, the city archivist, Herr Werner Mühlhäußer, and the museum director, Herr Dr. Bernhard Purin. Our teacher was also invited to this event, but we have an mountain of tests and such coming up, and she did not want to leave us alone with substitute teacher.

At the bat mitzvah, a Hebrew text will be read. Since the torah is read within one year, with a certain verse every week, Kara already know which verse she will be reading: 2 Moses 30:11–34. Here a clipping of it: