

Tribute to Marga Gotelf Goren

On May 16th 2025 – her 100th birthday

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honored Mayor Mr. Steffen Scheller.

**Brandenburg an der Havel City Officials, Residents of the city and
Marga's family members,**

Today is a moment of profound emotion for our family. I am deeply humbled and honored to stand before you and speak on behalf of us all.

We are gathered here in this beautiful city, in this meaningful square, to honor the memory of our beloved mother, **Marga Gotelf Goren**, on the date would have been her 100th birthday.

It was from this very city, in October 1938, that she—then just 13 years old—was deported by the Nazi regime along with her mother, her sister, and the entire Jewish community.

Of that group, she was the only known survivor.

During the dark years of World War II, she found refuge in England—alone, without family, a teenager forced to rebuild her life far from home. And yet, despite all she endured, she chose not to live with bitterness, but with courage, dignity, and hope.

After the war, on her path to what would soon become the State of Israel, she devoted herself to helping others. She took part in the heroic efforts to bring Holocaust survivors from the ruins of Europe to the land of Israel—a mission of rescue and renewal, of life triumphing over devastation.

In Israel, together with our late father, she built a new life and a loving family. That family today includes two sons, six grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren—each one carrying forward her legacy.

Though her profession was teaching English, she taught us far more than language.

She taught us values:

The power of modesty, the importance of compassion, and the strength of

unconditional love.

She showed us that dignity isn't something claimed—it is lived, through kindness, humility, and resilience.

We remain grateful for the honorary citizenship you awarded her in September 2022. She was deeply touched and honored by that recognition.

And now, as this square is named in her memory, it stands not only as a tribute to her remarkable life, but as a symbol of remembrance:

A reminder of the once-thriving Jewish community of Brandenburg, of the cruelty that sought to erase it, and of the enduring human spirit that would not be extinguished.

On behalf of our entire family, I offer our heartfelt thanks to the City of Brandenburg an der Havel, to the Mayor, to Dr. Dr. Niels Haberlandt, to Mr. Carsten Tüchelmann, and to all those who helped make this tribute possible.

You are not only honoring her memory—you are giving voice to a story that must never be forgotten.

Thank you all.