



GROVE OF FLIGHT

in the Krimml Valley

Idea, Chronology and Dedication

by
Ernst Löschner

Alpine Peace Crossing (APC) is dedicated to all people on the run, and the same recognition is also valid for the *Grove of Flight*. 49 trees and two large natural stones were installed in the Krimml Achental (Valley), as a joint cultural project by APC with the *National Park Hohe Tauern* (NPHT), like the 7 peace pyramids along the 18 kilometer “APC National Park Peace Trail” over the Krimml Tauern pass from Krimml to Kasern in South Tyrol/Italy.



In accordance with the nature of the Krimml Valley, the following three tree species were selected for the Grove: white birch, moorbirch and mountain ash/rowanberry. The picture shows the „heart“ of the *Grove of Flight* facing South with *Peace Stone Windbachfall* (r), *Flight Stone Krimml Glacier* (l), *Prism* and some of the 49 trees.

As site for the *Grove of Flight* a uniquely beautiful alpine pasture was selected in the Krimml Valley, about 200 m from the 4th peace pyramid before the ascent to the “Windbachalm”, with an unobstructed Southern view to the glacier-covered valley and - towards the North-west - to the Windbach-waterfall.



Mountain guide Viktor Knopf with Jewish refugees 1947 on the alpine meadow of the “Mentl-Farm” before the ascent to the “Windbachalm”: precisely there the *Grove of Flight* was installed.

At this point, we wish to thank the “Mentl”- farmers Helmut Leiter and Hermann and Maria Kaiser, who have personally supported this project by providing their property for the Grove.

The solemn inauguration of the Grove took place on October 17, 2017 as part of a Ceremony (Annex I) within the special year 2017, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Jewish Krimml Exodus in 1947 and the founding of APC 11 years ago.

Many people have contributed that the idea and initiative towards the *Grove of Flight* could now be realized:

- Judith Forthuber (APC Board) took over the overall responsibility for organization, logistics and coordination, together with our APC member Hans Lerch;
- Peter de Bruin (APC member) was planning and advising on the selection of the dedicatees;
- on the part of the NPHT, the project was endorsed at the highest level by Deputy Governor

of Salzburg Astrid Rössler and NPV Director Wolfgang Urban; Ferdinand Lainer and Ariane Schweiger contributed creatively during the planning stage of the Grove;

- the preparation and implementation of ecological principles regarding the installation of the trees are to the credit of Susanne Popp (“Landesumweltanwalt Salzburg”);
- Oliver Stöhr was responsible for the ecological review process and Rudolf Murauer conducted the installation of the trees; and
- although the concept of the landscape architect Maria Auböck was not implemented, her commitment and her plans were much appreciated.

The number 7 is a lucky number in many cultures and religions. Therefore, the *Grove of Flight* consists of $7 \times 7 = 49$ trees. The *Betula Pendula* (white birch), *Betula Pubescens* (Moorbirke) and *Sorbus Aucuparia* (mountain ash / rowanberry) were selected as the native tree species, ideally suited for the wetland site at 1.750 m above sea level. All the trees (and the two large natural stones) were dedicated to personalities whose fate is inextricably linked to the former camp *Givat Avoda* in Saalfelden and to the Jewish Exodus in 1947 via the Krimml Tauern Pass as well as to those who contributed towards the founding of APC - and thus to the revival of this flight route - as well as to the development of APC's social assistance programs.

It is a very large number of people – 506 as of mid-October 2018 – who have deserved this recognition: 478 personalities at the 49 trees, and 27 personalities at both natural stones.

The group-trees with the relative biggest number of selected personalities are the “Survivors-Tree” (89), followed by the “APC-Tree” (62), the “Bricha- and APC/Israel-Tree” (52), the “CSR-Tree” (47), the “Tree of the Arts and Culture” (40), the “NGO-Tree” (32), the “Tree of the Media, Film & Communication” (27) and the “Refugees-Tree” (23).

The further group-trees: “Tree of Politics” (14), “Tree of the Sciences” (13), “Tree of the Religions” (12), “Tree of Human Rights” (10), “Mayors Tree” (7), “Tree of Sports” (5) and “Ambassadors Tree” (5).

(Since October 2017 the number of names has grown in particular regarding the “Bricha-” and “Survivors-Trees”, as a result of the publicity associated with the APC presentations in Tel Aviv on November 4 and 14, 2017 and the large number of Israeli participants at the 12th APC at the end of June 2018.)

The *Grove of Flight* was installed in honor of them all, on both sides of the former flight route in 1947, whereby every single tree and natural stone can be sponsored by a private person or organization who feels close to this personality (cf. Annex II).

The Trees

Of the 49 trees, 34 were dedicated to single persons, a further 15 to selected groups of people.

Tree	Year	Person
1	1946	Asher Ben Natan
2		Aba Gefen
3		Marko Feingold
4		Bella (Bilha) & Moshe Talit
5	1947	Liesl Geisler-Scharfetter
6		Viktor Knopf
7	2003	Paul Rieder
8	2006	Michel Pébereau
9	2007	Hans Lerch
10		Alois Steger
11		Peter Huemer
12	Survivors	Yaffa Levy
13	2007/08	Jackob Shwartz & Ahuva Shamir
14		Lili Segal
15		Moshe Frumin
16		Avraham Weiss
17		Margarita Weinberg
18		Nataniel Brener
19		Itzhak Drach
20		Zwi Katz
21		Tova Zehavi
22	2008/09	Hans Dieter Nerbl
23		Michael Kerbler
24		Julian Holleis
25		Peter de Bruin
26		Regine Kappeler
27		Manfred Schwab & Donatella Magliani
28	from 2010	Wilfried Rohm
29		Guy Shachar
30		Bettina Reiter
31		Rainer Prohaska & Norbert Wallner
32		Judith Forthuber & Willi Svoboda
33		Wickham & Alice Skinner
34		APC Presidents - Tree
35		Ambassadors-Tree
36		Bricha- and APC/Israel-Tree

- 37 Survivors-Tree (from 2017)
- 38 Mayors-Tree
- 39 Tree of Human Rights
- 40 Tree of the Sciences
- 41 Tree of the Arts and Culture
- 42 Tree of the Religions
- 43 Tree of the Media, Film & Communication
- 44 Tree of Sports
- 45 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)-Tree
- 46 Tree of Politics
- 47 NGO-Tree
- 48 Tree of the Refugees (NB: All refugees honored are role models for their active integration into the Austrian society.)
- 49 APC-Tree

The names of all Honored by the individual group trees will be recognized in a separate document on our new Grove of Flight homepage www.hain-der-flucht.at. A list of names of *all* Honored (including those included in the natural stones) in *alphabetical* order is also under preparation. Both documents will be updated from time to time.

It is especially important to me (EL) that all Honored are listed by their full name, in particular the Jewish personalities. At the Nazi concentration camps the Jews were deprived of all their dignity and also their name. They were degraded to a tattoo number.

The Nature Stones

In the *Grove of Flight* two large natural stones were installed in the form of a ‘*mensa*’ to symbolize a welcome hospitality and to honor those Austrian and international APC-affirming personalities who

- have made exemplary contributions to the cause of peace; dedicated to them is the "*Peace-Stone Windbachfall*".
- have become a role model for all people, especially the young, on the basis of their own flight experiences or through their commitment to the topic of flight; dedicated to them is the "*Flight Stone Krimml Glacier*".

Many of these people have participated in the *Appeal for a Human Refugee Policy* (Petition *Against Inhumanity*) initiated in 2013 by Alpine Peace Crossing (Ernst Löschner and Michael Kerbler), or have declared their solidarity with our goals already in 2007 by joining the Honorary Committee of APC.

"Peace Stone Windbachfall" (dedicated to peace-makers of this world):

Honored Personality

Daniel Barenboim
Cecily Corti
Paul Chaim Eisenberg
Heinz Fischer
David Grossman
Patricia Kahane
Helmut Kohl
Bruno Kreisky
Giorgio Napolitano
Anton Pelinka
Johannes Poigenfürst
Maria Schaumayer
Christoph Schönborn
Franz Vranitzky
Anton Zeilinger
Jean Ziegler

“Flight Stone Krimml Glacier” (to honor outstanding personalities who were refugees themselves, and those who were or are deeply committed to refugees):

Honored Personality

Ute Bock
Friedrich Cerha
Gertraud Cerha
Rudolf Gelbard
Tenzin Gyatso (the 14th Dalai Lama)
Elfriede Jelinek
Nadja Lorenz
Ari Rath
Rudolf Sarközi
Alexander Van der Bellen
Simon Wiesenthal
Leon Zelman

The dedicatees of all 49 trees and the two natural stones were proposed by a APC working group in general agreement with the NPHT. The honoring of all personalities in the *Grove of Flight* was unanimously adopted by the APC Board of Directors. (Further names will be added also on the basis of resolutions by the APC Board.)

Combined with this recognition we wish to express also the special thanks of *Alpine Peace Crossing* to all Honored who have contributed that today - 11 years after our foundation – APC is receiving international attention. The annual APC events and the continually growing APC Social- and Refugee Support Programs (€ 640.000 by the end of 2017) would not have been possible without their commitment and support.

The Prism

In the center of the *Grove of Flight*, a 3-sided *Prism* with the logos of APC and NPHT shows the following text in German, Italian and English:

This "Grove of The Flight" is dedicated to all people on the run. It consists of 7 by 7 trees. The number 7 is a lucky number in almost all cultures and religions. May this good fortune be granted to all who must flee their homeland!

Each individual tree is in remembrance of people for whom the flight route across the Krimml Tauern Pass in 1947 had a fateful significance, as well as to all those who have rendered outstanding services to the reactivation of this flight route and to the social and refugee assistance programs of Alpine Peace Crossing.

The two natural stones found in this Grove – the "Peace Stone Windbachfall" and the "Flight Stone Krimml Glacier" – stand as a "Mensa", a symbol of hospitality for refugees. They are dedicated to great individuals who were themselves refugees or protectors of refugees or have made a name for themselves as founders of peace. All names of the honored individuals can be found on our websites.

The growth of the trees and the pathway through the Grove stand as a living reminder to these people.

*Ernst Löschner
October 2017*

On the 70th anniversary of the Jewish Exodus over the Krimml Tauern Pass and on the 10th anniversary of the founding of Alpine Peace Crossing, in solidarity with all people who are forced to flee.

www.alpinepeacecrossing.org

www.nationalpark.at

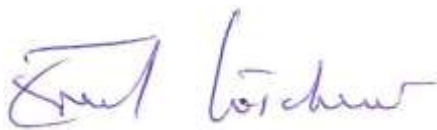
Integrated into the Prism is also a "*Grove-Book*". All visitors may register their personal perceptions, thoughts and wishes in this book. From time to time, we will publish a selection of these entries on the *Grove-of-Flight-Website*.

Finally, let us emphasize our desire that the *Grove of Flight* may become a *spiritual place of hope* for many people, for those on the run as well as for all those who do not want to look away when help is needed. The symbolism of the consciously chosen numbers *two* (there are two natural stones) and *seven* (there are 7 x 7 trees) should also radiate from the *Grove of Flight*: the *two* is seen here in the sense of *Taoism*, in which the *Taijitu*- circle forms a union between *Yin* and *Yang*, and - as with the *Dioscurs* of Greek mythology - as a symbol of harmony. The number *seven* is also mythological: it occupies a special position in almost all

cultures, often as a symbol of good luck. *Flight* and the longing for *Peace* were therefore also the namesake for the natural stones of the Grove.

APC has portrayed the *Grove of Flight* and the sponsoring theme in a separate brochure <https://alpinepeacecrossing.org/en/>. It will be updated for our big *Grove-of-Flight Matinée* (with Austrian TV ORF III) on October 21, 2018 in Vienna's Radio Hall as part of the new homepage, including a site map with all the numbered trees.

As the trees may grow in the Grove, it is our wish and hope that many individual relations to the Honored may be established. In this sense our cultural project may never be "completed", it may grow further and may serve as a symbol of hope, empathy and caring.



Ernst Löschner

on behalf of the Board of *Alpine Peace Crossing – Charity of Social and Refugee Support*, in agreement with the *National Park Hohe Tauern*, Salzburg

October 10, 2018

Soon to be completed: our new Grove-of-Flight website www.hain-der-flucht.at

Biographies of the individual honored personalities: they are all asked to send a photograph and a short text of their bios to office@alpinepeacecrossing.org.

Furthermore, all Honored are invited to send us a *personal letter* (or mail), expressing their personal thoughts and wishes towards the *Grove of Flight*.

All sponsors are also invited to prepare a personal *testimonial* (with or without a photograph; anonymous testimonials are also possible) with their thoughts regarding the Grove of Flight and the reasons why they have chosen a particular name, tree or stone.

All testimonials will be recorded on the Grove-of-Flight website.

The first biographies and testimonials (in German) can already be seen with APC:

<https://alpinepeacecrossing.org/hain-der-flucht-texte/>

Annexes

Annex I: Ceremony Oct 17, 2017 – Program and links to our Report and videos.

Annex II: Sponsoring a Name, Tree or Stone



GROVE OF FLIGHT - CEREMONY

Oct 17, 2017
Krimml Valley

7x7= 49 trees, a prism and two natural stones were installed as part of an inter-religious inauguration ceremony.

Program

10:30 hours: hike (30 minutes) from the Krimml Lodge to the "Mentl-Farm"

11:15 hours:

Welcome: Erich Czerny

Greetings: Marko Feingold

Reading: Daniel Keberle from "The Bricha" by Asher Ben-Natan

"Grove of Flight" concept and dedication: Ernst Löschner / Judith Forthuber

Opening Speech: Astrid Rössler

Inter-Religious Inauguration: Franz Lackner, Olivier Dantine, Alexander Lerner,
Geshe Tenzin Dargy

Music: Wilfried Rohm

Master of Ceremony: Petra Navara

Report: http://alpinepeacecrossing.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/HAIN-DER-FLUCHT-BerichtFestakt_final1611.pdf

Video by Guy Shachar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWCN8zHh8hU>

Speakers

Astrid Rössler: Deputy Provincial Governor of Salzburg and responsible at the government level for the *National Park Hohe Tauern*. She held the opening speech at the 8th Alpine Peace Crossing in June 2014. The project of the "Peace Pyramids" along the escape route of 1947 was also realized jointly between APC and the National Park Hohe Tauern.

Marko Feingold: President of the Jewish Community Salzburg. In 1947 he discovered the escape route over the Krimmler Tauern for 5000 Jewish men, women and children. First honorary member of APC. Since 2007, he has participated every year as an honorary guest at all APC events (now at the age of 104 years), sharing his personal memories as a survivor of four concentration camps.

Daniel Keberle: Austrian actor. As a member of the People's Committee he supported with a personal quote the "Appeal for a Human Refugee Policy" initiated by Alpine Peace Crossing (Petition "Against Inhumanity"). APC member.

"The Bricha" (1943), by Asher Ben-Natan (published in 2005): Born as Arthur Piernikarz in Vienna in 1921, he fled to Palestine. After the end of WWII, he returned to Vienna as head of the Austrian branch of the Beriha (Bricha), helping countless Jews to emigrate. From 1965 to 1969 he was the first Israeli ambassador to Germany. Asher Ben-Natan died in 2014. In December 2007 an APC delegation from Austria could spend an evening with him in Tel Aviv. He was immensely pleased that APC had organized six months earlier the commemorative APC Peace Hike, step-by-step on the same route as the Jewish Exodus over the Krimml Alps in 1947.

Franz Lackner: Archbishop of Salzburg and Primas Germaniae; his predecessor, Archbishop Alois Kothgasser, was a member of the Honorary Committee in 2007 at the founding of Alpine Peace Crossing.

Olivier Dantine: Superintendent (bishop) of the Diocese of Salzburg and Tyrol. As a member of the People's Committee he supported the *Appeal for a Human Refugee Policy* initiated in 2013 by Alpine Peace Crossing (Petition "Against Inhumanity") with a personal quote.

Alexander Lerner: Kantor of the Jewish Community Vienna, which has been in close connection with Alpine Peace Crossing already for 10 years. Rabbi Paul Chaim Eisenberg was a member of the Honorary Committee at the founding of APC in 2007. Raimund Fastenbauer is General Secretary of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria and member of APC. At the 1st Alpine Peace Crossing 2007, he gave a speech at the inauguration of the memorial in Saalfelden at the former camp *Givat Avoda* on "The History of the Fight Movements through Austria to Israel and its Significance to this Day".

Geshe Tenzin Dargye: As a Geshe-la he is a Buddhist dignitary and monk, former student of HH the Dalai Lama who appointed him as head of the Tibet Center in Austria. APC, jointly with him, organized the program for his Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on May 21, 2012 in Salzburg, including the interreligious dialogue with SH Dalai Lama, which was organized by

APC jointly with the University of Salzburg. Geshe-la was honorary guest at the 6th APC in June 2012 with a focus on "Tibetan Refugees".

Erich Czerny: Mayor of Krimml. Since 2007 closely linked to Alpine Peace Crossing. As a former board member, he is a strong supporter of the objectives of APC.

Wilfried Rohm: Educator at HTL Saalfelden and lecturer for mathematics at the University of Salzburg. APC member and program director for the 2nd exchange of Alpine Peace Crossing in 2014 with an Israeli school. Joint participation with his HTL pupils at the 7th APC in 2013.

Judith Forthuber: Member of the Board of APC. She has played a decisive role in the creation and development of the "Grove of Flight".

Ernst Löschner: former bank director, founder (2007) and since then Chairman of the Board of Alpine Peace Crossing - Charity for Social and Refugee Support. Initiator of the Grove of Flight.

Petra Navara: former journalist and NGO director, Secretary General of Alpine Peace Crossing.



October 17, 2017: Ceremony with Inter-Religious Inauguration of *The Grove of Flight*

Seated: Marko Feingold (next to the „Peace Stone Windbachfall“)

Standing (from left to right): Geshe Tenzin Dargye, Christian Walch (Roman Catholic priest of Krimml), Olivier Dantine, Franz Lackner, Petra Navara, Ernst Löschner, Astrid Rössler, Alexander Lerner, Wilfried Rohm



SPONSORING

a

NAME, TREE or STONE

Alpine Peace Crossing (APC) has agreed with the *National Park Hohe Tauern* (NPHT) on a most simple installation of the "*Grove of Flight*", with a 3-sided *Prism* rendering a short text in German, English and Italian, and with a "*Grove-Book*" into which every visitor can register his/her thoughts and wishes. From time to time, we will publish a selection of these entries on the *Grove-of-Flight* website.

At the site of the individual trees and natural stones in the Krimml valley no names of the dedicatees and their sponsors are listed, but they are individually introduced with their biographies on our websites. Further names will be added in due course to honor future contributors and survivors not known until now.

With the installation of the trees and the selection of people to be honored APC has only taken the first steps. Private and institutional sponsors may now connect themselves with these Honored through a personal *testimonial*. A tree or a natural stone can also be sponsored. Thus, all sponsors contribute to the preservation of the *Grove of Flight* and to the continuation of our social support programs.

The contribution for private sponsors has been set at € 100 for each name, € 300 for a tree and € 1.000 for each natural stone. For institutional sponsors the amounts are € 750, € 2.000 and € 7.500, respectively. It is our wish and goal that several sponsors may be registered for each personality, tree or stone.

Contributions to: *Alpine Peace Crossing*

IBAN: AT51 3503 9000 5902 6609 (BIC: RVSAAT2S039)

Purpose: *Grove of Flight* - sponsoring for (name/tree/stone)

In due course, we will recognize our sponsors via the APC newsletters or via Facebook, unless someone wishes to remain anonymous. All sponsors are requested to send to office@alpinepeacecrossing.org a photograph, a few lines regarding their bios and the text how they would like to be recognized. The individual "*testimonials*" recognize their chosen personality (or group or stone) and may render also personal sentiments regarding the *Grove of Flight*.

EL, October 10, 2018