

EXAMPLE OF AN INTRODUCTORY LETTER

Open Jewish Homes

This year the Jewish Cultural Quarter will organise Open Jewish Homes again: small-scale gatherings in which we commemorate the Jews who have been deported from Dutch towns and villages during the Second World War. Before, during and immediately after the war, Jewish men, women and children lived in the ‘Jewish houses’.

On site stories about pre-war lives and daily happenings are told, as well as stories about persecution, hiding, resistance, deportation and return. We commemorate those who have been killed, but also tell about and with those who managed to survive and their descendants.

Open Jewish Homes was launched for the first time in 2012 in Amsterdam. Since then, the number of cities participating in the programme has increased. The way of remembering in Open Jewish Homes appears to bring to life the history of a house with its Jewish residents in a neighbourhood and city. Local residents of any age visited the addresses and were moved by the personal manner of commemorating.

On the Jewish Digital Monument, www.joodsmonument.nl, the Dutch Jews who did not survive the war have been mentioned with their addresses. This monument of names and addresses is the starting point for Open Jewish Homes. For present residents of Jewish houses, a fragment of history may be the beginning of a search into more traces of the life stories of former residents. During Open Jewish Homes, the experiences of the residents of today and the visitors come together with the history of the residents of the period. These interactions result in striking commemorations.

You can participate in Open Jewish Homes as a resident of a Jewish house by opening your home, as a storyteller of a (family) story or as a volunteer to help a neighbour, for instance, in the organisation of a commemoration. Texts to read aloud, poems, music, photography: the form is free. The core has been set however: the focus is on the story of the Jewish residents.

Do you want to participate?

Mail to openjoodsehuizen@jhm.nl.

Find more information on www.openjoodsehuizen.nl.