

The Warburg family and the kibbutz in Falun

The Israeli artist Hila Laviv visited Hälsinggården in Falun for the first time in January 2018, 79 years after her relatives had come on a visit to Kibbutz Plugah Baderech - "Group on the Way" at Hälsinggården Manor. Noni Charlotte Warburg was Hila Laviv's maternal grandmother and one of three sisters. Her two older sisters were Ingrid and Eva and her parents were Anna and Fritz Warburg. All five of them took part in the kibbutz just outside the town of Falun. In 1917, together with Elsa Beskow, Anna Warburg wrote "Vad ska vi göra? Roliga sysselsättningar för barn" a book of fun things to do for children. Anna wrote the text which Elsa Beskow illustrated and the book was aimed at children of all ages and all levels of society. Readers learnt how to make cut-out paper figures, dolls, mugs, boxes, plates and cutlery. Simple domestic materials that were within the reach of all. Anna was born in Stockholm in 1881 and while studying in Hamburg she met her prospective husband Fritz. They lived alternately in Sweden and in Germany. During World War I they were stationed in Stockholm where Fritz had diplomatic assignments for Germany. They settled back in Sweden in May 1939. There are numerous traces of the Warburg family in Falun, several of them in the visitors' book that Anna and Fritz donated to the kibbutz. On Midsummer's Eve in 1939 Anna wrote in the book: "creating a beautiful home for young people to live in is one of the joys. The satisfaction of being part of something that is taking shape can only be compared with the taste of newly ripened fruit. Expressing this feeling with the language of our own people one wants to repeatedly cry out: "schechejonah". This indicates just how much we enjoyed being part of the creation of Hälsinggården. Hopefully it will fulfil all of our expectations". Mr. and Mrs. Warburg visited the kibbutz from time to time and their two daughters, Noni and Eva, spent a lot of their time at Hälsinggården. It was Eva who meant most to this temporary home for young Jewish refugees during the years 1939-1946. It was Eva who found Hälsinggården in a newspaper advertisement. The property was then rented by the Jewish Community in Stockholm. Eva Warburg came to Sweden in September in order to assist in bringing Jewish children to Sweden. She originally intended only to spend a few months in Sweden prior to moving to

Palestine, but in fact she remained for seven years. Eva Warburg started working for the children's department of the Jewish Community and was responsible for trying to find foster parents for the children. Many of the children came from the nursery school that she ran in Hamburg from 1933 to 1938. Frieda Buchhalter, later Judith Rothschild, and Thea Kurzbart, later Miriam Pollin, were two of these children. We find other traces of the Warburg family in an album from the time of the kibbutz in Falun. Someone is seen sitting in a cane rocking chair. The chair was more than a hundred years old and had started life at the Warburg summer home outside Hamburg. In modern times it has always existed on Noni's terrace in the desert town of Beer Sheva.

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