

**Inauguration of Carl Lutz Memorial, November 23rd, 2017, Switzerland Forest near Sea of Galilee, Israel - For Bnai Brith's Augustin Keller Lodge (AKL) Zürich, by Arthur Braunschweig, Mentor (past president) of AKL**

**Moved, grateful and eager!**

- It is my privilege to greet you in the name of the Swiss Bnai Brith lodges, who may take credit for the idea to this project – the Zürich based Augustin Keller Lodge AKL, together with the three other Swiss BB lodges, the Henry Dunant Lodge (GE), the Lodge Edmond Fleg (LS) and Evi and Sigi Feigel Lodge, the youngest amongst us.
- **I am moved, grateful and eager!**
- Standing in front of people who survived the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war and the Holocaust due to Carl Lutz's courageous and ingenious activity **moves** me deeply. And while the more than 60'000 direct survivors get older and can – due to Carl Lutz – reach their natural death, their children and grand children become more and ever more. This fact gives a beautiful meaning to the Talmudic saying “who saves one person saves a whole universe”, as saving one person means allowing the chain of descendants to live, a chain which potentially becomes an infinite number of lives – a universe. It moved me deeply when preparing my words, and **it moves me now** (even more).
- Standing here with you makes me – and maybe many of you as well – also **grateful**. I am not a direct survivor of Carl Lutz. My parents – and therefore I - survived the Holocaust in relative security, in Switzerland. While many Swiss were favourable to the Nazi ideas and even outspoken antijewish, many others – like Carl Lutz – were not. And next to sheer luck and inexplicable fate, I am – and maybe we are - grateful for being a kind of survivor as well, due to Carl Lutz and to other Swiss or whatever people who stood – and fought – against that mean and

not only antijewish but outright antihuman Nazi ideology. **I am deeply grateful** for this.

- Being moved and grateful gives me strength and makes me **eager** to add pieces to the picture. I am very much aware that honouring a person two generations after the facts is usually easier than in his or her time. Carl Lutz went – and died – without the recognition he deserved. It makes me sad and I feel ashamed. We see this often: Right after a tragedy, people want to look forward, want to go on. One wants to build the future, and one doesn't want to be reminded of what could have been possible if one would have wanted to. I don't know – can't know – what would have been my reaction in Carl Lutz's situation, or in the situation of other helpers, of other angels. Because an angel, for sure, he was. I don't know what civil courage I could have shown then, as Carl Lutz did, towards people that are not my family, not my friends, my nationals, my whatever, but "just" living persons in danger. Maybe you have asked yourself this question, too. I don't even know what civil courage I can, could, show today. But it is something worth strengthening: We, as AKL-Bnai Brith from Zürich, therefore will develop material for e.g. youth movements to discuss "civil courage" in various aspects, to help foster self-consciousness regarding civil courage. What place is suited better than the lieu where the "author" of one of humanities bravest acts of civil courage is honoured. I am equally moved and grateful that on the one hand survivors of Carl Lutz are here, and on the other hand a younger man who regularly works with youth groups. Together with him, Schmuel Katz, and others I am looking forward to develop 'peulot' (activities) on the topic "Civil courage – am I up to it?", and see to it that groups touring Israel will dive into this utterly important topic.
- I am **eagerly** looking forward to making Carl Lutz's example and this memorial site a basis for such discussions, and I am **moved and grateful** for the opportunity to do so.
  - .. Grateful to KKL Switzerland, Arthur and Yshay, who joined into this project at once and with vigour,

.. grateful to KKL Israel who did such a wonderful job on the ground,  
.. grateful to the Swiss embassy who decided to hold commemorative activities just in this period of the year – your excellency Ambassador Ruch, dear Jael, and all other supporters - it couldn't have worked out better;  
.. grateful to Agnes Hirschi, who does such a great work in keeping the memory of her step-father Carl Lutz alive and by her recount inspired us to do this project;  
.. grateful to all other helpful souls and bodies who made this possible, up to schlepping all the necessary material to this wonderful place and allowing us to sit and drink in a peaceful atmosphere  
.. and, after all, grateful to Mr. Lutz, a pious and caring man.  
Danke, Herr Lutz, thank you, Carl.

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