

Board of Management: Siegfried Zoels, Uwe Dähn

Advisory Board: Bärbel Bohley, Dieter Hoffmann,
Harold Hurwitz, Roland Jahn, Hartmut Jäckel,
Martin Jander, Andreas Otto, Ulrike Poppe
Jens Reich

Robert-Havemann-Gesellschaft e.V.
Schliemannstraße 23
10437 Berlin

The Robert Havemann Gesellschaft is a non-profit association that promotes the education of society about the opposition, resistance and the citizens' movement against the SED dictatorship. The association was founded in 1990 by members of the Neues Forum (New Forum party) to research, convey and document the entire spectrum and various phases of opposition and resistance from 1945 until 1990.

The basis of the Robert Havemann Gesellschaft's work is the *Archiv der DDR-Opposition* (Archive of GDR Opposition) with the largest non-government collection of personal testimonies about opposition, resistance and the citizens' movement in the SBZ (Soviet Occupation Zone)/GDR. As well as comprehensive records, the archive holds a collection of photographs, posters, video and audio documents, objects and a reference library. The archive's contents provide a counterbalance to the vanquished regime's state and Party files. They represent a historical corrective and a national cultural treasure that must be preserved.

The Robert Havemann Gesellschaft organises events, develops exhibitions and issues publications, such as the Internet portal www.jugendopposition.de, which was developed in cooperation with the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education) and has been awarded the Grimme Online Award. This website vividly portrays the courageous activities of young people to further democracy and freedom.

The Robert Havemann Gesellschaft's work in 2009 centres mainly on commemorating the revolutionary events that took place in Berlin and East Germany 20 years ago, providing them with appropriate recognition so as to anchor them in the historical consciousness of Germans as a successful revolution. As well as presenting an open-air exhibition at Alexanderplatz, the Robert Havemann Gesellschaft will permanently mark the major historical locations of the Peaceful Revolution in Berlin with commemorative and informative panels. So far, no systematic reference to the Peaceful Revolution of 1989/90 exists in Berlin's public spaces, but reference to this successful and joyful chapter of German history should be made in the nation's capital.

For the exhibition opening, a guide to the locations of the Peaceful Revolution in Berlin was published by Stadtwandel Verlag publishers. Further publications this year will include the *Geschichte des Neuen Forums* (The history of the New Forum) by Irena Kukutz, which will be published by the BasisDruck Verlag publishers, and a book of photos by Dirk Vogel portraying the *Gesichter der Friedlichen Revolution* (The faces of the Peaceful Revolution).

To provide all the resistance to the Communist dictatorship until the Revolution of 1989/90 with a permanent place in our memory, the Robert Havemann Gesellschaft is also campaigning for the creation of a *Zentrum für Opposition und Widerstand* (Centre of Opposition and Resistance) in the federal capital, where the history of opposition and resistance could be presented and recognised in all its broader historical aspects. The centre would be a place of learning, promoting the values of democracy and freedom among the younger generation.

Managing Director: Dr. Olaf Weißbach, tel: +49 (0)30 - 447 108 10,
olaf.weissbach@havemann-gesellschaft.de

www.havemann-gesellschaft.de www.jugendopposition.de www.revolution89.de

