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PRESS RELEASE

The German Emigration Center is the most visited museum in the state of Bremen

New special exhibition about AWO founder Marie Juchacz

The German Emigration Center Bremerhaven brings 300 years of emigration and immigration history to life. Accurate reconstructions of historic spaces and individual stories make for an emotional and educational experience, whether alone, in a group or with the whole family. Since 2007, the award-winning museum is continuously the most-visited museum in the state of Bremen. Not only that, but the Berlin Institute for Museum Research places it in the top three percent of most-visited museums in the entire country. Since its opening in August 2005, over 2.7 million domestic and international guests have visited the museum.

To arrive, one must leave: In the German Emigration Center, visitors embark on a **historical journey** through time that first transports them to the **world of 19th and 20th century emigrants**. The tour begins at the quay in the year 1888, at the moment of farewell. From there, museum guests experience the ocean crossing on board three emigrant ships from different eras, which deliver them to "Ellis Island" where they complete an immigration test and orient themselves in the USA. Then the tour returns visitors to Germany. Inside a detailed replica of a 1970s shopping mall, visitors experience what it means to immigrate to Germany. Here one finds **personal family stories** from Huguenots and migrant-, seasonal- and "guest"-workers to (civil) war refugees and displaced persons. **Multimedia stations** tell the personal life stories of real emigrants and immigrants and provide **historical background information**. At the end of the tour, museum guests can search in the **Family Research Center** for their own ancestors who have emigrated. And last but not least, visitors get cinematic insight into the lives of emigrants, immigrants and their descendants in the museum's **Roxy Cinema**. Two of the four short documentaries were recognized as "particularly valuable" by the *Deutsche Film- und Medienbewertung* (German Film and Media Assessment).

For the unique exhibition concept, the German Emigration Center received the **European Museum of the Year Award** from the European Museum Forum (EMF) in 2007. It enjoys a consistently **high recommendation rate of 98 percent** from its guests.

On view through 31 July 2020, the museum presents a **special exhibition on the AWO (workers' welfare association) founder Marie Juchacz**, her exile in the US and her return to post-war Germany. Born in 1879, the women's rights activist and social democrat accomplished remarkable things in her life. She was the first woman to stand at the lectern in the German National Assembly in the Weimar Republic in 1919. Like so many, she had to flee after the National Socialists came to power in 1933 and lived in exile in the United States until returning to Germany in 1949. In this special exhibition, the German Emigration Center chronicles her emotional story, her life's work and successes as well as her escape and return to Germany.

In addition to special exhibitions, the museum regularly offers classic, thematic and barrier-free **tours** as well as tours for families and children. **Readings, lectures and concerts** round out the diverse program.

www.dah-bremerhaven.de

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