



## THE SCHADUWKADE / THE SHADOW CANAL

Sometimes we need an extra nudge to remember our history. In the fall of 2009, three commemorative plaques were unveiled at Nieuwe Keizersgracht 24, in Amsterdam, to remember the Jewish family that was deported during the Second World War.

Only one daughter survived. It was at that moment that those of us living at the same Canal realised we were also living in houses with similar, sad histories and how many families have been murdered.

During the early years of the war, about 215 Jews were deported in just the small section of the Nieuwe Keizersgracht between the Amstel and the Weesperstraat, a mere 100m. Less than 15 survived the camps. Today, about 200 people live in the same street, with no reminders of this tragedy of that time.

Recently, several inhabitants of the Nieuwe Keizersgracht have taken the lead, with the support of most of their neighbours, to develop plans to remember the history of the "Jewish Canal" or the "Portuguese Canal" as it was known in the 18th century, due to the large number of Portuguese Jewish immigrants who lived there.

From the digital monument, the website [joodsmonument.nl](http://joodsmonument.nl) we were able to discover the names of the people deported by the Nazis. And with extra research in the Archives of Amsterdam, we found even more people, who were living at the Nieuwe Keizersgracht at the time, and who were also deported.

On the side of the Nieuwe Keizersgracht, next to the Hermitage Museum is a promenade from which it is possible to have an excellent view of the part of the Nieuwe Keizersgracht related to this project. Because of this, it was decided that this promenade would be the best place to commemorate these tragic historic events.

To bring the sad history closer by it was decided to remember all the victims by name with individual name plaques and align these plaques with the victims' homes on the opposite side of the canal. Thus making the intensity and scale of the tragedy more visible.

From the reactions to the plaques at Nieuwe Keizersgracht 24 it is clear that remembering the victims by name is a poignant and meaningful tribute.

### Budget

The costs of the project are between 40 and 50,000 euro and it is hoped that this can be raised from individual donations from current inhabitants of the Nieuwe Keizersgracht, as well as other contributions and foundations.

We are striving to unveil the memorials to the previous Jewish occupants may, the 26th 2013, 70 years after the largest razzia from the neighbourhood.

We have obtained the permission from the council of Amsterdam and the support from the Diocese of the Reformed Church and the Museum who are based on the side of the canal where the plaques will be placed. A charitable foundation has been established in order to support the realization of the Shadow Canal.

Information regarding this as well as the latest developments is available at [www.schaduwkade.nl](http://www.schaduwkade.nl)

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