



# Kindertransport

A special interest group of the

**Association of Jewish Refugees**  
SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

# AJR

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**Previous issues may also be viewed at:  
[www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm](http://www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm)**

**Dear Kinder and Friends**



### *From the Editor's Desk*

Newsletter time has arrived again. This is a large one containing congratulations (Hermann) and reflections (Sigi Faith) as well as contributions from you and a note from KT of America. Please keep sending material for the next issue – dare I think of it, for Rosh Hashanah. I wish you and yours Chag Sameach and a peaceful year ahead for Israel and the world generally.

*Bernd.*

Dear Kinder

It's been a hard cold winter but we are now able to look forward to longer days and hopefully warmer sunshine.

Most importantly I would like to congratulate Hermann on his wonderful achievement and the honour that was bestowed on him. Well done Hermann!! Unfortunately we still do not have a final date for the unveiling of the monument in Holland. It looks like taking place early May. Do bear that period in mind if you are interested in participating.

I was recently asked to read a novel 'English German Girl' to be published later in the year about a 15 year old girl who came to England on the Kinder transport. I believe that most of you will identify with the emotional stresses that this young teenager experienced. I will let you know when it is published

Meanwhile I wish you and all your families Chag Sameach for Pesach with the sincere hope that by then the Middle East will have calmed down a little.

*Erich Reich*

## News from Bertha

### Dear Kinder friends

It is nice to keep up with you via the AJR Journal and KT Newsletter which I get and is read to me.

I live near my daughter Mirry who lives in the Shomron area and I visit her and her family often.

I had a new “great-granddaughter” last week and her name is Shir-El (G-d’s Song). It was nice to visit her in the Beilinson Hospital which is very modern and has an art gallery in the foyer. The winter here was very mild; pink and white blossoms are already coming out on the almond trees. It didn’t rain too much even though Israel could do with some more rain; everything looks fresh and green.

We overlook the biblical city of Shechem, where Joseph was sold by his brothers. Shechem is presently an Arab city, where Joseph has his tomb. Sometimes I wonder if he and all our forefathers and mothers wandered through Kedumim; quite a thought!

Two weeks ago I went with the family to Safed (Z’fat) as I have a granddaughter who is studying there in a college. We were very near the ancient burial ground of Safed, where many of the *Tzaddikim* are buried. There are many steps in the old quarter of the city; I passed them by and stayed in.

Another of my grand-daughters was married two months ago when I met up with my sister Inge and enjoyed the family simchah. I also participated in the annual meeting of the Israeli Kinder who meet in Netanya.

I have a little cockatiel which keeps me company in the afternoon and sits on my shoulder; it answers to the name of *chuchi-muchi*. He wakes me up in the morning, when he joins in with the song of the other birds.

The club here is similar to the AJR club in London where we have speakers and activities including *Scrabble*. On *Tu Bishvat* we made fruit kebab; I don’t think I managed to eat 15 fruits. I celebrated my 88<sup>th</sup> birthday in the club with my family also here.

I think of you all often and if you come to Israel you are more than welcome to visit me. My phone number is 00972 097928150. I am usually home from 18.30 -20.30 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

I wish you all happy Pesach, in good health for all of us.

*Bertha*

*(Bertha included good wishes for Purim also which is past by the time you read this. Ed)*

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### **Pesach Message -The Aramean and Pharaoh**

With the cup of wine raised, we recall that G-d has saved us from an enemy. With the cup down and the Matzah uncovered we refer to the Aramean who wished to destroy ‘my father’. The next threat to destroy came from the Pharaoh of Egypt. The Aramean is the prototype of enemy against the individual, in this instance our Forefather Abraham, whilst Pharaoh is the prototype who wished to destroy us as a people. Many others of either type have followed since, down to our own times.

At the Seder, we thank G-d for saving us, by which we mean, from any enemy who has confronted us. Pesach and the subsequent Omer period is therefore the time to recall the manifold enemies and our success or failure in dealing with them. The Omer period, according to many scholars, reflects the battles between the Jews of Judea under Bar Kochba against the Romans (132-135 CE). Bar Kochba was defeated and Judaism was regarded as a prohibited religion, with severe consequences if it was followed in Judea. We faced and survived the Crusades, especially the First of 1096, the Chmielnicki massacres of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In our day we faced the Shoah, the Holocaust, which has left an indelible mark on us as a people and on the world generally. Many experienced personal loss, parents, family, friends and above all countless Jews unknown to us.

In that latter darkness there were glimmers of light, some, alas, extinguished quickly. Erev Pesach saw the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt in 1943. This should make us reflect on the concept of Freedom, of Divine Protection. Other revolts took place in Ghettos and Camps; Jewish Partisan groups were active. There were definite glimmers of hope.

The darkness of the Shoah has been lit up by the birth of the State of Israel and the capture of Jerusalem, events recalled on Yom Atzma'ut and Yom Yerushalayim. Unfortunately, as I write these words, we are again faced with threats to us as Jews (ant-Semitism) and threats to the very existence of Israel, the State which is our safeguard.

As a Festival of freedom, we must consider what that word 'freedom' means in 2011. The Seder is not just a festive family gathering, it is not just a recitation of words and song, of wine and symbolic actions. The Seder must have deeper significance to us to face squarely the threats to us as a people. So as we drink the four cups, representing expressions of freedom and release, we thank G-d not for the past only, but express the hope that He will be with us at all times from today onwards until the arrival of the Messiah hopefully speedily in our days.

*Bernd Koschland*

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## **70 Years of AJR**

As AJR members many of you are probably aware of the activities and services we organise for our 3,000 members who live throughout the country but as charity starts at home it is always worth reminding you how we can help and also the contribution you can continue to make.

As we prepare for our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration it seems the AJR has come full circle. The origins of the AJR are as a self-help organisation with a commitment and emphasis on social and welfare provision. Today, our team of committed and experienced social workers travel the country to visit members and offer support through a number of programmes that we administer including Homecare and an emergency fund as well as assistance with applications for pensions and local authority benefits.

For our members in North West London we also provide kosher meals-on-wheels and the warm and inviting environment of the AJR Centre in West Hampstead, which hosts KT lunches.

Connected to this work is our growing volunteers' service with our dedicated coordinator arranging for befrienders to visit members and for members to offer their services to help the less-able of our members. We also help with advice on pursuing claims for compensation.

Unquestionably, the area of work that has reinvigorated AJR membership in recent years is our outreach programme, which again echoes the early days of the AJR when we operated provincial groups. Today we organise meetings in more than 40 locations throughout the country offering our members a unique setting to socialise, share experiences and, occasionally, be reunited with former friends and acquaintances.

Many Kinder have also participated at our regional get-togethers where several groups join for day-long gathering, discussion groups and lunch and to hear from a guest speaker.

The AJR is also delighted to support several projects that will perpetuate the legacy of the Holocaust and deliver Holocaust educational and research to school pupils, University students as well as researchers and scholars. As well as being one of the principle sponsors of *The Journey* at the Holocaust Centre in Newark, which portrays the story of the Kindertransport, we are proud to be a leading supporter to both the Wiener Library and the newly refurbished Jewish Museum. All this is in addition to our own groundbreaking Holocaust testimony project, Refugee Voices, a collection of 150 filmed interviews with AJR members providing over 450 hours of film as well as transcripts and materials for researchers.

Recognising that there needed to be greater support and engagement from government for the restitution of Holocaust era assets as well as the long term maintenance of archives the AJR worked closely with the government to create the position of UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust issues and we are delighted that Sir Andrew Burns has been appointed to this historic post. Amongst his other responsibilities Sir Andrew will also head the UK delegation to the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Research and Remember of which the AJR is a member.

Alongside all the personal contact we have with our members, the AJR *Journal* continues to deliver sharp analysis of current affairs and developments of interest to our readership. Undoubtedly, the letters page with widely contrasting opinions, some controversial, best reflects the feelings of our members.

With the recent announcement that one in five Britons will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday we do not envisage any let up in the provision of our work and very much hope you will all be able to avail yourselves of our services and as always we welcome your suggestions on what we can do to assist.

*Michael Newman*  
*AJR Director*

## Frankfurt to Liverpool Street

On the seventieth commemoration of Kristallnacht I reread my grandfather, Rabbi Dr Georg Salzberger's, memoirs. By 1938 he had been working as *Liberalrabbiner* in Frankfurt-am-Main's *Einheitsgemeinde* continuously for almost three decades, with the sole exception of the years of the First World War, for the duration of which he served the Fatherland as *Feldrabbiner* stationed at Verdun. He recalled how on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> November he was summoned by the Gestapo to appear at the *Hauptsynagoge* with the keys, which, as they well knew, he did not have. As he passed through the dense crowd of onlookers, none of them doing anything to extinguish the flames, he heard people saying '*Das wird sich raechen* - This will be avenged'. He also learnt that the interior of the *Westend-synagoge*, where he frequently officiated, had been destroyed, but that the light above the Holy Ark continued to burn: 'People took this as a sign from God' he noted.

I was gripped by this image of a light which had kept burning despite the surrounding darkness. The *Ner Tamid*, as I later learnt from Dr Wachten, the charming and immensely knowledgeable director of Frankfurt's Jewish Museum, did not remain alight throughout the war; it was eventually extinguished during the Allies' bombing raids. Therefore the flame I saw when I was eventually able to enter the restored synagogue, the only one of Frankfurt's many shuls to survive the war in any reparable state, was not the same as that before which my grandfather would so often have stood. Nevertheless I was greatly moved to see it, and to read the nearby quotation from Psalms, 'I shall not die, but I shall live and tell of the works of the Lord'. These words encapsulated at once the immense sadness of our history and the miracle of the survival of the Jewish People, with the responsibility it carries of telling the will and the works of God.

At this time my own community, the New North London Masorti Synagogue, was nearing the completion of the long process of creating a new building and I had been puzzling over how to bring something of the depth and history of the past into the new. The idea came to me of taking a flame from that Eternal Light in Frankfurt and walking with it along first the Main and then the Rhine, across northern Germany, through Holland and, following the route of the Kindertransport, back by ferry from Hoek-van-Holland to Harwich, to kindle the *Ner Tammid* of our new shul.

The thought became a fascination, next a plan, and then a growing pile of maps and an even greater mountain of books. I finally set off in October last year, with my dog Mitzpah as my constant companion, a film crew of three with whom I swiftly became fast friends, my best walking boots and the torch which was to symbolise the Eternal Light during the journey. The day I began coincided with the centennial celebrations of the *Westend-synagoge*, where I was offered the privilege of addressing the congregation from the same pulpit where my grandfather had so often stood.

I felt that I was walking both through the past and the present simultaneously. I stopped for a long time opposite the Lorelei; my grandparents often spoke of how the Nazis, unable to ban Heine's far too popular ballad, declared it instead 'anonymous'. I reflected on how often the process of destroying a people begins with the denial of its cultural contribution and proceeds by cynical stages to murder and annihilation. The Nazis obliterated every trace of Heine's grave in Montmartre in 1941.

But I was determined not only to travel through the past but also through the society of today. I met Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities. We listened, talked, taught and sometimes prayed together. The question on my mind was not only 'What happened then that German society became so ruthlessly and brutally intolerant?' but 'What makes a good society today?' Looking each evening at the torch which represented the Eternal Light, as I unpacked my rucksack, fed the dog and dried his muddy paws before he jumped straight onto the most comfortable part of the bed, I would ask myself 'Where is light and dark in our world today, in Europe, in the Middle East, in our hearts?'

I thought often about those remarkable people, who both then and now, keep alive the flame of humanity. In Wuppertal I learnt about Karl Immer who on the Sunday after Kristallnacht refused to wear his customary vestments or to give his habitual sermon. 'How can I preach God's word', he said, 'When down the road it is being burnt?' Instead, he read out the Ten Commandments in Hebrew and German and invited all those who understood his intentions to come and help. This they did, assisting many Jews in leaving Nazi Germany. I thought of the many people I know who have turned their personal suffering into the determination to help others, to work to prevent them from having to go through the same traumas that they have undergone.

Over the course of my journey and reflecting on it afterwards it became ever more clear to me that the secret of inner light, and of light in our societies, lies in being able to hear and care for the other, even, or perhaps especially, when he or she is different from ourselves.

*Jonathan Wittenberg*

*Senior Masorti Rabbi and Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue*

### **A wonderful Erev Purim story.**

This beautiful story makes you understand that things happen for a reason. The brand new Rabbi and his wife, newly assigned to their first Congregation, to reopen a shul in suburban Brooklyn. They arrived in early February excited about their opportunities. When they saw their Shul, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Erev Purim.

They worked hard, repairing aged pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on 8th of the Adar (February 17th) they were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On February 19 a terrible tempest - a snowstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the Rabbi went over to the Shul. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The Rabbi cleaned up the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Erev Purim service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity; so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Magen David embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the Shul. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from

the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The Rabbi invited her to wait in the warm Shul for the next bus 45 minutes later.

She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the Rabbi while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The Rabbi could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Rabbi, "she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The Rabbi explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Poland. The woman could hardly believe it as the Rabbi told how he had just got "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Poland. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to a camp and never saw her husband or her home again. The Rabbi wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made the Rabbi keep it for the Shul. The Rabbi insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Erev Purim. The Shul was almost full. The Service was great. At the end of the service, the Rabbi and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the Rabbi recognized from the neighbourhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the Rabbi wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Poland before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike. He told the Rabbi how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a camp. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years between. The Rabbi asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the Rabbi had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Erev Purim reunion he could ever imagine.

(Based on a true Story)



**Hermann Hirschberger MBE**

The book of Ecclesiastes writes: “A threefold cord is not broken” (4:12). Heartiest Mazal Tov to Hermann on being awarded an MBE, for services to the Jewish Community and especially Kindertransport. He is the third member of the Organising Committee of KT to be recognised – Sir Erich’s knighthood and Bertha’s MBE.

Hermann, a chartered engineer and former Chairman of the Committee, fought hard for 14 years for Kinder to receive backdated pensions and eventually won the fight. He helped with the organising of several events of KT, including the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony in Stanmore for Kinder who were unable to celebrate these milestones at the appropriate time in their lives because of the situations in which they found themselves. Additionally, he has led the survey of Kinder, available on line, which records e.g. place of origin, age, current residence, etc, as well as additional information, yet to be worked on.

Hermann and I go back a long way. Our mothers were distant relatives. He and I, as well as his brother Yoel (Julius), were together in the same hostel in Margate (Rowden Hall) and then for a time in evacuation in Staffordshire. It was he who persuaded me to join the KT Committee.

Hermann, I wish you good health and many years, as it is said, “bis 120” together with Eva and your family.

*Bernd*

## **70 Years on for AJR**

The London Jewish Cultural Centre in association with the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) is holding a week of events to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of foundation of the AJR.

The symposium will celebrate the contribution and impact of the refugees and their families on British life.

Jews working in the German language made a huge impact on both Austria and Germany. If it had not ended so tragically we would regard their story with the same awe that we regard the major figures of the Renaissance.

The seminar will begin by examining the 'one sided love affair'. The story will continue by looking at the forces that drove them out and the Britain they found themselves in.

Senior educators and cultural figures will bring the story to life. Highlights of the programme will include the LJCC scholar in residence William Tyler, an interview with Dr Martin Lovett OBE, and many chances to hear the achievements of the refugees and their families. The events will run from 4.00pm each day

On the Sunday 26 June there will be a family programme and the event concludes with a magnificent concert. Jack Liebeck, Robert Max and Gordon Back have all agreed to form a piano trio. Each is a renowned musician and each is willing to participate because of the importance of the occasion.

*Trudy Gold  
Chief Executive  
London Jewish Cultural Centre*

- **Note from KT Committee**

Once programme details are finally settled, full details will be sent out.

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**I'd like to go alone**

I'd like to go away alone.

Where there are other, nicer people' people,

Somewhere into the far unknown,

There, where no one kills another.

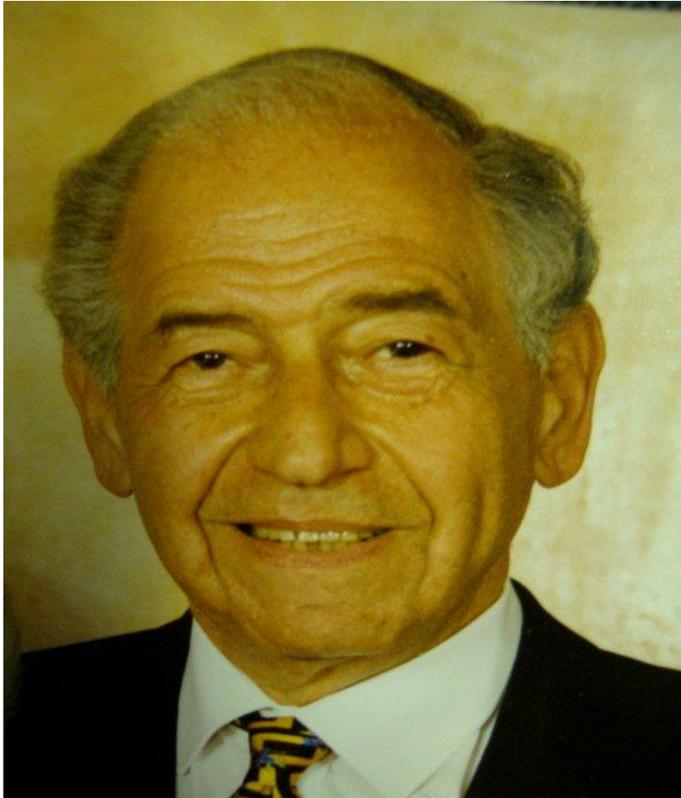
Maybe more of us

A thousand strong,

will reach this goal

Before too long.

Alena Synkova (*Out of the Whirlwind*, Albert H Friedlander p.265)



## OBITUARY

### **Samuel (Sigi) Faith, 1928-2010**

We mourn the passing of our friend, colleague and inspirational supporter of the history and continued life of the Kindertransport story. Sigi was himself a *Kind* and a brilliant example of the social/commercial achievements of many of those whose lives were saved by that extraordinary act of rescue in 1938-39, when the storm clouds gathered over Europe in anticipation of what became total nightfall for our brothers and sisters, the Jewish population of the Continent.

Sigi was one of those rare people who fully appreciated what transpired in our times of tragedy and survival. He understood how people felt. He spoke with great respect, dignity and clarity and not with anger or confrontation; he always had the bearing of a gentleman. His actions were in the same vein. He was enormously generous both in spirit and materially and always modest and humble, often acting without the recipient's knowledge in accordance with the Jewish principle that the highest form of charity is that donated anonymously.

Sigi was a member for nearly nine years of the Kindertransport/AJR Special Planning Group, where he unstintingly gave help and advice. His contributions were those of a mature and cultured mind; his regular attendance and punctuality set a welcome example.

Sigi was born in Hamburg in 1928, an only child. His father, a businessman who dealt in fabrics and cloth materials, was of Polish nationality, as was Sigi when he came to England in December 1938 with one of the first Kindertransports. He was taken to Butlins Holiday Camp at Lowestoft. There he contracted scarlet fever and had to spend several weeks in Colchester Isolation Hospital. He was subsequently billeted at Barham House, Claydon, near Ipswich.

In September 1939 Sigi had the good fortune to be introduced to the head teacher of Oswestry School in Shropshire. He was given a free place at this prestigious school, where he was treated, on the head's instructions, in exactly the same manner as every other pupil. This was one of the happiest periods of his life. He swiftly learned English, was numbered among the elite pupils, and had a good and comfortable home. At holiday times he was invited to stay at the homes of school friends.

Sigi stayed at the school for six years, becoming the captain of the cricket team, president of the aero-modeling club and, in his final year, head boy.

In 1945, at the age of 17, he was transferred to a refugee hostel in Handsworth, Birmingham. He studied part time and attended evening classes at Birmingham University while simultaneously starting work. He became an audit clerk and qualified as a certified accountant.

Meantime, his father had managed to escape from a concentration camp in Germany in June 1940 and, in that year, with Sigi's mother, had somehow left Germany and found asylum in Shanghai. In 1948 Sigi's parents came to England and there was a happy reunion at Southampton docks after ten years of separation. His father died in 1960; his mother lived to be 100.

Sigi met his future wife, Terry, and they married in 1951 at the New West End Synagogue in St Petersburg's Place, Bayswater. They had two children and were blessed with six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The marriage brought out the entrepreneurial talent in Sigi and the artistic talent in Terry. They bought a shop and created a shoe business. Sigi's business acumen and Terry's extraordinary design ability meant that the enterprise grew and, eventually, their 16 shops became a household name. Their son Jonathan qualified as a chartered accountant and joined the management of the company in 1978. Further expansion meant more and more shops nationwide and several hundred outlets existed until no shopping centre in the country was without a branch of Faith Shoes. The further expansion meant that the company employed 2,500 people, with Sigi its managing director at head office in Park Royal, west London.

This tremendous success changed neither Sigi's modesty nor his dignity. It was on the fiftieth anniversary of the Kindertransport in 1988 that his attention was drawn to his early refugee status and our survival during those tragic years. When the Kindertransport movement, initiated by Bertha Leverton with such courage, prospered and joined up with the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), Sigi was closely involved and continued this work until his final days.

In 1996 he suffered a serious stroke. The leadership of the business was taken on by his son and Sigi devoted many months to getting back to health. In this struggle, the practical and devoted Terry showed great strength and determination. Sigi, characteristically, was equally determined and courageous.

Sigi contributed massively to the work of the Kindertransport Committee, in which he was a tower of strength. For the past three years, up to his untimely departure, he regularly organised a speaker for the monthly Kindertransport lunch.

Like many who have great accomplishments to their name, Sigi's method was not self-aggrandisement – it was not so much words as actions and deeds. He was a shining example – one impossible to replace. Our memory of Sigi will remain that of a great friend.

***Hermann Hirschberger***

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### **Beyond the Call of Duty**

This booklet written by Sir Martin Gilbert, published in 2008, pays homage to British Diplomats and other Britons who helped us Kinder escape. When I read it, I saw, much to my amazement, that the woman who saved our lives, Bertha Emily Harder, is included in it. Her brave, altruistic and impulsive action in taking my younger sister and me into her humble home is practically unknown.

When I wrote my biography *Three Lives in Transit*, published 1992, I was determined that this good woman should also be remembered. Mrs Barbara Winton, mother of Sir Nicholas Winton, to whom I devote special thanks was involved in the arrangements for us. Now that I know all that went on and heard about the gruesome fate of our childhood friends, I am even more aware of what we owe to her.

Unfortunately, Miss Harder did not live long. The photograph of her which I possess is permanently ensconced on my bookshelf. She stands out like a shining beacon in our lives. I heard from BBC4 that her valiant deed was mentioned in the House of Lords in connection with asylum seekers.

My story is also told in *I came alone* pages 312-314.

*Laura Selo*

(We met and spoke at the AJR Crystal Night service last year. Ed)

## **SIR NICHOLAS WINTON**



**The presentation of the bust of Sir Nicholas Winton to the Jewish Museum  
Rev Bernd Koschland, Vera Schaufeld (a Winton Kind), Oliver Bloom, (Sculptor)  
Mrs Ann Cowan, Chair of the Friends of the Museum**



## News from KT USA

The theme of the 2010 biannual Kindertransport Conference was 'The Kindertransport's Enduring Impact.' The topic was specifically addressed in workshops, such as intergenerational discussions, grandparents' influence on the third generation, is the KT experience a model for future rescues of children in danger.

Holding the conference in the Washington DC area gave the programme committee the advantage of the co-operation of the US Holocaust Museum and the participation of Embassy officials. The Embassies of UK, Germany and Austria provided speakers as well as workshop resource persons. Mr Scott Miller of the Holocaust Museum spoke about the fate of every passenger on the ill-fated ship *St Louis*, which he had researched. Museum staff were on hand throughout providing services, oral histories and distributing materials.

Among featured talks, was an account of a righteous Christian in Germany, Rev Cass who aided Jews in the town of Heidelberg; he was eventually arrested and sent to a hard labour camp. One evening programme was devoted to the musical heritage suppressed by the Third Reich, such Felix Medelsohn, Gustav Mahler and others.

Perhaps the most unusual presentation was that of Dr Bernd Wollschlaeger who told of his conversion to Judaism. He was born after WW2 into a German family. His father had been a tank commander and staunch Nazi. His theme was 'A German Life – Against All Odds; Change is possible.' He has lived in Israel and served in the IDF.

The British Embassy official gave a short account of the rescue to Great Britain of nearly 10,000 children. The representatives of the German and Austrian Embassies spoke about Jewish life in their countries and about teaching the Holocaust.

More than 25 persons attended the conference including 25 second generation who gave a very positive feedback. Many of the second generation volunteered to organise another conference in 2012.

*Margaret Goldberger*



## Wilfrid Israel

Reading about Wilfrid Israel in the October issue made me seek further information on the internet where I learned that he had bequeathed his valuable collation of oriental art and sculptures to Kibbutz Haderea in Israel. I already had a visit to Israel planned for December, so I arranged a visit to Haderea. We were welcomed eagerly by Ilan Behr and Elisa Dvit, who gave us photocopies of documents about him and showed us the biography by Naomi Shepherd *Wilfrid Israel, German Jewry's Secret Ambassador, 1984*. The museum at the Kibbutz was founded in 1951 and has since been extended when donations were forthcoming. There is a gallery for temporary

exhibitions and the main gallery is currently being refurbished but we were taken 'downstairs' to see Wilfrid's collection in storage – a quite amazing array of artefacts from tiny figurines to large sculptures and tapestries.

As Wilfried is a forgotten hero of the Kindertransport, the Museum is in the process of making a film to promote awareness of his achievements and tragic death. For further information contact [ruthclb@gmail.com](mailto:ruthclb@gmail.com)

*Ruth Barnett*

## **The Satchel**

I have recently seen the very moving programme on Channel 5 about Kindertransport and the plight of the children and the intervention by Sir Nicholas Winton. It has raised a question in our family concerning something that was found in my late father's loft when we were clearing it out.

We came across an old school satchel with the name "Harry Klaus Hechter" embossed in it for Bolton Grammar School, Lancashire, England. Enquiries at Bolton Grammar School (who the satchel has now been returned to) revealed that Harry was due to start there in September 1939 but never turned up.

We didn't know of the existence of the satchel until after my father died so we were unable to ask him how he had come across the satchel (my father also went to Bolton Grammar School but left in 1938). We are now wondering if poor Harry was one of the children on the final train leaving Prague with 250 children on board that was halted by the Germans and that he never actually made it to England.

We have started thinking along these lines as further enquiries to my Uncle (my late father's younger brother) revealed that my Grandparents took in several Jewish children under the resettlement scheme who had managed to escape to England. He also then went on to say that they were expecting another three but they never arrived. No one knew why.

As I understand it, the identities of the children on this last train were known and I am wondering if there is some record somewhere of whether or not our Harry Hechter was one of them.

I am in the UK so I know you may have to divert my enquiry somewhere nearer to home but any guidance you can give me would be very much appreciated. I know that Bolton Grammar School will also be interested to find out what happened to Harry if we can trace him.

*Catherine Dwyer  
Leeds*

## **Kindertransport Statue in Holland**

The KT Statue will hopefully be set up in May, around 8<sup>th</sup>, but no exact date has been fixed. It might involve an overnight stay in Holland. As a preliminary, if anyone is interested in going to Holland, it will help to register your name to Kindertransport at AJR. Once everything is fixed, details will be sent out.

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## **SEARCHES**



**Where are you?**

### **BLUMENTHAL**

I wonder if I can somehow search to confirm my father was on the Kindertransport. He passed away seven years ago and did not discuss much of his Holocaust past. There was the rumour that he was on the Kindertransport with his girlfriend. I am trying to piece together as much of his history as possible.

Vivian Elba nee Blumenthal

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### **JUNGHEIM**

I am looking for information on two young girls with the family name Jungheim who may have participated in the Kindertransport. Their given names were Erna and Marian.

The two girls were originally from Zwesten near Kassel in Germany. Has anyone a memory or record of the two girls?

Please contact Nathan Bloch [nlbloch8819@gmail.com](mailto:nlbloch8819@gmail.com)