



Kindertransport

A special interest group of

The Association of Jewish Refugees
SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE



JUBILEE HOUSE, MERRION AVENUE, STANMORE, MIDDLESEX HA7 4RL
Telephone: 020 8385 3070 Fax: 020 8385 3080 Email: kt@ajr.org.uk www.ajr.org.uk

Contact: Andrea Goodmaker at AJR,
Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore,
Middlesex HA7 4RL
Tel: 44 (0) 20 8385 3070
Fax: 44 (0) 20 8385 3080
email: andrea@ajr.org.uk

SEPTEMBER 2015

EDITOR:
Rev. Bernd Koschland
nisraf@compuchange.co.uk

Chairman:
Sir Erich Reich

Previous issues may also be viewed at:
www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm

Dear Kinder and Friends



From the Editor's Desk

This edition has a small tribute to Sir Nicholas Winton, small because there have been numerous obituaries written and nothing further could really be added. There are some items from abroad including the consecration of the Hamburg statue. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year and also *Chag Sameach*

Bernd.

Dear Fellow Kinder

Erich Reich

Yahrzeit

The word trauma comes from the Greek meaning wound. Medically it refers to an injury and the state resulting from it, such as shock. "It also can refer to psychic injury, especially one caused by emotional shock the memory of which may be either repressed and unresolved or disturbingly persistent, or a state and condition resulting from it." (Shorter Oxford Dictionary) Both conditions apply to the Shoah and its aftermath, but majorly the psychic definition. Traumas were experienced by survivors from camps, by hidden children/adults, by Kinder as well as Jews all over the world when discovering the enormity of the Shoah perhaps even during the war but certainly after it, especially when learning of the fates of parents, relatives and friends.

"Time is a physician" wrote Philo the Jewish-Hellenistic writer (1st century BCE/CE). But is it? Can one ever forget the experiences of a camp? Can one ever repress such feelings? Must one let them out of their 'emotional cage of suffering' which some have not done possibly to their own hurt? But people are people and one may not judge them for their personal reactions.

To my mind, Philo's comment however clashes with the concept of Yahrzeit. The individual does not forget his/her parents and family, however dim that memory may be – depending on the age of the individual. One could argue, that especially if one was very young, the parents never seen again after say 1938/9 are almost 'strangers.' Memories are based on photographs or some other form of recoded memory. If there is an older sibling, one can turn to a brother or sister for information about parents or family lost in the Shoah. There is also the thought that Yahrzeit is but a ritual which may have lost its significance with the passage of time. I would not agree with this.

Yahrzeit is the day for focussing as best as one can on the person being remembered. Let's say, for instance, praises and reprimands given, or perhaps some punishment trivial at the time, but still in one's memory. Can one recall the voice of say a mother, the stern rebuke of a father, the love of both of them?

When young, the past may become gilded over through one's new and settled life, but as one grows older, the gilding wears away and a feeling for, by then for long dead parents or relatives shows through. It may be just me – but I don't believe so – that somewhere along the time-line of one's life. There is a feeling emerging, is it envy? Is it sadness? When you hear what others might say for example: "Mum, can we all spend a few days with you? Or how do you make your *chollent*?"

Or, "Dad, can you come over to help fix this book-case?" There is a void that cannot be filled. However, life goes on, must go on, despite the inability to make such calls, to establish a connection that can never be again

Yahrzeit recalls what was, what might have been, a past that is an emotional memory. A light is lit, *Kaddish* is said as the ritual demands. Both are meant to strengthen one's spirit. This is especially so with the light, as light represents the soul of the dear departed of the six million and those never to be born. The brightness should help to illuminate the

darkness of the trauma and bring some healing; a dab of ointment on the wound to ease it but it may never help to heal it fully.

BK

Shalom KT Britain

I want to share with you an interesting morning which we, the "Kinder" of Israel spent with Mathew Gould, HM British Ambassador to Israel, recently. We were invited to his residence for breakfast.

Prior to this get-together, I had been invited twice to meet with the Ambassador, On the first occasion, I was asked to talk about the Kindertransport during a meeting of Social Workers, who are in charge of Kaffee Europa, I took this opportunity, to thank the official representative of the British Government, for saving 10,000 children. It was because of this decision to allow entry of the Kinder to Britain, that we have today 3rd and 4th generations: the Jewish people are continuing to grow in numbers and we were not condemned to perish, as did the million and a half Jewish youth, children and babies, during the Holocaust.

Mr. Gould was very much impressed with what I told them and I responded with a speech of appreciation, He told me that I would be invited again, The next time I was there, we sat and talked, just the two of us, for about an hour and a half. He requested to know more details about the Kindertransport.

I mentioned the decision of the British Parliament on the 23rd of November 1938, to allow Jewish child refugees into Britain from Europe. I told him about Bertha Leverton, who was 15 years old when she arrived from Munich via the Kindertransport, but that until her grand-daughter was 15, we were not part of history.

When she looked at her grand-daughter, who had reached the age when she herself fled Germany, she began to wonder where are all those who came with me and where are all the others? She decided to create a gathering leading to a mutual association of all Kinder. She wrote a reader's letter to all the English-language newspapers, inviting all "Kinder" who had come between November 1938 and August 1939 and wished to connect to a World Reunion in London in 1988. They came from all over the world! He also asked me to tell him my personal story.

He then invited all the Israeli group of "Kinder" to a breakfast meeting. The invitation was for the 12th of May and the Embassy provided transportation for all those who needed it. I had included the invitation in the Pesach Newsletter which went out to all Kinder living here, There were more than 40 Kinder in attendance at the meeting with the Ambassador. Since no one came on their own, we ended up with about 70 – 80 participants, Mr Gould

went from table to table and sat with his guests, asking the Kinder where they had stayed in England, where they were from and what was their age then.

Kurt Stern spoke about Sir Nicholas Winton and the Czech Kinder. Others took the microphone and offered words of sincere appreciation, I summed up by thanking him in the name of the Israeli Kinder, and presented him with a gift of the book by Michele Gold "Memories That Won't Go Away – a tribute to the children of the Kindertransport" The book was published in Israel in 2014 and its editor, Marian Lebor, who lives in Israel and is of our 2nd generation, was with us at the breakfast meeting

In all, it was an enjoyable and memorable day for us Kinder in Israel All the very best to all of you,

Alisa Tennenbaum, Israel

SYMBOLS, ARTEFACTS AND ACTIONS

Could you imagine Rosh Hashanah without the Shofar or apple and honey? Or *Sukkot* without the *Lulav*? One could, and yet still celebrate the Festival, but it would lose its character and its real significance; it would also be a little dull, uninteresting and somewhat characterless

Judaism uses symbols, symbolic actions and artefacts to bring our faith alive and meaningful. Which raises the question: do we need these at all in the first place? Can one be a good Jew, say without putting on *Tefillin*? Can a woman be a good Jewess without lighting Shabbat candles? The nub of the question is can Judaism be truly lived as an 'abstract' religion? To put it in another way: "I don't, do this, I don't keep that, but I have a Jewish heart," are words one often hears. Have cardiologists identified a Jewish, as distinct from non-Jewish, heart? Are these symbols or artefacts merely regarded as matters of identity, as for example ancient Judean coins which show a *Lulav* or Temple instruments'?

In light of what I have said above, let us look at the Festivals soon upon us. No table or meal is complete on Rosh Hashanah without apple and honey and other foods which are symbols of a sweet, happy, good new year ahead. These foods are symbols of hope and in their way add strength to our prayers on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with their threefold message of repentance, which involves the self (in modern jargon the selfie), prayer - our link with God and charity - our link to our fellows. All three concepts are brought to us again by the wakening sound of the *Shofar*. As an instrument for summoning troops to war (Judges 3:27), it must summon us to battle with ourselves. Yom Kippur's 'artefact' is the Kittel, the white garb, also worn on Rosh Hashanah. The white colour is the symbol of purity, of soul and spirit, to which we must strive. However it is also the clothing of the body after death, so that the Kittel represents our striving in

life also the simple attire as we stand before the Divine Judge in life on these days and death.

But to life and our threefold duties as mentioned above. The *Sukkah*, our temporary home, reflects Divine protection: "For in Sukkot I caused Israel to dwell" (Leviticus 23:43) ; it is our link with God. The seven guests (Ushpizzin, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David) whom we invite into the *Sukkah*, to link us to our fellows once again through hospitality, the true concept of charity, (from the Latin *caritas*, love esteem), our love for our fellow beings. The 4 species, *Lulav*, etc, are interpreted as being organs of the body: the *etrog* represents the heart, the willow = the mouth. The myrtle = the eyes and the *Lulav* = the spine. Thus when we shake the *Lulav*, we as individuals thank God for the harvest - Sukkot being a harvest festival, thus once again we are looking at ourselves through handling the *Lulav*.

Hear our voice, O Lord our God...and accept in mercy and favour our prayer.

BK

Miscellany

SS Manhattan

In the last edition of the Newsletter there was reference to the ship and a list of Kinder on it. Thanks to Gunter Treitel I have a complete list now of all Kinder on board -- 80 in all, 60 boys and 20 girls.

Analysis of List:

25 towns of origin – Berlin 41, Potsdam 2, Frankfurth 5, Leipzig 8, Hannover 1, Karlsruhe 4, Fürth 2, Dusseldorf 1, Bonn 1. Cologne 1, Herborn 1, Bingen 1, Nürnberg 1, Buchen 1, Augsburg 1, Stuttgart 1, Halle 1, Bechlinghausen 1, Eschwege 1, Munich 2, Cralsheim 1, Halberstadt 5, Elberfeld 1, Wiesbaden 1.

Ages: These range from 17+ years to 6+ years, 7.1.1922 to 15.1.1933. The largest age-range is 1922 to October 1929.

Memories

The last edition of the Newsletter has brought back long lost memories for me. The reference to the SS Manhattan these restored some personal contacts and brought back personal memories long forgotten. It is thrilling to make contacts again, though our ways went in so many different directions. Looking back now, what were our thoughts then: Would we remain together? What would the future hold for us? See our families again? And so much else. Finally, how many of the 80 are still around and where are they now? Do get in touch.

Bernd Koschland



KINDERTRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, INC.

Executive Committee

Melissa Hacker, President

Anita Weisbord, Vice-President

Ralph Mollerick, Office-at-Large

Karen Lindenbaum, V.P. 2nd Generation

Margaret Goldberger, Corresponding Secy

Anita Grosz, V.P. 2nd Generation

Pete Mularnik, Recording Secretary

Kim Natia-Fradin, Treasurer

Kurt Golabeger, Past President

Edward Bearett, President Emeritus

THE KINDERTRANSPORT ASSOCIATION 2015 CONFERENCE Generations Together: Our Heritage and the Future

March 2015

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to announce the 2015 Biennial KTA Conference, October 9-11, 2015 to be held at the WestIn Hotel Southfield Detroit, and the Holocaust Memorial Center Zeckman Family Campus in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

The KTA is thrilled to be working together with the Holocaust Memorial Center to create a memorable conference. The Holocaust Memorial Center is the home of the Kindertransport Quilt exhibit and the Kindertransport Association Archives, and, after breakfast on Sunday, conference attendees will be transported (It is a 15 minute drive, and shuttle transportation will be provided), to the Holocaust Memorial Center, where there will be special programming, the opportunity to tour the museum with docents, lunch, and the conference closing ceremony. Please know that there will be a post-conference performance of Mona Golabek's play, *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* at 2pm Sunday at a nearby JCC. Details –ticket price and booking info, transportation, etc. will be sent to all conference registrants as soon as they are available.

We want to let you know that this will be the last KTA Conference. Beginning in 2016, we will join the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Descendants at their annual conferences. This will provide continuity, and connect us with a larger community. While this will have many positive outcomes, it will be a change, and I will miss the intimate family atmosphere that has developed over the many years of KTA conferences. We have been gathering every other year since 1991! We do hope you will consider inviting your children and grandchildren, extended, and foster families to join you at this special conference.

Enclosed you will find a Conference Registration Form and a Hotel Room Reservation Form. Please fill in one form for each person registering.

You may pay by mailing a check with your completed forms or you may pay online via credit card or paypal. If you pay online, registration forms also need to be filled out and returned by mail or email.

A special hotel rate of \$99.00 per room is available for three days before and three days after the conference. In order to guarantee room and rate availability, your hotel reservations must be made prior to August 22, 2015.

Should you want further information, or need additional registration forms, please contact the KTA registration team at KTAConference@gmail.com or 248-536-9604. We are looking forward to seeing you at the KTA conference.

Melissa Hacker, President, KTA



Reviews

Night will fall

The Law School of Middlesex University held a commemorative event for this year's *Yom Hashoah*. The evening and panellists were introduced by the Chairman, Professor Brad Blitz, Vice-Dean of the School. This was followed the film *Night Will Fall* which left many of us emotionally drained. The silence during the film and the following panel discussion said it all.

After the film, Professor Blitz put questions to each member of the panel: Gina Turgel MBE, a survivor of Auschwitz and Belsen, Professor Kurt Barling, of the University, André Singer. Executive Producer of the film and me. The evening concluded with questions from the audience to the panel. In summary: a most memorable and thought-provoking evening. Thanks to Professor Blitz and the University.

About the film

When Allied forces liberated the Nazi concentration camps in 1944-45, their terrible discoveries were recorded by army and newsreel cameramen, revealing for the first time the full horror of what had happened. Making use of British, Soviet and American footage, the Ministry of Information's Sidney Bernstein (later founder of Granada Television) aimed to create a documentary that would provide lasting, undeniable evidence of the Nazis' unspeakable crimes. He commissioned a wealth of British talent, including editor Stewart McAllister, writer and future cabinet minister Richard Crossman – and, as treatment advisor, his friend Alfred Hitchcock. Yet, despite initial support from the British and US Governments, the film was shelved, and only now, 70 years on, has it been restored and completed by Imperial War Museums. This eloquent, lucid documentary by André Singer tells the extraordinary story of the filming of the camps and the fate of Bernstein's project, using original archive footage and eye-witness.

BK

QUAKERS

[This is part of a letter regarding Kindertransport and Quakers; attached to the original is an in depth study – a dissertation – by Dr Kurer on the Quakers and KT Due to pressure f space. It is intended to publish it in parts in future editions. Editor]

I am a long standing member of AJR having been born in Vienna in 1931.

My family and I were saved by the Quakers, coming to Manchester, England in June 1938.

In addition to being saved by the Quakers, they offered my parents that they would pay for my brother and me to have two free years at Quaker boarding schools, an offer my parents accepted. After the two years at Quaker Boarding Schools my father could afford to leave us at Quaker Boarding Schools and we had all our school education from 7 to 18 at Quaker Boarding Schools

Peter Kurer

Sir Nicholas Winton

It was a very sad moment when picking up The Times on 2nd July and subsequent media to learn of the passing of Sir Nicholas, an outstanding hero of our times. Our sympathies go to his family in particular, and to the 'Winton Kinder'. The Rabbis stated that one who saves a life saves a whole world. He saved 669 worlds. May his memory be blessed and remembered for all time.



LETTERS

Dear Editor

On the last page of your supplement (KT Newsletter p.12- editor) for April you wrote about Butlin's Camp "It is used as a kind of clearing station for German and Austrian and non-Aryan refugee children....."

Are you and unfortunately many refugees still so brainwashed as to still use the term ARISCH when talking or writing about non-Jews just as the Nazis. You should know better.

Ernest G Kolman

(The above reference is to the article Find my past)

Dear Bernd

I was much interested by the picture of the SS Manhattan on page 3 of the April 2015 issue of Kindertransport, and also by your accompanying text on pages 2 to 5 of that issue. I came to England on the Manhattan in 1939 with a Kindertransport; having boarded the ship at Hamburg on 21 March we reached Southampton on 24 March. The latter date is that given in the letter from the Southampton Port Health Authority which is reproduced on page 5 of your April issue. So it seemed likely to me that my name would be on the passenger list to which you refer on page 2 of that issue and I am grateful to you for having confirmed that this is indeed the case. I travelled together with my brother Kurt

Treitel, whose name is also given on that list. Unlike some Kinder, we travelled in the relative luxury of a comfortable two-berth cabin which we had to ourselves. As the Manhattan then provided a liner service between Hamburg and New York, the spaces made available to Kinder at Hamburg would probably have been filled up by other passengers who joined the ship at intermediate ports, such as Le Havre and Southampton, before she crossed the Atlantic.

On my arrival in London (at Waterloo Station), there was some confusion about my sponsorship. This was resolved the next day when I had the good fortune of being received at the "Sainsbury Home", a hostel in Putney for refugee children which owed its existence to the kindness and generosity of the Sainsbury family. To this day, I and some of the other children accommodated there, remain gratefully in touch with that family, The reference on page 4 of your April 2015 issue to "an outbreak of measles" at Lowestoft reminds me of the fact that on 16 April 1939 I came down with "German Measles" (or rubella) and was carried off to an isolation hospital in Tooting. I do not know what the incubation period is for this disease. Perhaps I owe my life to the fact that the medical examinations to which you refer on pages 2 and 4 were none too thorough.

With best wishes.

Guenter Treitel

Dear Editor

On Sunday, 19th April, I visited the Jewish Museum in Camden Town in order to hear a presentation of a most remarkable book on the subject of the Kindertransport written by Michele Gold, who lives in California. It is entitled Memories that won't go away. Michele was moved to write the book after listening to her mother speak to her for the first time about her experiences as a Kindertransportee.

Of the many books on this topic that I have read, this one has made the biggest impact because it is illustrated. An artist friend of Michele's created train carriages into the windows of which Michele inserted pictures of the children whose stories are related in the book. Looking at these lovely faces one is struck by the powerful fact that had it not been for the Kindertransports these children would have ended up in the Gas Chambers. Many of these children went on to accomplish great things of benefit to society; they married and had children and grandchildren.

The book also contains the adventures of some of the parents. Many, tragically perished. Many managed to get into France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, only to be trapped once again. Some got to Portugal, some crossed into Switzerland, only to be turned back. One couple got to Russia and via the Trans-Siberian railway to Vladivostok and thence to Shanghai. The book offers a rich tapestry of human experience during a tragic time in Jewish History. The book is also visually most attractive. I can strongly recommend it. I saw copies on sale at the Jewish Museum.

Bronia Snow

Dear Editor

Please, after 2 years of celebrating the Kinder transport, could we hear something about the generosity of the volunteers, who made it possible, by taking refugee children into their own homes? (Or maybe paying for some to go to boarding schools or be looked after in hostels) Perhaps there are statues of them, opening their doors to children? I remember there was a "Thank You Britain" Fund, not especially about the "Kinder". No doubt many "Kinder" dealt with this individually, although some may have arrived too traumatised to remember the early days in this country? I did not come with the Children's transport myself but my younger brother, now in Australia, did. By 1938/9 most adults in our family were. Unemployed or their business boycotted(and in November 38 destroyed) Children had been expelled from school, families evicted from their flats (our parents and my younger brother "camped" in a flat with others for 3 years)Fathers were or had been in Concentration Camp. My Brother felt guilty having left. He was 13. When I had left home 3years earlier, I had not felt this bad. And I did not get to England until December 1938. So what could we do to show our appreciation at least to the families? Perhaps this has been done on behalf of all the Kinder, but not with enough publicity?

Bettina Cohn

It would be interesting to receive items about our host families. Please send some in for the next edition.

Editor

Hamburg Monument

In May I participated in the unveiling of the 'Kindertransport Monument' in Hamburg. To be honest I did not appreciate that over one thousand 'Kinder' either lived in or came through Hamburg on their way to freedom in the United Kingdom. What of course was also very impressive, apart from Frank Meisler's wonderful monument itself, were the German dignitaries who attended. They included the German vice-President of the Bundestag Petra Pau, the Lord Mayor of Hamburg Mr Olaf Scholz and the Chief of Police. Among the many other people there were the Chief Rabbi of Hamburg, members of the AJR and of course a number of 'Kinder'.

Several speeches were made but the lasting impression I personally took away is that most of the current German generation care what their forefathers did!!

Erich



Meisler Monuments

On 6th May 2015 Frank Meisler's most recent monument of the Kindertransport was unveiled in Hamburg. This brings the total to six of KT monuments: Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Gdansk, The Hook and Liverpool Street station.

REMINDER

Next KT Lunch

In light of the death of Sir Nicholas Winton, it is poignant that his daughter Barbara will be the guest speaker at the lunch on 9th September at the Sternberg Centre. Please make every effort to attend.

ANDREA

Andrea and I have produced 20 Newsletters since early 2009, this edition being the 20th. None of them would have appeared to their final standard (a good one we both hope) without Andrea's hard work and enthusiasm. Her skills in setting out the Newsletters, unscrambling my corrections or addition and keeping me in order are all highly appreciated. Thank you for being such a wonderful and cheerful co-editor. This is but one

area of her tremendous work in Kindertransport matters. Her help with lunches were invaluable, from arranging speakers to collecting the money and generally organising. She has also been a focal point in dealing with KT queries passed onto me.

Apart from her KT work she has been an active member of the staff of AJR for 24 years in a variety of areas.

Andrea, once again many, many thanks for all the help and support you have given. I wish you every happiness for the future in good health.

Bernd Koschland.

Search

Information sought about the Croydon Hostel Please contact

abrahamascher@googlemail.com

Views expressed in the Kindertransport Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Kindertransport Special Interest Group or of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.