



Kindertransport Newsletter

A special interest group of the Association of Jewish Refugees

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

Dear Kinder and Friends,

70th Reunion of Kindertransport to be held Sunday 23rd November 2008 at JFS School, Kenton, Middlesex, from 9.30am (registration) 10.30. start, festive lunch 1pm until 6pm, followed by a sandwich supper. Klezmer concert from 7pm until 8.30pm. As the premises are booked until 10pm you are welcome to stay, chat, as long as you like. We may be old, but after all people go to events until late sometimes, without being told its bedtime. Good car parking in school.

On Thursday the 20th November and Monday 24th November special outings will be arranged for members from abroad and out of town. This will enable our get together to span more than one day for those who wish it.

Now to numbers of attendees. The response was above anything expected. I am an optimistic person, but even I am amazed. I know it is early days still, but the actual count can only be made, when firm bookings, with payment are received. (If in difficulty with payments, contact me in confidence).

The cost will be £70.00. per person which will include the Sunday with concert (kindly paid for by Jonathan Faith and family in honour of his father Sigi's 80th birthday (bis 120). There will also be a brochure.

Details of Bed and Breakfast accommodation are available on request.

I am no mathematician, but even I can work out that the interest you lose in the bank on £70.00. by paying early, is very little, so kindly pay as soon as possible by cheque made out to AJR Charitable Trust and your name will go on the list. Mark the envelope KT Reunion and send to AJR Head Office in Stanmore, not to me. Thank you.

I may during the next few months include updates/news in the *AJR Journal*, so please look out for them.

I am very sorry to report that Hermann has resigned the Chairmanship of KT and on behalf of all of us I say thank you (inadequate words) for all his hard work and input. He is still carrying on with the forms received for the project and will give a report about it at the Reunion. We are still best of friends and the project (with lots of help from Ronald Channing, to whom we are indebted) has not been easy. In the next Newsletter please look out for Hermann's letter of explanation. Erich Reich (still busy running his own business, has kindly taken over. It was Erich (one of our youngest Kinder) who so kindly provided me with an office about 18 years ago when I had nowhere to go. My memory is not what it was, but some things are unforgettable.

I will be in Switzerland from 7 March for my great-grandson's barmitzva for one week, and then, as usual in Israel during Pesach. So no phone calls during that time please. We should always meet on joyous occasions.

Our monthly lunches are always well attended and the food, company and speakers, first class, so don't miss out. Thank you Susie and team.

Inge (and many other Israeli's) participated in a 3 days sponsored walk to collect funds for Alzheimer research. It's a dreaded disease, feared by all, for which there is no cure as yet. With life expectancy much longer now, more are prone to it. The busier we are keeping ourselves, physically and mentally, the better. So, although it will be an effort for us all to attend, it will do us good. It's a great pity that we could not find a venue to hold a greater number (we really tried). A lot of 2nd generation kinder are disappointed (including mine). Medical assistance (hopefully not needed) will stand by. Toilet facilities including disabled, are easily accessible.

Many thanks for the lovely cards, letters and phone calls I received for my 85th birthday. It is so kind of all my good friends to wish me well. If I get to know of your special dates I will reciprocate. Mazeltov to Sigi Faith on your 80th birthday. A mere youngster and I express all our thanks to his son Jonathan and family who, in honour of his father's special birthday is treating all of us to the Klezmer concert for the Reunion.

We would like to produce a separate small prayer booklet in Hebrew and English to go into our welcome pack. Also needed is a sponsor (or some sharing the cost) of a kippah with logo, for the service to be held. I'll think of something for us girls. When you write to me or phone, please mention your phone number. I can only reply by phone (I don't mind if it's in Australia or USA and spend a lot of time trying to find it. Thank you for your nice card Luz Noak. I could not find a number for you. A lady, Nancy Esterson, tel: 020 8740 4911, left a message about hostels. If the name rings a bell, do phone her.

Mazeltov to Judy Benton who will miss our Reunion for the happy reason of a granddaughter's wedding in the USA. Thank you Paul Kohn (Israel) for your good wishes.

Thanks for letter and I return greetings to Gitta Rossy Zalmons in South Africa. Also love from Inge. I do remember the time we spent together with Alice Boddy in San Francisco.

Many thanks for greetings from Charles Loeb, whom I met several years ago on my tour to South Africa. I still treasure the memory and the wonderful photo album of that tour. The Grand Mason President and all the members were most impressive, sometimes I can't believe all these things I experienced.

The AJR arranged two special events this January, very moving was the address given by Rabbi Mariner at Belsize Park Synagogue for Holocaust Memorial Day. The synagogue was full for the moving service and AJR ladies provided refreshment afterwards. A few days later Sir Nicholas Winton, not far off a century, spoke after a new film about him was presented in the Swiss Cottage Theatre. What a wonderful modest man, looked up to as a father figure by his Czech Kinder. Esther Rantzen was also there and so friendly, promising to participate in our Reunion in November.

In the next Newsletter I'll be able to give you final details of numbers of participants and programme etc. An outing is planned for Saturday (after Shabbat) to

view the new statue at Liverpool Street Station, after which there will be a service held at Bevis Marks Synagogue (light refreshments provided).

If any of you would like to arrange get togethers yourselves, we will be pleased to publish details with your telephone number in the next Newsletter. (Synagogue or AJR groups might be glad to help you) but you will have to organise it.

The earlier you send your cheque, the quicker we will be able to put you on the list.

Be well, have a happy Purim and drink a *lechaim* to the success of our Reunion. Also a good Pesach and peace in *Eretz Yisrael*.

Best wishes from our committee and Andrea.

Bertha

Dear Kinder,

We were very upset when Herman decided to resign as Chairman of the Kindertransport Committee. He was an extremely efficient, hardworking and dedicated Chairman.. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on all our behalve's for his wonderful work. At the same time we wish Herman all the very best for the future and hope there will be ample opportunities to meet up with him and hear a few of his unique jokes.

You now have me as Chairman. For those who know nothing about me and wondering who I am. Here is a short synopsis.

Born in Vienna 1935 and deported with my parents and two older brothers to Zbonzyn. I arrived in London on the Warsawa from Gdynia on 29th August 1939. I then lived in Dorking Surrey for 8 years with a non Jewish refugee family from Sudetenland.

Made Aliya to Israel in 1949 and lived on Kibbutz before joining the army and participating in the 1956 War as paratrooper. I returned to London with the sudden death of one of my brothers.

One of my first functions as Chairman is to oversee the special 70th anniversary reunion celebrating the decision by the British Parlaiment on 21st November 1938 to allow up to 10000 children entry into the United Kingdom. Although not everything has been finalised we are planning a number of events

a) Thursday 20th November Morning: Visit to the House of Lords to see the plaque

Afternoon: The Imperial War Museum Visit and talk on the collection of Holocaust material.

b) Saturday 22 November (After Shabbat) Visit the Liverpool St. Station Monument and reception at the Bevis Marks Synagogue

c) Sunday 23 November Main Function at the Jewish Free School in North London

Full details for all these events will be available in the next News Letter.

A couple weeks ago I was in Berlin to give a talk to students from the University. We also met the deputy Mayor who I understand is giving her support for the Kinder Transport Monument to be erected at the Frederich Bahnoff at the end of November this year

We all look forward to meeting up in November.



LETTERS

Dear Editor – Please convey to everyone involved how much I appreciate the ‘new look’ Kindertransport Newsletter. It has always been an excellent read and now it has an attractive new front with the silhouette of the Kindersculpture.

Ruth Barnett

Dear Editor – Letter dated 3 September 2007. You can see from the date “war” was declared on this day in 1939! I remember it so clearly – I’d only been in England for about 6-7 weeks. I arrived on the 17/18 July 1939 and lived in Worthing. We all listened to the radio around 11 a.m. and heard the news! The curtains/drapes were drawn immediately, and of course there were sirens!!!

Of course I shall want to purchase any Journals which will be printed for both Reunions (England and the USA) when available.

*E Frohlich
Australia*

Dear Editor – I am writing a book about stitching during World War II, which is to be published in the Spring of 2009. The first chapter tells of the Kindertransport and the stitched items of clothing, toys and linen which Kindertransport children brought with them – they are such poignant reminders of family and homeland, the love of those who provided them, and the hands of loved ones who stitched them.

If possible, I would like to make contact with Ester Friedman – who returned to her home after the war, looking for her father and mother. Sadly, they were no longer

alive, but her mother had left with a neighbour a tapestry which she had been stitching before being parted from Ester and had finished after Ester had been taken to England.

An image of this tapestry would be a wonderful addition to the book, and I would be very grateful; if you are reading this, Ester Friedman, to get in touch with Suzy Griffith: 'Eias' Wharf Road, St. Ives, Cornwall TR26 1LP.

*Suzy Griffin
Cornwall*

Dear Editor – I must thank you over and over again for the untiresome precious work you are fulfilling on behalf of all of us, the Kinder of so long ago and yet still clinging on to you and feeling so good to have somebody that's keeping up our remembrance and memories over all these years.

Maybe you faintly remember me from our Reunion in 1999. I did feel so much "at home" among you all. I do admit that I'm rather an *Einzelgänger* in my way. I grew up in Kempten-Allgäu and we were only six Jewish children and never belonged to a real community. Fortunately, all six of us managed to escape. I was the only one who came to England with a Kindertransport (Munich).

I do hope to be able to attend the Reunion and wish you the very best for your unceasing great work and much success for your preparations. I Assure you of my full admiration!

*Traudi Kuppe-Loew
Stuttgart*

Dear Editor – In the winter of 1938/39 I was an eight-year old pupil at Oliver Goldsmith Junior School in the Kingsbury Road, London NW9. Next to the school was the Holy Innocents Church and vicarage. I remember one day about a dozen anew boys and girls joined the school and were housed in the makeshift "orphanage" at the vicarage.

Perhaps because I was one of very few Jewish children, I was invited to go over and play with what I now believe to be Kindertransport children. I remember what appeared to me to be their strange clothing, but cannot recall how we managed to communicate – but we did! They remained with us for a few weeks only before they went away, presumably to "foster" parents.

I was friendly with a lovely girl called Lotte, and a boy, whose surname comes to mind – Julius Katz (a source of amusement to my classmates!) He was a little older than I – tall, with blonde hair. I wonder if either of them, or any of their group, are members of the KT /AJR? It would be great to make contact again.

*Nancy Esterson
93 Beechwood Grove
London W3 7HY
Tel: 020 8740 4911*

Dear Editor – I has been many a year since I met you and conversed with you at one of the earliest gatherings of the Kindertransport Reunion at that time in the Catskill Mountains in New York.

Since I have been an avid reader and subscriber of the AJR for many years, now that the Kindertransport has merged or is part of the AJR, I am returning my completed application thereby letting you know that I am well and able to travel (November 2008).

Although I came on my own as a 14 year old boy with a group of other boys and girls in November 1938, one day before the Kristallnacht, in fact, I arrived in London, Liverpool Street Station on 8 November 1938, one day before it all started, with a *Schueler Visum*, and was picked up by my uncle who sponsored me to continue schooling in Britain, nevertheless within days I ended up at Bloomsbury House, and shortly after that was put on a train to Hove, Sussex, where I became a student of Beaconsfield College, a Preparatory School, where I together with other boys and girls (they ended up in Mansfield College around the corner in Hove from the school I attended. They came over from Berlin and elsewhere. Some had families already in Britain. Apparently, as I recall Bloomsbury House, together with the British Board of Deputies helped us financially etc. until the war broke out and we were all thrown out of school because Hove was on the English Channel Coast. Still being so called “enemy aliens” until we were all classified as Refugees of Nazi oppression by the various Tribunals. I then joined my uncle in London, and survived the Blitz.

I noticed with interest in your Newsletter, that I read very enthusiastically every time you publish, the name of Bernd Koschland. Is he related, or possibly the son of Dr Koschland who was my teacher in Berlin, in *der juedischen knaben volksschule, Berlin, Kaiserstrasse 8-10*? Dr Reschke was the Director of that school, Dr Koschland’s signature appears on my *entlassungs zeugnis 1938*.

I went through the Blitz, became an ARP Warden, and also joined the Home Guard. In between all of that I apprenticed in the fur business and then volunteered and served with the Jewish Brigade Group for three years when the Brigade was formed in 1944 in Great Britain, after the Prime Minister Winston Churchill then approved the forming together with the three Palestine Regiments who were then stationed training for combat in Sarafen, in the desert, when all of us including those who volunteered for the Brigade in Britain (there were approximately 60-80 of us) when, after we had our basic six weeks training were all shipped to Italy where the Jewish Brigade became part of the eighth Army and we all saw combat with the Brigade and when the war ended, we became part of the Occupation Force in Holland, Belgium, Austria and into Germany. The Brigade was disbanded in 1946 and since I volunteered from England was sent together with the others back to Britain where I then became part of the Interpreter Pool because of my knowledge of German. In 1947 I was discharged, went back into the fur business and in 1948 emigrated to the USA.

*Fred (Manfred) Naftalie
Florida, USA*

Dear Editor – *Unseen Voices*, a silent film made by young people to bring awareness of Kindertransport. Created in partnership with Brent Council for the Holocaust Memorial Day, *Unseen Voices* is an interdisciplinary creative project aiming to understand the importance of remembrance, commemoration, peacekeeping and human rights.

Unseen Voices is a creative participatory project, created, designed and led by composer Sergio Lopez-Figueroa in collaboration with a group of 14 secondary music students from Preston Manor High School in Brent, London. During two intensive

weeks Sergio has led them in the making of a new digital silent film by researching, re-editing film footage, photographs and finally compose a new live soundtrack.

The short film *Unseen voices* is a tribute to remember Holocaust children victims and the Kinder survivors who rebuilt their lives. Archive films of post WW2 as well as pictures from the 50th reunion were used thanks to the permission given by AJR. Special thanks to Bertha Leverton who provided support needed to obtain the materials at very short notice and to Marion Marston for allowing us to use her birthday party home film.

The music score is based on a theme by Holocaust victim and blind composer, Hans Neumeyer. His daughter was sent to the UK as a child refugee. The score for two recorders was in fact a music letter sent by the composer to both brother and sister, living then with a foster family in Cambridge. Hans Neumeyer died in Terezin in 1944.

As part of *Unseen Voices* students visited the Imperial War Museum, had a session looking at material from Brent Archives and also an educational talk through the Anne Frank Trust. The whole project is being recorded and made into a DVD which will form an educational pack that will be sent to Brent's 100 schools.

We would like to develop the project further and would like to request an open call to all Kinder. It would be helpful if anyone could put us in the right direction to obtain home movies of pre-war or post-war suitable for the making of a longer similar project. Also, if anyone can help us to establish contact with Ruth, Hans Neumeyer's daughter born in Dachau on the 17.9.1923 will be much appreciated.

www.unseenvoices.org is a new website with more details and content about the project to be launched in late April 2008.

Sergio Lopez Figueroa
www.sergiolopezfigueroa.com
info@sergiolopezfigueroa.com

SEARCH NOTICES

Ilse Manasse (or Mannasse) who came from Vienna around April/May 1939, if no longer alive, I would like to contact her next of kin. Please contact Eli Fachler Tel: UK 07778 665 650 Israel 077 403 0015 Fax 077 403 0016. email: eli.fach@gmail.com.

Did you come to Ormskirk, West Lancashire or to Chester, Cheshire?

I work with a children's story-telling group called *Inspira Storytheatreco* and I am hoping to research and write a fictional story based on meetings and friendships between evacuee children and kinder children. Although the final story will be an imagined one, I would like it to be as real and close to the truth as possible.

Many children were evacuated from Liverpool to the towns of Ormskirk. West Lancashire and to Chester in Cheshire, and I would very much like to know if any Kinder children also came to these towns and if they have any memories or experiences that they might be able to share with me.

Juliet Wooldridge – writer for *Inspira Storytheatreco*, 7 Whipcord Lane, Chester, CH1 4DH.

Tel: 01244 375937 email: julietwooldridge@yahoo.co.uk.

The Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire, is creating a new exhibition aimed at primary school age children based on the experiences of the Kindertransportees. The first room of *The Journey* is a pre-war German living room, and in order to recreate this scene, we are looking to source the following items/artefacts, and would be grateful to receive any such donations:-

- A pre-war Menorah/Chanukiah
- Any pre-war German children's toys
- Other contemporaneous decorative articles (pictures, ornaments, crockery etc) which would help us to create the tableau
- Original suitcases used by Kindertransportees which will be used as part of the main exhibition
- Exercise books or school records

Should you have any such items, and wish to donate them for the benefit of Holocaust education in the UK, please contact Mike Caro on **01623 836627** or at **mike.caro@bethshalom.com**

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

HOLOCAUST CENTRE

The author of the poem in the last Newsletter was Margo Reich.

Henry Wuga writes to say his appeal is going very well and has reached over £11,000 so far. Cheques to WUGA CHARITIES A/C please Tel: 0141 638 2535 email wuga@talktalk.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12 March 2008, 16.00-17.30, Gustave Tuck Theatre, Institute of Jewish Studies, University College London, (UCL Main Entrance, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT) Book Launch: 'Kindertransport, Before and After: Sixty Poems 1980-2007 by Lotte Kramer, edited with an introduction by Sybil Oldfield', published by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex

The event will be chaired by Professor Christian Wiese, Director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, and introduced by the editor, Sybil Oldfield, Reader in English Literature at the University of Sussex. There will be an opportunity to meet the author, Lotte Kramer, who came to England as a schoolgirl at the age of fifteen, accompanied by her teacher and four fellow pupils.

These poems were praised as "sensitive and accessible" in a recent review by Gerda Mayer in the AJR Journal . Lotte Kramer did not start writing until quite late in life, but her strongest poems recall the Germany of her childhood, evoking memories that will strike a chord with other refugees and reach out to a new generation of readers.

The **Kinder Statue** by Flor Kent will be unveiled in Vienna at the Bahnhof on Friday a.m. the 14th March 2008. For particulars telephone 020 8944 5350.

A double Mazeltov to Mia and Emil Lowenstein on the marriage of their grandson in Israel and the birth of a great-grandson in London.

Anniversary

Congratulations to Helen and Benno Gocman on the occasion of their 55th Wedding Anniversary on 15 March.

Obituaries

Samuel. Condolences to Helga on the death of her husband Jack November 2007 who was a wonderful entertainer and storyteller, who will be greatly missed by his many friends.

Spring. Condolences to Esther and her family on the passing of her wonderful mother, sister of Fred Durst (Munich) and dear school friend of Bertha, of Ilse Rosenduft, née Durst. I will never forget your warm selfless personality, your open home in Dadbrook Grove, your wedding on your 21st birthday to Gus, who had to get permission (he was not quite 21), from the Refugee Committee who were Guardians. I still have the photo. No grand do's like today. You were the only friend I kept up with during my lonely 5 years in Yorkshire. It was you who introduced me to the AJR 50 years later when I started the Reunion in 1988. So many memories. *Bertha*

On Thursday 1 May 2008 starting promptly at 8:00pm, Pinner Synagogue will once again host an evening remembering the Holocaust. This year we will recall in particular the 70th Anniversary of the Kindertransports and we are fortunate to have two former 'Kinder' as our guest speakers, Ms Susi Bechhofer and Mr Hermann Hirschberger.

The theme of the evening will be *Reflect and Act*. Our thinking is that the audience present on the night will hear direct from survivors what happened seventy years ago and will themselves therefore be able to *reflect* on why so many people stood by idly, and on how each of us can *act* and do something to make a difference today.

The evening will start with a short memorial service, then readings by Pinner youth, to be followed by the formal addresses and a panel discussion.

AJR members are most cordially invited to attend this event and encouraged to bring their friends and members of their families, including their teenage grandchildren. A number of local dignitaries and European Ambassadors will also join us. Refreshments will be served at 10.00pm. There are no tickets and the evening is free.

Venue: Pinner Synagogue, 1 Cecil Park, Pinner.



Photo Sent in by Edith Rothchild of Philantrophien School, Frankfurt 1938/39

A Kindertransport commemoration in Berlin

I left Berlin on 1 December 1938, on the first transport to leave Berlin, the director of the Jewish Boys' Orphanage, Pankow, having nominated me together with seven others of his charges. It was therefore strange, not to say uncanny, to be phoned early in November, to be invited to spend a couple of days in Berlin to help two schools commemorate the departure of that same Kindertransport.

The schools involved were the Droste-Hülshoff-Schule (Gymnasium) in Zehlendorf and the Alice Salomon Fachhochschule in Hellersdorf – located in two very different and far flung parts of the city. The Gymnasium celebrated its 100th anniversary two years ago; it has about 820 students, and is particularly strong in music, in that some 350 of its pupils specialise in that subject. To mark the departure of the first Kindertransport the school had arranged a showing of the German version of *Into the*

Arms of Strangers, and thanks to a grant from a charitable Trust the organiser, Frau Lisa Schäfer, had been able to invite me to talk to the students immediately after the film show. She had also invited Frau Ruth Recknagel, retired judge of the Kammergericht, whose mother had taken part in the Rosenstrasse Aktion in 1942. (Some 150 non-Jewish women had staged a demonstration outside the building in which their Jewish husbands had been imprisoned prior to deportation – a public demonstration that proved to be highly successful in that it led to the release of the men.)

I know that Bertha and Hermann talk to German students quite frequently, but I felt ambivalent about accepting the invitation. Go back to Berlin on more or less the same day on which I had left the city in dire circumstances 69 years ago? Yet I felt unable to refuse, and so I experienced two very hectic days in Berlin early in December.

And so it was that I watched the film again in the company of some 200 of the more senior students, who sat through the two hours silently and in rapt attention. (There are two quite incidental shots of me in the film – one in Dovercourt Camp and the other in the German train after crossing the Dutch border.) Having talked briefly about my own experience, I was subjected to an hour of perceptive, empathetic and intelligent questions from boys and girls alike. I felt that my visit had been well worthwhile, for the young people evidently felt that my history was also part of *theirs*, and they were eager to know how it had really been.

The next day I once again crossed Berlin by U-Bahn in the company Mrs Schäfer, in order to go through the same procedure in the Alice Salomon Fachhochschule. This time the event took place in the evening and the 40-odd students were much older studying for their MA in the Social Sciences or in Sociology. The question and answer session lasted the best part of 2 hours, reflecting the students' intense interest in events in which their grandparents' generation had been so disastrously involved. By the time we left it was too late for an evening meal and I arrived at my friend's house in Steglitz hungry and exhausted. There wasn't time to see the giant Minorah near the Brandenburger Tor.

Although the visit was physically and emotionally exhausting I feel that it was eminently worthwhile. What's more, it gave me an intimate knowledge of the U- and S-Bahn network, which is a lot cheaper than London transport!

Leslie Baruch Brent

Two P's – or, Purim and Pesach

Within the period of a month, we have two Festivals; Purim, called a minor Festival and Pesach, a major Festival, or Chag. They came into being many centuries apart; yet, is there a connection between the two?

When on 13th Nisan Mordechai heard of Haman's decree against the Jews of Persia and its empire, he requested Esther to speak to the king. She requested a three day fast, which, according to the Midrash, Mordechai was loathe to proclaim, as it would coincide with Pesach when fasting is forbidden. Esther chided him with: "If there is no Israel, what is the point of Festivals? If there is no Israel there would not be a Torah. It is better to abrogate one Mitzvah; perhaps Heaven will have mercy on us." There have been instances since where conditions were such that abrogation was insisted on. For instance, Rav Israel Salanter (founder of the Mussar movement) instructed people to eat on Yom Kippur during the cholera epidemic of 1848. On the other hand, there are

instances where people in the concentration camps did their level best to observe Mitzvot, such as making some form of Matzah for Pesach.

Esther's visit to the king led to the eventual downfall of Haman and the survival of the Jews. Thus we rejoice on Purim at the downfall of the enemy and the negation of his plans. Likewise with regard to Pesach, we see the downfall of Pharaoh through the 10 plagues and the subsequent destruction of the Egyptian hosts at the Red Sea.

There is then a similarity of message from both Festivals. The underlying motive of Haman was that the Jews are different because of their own laws and do not observe the laws of the land. How similar to the Shoah; it was not what Jews did, but what they were; genocide is the outcome of being different, of being what a person is born into – Jew, Roma, a different faith or tribe. With the king's permission and his help, as well as with Divine assistance (only hinted at in the book) the Jews were able to fight off the enemy and thus survive.

Pesach, the Festival of our Freedom came with Divine help to overcome the slavery imposed on Israel and so with G-d on Israel's side, the enemy were destroyed and Israel sang their song of deliverance (Exodus, chapter 15).

The conjoint themes of Purim and Pesach go further. In distress, we must have faith that somehow G-d will look on our troubles and hear the prayers asking for deliverance and salvation. But in addition there must be our own input. In Egypt, the Israelites had to show their faith by smearing on the doorpost the blood of the lamb, sacred to the Egyptians. Those that did not perished. In Persia, Mordechai, Esther and the Jews had to help themselves to survive, though, as stated, there was help from G-d. Miracles do not happen without human input, of whatever nature it is. Survival as Jews requires us to cleave to our Faith, by fulfilling the Mitzvot, the Divine commands. If we abrogate them, other than in dire emergency, we face assimilation and ultimate disappearance.

Bernd Koschland

See Sifrei d'agadta on Esther p.70; PdeRE 50; also Ginzberg Legends, Vol.4 423, vol 6 p 471, note 141; Days of Awe p.199, EJ vol. 11 p.279.



Table set for the beginning of the Passover Seder, including Passover Seder Plate (front center), bowl of salt water, three *shmurah matzot* (rear center), and bottles of kosher wine. A Hebrew language Haggadah sits beside each place setting.