

Volunteer Newsletter



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Date for your Diary

Thursday December 14
12.30-2.30

Next Volunteers
Training

This will be a joint session with the volunteers of the Holocaust Survivors Centre, at their Centre in Hendon.

We have had a very busy Summer

In July the Volunteers Thank You Tea moved venues. We held a lovely tea at Wizo House just around the corner from Baker Street. Wizo's in-house caterers produced a delicious cream tea and Anna May Silver provided a musical "back drop" to the afternoon. The Chairman of the AJR Andrew Kaufman thanked all of AJR's volunteers for the amazing contribution they make to the lives of our members. Unfortunately the turn out was not as good as we had hoped, so please next year try and join us if you can. All those who came enjoyed the opportunity of meeting other volunteers as well members of the AJR staff. See picture from

the tea.

Over the Summer I have had various students joining me as part of their Work Experience Placements. The interviews in this issue were all written by them.

I have also attended volunteer workshops at King Solomon School in Ilford and Immanuel College in Bushey to encourage

younger people to volunteer.

I hope you enjoy the articles in this edition and I look forward to seeing or speaking to many of you soon. Thanks again for all you do.

Carol Hart



**Welcome and thanks to our new volunteers,
Jessica Unterhalter, Sandra Uri, Michal Kaufman, Sabina
Amiga, Natalie Hildebrand, Sarah Faraday, Karl Bettelheim,
Branka Danon and Janes Fisher.**

RUTH FINESTONE AJR SOCIAL WORKER

Ruth Finestone has been a Social Worker for AJR for 25 years. Both Ruth's parents were refugees who moved to Manchester in 1939. Ruth's mother came from Vienna. Ruth's father came to Manchester from Germany where he met his wife (Ruth's mother) in a club for refugees. Ruth's father subsequently returned to Germany as a translator and had to change his name.

In 1964 Ruth was in Israel on a 'Shnat Sherut' programme. Whilst on kibbutz she met her future husband, Eric. They married on the kibbutz the following March and forty-one years later they are still happily married.

After raising her family, and on her mother's advice, she joined the AJR as a volunteer. Ruth became a home-help volunteer. She was then employed by the AJR in the Residential Homes department. Subsequently, she worked in the Day

Centre. She then joined the Social Services Department and has been working as a Social Worker ever since.

Ruth's role as part of the Social Work Team involves, referrals, visiting clients, helping them to obtain Benefits to which they are entitled, hospital visiting, helping them to adjust when going into residential care or respite care. Ruth also visits clients who require meals-on-wheels to assess if they are able to manage to heat the AJR's delicious frozen meals. She also arranges a Guest Day for members to encourage them to visit the AJR Centre and takes them to Group meetings. Ruth has a great rapport with her clients and takes them shopping (if they are unable to shop because they need a wheelchair), out for lunch if they live too far away to attend any of the meetings especially arranged for AJR's members. Ruth also attends assessment meetings when requested by Hospital Social Workers/Homes to make sure that her clients are getting the best care and everything they are entitled

to.

Along with Susanne Green, the Northern Regional Group coordinator, she organises the annual Northern holiday to St Annes near Blackpool, for members who live in the North. Ruth would like the holidays to be twice a year due to their success. The holiday is arranged to bring people together and to entertain them. During the holiday Ruth and Susanne organise discussions, lunches, quizzes, board and card games, outings to the Lake District, to the fudge factory, optional synagogue services, as well as an opportunity to meet members from some of the northern regional groups.

Ruth has found that the holiday is very successful as the members enjoy being in each others company.

Recently Ruth has also been involved in taking the trips to Eastbourne and Bournemouth with Carol Rossen.

In Ruth's free time, when she's not looking after her 9 grandchildren, she enjoys walking with her daughter, going on holiday and playing bowls.



LUDWIG SPIRO HON PRESIDENT AJR

Mr Ludwig Spiro has had the most remarkable. He was born near Luxembourg in 1912. Ludwig's father worked with German Railways. In 1928 his father was promoted to Director and Ludwig's family moved to Berlin. There, he studied in a prestigious school, he graduated and continued his studies and studied for a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering in Munich.



In November 1936, Ludwig left Germany and travelled to England. During his last month in Munich the Nazis imprisoned him for short periods of time and threatened to send him to a concentration camp.

He was sponsored and escaped to Britain at the young age of 24 with next to no money in his pocket. Fortunately, Ludwig was hired as an engineer at a heating and ventilating firm.

In 1938 Ludwig was asked to work for a

Scottish company in England. He was happy with the job; however, his work was interrupted by his internment to the Isle of Man in May 1940. Upon being released eight months later, Ludwig returned to the Scottish company as a research engineer.

Whilst working at the engineer firm Ludwig joined the executive committee of the Association of Jewish Refugees. Ludwig became the treasurer and secretary of the organisation. Along with his colleagues, Ludwig recognised the need to add to the splendid work that the AJR had been doing up until then by assisting members on matters of naturalization, taxation, and general help. He worked to use the organisation's limited resources towards increasing membership throughout England and providing social services to more of the AJR's members.

Ludwig worked along with the AJR professional and lay team in the formation of the AJR AJR persuading

AJR Paul Balint Day Centre. This ensured that members had regular contact with others from a similar background.

Along with being a valuable member of the AJR executive committee, Ludwig is the chairman of the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA). His dedication and work throughout the years for both the OSHA and the AJR has made a remarkable difference for members of the refugee community across the country.

The amazing contribution made by Ludwig is now being continued by his son Anthony who is a Trustee of the AJR and Chairman of the Wiener Library.

Report on Volunteers' Training

At the end of the Summer we held a very successful Training Session given by Helen Rabin the Manager of the Resource and Learning Room at the Jewish Deaf Association. She informed us that 1 in 3 of over 60's have a hearing problem and this number reaches 1 in 2 once someone reaches 70.

Unlike when some one has a problem with sight which can in many cases be corrected by wearing glasses, the same cannot be said about a hearing aid. All a hearing aid can do is amplify the sound not correct it..

She spoke too about lip reading, informing us that even an experienced lip reader can only understand about 30% of what is being said to them. This means that body language plays an important role in communication and why it is so important to talk directly to a person who is hard of hearing.

The Resource Centre in North London is open by appointment Monday to Thursday morning and allows clients to meet members of the sensory input team as well as seeing and trying the different resources available. This is a tremendous service available to the community.

At the end of her session Helen handed out her Golden rules to us, a copy of this is shown below.

We're on the web!

www.ajr.org.uk/volunteers.htm

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Communicating with a deaf person

ENSURE THAT YOU

1. Face the person to whom you are speaking
2. Ensure that s/he knows you are speaking
3. Speak a little slower, keeping a natural rhythm
4. Speak a little louder (don't shout or exaggerate lip shapes)
5. Stand/sit between 3-6 feet away
6. Are facing the light

7. Cut down background noise
8. Don't eat whilst you are speaking
9. Are patient – lip reading takes time!
10. Write down essential facts
11. Complete the conversation before you turn away
12. Do not leave the conversation until the deaf person has completely understood
13. Shave off beards and moustaches, immediately!!

14. NEVER say....
" Oh, it doesn't matter!"

