



# KINDERTRANSPORT NEWSLETTER

*AJR Special Interest Section*

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

WINTER 2004/2005

Editor: Bertha Leverton

Chairman: Hermann Hirschberger

Dear Kinder/Friends

Apologies for the delay in getting this Newsletter out to you, but I have been away a lot, mostly on KT business, about which I am now reporting. YomTov seems so long ago and I spent it as usual with my Israeli family. Also my Israeli Kinder kindly made sure that they held their annual function during my stay. As usual, it was held for a whole day in Netanya and I reported to them about our activities here. Meeting so many of my old friends, many of whom had come long journeys, was much appreciated. As you will see from the enclosed leaflets, your input and participation in two separate projects, both of them near to our hearts, you will find the two inserts in full included in this Newsletter. I will not elaborate here, but hope you will consider them.

After my return from Israel, I gave a talk in York. I never realised that a small community exists there of Jewish people who have formed a Council of Christians and Jews. In spite of terrible weather that evening it was well attended and I had an interested audience. The infamous Clifford's Tower, is a reminder of what happened there to the Jews of that time.

A few days later I flew to San Francisco some days ahead of the actual 3/day conference of the KTA. Alfred and Sue Batzdorf had invited me to come earlier and very kindly hosted me for the 3 days beforehand, showing me many wonderful places near Santa Rosa where they live. Friday we travelled to San Francisco. Amongst their luggage was a Sefer Torah from their synagogue, for services they held on Shabbat in the hotel.

I have by now attended several major KTA functions in various venues in the USA. This was the most impressive (for me), attended by approximately 170, many of them second generation. It was very well organised. The speakers were first class, including a Senator and Prof. Walter Kohn, one of our Nobel Prize winners. The discussion between first and second generation was the most interesting and well attended item. My turn came Sunday lunchtime when I told them about the things we had organised lately: the Bar/Batmitzvah celebrations, monthly lunches etc, and the sad situation with the suitcase in Liverpool Street Station that had started out with such high hopes and which sadly has turned into such a flop recently. Several of the USA Kinder voiced their disappointment after having seen it. It can happen that there is a technical failure and we accept that. But for the lack of signage, even after hundreds of justifiable complaints, is inexcusable. I was surprised how many Kinder there voiced the same opinion. After my San Francisco trip I

made a two-day detour to visit an old school friend and his wife in Los Angeles. Those of you who attended the 50<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Reunions are sure to remember Cantor Leopold (Poldi) Szneer, whose wonderful voice moved everyone so deeply. He has just retired after serving as Cantor for many years at the biggest synagogue in Beverley Hills.

There I also met with Renee Golabeck, who performed on the piano with her sister Mona and daughter Michelle so unforgettably at the Logan Hall in 1999. They all send their best wishes.

Shortly after returning from Los Angeles it was time for my trip to Germany. On the same day as my departure Jewish Care were holding their annual Luncheon at the Grosvenor House Hotel, to which I was invited, necessitating a change in my flight to Germany for the evening. The splendour of that hall is special and Tory Leader Michael Howard was the main speaker. On my return from America I learned that I was to be given the Minerva Award annually bestowed for services rendered in the Jewish Community. To say I was surprised and overwhelmed is an understatement. So in my short acceptance address I said I was happy to accept on behalf of all the Kinder who, deprived as we all were on our arrival in England, have found our niche and contributed to the good of the country. I just happen to be the one who thought of reuniting so many of us 50 years on.

And so on to Munich, Germany that very evening 8 November to participate in the various events for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A very large impressive exhibition (which will run for a month) is housed in the new Library. We were invited to the Rathouse, received by the Mayor and later on participated at a function organised by the city and its Jewish Community. There were many moving speeches and tributes paid to former Jewish citizens. From England came: Rolf Penzias, Lucy Bernheim, myself, from the USA Ester Berg and sister Hertha Ehrreich. And from Israel Inge Sadan, all lived in the same district in Munich. As we sat close together among the audience and listened to the 316 names of murdered children from our home town, we recognised many of our former school friends. During the reading, pictures were shown on a large screen, making it all so much more personal. It was so sad and yet it is better to remember them and know what happened. The new generation of Germans are to be commended for all the work they are doing now with so much feeling. The sadness is: why there were none of them in 1938 when we so desperately needed them.

One other thing I noticed several years ago: The “New” Jews of Germany consists mainly of Russian immigrants who show very little interest in the fate and story of our generation. They had their own problems for 70 years under Stalin. There are almost none of us in Germany. So all the synagogues, communal buildings and museums marking the Nazi past seem to have more meaning for the Germans than for them. Their children will be the new German Jews and at the same time absorb the German culture and customs. After Munich I went to Cologne attending a Barmitzvah there. The boy did very well and at the Kiddush afterwards there were as many non-Jews as Russians. The Rabbis and Cantors are either from the USA or Israel. Irene Corbach had booked 8 lectures for me in 3 days; so I was kept busy during my stay there, with her. Thank you Irene. In Cologne I met with two Kinder and we spent a very interesting few hours together.

So here I am back once more and looking forward to our Chanukah party on 13 December and a few more functions and talks during December/January. Its good to be home and talking to you once more. With my best wishes to you all.

## **SOME NEW BOOKS FOR YOU TO READ OR MAYBE EVEN REVIEW FOR US:**

*The children of Willesden Lane Beyond the Kindertransport.* A memoir of music, love and survival by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen, Warner Books. ISBN No. 0-446-52781-5 H/B [www.twbookmark.com](http://www.twbookmark.com).

A book in German about Munich *Auf einmal Da Waren Sie Weg.* Verlag Ernt Vogel, Stamsried Zur Erinnerung an Münchner Juden.

And all the way from Australia, a book, by Alan Gill. Alan became interested in our story many years ago and in 1999 came to our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion. He dedicates his book to Henry Lipman and Oswald von Wolkenstein. I very much look forward to reading all three books, probably during the holiday time.

Here is one more book just received called *Under Fire.* Children of the Second World War tell their stories. Scholastic Childrens books in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum. ISBN No. 0439-963-141.

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## **SEARCH NOTICES**

I am a student currently writing a thesis on Great Britain and the Jewish population during the Second World War. I will be coming to London in January and would very much like to meet as many Kindertransportees as I can. Please contact me as soon as possible. Claire Sonnet, email: [clairesonnet@yahoo.fr](mailto:clairesonnet@yahoo.fr).

I am researching for a project and any information about Anna Essinger and her teaching methods. Contact Christine Eschbach, [Christine.eschbach@freiwillig.de](mailto:Christine.eschbach@freiwillig.de).

Did you know Lisa Spott? If so, email [gjfogelson@aol.com](mailto:gjfogelson@aol.com).

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## **LETTERS**

Dear Bertha – The latest ROK Newsletter very interesting. I disagree that “Large Events are not in favour”. For me, and probably many others, 9am at Stanmore Synagogue was impossibly early.

*Elfi Colman  
London WC1*

Dear Bertha - **LEGACY OR WINDFALL - FOR WHOM?** -Under the banner headline '*Windfall for Jewish Care and WJR as home is sold*' the Jewish Chronicle of 9 July 2004 reported that Heinrich Stahl House, former residential care home on the Bishops Avenue, London, had been sold for £16.25 million. The article went on to say that 'nearly two-thirds of the proceeds were earmarked for a new 'state-of-the-art' home for Jewish Care, with the balance to WJR to 'make grants to other organisations, Jewish and non-Jewish, working in related fields'.

I have very strong objections to these proposals. Heinrich Stahl House, and the other Residential Homes under the auspices of Otto Schiff Housing Association, were bought with funds which were Restitution for assets confiscated by the Nazis. These funds are the **legacy** left by the original owners who did not survive to reclaim their rightful property, nor were there any inheritors with title. The wider community of Jewish Refugees from Nazi Oppression who settled in all parts of the U.K. are thus the 'heirs' to the so-called 'Erblose Besitz'. There are known, and as-yet-unknown needs of members of this group many of whom do not live in the London area. They, we, have first priority as potential beneficiaries.

I have spoken to fellow-Refugees from Nazi Oppression, and we are all very angry indeed at not being consulted about the way in which the funds should be applied. I have written with urgent requests for consultation to Mr Ashley Mitchell, Chairman, Otto Schiff Housing Association, Mr Michael Goldmeier, Chairman, Jewish Care, and Mr Andrew Kaufmann. Input is needed from as many Kinder as possible to arrive at an equitable solution to this very important problem. The relevant addresses are shown in the postscript.

*Victor Simons* [vic.simons@tesco.net](mailto:vic.simons@tesco.net)

**From:** [Trevor Teeton](#) **To:** [GILL Alan](#) **Sent:** Saturday, October 02, 2004 9:17 PM

**Subject:** KINDER

Dear Alan - I have just returned from the UK - eldest son's wedding - and whilst there, I popped along to Liverpool Street Station. I had to look for quite a while; the station has been upgraded since I knew it. Eventually, at what I think is the main entrance, I saw a statue of a little girl and next to her, the display cabinet with all the memorabilia. Unfortunately in a way, the statue, etc. is obscured since there seems to be space around the memorial upon which people like to sit, wait and/or eat. I wanted to take a snap and asked some people if they would mind moving. They were very co-operative but wondered why I wanted to take a picture and what the memorial was about. I gave a short explanation. I did not see anything that might have explained what it all was. Maybe I missed it or maybe people want the memorial to be free from 'nasties' who might damage it. It is a moving reminder of past hard times. Thank you for bringing it to my attention.

*Trevor Teeton*

[twteeton@yebo.co.za](mailto:twteeton@yebo.co.za)

Dear Sir – Re: **Kisuki Kibata** – As a member of the Kindertransport Association, I regularly receive their newsletter and read in the last issue that the above-named from Japan is interested in hearing how and why our parents sent some of us to England and safety with the Kindertransport. I am glad she is doing this research and wish her well.

I do not wish to write down too much here, but would like to refer her to a book of memoirs I have written on my childhood in NS Germany and my flight to Britain and life there in a refugee hostel during the war. I do tell of my departure from Germany and why my parents tried to send all their children away. They succeeded in this endeavour but perished themselves in Auschwitz. The book is *Child of our Time* by Ruth David, published by IB Tauris in London, August 2003. It was launched at the Wiener Library. I hope this may be of some help.

*Ruth L David, USA  
e-mail: hardavidghome.com*

#### **KT NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004**

Dear Bertha – Referring to an enquiry in the above Newsletter from Eva Grenfell I am not aware of Selma Heinemann being a relative.

*Ruth Heinemann, USA*

#### **Dear Bertha – RECOLLECTING, APPRECIATING AND THANKING THOSE DUTCH WOMEN WHO CAME TO THE TRAINS**

I would like to thank those who sent in a recollection of their memories of the Dutch women who came to the trains just after they crossed the border in response to my letter in the NOV/DEC 2003 Kindertransport Newsletter . We hope to send a collection of these to a couple of places in Holland ( I have found out where ) together with a explaining / covering letter . Many of us have very positive memories of Dutch women coming to the train with food and other comforts. It would be nice to have some more of these written pieces -- there were 10,000 of us !! So far I have less than 20. Please send any recollections to me directly by e- mail [walter@math.uoregon.edu](mailto:walter@math.uoregon.edu) .Actually it would be nice to ALSO have 'hard' copy with real signatures!

*Marion Walter, Math Dept. Univ. of Oregon, [walter@math.uoregon.edu](mailto:walter@math.uoregon.edu)  
( [mwalter@darkwing](mailto:mwalter@darkwing) also works --please note the m in this one )*

Dear Bertha – My barmitzvah took place in Nottingham in 1941. Before that occasion, I was in a hostel called Sherrards near Welwyn in Hertfordshire. It is very surprising to me that no one had thought about the fact that my 13 birthday was imminent and therefore I should be preparing for my barmitzvah. The Sherrards hostel was about to close and three weeks before my Barmitzvah. I was sent to Nottingham. Luckily, I had had enough Jewish education to know that I must be Barmitzvah therefore I had written to my older brother in Palestine (we were then the Palestinians) to check which is my parsha. A neighbour who lived near the hostel in Heskey Street, Mr Arons, who originally came from Frankfurt, took it upon himself to teach me my parsha. Within three weeks he managed to prepare me. That barmitzvah Shabbat in the Nottingham Shul, after reading my part, congregants called *mazeltov* and later the Rabbi, in his weekly sermon, indicated that I was a poor refugee boy who had no parents or friends, and moreover was new to the congregants. Normally a Barmitzvah boy would go up to the ladies gallery to be hugged by his mother and relatives and congratulated. Of course, in my case there was no point in my going up to the ladies – I was a stranger and there was no one to prepare a kiddush after the service not to praise me – just a dry *mazeltov*. I felt alone in a jungle.

Today, I am happy to have the pleasure to be able to rejoice together with my family and friends on such occasions for our children and grandchildren. In fact, in June this year, our eldest grandchild, our son's daughter, was married and we had a great celebration.

*Ruth & Mordechai Vered  
Israel*

P.S. Whilst in Cologne I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Irene Corbach who showed me the Yavneh exhibition and the Lowenbrunnen, situated on the site where the Yavneh and Moriah schools had been and she pointed out my younger brother's name on the plaque at the lower part of the memorial, among the names of all the pupils of the schools who did not survive.

## JEWISH MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

**An opportunity to meet Holocaust survivor Leon Greenman OBE. Leon is available to talk informally to visitors of all ages in his exhibition at the Jewish Museum, Finchley every Sunday.**

Leon tells an extraordinary and tragic story. He is one of only two men who survived the transport of 700 Jews from Westerborg in Holland to Auschwitz in January 1943 and the only one still alive. He experienced five concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau and Buckenwald, as well as the infamous Death Marches, and only escaped death in the gas chambers by a whisker.

Since 1996 the Jewish Museum, Finchley has been showing this powerful exhibition on the life of British citizen Leon Greenman who survived the concentration camps of the Holocaust the has been fighting racism and fascism ever since. Leon is a strong passionate 91 year old, who visits the Museum every Sunday to speak to visitors, and regularly talks to children on the Museum's specialist Holocaust education and anti-racism programmes.

1998 he was awarded the OBE for his valuable work. e-mail: [enquiries@jewishmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jewishmuseum.org.uk).

Gedenkveranstaltung anlässlich des 66. Jahrestages  
der „Reichskristallnacht“ vom 9. November 1938

### *Jeder Mensch hat einen Namen*

am Dienstag, 9. November 2004  
von 16.00 Uhr bis 17.30 Uhr  
Altes Rathaus, Marienplatz

#### **Namenslesung der 316 aus München deportierten und ermordeten jüdischen Kinder und Jugendlichen**

mit Prof. Dr. Reinhold Baumstark, Siegfried Benker, Anita Brackertz, Lydia Dietrich,  
Dieter Dorn, Claudia Fladung, Birgit Freese, Elke Geweniger, Dr. Anne-Barb Hertorn, Dr.  
Andreas Heusler, Msgr. Wolfgang Huber, Stadtkanin Barbara Kittelberger, Helga-Maria  
König, Carolin Kretsch, Gabriele Neff, Hans Podluf, Helmuth Schmid, Prof. Klaus Schultz,  
Christian Stückl, Dr. Wolfgang Till, Schülernnen und Schüler: Magdalena Fladung, Felix  
Pertsowsky, Robert Rofitsmann, Anastasia Tarasova und Schülerinnen des Gymnasiums  
Unterhaching: Mira Berbig, Christina Franze, Stefanie Helmuth, Cora Schöberl.

Vor 66 Jahren ging von München der Terror aus. Mit einer antisemitischen  
Hetzrede im großen Saal des Alten Rathauses gab Reichspropagandami-  
nister Goebbels am 9. November 1938 den Anstoß zur „Reichskristall-  
nacht“. Überall in Deutschland wurden Menschen verhaftet, weil sie Juden  
waren. Synagogen wurden zerstört, jüdische Friedhöfe verwüstet. Mit die-  
ser Lesung soll insbesondere an die jüdischen Kinder und Jugendlichen  
aus München erinnert werden, die in der Nazi-Zeit entrechtet, deportiert  
und ermordet oder in den Suizid getrieben wurden.

Eine Mahnwache halten während der Namenslesung Kinder/jüdischer Neuzuwanderer,  
Jugendliche und ehrenamtlich Tätige aus dem Jugendzentrum der JKG, Jüdische Jugend  
München, Zionistische Jugend München und Vereinigung Jüdischer Studenten in Bayern.

18.00 Uhr

#### **Gedenkstunde**

mit Christian Ude, Oberbürgermeister der Landeshauptstadt München, Charlotte Knobloch,  
Präsidentin der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde München und Oberbayern, Prof. Dr. Andreas  
Heidrich, Direktor der Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten sowie Rabbiner Steven Langras  
und Kantor Avishai S. Levin.

Im Rahmen der Namenslesung und der Gedenkstunde ist im großen Saal  
des Alten Rathauses die Ausstellung „Kristallnacht – Gewalt gegen die  
Münchner Juden im November 1938“ von 17.30 bis 21.00 Uhr zugänglich.  
Die Ausstellung rekonstruiert die Münchner Geschehnisse vom 9./10. No-  
vember 1938. Sie erinnert daran, dass in diesen Tagen Menschen verletzt,  
gefoltert und getötet wurden. Den Verwüstungen und Plünderungen fielen  
zahllose jüdische Einrichtungen, Synagogen und Geschäfte zum Opfer.