

# AJR Information

Volume LII No. 12  
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£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

**The Yawne remembered**  
Ralph Blumenau p3

**Commemorate the Shoah**  
Rabbi Jonathan Romain p13

**The road to Terezin**  
Günther Guttman p16

## Rid us of this troublesome priest

Danzig was the flashpoint that triggered WW2. Forty years later the town, Polonised as Gdansk, became the focus of a different conflict – that between Solidarity and the Communist regime. With church support, Solidarity eventually won.

About to form its second administration, Solidarity has just been warned by the influential Gdansk parish priest Henryk Jankowski to keep Jews out of the government. Jankowski has offended before and, ignoring all protests, keeps spouting vicious antisemitism from the pulpit. Until voices like his are silenced, Vatican declarations of respect for Judaism cannot but ring hollow □

Some reflections on the television series 'The Nazis'

## A warning from history

When BBC2 started televising *The Nazis*, one was somewhat put off by the programme's apparent readiness to provide a platform for deliberately deceitful German eyewitnesses. Early on, a WWI veteran regurgitated the hoary stab-in-the-back legend 'With our troops still on enemy territory we were ordered to stop fighting'. In reality the Kaiser's soldiers had started the war with their thrust towards Paris – only to be bogged down in a four-year 'stalemate'. When Ludendorff finally tried to break that stalemate, in August 1918, he failed and began a slow withdrawal, which had not yet reached the Reich's border by Armistice Day.

Another *canard* that went unchallenged was Jewish domination of German life, complete with statistics of Berlin's Jewish lawyers and theatre directors. As if the latter had a scintilla of the power of a tycoon like Krupp, Reichsbank director Schacht or media Czar Hugenberg! Hugenberg, incidentally, also led the Nationalist Party, while the only Jewish politicians with any leverage, Rosa Luxemburg and Walter Rathenau, had been assassinated by 1922.

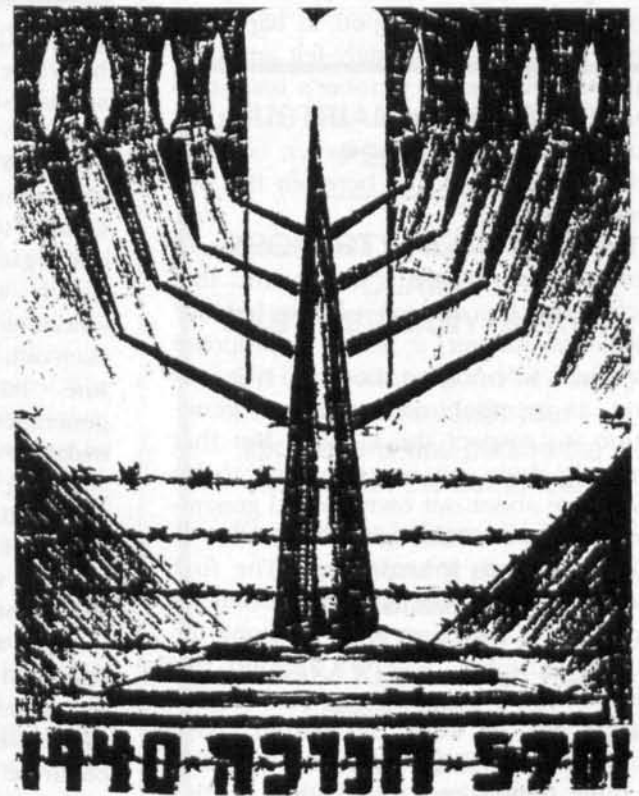
However, as the series unfolded one could see the programme makers' wisdom in letting the German *Zeitzeugen* – execrable time-servers and Hitler idolaters – condemn themselves out of their own mouths.

An interesting divergence of perceptions arose over the clips of Hitlerian oratory. Most English viewers found Hitler's voice so rasping and his gestures so Chaplinesque that they failed to understand his mesmeric appeal to German audiences. We, who lived through it all, know that his hate-filled tirades articulated the resentments of millions of little Germans – *pace* the 1932 bestseller *Kleiner Mann – was nun* – who felt belittled by the Versailles Treaty, the inflationary wipeout of savings and widespread job insecurity. After 1933 this millionfold resentment turned into near-orgiastic satisfaction as Germany began to inspire fear in the drafters and beneficiaries of the Versailles Treaty alike. The whole nation allowed itself to be corrupted by its elevation into a master race, not least because that psychological boost was materially buttressed by booty from expropriated Jews, plunder from Occupied Europe and the fruits of slave labour. By focusing on Hitler's unmethodical way of running his regime, the series also made plain why the pernicious David Irving was in a position to postulate the absence of any AH-

signed document ordering the Final Solution.

All who watched these programmes took part in a six-weeks' course in lacerating enlightenment. Even we who were there – part of the time, anyway – acquired a closer understanding of the workings of the simultaneously hyper-efficient and rivalry-ridden Nazi system. We also learnt of the widespread survival in Germany, Austria, Lithuania and elsewhere of creatures who look like men and women, but lack the characteristic which sets humans apart from animals, namely a conscience.

As regards all those unpunished murderers, informers and profiteers on the continent, we can, alas, do nothing. In Britain, however, we are not totally impotent. We can express our anger at the number-crunchers of the Stalin-killed-more-people-than-Hitler school who relativise the Holocaust. And an even more deserving object of our detestation must be pygmies like Alan Clark and John Charmley who squirt venom at Churchill for failing to follow Pétain's example in 1940 □



Chanukah greeting card sent by Manfred Altman from internment in 1940.

## Profile

## The face on the screen

Rudi Bamber was born in Nuremberg after the Great War, in which his father had won the Iron Cross. A former bookseller, the father in 1935 set up a *Jüdisches Familiencafé* to serve as the only meeting place of the city's beleaguered community. Rudi left school soon afterwards and became a catering student.

On Kristallnacht storm troopers beat up the father so savagely that he died in Rudi's arms.

Early in 1939 Rudi's younger sister left on a Kindertransport; a few months later he, too, came to England as an agricultural trainee. Within the year he became a *Dunera* boy, returning from Australian internment in late 1942. Thereafter he worked as a motor mechanic, repairing tank transporters. Postwar he did various



Rudi Bamber

jobs before finding his true vocation in social work. After running two convalescent homes for the Jewish Welfare Board he became deputy director of Nightingale House old age home, where he stayed till retiring in the mid-80s.

His first wife, Helen, had been an UNRRA worker in Belsen who went on,

years later, to set up the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture – which so absorbed her that the couple separated amicably. Today one of their sons is an academic. The other, a research chemist with a strong artistic bent, sculpted a Holocaust memorial which stands near Maidanek, where Rudi's mother perished.

Rudi's second wife, Jill, is poetry editor of this journal – but, as of last September, he himself has a much more direct connection with the media. He appeared as an eyewitness in the second instalment of BBC TV's *The Nazis – A Warning from History*, where he recounted his Kristallnacht trauma in a most dignified, understated manner.

In consequence Rudi is now a minor 'star' – having been contacted (either directly or through the post) by over a hundred people. Proof of Rudi's fame is the fact that Hornsey swimming pool which he frequents now uses his photograph as part of their publicity material.

□ RG

## The Second Generation debate

The AJR's initiative of reaching out to the second generation started promisingly with the moving article by Anthony Grenville, himself the son of Viennese refugees (see June 1997 issue *AJR Information*). Predictably, some problems and friction developed, as happened when the tone of a strongly felt article by Katherine Klinger in October's issue triggered a protest from Mrs Gillat in November. This is, however, already evidence of a dialogue between the two generations.

To state "It is time for the generation of Holocaust survivors to understand that such destruction has left a legacy behind" (Katherine Klinger) is not an appropriate approach to bridging the gap. It is our duty, as members of the second generation, to respect the victims. But that certainly does not entail having to be dismissive about our own second generation feelings of suffering and anger.

The legacy is a heavy one. The first generation's acknowledging it, insofar as they can be called on at all to atone for having survived, will not lighten the burden of this legacy. Many of that generation are, or were, our parents. The Holocaust posed an additional difficulty of huge dimensions for children in the already fraught process of growing up

into well balanced adults. It is up to us to come to terms with the feelings of anger that pervade Katherine Klinger's article and so many of us.

Anger is understandable, but turns out not to be helpful enough. Getting in touch with and overcoming one's anger is a long, necessary and painful process of self-discovery. Now comes my second comment on Katherine Klinger's thought-provoking article. The 'enormity' of this process can hardly be only a matter of fundraising and sponsorship. Therapists can help us to come to terms with our past and our legacy. There is certainly no shortage of such competent people and associations in London (e.g. Link). Is that not also part of our legacy? They are also helping courageous survivors to approach their emotions in the hope of possible relief. Both scholarly studies and creative literature have recognised our second generation as a problematical entity and make for useful and therapeutic reading.

During this inner voyage, we learn to differentiate the concept of our parents from that of human beings, men and women who had to try and cope with the worst. Aiming at inner pacification – insofar as it can be achieved – will enlighten all, the first generation, us, and the generations to come. May the dialogue set in motion in your pages continue and grow, thereby contributing to that process.

□ Eva Urbach

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**Chanukah Greetings**  
to all AJR members

## The Jawne remembered

**A** moving ceremony of remembrance took place on 25 September 1997 in Cologne. The occasion was the dedication of a memorial to the teachers and children at three Jewish schools who were deported and murdered by the Nazis. The schools were a primary school in the Lützowstrasse, the gymnasium known as the Jawne in the St Afernstrasse, and the Morijah, a primary school in the same buildings as the Jawne.

Deportations had begun in the autumn of 1941, and in July 1942 a final transport of over 1,000 Jews, among them the remaining staff and children, were deported to Minsk where they were all shot on arrival. The names of 28 teachers and 1,100 children are recorded as having perished. In June 1943 the buildings of the Jawne were destroyed in an air raid; only a chestnut tree survives.

The old schoolyard is now a little square surrounded by modern commercial and residential buildings. In the centre of the square there is a fountain with a pillar in the middle, and the memorial consists of a bronze sculpture of a Lion of Judah now set on top of the pillar; and into the eight sides of the fountain there have been inserted bronze tablets recording the names of the 1,100 children.

The whole idea sprang from the minds of an indefatigable couple, Dieter and Irene Corbach. They represent the Protestant Synod of Cologne in Christian-Jewish dialogue. Dieter died in 1994, but Irene has carried on his work. For years they have searched out places and people connected with Jews who were murdered in order to have them memorialised. As a young girl in the 1950s Irene attended the Handelsschule in the Lützowstrasse without anyone having told her that this was formerly a Jewish primary school. She only learnt of this 30 years later at a conference she attended, and from that time onwards the memorialising of these Jewish schools has dominated the lives of the Corbachs.

They began by persuading the city authorities in 1990 to name the little square after Erich Klibansky, the last headmaster of the Jawne. Klibansky had escorted several groups of his students, totalling at least 127, to safety in England. He was several times urged to stay in England himself; but he always returned to Ger-

many to his charges and to making preparations for sending the next group to England. In the end he was trapped there and was on the last murderous convoy to Minsk.

The Corbachs then thought of an actual memorial in the square and began raising money for this. The Lion sculpture was made by a former pupil of the Jawne,



*A bronze sculpture of the Lion of Judah stands over a memorial dedicated to the children of the Jawne Gymnasium in Cologne.*

Hermann Gurfinkel, who now lives in Valparaiso, near Chicago. The first model was broken in transport to the foundry, and by then Gurfinkel had suffered a stroke which lamed his right hand and condemned him to a wheelchair. But he was so determined that he made a second model using his left hand alone, a task that took him fourteen months. The final product is immensely impressive. The Lion roars to Heaven for justice: he expresses protest, suffering and strength. The left paw gestures in prayer, pain, and anger; the right paw protects the Tablets of the Law.

The dedication ceremony was attended by perhaps thirty to forty former pupils and by one former teacher, by dignitaries of synagogue, church, Land and city; and the sculptor himself managed the arduous journey. Jews and Christians spoke movingly about the calamitous past, about the statue's aim both to commemo-

rate and to make sure that that past would never be forgotten; but they spoke also about the hopeful present and future of the Jews now living again in Germany, fellowship with the present generation. A touching symbol of this was the presence of schoolchildren from the Christian schools of Cologne. They provided the evocative Hebrew songs and Jewish orchestral music during the ceremony; and there was a profound silence while, in relays, they read out a selection of the names and ages of the deported children – children like them, who should have been able to look ahead to a life of promise, but who instead had been sent to their deaths.

□ *Ralph Blumenau*

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## Reviews

## Tarnished golden girl

*Piers and Hilary du Pré, A GENIUS IN THE FAMILY, Chatto and Windus, 1977, £16.99*

Jacqueline du Pré's life has long been the subject of myths – Jacqueline the golden girl, the peerless cellist, the wife of Daniel Barenboim. Now her sister Hilary and brother Piers have chosen to write about the "real Jackie" as they saw her.

Their maternal forebears were poor country-folk with large families living close together. The father came from a family of wealthier tradespeople in Jersey. Jacqueline's mother, Iris, a gifted musician in her own right, was able to nurture the talents of her two daughters with delightful games and specially-written pieces. Soon the older daughter found herself outstripped by Jackie, who was getting most of the limelight and attention.

Iris du Pré, ever on the lookout for inspiring teachers for her younger daughter, found such a person in William Pleeth (né Pflitz), a Polish refugee. The teenaged Jacqueline's career took off; in Spain and Russia she sat at the feet of the great cellists Casals and Rostropovich. In her early twenties she met and fell in love with Daniel Barenboim. She married him in Jerusalem – boosting Israeli morale in the Six-Day war – and converted to Judaism.

The book is strong on the siblings' childhood fun and the family support they all enjoyed. Here is no stiff upper lip set – they hug, kiss, weep, tell rude jokes and laugh uproariously. During Jacqueline's whirlwind career of world-tours there is constant communication between them and, in the circumstances, very little mention of jealousy or ill-will. The only startling revelation is of the ménage à trois between Jacqueline, her sister and the sister's husband Kiffer. Permitting him to make love to Jacqueline after she has left Daniel goes well beyond the bounds of sisterly duty.

On the relationship with Daniel the book is tantalisingly thin – with only a hint of why the marriage broke up. Yet Hilary writes of him with warmth and is not censorious of his keeping a mistress in Paris while still married to the then ailing Jacqueline. Little in the book explains the sick woman's bitterness against her

mother and brother, who seemed to regard her illness – multiple sclerosis – as a punishment for leaving the Christian religion. The parents also received hate mail along the same lines at the time. Finally, there is a most moving account of the last months of Jacqueline's short life and the indomitable spirit and humour which never entirely left her. It will be interesting to hear Daniel's version of the story.

□ Martha Blend

## Story of a happy man

*Gary Leon, THE WAY IT WAS, Book Guild, 1997, £12.95.*

This autobiography should interest readers both intrinsically and because its author, after retiring from business, helped at AJR head office until his 85th birthday.

Gary Leon was born in Berlin in 1911, the eldest son of a sizeable and mostly happy family, and his book is largely a family saga. It is sometimes artless, but nevertheless well written, and in its own way it bears comparison with, say, Galsworthy's Forsyte Saga. (An excellent, comprehensive family tree is a handy help to the reader).

His upbringing in Germany was typical for assimilated Jews, mixing some very German attitudes with mild Judaic traditionalism: thus he became barmitzvah, but as a law student in Heidelberg joined a duelling fraternity (albeit a Jewish one). One photograph shows him with cap and sword, every inch a fighting student.

Gary was lucky enough to be able to take his doctorate before he left the country of his birth. Like many German Jews of that type he found assimilation into English life relatively easy after some initial difficulties. His business experience in his father's clothing enterprise in Germany stood him in good stead, and his varied business ventures ultimately turned out successful.

When war broke out, he volunteered, sweated his measure in the Pioneer Corps, and eventually joined the Intelligence Corps.

He was married for sixty years to his (almost) childhood sweetheart. Despite all ups and downs his own verdict on his life, so far, is 'I am a very happy man'. That upbeat sentence concludes his book, and who would want to quarrel with that?

□ John Rossall



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## Beth Shalom's second anniversary

There was a full house when the Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire celebrated its second anniversary with the premiere of *Across the Bridge* and a lecture by the eminent Holocaust scholar Yehuda Bauer.

### 'Across the Bridge'

This theatrical 'happening' explores the meeting of two survivors at Beth Shalom shortly after its opening. Victoria Ancona-Vincent and Trude Levi discovered they had shared the horrors of the same death march. The play dramatises this encounter while entwining narrative of their differing origins and experiences.

Anna Cropper and Israel-based Dahlia Friedland first visited Beth Shalom soon after Victoria Vincent's death and read both her and Trude Levi's biographies. After discussion with Beth Shalom's Director, Stephen Smith, they set about writing the play.

*Across the Bridge* is a moving account, acted with deep empathy and understanding by the authors. Trude Levi, who attended the première, pronounced herself deeply affected.

### Bartering for Jews

Prof. Bauer discussed the intermittent 'negotiations' which took place from 1933 to 1945 for the release and emigration of Jews in Germany and occupied Europe to countries of safety.

Surprisingly, negotiations between the World Zionist Organisation and the Nazi regime in 1933 produced an agreement to transfer Jewish capital to Palestine with the assurance of the owners' emigration. This ended only in early 1941 with the Nazis' decision to murder the Jews - their 'final solution' - planned to coincide with the June offensive against Russia.

In late 1942 negotiations recommenced, this time for the release of 90,000 Jews in Slovakia. The intervention of the Vatican, and bribery of the Slovakian Government, combined to save just 24,000 souls. In 1944 in Hungary, while 437,000 Jews were being deported to Auschwitz, Eichmann's representative was negotiating with Jewish groups in Istanbul in their abortive attempt to trade the lives of a million Jews for 10,000 trucks (had the Allies permitted). Later negotiations were held on the Swiss border between representatives of the 'Joint' and the Germans. Count Folke Bernadotte also attempted to



Anna Cropper, standing, and Dahlia Friedland, co-authors of 'Across the Bridge', starred in the première of their play at Beth Shalom Holocaust Education Centre.

have potential victims sent to neutral Sweden.

Stephen Smith reiterated Beth Shalom's role as both a memorial for the survivors for the victims of the Shoah and as an education centre ensuring that these events "did not remain a void in history".

□ Ronald Channing

Organisations wishing to present 'Across the Bridge' are invited to contact Anna Cropper and Dahlia Friedland via the AJR office.

## Swiss Humanitarian Fund

The Swiss Government has received a list of 12,000 Holocaust survivors, living in 14 Eastern European countries, from the World Jewish Restitution Organisation. They are expected to be the first beneficiaries of the Swiss Humanitarian Fund established earlier this year with SF170 million (£70 million) contributed by Swiss banks and industry. The seven-member Swiss-Jewish executive which administers the fund agreed to provide SF17 million to needy Jewish and non-Jewish Nazi victims in Eastern Europe in its first distribution.

The AJR has been advised that a Secretariat has been established by the Swiss Humanitarian Fund to receive applications and that payments will be made to people in economic need.

Please write to the AJR for information and application forms □

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## Hans Herbert Marcus

Died October 1997

A gentleman, Homo Universalis, an excellent solicitor, a wonderful human being. Representative of a generation which although receding further into the past, remains unforgotten.

Nicole & Peter Nagel



## Letters to the Editor

### MAYDAY CALL BY XENOPHOBES

Sir - I am an 86-year old ex-Viennese. When, in 1926, Count Coudenhove-Kalergi convened the first Pan-European Congress, my school - which had numbered Schnitzler and Hofmannsthal among its pupils - honoured me by giving me the day off to attend the opening of the Congress.

Later I became a member of the Academic Council of the Pan-European Movement. In seventy years I have never wavered in my European convictions. The intervention of Nazism retarded progress, but Robert Schumann (with whom I worked while serving with the Intelligence Corps in France) and others kept the torch burning. It will be extinguished at our peril!

Sneath Avenue  
London NW11

Eric Conrad

Sir - Your columns are being used to perpetuate the myth that the 1957 Treaty of Rome was only about controlling the price of peas. Article 2 includes as the treaty's objectives monetary union, social protection (social chapter) and European union.

The Maastricht treaty is not a separate political reality. It forms a set of protocols annexed to the original treaty. To consider the implications of withdrawing from the treaty seriously, one must estimate the effect, among other matters, of the EU countries putting a duty of 6%-16% on all our European exports. UK exports to EU countries amount to 55% of all exports. When the treaty was signed, these exports were less than 43%. Our exporters would still have to meet all the onerous rules and regulations for products sold in the EU, but would have none of the advantages.

As victims of the atrocities of World War II, we should be more aware than most of the need to ensure that it never happens again. European Union is a simple answer. Seeking independence is putting one's head in the sand and removing the beneficial influence of the United Kingdom from European affairs.

Rudolph Jaray's introduction of Adolf

Hitler into the debate demonstrates precisely my original point, regarding misrepresentative evocative language. As one who has lost family in the Nazi ovens, I find it deeply offensive to have my opinions, which are shared by the majority in Europe, associated with Hitler.

Hayling Island  
Hampshire

Steven Schrier

### PROPOSED ABOLITION OF HOLOCAUST DAY

Sir - What can Rabbi Romain really know, from personal experience, about the terror and fear we went through?

His mother was lucky and got away, I am the only survivor of a large family. My parents were put on a slow moving cattle train, for four days and nights, without water or food, pressed body to body. Many did not make it. They were the lucky ones. Those who did were shot in a forest near Minsk.

Had the good Rabbi's mother been on that train, he might feel differently, but then again, we would have been spared having to deal with a traitor to every Holocaust victim.

Barnet  
Herts

Eric Richmond

(See *Commemorate the Shoah* p.13)

### OUR RIGHT TO THE LAND

Sir - A. Shomroni reminds me of one Neville who was fond of waving a piece of paper about after having given away other people's high ground which left them defenceless. Simple Neville deluded himself in believing that land could be given away for peace. On the contrary. Once one piece was given more was demanded. Until there was nothing left and a stand had to be made - too late and at enormous cost.

It takes two to tango. When Kibbutz Artzi offered a partnership to the Palestinians in 1927 that offer was contemptuously refused. And only last week Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas leader, stated that Jews had no right in the Muslim Middle East.

Ipswich  
Suffolk

Frank Bright

### THE NEXT GENERATION

Sir - If I understand Katherine Klinger's article correctly, it is a plea for yet more details of our lives under the Nazis and subsequently as refugees, to help our children to better comprehend what has happened, to "use this information for other victims who face persecution, torture, etc...".

Sadly, this misses the point completely; the Holocaust killing machine was unique and devised with typical German efficiency: camps and ovens had to be designed and built, the gas had to be developed and manufactured in sufficient quantities, trains properly scheduled etc.

Ethnic cleansing as practised in Africa and Bosnia does not compare, and although we Jews "do not have a monopoly claim to genocide and persecution", I think the great majority of us would prefer our children to be proud of their Jewish parents with their tradition and to dedicate their lives to maintain and pass on that Jewish heritage, so that the six million should not have died in vain.

I wish Katherine Klinger would focus her undoubted abilities more on the question why so many Jewish children marry out, which I perceive to be a great danger to our corporate survival.

Mill Hill  
London NW7

H E Reiner

### CONTENTIOUS ISSUE

Sir - As regards William Rubinstein's *The Myth of Rescue* I would like to add that the Allies made strenuous efforts to prevent publication of reports from Poland confirming the existence of extermination camps. This was known to them as the German secret code had been broken.

I also want to confirm Martha Blend's statement that elderly people without connections had no chance to obtain asylum abroad. My parents and all elderly relatives perished.

Chiswick  
London W4

Ernst Frankel

### EUROPEAN HEARTLAND

Sir - I read your feature on Poland (October issue) with great interest, especially the article on Tarnow as my great-grandfather Salomon Viertel was born in Tarnow in 1860.

Bamber Road  
London N12

John A Francken

**BARRED FROM BAYREUTH**

Sir - Wolfgang Wagner, as overall supremo of the Wagner Festival at Bayreuth, can hardly go further to atone for his family's hobnobbing with Hitler than to employ the Jewish conductors Daniel Barenboim and James Levine for years past. Further, it shows how topsy-turvy the world can be when his mother was made *persona non grata* for her virulent views soon after the war, and now Gottfried had similar treatment for holding the opposite views.

However, there must be something in the air at Bayreuth because on p.40 of Gondrom's *Festspielmagazin 1997* there is a half-page picture of Winifred, Wolfgang and Wieland Wagner with Hitler - to which I took written exception, but have not had a reply.

Heaton Park Drive  
Bradford  
R O Leavor

**THE ROMANCE OF JEWISH SURNAMES**

Sir - 'Streisand' has nothing to do with making snowy roads passable: it refers to the quantity of fine sand kept in little general stores alongside sheets of stationery and bottles of ink, to be used instead of blotting paper. It is still used by some scribes who copy the Torah.

The Queen's College  
Oxford  
Professor SS Praver

Sir - The benefit of grit spread on snowcovered streets was unlikely in the shtetl.

Incidentally, my name used to be Fleischner. All my ancestors as far as I could trace them - even before the compulsory adoption of surnames in 1787 - were butchers.

Sheffield  
Otto Fleming

Sir - Your article makes some of Heine's lyrics sound like a Jewish telephone directory!

London NW6  
Ezra Jurmann

**AJR SEARCH NOTICES WORK**

Sir - In September I advertised for old schoolfriends, and was absolutely delighted when four weeks later I received a letter from one of them who had managed to get to California with her family. Her sister has a friend who lives in England - and that is how she got my address. *AJR Information* reaches

parts of the world that other publications do not!

Exeter  
Isabelle Avetoom

Sir - We thank you very much for helping us successfully. Already four relatives of the Lienberg family from Kassel/Messinghof contacted our association and we are very happy about this. We had been looking for them for years. They promised to help us so that the history of the people who lived and worked in Messinghof will not be forgotten.

Kassel/Messinghof  
Heidi Sieker

Sir - Thanks very much for publishing my search note on Christian work for Jewish Refugees in the September issue. I've already had a couple of responses and these have been very helpful to my research.

Hamble  
Southampton  
Catherine R Kotzin

Sir - In seeking surviving relatives of 96-year-old Helen Falik from Austria, your journal found its way to the far north of Israel - Kiryat Shmonah, where members of her family live. They are now corresponding with Mrs Falik and have put her in touch with yet another family member currently living in Wimbledon.

You can well imagine how encouraging this is to Mrs Falik that from a small insertion several more pieces of life's puzzle are able to be put in place. Many thanks for AJR's help.

Elstree  
Herts.  
Ray Foley-Comer

**CONCERT BOUQUET**

Sir - Just a line to say how very much I enjoyed AJR's recent concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Over the years I have attended many of your concerts, but I believe that yesterday's was the one I have enjoyed most: lovely music, interesting instruments one does not often see or hear, and above all a soloist of phenomenal brilliance and at the same time great modesty, supported by the wonderful ensemble he has created.

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# The AJR at Work

## Listening to AJR Information

For more than eleven years, indefatigable volunteer member Irene White has taken great pleasure in recording and supplying visually handicapped AJR members with *AJR Information* on cassette tape, each issue being produced with her small team of readers.

Thinking that it was about time that her 'listeners' got to know one another, Irene invited them and their helpers to enjoy the singing of Cantor Marshall Stone and a sumptuous tea, catered and served by senior staff from AJR's Day Centre, at Belsize Square Synagogue. In welcoming her guests, Irene reminded them of their home towns, the schools they had attended and added the exact number of tapes each had received – the record going to Walter Salomonson who had heard 139!

Ninety-four-year-old Mr Salomonson, who is totally blind, thought the taped magazine was "a wonderful idea" and found the letters page to be extremely good, though some articles he considered a little too highbrow. Lotte Ettinger, who is partially sighted and has received the tapes for five years, appreciated the leading articles and always found the contents "important and interesting".

## NEW AJR GROUP IN PINNER

Ten enthusiastic former refugees met in Pinner to establish an AJR group for members and new members serving a wide area centred on Pinner and including Hatch End, Northwood, Stanmore and Wembley. A number of others have already expressed their interest in joining.

They were supported by senior representatives from the AJR, Gaby Glassman (Board of Management), Marcia Goodman (Head of Social Services), Debbie Picker (Volunteers Co-ordinator) and Annie Springer (groups' contact), and joined by local representatives of the League of Jewish Women and B'nai B'rith.

It was agreed that regular monthly meetings held on Thursday afternoons at Pinner Synagogue would be most appropriate, with guest speakers invited to



Guests at the special tea party for 'listeners' to *AJR Information* and their helpers.

Chairman of Golders Green JACS, Ubby Cowan, also spoke, recommending the stimulating weekly meetings held by thirty groups of this popular organisation for active retired people.

AJR Director Ernest David thanked Irene for arranging the tea party and, since 1986, for providing visually handicapped members with the opportunity of hearing "AJR's excellent in-house publication" on tape.

□ Ronald Channing

Members interested in receiving the monthly recorded edition of *AJR Information* are invited to contact Irene White, Tel: 0181 203 2733.

discuss topics of current interest such as pensions or Swiss gold. A sub-group to read and discuss books together is also planned to meet in members' homes.

The Director of the AJR, Ernest David, spoke to the group at its second meeting in November. Everyone is invited to join the Chanukah Party arranged for Thursday, 18th December, at 2pm, and is assured of a warm welcome. The Synagogue, which is opposite the library, is easily reached from Pinner Underground Station; alternatively, there is parking available.

Members in the area are invited to join the organising committee which Martha McDonnell, originally from Vienna, is helping to co-ordinate. Further information on the new group and its programme is available from Annie Springer at the AJR on Mondays, tel. 0171 431 6161.

□ RDC

## Second Successful Season

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- \* Meeting new friends

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Guest speaker: **Rabbi W. Wolff**  
**'The Friendly Face of Judaism'**

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Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

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3 to 6pm

Entrance £5 including tea  
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Contact Sylvia, Renée or Susie

### AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL  
between 10am and 12 noon on the  
following dates:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1 December</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9 December</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18 December</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>22 December</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7 January</b>

and every Thursday from  
10am to 12 noon at:

**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal,  
London NW3 6AL**

No appointment is necessary, but please bring  
along all relevant documents, such as Benefit  
Books, letters, bills, etc.

## It occurs to me ...

**W**e live in a paradoxical world. In America, when one addresses a stranger, one says 'sir' or 'ma'am', while in England one says 'mate' or 'love'. America has a legal system to a large extent modelled on English Common Law and yet, as demonstrated by the trial of Louise Woodward in Boston, the application of law and implementation of 'justice' are quite different from the English judicial system.

I am drawn to these paradoxes by others nearer home, as I am writing this while travelling in the tunnel which joins the UK with mainland Europe, but under the water which separates them. I was struck too by the comment in *The Times* obituary of Hans Marcus, which described him as having been "totally assimilated and yet never fully English".

Perhaps this is also the problem of the continuing debate on Europe, when some would like to join Monetary Union with a common currency, while either not realising or keeping very quiet about the political consequences. The debate takes place at a very low intellectual level, with very little analysis of the real implications of joining or staying out. However, when one sees the national differences between America and England, where we are divided by a common language, can you conceive how much greater are the national differences between the countries of Western Europe, let alone Eastern Europe, whose legal systems, languages and religions are so different from ours? By 'ours' I mean those of our adopted country.

Is it not paradoxical that just when Scotland wants its independence within, or perhaps even outside, the UK; when Belgium is torn apart in a federation of French and Dutch-speaking regions; when Slovenia, one of the new candidates for the EU, is the result of the ethnic breakup of Yugoslavia; when Corsica wishes to separate from France, the Basques and the Catalans want independence from Spain, and the north of Italy wishes to break away from the south - that the heads of these states want to force everyone into one economic and political union; is this not just wishful thinking?

□ Ernest David

## PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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Open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am - 6.30pm,  
Monday and Wednesday 9.30am - 3.30pm,  
Sunday 2 pm - 6.30pm.

Morning Activities D Bridge, kalookie, scrabble, chess, etc., keep fit, discussion group, choir (Mondays), art class (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

### DECEMBER 1997

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Monday    | 1  | TALK & DEMONSTRATION ON AROMATHERAPY & REFLEXOLOGY - Imre Pozsonyi                                     |
| Tuesday   | 2  | ESPECIALLY FOR YOU - Angela Arratoon accompanied by Diana Legroux (Piano)                              |
| Wednesday | 3  | SHOWTIME AT THE AJR - Amanda Palmer  |
| Thursday  | 4  | TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC CONCERT   |
| Sunday    | 7  | TALK & DEMONSTRATION ON AROMATHERAPY & REFLEXOLOGY - Imre Pozsonyi                                     |
| Monday    | 8  | DUO KINNOR ENTERTAIN WITH A POT POURRI OF MUSIC - Madeleine Whitelaw (Piano) & David Richmond (Violin) |
| Tuesday   | 9  | THE RAINBOW SINGERS - Conducted by Francoise Geller accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano)              |
| Wednesday | 10 | SONGS FROM THE HEART - Shirley Gurevitz accompanied by Anne Berryman (Piano)                           |
| Thursday  | 11 | OPERA POPS - Accompanied by Margaret Gibbs (Piano)   |
| Sunday    | 14 | T E A D A N C E - Music by Shelley Weldon  |
| Monday    | 15 | MINI WINTER CONCERT - Gemma Remington (Mezzo) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)                |
| Tuesday   | 16 | THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE - Lecia Robertson (Soprano) with Piano accompaniment                              |

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Wednesday | 17 | DAY CENTRE OPEN - LUNCHEON CLUB   |
| Thursday  | 18 | ACT I - SCENE II - Juwon Ogungbe (Baritone) & Akiko Enomoto (Soprano) accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano) |
| Sunday    | 21 | MUSICAL SOIREE - Arranged by Deborah Fink accompanied by Piano  |
| Monday    | 22 | MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT FOR WINTER - Judi - Bimbi & Rufus Merri-Frowde accompanied by June Moore (Piano)      |
| Tuesday   | 23 | WIZO LADIES CHOIR   |
| Wednesday | 24 | CLOSED AFTER LUNCH  |
| Thursday  | 25 | CLOSED  |
| Sunday    | 28 | CLOSED  |
| Monday    | 29 | CLOSED  |
| Tuesday   | 30 | CLOSED  |
| Wednesday | 31 | CLOSED  |

### JANUARY 1998

- |          |   |                             |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|
| Thursday | 1 | CLOSED                      |
| Sunday   | 4 | DEBBIE O'BRIEN AT THE PIANO |

## WHO'S WHO IN THE AJR

### Head Office:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Ernest David</b>       | - Director                                 |
| <b>Carol Rossen</b>       | - Assistant to Director                    |
| <b>Agi Alexander</b>      | - Welfare Rights Adviser                   |
| <b>Marcia Goodman</b>     | - Head of Social Services                  |
| <b>Norah Gittins</b>      | - Social Worker                            |
| <b>Wendi Wilson</b>       | - Social Worker                            |
| <b>Ruth Finestone</b>     | - Social Worker                            |
| <b>Estelle Brookner</b>   | - Social Services and Membership Secretary |
| <b>Debbie Picker</b>      | - Volunteers Co-ordinator                  |
| <b>Viviana Markstein</b>  | - Reception/Membership                     |
| <b>Katia Gould (Vol)</b>  | - Sheltered Accommodation                  |
| <b>Gordon Greenfield</b>  | - Accountant                               |
| <b>Richard Grunberger</b> | - Editor AJR Information                   |
| <b>Ronald Channing</b>    | - Publications and PR Manager              |
| <b>Andrea Goodmaker</b>   | - Publications Assistant                   |

### Day Centre:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Sylvia Matus</b>     | - Day Centre Manager     |
| <b>Renée Lee</b>        | - Assistant Organiser    |
| <b>Joanne Fresco</b>    | - Receptionist/Secretary |
| <b>Joan Kupler</b>      | - Day Centre Assistant   |
| <b>Susie Kaufman</b>    | - Catering Manager       |
| <b>Esther Blumstein</b> | - Care Assistant         |
| <b>Jeff Heywood</b>     | - Head Chef              |
| <b>Ya'akov Azulay</b>   | - Assistant Chef         |
| <b>Mary Matovu</b>      | - Kitchen Assistant      |
| <b>Lawrence Zahra</b>   | - Kitchen Assistant      |
| <b>Janine Brockiner</b> | - Sunday Organiser       |
| <b>Joseph Pereira</b>   | - Caretaker              |

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deaths

**Burger.** Malli Burger, born Breslau 1901 died London 4 September 1997. Deeply mourned by her daughter Hanna Rychtman, son-in-law Louis, granddaughter Jenny Engelsman, her husband Itamar, three great grandsons, sister Steffi Granby, family and friends.

**Rees.** Junie Rees, darling wife of Herbert (Bob) Rees and greatly missed MAM of Peter, passed away peacefully on 16th October after long suffering which she so very bravely fought. She will be greatly missed by all relations and many friends.

**Brown.** Inge Brown (née Dressel) died peacefully in London 3 October. Now reunited with her true love, Jack.

**Kay.** Dr jur. Manfred Kay, born 24 May 1907 in Berlin, died peacefully in his sleep on 15 October 1997. Sadly missed by his wife Betty and son and daughter-in-law Anthony and Rita.

**Mayer.** Alice Mayer died 9 November 1997, aged 95 years. Much loved and greatly missed by her family.

### Miscellaneous

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### AJR GROUP CONTACTS

S. London: Ken Ambrose  
0181 852 0262  
Midlands: Edgar Glazer  
0121 777 6537  
North: Werner Lachs  
0161 773 4091  
Leeds HSFA: Heinz Skyte  
0113 268 5739

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## NEW CLOTHES FOR SALE

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## Art Notes

More than 130 paintings, drawings and sculptures, including loans from public and private collections throughout the world, are shown in a major exhibition. **The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Watts: Symbolism in Britain 1860-1910** at the Tate Gallery. The works of much-loved artists associated with the Pre-Raphaelites are displayed alongside those by their continental contemporaries such as Redon, Moreau and Khnopff, revealing the Symbolist links between them. The exhibition is full of sumptuous paintings that reflect spiritual, mystical, literary and erotic themes.

A collection of drawings assembled by Edmund Schilling (1888-1974) has been bequeathed to the British Museum by his widow. Born in Germany, Schilling came to Britain after the rise of the Nazis and was prominent here as a specialist in German old master drawings. **The Schilling Bequest** displays the superb German Renaissance drawings of the collection, including works by Hans Baldung and Lucas Cranach.

**Objects of Desire: The Modern Still Life** at the Hayward Gallery illustrates twentieth-century artists' diverse treatments of inanimate objects, ranging from the realistic to the abstract. An impressive



Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Prosperine*, 1877.

show that includes such celebrated works as Dali's *Lobster Telephone*, Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel*, Meret Oppenheim's fur crockery and paintings by Cézanne, Picasso, Matisse and other modern masters.

The Sternberg Centre is showing photographs by the talented young Israeli photographer **Sigal Avni**. Working only in black and white, she produces striking images that focus on themes around human relationships.

All the above exhibitions continue until 4 January. □ **Barry Fealdman**

## SB's Column

**F**ifty years ago. Lyric writer **Alan J Lerner**, an American of bourgeois background, and composer **Fredrick Lowe** (né Loewe), a struggling Viennese-born emigré, landed their first real success with the musical *Brigadoon* in 1947. It was the beginning of a collaboration which eventually led to the worldwide triumph of *My Fair Lady*.

**Zarah Leander**. Having been discovered in *Axel an der Himmelstür*, which co-starred Max Hansen, in Vienna, the pioneering deep-voiced soubrette appeared in many Ufa films, some of which – *Zu neuen Ufern*, *Die grosse Liebe* – were recently shown at London's Goethe Institute.

The Vienna State Opera honoured

two pillars of the musical world: **Nicolai Ghiaurov** who celebrated 40 years since his debut, and **Zubin Mehta**, whose next task will be a production of *Rienzi*, the most infrequently performed of Wagner's operas.

**Birthdays**. Vienna-based **Gerhard Bronner**, composer, pianist and cabaret performer, is 75. **Sir Colin Davis**, music director at Covent Garden from 1971 to 1986, and the first British conductor invited to work at Bayreuth, celebrated his 70th birthday.

**Obituaries**. French singer and actor **George Guétary** died, aged 82. Hugely admired in his own country, he won international acclaim through the film *An American in Paris* which starred Gene Kelly. Guétary became known in Britain by taking the lead in the Vivian Ellis musical *Bless the Bride*, whose hit tunes *La*

*belle Marguerite* and *This is a lovely day* can still be heard 50 years on.

**Egon Seefehlner**, one-time supremo of Berlin's Deutsche Oper, and twice Director of the Vienna Staatsoper, has died, aged 85 □

## Forthcoming exhibition of Judaica treasures

**A**n exhibition of valuable items – both manuscripts and books – from the Berlin-based *Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums* will open at the Sternberg Centre on 11 January 1998 and run for a week. Items on display will range from a *Kol Bo* (Code of rites and ceremonies) printed in Italy in 1485 and an illuminated 18th century *Haggada*, to the sort of books that once stood on the open shelves of the *Hochschule* library.

The *Hochschule*, which functioned between 1872 and 1942, was not only an intellectual Europe-wide powerhouse for Progressive Judaism, but also trained rabbis and schoolteachers of religion. Its student enrolment peaked at 155 in 1932, after which it eventually dwindled to a dozen tutored by Rabbi Leo Baeck.

Fittingly, the exhibition is jointly sponsored by Leo Baeck College and AJR □

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## SEARCH NOTICES

**Jewish Servicemen who fought at the Battle of Arnhem**, Sept. 1944, are being sought by AJEX which is researching the contribution of Jewish soldiers and airmen. Please contact AJEX Assistant Archivist Martin Sugarman at 16 Brent-house Road, Hackney, London E9 6QG. Tel: 0181 986 4868 (evenings after 7pm). Please include address and phone number for response.

**Jill and Peter Goodman**, children of Harry (formerly Breslau) and Beryl Goodman formerly of Australia - Hilltop Bulb Farm, Dagworth Road, Denham Court, Ingleburn, NSW. Please contact Jennifer Langer (daughter of Herman Striem), 31 Hallswelle Road, London NW11 0DH.

**Anglo-Jewry & Perceptions of the Holocaust.** Final year history student at Keele University requires interview(s) with refugee who lived with British-Jewish family or member of British-Jewish family who took in a refugee. Grateful for help and will maintain strict confidence. Please contact Polly Bridgman, Barnes V121/1, Keele University, Keele, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 245 589.

Children Arrive  
From Germany

Evening Standard December 1938



Some of the youngest of a contingent of 89 Jewish child refugees who arrived at Southampton to-day from Germany. One of the party, aged three, could only just peer over the immigration officer's table.

**Ursula Adler (née Kantorwicz)**, aged 3, was put on a train in December 1938 from Berlin to Hamburg by her mother, continuing her journey to Southampton with 89 other young children aboard a Hapag Hamburg Line ship en route to the USA. Pictured in the London Evening Standard, she is now trying to trace other Kindertransportees shown with her. Please contact Ursula Adler, 4 Beckett Walk, Beckenham Kent BR3 1JH. Tel: 0181 778 9386 □

## The Dreidl Star

There is a place where the silence is so complete, so ominous, that all that lives, all that had lived, and all that shall come to live, will stand muted in its presence, chilled in its mist of despair.

There is a place so dammed that when its man-made structures dissolve in time and in the memory of man, the souls of millions will still reveal and mark its boundaries.

There is a place where a child held to his chest a small toy roughly carved from wood as he followed, naked and shivering, an endless stream.

So plunge your hand into this accursed soil, reach deep through the white ash and pull from it a child's toy, a dreidl, a pendulum of charred wood inscribed with ancient script. Place it to your lips, kiss it as you would kiss an infant and throw it, throw it into the blackness of space. For surely the God of us all will transform it into a blazing star - a remembrance of innocence. □ William Derl-Davis

## Ein apartes Volk

Die Juden sind ein Volk wirklich ganz apart. Jeder ihrer Bräuche hat besondere Art:

*Kidush* macht man; *Schacharit* dawnet man; *Sidre* leint man; *Tefilin* legt man; *Schofar* bläst man; *Schlachmones* schickt man; *Schivah* sitzt man; *Messuse* küsst man; *Lichter* bentscht man; *Gemoreh* lernt man; *Arba-Kanfes* trägt man; *Lulav* schüt-telt man; *Gut-Jontef* wünscht man; *Afikomen* sucht man; *Chaseneh* macht man; *Ezes* gibt man; *Nach Kowed* läuft man □

## Unaccompanied 'Cello Suite

I stir tomato soup to creaminess, here, where the magic carpet *Luck* silkily deposited my life and flesh.

I am an ample woman standing at her stove.

I am a 'cello's amber melody.

I am the unaccompanied survivor who skims and sifts for something to remember by

the ones round whom I could not reach protecting arms,

the ones whose hearts trembled like a cupped

bird's when death came down to scoop them up

and I stood next in line.

□ Jenny Swain

## 50 YEARS AGO

## CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin's latest film 'Monsieur Verdoux' reveals as none before undoubtedly Jewish traits in this genial actor.

The clown Chaplin has become a judge - he condemns a civilisation that accepts killing on a large scale, in war, and hangs the petty dilettante. The difference between the criminal and the hero is, according to Chaplin, measurable in quantity. At the example of Monsieur Verdoux who murders for an ultimately good purpose, Chaplin leads *ad absurdum* the Fascist doctrine that the purpose sanctifies the means. If life is sacred, then mankind should recognise crime not only when it is isolated, but even more in the deadly instrument of politics.

There is one other apparent Jewish trait in Chaplin, his self-irony. Always when he is on the verge of becoming pathetic he ridicules himself; for fear of becoming sentimental, he withdraws into the grotesque □

AJR Information, December 1947

## AJR

The AJR invites applications from former refugees & their families for membership of the Paul Balint AJR, DAY CENTRE, 15 Cleve Road NW6, WEST HAMPSTEAD

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Please call Sylvia Matus on 0171 328 0208 for membership enquiries

The AJR Charitable Trust provides care, comfort and companionship for victims of Nazi persecution.

## Munich remembers

The office of the City archivist retains records, including copies of 'Kennkarten', of all of Munich's former Jewish citizens, sometimes with added details of their emigration destination and residence.

November's 'Jüdische Kulturtag', with participants from around the world, featured liturgical and Klezmer music, recitals, plays and lectures, all sponsored by the cultural department of the municipality.

There are two Jewish communities. The orthodox one, of about 6,000 members of East European origin, has its own synagogue. There is also a small Liberal/Reform community of about 150 members who hold services in a rented hall. The Jewish Museum is perhaps a misnomer, as it comprises only two tiny rooms. The main Jewish cemetery in the Garching Strasse has about 7,000 graves; records are kept in an archaic-looking ledger and on computer.

Visits to the Dachau 'KZ Gedenkstätte' are now on the history syllabus of most schools and I was impressed by how seriously the youngsters were listening to the explanations of their teachers. (Herewith two addresses: Orthodox: Israelitische Kultusgemeinde, Reichenbachstrasse 27, 80469 München; Liberal: Beth Shalom c/o Jan Mühlstein, Hermann Hummelstr. 18, 82166 Gräfeling).

□ Anthony Goldsmith

## Disappointment for former slave labourers

In a recent test case, a German court dismissed the compensation claims of 20 former slave labourers on the grounds that they all had received some form of payment as Holocaust survivors.

In the same judgement, however, Rywka Merin, who was forced to work in an Auschwitz satellite munitions factory for 55 weeks, 16 hours a day, was awarded £5,500 (calculated as 'loss of earnings!') on the grounds that after the war she had lived in Poland, and East Europeans had been excluded from receiving any compensation from the Federal Government.

As a consequence, hundreds of thousands of other East European victims may be entitled to pursue similar claims, though inevitable appeal procedures and the passage of time will dampen their prospects. □ RDC

## Commemorate the Shoah on Tisha B'Av!

The following are extracts from Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain's lecture at the Sternberg Centre on 19 October 1997.

However justified Yom Ha'Shoah may have been for the first 50 years after the Holocaust it is now time to restore its commemoration to Tisha B'Av. Tisha B'Av is the time for remembering collective Jewish tragedies, and we do not need an extra day in the calendar for the most modern one.

I speak as the child of a German refugee who came to England in 1939 in a state of terror aged eleven, and who lost many close relatives.

Yet I am also conscious of the course of Jewish history and the series of tragedies and rejuvenations it presents, only one of which was the Holocaust. When we lift our gaze away from the last fifty years and look at the last two thousand years, the Holocaust acquires a different significance.

First, Tisha B'Av is primarily a remembrance of the *churban* – the 'destruction' of both the first and second temples in Jerusalem. We who are so removed from the days of the Temple find it hard to appreciate the impact of the two destructions. It was a devastating combination of human suffering, political annihilation, and religious trauma.

The attacks by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and then by the Romans in 67 CE involved enormous loss of Jewish life and catapulted the survivors into exile in foreign lands, most never to return. They also had profound theological repercussions, leading many to reformulate the relationship of God to Israel and resulting in doctrines such as the suffering of God, the exile of the *shechinah*, the withdrawal of God from the world, and God hiding His face.

The Holocaust ranks alongside the destruction of the two temples as a third *churban* – a catastrophe of enormous and all-encompassing proportions, with tragic human results, wide-ranging political consequences and deep religious questioning. But previous generations also suffered badly, whether at the hands of Romans, Crusaders or Cossacks. Each in their own time was seen as the ultimate horror and the worst event that could possibly befall Jewry. Readers of *Gezerot Ashkenaz* will be familiar with its record of bestial slaughter during the

Crusades and the pitiful despair of survivors. The Holocaust can be seen as the latest in a long line of tragedies – differing only in the numbers involved and the callous use of modern methods of extermination – but carried out with the same fury and hatred. The anguish arising from the Holocaust may be more immediate, but is no greater than that of other martyrdoms for those who experienced them.

The pitiful size of the turn-out for Yom Ha'Shoah service at the Hyde Park memorial does not bode well for future centuries. By associating the Holocaust with Tisha B'Av we will better be able to keep its memory alive to Jews a thousand years hence □

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**Mushroom Pudding**

There is an ever-increasing variety of mushrooms in the shops and although boletus are best for this recipe, a mixture of different mushrooms is also excellent.

- 1 lb (450g) mushrooms
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 finely chopped shallot
- 2 rolls (without crust)
- about 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs, salt, pepper,
- butter and flour for the pudding basin

**100th birthday celebration**

Leah Rose, a resident of Otto Schiff Housing Association's Heinrich Stahl House, celebrated her 100th birthday at a party surrounded by members of her



Mrs Leah Rose, left, dances with Rita at her 100th birthday party in Heinrich Stahl House.

extensive family and many friends. Entertainment was provided by the ever-popular musical duo Jack and Rita. When Rita asked for a volunteer dance partner, Mrs Rose 'jumped up' and performed

browned butter for serving

Soak the rolls – preferably day-old – in milk. Clean and finely chop all the mushrooms. Melt 2 tablespoons of the butter, add the mushrooms and simmer until tender, then leave to cool. Soften the shallot in remaining butter, add the rolls from which all liquid has been squeezed out. Simmer for a few minutes to blend. Leave to cool.

Separate egg yolks and whites. Add cooled mushrooms to shallot mixture, then beat in the yolks and one tablespoon milk. Season with salt and pepper. Whisk egg whites until stiff and fold into the mixture. Pile the mixture into a buttered and floured pudding basin and steam for about half an hour. Turn out onto a warmed serving dish and serve with hot browned butter.

N.B. Dried boletus can be used for this recipe – about 2 oz would be sufficient – but they have to be soaked in warm water first and the water has to be strained in case of any sand residue (use one tablespoon of the strained water instead of the tablespoon of milk which is added to the mixture) □

with great spirit to general applause. A large chocolate birthday cake – enjoyed by everyone – made her very special day complete.

□ Stella Curzon

**GERMAN WIDOWS' OR WIDOWERS' PENSIONS**

**New calculation based on other pension income**

Under the amended regulations governing German widows' and/or widowers' pensions arising from deaths which occurred after 31.12.85, the calculation of these pensions will be affected by the widow/widower's other income from social security or occupational pensions, either under her/his own right or deriving from the deceased spouse.

If total pension income exceeds a legally determined monthly free limit (currently appr. DM1.120), the widow/widower's pension is reduced by 40% of any amount in excess of such free limit. If total pension income is below the free limit, the widow/widower's pension will remain unaffected □

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## Dr Falk's 90th Birthday

**D**r Frank Falk, who for many years played a key role in the Jewish refugee community and the AJR, this month celebrates his 90th Birthday at Heinrich Stahl House where he and his wife Lilo are residents.

Born in Düsseldorf in 1907, he gained a doctorate in law from Bonn University and practised as a solicitor before his emigration to England in 1939. During the war he volunteered to serve in the Pioneer Corps, but after demobilisation, as his legal qualifications were unrecognised in the UK, he decided to become a certified accountant and set up in practice.

One of the earliest members of the AJR, his knowledge of both German law and British accountancy made him uniquely qualified to pursue restitution, compensation and pensions claims on behalf of thousands of refugee clients, particularly in the critical period from 1950 to 1975. By bombarding MPs and the Inland Revenue with relevant information, he was the key individual concerned in obtaining full exemption from taxation on such payments from the Inland Revenue.

Dr Falk served the AJR as Hon. Treasurer for 18 years under the chairmanship of Theo Marx and was known to many members for his help, advice and kindness. He also wrote many expert articles for *AJR Information*. Even in retirement he continues to provide advice and help.

□ RDC

## Studied co-operation

**T**he completion of the first year of association between Southampton University and the Wiener Library was marked with a reception at the House of Commons addressed by the University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Howard Newby, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Lord Plant, the Library's President, Alan Montefiore, and Director, Prof. David Cesarani.

Among achievements highlighted were the enrichment of the Library's collection and the holding of a number of international conferences.

Distinguished guests included the German Ambassador, Gebhardt von Moltke, the Swiss Ambassador, François Nordman, Lord Annan, Lord Merlyn-Rees, and the Director of the Imperial War Museum, Robert Crawford.

□ Ben Barkow

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - DECEMBER 1997

- Ongoing: Jewish Books & Children's Toys from the Past:** Jewish Museum, Camden Town (until 1 March). £3 & concs.
- Mon 1 **The Assassination of John F Kennedy:** Anthony Webster BA, Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 2 **Any Questions?** Michael Sherwood chairs a celebrity panel. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 2 **Lyotard's Reading of Freud:** Céline Surprenant, Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Tue 2 **Immigrant Furniture Workers in London 1881-1939:** William Massil. Jewish Museum, Sternberg Centre, £2, 8pm
- Wed 3 **Jungian Psychology & Judaism:** Rabbi Dr Levi Meier, Los Angeles. Inst. of Jewish Studies, University College, 6.30pm, free admission
- Thur 4 **Lunchtime Recital:** Ian Stirling, piano, plays Beethoven & Stirling. Sternberg Centre, £2, 1.15pm
- Sun 7 **Jewish Games in Antiquity:** Talk by Dr Irving Finkel, British Museum. Jewish Museum, Camden Town £5, 2pm
- Sun 7 **Family History Workshop:** Sternberg Centre, £3, 4pm
- Mon 8 **Israeli Poetry in an American Climate:** Prof Ruth Kartun-Blum, Hebrew University. Inst. of Jewish Studies, University College, 6.30pm, free admission
- Mon 8 **Ernst Flesch MA:** Travels in Berlin, Vienna and Prague (with slides). Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 9 **Judy Curtis:** League of Jewish Women. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 9 **The Origins of Hannah Arendt:** David Groiser, Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Thur 11 **South London AJR:** Music & guest speaker, Kit Briscoe Suite, Prentis Road Synagogue, 10.30am-4pm
- Sun 14 **Jewish Wife/Jewish Daughter:** Plays by Brecht & Linden. Special performance & discussion with Sonja Linden, New End Theatre, 27 New End, Hampstead, £12, 8pm. Advance Booking: Second Generation Trust, PO Box 14205, London NW3 4WZ
- Sun 14 **North-West London - multicultural community or separate ethnic groups?**

Annual Manor House Society discussion, Sternberg Centre, £4 incl. refresh., 8pm

- Mon 15 **West Films East:** Rodney Mantle MA, 10 years with the BBC in the German Democratic Republic. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 16 **Lyn Barry:** Variety programme of favourite songs. JACS, 2pm
- Sun 21- **Patterns of Prejudice 1967-**  
Mon 22 **97:** Conference, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London. Wiener Library, Reg. Fee £15

### January 1998:

- Mon 5 **Hebrew Calligraphy for Adults:** Morris Bryer, artist & calligrapher. Jewish Museum Camden Town, £5, 2pm
- Sun 11 **Leeds HSFA:** AGM & Social, Queenshill Day Centre, 2.30pm
- Sun 11- **Reconstruction of Jewish**  
Mon 12 **Life After WWII:** Conference. Contact Wiener Library, Reg. Fee £15
- Mon 12 **Dr Anthony Grenville,** London University Research Centre for German & Austrian Exile Studies: Anna Seghers - two exile works: *Das siebte Kreuz* & *Der Ausflug der toten Mädchen* (in English). Club 43, 8pm
- Thur 15 **Pam Schweitzer Reminisces:** Founder of Age Exchange Theatre at South London AJR, Lily Montagu Hall, Prentis Road Synagogue, 2pm
- Sun 18 **Legacy, a play by Shauna Kantor:** Cockpit Theatre, London NW8, £15, 2.30pm. Box Office: 0171 431 0837

### ORGANISATION CONTACTS

**JACS** at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949

**Club '43,** at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360

**Wiener Library,** 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. 0171 636 7247

**Jewish Museum,** 129/131 Albert Street, Camden Town, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997, and at Sternberg Centre  
**Sternberg Centre for Judaism,** 80 East End Road, Finchley, N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288

**Institute of Jewish Studies.** Lectures: Gustave Tuck Theatre, University College, Gower Street, WC1. Tel: 0171 380 7171.

**University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies.** Diana Franklin 0181 381 4721 or 01273 678 702  
**South London AJR.** Ken Ambrose 0181 852 0262

## NEWSROUND

**Video nazi**

Eight German soldiers making outlawed Nazi salutes and antisemitic comments in Saxony during a training exercise three years ago were shown recently in a video recording on German television. Recruits from the same battalion, implicated in a similar scandal earlier this year, were dismissed from the forces. The army authorities denied reports that Nazi propaganda was widely circulated in barracks.

**French claim**

Henri Hajdenberg, head of Crif, French Jewry's representative body, has recommended that France's share of the remaining gold looted by the Nazis, valued today at £12 million, should be distributed to victims of the Vichy régime, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. The World Jewish Restitution Organisation's preference is to benefit Jewish survivors as a whole, especially those in Eastern Europe.

**FO appeasement**

Research in the Public Records Office by Dr Louise London shows that in 1933 the Foreign Office agreed to Jewish directors and employees of the German sales subsidiary of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (in which the British government held a majority shareholding) being retired. This was the precursor of the dismissal of all Jewish employees from what was to become British Petroleum.

**Swedish appeasement**

In the wake of Germany's occupation of Denmark and Norway from April 1940, documents brought to light by the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter* reveal that many of the country's leading companies sacked Jewish board members and staff both to protect its neutrality and secure profitable German trade. Companies were not compelled to 'aryanise'.

**Austrian Nationalfonds**

The Austrian Nationalfonds expects to have dealt with all applications from claimants born up to 1928 by the end of this year. The remainder will be completed in the course of next year.

**Second UK trial**

Andrzej Sawoniuk, 77, is facing five charges of killing Jews in Belarus brought by Scotland Yard's war crimes squad. He came to Britain in 1946. □ RDC

**The Road to Terezin**

In Germany you know you're going east when you see more Trabants than BMWs. Not all were abandoned the night they pulled down The Wall. The little stinkers are still there, like the *Mietskasernen* (tenements) where their owners live – Stalin's legacy from Berlin to Vladivostok. While fine old neglected residences await restoration, much effort has gone into refurbishing public buildings.

High above Gotha stands the Saxon-Coburg *Schloss*. Its aristocrat owner was executed in 1945 just a month before VE day for trying to salvage something from the wreck of the Third Reich. *'Ich sterbe damit Gotha lebt'* he said. Today women gardeners tend the flower beds of the estate next to the renamed Heinrich Heine *Bibliothek*.

Arrive at Dresden late at night and you'll find the view from the *Hauptbahnhof* still pretty depressing. Concrete module hotels thrown up for lack of inspiration or funds. Come morning though, and brightly coloured trams bustle about inviting you to explore further. Some famous landmarks have been rebuilt, while at the *Frauenkirche* numbered blocks of masonry have yet to be assembled. But the *Kunstgalerien* are ready and open, so I went to see Vermeer's *Girl at the Window*.

This was supposed to be a sentimental journey to my home town, Breslau. The floods in the now Polish Wroclaw literally made me take a rain-check. Who wants childhood memories spoilt by pollution, rats and mosquitos? Playing that tape of Brahms' Academic Festival Overture dedicated to Breslau's university and conducted by its famous son, Otto Klemperer, would have to wait.

Instead I turned south towards Prague and then I noticed that Theresienstadt, where grandfather was supposed to have been *verschleppt*, lay in its path. Remembering the old song *'Eine Schiffahrt die ist lustig, eine Schiffahrt die ist schön'* I decided on this leisurely mode of transport and cruised slowly up the Elbe to Bad Schandau, a small, beautiful spa, the perfect place to relax.

On again by rail to Decin, just inside the Czech border. At this station there is no interdict to cross the lines, which is just as well because that is what you have to do, and clamber up the little train from the ground if you want to go on. I wondered how grandfather might have

managed after a long journey, maybe without food or water.

My spirits rose once we were in open country. Here were the gentle fields where, not that many miles away, I had spent the halcyon days of youth on summer holidays, trees heavy with apple and plum, barefoot across the stubble helping with the harvest and, at the end of day all hot, excited and terrified, holding on for dear life perched precariously on top of the stacked bundles of corn as the horse-drawn cart made its swaying way to the *Hof*.

Arrival at Usti ended this reverie. Another change to Litomerice Mesto. Then onwards by bus till the driver called out 'Terezin!' I couldn't believe it. I don't know what I expected, but not this. A large, plane tree-lined square bordered on all sides by uniform, sand-coloured buildings, which turned out to have been barracks. I was right in the middle of what was the camp. No need to add to the volumes that have been written about the place. Mine was a private errand.

The information office was empty save for the amiable elderly man sitting behind a desk with one huge book on it. He seemed to be expecting me. 'Put down the exact name of your grandfather' he said. Then he thumbed through the pages of the book silently and wrote on a sheet of paper in front of him. In the end there were four in all. Date of birth and death if they were one of the 32,000 who had died there, or the name of the camp to which they had been sent. I was glad that none of them fitted.

Terezin is now home again to an ordinary community. Because of that it is hard to decide whether it is more or less terrible than other camps. One feels weird there, like walking through a ghost town. Not many smiles, probably more to do with being betrayed, invaded, occupied and now, like the darkest hour before the dawn, waiting to join the EU for some money to be pumped in.

I pondered this on the bus for the last 36 miles to Prague. But here we are already in the 'Golden City'. Or could it be that 'all that glitters isn't gold'?

□ Günther Guttman

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