

# AJR *Information*

Volume LIII No. 4  
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Don't miss . . .

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## Double whammy

**A**lthough antisemitism is essentially Right-wing, the Left is no stranger to it (cf Proudhon).

His compatriot Roger Garaudy, once an intellectual adornment of the Communist Party, has just been fined for Holocaust denial.

Simultaneously, Poland has invited the 13,000 Jewish refugees from its 'anti-Zionist' purge of 1968 to return to the country.

The instigator of that massive exodus was General Moczar, a so-called national Communist. President

Kwasniewski, too, once held a Party card.

His guilty conscience over the scandalous events of '68 prompts the hope that Poland may ultimately recover the liberal outlook of its medieval King Kaszimir □

Reflections on the role of Mosley and Enoch Powell

## The Street and the House

**B**y fortuitous coincidence the death of Enoch Powell overlapped with the portrayal of Oswald Mosley on British television screens.

The *Mosley* series makes several points which help explain why sections of the electorate became alienated from political democracy in the interwar years. One was the age gap between an elderly political elite and the young war veterans. Another was the fact that many Fascist leaders – the ex-Labourite Mosley, the ex-Socialist Mussolini, the ex-Communist Doriot – had leftwing antecedents which gave them popular appeal. A third point was the role of the boudoir in the rise of politicians like Mosley and Boothby.

A more crucial, last point is this: despite enjoying the sympathy of influential Establishment figures – Lord Rothermere (and, less overtly, the Duke of Windsor) – Mosley failed to gain a foothold in Westminster, or even in local Town Halls.

It is a far cry from Oswald Mosley to Enoch Powell, not least because the latter held the Westminster Parliament in the highest esteem. Yet there can be no burking the fact that Powell's 1968 'river of blood' speech upset the political equilibrium of this country more than any other public utterance since the war.

A postbag of 100,000 letters in support of the speaker's anti-immigrant rhetoric showed the size of his potential following throughout the length and breadth of Britain.

Two things then happened. Powell himself forbore to descend into the political gutter of white supremacism and be anointed by London dockers. More importantly, though, the political elite – including the Conservative leadership – blackballed him; in consequence he dwindled into a prophet (of doom) crying in the wilderness.

It could be said that the Tiber-foaming-with-blood speech and its repercussions provide an object lesson in the workings of parliamentary democracy. Parliament is rather more than an assembly of automatons who vote as instructed by their constituents or their Party whips. The political process is far more sophisticated than that. Politicians and the whole array of opinion formers –

journalists, academics, clergymen – engage in a continuous dialogue with the electorate. Sometimes, admittedly, this exchange resembles a dialogue of the deaf – as when the public clamours for the restoration of the death penalty, yet Parliament favours more humane punishment.

The reaction to Powell's demagoguery exactly thirty years ago showed what a mature democracy Britain is – because at the precise moment that he acquired widespread *street-cred* he lost the confidence of 'the House' (i.e. the political elite). Which proves yet again that democracy is the least bad form of government devised by man □

## Letts do it

**P**oland was the first country in postwar Europe to stage a pogrom – at Kielce. Germany the first to witness the vandalising of a concentration camp site – at Sachsenhausen. Austria the first to have a major political figure – Jörg Haider – praise Hitler's policy. Spain the first to have memorial masses for Hitler celebrated on the anniversary of his death. France the first to have a prominent politician – Le Pen – dismiss six million-fold murder as 'a bagatelle of history'.

Now Latvia has joined this list of melancholy 'firsts'. In March, the cobblestoned streets of Riga resounded to the thump of marching feet as five hundred veterans of the Latvian Legion of the Waffen SS, attired in their wartime uniforms, assembled under Nazi banners to commemorate fifty thousand legionaries who had died on the Eastern Front.

The far larger number of Jewish and Russian victims of the Latvian Legion testify to the savagery for which Stalin's earlier occupation of the Baltic States provided a threadbare excuse.

If the demise of Soviet power facilitates reunions of superannuated murderers, it throws into question the wisdom of extending the Nato umbrella to the very frontiers of Russia. The scandalous Riga rally, following on the election of President Adamkus in Lithuania (see our March issue), raises grave questions about the Baltic States' fitness to join democratic Europe □

## Profile

## The Good Old Days

May Mueller defies her 90 years with a restless energy and eternal enthusiasm for all things theatrical. She was born in 1907 in London's East End, where her tailor father died prematurely from overwork, leaving his wife to feed, clothe and protect six girls and a boy on a meagre income by working for the United Synagogue.

At school May loved reading, dancing and singing. A teacher noticed her precocious talents, telling her mother that she was destined for a stage career. Sure enough, at the tender age of twelve May joined Terry Freedman's stage school in Hampstead (Jessie Matthews was another pupil) and started out on her professional career as Rose May, performing in revue with Terry's Juveniles in Moss and Stoll Empires around London.

In 1925 she broke into a topline show at the London Hippodrome as a chorus girl in the hit musical comedy 'Mercenary Mary'. A summer season in a concert party at St Anne's led to touring in 'Too



May Mueller in her days as Rose May, chorus girl and soubrette in London and Paris.

Many Cooks', a show produced by Gracie Fields' husband, Archie Pitts. It was a tough régime – on stage six days a week and travelling to a new venue every Sunday.

In 1930 May joined the chorus line of the Helen Greasley Girls at the Scala Theatre in Bordeaux with her mother's injunction ringing in her ears: "Don't

bring any trouble", and then toured France. Joining her younger sister at the Casino de Paris at the height of its fame, May was soon making a name for herself and even began a film career. She returned to England when her beloved mother fell ill and died, and never performed in France again.

May was appearing in five shows a day at London's Prince of Wales Theatre when, in 1935, she met her husband-to-be Herbert, a refugee from Berlin who completed his studies in dentistry at Edinburgh. They married in 1938 at the Great Synagogue in Duke's Place and Herbert set up practice in South London's Elephant and Castle district.

The second chapter of May's life was as wife and mother of their son Rudi, born during the war. They were bombed out and moved to a flat in Hampstead where they still live. May and Herbert are regular attenders at the AJR Paul Balint Day Centre. May retains her love of opera, dancing and the stage, and is blessed with a wonderful memory, still able to recite 'The Lamplighter' by Robert Louis Stevenson, which she learnt in school at the age of seven!

□ Ronald Channing

## Benign apartheid

Some years ago I took part in a panel discussion at B'nai Brith House, Fitzjohn's Avenue. Afterwards, during an informal chat among the panellists, the question of intermarriage came up, and one lady said: "It's okay by me – my own son married an English Jewess".

Having hitherto assumed that a mixed marriage meant one between Jewish and non-Jewish partners, I was quite taken aback. Since then I have become increasingly aware of an intra-communal dividing line that still exists between 'us' and 'them' (i.e. between German-descended Jews and Anglo-Jews of East European descent) after 60 years.

Let me quote three instances: A recently widowed AJR member expressed consternation on receiving letters of condolence that ended with the phrase 'I wish you long life'. 'What does it mean?' she asked. The phrase 'sitting on *shpilkes*' – which I once used to rhyme with 'poems of Rilke's' – has aroused similar incomprehension around the AJR office.

And even the title *Zeider* (see p4) stumped one of our multilingual proof readers.

The conclusion I draw from the above is that there has been regrettably little mixing between us relative newcomers and East European-descended co-religionists who constitute the bulk of Anglo-Jewry. One can think of several reasons for this:

Firstly, at the time of arrival the refugees (especially from Germany) were largely middle-class, and Anglo-Jews working class. Secondly, German-speakers tended to gravitate towards NW London, whereas the 'Anglos' mainly occupied a zone stretching from Stepney to Stamford Hill. Thirdly, the staple occupations of the East Enders – tailoring, woodwork, leather, furs – only absorbed a minority of us newcomers.

I, however, belonged to that minority. Though I look back upon the near-decade spent in the rag trade with very mixed feelings, I feel enriched by my immersion in the still partly-Yiddish speaking environment this entailed, both geographically and socially.

□ Richard Grunberger

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of the  
**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES**

will be held on

**SUNDAY 21st JUNE 1998**

3pm at 15 Cleve Road NW6

**Agenda:-**

Annual Report 1997

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of Committee of Management\*

**Guest speaker:**

**Her Honour, Judge Dawn Freedman**

\* No person other than a committee member retiring by rotation shall be elected or re-elected a committee member at any general meeting unless:-

(a) he or she is recommended by the Committee of Management, or

(b) not less than twenty one clear days before the date appointed for the meeting, notice executed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting has been given to the Society of the intention to propose that person for election or re-election together with notice executed by that person of his willingness to be elected or re-elected.

## Shayn, Schön, Sheen

Once, at a gathering hosted by an Israeli friend, his daughter lifted her child out of the cot to sounds of universal approbation. A Mideuropean-descended twenty-something sitting next to me exclaimed 'the baby is *shayn*'. I wondered whether *shayn* was the pronunciation she had learnt from a relative old enough to have heard the Andrew Sisters' rendition of *Bei mir bist du shayn* (which on the record rhymed with 'I try to explain').

How much better, I thought, if that relative had seen Frank Wedekind's *Lulu* (or Berg's opera of the same name) because that work features a character - who is both *Lulu*'s first husband and victim - by the name of Schön. (This prompts the rather unpleasant reminiscence that the 'degenerate' composer Alban Berg tried to 'sell' *Lulu* to Goebbels by accentuating the negative characteristics of the Jewish Dr Schön; in the event the ruse didn't work).

*Schön* as an adjective rather than a proper noun also has a regrettable connotation in American street language. US slang boasts two pejorative terms for Jew: *kike* and *sheeny*. The former is supposed to be the short form of *keikele*, a corruption of *kreisele*, little circle. (Illiterate Jewish immigrants would sign documents or receipts with a circle rather than the abhorrent cross).

*Sheeny* likewise derives from the language of the immigrants. When non-English speaking pedlars displayed their goods to potential customers their sales patter always included '*das ist sehr schön*', probably pronounced in *Juden-Deutsch* rather than Yiddish. The first wave of immigrants who arrived around 1850 - because of cheaper fares on steamships, the Hungry Forties, and the failed '48 Revolution - came from Germany and not Eastern Europe. (These pedlars, incidentally, bore names like Guggenheim, Sulzberger, Levi-Strauss, or Goldwasser, which, a generation or two later, had become household words).

It seems a far cry from an American derogatory term for immigrants from further East to the English placename East Sheen. Nonetheless, let me impart this arcane bit of knowledge: Richmond, Surrey, appeared on medieval maps as Sheen, because its picturesque riverside location prompted its first inhabitants to call it the equivalent of *schön* in the

Anglo-Saxon tongue. Its modern name only came into use when Henry VII, who, before defeating Richard III had been Duke of Richmond (in Yorkshire), built his royal palace there.

The fact that England has two Richmonds, one in the North and the other in the South, confused Friedrich von Flotow when he composed *Martha* (subtitled *Der Mädchenmarkt zu Richmond*): one scene in the opera takes place at Richmond Castle and the next in Richmond Park, 200 miles away.

And, having started this *causerie* with one Jewish reference, let me finish with another. The most famous man Richmond, Yorkshire, ever sent to parliament, was Leon Brittan, a second generation immigrant. Richmond's solid burghers originally jibbed at selecting a candidate who, in Harold MacMillan's words, was "an old Estonian rather than an old Etonian". However, the Tory grandee Willy Whitelaw - immortalised in Mrs. Thatcher's phrase "every Party should have a Willy" - twisted their arms and they relented. Today the former MP for Richmond is the heir-apparent to Jacques Santer's 'Euro kingdom' at Brussels.

□ Richard Grunberger

## Czech compensation

Following the "Czech/German Declaration on mutual relations and their future development" of January 1997, a bilateral agreement establishing the Czech/German Fund for the Future was concluded on 29.12.1997. The fund, to which the Federal Republic has contributed 140 million D-Mark, is to be used for major social projects, including those benefiting victims of Nazi persecution.

Although the official Czech position is that the Fund cannot deal with individual compensation claims, we have been advised that the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic (POB 297, 110 01 Praha 1) has been authorised to "collect information about individuals who could benefit from these social projects".

It is accordingly suggested that claimants should contact the Federation direct. However, persons already in receipt of compensation either from Germany or from the Claims Conference etc., will not be eligible for assistance from the Fund □

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## Review

## Father to the man

Amos Oz, *PANTHER IN THE BASEMENT*, translated by Nicholas de Lange, Vintage, £5.99.

This is a charming, often amusing, slim-volume novel about the deadly serious time when the world held its breath in anticipation of the fate about to befall the Jews who had escaped from murderous Europe into Palestine. The State of Israel was about to be proclaimed and war was about to ensue. We know the outcome, but the players in this drama did not.

Oz has set himself a difficult task. The story takes the child's eye view as recalled by the mature man. Through his narrative you sense the blind optimism of early teenage, as well as the occasional tremors of fear and the nearby drum beats of destiny. And on top of that you get intimations of perfectly ordinary teenage-cum-family problems.

The first person narrator, probably Oz himself, is a member of an underground group dedicated to freeing Jewish Palestine from the 'British yoke'. His fellow conspirators are another teenager whose codename is Ben Hur, and a third one, Chita. The narrator himself is known as Proffy, because he is a studious boy who, unlike the other two, can actually spell difficult words and find places on a map. Ben Hur is the leader of the group, but Proffy has the big ideas. Chita is the dogsbody.

Proffy has been accused of being a traitor and faces a court-martial. Of course these immature boys are not real guerrillas; they are playing at it. But they are a mirror picture of Palmach, Irgun and the Stern Gang. And what is Proffy's act of treason? It is friendship with the British police sergeant Dunlop, an ardent self-taught student of biblical Hebrew (and perhaps an ever so slightly suspect admirer of Jewish youth).

Proffy's father is writing a history of Polish Jewry, but also has connections with the real Underground. The British search the family's home, and if such a search can be funny, even delightful, then this one is. The embarrassed British officer gets a guided tour of the father's extensive library and, of course, finds nothing. Proffy firmly believes that his father is hiding the plan for a Jewish super-weapon.

And so it goes on. The treason trial fizzles out. The boys keep on slinking around back gardens. Proffy overlooks Jerusalem from the flat roof of his home, and incidentally spies, quite harmlessly, on Ben Hur's elder sister Yardena.

Only at the end does Oz break through the time warp, to tell us how archetypally Proffy, Ben Hur and Chita have slid into adulthood.

□ John Rossall

## The light between dark and dark

David Grossman, *THE ZIGZAG KID*, translated by Betsy Rosenberg, Bloomsbury, £14.99.

Once again David Grossman carries us away into his convoluted world, into his Israel, which is at one and the same time so familiar and yet so different from the clichéd descriptions the place often attracts. What we witness here are the adventures of a near barmitzvah boy which would have astonished Mark Twain.

The barmitzvah kid is Nonny, wayward son of a very odd Israeli police officer. Nonny's mother died tragically shortly after his birth; his father's girlfriend Gabi is Nonny's official and much loved step-mother. Together they lay on a pre-barmitzvah 'adventure' trip from Jerusalem to visit his uncle, in Haifa, whom he deeply dislikes.

It all goes haywire. An elegant, monocled 'diplomat' befriends the boy who manages to be both shy and forward, and Nonny is kidnapped (without realising it at first). He gets to drive the powerful engine, with much hooting and tooting, while the 'diplomat' holds the driver at bay with a gun; then they jump the train and drive off in stolen cars.

By now Nonny has turned into Tammy, disguised as a girl in frock and wig, and his smart kidnapper now looks like an old dodderer. Thus they fool the police who have begun to look for them.

Nonny mistakes all this for a prank organised by his dad and stepmum; occasionally he becomes a bit suspicious, but by and large he treats it as a lark. In reality this dangerous adventure turns into a rite of passage in the course of which he learns a great deal about himself, about his mother, his kidnapper, his

grandparents and his adored and feared father. And still more about his dumpy, unglamorous and yet so subtle step-mother.

It all ends in a wild chase and gun-play in which father and son nearly shoot each other, where he learns that his abductor is his grandfather, an international crook; his grandmother is a famous actress whom he has always adored from afar; his mother was also a criminal, whom his father arrested and then married not long after.

And yet, this is no farce. It is a piece of Grossman's magic realism, shot through with philosophical 'discovery' that life is the light between dark and dark. This bleak view is enlivened by humour and even some sentimentality. Few writers could have run these various themes together, but Grossman does. He kept me spellbound throughout.

□ JR

## For ever Zeider

We would stand by the edge of the grubby old public swimming pool drying ourselves, my zeider and I. As likely as not he would tell me once again about how he would go swimming back in *der beim* somewhere in Poland. I would listen to this fragment of his boyhood. Always I saw him in some Arcadian setting of endless pine trees and velvet grass sloping down to a still lake. It was always early morning. He would emerge from a log cabin, run to the water and fracture its stillness with strong strokes. He would go on swimming till he was lost to view.

There were no other people, no other houses, no other movements. It was an idyll I clung to from which I had banished pogroms and poverty and the fearful little community huddled over their prayers and sewing machines.

That was my story, not his. And when we went on day trips to Southend, East London's seaside, in his sixties he would set out to swim the length of the pier and back, a mile or so each way. My *booba* without fail went through the identical torments of anxiety. "The *mesbiggenah!* He's gone out too far again." I was free from all such fears. For he was always the intrepid boy swimmer in the pure lake who always came back. And he did. And even in death still does.

□ Harold Rosen

## Slits in the battlements

"Seen *Titanic* yet?" I asked a friend. "Oh no," he replied dismissively. "And I've no intention of doing so, either." "Why not?" "Because it's bad taste, isn't it?" "Is it?" "Yes, well I mean there are still a handful of *Titanic* survivors around, and it's bad taste to commercialise such a terrible event in their lifetime."

The rectitude of his reply certainly gives pause for thought. We have entered an era where people put bad taste and political correctness in the same boat, if you'll pardon the pun. The conceptual art we saw at the Royal Academy's *Sensations* exhibition, for instance, generated one of the fiercest debates on bad taste last summer. Murder, torture, paedophilia, the Damian Hirst offerings resembling some ancient sacrifice, the notorious Hindley fingerprint portrait – all human (and animal) death was there. Yet I left the gallery, oddly not with any specific revulsion, but with renewed sensitivity to life itself. I suddenly felt that the *cumulative* effect of the exhibition was to throw light on the intense relationship between people and animals when they are at their most vulnerable.

Since the subject of what does or does not constitute bad taste in art is so topical, the first analogy that springs to mind is the Holocaust. Certainly this was the most terrible event of the mid 20th century because an active will to murder, torture and commit every bestiality known to man flourished unchecked in Hitler's Germany. Certainly there are still survivors and refugees in nearly every corner of the earth. But apart from the Holocaust TV soap that was so lambasted by critics some years ago (although it did make a superstar out of Meryl Streep) you rarely hear people condemn as bad taste the plethora of Holocaust art, literature and drama still pouring out of the inferno of the Nazi period, still inflaming our collective memory late into the 20th century.

On the contrary, we *should* remember, you hear people saying: Don't let the memory die.

So why does the term *bad taste* so easily spring to mind with films like *Titanic* rather than the Holocaust? You could argue that watching people scream and drown or freeze to death becomes an act of voyeurism insensitive to the memory of those who suffered so terrible and unexpected a death. Because, apart from a series of crucial errors of

judgment, man in the case of the *Titanic*, had no intrinsic power over his situation.

The Holocaust is, of course, vastly different. It is a dramatic historical episode which cries out to be studied for all the deeper meanings which teach us about man's potential inhumanity, about the demonic traits which lie dormant within his character and which, if aroused by political or psychological circumstances, can prove ungovernable. But despite the lessons of history, is it still voyeurism to repeat the pain and anguish of victims?

*Fragments*, a Holocaust memoir by Benjamin Wilkormirski, first published in Switzerland in 1995, won several literary prizes. *The Guardian* has described the author as a major literary discovery, ranking with Primo Levi. At Jewish Book Week last year, I bought a copy of the slim volume and tentatively asked its even more tentative author, a shy but wellknown clarinettist in his day job, to sign it. *Fragments* is about an infant's Holocaust, a description of events in the author's early childhood which builds slowly and excruciatingly to the most harrowing visions of Nazi depravity. These visions are like slits in the battlements of the child's war: too young to make sense of the tragedy and the torture around him, he describes what he sees, not with the *recherché* perception of adulthood, but with the infant's immediacy. The child cannot understand, cannot castigate, and so, most devastating of all, he simply accepts. There is no comment, only the silence that Wilkormirski imposes upon himself when the terror comes too close. And the guilt that we feel when we share the torments with this young child that we could do nothing to prevent.

As well as drawing us all closer into the young Wilkormirski's private hell, his book may well be literature as therapy for a writer who can never redeem for himself or for others the cost of his hideous experiences. But what about us? As we stare through the slits in his battlements are we merely voyeurs? Or have we come to hold his hand tightly, to wait in the silence and pray that our empathy, or sensitivity to the pain he conveys to us, will enlighten the world and cause it to grow kinder?

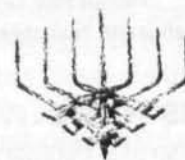
There is a theory that you cannot understand another's suffering unless you have been through it yourself. There is another that claims the endless repetition on film of unpleasant events, such as Hitler's grating broadcasts to the masses,

actually causes harm, reiterating the evil energies that emerged from these times in a way we may yet be too dense to understand. The first calls for an imaginative leap of understanding on a massive scale. The second, for the banishment of all ugly memories lest they reproduce themselves. Can we empathise if we remove ourselves from artistic events which try to bring the sense of other's suffering nearer?

Well, I did see *Titanic*. And like many others I came out shaking, having experienced the virtual reality of drowning, falling, freezing to death and enduring every anguish the fates felt moved to inflict on those poor victims. There is a fine line to be drawn, it seems, between empathy and voyeurism. And like so many things, it is a question of balance.

□ Gloria Tessler

Gloria Tessler's biography of Lady Jakobovits is to be published in the autumn.



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## Letters to the Editor

### MAUERBACH AUCTION

Sir – We were astonished to read in your February issue Mr Eckhaus' denial that funds from the Mauerbach Benefit Sale had been received by the Central Committee of Jews from Austria in Israel.

Twenty five percent of the net proceeds of the Mauerbach Benefit Sale (29.5 million AS) were in fact transferred to the Central Committee of Jews from Austria in Israel in May 1997, some nine months ago.

It is interesting to note that Mr Eckhaus neglects his own role in the "bitter dispute" surrounding the Mauerbach Benefit Sale and his failure so far to appoint a representative of his organisation to serve on the control commission of the Mauerbach Fund.

Hofrat Paul Grosz, President  
Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien

### IT OCCURS TO ME ...

Sir – Ernest David's February comments are very much to the point. Let, above all, the successors of the German and Austrian Nazis put their house in order.

Let them very belatedly do justice where they have so far dismally failed by paying out justifiable compensation, pensions or restitution.

Guildford Surrey  
Henry Fulda

### HUBRIS

Sir – I really must protest at the repeated appearance in your columns of letters congratulating you and your journal. Has hubris no limits?

Anyway, the points made are blindingly obvious. I have written only two letters to you. Both have been published. What further evidence is required of the intellectual content of your paper and the intelligence of its editor?

Enough, Sir! Embarrass us no more.  
Chalfont St Giles Buckinghamshire  
Alan S Kaye

### HE STOOPED TO CONQUER

Sir – I find myself in agreement with your correspondent H K Meyer, and was sorry to read your intemperate attack on the

late Sir James Goldsmith. The Referendum Party was non-political. Its sole purpose was to promote a referendum to see whether this country indeed wanted ever-closer ties with Europe which would ultimately lead to federalism. In the (admittedly unlikely) event of the Referendum Party's winning the last election, it would have held the referendum, abided by the decision, and would then have dissolved itself. Hardly a disreputable programme, one would have thought.

Finally, I am puzzled as to why all this should incur the editor's ire. I wonder why those of us who owe our lives to this country's generosity and courage in the last war, should be so eager to see it giving up its independence and sovereignty. Neo-Nazism is rife in the former GDR and in France. Perhaps the AJR should tread a little more warily.

Margaret Avenue London E4  
Gerda Mayer

### BARTERING FOR JEWS

Sir – I take whatever Prof. Bauer says with a large dose of salt.

Slovakia was not occupied until 1944. Not one Jew need have died if the directives had come from on high. As it was, father Jozef Tiso's flock rounded up their Jewish neighbours, stuffed them into waggons and paid the Germans to gas them. This cost was offset by the looting of Jewish property which, as in the Czech Republic next door, lasts to this day.

Ipswich Suffolk  
Frank Bright

### MISATTRIBUTION

Sir – Your mini-editorial mentions "Irish extremists like William Joyce".

William Joyce was an American, born in New York. His parents were naturalised American citizens.

Putney Hill London  
GF Manley

### ROYAL SAINTS

Sir – November's front page editorial calls for correction.

St Louis of France may have been the

only French king to be canonised, but he was not the only mediaeval monarch to be considered holy. Leaving aside the saintly queens St Margaret of Scotland and St Jadwiga of Poland, there were also the royal patron saints of Bohemia and Hungary, St Wenceslas and St Stephen respectively (plus the ducal patron saint of lower Austria, Leopold III of Babenberg).

Deddington Oxfordshire  
Francis Steiner

### OFFENBACH

Sir – I would like to add to Gaby Jacobi's letter (February issue).

The rabbi referred to was her late father, Max Dienemann, a prominent leader of Liberal Judaism. On his 60th birthday in 1935, he was honoured with a Festschrift with contributions by the likes of Leo Baeck and Martin Buber.

Offenbach town remembers and honours the past of its Jewish fellow citizens, by publications and events, and fosters the new Jewish community in their midst today.

I was sent a three-volume work from the Oberbuergermeister's Office entitled *Zur Geschichte der Juden in Offenbach am Main*, which makes fascinating reading.

A world famous centre of fine printing in the '20s and '30s Offenbach produced a special edition of the Haggadah in 1927, edited by the late Dr S Guggenheim with the assistance of leading typographers and illustrators, such as Rudolf Koch, Fritz Kredel and Berthold Wolpe. The *Offenbacher Haggadah* was re-issued as a new edition of 600 copies with hand-coloured illustrations by Kredel in 1960, printed by the Max Dorn Presse in Offenbach. The editor dedicated the work to his trusted friend and teacher, Rabbi Dr Max Dienemann, who had contributed much to the original edition.

Aberystwyth  
William Dienemann

### A WELCOME GESTURE

Sir – On January 16th the *Jewish Chronicle* reported that gravestones had been vandalised in one of the Jewish cemeteries in Berlin. This happens to be the cemetery where my late grandfather is buried.

We wrote to the authorities in Berlin and this is the reply we received:

Your grandfather's grave is in order and has not been overturned. The violation of

the gravestones is a regrettable and sad incident, but something good has come out of it.

The day following the vandalism some young stone masons in training repaired and erected the overturned gravestones free of charge and with voluntary labour.

Calderstones  
Liverpool

Dr Ellen M Shiffman

## TIMES COPIES AJR INFORMATION

Sir – In your evocative piece titled "Naustalgia (p3, March issue) you referred to your ante-natal memories of the Habsburgs and continued: "When British journalists filed endless stories about Princess Diana... I berated them inwardly for not drawing the obvious parallel with Empress Elisabeth...".

The day after I read your article, *The Times* had a supplement on Austrian holidays (27 Feb). One long item about "Sissi" was headed: The life of the Empress Elizabeth mirrors Diana's, even down to the gym visits, says Sebastian O'Kelly. The Habsburg's queen of hearts. Just a coincidence, of course, yet a remarkable one.

Netherhall Gardens  
London NW3

Michael Hellman

## NAUSTALGIA

Sir – Apropos of your report in the (March issue) that a newly built house in the Midlands was named "VINDOBONA", I can go one better: When I bought my house in Ealing in 1948, it had already been named "VINDOBONA" by the English seller. When I expressed surprise, he was in turn surprised that I should know the origin of the word.

"Well", I said, "actually it means one of two things to me: one is the name the Romans gave Vienna". "That is interesting", he replied "but I didn't know". "The other" I continued "is the name of a Viennese coffee house at the corner of Walfischgasse and the Ring". "That's it", he explained, "I named the house after this café because I met my English wife there, when I had a coffee one Sunday, taking a rest from installing Austria's first sound installation into the Apollo Cinema".

"VINDOBONA"  
Claremont Road  
London W13

Alfred Lane

## HONOURS

Sir – Please convey my sincere congratulations to Mr Yogi Mayer on being appointed MBE.

Every time I come across his name in your splendid publication I can't help wondering if he is the same gentleman with whom I and some other likely lads played ice-hockey in the mid-thirties at the 'Wintermärchen' ice-rink in the Leibnitz Strasse. He won't remember me, I was at least three or four years younger than he.

I took a walk to this place during a recent visit to Berlin. Alas, the 'Wintermärchen' has become a huge car park.

Salmon Street  
London NW9

Günter Busse

## CRI DU COEUR

Sir – I was born of a Jewish mother and a Jewish father. I am *not* a Reform convert. Yet I celebrate Xmas and have a Xmas tree in my house. Contrary to expectations and paradoxically, *I feel* Jewish. There must be many ex-Austrian Jews like me. Are we Jewish or not according to Henry Schragenheim? Who cares what *he* thinks?

Cheam  
Surrey

Inge Trott

## SB's COLUMN

Sir – I have always read SB's column with a mixture of delight and irritation. Delight, because it evokes a splendid period in the world of entertainment; irritation, because it does not identify the authors, composers and performers who were Jewish – surely an essential piece of information for your readers.

Hampstead High Street  
London NW3

Ludwig Berlin

## ROMANCE OF JEWISH SURNAMES

Sir – I am reminded of an incident during my husband's spell as the M.O. of a peacetime cavalry (i.e. tank) regiment somewhere in Germany.

It was ladies' night in the officers' mess, and I was seated next to the titled lady who was the adjutant's mum; we had little in common and conversation was flagging. I enquired where her home was.

"Ah", she said, "it's a little place on the East coast named after my husband's family – Summerminton".

It happens that our surname was the unoriginal (cf. Nigel Lawson) choice, in preference to Levy, of my father-in-law when he went into general practice in the Chelsea of the nineteen twenties, when antisemitism could well have threatened the size of his patient list. So, intending not to be outdone, it occurred to me to inform her that we came from "...a little place on the East coast, named after my husband's family – Leigh-on-Sea".

Fortunately the M.O.'s list size was not at risk on that occasion.

Fairdale Gardens  
London SW15

Suzanne Lee

## BINDERS

Sir – The avid reader who would like binders for this revered publication will find that it is too small for A4 by 22mm and too large for A3. However, a standard so-called banker's box, a sturdy folded open cardboard contraption from any office supplier, is at least the right depth and has done sterling service for my invaluable collection since I joined in April '92, and one box holds 70 issues tidily. An index has not been so easy to come by.

Ipswich  
Suffolk

Frank Bright

**Anna Cropper  
and  
Dalia Friedland**

star in their own play

## ACROSS THE BRIDGE

The true story of two women  
who survived the Holocaust  
against all the odds

at the

**New End Theatre**

27 New End, Hampstead, NW3

**28th April-10th May**

Details of performances  
from Box Office: 0171 794 0022  
(See page 15)

# The AJR at Work

## GLORIOUS FOOD!

Nothing differentiates peoples, reveals their geographical origins or assumes greater practical importance in maintaining their culture than the style and ingredients of their cooking. Continental Jewish cuisine of the pre-war era continues to represent a unique culinary style which is still enjoyed by people of central European origin. Whether fried, boiled, steamed, pané or *au naturel*, if properly prepared such dishes bring great pleasure to the eaters and much satisfaction to their creators.

The catering team at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre in West Hampstead often take pride in re-creating or adapting some of the special dishes which members can recall from their childhood. The basic luncheon menu is changed twice a week, providing a daily choice of two main courses and a salad or baked potato depending on the time of year. All ingredients used are kosher, fresh and prepared that day on the premises by the AJR's own professional cooks.

For many, lunches at the Day Centre are a highlight of the week. Members

who have yet to spend a day at the Centre when they can enjoy such a luncheon, are invited to do so at the earliest opportunity. Please ring either Sylvia, Renée or Susie on 0171 328 0208 to make a booking. If you require assistance with transportation we will do our very best to help.

□ Ronald Channing

### Typical luncheon menus:

**Menu 1:** *Scotch broth; schnitzel with lemon wedges & duchesse potatoes, Danish sweet & sour cucumber salad, or pancakes filled with asparagus; fresh fruit salad.*

**Menu 2:** *Cream of cauliflower soup; lamb hotpot, or asparagus quiche with green beans; plum crumble.*

**Menu 3:** *Lentil soup; fried cod with tartare sauce & lemon wedges, parmentier potatoes & cauliflower with parsley sauce, or stir fry vegetables & rice; locksben pudding & cream.*

**Menu 4:** *Vegetable soup; goulash, pilaff rice & broccoli, or fish veronique; apple strudel & cream.*

**Menu 5:** *Chicken soup; chicken meatballs in tomato sauce with pasta shells, or vegetable plait with tomato sauce; baked apple with vanilla sauce.*

## AJR's new social worker

Nikki Sender has joined the AJR's Social Service Department primarily to care for an additional 80 clients, responsibility for whose welfare is being transferred from World Jewish Relief.

After graduating from Manchester University, Nikki, who is 27, entered the field of social work, specialising in the particular needs of Jewish clients with Norwood, Ravenswood and, most recently, Jewish Care. With further studies in psychotherapy, Nikki is well qualified to guide and support people through difficult periods in their lives. Yoga, walking and 'lots of vegetarian cooking' help Nikki to unwind after a day spent sharing people's problems, concerns and emotions.

□ RDC

## AJR Pinner

Membership of AJR's new group in Pinner is expanding rapidly, meeting on the first Thursday of every month. Willy Ungar recalled the 'Dunera Boys' one-way passage to Australia. Esther Holt is to talk on Ethiopian Jews in April, Richard Grunberger appraises emigré writers in June, and Evelyn Friedlander reveals Georgian synagogues in all their glory in July. For programme details call 0181 866 0185.

## 'Legacy'

AJR volunteers went to London's Cockpit Theatre to see 'Legacy', by Shauna Kantor. The play tells the story of a young Jewish-American man who risks his life attempting to save a Jewish photographer in Nazi Germany by pretending to be her husband.

The play, which has already toured in the UK and Germany and been seen by many schoolchildren who disclose their own racist experiences, is an educational event both realistic and very moving. A follow-up discussion between the audience and the cast – most of whom are non-Jews – revealed that they themselves had been deeply affected by the experience. Sadly, neo-Nazi antisemitism had also been encountered at a performance in Croydon.

□ Debbie Picker

## Maintaining mobility and independence

A leading supplier of mobility aids for the less able and elderly, all of which help to maintain a person's independence, displayed them for AJR members at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. 'Keep Able's' representative Chris Dwyer was in attendance.

Among a wide range of items were a wheeled walking frame, a grip with which to grasp things just out of arms' reach, an easy-to-use potato peeler, a back support for chairs, a non-slip TV tray, an adjustable bedtable, and a tailor-made orthopaedic armchair for maximum comfort.

Keep Able have nine branches nationwide, three of which are in London. They also offer home assessments on larger items and in-store advice from qualified therapists. For a product range and price list telephone 0181 201 0810.

□ RDC



Members assess various aids to mobility and independence at the Day Centre.

## Volunteer award

The indefatigable Irene White, known and admired by many in the AJR as the organiser of *AJR Information's* tapes for blind and partially sighted members, has been nominated for a Whitbread Volunteer Action Award in recognition of her exceptional and unflagging contributions to the welfare of others. Established in conjunction with the Home Office and a number of national volunteer agencies, the award came as a complete surprise to Irene who sees it as a spur to greater efforts for those, like herself, of refugee origin to this country, and certainly not as an excuse to ease up or retire from active service!

### Second Successful Season

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- \* Excellent food
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- \* Meeting new friends

### AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

on Wednesday 22 April 1998  
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Guest speaker: **Maurice Soffa**  
**'University of the Third Age'**

Reservations (£7)  
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### 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:

**Wednesday 1 April**  
**Thursday 9 April**  
**Monday 13 April**  
**Tuesday 21 April**  
**Wednesday 29 April**  
**Thursday 7 May**

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.*

## ... Viewpoint ...

### Pope pourri

**P**ope John Paul II was elected to the throne of St Peter in 1978, the first non-Italian to double as the Bishop of Rome for 450 years. The elevation of this robust Polish prelate from Krakow to the near god-like status the position confers, was a reflection of the Church's support for Poland's many Catholics at the height of the Cold War and a vote of confidence in Karol Wojtyla's ability to survive longer than the one month his immediate predecessor managed to hold down the job.

Two decades on, John Paul's increasing frailty returns the question of St Peter's next successor to the agenda. The customary denials and obfuscations which emanate from the current crop of candidate cardinals only serve to whet Vatican-watchers' appetites for the delicate manoeuvres which precede the inevitable Sistine Chapel conclave and confirmatory puff of white smoke.

During his reign, Pope John Paul II

has held the conservative line firm on birth control, abortion and women priests. Although a newly-elected Pope cannot revoke the decisions of his immediate predecessor, John Paul packed the College of Cardinals with a further 22 like-minded cardinals. Cardinal Archbishop Lustiger of Paris, a hidden child of Jewish birth, is to be found among those of a more liberal persuasion.

According to custom, on the death of John Paul, the papers of Pius XII, who succeeded to the Papacy in 1939, should be opened for scrutiny in the Vatican's archives. Lord Janner's ongoing attempts to uncover the origins and destinations of gold looted from Holocaust victims have succeeded in securing the release of some 26-year-old edited volumes from the archives. Questions on gold smuggled from Nazi Croatia by the Vatican and used to finance an escape pipeline and South America haven for Nazis should not wait for a new reign to be answered. □ Ronald Channing

### PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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- \* daily musical entertainment programme \*

Call Sylvia Matus - 0171 328 0208

Afternoon entertainment programme -

#### APRIL/MAY 1998

Wed 1 Paul Arone, tenor, Sharon Ellis, soprano & Margaret Eaves, piano  
Thur 2 'Keep Able' talk and demonstration  
Sun 5 General Quiz, compiled & presented by Lily Rudolfer  
Mon 6 Eddy Simmons and piano  
Tue 7 Katinka Seiner, Malcolm Cottel, piano with Laszlo Easton, violin  
Wed 8 Sarah Tyler, mezzo & Angela Rourke-Grayson, piano  
Thur 9 CLOSED AFTER LUNCH - EREV PESACH  
Sun 12 DAY CENTRE CLOSED - EASTER DAY  
Mon 13 DAY CENTRE CLOSED - EASTER MONDAY  
Tue 14 Musical Memories - Yacov Paul  
Wed 15 Guyathrie Peiris & William Patrick, piano  
Thur 16 Sue Kennett & Gordon Weaver, piano

Sun 19 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT  
Mon 20 Shirley Gurevitz & Anne Berryman, piano  
Tue 21 Valerie Hewitt, soprano & Anne Berryman, piano  
Wed 22 DAY CENTRE OPEN - LUNCHEON CLUB  
Thur 23 Elspeth Wilks, piano & Clare Wase, violin  
Sun 26 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT  
Mon 27 Angela Arratoon & Diana Legroux, piano  
Tue 28 Natalie Coury, soprano & Duncan Walsh-Atkins  
Wed 29 Tine Birkeland, soprano & Philip Mountford, piano  
Thur 30 Mark Rosen, baritone & Daphne Lewis, piano  
Sun 3 The Hounslow Community Opera  
Mon 4 DAY CENTRE CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deaths

**Helft.** Hiltrud (Hilde) Helft passed away peacefully after a long illness. She will be sadly missed by all her friends. Hilde Baban.

**Sondhelm.** Anna Judith Sondhelm (Anna Markus), born Budapest 5.12.27. died Hyde 10.10.97. Beloved wife of Walter, mother of Francis Markus, stepmother of Sonia, Peter and Martin.

**Kuttner.** Betty Kuttner born in Berlin 22.8.02. died peacefully on 10.2.98. Lives in the heart and memory of her son Peter and her near and dear ones.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Weiss.** Karl Weiss, died March 1982, and Tommy Weiss, who left us suddenly March 1956, not quite 11 years old. *"Es ist bestimmt in Gottes Rat, dass man vom Liebsten das man hat, muss scheiden, ja scheiden."* Lisl.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Miscellaneous

**Can you help our Choir?** The Wizo Choir need a conductor to rehearse once a week and take concerts once or twice each month. Please contact Lotte Frazer Tel: 0171 486 2691.

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### SOCIETIES

**Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners.** Please contact Peter Sinclair 0181 882 1638 for information.

### WANTED!

Part-time secretary with W.P. skills. For author/businessman, **St John's Wood.** Flexible hours. Replies quoting hourly fee To **Box Number 1242**

### COMPUTER?

RoK desperately need a reasonably up-to-date computer in their **Kindertransport office.** Can you give or lend us one till our June 1999 reunion? Please phone 0171 431 1821

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Tel: 0171 328 0208

**Lily Freeman** invites all her friends to the opening of her exhibition

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New End Square, NW3  
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on **Wednesday 29th April**  
from 6.30-8.30pm  
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**Mon 4th May 2-5pm**  
**Tue 5th May CLOSED**  
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## Art Notes

**Princes, Poets and Paladins**, at the British Museum until April 13, provides a rare opportunity for seeing works of exquisite beauty from Turkey, Iran and India, most of which have never before been exhibited in London, from the collection of Prince and Princess Sadruddin Aga Khan. The exhibition not only includes all the major periods of Iranian painting, but also important Mughal and Ottoman paintings, together with paintings from Rajput and nineteenth century works produced for the British in India. The sixteenth century Iranian paintings are especially notable for their intricate patterns, pure colour, superb drawing and rich decoration.

**Francis Bacon: The Human Body**, at the Hayward Gallery until April 5, is the first major exhibition of Bacon's work in the UK for over ten years. Included are paintings from 1945 to the mid-1980s, both single canvases and triptychs, many of them embodying the imagery for which Bacon is so well known. His contention that paint can make a direct assault on the nervous system is well demonstrated.

Concurrently at the Hayward is an exhibition to mark the ninetieth birthday of the pre-eminent photographer **Henri Cartier-Bresson**. Shown are many of his most famous photographs portraying Europe from the 1930s to the 1970s. His images are memorable for superb technique, keen observation, understanding and compassion.

**Turner and the Scientists**, at the Tate Gallery until June 21, focuses on the impact that scientific technological and architectural subjects and ideas had on the development of Turner's art. There are major loans from British and foreign museums and galleries, as well as many less familiar works from the Tate collection.

**Contemporary Art: The Janet Wolfson de Botton Gift**, a display of 50 works given to the Tate Gallery by Janet de Botton, is on view until April 26. Paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs by mainly American and British artists, including Andy Warhol, Frank Stella, Julian Schnabel and Richard Long, range from the 1960s to the present day.

Also at the Tate is an exhibition of sculptures, paintings and drawings by **Per Kirkeby**, one of Denmark's leading contemporary artists. Until May 26.

□ Barry Fealdman



*Scrolls of the Law, Simeon Solomon, 1840-1905. Art Treasures of England, Royal Academy till April 13th.*

## SB's Column

**A German playwright.** The works of the German dramatist Gerhart Hauptmann (1862-1946) are largely unknown to the British public. Although he reputedly showed Right-wing tendencies during the 1930s (when he was an old man) he had earlier expressed deep sympathy for the underdog. This was particularly evident in his drama *Die Weber* (The Weavers) which just received a new production at the Volksbühne, Berlin. Other recent revivals at Berlin's Kammerspiele such as *Der Biberpelz* and *Der rote Hahn* refocussed interest on this key figure in German drama.

**The Munich Opera Festival** (25 June - 31 July) promises an impressive programme ranging from Mozart and Wagner events to ballet, Lieder recitals and concerts. These feature such international stars as Plácido Domingo and Montserrat Caballé and a number of British participants, including Felicity Lott, Ann Murray, Margaret Price and Dennis O'Neill.

**Birthday.** Internationally-known film and theatre director, opera producer and designer Franco Zeffirelli had his 75th

birthday.

**Obituaries.** The name **Max Colpet**, who died in Munich aged 92, may not be familiar to everybody but many of his song lyrics became immensely popular. Colpet who emigrated to the United States in 1933 was a great friend of Billy Wilder's; he wrote hundreds of lyrics both in German and English, for the likes of Hans Albers, Edith Piaf, Nana Maskouri and Marlene Dietrich (including the latter's global hit *Where have all the flowers gone*). After the war Colpet returned to Germany where he staged German versions of *Irma La Douce* and *West Side Story*. One of Austria's prominent younger actresses, Nicolin Kunz, daughter of the late lamented baritone Erich Kunz, died on New Year's Eve. She had been a member of the 'Josefstadt' ensemble □

## 60th Anniversary

On the 10th November 1998 the German television network ZDF plans to transmit a programme about the *Kindertransporte*. Former Kindertransportees willing to assist in the preparation of this programme should contact the Editor of *AJR Information* □

## Annely Juda Fine Art

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## Exile Archive

The Exile Archive has been established at the Institute of Germanic Studies within the past academic year – 1996-97. Founded in 1950 as an independent research establishment within the University of London, the Institute differs from other organisations, handling exile material in these important respects: (a) it is the only national centre for Germanic studies in the UK and as such has become an officially recognised national research resource, open to all researchers (including members of the public); (b) it benefits from its geographically central position in London; (c) the exile material is not confined solely to the 1930s and 1940s but has a wider historical perspective, since there have been Germanic migrants to this country both in previous centuries and since.

The institute had already had entrusted to it the papers of individuals such as Rudolf Majut, Herbert Thoma and Berthold Auerbach, who fled persecution under National Socialism in Germany and Austria during the 1930s, together with those of distinguished British academics, such as William Rose and Jethro Bithell, who sought to help them settle, find employment and get their work published.

However, since the setting up of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies within the Institute, the Library has begun to attract archival donations from other emigrés, and has material relating to both individuals and organisations (e.g. the Isle of Man internment camps). Archival material collected so far comprises a variety of formats: correspondence, literary manuscripts, birth, marriage and death certificates, naturalisation papers, compensation forms, photographs and personal accounts of the experiences of exile life.

The papers are preserved and managed as part of the superb research resource which the Institute's Library offers. Qualified staff are on hand to receive and integrate material as well as answer enquiries and both published sources and archival material are described in electronic databases.

It is intended to expand this new Archive, and anyone who has interesting material for which the Institute may provide a suitable home is invited to contact the Librarian at Institute of Germanic Studies, 29 Russell Square, London EC1B 5DP. Tel: 0171-580-3480; Fax 0171-436-3497 □ Jennifer Hogarth, Archivist

## Leo Baeck's next president

Stuart Willner is to be installed as the next president of the Leo Baeck (London) Lodge of B'nai B'rith, having already held several senior offices including those of vice-president, secretary of the Leo Baeck Housing Association and co-chairman of the Cultural Activities Committee.

During his presidential term B'nai B'rith is undertaking a major international reorganisation which, by next year, will bring about the merger of lodges in Great Britain with those in Europe within a single Brussels-based organisation.

Since his retirement in 1990 Stuart has been an AJR volunteer and serves on the house committee at Balint House.

□ RDC

## Honour for Leon Greenman

Whitechapel-born Auschwitz survivor Leon Greenman received an OBE from the Queen at Buckingham Palace in recognition of his lifetime's fight against fascism in Britain. Leon, who lost his wife and only child in Auschwitz, still attends the Jewish Museum in Finchley most Sundays to impress upon younger generations the need to condemn inhuman acts unreservedly and, if necessary, to fight for basic human rights □

## President re-elected

Israel's President Ezer Weizman has been re-elected by the Knesset to a second term of office. Weizman is noted for his outspoken comments and support for the peace process □

## 50 YEARS AGO

### JAN MASARYK

What an inauspicious beginning for a year in which Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated and Jan Masaryk commits suicide.

Jan Masaryk was a good and trusted friend of the Jewish people. He had inherited from his great father an unquenchable thirst for freedom which he shared with Benes and the best part of the Czechoslovakian people. This love and respect of liberty made him the natural advocate of all oppressed and persecuted.

His practical help for all Jewish causes when he resided in London during the war has gained him many friends in our midst; his courageous stand at the international forums of Geneva and Lake Success will earn him for ever an honoured place in the memory of Israel □

AJR Information, April 1948

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

– APRIL 1998

- Ongoing: Surviving the Holocaust with the Russian Jewish Partisans:** Story of Jack Kagan, Jewish Museum, Britain, Zionism & British Jews: Jewish Museum, Camden Town (until 21 June) Sun-Thurs, 10am-4pm, £3
- Life & Times of NM Rothschild, 1777-1836:** Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (until 26 July) Tues-Sun, £4
- Thur 2 **Ethiopian Jews:** Esther Holt, Pinner AJR, 1 Cecil Park, 2pm
- Sun 5 **100 Years of the Bund:** Majer Bogdanski and Esther Brunstein, Jewish Museum, Finchley, 3pm, £2
- Mon 6 **Heines Leben und Werke (IN GERMAN):** Elsinä Stubbs MA, Club 43, 8pm
- Mon 20 **The Suez Crisis in Perspective:** Laurie Milner, historian, Imperial War Museum, Club 43, 8pm
- Thur 23 **South London AJR Get-Together:** Prentis Road Synagogue
- Mon 27 **New Ways of Laser Treatment:** Julian Winer BSc DO MRO, Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 28 **Journey Imagery in German Political Discourse:** Andreas Musolff, Aston University, German Research Colloquium, Sussex University, 5.15pm
- May
- Tue 5 **British Pacifist's Rescue of a German Jew:** Nick Tucker, Sussex University, 5.15pm

## ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

**Jewish Museum, Camden Town,** 129/131 Albert Street, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997, and at Sternberg Centre

**Sternberg Centre for Judaism/ Jewish Museum, Finchley,** 80 East End Road, N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288

**University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies.** Diana Franklin 0181 381 4721 or 01273 678 771

## The lost Heimat

*From an interview with Bea Green that appears in 'Münchener Nachkriegsjahre' published by the City of Munich, 1997.*

I was 26 years old when I came back here with a group of architectural students. I myself didn't study architecture but was teaching languages. I was curious as to how I would react to this city. When we arrived we met some journalists that wanted to talk to us. They interviewed me and asked me all sorts of questions. I remember well what I told them: that I was impressed by the amount of reconstruction that had taken place. In London things were going more slowly. But people were going on and on about the amount of serious damage bombs had caused, to the point that I asked: Well, and who started it? The interview appeared in the paper next day – all but that last sentence. That did annoy me at the time.

There was a lady I met, the wife of a colleague of my father's. She stated: "There you are. How lucky you were. You escaped all this". I was shocked but too diffident then to say anything.

I also went to see Dr Spanier who'd been our family doctor. He'd been a doctor in Theresienstadt and had survived. I remembered him as very tall and stout. He opened the door – he'd shrivelled, only his head was still large – he nearly cried when he saw me. He opened his arms and said: "Beate, my infant!" It was he who'd delivered me.

Well, then we drove to Walchensee where we had always gone for our holidays. We got to Einsiedel and then, round the bend, there lay the lake. Just before the driver had stopped to give someone a lift. That bothered me at the time. I should have preferred to be quite alone so I could savour the moment to the full. I did savour it all the same; it went straight to my heart. I had created a moment of space for myself. I went all over the village, everywhere, but especially to the little house that used to belong to us, in which Dr K now lived. He had bought it from my father when the Gestapo threatened to burn it over our heads if we ever went there again. Apparently Baldur von Schirach wanted it. So my father managed to sell it to a client of his for a fraction of its value. He could have got it back after the war. But Mr K was a decent chap and his wife was Jewish (which my father had not known

at the time) so my father renounced his right to repossess.

In Munich things were a bit different. I didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. I was amazed at how much I could remember. In a way it felt like coming home; at the same time I felt I'd been banished. Was I happy? Was I sad? There I was with a group of students who didn't speak German. I was responsible for them, I had to look after them. It was my Munich, my town. We stayed somewhere near the main station that first night. The very station from which I had left some twelve years earlier. So I had come back. But it was no longer my *Heimat*. It was like coming home but I was no longer at home there. I had been excluded, banished, almost like some biblical character.

Once when I returned in 1983 with my husband we went out to have a meal; the smell was so evocative, reminded me so much of my childhood. You cannot get that smell anywhere else in the world. That's Munich: potato salad? sauerkraut? beer? I don't know. I cried, that's all. My husband asked: "What's the matter?" "I don't know", I answered. Five minutes later he asked: "Finished?" "No" was all I could say. Even today I don't know whether I cried for something lost or something found. I recounted this to a good friend of mine who comes from Wales and she said: "We have a word for that feeling in Welsh: *biraeth*". It's a kind of *Heimweh*, a retrospective longing, the pain of irretrievable loss.

I don't think I ever felt hate. I was furious and disappointed, yes, and also sad. Going along the Prinzregentenstrasse I came to the house that my best friend Lotte Schwarzschild used to live in. She'd gone, disappeared, no trace of her. That made me sad. But there were also good people in Munich, decent people who were not Nazis. They felt powerless through fear. Fear for themselves and their families. Not many dared stand up to terror □

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**ERRATUM** – In *Heine in England*, p5, March issue, the line 'I met murder on the way/He had a mask like Castlereagh' (from *The Mask of Anarchy*) was wrongly attributed to Byron. The poem is by Shelley □

**Cooking with Gretel Beer**



**Orange cake**

**C**akes for Passover always present a problem – no flour, no crumbs. My grandmother used to make a light cake with potato flour which everybody loved. On the first day, that is – afterwards we thought it a little dull and insipid, particularly compared to an orange cake prepared by my favourite aunt. Depending on her mood this might be presented just dusted with icing sugar or covered with orange icing and decorated with orange segments dipped in sugar which had been boiled to “small crack” stage or even filled with a butter cream or with whipped cream scented with orange.

The cake mixture produces a very light, but not very high cake and it is of course turned over so that the flat surface is on top. Quantities may be doubled for a large cake.

- 3 eggs
- juice and finely grated rind of ½ orange
- 4½ oz (125g) icing sugar
- 4½ oz (125g) ground almonds

Separate egg yolks and whites. Whisk egg yolks with two-thirds of the sugar until thick and fluffy, then whisk in the orange juice. Whisk egg whites until stiff, add remaining icing sugar and whisk until smooth. Fold egg whites into egg yolks alternately with the ground almonds. Bake in a buttered and dusted cake tin at Gas Mark 4, 350°F, 180°C for about 35-40 minutes. Carefully remove cake from tin and set to cool on a rack.

The decoration is a matter of choice – simply dust with icing sugar or spread with warmed apricot jam, leave to dry and then cover with orange water icing made by adding enough strained orange juice to 7oz (200g) icing sugar to make a stiff paste. Using the juice of a blood orange gives a splendid effect and further embellishments could be peeled orange segments dipped into sugar cooked to “small crack” stage (if you overcook the sugar slightly, do not worry – you will have caramelised orange segments!)

Or cut through the cake once – before icing – and fill with sweetened whipped cream to which some very finely grated orange rind and a dash of orange liqueur have been added, then glaze with apricot jam and cover with orange icing as before □

**The Mauerbach Fund**

**A**pplications for grants from the Mauerbach Fund may now be made.

In order to expedite the distribution, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Austria has arranged for application forms to be sent out through the Vienna Nationalfonds to all former Austrians on the Nationalfonds lists. The Nationalfonds estimates that approximately 18,000 forms are currently being despatched and you are asked to file your application by 31 December 1998.

**To receive a benefit from the Mauerbach Fund, you must:**

- a) have been a citizen and/or a permanent resident of Austria on 13 March 1938, or have lost your Austrian citizenship and/or permanent residency in Austria upon exiting the country prior to 13 March 1938, or have been

born in a camp, ghetto or in hiding prior to 9 May 1945, as a child of such persons; and

- b) have suffered Nazi persecution on account of your Jewish faith or descent; and
- c) fall short of a minimum taxable income of approx. AS 15,000 per month (approx. £8,300 per year).

If you have not yet received an application form please ring Estelle Brookner at the AJR on 0171 431 6161 □

**Certificates of Life**

The Metropolitan Police have confirmed that the issuing of Certificates of Life is still part of a police officer's standing instructions and that no instructions have been issued to the contrary □

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## Obituaries

## Greta Barmas

Viennese born Greta Barmas has died, aged 87. The daughter of a soft drinks manufacturer, she had spent her early years less in study rather than in sport which remained a lifelong hobby. (She could still do handstands at 80). She trained as a book-keeper and came to England as a domestic just before the Anschluss.

In 1940 she married John Barmas who, after war service, worked in advertising. They had a happy marriage, but Greta was widowed relatively early. However, the family circle was renewed when her daughter Susan married and eventually made her a grandmother.

Greta was an AJR member and a volunteer, both at Berkeley Street Synagogue and in the canteen of the Western Ophthalmic Hospital. She is mourned by her surviving sisters and Susan's family.

## Irma Woodman

Our community recently suffered the loss of Irma Woodman, born in Homburg, who died in her 97th year, after a long and painful illness bravely born.

Irma Woodman and her brother came

to this country shortly before war broke out; the rest of the family, alas, did not survive. Initially working as domestic in various capacities; she later worked with Madame Leiberg and later still as book-keeper in a handbag factory.

When she retired she devoted her energy and common-sense approach to the residence of the Otto Schiff House in Netherhall Gardens, as well as to the Leo Baeck (London) Lodges Day Centre at Daleham Gardens, where she and her team "fed" the hungry". Last but by no means least she will be remembered for her untiring efforts, together with Margarete Jacoby, for the AJR Club and its annual bazaar at the Hannah Karminski House.

Laura Howe adds to our obituary of **Anita Kaufmann**.

It was a great joy to have known her; her gaiety and lively spirit were very infectious. Not only did she drive AJR members to and from the Day Centre; she would help when she could, to get shopping or take home someone just discharged from hospital. Car rides with Anita were great experiences. She drove very well but fast. Simultaneously, conversation was fast and amusing.

I shall remember her with great affection □

## 'Across the Bridge'

**A**cross the Bridge portrays the encounter of two women who survived the camps and a death march against all odds.

This one-act play, written and performed by Anna Cropper and Dalia Friedland, was premiered at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre, then performed to great acclaim at Yad Vashem in Israel, and features specially composed music by Ayala Asherov.

Fifty years after their liberation, Victoria Vincent and Trude Levi meet, share their experiences and delve into their meaning, in an attempt to comprehend the issues of survival.

Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Yad Vashem's leading historian, said: "I have seen quite a number of plays on the Holocaust and this one is unique; its impact is great,

emotionally and intellectually. I very strongly recommend its performance".

A number of Jewish and Christian organisations have associated themselves with the production at the New End Theatre in Hampstead from 28th April to 10th May and details of performances and a discussion with the authors after the fall of the curtain are available from the Box Office, Tel: 0171 794 0022.

□ Ronald Channing

*Anna Cropper, whose career spans 40 years, is well known for her many television roles which include Jewel in the Crown, has won awards and performed leading roles for Britain's foremost playwrights. Dalia Friedland, who trained with Anna at the Central School of Speech and Drama, returned to Israel to become a leading actress with Habima, Israel's national theatre.*

## SEARCH NOTICES

**Marie (Margot) Loewenstein (née Hamburger)**, born 14 December 1896 in Nikolai, Kreis Pless, Schlesien, emigrated to Great Britain on 26 August 1939, former wife of Dr Karl Loewenstein. American post-graduate research student is seeking information about her. Replies to: Tom Lampert, Gneisenaustr. 98, 10961 Berlin, Germany. Tel: 0049 30/ 695 09148).

**David Stewart**, ex 3-Troop, 10 Com-mando. Your old friends are getting older and fewer. Those of us still living, in the UK, USA, Canada, NZ, Germany and elsewhere, would love to hear from you and/or your family. Alice & Colin Anson, 22 Elm Avenue, Watford, Herts. WD1 4BE (UK). Tel: 01923 24 1924.

**Prof Emil Klein (1873-1950)**, lived with his family and practised *Naturheilkunde* (treatment with natural remedies) 1908-24 in Berlin's Hansa and Weissensee districts, then in Jena till 1933 before returning to Berlin, assisted by his son Thomas. Imprisoned in Theresienstadt with his wife 1942-45. Returned to Jena postwar. Biographer Dr Winfried Liebrich, Moselstr. 43, D-16341 Zepernick. Tel/Fax: 0049 30 944 5783, wishes to meet or hear from anyone who knew Klein or relatives personally or as a patient 1933-42.

**Simon Family of Krefeld.** The Imperial War Museum's Holocaust Exhibition Project Office wishes to speak to former residents of Krefeld who may recall the Simons. Documents detailing the family's attempts to join their daughter Martha and her husband Hugo Hochschild in Chile require amplification. Please call James Taylor or Petra Wöstefeld on 0171 416 5204/5285/5286.

**Zoldeszter.** A daughter of the late Rabbi Bernard Zoldeszter of Romania (later of Budapest and a confidant of Theodor Herzl) is seeking knowledge of anyone with that name. Please phone 0171 435 0720.

**Refugee photography project.** Austrian student photographer Robert Fleischanderl, taking an MA at Goldsmiths College, wishes to interview and take pictures of German-speaking refugees in their London homes. Please contact him via Debbie Picker at AJR office. □

## NEWSROUND

**Fears re-awakened by Hungarian neo-Nazis**

Six hundred neo-Nazi skinheads of the Hungarian National Front Line marched through Budapest carrying German war-time flags and proclaiming Nazi heroes of WWII. Hungarian Holocaust survivors, now eligible to receive \$400 from the Swiss compensation fund, harbour fears which make them reluctant to join the list of claimants.

**Berlin memorial**

Four new designs for a Holocaust memorial in Berlin have been shortlisted. Opponents, questioning their size and appropriateness, are calling for the project's cancellation, but Chancellor Kohl has indicated that the chosen design is to be built early next year.

**Pilsen Great Synagogue**

The Great Synagogue in the Bohemian town of Pilsen in the Czech Republic, Europe's second largest, has been restored and reopened with a grant from the Czech Government. As Pilsen's 3,000 Jews nearly all perished in the Holocaust, the synagogue will be used for exhibitions and concerts as well as High-Holiday services.

**Papon testimony**

Testimony favourable to Maurice Papon, who is standing trial for authorising the deportation of 1,560 Jews to their deaths in Germany, makes acquittal a possibility. Witnesses connected with the Resistance gave evidence that Papon warned of round-ups of Jewish families and asked for Jewish children to be taken to safer areas.

**Castle for sale**

Colditz Castle in Saxony, which held 1,500 Allied officer PoWs during the war, is seeking a buyer willing to restore its 700 rooms and decaying fabric. Eleven British and twelve French officers confounded the Germans' belief that escape from the castle was impossible.

**Internet antisemitism**

A report commissioned by the Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Antisemitism identified more than 600 antisemitic and other racist web sites, mainly American militia, white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups.

□ RDC

**Warning against the resurgent Right**

Oona King, 30-year-old MP for London's Bethnal Green and Bow, warned that support for the extreme political Right was on the increase across Europe. It was an unpalatable if surprising fact that electoral legitimacy had been regained by them relatively few years after World War II. Ms. King was addressing a meeting of the Guild of Jewish Journalists at the House of Commons.

The situation in France – where Jean Marie Le Pen had begun campaigning with insignificant support, yet his party now polled up to 40% in certain constituencies – should act as a warning against any complacency in the UK where racial problems could no longer be swept under the carpet. January had witnessed the opening of the first branch of the Ku-Klux-Klan in Britain in her constituency.

Among a considerable body of perverted material posted on the uncensored international computer information exchange, the Internet, a so-called 'game' entitled Gas Chamber gave points for the number of Jews killed and bonuses for stealing gold and killing gypsies!

**Second generation at Beth Shalom**

Members and friends of the Second Generation Network from London, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool gathered at Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire to air their particular concerns with its Director, Stephen Smith.

Stephen recalled how, as a teenager, he had learned of the Holocaust during a family visit to Israel and begun a journey which, including years of study, eventually brought him to realise his vision of Beth Shalom. Three threads ran through its exhibits: a narrative of the Holocaust from the victims' perspective, photographs which added a visual image and eye-witness accounts. The message that those of us who are connected to these events, through our own history as members of either the first or the next generation, have a duty to speak for

Oona King recalled her childhood as the daughter of a black American father (a lecturer at LSE at the age of 22) and a Newcastle-Jewish mother (a teacher), growing up in North London with an early active interest in politics. To succeed in being adopted as a parliamentary candidate she set out to gain the confidence of the Muslim Bangladeshis, the largest single group among her constituents, and to allay their fears on account of both her Jewish and Negro ancestry.

Since the election of May 1997 Oona King has represented the poorest and most ethnically diverse parliamentary constituency in Britain. On arriving at the Commons, she was genuinely surprised to be told that there had been only 239 women MPs in its entire history, a total which included herself within the impressive intake of 120 'Blair babes'.

"The world is becoming an increasingly multi-cultural village", she stated, "consequently we should be entering the long process of reconciliation". She hoped that her own contribution would help to lay the groundwork for greater understanding between the Muslim and Jewish communities in Britain. Prejudices had to be put aside and it was incumbent on the Jewish community to keep these matters at the top of the agenda.

□ Ronald Channing

those who did not survive, came through clearly.

A wide-ranging question and answer session elicited the following points: a considerable factual knowledge is required to make any sense of a personal story; it is sometimes 'risky' to speak about survivor experiences; it may be beneficial to bring together people from different racial or cultural backgrounds.

The day was very full and the winter weather mild enough to allow us to enjoy the memorial gardens. We felt cared for by the Smith family and very moved by what we had seen and experienced.

□ Margaret Arenias  
Second Generation Network

*The AJR wishes all  
its members  
a Happy Pesach*