

Don't miss ...

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## Russian enigma

Half a century ago, Churchill described Russia as a riddle wrapped up in an enigma. The observation still holds good today. An example is antisemitism which caused every third Jew to leave in the 1980s. Even today synagogues are attacked and copies of *Mein Kampf* sold in public.

Yet, at the same time, many players in the Kremlin power game are wholly or partly Jewish. They range from reformers – Yavlinsky, Chubais, Nemtsov – through ‘facing-both-ways’ Primakov to the oligarch Berezovsky, and the neo-Fascist Zhirinovskiy. One hopes the present upheaval will not end like 1917, when ‘Trosky made the Revolution and Bronstein paid for it’ □

## Reflections on the deformed nationalism of parts of Europe

# Demons that resist exorcism

Nationalism is a force with a gut appeal long underestimated by Liberals and Marxists alike. However, not every manifestation of it was necessarily malignant.

When the French invented *la patrie* they also issued a universal Declaration of the Rights of Man. Italian unification was inspired by Mazzini's liberalism. In our own lifetime Catalans and Basques fought against Franco.

Nonetheless, in the last war the Axis powers were immeasurably helped by the slights – real or imaginary – that had been inflicted on national groups in Eastern Europe. In consequence, Slovaks and Croats actively helped to effect the breakup of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia respectively. Lithuanians and Latvians were sufficiently embittered by Russian annexation to collaborate enthusiastically with the Germans – ‘even’ in genocide. Hungary and Bulgaria itched to have post-Great War frontiers redrawn to their own advantage, and so forth.

Western Europe, too, witnessed collaboration born out of nationalist resentment. Within Belgium rural Flanders harboured grievances against the French-speaking industrial South and Brussels.

Though quite different circumstances obtained, in Ireland the burden of ancient resentments engendered a similar myopia, and produced equally deplorable results. Quite apart from Lord Haw-Haw's Nazi broadcasts and Irish despatches from London, De Valera's policy of neutrality worked in Germany's favour.

Today, fifty-odd years after Hitler's war, those nationalist demons have not been laid to rest. In the Baltic States, veterans of the Waffen-SS parade through the streets of capital cities. Sovereign Slovakia disseminates history schoolbooks glorifying the founder of the guards that herded Jews into camps, as well as Hitler's puppet Monsignor Tiso, as ‘pioneers of nationhood’. Croatia's wartime Primate Stepinac, a pillar of the genocidal Ustasha regime,

awaits canonisation – for his opposition to Tito's atheist communism.

And in Brussels, the political heart of Europe, a Flemish nationalist deputy has laid a Bill before the Belgian parliament to compensate erstwhile collaborators for punishments meted out to them after Liberation. In extenuation of their wartime conduct he conjures up a prewar spectre of Flemings as second-class citizens chafing under the misrule of a French-speaking elite.

There may be a grain of truth in this – but to argue that exposure to *relative* discrimination justified collaborating with occupiers who wiped out Belgian independence and practised *total* discrimination against millions of victims is mendacious logic-chopping. It is rather like comparing the germ that spreads the common cold with the Aids virus □



Left to right: Theo and Anne Marx with Ludwig Spiro at AJR's 50th Anniversary Concert, Carl Rosa Opera's production of 'Die Fledermaus', at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, which played to a full and appreciative house.

## SWISS BANKS AGREE \$1.25 BILLION PAYMENT

The Union Bank of Switzerland and the Credit Suisse Group agreed to pay the unprecedented sum of \$1.25 billion (£770 million) in restitution to Holocaust survivors, their heirs and the descendants of victims, in response to a joint court action in New Jersey, USA. It was brought by representatives of 31,000 survivors. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, the money had been deposited into the 'safekeeping' of Swiss bank accounts.

For half a century after the war Swiss banks largely denied the existence and extent of such accounts, and made the impossible demand of heirs that they had to produce death certificates for their relatives who had perished in concentration camps.

Three years ago the World Jewish Congress launched a campaign for the return of these 'dormant accounts'. Faced with a potentially huge lawsuit in the USA, the Swiss banks began negotiations with the World Jewish Congress earlier this year, though talks broke down temporarily in the summer after a 'final offer' of \$600

million was rejected as inadequate.

The investigations of the Senate Banking Committee and its high profile chairman, Senator Alphonse D'Amato, helped to expose the Swiss cover-up, as did the US Government's historical review, led by Under-Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, which unequivocally documented damning evidence of Switzerland's complicity in the Nazi war machine. The action of the Union Bank of Switzerland security guard Christopher Meili in rescuing Holocaust-related records he had unlawfully been ordered to destroy, undermined the banks' credibility and added immeasurably to the moral standing of the plaintiffs' cause.

Pressure brought by the threat of financial sanctions from some 20 American states – among them New York, New Jersey, Florida and California – and from 30 US local authorities, finally helped to secure the agreement.

In addition to unacknowledged accounts, the Swiss National Bank profited from the laundering of millions of dollars-worth of gold which the Germans

had plundered from their Jewish victims. All in all, the World Jewish Congress has estimated that \$14 billion would be required to return Jewish looted assets during the war, including bank accounts, insurance policies, investments, jewellery and works of art.

Within 90 days of the court's final sanction it is intended that the first payment of \$250 million be made. A further three instalments will then be paid at annual intervals. As part of the agreement, these payments will represent the settlement of all claims made against all Swiss banks and industry, including the Swiss National Bank.

The *Jewish Chronicle* believes that several months will elapse before any Holocaust survivor receives a payment. A system has yet to be devised by the World Jewish Restitution Organisation to inform potential claimants throughout the world and grant them the opportunity to register their opinions and claims. Any final disbursement plan, whether to individuals or to organisations representing those in need, will require ratification by Judge Edward Korman whose court arbitrated the agreement.

□ Ronald Channing

### Profile

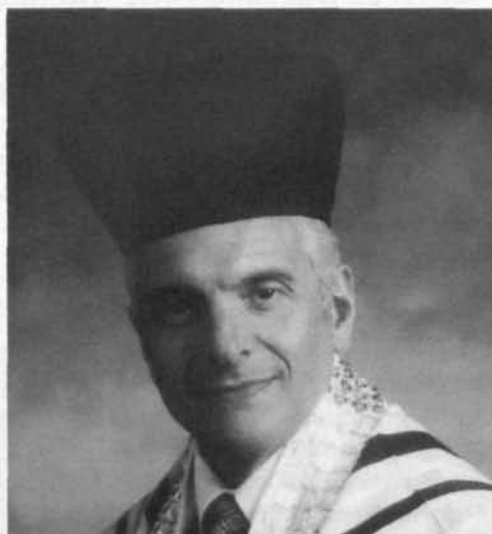
## Melody man

Cantor Stephen Robins has an enviable reputation in the Anglo-Jewish community and beyond for the sheer pleasure of his melodic tenor voice, often heard as guest chazan at wedding, barmitzvah or bat chayil ceremonies.

Stephen was born in Lytham St Anne's in 1944 where his cabinet-maker father and his mother had been evacuated from London during the war. He made his solo debut in the synagogue when only six years old and his talents – he was also an accomplished pianist – were recognised by benefactors who sponsored singing lessons.

At the age of 18 he came to London with his mother, making a living as a singer, pianist and cabaret artist, supplemented with work in Hatton Garden's jewellery trade. He formed a group called the Sundowners in which he played the double bass!

By the time he was 27 Stephen had decided on a complete change of direction,



Cantor Stephen Robins

literally an act of faith; to experience at first hand the burdens and joys of life-cycle events and to commit himself to communal service 24 hours a day. He enrolled at Jews' College to train as a chazan, at the same time taking up a part-time position at Yeshurun Synagogue in Edgware, soon after meeting his wife-to-be Rosalind. Stephen further enhanced his reputation, being in great demand at Friendship Clubs and JACS.

On graduation in 1976 Cantor Robins

was appointed to a full-time post at Wembley United Synagogue. For the next ten years he was at the centre of this warm and appreciative community, working in close co-operation with both Rabbi Berman and his successor Rabbi Abrams. As well as devoting himself to all aspects of a minister's life, he was invited to sing in most of north London's newer orthodox communities and founded what became the Shabbaton Choir.

In 1986 he responded to a call from Edgware Synagogue, serving one of Europe's largest communities, and developed his teaching of voice production and cantorial studies (on which he lectures at Jews' College), taking his guest appearances into Europe, Israel and the States.

Stephen Robins established himself as a freelance cantor and teacher last year and now takes services and gives recitals in what he calls the 'global village' – from Eilat to New York. He has just recorded his first CD, singing a wide selection of chazanut, including modern works and Israeli and Chasidic pop. His fine voice, backed by Stephen Glass and his choir, make a highly pleasurable collection.

□ RDC

## Gombrich's blotting paper

In a recently published lecture, Professor E. H. Gombrich negated the idea – put forward by George Steiner and Steve Beller – that Jews involved in Austrian culture had made a particularly Jewish contribution to it. Gombrich contends that Stefan Zweig, Schnitzler, Freud etc. had been nurtured in the German humanism prevalent among assimilated middle-class Jews and that their work had lacked any specific Jewish content.

Nor, says Gombrich, had the Jewish contribution to Austrian culture been all that comprehensive. Looking at nineteenth century composers, he couldn't find a single Jew among them, and the same applied to the artists of the *fin-de-siècle*.

But Gombrich's key point is really this: Jewish culture, i.e. the culture of the synagogue-and-shtetl milieu, was sterile and this ruled it out as the source of any contribution. Cheder-educated synagogue-thronging shtetl dwellers lived in such isolation from the wider world that Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar were more real to them than Czar or Kaiser. Cheder teaching, moreover, was based on rote learning and lacked educational value.

This, one is tempted to comment, may well have been true; nonetheless, the literacy rate inside the shtetl was *infinitely* higher than throughout Eastern Europe in general. I would go further and say the fact that Jews were the People of the Book is not unconnected with the staggering contribution they made to Austrian literature – alike as novelists (Stefan Zweig, Josef Roth, Franz Werfel, Elias Canetti) playwrights (Arthur Schnitzler, Fritz Hochwaelder), satirists (Karl Kraus, Robert Neumann) and poets (Paul Celan, Erich Fried). I would even argue that the deep compassion and insight into the human psyche found in the work of Zweig and Schnitzler have a Jewish component.

As to probing the psyche, how does one account for the fact that, although Vienna had long been a centre of medical research, psychoanalysis was virtually an Austro-Jewish monopoly. From a roll-call of its *illuminati* – Abraham, Adler, Bettelheim, Ferenczi, Fliess, Fraenkel, Freud, Rank, Sachs, Stekel – only one, admittedly outstanding, non-Jew is missing: Jung.

As to Gombrich's assertion that the

Jewish contribution to Austrian culture was very patchy, I trace that back to his 'astigmatic' vision. Had he looked at early twentieth, instead of nineteenth, century music he would surely have taken cognisance of Mahler, Schoenberg and Korngold (not to mention the musicologists Guido Adler, Otto Deutsch, Hans Gal, Erwin Stein and Egon Wellesz). In art, had he but moved forward fifty years from the *fin-de-siècle*, Erich Brauer, Georg Eisler, Ernst Fuchs and Friedensreich Hundertwasser (and possibly even the Austro-Jewish descended Lucian Freud and R B Kitaj) might have swum into his ken. Moving from art to art history one need look no further than to Brian Sewell's recent paean of praise to its refugee practitioners – an article the *Evening Standard* embellished with a photograph of none other than Ernest Gombrich!

The latter is an outstanding scholar with unrivalled expertise in his chosen field. But he is also, in true elitist Austro-Jewish fashion – *pace* Karl Kraus, Egon Friedell and Karl Popper – an escapee from his Jewish heritage.

His denial of a specifically Jewish contribution to Central European civilisation rests on the assumption that aspiring, assimilated Habsburg Jews simply soaked up German humanist culture – the Goethe-Schiller canon – like so much blotting paper. (By extension, Russian Jews had general culture mediated to them via Pushkin and Tolstoy.)

But this entire hypothesis is undermined by the turn-of-the-century efflorescence of an *indigenous* Yiddish culture indebted neither to the Goethe or Pushkin tradition – a culture that, moreover, millions subscribed to in pre-Holocaust days. One wonders if Professor Gombrich ever bothered to acquaint himself with the poetry of Mordechai Gebirtig, Itzik Manger and Abraham Sutzkever, the plays of Anski, Avrom Goldfaden, Jakob Gordin, I L Peretz and Sholem Aleichem, or the novels of Shalom Asch, Joshua Singer and Isaac Bashevis Singer. (The last mentioned, incidentally, was a Nobel Prize winner with a Yiddish *oeuvre* translated into various *Kultursprachen!*).

□ Richard Grunberger

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## Review

## Explaining the inexplicable

Michael Blumenthal, *THE INVISIBLE WALL, Germans and Jews, a Personal Exploration*. Counterpoint Publishers, Washington DC.

Michael Blumenthal, Jimmy Carter's Secretary of the Treasury, was born in 1926 in Oranienburg into a totally assimilated family of bankers. He spent some time at Berlin's Kaliski School before leaving for Shanghai with his parents. In 1947 Michael arrived in God's Own Country with 65 dollars in his pocket. From these modest beginnings he became in turn the head of two large public industrial companies, entered Government service as a delegate to international trade organisations and eventually served as Head of the Treasury. He is now in charge of the yet-to-be-opened Berlin Holocaust Museum.

His book combines personal biography, up to his arrival in the USA, with a history of Germany's Jews from their first settlement in Roman times until the final apocalypse, a history which he quite ingeniously winds around some of his ancestors (who included Rahel Varnhagen von Ense, the great society hostess of the Berlin salons).

It is in the post-Enlightenment period that his story becomes most fascinating and colourful. Within two generations Yiddish-only speaking ghetto Jews, who had lived a cocooned life of total isolation from their surroundings, became totally integrated into German language, culture, lifestyle and economics.

From that time onwards their history became one of cyclical changes. It had its ups and downs: the waves of anti-semitism rose and fell; their integration into the fabric of German society never remained unchallenged. Yet in no other country did they identify themselves to the same extent with their fellow citizens, nor did they contribute to such a prominent degree to the country's prosperity and culture. The Blumenthals, like so many of their fellow Jews, were, almost until the bitter end, as patriotic and "Treu-Deutsch" as the rest. It was the *Kristallnacht*, in which the 12-year-old Michael witnessed the torching of the Fasanenstrasse Synagogue from the vantage point of his bicycle, which finally shattered the hopes and dreams to which so many Jews had still clung and which presaged the end of 1700 years of con-

tinuous German-Jewish history.

The book ends with an epilogue in which Blumenthal analyses the long love-hate relationship between German and Jew and the reasons why in the country in which, ever since the Enlightenment, the Jews had assimilated and integrated the fastest and the most completely, antisemitism proved itself most vicious and catastrophic. His analysis is controversial. Not everybody will agree with it, but it makes sense. He claims that the Jews in Germany had advanced further and faster virtually than anywhere else. Germany was the cradle of modern Reform Judaism and the Jews themselves considered Germany the best country in the world. What was it then in German character and history that misled the Jews so tragically?

From the outset the German-Jewish relationship was, according to him, a *mariage de convenance*. Germany needed its Jews for economic reasons, whilst the Jews needed Germany as a safe haven with scope for their unique talents. Germans and Jews had much in common: both believed in the ethic of hard work, both respected learning. The fortuitous late entry of Germany into industrialisation provided special opportunities for the Jews. Of course the Jews encountered prejudice, bigotry and discrimination. But, he says, before Hitler that was by and large no worse than anywhere else. An argument which is perhaps hard to sustain. Mr Goldhagen certainly would not agree.

Just what, asks Blumenthal, made Germany eventually the seedbed for such ruthless, murderous antisemitism?

He calls up special historic circumstances, which on the one hand favoured the fast assimilation and advancement of Germany's Jews, yet on the other hand inhibited a true and total acceptance. In much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century western world the concepts of democracy and social justice had made substantial progress, but not so in Germany. Germany had no equivalents for *Liberté, Egalité* and *Fraternité* like France, no longstanding parliamentary tradition like the UK, no Bill of Rights enshrined in its constitution

like the USA. By contrast, Germany was until 1871 a fractured country: its inhabitants were obediently ruled by small authoritarian militaristic elites. When Jewish emancipation eventually came, it was imposed from above.

Historical chance also played its critical part. Rapid industrialisation caused economic hardships. Jews profited from it, some becoming leading lights in industry, commerce and finance. That often caused envy and resentment amongst those less fortunate, particularly in times of economic crises. Those underlying problems reached their climax in the post-World War One era. How, Blumenthal asks, would the Jewish minority have fared if the rise of the Nazis had not been nurtured by the Allied mistakes in the Versailles peace treaty which caused economic misery and by the weak leadership of the Weimar Republic? Blumenthal does not believe that the failure of the German-Jewish relationship was preordained, but that it was determined by historic developments. He disagrees with the Goldhagen proposition that German antisemitism is fundamentally different from that of others and that *au fond* it was annihilist, a brutal characteristic shared by many Germans. The book ends with this "obituary": *The unrequited love affair of Germany's Jews with their native country ended in disaster. The three hundred years of modern history had shaped their character and transformed them into special people. There had been remarkable accomplishments and many triumphs. German Christians and Jews had deeply influenced each other. Neither had remained the same. For the Jews, Germany had once been the land of great opportunity. They had given much to Germany and the world and received much in return. They had failed to see, however, that Germany was a sick society and that the deck was stacked against them. Until the end, German Christian and Jew retained a distorted view of each other. It kept them apart and ultimately it contributed to the Jews' doom.*

For those of us who grew up in Germany during that last bitter chapter, the book is a worthwhile read. For our children and grandchildren, who so often say "How could you? How could you and your parents have been so purblind and cherish so many misguided illusions?", the book gives as good an explanation as such a complex, diffuse problem can provide.

□ Ronald Stent

## Carl Sternheim

One of the many highly successful playwrights of the pre-Hitler theatre whose work was banned under the Nazis and has remained largely forgotten since 1945 is Carl Sternheim. Born into a wealthy German-Jewish banking family in 1878, Sternheim made his name in the years before World War I with a series of biting comedies satirising Wilhelmine Germany, its conformism, philistine materialism and hypocrisy. In the Weimar years, he was acknowledged as a leading dramatist with a relentless ability to diagnose and pillory the key trends in contemporary society; as such, he makes a memorable appearance as the eagle-eyed satirist Theophil Marder in *Mephisto* Klaus Mann's roman à clef.

Sternheim made his breakthrough in 1910 with the comedy *Die Hose*, where Luise Maske's misfortune in losing her underwear, the knickers of the title, in Berlin's Tiergarten, attracts two rival amorous adventures to the mundane abode of her narrow-minded, petty bourgeois husband Theobald, nominally in search of rented rooms. However, in a reversal of the expected comic cuckolding, it is the robustly egoistic Theobald who triumphs over the would-be lovers. He exploits their weakness, and by the play's end has enough money from their rent to start a family himself, while his downtrodden and sentimental wife remains trapped in the kitchen.

His extramarital sex life organised on a characteristically businesslike fashion with the spinster next door, Theobald proceeds to found the Maske dynasty, whose ruthless ascent to wealth and power is charted in *Der Snob* (1913), *1913* (1914) and *Das Fossil* (1922). These plays, along with *Die Kassetten* (1911), a study in avarice, *Bürger Schippel* (1912), the story of the acceptance of an illegitimate proletarian into bourgeois society when his golden voice earns him a place in a vocal quartet, and *Tabula Rasa* (1916), a satire on the corruption of German working-class politics, form the core of the series of comedies that Sternheim called collectively *Aus dem bürgerlichen Heldenleben*.

Politically, Sternheim was a radical left-wing anarchist whose wealth, especially when combined with the fortune of his second wife Thea Bauer, enabled him to live a lavish life at their residence in Höllriegelskreuth, outside Munich. In 1912 they moved to La Hulpre, near Brussels, where Sternheim spent the war years,



Carl Sternheim

near his close friend, the poet Gottfried Benn. Forced to leave Belgium in 1918, he adopted an increasingly unsettled lifestyle, culminating in divorce from Thea in 1927 and a severe nervous breakdown in 1928.

His plays of the 1920s, like *Der entfesselte Zeitgenosse* (1920) and *Der Nebbich* (1922), often catch the pulse of contemporary life, but Sternheim had lost his key subject matter with the disappearance of Wilhelmine Germany. A third marriage, in 1930, to Pamela Wedekind, with whom he moved to Brussels, proved short-lived. He spent his last years there, largely unproductively and in poor health. The companion of his later years, the Viennese Henny Carbonara, had sufficient influence with the Italian Embassy in Brussels to ensure that he was protected from deportation after the German invasion. Sternheim died on 3 November 1942 after an attack of pneumonia.

Sternheim's plays revolve round the conflict between individual freedom and the levelling pressures of modern society. Sternheim required the individual to assert his *eigene Nuance*, that element of personality unique to him alone, not to submerge it in the collective mediocrity of modern society. For him, it is monsters of egoism like Theobald Maske, ready to realise their desires at the expense of others regardless of social convention, who are the true heroes, not conformists like Maske's son Christian, who sacrifices his individuality by adopting the characteristics of the upper classes into which he rises, or the hero of *Bürger Schippel*, who betrays his authentic proletarian self by conforming to the phoney values of bourgeois society.

□ Anthony Grenville



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## THE SHOAH AND THE OFFICERS' PLOT

Sir – AW Freud does not provide evidence to support his 'virtual' history theory of the Shoah influencing the Officers' Plot.

Lehndorf's report of atrocities to his wife is unsupported as his main reason for joining the conspiracy. The Resistance was hardly influenced by the killing of Jews. On the contrary these people welcomed their removal from society (*cf* C Dipper's *German Resistance and Jews*). Goerdeler in general supported 'Proposals for a Solution to the Jewish Problem'. He accepted that the Jews were a problem and that they had harmed Germany. Helldorf was by Freud's own depiction corrupt and instigator of the anti-Jewish New Year 1933 riots in Berlin, (*cf* Joachim Fest's *Hitler*). It is therefore unlikely that the killing of Jews would have made him a conspirator.

Freud's assertion that it was 'a good thing' that Hitler survived the attempted assassination is monstrous.

Unnumbered masses of people were killed or maimed as a consequence of this failure.

London N6

H Fisher

Sir – AW Freud states that the July plot might have been "indirectly" the responsibility of Jews. I have never heard anyone expound that view, nor "that the survival of Hitler in July 1944 was a good thing". Every month that he continued to live meant more deaths.

London

PH Sinclair

## CZECH SCROLL REUNIONS

Sir – Since 1964, 1350 Torah Scrolls from the lost congregations of Bohemia and Moravia have been distributed around the world by the Memorial Scrolls Trust of the Westminster Synagogue.

Some of the synagogues which have been entrusted with these Memorial Scrolls have been exploring the heritage of the Czech Jewish communities from which they came and a seminar on "Sharing the Czech Scroll Experience" is taking place at the Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue in Northwood, on 1 November 1998.

An important part of the exploration of the legacy of these Memorial Scrolls is to trace people who originally came from Czech Jewish communities.

If any of the readers of *AJR Information* originally came from Bohemia and/or Moravia, we should very much like to hear from them.

Anyone interested should contact: Tom Crosby, NPLS Czech Connection, Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Green Lane, Northwood HA6 3AA. (Tel 01923 774637).

Michael Heppner

Chairman, NPLS Czech Connection

## A SWISS CENTURY AGO

Sir – My great uncle, Rabbi Dr J L Landau of Witwatersrand, was an active supporter of the emerging Zionist movement and as such attended the second Zionist Congress at Basle.

An incident at this congress, recorded in his diary, deserves to be more widely known. 'I was standing on the balcony of the *Stadtkasino* with many other delegates. It happened to be a Swiss national festival, when crowds with their national flags, rolling drums and songs passed the street faced by the Casino. We lowered our flags calling: "*Es lebe die Schweiz!*" – whereupon the others, lowering their flags, responded with cries of: "*Es lebe das jüdische Volk!*" This was the first acknowledgement our people received from a free nation.'

Powys

Manfred Landau

## HOLOCAUST MUSEUM CONTROVERSY

Sir – The appointment of Professor John Roth as director of the Centre for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington (August issue), came under fierce attack from Mr Morton Klein, President of the Zionist Organisation of America. Despite overwhelming support for him by the Holocaust Council and the scholarly community, Professor Roth, who is not Jewish, decided to withdraw and remain chairman of the philosophy department at Claremont McKenna College.

It was alleged that Professor Roth had

drawn comparisons between Palestinians and Jewish victims of Nazism. Referring to the matter at the Pastora Goldner Holocaust Symposium in Wroxton, Oxfordshire, in June, he stated that the article concerned had been published in the Los Angeles Times in 1988, on the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht and that out of all he had ever written, he regretted having written this one.

This controversy is the latest in a series of conflicts at the US Holocaust Museum which opened in 1995. How easily statements, quoted out of context, can be misused for political ends! It is unfortunate when a protagonist of the Jewish cause, and someone who writes with great sensitivity about the Shoah, becomes the victim. The only group who will benefit from this are the Holocaust deniers.

Pinner

Gaby Glassman

Middx

## WARTIME SHANGHAI

Sir – I am grateful to the many people who, in answer to my enquiry about wartime Shanghai, pointed me to *Shanghai Refuge* by Ernst G Heppner. (University of Nebraska Press. Obtainable at WH Smith, £9.50.)

London NW11

R Treitel

## JEWISH RACISM

Sir – At a recent Holocaust gathering I was shocked to hear some of those present refer to *shiksabs* and *shvartses*. I had attended a previous meeting with my non-Jewish wife and several Holocaust survivors expressed the opinion that they did not welcome non-Jews. This reminded me that during my student days my Jewish landlady (whose son, incidentally is now a High Court Judge) threw me out when she discovered that my girlfriend was darkskinned. In 1998, after Ravensbrück and Dachau and losing both parents in the camps, I am deeply shocked and hurt that this prejudice is still alive.

Winchmore Hill

TG Sinclair

## SHOCK

Sir – Further to my letter in the August issue: I did not refer to Orthodox communities, but to religious teaching organisations. The attitudes towards Holocaust survivors were expressed by rabbis and students during lectures.

Oakhill Park

Herta Reik

London NW3

**AJR WITHOUT R**

Sir - The experience of having been expelled from one, and welcomed in another, country remains as a central feature in the make-up of my personality. I cannot and see no need to shake it off. My German and British friends value the contributions I have made and can still make from the insight gained by my experience, which will also affect my children. The time for changes in the human traditions that cause such experiences must be counted not in years, but over generations.

London SE21

ML Meyer

Sir - From the columns of the recent letters page it would appear that we refugees wish to become known as former or ex refugees. I am not convinced that this is the majority view of the members, but if it is, has it been considered how much the conversion will cost?

There will be legal charges to permit the name change, most stationery will have to be scrapped, the Association will have to be rebranded, e.g. letter heads redesigned to include appropriate icons and slogans in line with current practice and extensive publicity will have to be organised to inform our many friends in society of our new status.

We should also bear in mind that this change sadly will not be meaningful for very long. When your successor (I apologise for becoming personal) has finally penned the obituary of the ultimate real refugee/ex refugee, what use will be the ex in the title then?

Mill Hill

HE Reiner

London NW7

Sir - I am a refugee. And have been for 65 years. And am still. And will be. I am defined by the reason for my arrival. I have no wish to erase that fact, or facet, of my life. I have no accent, but I have a history. My roots are Berlin. And that colours my British being. And I am comfortable in that duality.

London W1

Peter Zander

Sir - Can we not lay this argument about the name of our Association to rest?

Would you refer to an 'Old Boy's Association' as an 'Old Men's Association', because the members are no longer boys, or worse an 'Old Girls Association' as an 'Old Women's Association'?

We are the Association of Jewish Refugees because that is our origin and many of us feel proud of it.

Anon

Sir - R stands for refugee, racism, revenge, and all that is retrograde. Reject that now in favour of F for fine, fresh and forward-looking; let's call ourselves Association of Jewish Friends.

Harrogate

Peter Goddard

**PRIDE AND A PLEA**

Sir - I am quite proud of being a German-Jewish refugee and even prouder of being British by choice and not accident of birth; nor am I ever likely to be English because you have to be born here and not in Kassel as I was.

Could we have a little less about the Holocaust. I have had to live with it for 53 years morning noon and night, having lost my father and all his side of the family. We keep being told that we have to remind people of it, but so far it has done no good at all. Look around the world - particularly at the former Yugoslavia and Africa - no one has learned anything except perhaps the Irish, but time will tell. We are all getting older, so cheer us up not down!

Erdington

Mrs Henny Rednall

Birmingham

**TRANSATLANTIC BOUQUET**

Sir - Through the graciousness of my friend, Mr Max Kochmann, I have been receiving the AJR publication. I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoy reading it, how informative and detailed it is about the lives of many German Jewish emigrants. By reading your publication, I read about the birthday of Mrs Reichmann, who was a close friend of my father in Berlin.

Thank you so much for sending me this publication. I pass it on to many of my friends.

Great Neck

Werner A Stein

New York

**BOUQUET**

Sir - Many thanks for your really excellent journal!

Macclesfield

Mrs M Walter

Cheshire

## AJR LUNCHEON CLUB 1998/1999 SEASON'S PROGRAMME

Such has been the demand for places at AJR's Luncheon Club that members are now being invited to book well in advance and make quite certain of enjoying their preferred guest speakers without being placed on a waiting list.

If a cancellation has to be made, the Luncheon fee of £8 can be returned only if 24 hours notification is given.

October	21	Anton Felton, Jewish Carpets expert
November	18	Walter Woyda, talks on 'The Musical Rothschild'
December	16	Rabbi Mariner lights the Chanukah Candles
January	20	Andrea Lyttleton, Graphologist
February	17	Ruth Ives, Sir Winston Churchill's Secretary
March	17	Hella Pick, biographer of Simon Wiesenthal
April	21	Rabbi Rayner, 'Where do our loyalties lie?'
May	19	Stanley Kaye, 'Diamonds are for ever'
June	16	John Marks, former Chairman of the British Medical Association

Please call Sylvia, Renée or Susie on 0171 328 0208

## LEO BAECK LONDON LODGES Lectures

**Dr Ulrike Walton-Jordan**  
of Sussex University lectures on

**'Voices of Exile: The Contributions of German-Speaking Refugees to British Cultural Life'**

Sunday 18th October 1998 at 3pm  
Leo Baeck Hall, 11 Fitzjohns Ave, NW3



**Professor Peter Pulzer**  
of Oxford University delivers the annual  
**Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture**

**'A Minority in a Democracy, the Jews of the Weimar Republic'**

Wednesday 11th November 1998 at 8pm  
Leo Baeck Hall, 11 Fitzjohn's Avenue, NW3

All welcome, entrance free

## "AJR Reports"

### KARD & GAMES KLUB OFF TO A GOOD START



AJR members making friends and enjoying the new Kard & Games Klub's warm, relaxed atmosphere. Bridge, chess and kalooki have proved very popular and lunches excellent. The K&G Klub meets every Monday (Jewish festivals excepted) from 9.30am to 3.30pm at 15 Cleve Road, NW6. Phone 0171 328 0208 to confirm your booking.

### First Ludwig Spiro Awards

The Ludwig Spiro Awards have been introduced by the Otto Schiff Housing Association in honour of Mr Spiro's long and distinguished service as Chairman of Heinrich Stahl House Committee and in recognition of his dedication and immense contribution to the welfare of all OSHA's residents. Two annual awards are to be made: one to a volunteer and the other to a member of staff.

The first two Ludwig Spiro Awards

were made to Rosemary Lewis, Chairman of the House Committee of Osmond House and a member of the OSHA Council, and to Mike Allen, popular handyman at Leo Baeck House. They were presented by local MP, Dr Rudi Vis, in the presence of residents, staff and guests in the rose garden of Leo Baeck House. Ludwig Spiro responded with a witty and moving address.

Dr Vis praised the Association for its staff training programme and the high standards of its residential care. He then presented National Vocational Qualification certificates to staff who had successfully completed the appropriate



Graham Chweidat

Left: Volunteer Award winner Rosemary Lewis, right, shows her presentation shield to residents Mr Lipsbitz and Mrs Kenton, seated, OSHA Chairman Allan Blacher and Dr Rudi Vis MP.

### SHELTERED HOUSING

The AJR and the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA) have reorganised arrangements for handling inquiries and applications for sheltered tenancies at Eleanor Rathbone House, Highgate, and Otto Schiff House, NW3. Both Houses are managed by OSHA.

All inquiries or applications should in future be directed to the OSHA Social Work Department on 0181 458 7792.

There are presently a limited number of vacancies at Eleanor Rathbone House. The accommodation is in single bed sitting rooms with small kitchen and bathroom/WC. There is a waiting list for flats at Otto Schiff House.

□ JD Lightburn, General Manager, OSHA

**Note from AJR:** Katia Gould will continue to be available at the AJR office to any member requiring general advice on sheltered housing. She will also continue to manage the waiting list for AJR's eight sheltered flats at Cleve Road, West Hampstead.

courses. Allan Blacher, Otto Schiff's Chairman, was pleased to present staff long service awards.

During the afternoon the assembled company were entertained with a delightful musical programme performed by a quartet drawn from the City of London Sinfonia. The orchestra, which specially promotes the enjoyment and understanding of music-making, has chosen the Otto Schiff Housing Association to be recipients of its community outreach programme. To be known as the *L'Chaim Living Music Concerts*, all of Otto Schiff's residents, tenants, staff, volunteers, families and friends will have the opportunity to hear informal performances over the coming three years and enjoy their therapeutic benefits.

AJR members are also cordially invited to attend: this month's recitals will be held on Wednesday 21st October in The Bishop's Avenue, N3, in Balint House at 10.30am, and in Leo Baeck House at 11.45am. Please call Leanda Walters on 0181 209 0022 to reserve a place.

□ RDC

## Madeleine Brook Bridge Evening

Wednesday 25th November 1998  
Supper 6.30 – 7.30pm  
Rubber Bridge 7.30 – 10.30pm

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
15 Cleve Road, NW6 3LR

Tickets at £16 to be purchased in advance:  
Please telephone Sylvia, Renée or Susie  
on 0171 328 0208

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- \* Enlivening discussion
- \* Meeting new friends

### AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

on Wednesday 21st October  
at 15 Cleve Road, NW6 3RL  
11.45 for 12.15pm

Guest speaker: **Anton Felton**  
'An Expert's view on  
Jewish Carpets'

Reservations (£8)  
from Sylvia, Renée and Susie  
Tel: 0171 328 0208

### 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 7 October**  
**Thursday 15 October**  
**Tuesday 20 October**  
**Wednesday 28 October**  
**Thursday 5 October**

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 ...

### Lest they forget

A decade has now elapsed since the idea of a permanent memorial to be erected in Berlin to the victims of the Holocaust was first mooted. A prime site in the city centre, provided by Chancellor Kohl's Government for the purpose, covers a large area adjacent to the Brandenburg Gate where Gestapo headquarters once stood, abutting a preserved remnant of the Berlin Wall.

A design competition was held, but such were the heightened feelings aroused, particularly in the Jewish community, that both the winning entry and the runner-up were abandoned. No doubt in a well-meaning attempt to seek a route out of this quagmire, four schemes were shortlisted in a more recent competition, one of which was subsequently withdrawn. Even the front-runner, a design submitted by Peter Eisenmann and Richard Serra, which requires the erection of a forest of massive stone slabs, has failed to capture the public's imagination.

Chancellor Kohl pledged that a design would be selected in August this year and built. However, criticism of the project in the run-up to Germany's

general election from the Social Democrats' shadow Minister for Culture, backed by Kohl's SDP challenger Gerhard Schröder, brought a *volte face* from the Chancellor and his ally Eberhard Diepgen, the Christian Democrat Mayor of Berlin.

This displeased the country's Jewish community which viewed the delay as at least undignified, but at worst as holding danger of indefinite postponement. Should Kohl's 16-year term be curtailed by the ballot box, the SDP could well abandon the project.

The postwar Federal Republic of Germany has proved a model democracy. Following reunification, Germany is re-established at the fulcrum of Europe's industry and commerce, its citizens doubtless anxious to return to their old capital, Berlin, and begin the new millennium with the twentieth century's slate wiped clean. Inevitably, a process to remove memory of the Holocaust will be set into action. The building of the Holocaust memorial will help retard this process; it should remain at the heart of new Germany's capital as a witness and a warning to generations yet unborn.

□ Ronald Channing

## PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6

Mon. & Weds. 9.30am-3.30pm. Tues. 9.30am-5.30pm. Thurs. 9.30am-6.30pm. Suns. 2pm-6.30pm

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- \* advice on pensions & social security \* outings & holidays \*
- \* daily musical entertainment programme \*

Call Sylvia Matus - 0171 328 0208

Afternoon entertainment programme -

### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1998

Thur	1	Sylvia Eaves and Margaret Eaves, piano	Mon	19	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Sun	4	CLOSED - EREV SUCCOT	Tue	20	Mark Rosen and Daphne Lewis
Mon	5	CLOSED - SUCCOT	Wed	21	LUNCHEON CLUB
Tue	6	CLOSED - SUCCOT	Thur	22	Shirley Gurevitz and Anne Berryman, piano
Wed	7	The Geoffrey Whitworth Duo	Sun	25	Leo-Marie Shearing, soprano and Stephen Dickinson, piano
Thur	8	Katinka Seiner, Laszlo Easton and Peter Gellhorn, piano	Mon	26	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Sun	11	CLOSED - EREV YOMTOV	Tue	27	Abigail Gorton, soprano and Sandra Smith, piano
Mon	12	CLOSED - YOMTOV	Wed	28	Ilya Ushakov, violin and Yaron Shavit, piano
Tue	13	CLOSED - SIMCHAT TORAH	Thur	29	Marek Dabrowski, piano and Amanda Palmer, soprano
Wed	14	Francoise Geller and Margaret Eaves, piano	Sun	1	The Kentertainers
Thur	15	Lucy White and Juliet Davey	Mon	2	KARD & GAMES KLUB
Sun	18	Deborah Fink, soprano and Stephen Dickinson, piano	Tue	3	Geoffrey Strum and Helen Blake
			Wed	4	Judith Silver

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Births

**Morland.** Claire (née PLATT) and Paul are delighted to announce the safe and healthy arrival of Adam, a brother for Sonia and Juliet. First grandson for Janet and Michael Platt, Wimbledon and fifth grandson for Ingrid and Henry Morland, Wembley.

### Deaths

**Stewart.** Fred John Stewart died on 18 August 1998. Sadly missed by his heartbroken wife Alice, son Roger and nephew Tom.

**Gordon.** Harold Gordon (Heinz Gelb) born in Berlin 24 December 1916 died on 5 September 1998. Will be very sadly missed by his sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

**Reichmann.** Dr Eva Reichmann died 15 September at the age of 101. A contemporary and friend of Rabbi Leo Baeck, she was formerly Director of Research at the Wiener Library.

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Golden Weddings

**Marx.** The AJR extends its congratulations to Anne and Theo Marx on the occasion of their golden wedding.

**Mayer.** Harry and Irma Mayer celebrated their golden wedding on 26 September. Mazeltov and love from Jackie, Malcolm, Robert and Susan, and grandchildren Amy, Alex, Rachel, Patrick and Angus.

### Silver Wedding

**Kaufman.** Best wishes from the AJR to Susie and Andrew Kaufman on celebrating their silver wedding.

## CLASSIFIED Miscellaneous Services

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**Babysitting and respite care available** in the Swiss Cottage area. Tel: 0171 431 6001.

**Elderly Jewish (lady) Refugee.** now in residential care in the

South Ruislip area, would benefit from a regular visit by a German-speaking person. Please contact Beryl Wohl on 0181 959 1217 or Fax 0181 906 3696.

### Day Centre

**Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.** New Clothes for Sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans etc. Thursday 8 October, 9.45. - 11.45am.

### Societies

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

## BRIDGE LESSONS at 'KARD & GAMES KLUB'

15 Cleve Road, NW6

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**Dental Surgeon**

**Dr H Alan Shields**

**&**

**Chiropodist**

**Trevor Goldman SRC**

by appointment at  
**The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre**  
15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6  
Please make appointments with  
**Sylvia Matus, Tel: 0171 328 0208**

### AJR GROUP CONTACTS

**Bournemouth:** Ralph Dale  
01202 762 270  
**Leeds HSFA:** Heinz Skyte  
0113 268 5739  
**Midlands:** Edgar Glazer  
0121 777 6537  
**North:** Werner Lachs  
0161 773 4091  
**Nottingham:** Bob Norton  
01159 212 494  
**Pinner:** Sheryl Smookler  
0181 866 0185  
**S. London:** Ken Ambrose  
0181 852 0262  
**Surrey:** Ernest Simon  
01737 643 900

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before 9am or after 6pm

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Otto Schiff Housing Association  
The Bishops Avenue N2 0BG  
Phone: 0181-209 0022

# Art Notes

A profoundly moving exhibition, **Life? or Theatre?** opens at the Royal Academy on October 22 and continues until January 17. On display are paintings in gouache by **Charlotte Salomon**, which, together with text and musical allusions, form a dramatised account of her life, albeit fictionalised.

Charlotte was born in Berlin in 1917. When she was nine years old her mother committed suicide and her father remarried – to an opera singer, with whom she had a troublesome relationship. Despite being Jewish, she was able to study at the State Art Academy in Berlin between 1936 and 1938. She was much influenced by the artistic theories of a charismatic musician, Alfred Wolfsohn, who became her lover. In early 1939 Charlotte moved to the South of France to live with her maternal grandparents. A year later her grandmother committed suicide and Charlotte herself contemplated suicide.

Instead, she produced over 780 small autobiographical paintings in the format of a drama, which looks back on her own life and times, combining fantasy with reality. The work survived, but Charlotte did not. She died in Auschwitz in 1943. Charlotte's extraordinary paintings, nearly half of which are on display, create a visual tension corresponding to their emotional content. She used colour and line to describe a psychological journey compounded of despair, insecurity, loneliness and death. In giving her work the title of *Life? or Theatre?* she called into question the very meaning of existence – her own in particular, in the period of Nazi oppression.

**Picasso: Painter and Sculptor in Clay**, also at the Royal Academy, focuses on the artist's work in clay, which he created in the South of France during the last thirty years of his life. Picasso first began working in ceramics in 1946 and his remarkable power to create highly imaginative work in a fresh medium is revealed in the exhibition. Some 175 unique pieces, most of them overwhelmingly joyous in essence, are on view, together with a number of related drawings. Until December 16.

**Speed**, at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, until November 22, is an innovative exhi-

bition that examines how the perception of speed has affected the production of art over this century. Brought together are paintings and sculptures by visionary artists such as Sickert, Gabo, Delaunay, Duchamp, Léger and Hamilton, as well as many contemporary artists. Photographs, 3-D work and furniture are also included.

□ Barry Fealdman

## SB's Column

**Bayreuth.** A memorial tablet to two Jewish Wagner singers and Holocaust victims, contralto Otilie Metzger (who sang there 1901 to 1912) and soprano Henriette Gottlieb (1927-1930), was unveiled close to the Opera house in the presence of City and Festival representatives. At the solemn ceremony which Wolfgang Wagner attended tribute was also paid to conductor Hermann Levi's contribution to the Festival.

**A Song goes round the World.** Sixty-five years ago when the Nazis started expelling all 'non-Aryan' artists, Joseph Schmidt, possessor of a radiant tenor voice, had reached the zenith of his career with the film *Ein Lied geht um die Welt*. He subsequently died in Switzerland at the relatively young age of thirty-eight.

**Obituaries.** Berlin-born **Hermann Prey** who died aged 69, was a popular baritone, equally at home in Munich, Vienna, Salzburg and Bayreuth. Among the many operatic roles he made his own were Figaro, Beckmesser, Wolfram and the composer in Richard Strauss' *Intermezzo*. Prey sang at the Royal Opera House from 1973 onwards and was Eisenstein in the multilingual *Fledermaus* in 1978. An exquisite lieder singer, he also performed in Schubert and Schumann song cycles. Ventriloquist **Shari Lewis** who has died, aged 65, had been born Phillis Hurwitz in New York and became a popular entertainer. She attained fame by her good looks and modest ways. Her charming puppet 'Lamb Chop' attracted both children and adult audiences. Hungarian-born actress **Eva Bartok** has died in London, aged 72. She appeared in many films and achieved notoriety by several marriages and divorces. One of her husbands was Curt Jürgens and one of her lovers Frank Sinatra □

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## POETS' CORNER

### Die Letzten

Wir sind die Letzten.  
 Fragt uns aus.  
 Wir sind zuständig.  
 Wir tragen den Zettelkasten  
 mit den Steckbriefen unserer Freunde  
 wie einen Bauchladen vor uns her.  
 Forschungsinstitute bewerben sich  
 um Wäscherechnungen Verschollener.  
 Museen bewahren die Stichworte unserer  
 Agonie  
 wie Reliquien unter Glas auf.  
 Wir, die wir unsere Zeit verträdelten,  
 aus begreiflichen Gründen,  
 sind zu Trödlern des Unbegreiflichen  
 geworden.  
 Unser Schicksal steht unter Denkmalschutz.  
 Unser bester Kunde ist das  
 schlechte Gewissen der Nachwelt.  
 Greift zu, bedient euch,  
 Wir sind die Letzten.  
 Fragt uns aus.  
 Wir sind zuständig. □ Hans Sahl (1973)

### Song of the Fishes

There's a Jewry-sized hole in the  
 hardland of Europe  
 Do not read that as heart, for in lands  
 roundabout  
 No such organ was known when they  
 gouged out the hole,  
 Dipping sharp steeltipped maws into soft  
 living tissue  
 Those who peer from the edge of the  
 Jewry-sized hole  
 Into dizzying depths may make out an  
 Atlantis  
 On the bed of a restlessly heaving salt  
 ocean  
 Fed by tear-swollen rivers forever in  
 spate  
 At times, though, the huge coastless sea  
 lies becalmed  
 And ears finely tuned to the song of the  
 fishes  
 (A song with a verse for each deluge  
 since Noah's)  
 Pick up sounds given off by the drowned  
 land below  
 Then is heard chaffering, scolding,  
 disputing and laughter,  
 Golden-voiced cantors outsoar synagogue  
 choirs  
*Bochers* sussurate like bees, chanting  
 snatches of Talmud  
 And deft-fingered *klezmers* whip up  
 storms of *kozatzkes*.  
 □ Richard Grunberger (1998)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - OCTOBER 1998

- Sun 4 **Pirasti Piano Trio** play  
 Haydn, Beethoven &  
 Mendelssohn. Conway Hall,  
 6.30pm, £4
- Thur 8 **Ronnie Oren:** Neve Shalom  
 village for Jews & Arabs in  
 Israel. Pinner AJR, Pinner  
 Synagogue, 2pm
- Sun 11 **Janacek String Quartet** play  
 Haydn, Janacek & Dvorak.  
 Conway Hall, 6.30pm, £4
- Thur 15 **HL Markan JP:** Work of a  
 Councillor & Magistrate.  
 South London AJR. Prentis  
 Road Synagogue, Streatham,  
 2pm
- Sun 18 **Contributions of German-  
 Speaking Refugees to  
 British Culture & Public  
 Life:** Dr Ulrike Walton-  
 Jordan, Leo Baeck Hall, 11  
 Fitzjohns Ave, NW3, at 3pm
- Sun 18 **Jonathan Tunnell, cello, &  
 Belcea String Quartet** play  
 Mozart, Mykiety & Schubert.  
 Conway Hall, 6.30pm, £4
- Mon 19 **Lübeck & the brothers  
 Thomas & Heinrich Mann:**  
 Dr Klaus Hinrichsen, art  
 historian. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 20 **Prof Edward Timms:** Kafka,  
 Kraus & the Jewish Theatre.  
 Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Wed 21 **City of London Sinfonia  
 recital,** Balint House,  
 Bishops Ave N3, 10.30, &  
 Leo Baeck House 11.45
- Sun 25 **Nicholas Rodwell, clarinet,  
 & Elesco String Trio** play  
 Schubert, Bach, Goldschmidt  
 & Beethoven, Conway Hall,  
 6.30pm, £4
- Mon 26 **Single Refugees in 1940s  
 London:** Marion Hamm,  
 Research Institute for  
 German & Austrian Exile  
 Studies. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 27 **Dr Ulrike Walter-Jordan:**  
 German refugee lawyers'  
 impact on British legal policy  
 towards Germany 1942-49.  
 Sussex University, 5.15pm
- November**
- Sun 1 **Arpeggione String Quartet**  
 play Mozart, Schmidt &  
 Beethoven. Conway Hall,  
 6.30pm, £4
- Mon 2 **A Second Brecht Evening**  
 (in English & German):  
 Devised by Ernst Flesch &  
 Hans Seelig. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 3 **German Cabaret's  
 Response to National  
 Socialism:** Joanne McNally.  
 Sussex University, 5.15pm

### ORGANISATION CONTACTS

**Club '43,** at Belsize Square  
 Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360  
**Wiener Library,** 4 Devonshire Street,  
 London W1. 0171 636 7247  
**University of Sussex Centre for  
 German-Jewish Studies.** David  
 Groiser Tel/Fax: 01273 678 495  
**South London AJR.** Ken Ambrose  
 0181 852 0262  
**Pinner AJR,** Pinner Synagogue, 1  
 Cecil Park, Middx. Tel: 0181 866 0185  
 or 4833  
**City of London Sinfonia recitals.**  
 Leanda Walters 0181 209 0022  
**South Place Sunday Concerts,**  
 Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,  
 Holborn, WC1. Details from Lionel  
 Elton, tel: 01494 726 106

### University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies

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 pro rata, depending on qualifications.  
 (Closing date 31 Oct 98).

Further details from The Director, Centre  
 for German-Jewish Studies, University of  
 Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN. Tel/Fax: 01273  
 678 495.

## HYPHEN

### 50th Anniversary Reunion

Refreshments and gossip

**Sunday 15th November 3-6pm**  
**11 Fitzjohn's Avenue**  
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Reservations (£4) by 30th October  
 from C Teddern  
 33 Manor Close, London NW9 9HD  
 Tel: 0181 204 7484

## Kristallnacht, 60th anniversary commemorations

On Kristallnacht – 9th November 1938 – Nazis mobs in Germany and Austria destroyed 267 synagogues, vandalised Jewish homes, ransacked 7,000 Jewish businesses, imprisoned 30,000 Jews in concentration camps and murdered 31 others, thereby removing any remaining doubt as to Hitler's ultimate intentions.

To mark the sixtieth anniversary of Kristallnacht two special commemorative events are being presented in London by the Second Generation Trust on November 8th at the Wigmore Hall, and by the Tolerance Educational Trust on November 9th at the Harrow Arts Centre.

The Second Generation Trust are presenting a **60th Anniversary Concert** in association with Amnesty International. The date also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights whose thirty basic rights were a direct response to the Holocaust's inhumanities.



Israeli-born bass baritone Gidon Saks

An impressive array of participating artistes, introduced by Anita Lasker Wallfisch, present a programme chosen by the performers themselves. Della Jones sings *Handel & Purcell* accompanied by Paul Daniel, piano; Joan Rogers sings *Strauss*, Gidon Saks – *Verdi & Eisler*, Sally Burgess – *Bernstein, Gershwin, Sondheim & Weill*, Raphael Wallfisch plays *Ravel & Rachmaninov*, and Juliet Stevenson reads texts by *WH Auden & Primo Levi*. Among many distinguished guests present for the occasion will be Lord Dubs, Oona King MP and the Ambassadors of Germany and Austria.

An illustrated pre-concert talk, given by Dr Christian Staffa, on the history of Holocaust memorials – including the controversial Berlin Memorial – commences at 2pm in the Wigmore Hall and is followed by New York artist Melissa Gould

*The 60th Anniversary Kristallnacht Commemorative Concert, at the Wigmore Hall, London, on Sunday November 8th, commences at 5pm. Seats are available at £15 to £30 from the Box Office, tel: 0171 935 2141. For best seats and a post-concert reception, at £50, call 0171 624 5542. For the pre-concert lecture at 2pm, tickets are £5 (£3 concessions), tel: 0171 935 2141.*

and German sculptor Horst Hoheisel describing their Holocaust-related work.

The Tolerance Educational Trust's commemorative event at the Harrow Arts Centre, is entitled **Reflections on Kristallnacht for Today & Tomorrow**. It is intended not only to recall those devastating events, but also to explore the significance of the lack of reaction from both ordinary Germans and the outside world.

Rabbi John Rayner and Anita Lasker Wallfisch share their personal experiences of Kristallnacht, while Stephen Smith, founder and director of the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire, evaluates Kristallnacht's significance for today's multi-cultural society. Survivor Lotte Kramer reads from her poetry. Raphael Wallfisch, cello, and Benjamin Wallfisch, piano, play a selected programme, and the Jewish Heritage Youth Choir sing additional musical interludes in Hebrew and English.



Anita Lasker Wallfisch

*'Reflections on Kristallnacht for Today & Tomorrow', on Monday 9th November, at the Harrow Arts Centre, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Middlesex, commences at 7.30pm. For reservations, at £8 plus concessions, call the Box Office on 0181 428 0124.*

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### THE MAURITIUS SHEKEL

This book by Geneviève Pitot, reviewed  
under the heading **1940s Odyssey**  
(September issue, p4) is obtainable from  
selected bookshops or Walter Elkan (0171  
624 5102) at £9.99 per copy.

## Cooking with Gretel Beer



## Spiced vegetable sauce

**S**plendid for pasta of all kinds, but also very good as an accompaniment to hot or cold meat – and you can vary the vegetables according to taste and availability.

- 1 green pepper
- 1 red pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

- 1 thinly sliced leek
- 1 large carrot cut into small dice
- 1 thick slice celeriac, diced
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 crushed garlic clove
- 3-4 skinned, diced tomatoes
- salt
- pinch of sugar
- 1 dessert spoon each of chopped marjoram, basil and lovage
- pinch of chopped thyme

Deseed and dice the green and red pepper. Heat the olive oil in a thick saucepan, add the leek, carrot, celeriac, onion, peppers and crushed garlic. Simmer gently, stirring constantly, until the vegetables are tender. If necessary, add a little water – or a dash of white wine – just enough to prevent burning. Now add the skinned and diced tomatoes – choose the large, irregular shaped ones for better flavour – salt and a good pinch of sugar, plus the chopped herbs. Simmer very gently until the tomatoes are just cooked – no more ☐

## SEARCH NOTICES

**Dr Max Weissler** of Danzig, communal figure and amateur musician, 'died' 1933, reportedly shot by Nazi officer who was a patient. Daughter and only child Inga seeks more information on the fate of her late father and his place of burial. Any information to Mrs Inga Sinigaglia, 29a Eccleston Road, Ealing, London W13 0RA. Tel: 0181 840 2344.

**Walter Lewy-Lingen** aka **Landon**, born ca 1920, son of Richard (a German judge) and Marie Gertrude, who died in Germany. Came to England on Kindertransport. **Killed in action at Battle of Arnhem**, Sept 1944, with 21st Independent Para Company and buried at Oosterbeek military cemetery under a headstone cross. Surviving relatives or friends who may have known Walter or his family are asked to confirm his Jewish origins to ensure grave is marked with a Star of David. Please contact Martin Sugarman, AJEX Jewish Military Museum, East Bank, Stamford Hill, London N16 5RT.

**Max Kracke**, merchant, of 25 Goswell Road London EC1. Last heard of in 1933 at 28 St Bride Street. He or his heirs invited to contact Katrin Schumann of Claims Conference re dispossessed East German property at Brunnenstr. 181, 10119, Berlin. Fax: 0049 302 830 5333.

**Kurt Stein**, last known in Loughton, Essex ca 1945. Family member seeking further information. Call 01242 529100.

**Ilse & Leise Broll**, born Vienna 1924 & 1926, came to England in 1938. Father, Alfred, was nurse in London teaching hospital. Ilse may have married Dr Honey in Australia. Cousin seeks whereabouts, Sue Eldridge, 105-727 Richmond Road, Ottawa, ON, Canada K2A 0G6.

**Schwet Jenö**, born Budapest 5.9.1902. Last heard of at Matthausen after liberation, May 1945. **Schwet Jenö-ne, born Anna Vertes** (known as Nusi) on 5.5.1909 in Budapest. Separated from her only son on arrival at Ravensbruck, 1944. Anyone recalling them or their last days please contact Thomas Sinclair, 5 Esther Close, London N21 1AW. Tel: 0181 360 8791.

**Gertrude Chambre-Goldsmith and her daughters Hildegard and Charlotte**, lived at 108 Grenfell Road, Maidenhead, Berks. some 45 years ago. 90-year-old cousin Franz Wesly of Maastricht, Netherlands, wishes to locate them or relatives. Please write to daughter Leni Wesly (Fortus), POB 650, 44160 Kfar Sava, Israel. Fax: 972 9740 0594.

**Kindertransport documentary filmmakers, Los Angeles.** Seeking individual stories; also photos, diaries, letters, immigration papers, passports, etc. and documentation of British citizen's participation. Contact: Cayce Callaway, 8384 Yucca Trail, Los Angeles, CA 90046. Tel: (323) 654 8122. Fax: (323) 654 6154.

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## Münster's unloved memorial



Münster Jews' Holocaust memorial resited in a Hamburg park.

American artist Sol LeWitt's memorial *Black Form*, dedicated to the missing Jews of Münster, was conceived for, and placed right in front of, the mock-baroque Münster Palace. Part of Germany's Skulptur Projekte '87, it consists of a large, black rectangular block, some six feet square and eighteen feet long, without an inscription of any kind. It was just there, in the way, inescapable – but that was its point.

People approaching this magnificent palace see this large, unmarked, black object. Tourists puzzle over its appearance in their holiday snaps. But it raises questions that call for an answer.

This is a memorial which worked, both in itself and its location. Yet it found little favour in Münster. They called it a 'black blight' which spoiled the site's aesthetic integrity, as well as making it harder for cars to turn around! Within a year it was demolished.

It found a new home in Hamburg's Altona district, in front of the town hall. There it still stands, between an ornamental fountain and a main road, hedged in with privet, quite unremarked and no longer in anybody's way.

□ Sue Monsell

*Sue Monsell is an expert on, and cataloguer of, European Holocaust memorials, World War II architectural structures and concrete fortifications.*

### Errata

Apologies for misprints in the September issue, especially calling the profilee Annie Reichel (p2) instead of Reich.

Also there were two factual errors relating to Virginia Woolf (p5). It was Leonard Woolf's grandfather who had been a tailor and his mother who had not been invited to the son's wedding □

## SECOND GENERATION PERSPECTIVES

In the July issue, Ronald Channing and Bea Green gave their accounts and views of two lectures, by Anne Karpf and Katherine Klinger, which formed part of the recent *Generations* series at the Wiener Library.

Bea Green asks: Given that most second generation members live materially comfortable lives, "do they (the second generation) want to suffer? Is it part of the human condition to seek out problems?"

These are without doubt important questions and raise many complex issues. Many further questions could also be asked. Why are there flourishing second generation groups worldwide? Why have two national conferences in Britain (organised by *Link*) attracted hundreds of second generation members? Why has the *Association of Children of Jewish Refugees* continued to thrive for over 10 years? Why has a new national organisation for the second generation, the *Second Generation Network*, been formed during 1997? Why does the number of subscribers to the Network and its newsletter, *Second Generation Voices*, continue to grow? Why are new, local second generation groups emerging all over the country? Why do more than 600 people attend the public meetings organised by the Second Generation Trust?

Here are three possible answers to begin with. A recent survey of *Second Generation Voices* readers revealed that articles about 'journeys of self-discovery', that is, personal histories, are by far the most popular. Writers often describe actual journeys to the places where their parent(s) grew up and where other relatives perished. Here, then, is one clue: the search for identity and some integration with one's family history; these fascinate writers and readers alike.

Next, the psychological effects of being the child of a refugee from, or survivor of, the Holocaust is an increasingly researched subject; internationally this issue is treated with respect and some links are also beginning to be made with the trans-generational effects of other traumas. Here, second generation writers and readers have so far responded in two ways: with fascination or rejection, so *Second Generation Voices* receives re-

quests both for more and for less of such articles.

Finally in this brief overview, there are accounts of what members of the second generation are doing as a response to their peculiar family history. Wallowing in self-pity is not a frequent choice! They write, some professionally, as Anne Karpf has done, or some in their group newsletter. Many work in the caring professions, finding their own understanding of loss deepening their empathy with their clients.

Many of the second generation have thus found their own ways to honour and memorialise family members who suffered during and after the Holocaust and also to celebrate the achievements of their parents.

We cannot expect the eyewitness generation to understand our many-faceted perspective. The generation gap in our families can often be particularly wide, stretching as it does not merely across the difference of age, but also across parental experience of perhaps indescribable traumas and of cultural difference.

Our aim and need is to give expression to our perspective, to share it with our peers and in doing so, move forward with a deeper self-understanding. In this way, the next generation can benefit from our and their, enriched sense of identity.

Anyone (particularly second generation members!) who would like to know more about the *Second Generation Network* and related organisations and is interested to receive the newsletter *Second Generation Voices* can write to: **Second Generation Network, PO Box 14205, London NW3 4WZ.** □ Barbara Dorrity

### 50 YEARS AGO

#### COUNT BERNADOTTE

Count Folke Bernadotte, who was assassinated in Jerusalem, had merited the respect and gratefulness of the Jewish people long before he took up his thankless task as a mediator in the Palestine conflict. As President of the Swedish Red Cross, he rescued in 1943 and 1944 large numbers of Danish and Hungarian Jews from concentration camps of the Nazis in Germany. He undertook these missions with no consideration to his own safety as a humanitarian who believed in the sanctity of human life and in the solution of problems by negotiation and not by force.

It was this belief which made him accept the office of mediator in Palestine. Not for the first time in history have men who had dedicated themselves to the struggle against violence, fallen victim to that which they fought □

*AJR Information, October 1948*

## NEWSROUND

**Crosses at Auschwitz**

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski has called for the removal of crosses erected by rightwing Catholic extremists and antisemites adjacent to the Auschwitz death camp. However, he believed that the 23ft cross under which Pope John Paul II prayed in 1979 should remain in place.

**Slave labourers' legal action**

Former slave labourers in Germany, now living in America, are suing German companies for compensation in New York and New Jersey courts. The companies include Audi, BMW, Daimler-Benz, Krupp and Siemens as well as Volkswagen who have pronounced themselves ready to offer survivors a £7.5 million restitution fund. SDP leader Gerhard Schröder supported such restitution as, at the least, a moral obligation.

**Combatting Internet racism**

Home Secretary Jack Straw revealed to the Board of Deputies that the National Criminal Intelligence Service would be identifying sources of racist and threatening material published on the Internet. Other governments and relevant authorities would be alerted to initiate the prosecution of originators. The Government remained reluctant to make Holocaust denial a criminal offence.

**Austria's Jewish-owned artworks**

Legislation introduced by Austria's Minister of Culture, for the return of stolen works of art discovered in state museums, may be enacted this month. A leaked report suggested these could run into thousands. Two paintings on loan in New York were re-claimed by victims of the Nazis.

**Allies end gold commission**

The Tripartite Gold Commission, set up by the US, Britain and France in 1946 to return gold stolen by the Germans in WWII to their rightful owners, has been wound up. The conference held in London last December addressed the final disbursement of remaining reserves and offered additional help to low-income Holocaust survivors.

**Air time**

AJR Chief Executive Michael Radbil and AJR Information correspondent Ronald Channing are becoming regular broadcasters on Spectrum Jewish Radio (558 MW). During one-hour reviews of the news, immediate responses are called for to presenter Richard Ford's questions and telephoned comments.

**'J' for German Jews**

Stamping Jewish passports with the letter 'J' to identify Jews and prevent their entry into Switzerland, was the idea of Nazi Germany and not the Swiss, according to Switzerland's *Beobachter Magazine*. □ RDC

## Holocaust experts enlighten Beth Shalom's first graduate institute

Jewish and non-Jewish teachers of Holocaust studies and graduate students gathered at Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire to take part in its graduate institute's first seminar and to hear contributions from authorities and survivors on many aspects of Holocaust history and education. The sixty participants were virtually twice the numbers originally anticipated by Dr James Smith who organised the week-long seminar.



Esther Brunstein

A highly comprehensive and intensive programme was prepared and jointly organised by Beth Shalom and Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem whose Director of Education, Ephraim Kaye, took an active role in the seminar. The Yad Vashem Committee of the British Board of Deputies also gave its co-operation.

Prof Aubrey Newman of Leicester University opened the proceedings with a comprehensive overview of the Holocaust in its historical context. Among other distinguished lecturers who followed during the week were Dr Rolf Wolfswinkel of Cape Town University on the development and implementation of Nazi ideology; Dr Tony Kushner of Southampton University discussing victims, perpetrators, bystanders and resistance; Dr Isabel Wollaston of Birmingham University illustrating film of the Holocaust; Dr Jo Reilly of the Wiener Library analysing the camp system; Dr Ronnie Landau ques-

tioning aspects of the Final Solution; Prof Christine King recalling the bravery of non-Jewish victims; and Ephraim Kaye discussing the selection and use of the broad range of educational resources now available.

Powerful and moving contributions were made by a number of survivors: Esther Brunstein living through the liquidation of the Lodz ghetto, Ben Helfgott discussing Holocaust denial and anti-semitism, Jack Kagan on joining the partisans in occupied Poland, Prof Felix Scharf talking on the fate of the Jews of Crakow, AJR member Lisa Vincent recalling the end of her childhood in Nuremberg, and Anita Wallfisch surviving as a member of the Auschwitz camp orchestra.

Beth Shalom Director Stephen Smith, who presented an historical analysis of antisemitism, said that the seminar set out to investigate the history of the Holocaust and to explore its application in educational environments. Several of the teachers taught in deprived areas and



Ben Helfgott and Ephraim Kaye

their work in the classroom was key in combatting denial, racism and bigotry. He anticipated that future seminars would similarly play a crucial part in furthering Holocaust education.

Stephen Smith pledged that Beth Shalom was prepared to develop both facilities and resources for lecturers and teachers who wished to enhance their own personal knowledge and competency. This Holocaust institute seminar had certainly explored many historical aspects and brought to the fore important questions of morality for succeeding generations of students to ponder.

□ Ronald Channing