

# AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

## Turning black into white

The once hugely popular Black-and-White Minstrel Show belongs to a *genre* of entertainment now deemed politically incorrect, and consequently dead as the dodo. Instead, we have the Ali G phenomenon, where a white actor doesn't black up, but dresses and talks like a Brixton rapper.

Since politics, as hardboiled commentators sometimes allege, is a branch of show business, it shouldn't surprise us if some African politicians are Ali G in reverse. One such is Robert Mugabe, who might fittingly be described as a nastier version of Ian Smith in black-face. Mugabe, once a leader - and now a parasitic beneficiary - of the struggle against white racism, uses black racist demagoguery to keep himself in power.

It is worth remembering that the leader of so-called 'war veterans' spearheading Mugabe's reign of terror in the country was one Changerai Hunzvi, who gloried in the nickname 'Hitler' (an instance of black-white confusion that should keep psychiatrists busy for years!). Another is Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa, who, by backing Mugabe, is wantonly squandering the moral capital stored up by his predecessor Nelson Mandela. Mbeki's delegate on the international commission sent to observe the elections in Zimbabwe actually went so far as to deny that there had been widespread voter intimidation and disenfranchisement - and put all glaring breaches of due electoral process down to 'administrative oversight'.

It is small wonder that the playwright Athol Fugard who, a generation ago, aroused the world's dormant liberal conscience to the iniquities of apartheid, feels himself to be a voice crying in the wilderness of present-day South Africa. (Let us also remember that the UN



Pope Pius XII

Conference on Racism, which sought to delegitimise Israel as 'inherently racist' - and thus contributed to stirring up the lethal second *intifada* - took place in Durban, South Africa.)

Meanwhile, another attempt to turn black into white, which has nothing to do with skin pigmentation, is gathering impetus in Rome. The Vatican has long been trying to transform Pius XII - a pontiff so controversial that a recent book on him was entitled *Hitler's Pope* - into a saint. Now, running alongside these contentious canonisation proceedings, the Spanish Bishops' conference has initiated moves to confer sainthood on Queen Isabella of Castille. She and her husband Ferdinand, the King of Aragon - *los reyes Catolicos* - famously sponsored Columbus's discovery of America, but in the same year they also expelled the Jews from the whole of Spain, crushed the Moors of Granada, and began a programme of ethnic cleansing.

The late medieval Church, whose devoted daughter Isabella was, not only fought long drawn-out Crusades against Islam, but also purveyed virulent Judeophobia. This found expression in repeated accusations of well-poisoning,

desecration of the host and ritual murder against hapless Jewish communities throughout Europe.

The ancient Catholic blood libel has recently been regurgitated by a newspaper in Saudi Arabia, a country hermetically sealed off from the outside world. Another Judeophobic *canard* of modern vintage - the existence of a worldwide Jewish conspiracy headed by the 'Elders of Zion' - has been rehashed by an Islamicist magazine printed and distributed in the UK.

A rising generation of militant Anglo-Muslim journalists are at the same time busily engaged in drawing up lists of Jews prominent in British public life and the media. Challenged about this 'racist targeting', they disclaimed any nefarious intent. Their lists, they resourcefully adlibbed, were only intended to throw down a challenge to readers to 'Go thou and do likewise!' (i.e. take over TV channels, newspapers and the like).

With two million Muslims in this country, the constituency to which these hate-filled messages are addressed outnumbers Anglo-Jewry by six to one. Having seen what outrages a 'provoked' Muslim minority is capable of on the other side of the Channel, let us nonetheless try to put a potentially hopeful construction on all this menacing incitement. Maybe when Muslim TV viewers and newspaper readers familiarise themselves with British public life, and discover that prominent Jews like Gerald Kaufman MP and Rabbi Goldberg inveigh against the Israeli government, while Harold Pinter denounces the Jewish state as such, they will be encouraged to practise pluralism, and not let the mullahs do their thinking for them. So some good may yet come out of evil, and black turn into white!

## A debt disavowed

Richard Grunberger

In November 1947, when the UN voted to partition Palestine - thereby giving the legal imprimatur to the creation of Israel - the Hindu Maharadja of Kashmir attached his territory to India without consulting the majority Muslim population. Ever since, the unresolved issue of Kashmir has exacerbated Indian-Pakistani relations, and heightened intercommunal tensions inside India. During the last bout of intercommunal carnage a few months ago, Hindu fanatics caused Muslim fatalities that ran into four figures.

Yet despite the far heavier Muslim death toll since partition, the wrath of the Islamic world has never been turned against India to the same extent as it has against Israel. What is the reason for this?

Size is undoubtedly a consideration. In population terms, India is a giant on the world stage, whereas Israel is barely visible to the naked eye. However, religion seems to me to be a more decisive factor. Admittedly, the Kashmir conflict has a religious dimension by pitting Muslims against Hindus. But the Hindu faith, with its many deities, does not arouse as much Muslim ire worldwide as does monotheistic Judaism.

To be brutally frank, Islam - like Christianity before it - simply took up the legacy of monotheism pioneered centuries earlier by Judaism and elaborated it in its own peculiar way.

However, thanks to the perversity religious fanaticism breeds in the human mind, the two separate billion-strong monotheistic 'Johnnies-come-lately' Christianity and Islam have always viewed Judaism with greater hatred than polytheism.

In the final analysis, Islamicists everywhere target Israel (rather than, say, India or Russia or Serbia - each of which has killed many more Muslims) because Islam owes Judaism a debt which it cannot bring itself to acknowledge. Is it going too far to see Islamic Judeophobia as an expression of Oedipal rage?

## Former Chancellor claims Germans oppose multicultural society

Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has claimed that the German people are racist. The 82-year-old ex-chancellor joined the bitter immigration debate by declaring that there were too many foreigners in the country and that they could not be assimilated because his compatriots were "racist deep down". They had allowed themselves to get "stuck with" a multicultural society on account of their feelings of guilt over Hitler and the Nazis.

These comments appear in a book Schmidt has published. The former Chancellor's book is built around a series of recorded conversations with one of Germany's leading TV interviewers and is being serialised in the tabloid daily *Bild*.

This left Germany's President, Johannes Rau, with the daunting problem of deciding whether or not to sign into law an immigration bill passed with considerable uproar in parliament. It seems very likely that race will be a major issue in the forthcoming general election contest between Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and his right-wing challenger Edmund Stoiber.

Non-Germans account for nearly 10 per cent of the population in Germany. According to a report in *The Guardian*, the reason why the proportion is so high is that immigrants have not been granted the same citizenship rights as in

countries such as Britain and France. In the words of Helmut Schmidt: "We have today 7 million foreigners who are not integrated and the minimal number who do wish to integrate are not given help to do so."

The Schröder government's immigration bill makes an attempt to address the problem of integration. It provides for classes to be given to immigrants on German language, culture and society which will be compulsory for residents of long standing who have failed to achieve a certain level of fluency.

It is ironic that, under both Schmidt and his successor, Helmut Kohl, each of the major political parties blurred the line between visitors and immigrants with the insistence that Germany was, in an oft-repeated phrase, "not a country of immigration" - despite the fact that it was home to millions of foreigners. The foreigners who came in large numbers to work in factories and on farms were "guest workers" who - it was implied - would one day go back to the countries they had come from.

Herr Schmidt says: "Now we are stuck with a very heterogeneous, *de facto* multicultural society and we are unable to cope with it. We Germans are unable to assimilate all 7 million. Nor do Germans have any desire to do so. To a great degree, they are racist deep down."

HS

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

will be held on **SUNDAY 16 June 2002 3 pm**  
at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

**Guest speaker: Professor Mark Roseman**  
**'The Wannsee Conference 60 Years On:**  
**Is There Anything New to Say?'**

#### Agenda:

Annual Report 2001, Hon. Treasurer's Report,  
Discussion, Election of Committee of Management

*All questions for the Chair should be submitted by 27 May to the  
Head of Administration at: 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL*

#### AJR Journal

Richard Grunberger Editor-in-Chief Ronald Channing Executive Editor  
Howard Spier Editorial and Production AJR Journal, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL  
Tel: 020 7431 6161 Fax: 020 7431 8454 e-mail: editorial@ajr.org.uk www.ajr.org.uk



## Europe - a superstate?

Richard Grunberger

France is bucking the European trend towards middle-of-the-road or centre-right administrations by having a socialist government outflanked on the left by disparate Marxists, who poll as many votes as the Lib Dems once did over here. Unsurprisingly, this ultra-left is mirrored by an extreme right, though, happily, Le Pen no longer exerts his former pull.

Across the Rhine, France has a near-ally in Germany, whose government pursues similar policies. In internal affairs, the Germans oppose the liberalisation of labour laws à la Berlusconi, and abroad they jib at toeing the US line à la Blair. The Bundesrepublik is, however, unique in having Greens - weaned off their Luddite convictions and unworldly pacifism - in the socialist-led government.

Italy is the odd one out among the continental Big Three. The media tycoon Berlusconi is pushing it so radically towards a *laissez-faire* economy that he has triggered a recrudescence of Red Brigade terrorism. Abroad, Berlusconi has put

his head above the parapet by unambiguously asserting the superiority of Western over Islamic values. He is able to do this because Italians tend to be pro-American, whereas in France fierce Americophobia unites Gaullists and gauchists.

Italy and France share Romance languages, Catholic culture and European consciousness. Where they differ is that (non-Marxist) Italians feel indebted to America for having accepted so many economic migrants from their country; in contrast, the French intelligentsia keep sounding the alarm about the creeping Americanisation of *la belle France*.

Lastly, what of Britain? Here we have a left-leaning, yet simultaneously pro-enterprise, PM trying to reconcile Capital and Labour. While this may be difficult, it is in foreign affairs that Mr Blair is really setting out to square the circle. He is attempting to lead a public even more suspicious of America than it has been of Europe into an open-ended alliance with the USA. Meanwhile, the Atlantic shrinks, but the Channel grows wider.

## NEWTONS

Leading Hampstead Solicitors

22 Fitzjohn's Avenue,  
London NW3 5NB

- All English legal work undertaken
- Assistance given with German, Swiss & Austrian matters
- German spoken
- Home visits arranged

Tel: 020 7435 5351

Fax: 020 7435 8881

## PARTNER

in long established English Solicitors (bi-lingual German) would be happy to assist clients with English, German and Austrian problems.

Contact Henry Ebner

Myers Ebner & Deaner  
103 Shepherds Bush Road  
London W6 7LP  
Telephone 020 7602 4631

ALL LEGAL WORK  
UNDERTAKEN

Opening this month

## CONTINENTAL BRITONS

JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI EUROPE

AJR Members are invited to visit a new exhibition researched, written & sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees in celebration of the AJR's 60th anniversary at

The Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House  
129-131 Albert Street, London NW1

5 minutes walk from Camden Town Underground Station

8 May - 20 October 2002

Monday-Thursday 10 am-4 pm, Sundays 10 am-5 pm  
Closed on Jewish Festivals & Public Holidays

Entry £3.50, AJR Members £2.50, Children and Students £1.50, Family Ticket £8, Museum Friends free

For a full programme of associated events, group visits, bookings & further details, please call  
The Jewish Museum on 0207 284 1997  
Email: admin@mus.org.uk



## AUSTRIAN and GERMAN PENSIONS

### PROPERTY RESTITUTION CLAIMS EAST GERMANY - BERLIN

On instructions our office will assist to deal with your applications and pursue the matter with the authorities.

For further information  
and appointment  
please contact:

ICS CLAIMS  
146-154 Kilburn High Road  
London NW6 4JD

Tel: 020 7328 7251 (Ext. 107)  
Fax: 020 7624 5002

The year 2001, which marked the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Jewish Refugees during the Second World War, was celebrated by a number of specially arranged events. In June a symposium on *AJR Information* as a remarkable publishing achievement, organised with the Universities of Sussex and London, brought together refugees and many distinguished academics, with Lord Moser, Prof John Grenville and Prof Edward Timms among the contributors. In September over 500 members, founders and their families were welcomed to a magnificent anniversary tea and entertainment at London's Grosvenor House Hotel. All enjoyed the opportunity to meet and greet old friends and acquaintances and to celebrate the Association's six decades of continuous service to the Jewish refugee community. The AJR Shabbat service at Belsize Square Synagogue in November, led by Rabbi Rodney Mariner, was attended by many members and friends. Camden's Mayor, Cllr Roger Robinson, who was called to a reading of the Torah, congratulated the Association. Research, writing and preparations were carried out for the AJR-sponsored exhibition *Continental Britons*, which narrates the story of Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe and with which the 60th anniversary celebrations will conclude in 2002.

### Membership and AJR Groups

There were 3,648 members of the AJR at the end of 2001, including 149 new members, a number greater than those who passed away during the year.

New AJR groups were established in Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, North London and Essex

# AJR

## ANNUAL REPORT 2001

as a result of the priority given to their formation and development. The securing of funding from the Claims Conference specifically for this task supported the outstanding work of AJR's part-time Northern and Southern Group Regional Co-ordinators in forming and strengthening existing groups whose activities are regularly reported in *AJR Journal*. Each group's distinctive character is made by its volunteer members, who give time and energy to their meetings. The special interest group KT-AJR attracted an increasing number of Kinder to their regular luncheon meetings at the AJR Day Centre and continued the publication of their own magazine. The Wiener Library readily agreed to house the Bertha Leverton Kindertransport archives.

### Social Services

The social workers of the Social Services Department dealt with 360 new referrals in 2001 in addition to 400 existing clients. They visited, assessed and offered appropriate assistance to members unavoidably becoming increasingly frail, dependent and often isolated in their own homes. Mental health problems such as depression and dementia were frequently encountered.

The expansion in the number of regional groups meant AJR's social services became more widely known, enabling the AJR to reach out to more isolated members in need of

emotional and financial support. The head of department worked in close co-operation with the two regional group organisers to provide improved services to existing members and to find new members in all parts of the country entitled to the AJR's help and support. The social services team endeavoured to visit members in outlying areas at least once a year. Advice and assistance continued to be given on welfare rights, including attendance allowances.

### Homecare Assistance and Self Aid

The Homecare Assistance scheme expanded to benefit 63 members at a total cost of £43,000. Self Aid grants were made to 181 members at a total cost of £241,000, an increase of 5 per cent on the previous year.

### Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

The Centre continued to offer members a full programme of entertainment, activities and high-quality kosher meals, and remained open for Sunday afternoon tea. Members benefited from visits by the chiropodist, optician and welfare rights adviser, and appreciated the regular clothes sales. Every month the Centre hosted the popular Luncheon Club and the Kindertransport Lunches, while specially catered events included the KT Chanukah party, a tea dance, the second Seder night, and a buffet lunch celebrating 25 years service by Sylvia Matus and Renee Lee. The Centre relied on a small bank of voluntary drivers augmented by the weekly hire of a minibus. More members required a subsidy to take advantage of the meals-on-wheels service, preferring to have the meals delivered at home.



## Holidays, Outings and Events

Twice-yearly group holidays in Bournemouth, offered to members of AJR groups outside London as well as those attending the Day Centre, proved so popular that some were unavoidably disappointed that participation had to be curtailed. An increased number of outings was organised for members through head office in co-operation with the Day Centre. These included visits to the Imperial War Museum, the Gilbert Collection and a day in Westcliff-on-Sea.

The AJR participated in the national commemoration, in London, of the UK's first Holocaust Memorial Day, attended by Prince Charles and the Prime Minister. The AJR initiated and sponsored a day of 'Holocaust Remembrance Through Film' on the campus of the University of Sussex and a memorial concert at Imperial College, London.

## AJR Journal

The *AJR Journal* (formerly *AJR Information*) completed a first year of publication in its modernised format and revised content with a consolidated reputation. Contributors included BBC Home Affairs Correspondent Jon Silverman, Prof Michael Spiro, Emma Klein, Gloria Tessler and Dr Anthony Grenville. An anniversary supplement in the October issue gave a retrospect of the Association's 60 years of activity and service. Editor-in-Chief Richard Grunberger was presented with an embossed and bound volume of *AJR Information* by Lord Moser at a symposium recognising the magazine's value to historical scholarship.

## AJR Website

Visitors to the AJR website, launched

in June 2001 (exceeding 1,200 monthly), read feature articles and news from the *AJR Journal*, learned about membership and centrally organised events, obtained contacts and information about regional groups and their programmes, placed search notices for the attention of a world-wide audience, and found selected links to other Jewish refugee, Holocaust and educational institutions.

## Volunteers

AJR's team of volunteers increased to 195. Following their induction training, newcomers were either matched to befriend members, or to drive, read or assist in the office. Befrienders shared experiences at support group meetings organised during the year. The recording and distribution of *AJR Journal* continued to be carried out by volunteers. A 'thank you' party was held in appreciation of volunteers' time and devotion.

## Sheltered Housing

Plans for the establishment of a new sheltered housing complex had finally to be abandoned for lack of a suitable site. The B'nai B'rith JGB Housing Association, which took over the management of the Otto Schiff Housing Association's sheltered properties, began rehousing the remaining tenants of Eleanor Rathbone House, Highgate, many of whom are members of the AJR, as the building no longer meets modern requirements.

## Umbrella Group

As a leading member of an Umbrella Group of six refugee and survivor organisations, the AJR researched and edited a brochure detailing the range of community services

available for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution and more recently arrived refugees.

The Claims Conference responded positively to joint applications from the Umbrella Group by agreeing to provide additional funding in support of the AJR's Homecare Assistance, Regional Group Development and Emergency Fund, as well as the Central Office for Holocaust Claims set up under the aegis of, and largely financed by, members of the Umbrella Group.

## Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK)

During 2001 this newly established office, based at the AJR, assisted thousands of refugees and survivors across the country to gain, wherever possible, some measure of financial compensation for Nazi persecution and restitution for lost, stolen and confiscated assets. The Central Office provided well-informed free advice and guidance on reparations schemes, supported by a monthly column with the latest information in the *AJR Journal* and website, and by publication in the national and regional media. Advisory sessions were held at the AJR offices and the Holocaust Survivors Centre, and public meetings were held in the North of England, Scotland and North Wales.

**Andrew Kaufman**  
Chairman

 **JACKMAN SILVERMAN**  
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

26 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TA  
Telephone: 020 7409 0771 Fax: 020 7493 8017

## Treasurer's Report

Our expenses have continued to keep within our budgets, as has been the case for three years. The budgets have to reflect our changing circumstances, with a decline in the numbers attending the Day Centre as some of our stalwarts become older and frailer. There has been an increase in the take-up of meals-on-wheels from those now unable to enjoy the catering personally in Cleve Road.

The emphasis has again been on expanding our welfare facilities for those of our members who are lonely, in poor health or financially in straightened circumstances - sadly in many cases all these factors affect the same individuals. I had the pleasure this year of thanking personally our army of volunteers who, together with our outstanding social workers, make it possible for us to deliver these vital services.

The expansion of our regional groups (we now have 18) has brought to light dozens of individuals in far-flung corners of the country of whom we had no prior knowledge - and who, more importantly, knew nothing about us.

A highlight of our year has been the success of the Claims Office under the auspices of the Umbrella Group of which we are part. We have helped hundreds of individuals to file timely claims, whether as former slave labourers, or as persons who had claims for insurance, Dutch or French restitution funds, or claims against the Swiss banks. I am delighted that both the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security (as it was then called) have recognised the unique character of these claims, exempting almost all of them from inheritance tax and disregarding them for assessment of entitlement to Social Security benefits. Our thanks are due especially to Michael Newman for his work here.

Last year I commented on our website, which is now up and running and receives an ever-growing number of 'hits' from around the world month after month (34 countries in March this year alone). The peak use was in September, when the photographs

taken by Gordon Greenfield at our successful tea at the Grosvenor House Hotel appeared - we now have a total of over 300,000 page hits in all since the site was launched!

This year we are co-sponsoring one of the most ambitious projects we have ever undertaken: the 'Continental Britons' exhibition at the Jewish Museum. The purpose of the exhibition is to tell our history to the wider world and to remind ourselves and tell our children and grandchildren how and why we are here today.

In closing, I would like to repeat my thanks of last year to Gordon Greenfield, our Head of Finance, who carries a heavy administrative burden (including looking after the website together with Ronald Channing).

Once again I wish, on behalf of us all, to thank those members whose generosity in leaving us legacies has enabled us to continue and go from strength to strength towards the future.

**David Rothenberg**  
Honorary Treasurer

## *With Appreciation*

*We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the legacies received in 2001 by the AJR and AJR Charitable Trust from the estates of the following:*

Maria Albala, P W Alexander, Anna Luise Atlas, Greta Auerbach, Isabelle Avetoom, Hedwig Beale, Lieselotte Jana Beer, Sigmar Berenzweig, Hugo Breiner, Tauba Ferber, Mrs D Fink, Henrietta Fishlock, Mr W Gillard, Mrs E Gotch, Edith Hammel, Henry Gordon Hartley, Herta Lotte Hirsch, Grete Hoffmann, Alice Jacobi, Mrs K Jahn, Miss Edith Therese Jourdan, Mrs A Katz, Gertrude Lewin, Greta Lewyn, Frieda Low, Martha Marx, Mrs A J Mayer, Nelly Mueckenbrun-Kuttner, Eleonore Peritz, Ruth Peters, Margaret Price, Allan Rank, Isabella Reiner, Hedwig Rosenthal, Fanny Schrier, Dr Seidler, Johanna Simmons, Erma Steinhart, Herta Taylor, Dora Tennenbaum, Lisbeth Welsh, Mrs I Wolff, K Wongschowski

## Finance Report

### AJR Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31 December 2001

	2001	2000
<b>Income:</b>		
Membership/Donations and Legacies	128,043	131,286
Grant from Self Aid	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	133,043	136,286
<b>Less:</b>		
Overhead Expenses		
Salary Costs	101,822	101,936
AJR Information	46,462	44,700
Administration/Depreciation	<u>84,014</u>	<u>61,356</u>
	232,298	207,992
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus:</b>	<u>(99,255)</u>	<u>(71,706)</u>

### Summary of Balance Sheet at 31 December 2001

	2001	2000
Fixed Assets (less depreciation)	22,403	31,291
Current Assets	107,301	197,722
Less: Current Liabilities	<u>(21,480)</u>	<u>(21,522)</u>
	108,236	207,491
<b>Represented by:</b>		
General Fund	207,491	279,197
Net surplus for year	<u>(99,255)</u>	<u>(71,706)</u>
	108,236	207,491

**David Rothenberg**, Hon. Treasurer  
April 2002

### AJR CHARITABLE TRUST PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

### Summary figure for the year ended 31 December 2001

	2001	2000
<b>Income:</b>		
Takings - Day Centre and meals-on-wheels	77,197	84,727
Donations received	<u>841</u>	<u>916</u>
	78,038	85,643
<b>Less outgoings:</b>		
Salaries	118,550	122,167
Catering costs	150,230	181,572
Sundry expenses	<u>64,320</u>	<u>73,472</u>
	333,100	377,211
<b>Deficit funded from Charitable Trust</b>	<u>255,062</u>	<u>291,568</u>

### AJR CHARITABLE TRUST Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts (based on final draft figures) Year ended 31 December 2001

	2001	2000
<b>Income:</b>		
Covenants/donations**	96,831	96,137
Investment income (including portfolio gains)	328,527	380,070
Sheltered housing	<u>31,859</u>	<u>32,121</u>
	457,217	508,328
Legacies	<u>984,816</u>	<u>1,073,033</u>
	1,442,033	1,581,361
<b>Less outgoings:</b>		
Day Centre	255,062	291,568
Self Aid	284,605	245,917
Other organisations	50,429	38,118
Administration/Depreciation	<u>498,491</u>	<u>397,360</u>
	£1,088,587	£972,963

\*\*Includes contribution from World Jewish Relief towards welfare payments.



# Fascism in Hampstead, 1945-1949 Part 2

Catherine Shepherd

## Face the Facts Association

One of the extremist organisations aligned with the Hampstead Petition Movement was the violently nationalistic Face the Facts Association, run by Mrs Eleonora Tennant. Tennant had strong links with fascist groups and was seen as a fascist herself by the general public. She attended planning meetings of Jeffrey Hamm's British League of Ex-Servicemen and Women and 'shared antisemitic jokes with the fascists there.' The Face the Facts Association shared some of its membership with the Housewives' League, which apparently allowed its speakers to stand on fascist platforms and make antisemitic speeches.

The *Hampstead and Highgate Express* (hereafter *Ham and High*) reported several meetings of the Face the Facts Association in the Hampstead area between November 1945 and May 1946. Various letters in the paper in February and March 1946 were distinctly anti-refugee and pro-Tennant in tone. A letter from Eleonora Tennant herself asserts that the German refugees could not be genuine because if they were, 'they would all be backing the "Face the Facts Association", which stands against all these German bestialities which they pretend to dislike.' Other letters were printed that expressed the opposite point of view.

## Shouted down

The *Ham and High* reported that a crowd of over a thousand shouted Tennant down as she attempted to speak at a meeting in Trafalgar Square in March 1946. She was there, together with the two women who had organised the Hampstead petition, Mrs Crabtree and Miss Gosse, as part of a deputation to deliver a resolution to the Home Office protesting against German infiltration into Britain. Although

Tennant was not politically successful, she did not operate in a vacuum. Her significance is encapsulated in a letter to the press that points out: 'If Mrs Tennant's statements are negligible, why the strenuous efforts to silence her?'

## Mosley in Hampstead

Hampstead had been a fascist pitch in the 1930s and regular fascist meetings were held at Whitestone Pond. On 27 September 1946 the *Ham and High* reported that Oswald Mosley had paid his first visit to Hampstead since his release from prison. Together with most other prominent British fascists, Mosley had been interned during the war; as soon as he was released he started to plan another major fascist movement. He addressed a 'literary discussion' in a hall in Prince Arthur Road, attended by several former members of the British Union of Fascists (BUF). This was the precursor of the Hampstead Literary Society, one of the most active of the book clubs and literary groups organised to promote Mosley's publications. It was run by D. Peroni, a former BUF member. By September 1947 the Hampstead Literary Society was holding monthly meetings in the Roebuck public house in Pond Street.

## The Union Movement

By February 1948 a Hampstead branch of Mosley's new political party, the Union Movement, had been formed. There were immediate protests and the MP for Hampstead even went to see the Home Secretary, who 'gave him his stock answer to the effect that both he and the police were fully aware of the situation.' Following the pattern elsewhere, it was the unofficial opposition to the fascist party that was most effective. Thus the first meeting of the Hampstead branch of the Union

Movement was closed down after less than 15 minutes when the crowd tried to storm the platform and the police intervened. Further meetings were regularly disrupted.

## Local elections, 1949

By the beginning of 1949 the main issue exercising the opposition to fascism in Hampstead was the letting of Hampstead town hall to the Union Movement candidate, Mr Peroni of the Hampstead Literary Society. In the months leading up to the local elections of May 1949, Peroni had made several unsuccessful applications to the General Purposes Committee of the Borough Council for the use of the town hall. Eventually the committee relaxed their ban and allowed him to book the hall - on condition that only he was to speak and that 'local affairs' was the subject under discussion. However, when the committee heard that both Mosley and another veteran from the BUF, Raven Thompson, were also planning to speak, it changed its position. The headlines in the local press proclaimed a 'Hampstead Town Hall ban on Mosley meeting'.

In fact, after all the agitation, the Union Movement was as unsuccessful in Hampstead as it was elsewhere in London. When the local election results were announced in May 1949, the Union Movement candidate, Peroni, polled only 81 votes. Although considerable numbers had endorsed the protest against the refugees, few Hampstead residents were inclined either to join the branch or to vote for it. But the fact that liberal views prevailed should not mask the significance of a fascist presence in postwar Hampstead, particularly for those it threatened directly - the Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany.

*The first part of this article appeared in the April issue of the AJR Journal.*

# ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

**Tate Modern** launches **Matisse Picasso** this month, exploring the relationship between the two titans of modern art, who first met at the Paris home of Gertrude and Leo Stein. Regarded as polar opposites, Matisse, 13 years older, was at first considered the stronger artist and Picasso was trying to catch up. But they came together in old age, each finally acknowledging the other as his only true equal. It is the relationship between them rather than the rivalry that Tate seeks to examine in an ambitious collaboration with New York's **Museum of Modern Art** and leading Paris galleries, including the **Musée National d'Art Moderne**, each city presenting the same exhibition.

There are parallels and differences in the artists' work. An acrobat depicted by each 20 years apart tells the story: Picasso's, in oil in 1930, is stockier and more economical; Matisse's, in ink and wash, is more fluid and sensual. Picasso is clearly defined by something earthier and more rigid, perhaps betrayed by his Cubist leanings. Initially, it was Matisse who was the more adventurous and colourful, while Picasso was monochromatic. The still-life also betrayed their differences. Matisse's reclining sculptural figure, almost an odalisque, is more subtle in hue until it is Picasso's turn to embody brilliant colours.

The Surrealist movement further divided them: Picasso embraced it, while Matisse was somewhat ignored by it. Matisse moved to Nice in 1917, but Picasso was destined to remain in occupied Paris during the Second World War. Years of conflict linked them, like the Spanish Civil War, for which both artists had already raised money. During these years Matisse's work became more figurative and romantic and Picasso's more abstract, but eventually both came to celebrate dance and movement - Picasso in works like **White Acrobat** and Matisse in his **Blue Dancer**, with flowing hair. Women were

vital to both artists. Matisse's **Blue Nude** and Picasso's **Nude with Raised Arms** are a counterpoint to Matisse's famous portrait of his wife and Picasso's imposing **Woman with a Fan**, painted in 1908.

Are women as artists still considered a cottage industry? How disappointing to find so much pallid work in the **Society of Women Artists Annual Exhibition** at Central Hall, Westminster. The overall impression is of a tweedy, rustic complacency with nothing hard-edged or innovative. Where are the feminists? There are exceptions, notably in the sculpture section, and some beautifully executed miniatures. **Eiko Yoshimoto's** subtle and delicate pastels, like **Water Bearer Maiden** and **Sheila Johnson's** Japanese pastels, are delightful. Among the more dynamic exhibits are **Jacqueline K Crofton's** nude pastels and a restaurant scene.



Jacqueline K Crofton's *Nude*

**Sandra Kingsley's** mixed media exhibition at **Burgh House** celebrates this artist's feelings for people, places and atmosphere, whether Hampstead or Safed. These emotions are best expressed in work which contains the figurative, such as the brittle harmony of **Neal's Yard** or her reflective **Seated Nude**. Kingsley's iridescent **Canal Reflections** is among her most striking watercolours.

\*Hans Jackson has donated his paintings, **Prelude to the Holocaust**, to the Jewish Museum.

## RG's INTERFACE

**Play.** Charles Lewinsky's *Freunde, das Leben ist lebenswert*, about the life of Lehar's librettist and Auschwitz victim Bedrich Löhner, was premiered at Karlsruhe. Mingling fact and fiction, its subsidiary characters include the cabaret artist Fritz Grünbaum and the *Schlager* composer Hermann Leopoldi.

**Films.** Using poetic licence, the famous German director Werner Herzog has intertwined the disparate stories of two Jewish celebrities of the 1920s - the strongman Zishe Breitbart and the clairvoyant Erik Jan Hanussen - in the movie *Invincible*. The Berlin Film Festival featured several works of Jewish interest, among them Yale Strom's *L'Chaim*, *Comrade Stalin* (about Birobidjan), Michel Daeron's *Atlantic Drift* (about wartime internment in Mauritius) and Ronit Kertsner's *The Secret*, about children entrusted to Polish neighbours by their doomed Jewish parents.

**Musical.** The US-based Yiddish ensemble Volksbiene is staging a pop version of the Book of Genesis. *Songs of Paradise* features Esau as a rocker with a chest toupee, as well as a boxing bout between Rachel and Leah to determine which shall be Jacob's bride.

**Anniversary.** Thirty years ago Francesco von Mendelssohn died obscurely in New York. It hadn't always been thus. In the 1920s he and his sister Eleanora had belonged to Weimar Germany's *jeunesse dorée*, vying for celebrity status with the Mann siblings Klaus and Erika. Francesco was a talented cellist, author of a book on Eleanora Duse and translator of Pirandello. As theatre director, he worked with the likes of Peter Lorre and Veit Harlan. After 1933 he staged in New York the English premiere of Brecht's *Dreigroschenoper*, which flopped. Later, he assisted Max Reinhardt in the Broadway success *The Eternal Road* (book: Franz Werfel; music: Kurt Weill). Hereafter his career stalled. Postwar he sent Veit Harlan an ingratiating letter - but, once de-Nazified, the director of the 'genocide movie' *Jud Süß* had no need of Jewish alibis. For the Moses Mendelssohn descendant, banker's son and sometime lover of Vladimir Horowitz, the rest was (drugged) silence.



## The terrible dilemma

### 'BYSTANDERS' TO THE HOLOCAUST: A RE-EVALUATION

David Cesarani and  
Paul A Levine (eds.)

Frank Cass, 2002

Professors Cesarani and Kushner examine the various reactions in Britain to the rise of Nazi persecution both before the outbreak of war and after. Of particular significance is the analysis by David Cesarani of 12 people, non-Jews, who played a very important part not only in the rescue of individuals but, more important, in creating the climate of opinion among the public - Jewish and non-Jewish alike - which eventually led to action by the government, even in a very limited way. It might be argued that, strictly speaking, these people do not fall into the category of 'bystanders' but that would assume that bystanders only stand by and do nothing, which itself is a misunderstanding of this particular dilemma. Professor Cesarani pays tribute to these 12 people in a way which has not been done before, and the volume would repay study for this section alone.

Other contributors to this volume examine the position of the Swiss and Swedish governments and the very different ways in which they resolved the terrible dilemma of those who wished to be neutral in the face of obvious evil. One particular paper examines what was probably the most disturbing problem of all - the ways in which Jewish organisations reacted and the impossible task faced by Jewish emissaries in Switzerland with inadequate resources who had to combat disbelief even among those who might have been expected to come to their assistance.

There remains a conflict running through this volume. On one hand, there are those who condemn the 'outside' world for having done nothing - or, at best, for having done

# REVIEWS

less than was possible. On the other hand, there are those who claim that the Allies did what they could, and that the primary aim had to be the winning of the war. There will never be a definitive answer, and there will always be the accusation that those who did not do enough were motivated not by their helplessness but by feelings not always clearly distinguishable from those of the perpetrators themselves. There are too many self-revealing comments written on the margins of official documents for such feelings to be ignored.

This volume of essays is to be highly commended. Clearly and unambiguously it presents the dilemmas facing the 'liberal' conscience in this period. It points to the extent to which individuals perceived what needed to be done and were prepared to do it. The volume is produced as a special number of the invaluable periodical *The Journal of Holocaust Education*, and its editors and publisher have performed an excellent service for us by presenting it as a volume in its own right. As such, it is a very important addition to our knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust and deserves a place in all Holocaust libraries.

Prof Aubrey Newman

## Bring back the Roundheads!

### HUMBLE BOY

by Charlotte Jones

Gielgud Theatre, London

Goethe wrote 'Grau, lieber Freund, ist alle Theorie'. He was wrong. In *Arcadia* Tom Stoppard's riffs on scientific theory are anything but

grey. *A Beautiful Mind* is an absorbing film about Game Theory of Probability. *Humble Boy* presents itself as a pastiche of *Hamlet* garnished with liberal helpings from the theories of Einstein, Max Planck and Stephen Hawking about the make-up of the universe.

John Humble (Russell Beale) is a vacillating misfit, unhinged by his inability to construct a Unified Field Theory (aka an 'explanation of everything') from the existing mishmash of cosmological speculation. In Felicity Kendal he has a Queen Gertrude of a mother almost complicit in her husband's death. Humble-Hamlet also has an Ophelia whom he impregnated seven years earlier in a fit of donnish absent-mindedness. Her father (Dennis Quilley), however, is not a Polonius figure, but the usurper of Gertrude's bed, i.e. King Claudius. Cambridge replaces Wittenberg, and Moreton-in-the-Marsh Elsinore. The stand-in for the Ghost is a ruminative gardener who has ample scope for mouthing portentous cod philosophy because the Humble garden belies its name in being estate-sized. Polonius is transmogrified into an inanely 'babbling brook' of a spinster neighbour of the Humbles, who attracts much cruelly heartless laughter on both sides of the footlights.

So far, so disbelief-suspending. However, the play loses all contact with life as lived beyond the stage door when the deserted and virtually fatherless Ophelia - 'Claudius' is, after all, a totally inadequate parent - rears a fatherless child without showing the slightest sign of emotional damage. In addition, the audience are expected to believe that Humble Senior, an ordinary biology teacher, not only owned a chunk of prime Cotswold real estate, but sent his son to a private school, and financed his wife's expensive plastic nose surgery.

It was only consideration of the

cost of West End theatre tickets, plus devotion to duty, that prevented your reviewer from running out fuming into Shaftesbury Avenue at the lowest point of these fatuous proceedings. This nadir was reached soon after the interval, when, at the dinner party to announce the engagement of Gertrude to Claudius, the ashes of Humble Senior somehow find their way into the risotto offered to the guests.

Frankly, I cannot understand many reviewers' plaudits for *Humble Boy*. If their encomia accurately reflect current critical standards and public taste, I can only utter a despairing cry of 'Cromwell, thou should'st be living at this hour (and not only because you readmitted the Jews)!'

Richard Grunberger

## Beneath the world of appearances

ARNOST

Shelley Weiner

Starhaven, 2001

When Arnold Rose locks eyes with Hershel Fine at a charity dinner, the edifice he has constructed since arriving in London as a refugee from postwar Hungary begins, imperceptibly, to crumble. The 77-year-old tycoon, successfully married for 42 years to Helena, queen of the Jewish charity circuit, is forced to confront an alien past. Hershel, the humble synagogue caretaker, is equally disturbed by this encounter with the man whose abandonment of his sister he has bitterly resented for more than 50 years. Beneath his righteous anger he rediscovers a deficiency in himself which fills him with an aching loss.

Shelley Weiner's powerful new novel skilfully bridges two contrasting worlds. Amid the tittering of well-meaning do-gooders unfolds the tragedy linking two elderly émigrés. An exile from a childhood paradise after his mother's marriage, Arnost Rosenbaum leaves

his native village to attend gymnasium in a nearby town. A genius at reinventing himself, he finds lodgings with Hershel's mother and soon succeeds in captivating both the widow and her daughter. It is Hershel, the philosophical yeshiva student, however, who discovers Arnost in a rare moment of vulnerability. The inability of the thinker to communicate the concern and affection he feels has significant consequences for both men.

With an adroit blend of irony, warmth and compassion and a fine sense of detail, Weiner travels seamlessly between contemporary London, prewar provincial Hungary and war-torn Budapest to convey the anguish which lies beneath the world of appearances in which her protagonist - like so many - chooses to remain trapped.

Emma Klein

## Annely Juda Fine Art

23 Dering Street  
(off New Bond Street)  
Tel: 020 7629 7578  
Fax: 020 7491 2139

**CONTEMPORARY PAINTING  
AND SCULPTURE**

## GERMAN and ENGLISH BOOKS BOUGHT

Antiquarian, secondhand and  
modern books of quality  
always wanted.

We're long-standing advertisers  
here and leading buyers of  
books from AJR members.

We pay good prices and  
come to collect.

For immediate response,  
please contact:

Robert Hornung MA(Oxon)  
2 Mount View, Ealing,  
London W5 IPR

Email: hornungbooks@aol.com

Tel: 020 8998 0546 (5pm to 9pm is best)



## ARE YOU ON A LOW INCOME AND IN NEED OF HOMECARE HELP?

AJR might be able to offer  
financial assistance.

*Members who might not  
otherwise be able to afford  
homecare please contact:*

**Estelle Brookner, Secretary**  
**AJR Social Services Dept**  
**Tel: 020 7431 6161**

## Companions of London

Incorporating  
Hampstead Home Care

**A long established company  
providing care in your home**

*Assistance with personal care  
General household duties  
Respite care  
Medical appointment service*

**'OUR CARE IS YOUR CARE'**  
**020 7483 0212/0213**



## SPRING GROVE

214 Finchley Road  
London NW3

**London's Most Luxurious  
RETIREMENT HOME**

- Entertainment-Activities
- Stress Free Living
- 24 Hour Staffing • Excellent Cuisine
- Full En-Suite Facilities

Call for more information  
or a personal tour

**020 8446 2117**

or 020 7794 4455

enquiries@springdene-care-homes.co.uk

**Simon R Rhodes M.Ch.S.**  
**STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST**

Surgeries at:

**67 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (opp M&S)**  
**Telephone 020 7624 1576**

**3 Queens Close (off Green Lane)**  
**Edgware, Middx HA87PU**  
**Telephone 020 8905 3264**

Visiting chiropody service available



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right  
to shorten correspondence  
submitted for publication

### A SENSE OF DEJAVU

Sir - An old joke tells us 'No good deed goes unpunished.' There was more irony than meets the eye in your comment on de Gaulle's ingratitude towards Britain, the USA and Canada for liberating France from the Nazis. There is a famous newspaper photograph of de Gaulle giving his 'Québec libre' speech from the balcony of Montreal city hall. In the background is the very annoyed Mayor Jean Drapeau of Montreal - who himself had dabbled in nationalist politics in the 1940s - looking like he is about to push de Gaulle off the balcony.

In a 1941 speech, Henri Bourassa, the father of Quebec nationalism, described the Free French as 'traitors at France's bosom', and described Marshal Petain as France's 'noble leader'. During the war, de Gaulle himself was vilified by the same nationalists and separatists who hailed him as a hero in 1967.

John Aspler  
Canada

Sir - It seems to me that a Jewish refugee journal should not be involved with international politics but only with problems we are up against as Jews in Britain and in Israel. An article which puts General de Gaulle on the same level as Saddam Hussain and bin Laden is absolutely ridiculous, not to use a stronger word. De Gaulle never owed a debt to America. On the contrary, America owed a debt to France!

Rolf Weinberg  
Wembley Park, Middx

### ENGLISH-SPEAKING (DIS) UNION

Sir - To those of us who feel continuous heartache and strongest solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Israel, your description of suicide bombing appears to be more than appropriate. When Ken Ambrose refers to your outspoken condemnation as personal bias, he offends all AJR members, whose relatives in Israel live under constant threat of inhuman destruction.

Fred Rosner  
Chigwell, Essex

Sir - What made me into a Zionist? In Vienna in 1938 my mother and I went from consulate to consulate, from charity to charity, to help me get out. All shook their heads and said 'No'. We *must* have a country to go to if we are persecuted. Israel is *our* country.

(Mrs) A Saville  
London NW4

### THE PALESTINE-ISRAEL CONFLICT

Sir - It is easy for Liberal Rabbis and Jews living in the relative safety of this country to criticise Israel, which is fighting for its very survival. Let us and the world not forget that if the Palestinians and Arab states had not tried to destroy the State of Israel at its inception, there would be no 'Occupied Territories' or refugee camps.

B Snow  
Esher

Sir - I am an avid reader of, and very occasional contributor to, your letter pages. Recently, studying the range of opinions expressed by your correspondents, an awful thought struck me: what if Jewish pain and sorrow were not the result of history - of the sea of enemies that has always surrounded us - but, in part at least, the consequence of delusion, self-hatred and all the ills that torn Jewish flesh is heir to? One reads the words of such as Peter Zander, Prof Brent and others, and one wonders.

The leaning-over-backwards Jew, the self-hating Jew, have always been with us. But in Karl Kraus's day, they at least wrote with distinction. Whom have we got now: Will Self? Harold Pinter? A few undistinguished academics? Ken Ambrose (only joking)? Fortunately, we also have Richard Grunberger, who affords our deluded and deranged brethren the opportunity to spill their bile in the isolation ward of the *AJR Journal* rather than in the wider world. For this and much more, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Victor Ross  
Kent

### PURIFICATION BY FIRE

Sir - I cannot guess what Mr L R Brent's parents would have made of the present debate (Letters, March issue) had they survived the Holocaust, but I can give you my view as a survivor of Auschwitz, Buchenwald, etc. I find it difficult to decide which horrified me more: Palestinian parents condoning their stone-throwing children's 'martyrdom', or Sharon's obliging them by having them killed - when rubber bullets and other non-lethal methods of defence and crowd control would have served so much better. Much as I am appalled by suicide bombers, I am deeply troubled about the 'collateral damage' of reprisals. I do not believe that my suffering (or that of my family, who did not survive) qualifies me to judge, far less to inflict suffering on others, but if the experience has taught me anything, it is that the ill-treatment and murder of uninvolved families is abhorrent, no matter who ordains it.

Emeritus Professor Felix Weinberg  
London SW14

### LOST RELATIVES

Sir - At a meeting of French survivors and relatives in Paris, I recently received information regarding my dear father, who was transported to Auschwitz from Camp de Beaune France by Convoy No. 6 on 17 July 1942. Anyone wishing to enquire about their family who may have been on this convoy should contact Monique Novodorsqui, 91 rue du Cherche Midi 75006 Paris, tel 01 42 22 10 08 or Jacques Lederer, 48 rue Pernety 75014 Paris, tel 01 45 45 7667.

Gerda Lawrence  
Tel 01673 713245

### IRATE OVER IRIS

Sir - You write in your review of the excellent film *Iris* that 'at the risk of appearing ethnocentric ... there is not a single reference to Jews.' You then list two Jews as Iris's teachers, two as her lovers, and two in her novels. These 'characters' are entirely irrelevant to the film, and your criticism of a 'totally Jew-free ambience' is laughable, nonsensical and, I am sorry to say, sad. There is enough anti-Jewish feeling about these days without you inventing some.

Peter Phillips M.A. (Oxon)  
Loudwater, Herts

# INSIDE the AJR

## Pinner's hopes for a peaceful situation in the Middle East

Michael Rosen of the Israeli Embassy gave a clear insight into the current situation in Israel. Israel is no doubt the most openly democratic state in the Middle East, but in projecting its image to outsiders it has been no match for Palestinian propaganda. While Jewish morale may be low in the face of terror, we still hope for a peaceful situation.

*Walter Weg*

Next meeting: Thursday 2 May, 2 pm:  
Rabbi Sydney Brichto, 'Child refugees from Jerusalem'

## Wessex supports Israeli actions

Some 25 people listened to three speakers on the Middle East. Michael Saffir was heavily critical of some of Israel's ideas on democracy. Walter Kammerling said Israel had made countless concessions to its Arab neighbours, whose primary interest was the destruction of the Jewish state. Dr George Ettinger said we should visit Israel more often and complain to the media over its frequent one-sided reporting. The meeting 'fully approved the strong action taken by Israel in safeguarding the lives of its citizens.'

*John Toyne*

Next meeting: Wednesday 15 May:  
Michael Newman, 'Holocaust claims: an overview and update'.

## Essex: not exactly the King's English

The 18 members present talked about the adventures we had had when we first came to the country. Otto, who had been sent by the Kindertransport to Morpeth in Northumberland, believed he had picked up the King's English there. But what he *had*, in fact, picked up was Geordie. When he went to live in London, he had to learn English all over again!

*Julie Franks*

Next meeting: Tuesday 14 May  
(not 7 May)

## South London: homesick evacuees

Tony Hill talked about the British Evacuee Children in WW2: how they left the towns each carrying a gas mask, a small bundle of clothing and some food, and waving

goodbye to their parents. Most were miserable and homesick, staying with strange people in the countryside. The talk was introduced by Ralph Smith, another evacuee who eventually became a drummer in the Grenadier Guards. Phillipa Robinson showed us an excellent video on the evacuee children which she had made for the BBC.

*Anne Poloway*

Next meeting: Thursday 9 May: Rabbi James Baaden, 'On being a second generation refugee'.

## Leeds HSFA: 'hell in the jungle'

Over 40 people heard Jackie Passman, daughter of retired GP Harry Silman, speak about her father's experiences in the war. Harry's regiment, the Northumberland Fusiliers, was sent to Singapore just before the capitulation to Japan. Prisoners lived on a sparse diet of rice and the scarce water supply had to be saved for drinking purposes only. A group of prisoners was sent from Singapore to assist with the building of the Burma railroad in conditions Harry described as 'hell in the jungle'. The Jewish prisoners celebrated the festivals the best way they could.

*Thea Skyte*

Next meeting Sunday 19 May: 60th AJR anniversary buffet lunch followed by entertainment

## Brighton and Hove *Sarid* favourites

Desert Island Discs chosen by members ranged from Strauss and Chaikovsky waltzes to a Sibelius tone poem and Mozart arias. Clear winners in the favourite foods department were crispy roast duck and Brulé Rothschild. Tributes were paid to Ellen Rosen, one of *Sarid*'s founding members, who passed away a week before the meeting after having been unwell for a long time.

*F Goldberg*

Next meeting: Monday 20 May,  
10.45 am: Rabbi David Myers,  
'Similarities and differences between the Continental and British rabbimates'.

## North London's contribution to UK life

Annette Saville spoke of her arrival from Vienna and her many trials and tribulations; despite everything, she managed to carve out a career for herself. Leo Horn told of his life in Swansea, his move to London, his army service and the successful business he created. Walter Wayda described his progress through the many stages of music

publishing from sheet music to video.

*Herbert Haberberg*

Next meeting: Thursday 30 May,  
10.30 am: Gaby Glassman,  
'How did you tell your Holocaust story in the family?'

## Glasgow's 'Continental cabaret'

Glasgow singer Irene Conway performed a wide-ranging programme of international songs - her 'Continental cabaret'. The pieces ranged from the Yiddish *Vi ahin soll ich geyn?* to an amusing Jamaican calypso. Her choices reflected the theme of migration. We thoroughly enjoyed her songs, many of which we knew well, and her informative commentary.

*Claire Singerman*

Next meeting: in the autumn

## Manchester: from Kindertransport to the Bar

Our guest speaker was Charles Sinclair Morris, a Leeds AJR member and former Immigration Tribunal Adjudicator. He gave a humorous and moving account of pre-war life in Germany, his journey from Munich as a Kindertransportee, the time he spent in the British Army and service in Germany until the very last week of the war, and his career at the English Bar.

*Susanne Green*

Next meeting: May, details to be announced

## Backstage tour to the Globe

Following an excellent lunch at the Day Centre, our coach brought us to the Globe Theatre. Sitting on narrow wooden benches, we listened enthralled to the history of the reconstruction of the open-air playhouse. We also visited the Globe exhibition and, as an extra treat, we had an opportunity to admire the 'Wobbly Bridge' glistening in the sunlight. Our thanks to Carol Rossen and Sylvia Matus: many more tours like this please!

*Laura Biegler and Anna Schlesinger*



AJR members enjoy a day out at Shakespeare's reconstructed Globe Theatre in Southwark.



### Election of Committee of Management

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Sunday 16 June 2002

Mr A C Kaufman, Chairman  
Mr W D Rothenberg, Vice-Chairman  
& Hon. Treasurer  
Mrs E S Angel, Secretary  
Mr P Dannenberg  
Mr C W Dunston, Trustee  
Mr S Faith  
Mrs J Field  
Mrs D Franklin, Trustee\*  
Mrs G R Glassman  
Ms K Klinger\*  
Mr E Reich  
Mr A Spiro, Trustee\*

\*Committee members retiring by rotation and being proposed for re-election

Anyone wishing to propose any other member for election as Hon. Officer, Trustee, or Committee member must submit to AJR's Head of Administration such a proposal signed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting and with the signed agreement of the person being proposed no later than Friday 17 May 2002

Join us for lunch at the AJR Day Centre  
12 noon (optional)

followed by a visit to the  
AJR-sponsored exhibition  
'Continental Britons'

at the Jewish Museum in Camden  
followed by tea and discussion.

**Monday 8 July 2002**

Coach will leave Cleve Road at 1.30 pm.  
Returning at approx. 4 pm.

Limited space, so book early.

£10 for lunch, transport, entrance and tea.  
£5 without lunch - some walking involved.

Please apply to Carol Rossen or Joan Altman  
**Tel: 020 7431 6161**

Join us for a visit to the childhood home  
of Lady Diana Spencer  
Althorpe House on Monday 29 July 2002  
with picnic lunch and tour of house.

Leaving Cleve Road at 10 am.

On arrival, a picnic lunch will be supplied,  
followed by a tour of the house and  
grounds. Leaving Althorpe at 3.30 pm,  
returning to Cleve Road at approx. 6 pm.  
£23 - there will be some walking involved.

Please apply to Carol Rossen or  
Joan Altman Tel: 020 7431 6161

Join us for a Cream Tea at  
The Maids of Honour  
Olde Worlde Tea House in Kew  
£18 to include transport,  
lunch and tea.

Meeting at the Day Centre  
for lunch 12 noon

**Wednesday 26 June 2002**

Coach will leave Day Centre at  
1.30 pm returning at approx 6 pm

Please apply to Carol Rossen or  
Joan Altman Tel: 020 7431 6161

### FIFTH GREAT SEASON!

## AJR-KT LUNCHEON CLUB

**Wednesday 15 May 2002**  
15 Cleve Road NW6 3RL  
11.45 am for 12.15 pm

Guest speaker:  
Dr Bea Lewkowicz  
'Continental Britons':  
The making of an exhibition

Reservations  
£7.50 for everyone!  
From Sylvia & Susie  
Tel: 020 7328 0208

## KT-AJR LUNCHEON

11.45 am for 12.15 pm

**Monday 13 May**

**Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith**  
**'The Leitz family during WWII'**

For reservations  
please telephone:  
020 7328 0208

**AJR 'Drop in'**  
**Advice Centre at the**  
**Paul Balint AJR Day Centre**  
15 Cleve Road, London NW6  
between 10 am and 12 noon  
on the following dates:

**Wednesday 1 May**  
**Thursday 9 May**  
**Tuesday 14 May**  
**Wednesday 22 May**  
**Thursday 6 June**

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

**Paul Balint AJR Day Centre 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6**  
**Tel: 020 7328 0208**

**Monday - Thursday 9.30 am - 3.30 pm, Sunday 2 pm - 5.30 pm**

MAY		Afternoon Entertainment
Wed	1	Ronnie Goldberg
Thur	2	Mark Rosen
Sun	5	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon	6	DAY CENTRE CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY
Tue	7	Ann Kenton-Barker - A Bouquet of Songs
Wed	8	DAY CENTRE CLOSED
Thur	9	Margaret Gibbs - Opera Pops
Sun	12	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon	13	KT Lunch & Kards & Games Klub
Tue	14	Francoise & Friends
Wed	15	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur	16	Amanda Palmer Entertains
Sun	19	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon	20	Kard & Games Klub
Tue	21	Geoffrey Whitworth at the Piano
Wed	22	Tricia Dibb & Michael Heaton
Thur	23	Jenny Kossew Accordionist
Sun	26	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon	27	Kard & Games Klub
Tue	28	Yakov Paul - Music from Vienna
Wed	29	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton
Thur	30	Jack Davidoff

## Announcements

### Miscellaneous Services

**Manicure & Pedicure** in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 020 8343 0976.

### Day Centre

**Pamela Bloch** at the **Paul Balint AJR Day Centre**. Clothes sale, separates etc. **Wednesday 22 May 9.30-11.45 am.**

**Shirley Lever** at the **Paul Balint AJR Day Centre**. New Clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans, etc. **Tuesday 28 May 9.45-11.45 am.**

### Societies

**Kaffee Klatsch Klub**, established 1986. Monthly entertainment for Jewish Europeans, 60 plus. For further details telephone 020 8554 0443.

## AJR JOURNAL ON TAPE

Do you find it difficult to read this publication? Do you have a sight impairment or a physical condition, which makes it difficult for you to turn the pages? Or do you know another member who would benefit by receiving this Journal on tape?

If so, please contact **Amanda Shaw** on **0207 431 6161** to get you a **FREE** monthly tape.

### AJR GROUP CONTACTS

#### North London

Jenny Zundel 020 8882 4033

#### South London

Ken Ambrose 020 8852 0262

#### Pinner (HA Postal District)

Vera Gellman 020 8866 4833

#### Surrey

Edmée Barta 01372 727 412

#### Brighton & Hove (Sussex Region)

Fausta Shelton 01273 688 226

#### Wessex (Bournemouth)

Mark Goldfinger 01202 552 434

#### East Midlands (Nottingham)

Bob Norton 01159 212 494

#### West Midlands (Birmingham)

Henny Rednall 0121 373 5603

#### North (Manchester)

Werner Lachs 0161 773 4091

#### Leeds HSFA

Trude Silman 0113 225 1628

#### Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle

Susanne Green 0151 291 5734

## ACACIA LODGE

Mrs Pringsheim, S.R.N. MATRON  
For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent  
(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

- Single and Double Rooms.
- H/C Basins and CH in all rooms.
- Gardens, TV and reading rooms.
- Nurse on duty 24 hours.
- Long and short term and respite, including trial period if required.

From £300 per week  
020 8445 1244/020 8446 2820 office hours  
020 8455 1335 other times  
37-39 Torrington Park, North Finchley,  
London N12 9TB

## Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd Clara Nehab House Residential Care Home

All single rooms with en suite bath/shower  
Short stays/Respite and 24 hour Permanent Care  
Large attractive gardens  
Ground Floor Lounge and Dining rooms  
Lift access to all floors  
Easy access to local shops and public transport

Enquiries and further information  
please contact: **The Manager**  
**Clara Nehab House**  
**13-19 Leaside Crescent**  
**London NW11 0DA**  
**Phone: 020 8455 2286**

## BELSIZE SQUARE APARTMENTS 24 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3

Tel: 020 7794 4307 or 020 7435 2557  
Modern Self-catering Holiday Rooms,  
Resident Housekeeper, Moderate Terms  
Near Swiss Cottage Station

## SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household  
electrical work

**PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518**

## ALTERATIONS

OF ANY KIND TO LADIES' FASHIONS  
I also design and make children's clothes

West Hampstead area  
**020 7328 6571**

## GORDON G SPENCER of SPENCER EXECUTIVE CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN CAR HIRE

is delighted to announce an increase  
in the range of services offered:

- MOT Testing
- General servicing, repairs  
and bodywork.
- All conducted by a team of  
qualified engineers.
- Your car driven to the centre  
and returned.

**FOR DETAILS TEL: 020 8445 1839**  
**MOBILE: 07887 713422**

## SOPHIE'S NURSES

4 Station Offices, Station Road  
Willesden Junction,  
London NW10 4XA  
Telephone 020 8961 4401  
Fax 020 8961 0875  
email: [sophiesnursing@aol.com](mailto:sophiesnursing@aol.com)  
[www.sophiesrecruitment.co.uk](http://www.sophiesrecruitment.co.uk)

Sophies (SRS) Healthcare at home  
will enable people to live full and  
independent lives within their own  
homes and continue to enjoy  
comfort and security

## BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, NW3 4HX

We offer a traditional style of religious  
service with Cantor Choir and organ  
Further details can be obtained from  
the synagogue secretary  
Telephone 020 7794 3949

Minister: Rabbi Rodney J Mariner  
Cantor: Rev Lawrence H Fine

### Regular Services

Friday evenings at 6.45 pm  
Saturday mornings at 10 am  
Religion School: Sundays at 10 am to 1 pm  
Nursery School: 9.15 am to 12.15 pm  
Belsize under 3's: 9.30 am to 11.30 am  
*Space donated by Pafra Limited*

## BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, London NW3

Our communal hall is available for  
cultural and social functions

Tel: 020 7794 3949

## WHY NOT JOIN US?

**The Leo Baeck Lodges of B'nai B'rith  
stand for 'Benevolence, Brotherly and  
Sisterly Love and Harmony' within the  
Anglo-Jewish Community**

We meet every Wednesday at 8 pm at  
11 Fitzjohns Avenue, NW3  
(near Swiss Cottage)

In addition we have regular visits and  
outings to the theatre, concerts,  
museums and places of interest, parties,  
local informal groups, bridge, etc.

We look forward to seeing you soon.  
You will be most welcome.

Enquiries: 020 7794 1742

The AJR does not accept  
responsibility for the standard of  
services offered by advertisers



## Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

### Tax Breaks

Lump sum compensation payments received by Holocaust survivors will be excluded from inheritance tax (IHT) under an extended concession announced in March by the British government.

The extra-statutory concession (F20) allows the amount of the compensation payment to be deducted from the claimant's IHT chargeable estate, whether the payment is made to the claimant before their death or is made subsequently to their personal representatives.

Now excluded from inheritance tax are payments from a range of indemnification schemes, including slave and forced labour compensation as well as reparations from the Swiss Refugee Programme, the Dutch Maror Fund and the French Orphan scheme.

The concession now covers both past and anticipated payments from the above compensation programmes as well as awards already received from the Hardship Fund and the Austrian National Fund for Victims of Nazi Persecution.

### Austrian General Settlement Fund: a correction

Following the note published in last month's column, the correct email address of the Austrian archive for records of family assets owned before the Second World War is [Hubert.Steiner@oesta.gv.at](mailto:Hubert.Steiner@oesta.gv.at).

### Claims Advice Meetings

Following on from the success of seven advice sessions in Scotland and northern England last year, free guidance and assistance on Holocaust-era claims will be available at meetings in Bournemouth on 15 May at the Normandy Hotel and Sunday 26 May at Sinclair House, Redbridge Jewish Community Centre, London. For further information about the meeting in Bournemouth, please contact Myrna Glass at the AJR. Details of the meeting in Redbridge are available from Nicki Meyer on 020 8551 0017.

### Further help

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL. For assistance with the completion of application forms please telephone 020 7431 6161 for an appointment.

## Rabbi Bayfield at Luncheon Club



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

Reform Synagogues' Chief Executive Rabbi Tony Bayfield, guest speaker of the AJR Luncheon Club, in a light-hearted talk helped members recall earlier Seder nights in Continental Jewish homes. He reminded everyone that without the input and support of refugees, as both rabbis and lay leaders, the Reform movement would never have achieved its present status

## Search Notices

**Anna Mayerova.** In 1952 lived in Santiago de Chile, Higgins 1885, Depto C, Avenida. Related to Gabriela Neumannova and Otto Neumann. If you have any information, please contact The Search and Unite Team tel 020 8446 0404 fax 020 8445 8732.

**Anna Fink.** b. 07.09.1921, resident in UK since WW2. Daughter of Salomon Fink b. 1883 in Maerisch-Ostrau, died in Prague in 1940 and Helene née Bergofen b. 1896, lost in the Holocaust together with other children, Heinrich b. 1920, Hans b. 1928 and Marie b. 1931. Please call London 020 8908 0582.

**Philipps-Universitaet, Marburg** has unearthed about 2,600 books which the Nazis confiscated from Jews and other persons but did not destroy. A researcher has tracked down one of the victims' heirs in Manchester, to whom the university recently returned several volumes at a public ceremony. University is anxious to hand back more books to descendants of former owners.

## Arts and Events Diary May

**14 April to 13 June** 'Visas for life', a major exhibition, on diplomats who, like Raoul Wallenberg, intervened to save Jews during the Holocaust. London Jewish Cultural Centre tel 020 7431 0345

**18 April to 18 May** 'The Lucky Ones' by Charlotte Eilenberg. Hampstead Theatre tel 020 7722 9301

**Wed 1** Prof Andrew Clapham (Geneva), 'Nuremberg and subsequent developments in international humanitarian and human rights law'. Wiener Library. Admission by ticket only

**Tues 7** Annual Lecture: Professor Todd Endelman (University of Michigan), 'England: good or bad for the Jews?'. Parkes Institute, University of Southampton. 6.00 pm. Please contact Dr Jo Reilly tel 023 80592261

**Wed 8** Gaby Glassman, 'Irene Bloomfield's work on intergenerational communication within families affected by Nazi persecution'. 8.00 pm. Leo Baeck College, Sternberg Centre, London N3 tel 020 8349 5600

**Mon 13** Mr Walter Goddard will introduce and read from Louise Kressman-Taylor's *Address Unknown*, first published New York 1938. Club 43

**Wed 15** Prof Philippe Sands (University College London and Matrix Chambers), 'The role of national courts with emphasis on the Pinochet proceedings'. Wiener Library. Admission by ticket only

**Fri 17** Kay Schiller (Durham University), 'Remaking lives and reshaping worlds: life histories and ideas in German-Jewish thought and scholarship in emigration', Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, Institute of Germanic Studies, 29 Russell Square London WC1 6 pm

**Mon 20** 'The Culture Carriers', Daniel Snowman, 'Who were the "Hitler émigrés" and what was the culture they brought with them?' Time and venue tbc. Spiro Ark tel 020 8958 6272

**Mon 27** Prof Stephen F. Frowen, KSG (UCL), 'The UK and the euro: promise or disaster?'. Club 43

**Wed 29** Prof James Crawford SC (Cambridge), Special Rapporteur UN International Law Commission, 'The drafting of the statute of the ICC'. Admission by ticket only

### ORGANISATION CONTACTS

**Club 43** Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254360

**Wiener Library** 4 Devonshire Street, London W1W 5BH. Lectures Secretary, tel 020 7636 7247

# Israel, the Jews and antisemitism

Ronald Channing

The journalist Melanie Phillips, pillared by a BBC Television *Questiontime* television audience when she spoke of Israel as a democracy, gave a penetrating analysis of British attitudes to Israel and the Jews to members of the Guild of Jewish Journalists.

Following 11 September Israel believed the world would have a greater understanding of its predicament. But the instant reaction was to place blame on the Jews and to see them, not as victims, but as the root cause of world terror! Victims and victimisers became inverted. The perception of Israel as an aggressor against a vulnerable and poor people gained strong currency in the UK and fed anti-Jewish feeling, fusing the ancient antisemitic prejudices with hatreds of more recent origin.

Israel's presentation of its case was "catastrophic". Criticism of Israel in the media went far beyond the legitimate, intemperate language, revealing "a tone of malice and hatred", downgrading the indiscriminate murder of its citizens. Israel was the aggressor guilty of territorial expansion, killing and destroying a people which had done Israel no wrong!

Underlying this was the belief that Israel should not exist at all - the world's only state and people required perpetually to justify their existence. Criticism of Zionism led to attacks on the Jews and allegations of a Jewish conspiracy of power. She listened to the BBC with "disbelief" at the assumptions behind interviewers' questioning and the hostility shown to Israel, while Palestinian spokesmen were rarely challenged.

The churches were hostile to Israel, harbouring ancient and ideological prejudices. Keen to identify victims, they had latched on to the Palestinians and sponsored humanitarian projects on the West Bank and Gaza where senior clerics visited only Palestine and Palestinians. Theological revisionism was rife and

anti-Jewish doctrines promoted the ancient belief that Christianity had replaced Judaism in God's favour. Jews had no history and Israel was not their land.

Melanie Phillips believed that "the worldview of the left has taken over our culture": in its ideology the strong could do no good and the weak no wrong. Americanism and Western culture were abhorred as imperialist, racist and inimical to the poor, and Israel was regarded as an outpost of this evil Western empire. From this extraordinary perspective, "the USA brought September 11 on itself", and equally, "Israel had it coming!"

Non-judgementalism had become an article of faith. 'There is no truth - we don't take sides - the conflict has to stop' - splitting the difference between God and the Devil. The application of a doctrine of moral equivalence between the violence of the perpetrator and the victim meant that the present situation was 'tit for tat' and both sides had to be stopped. Equilibrium between the weak and the strong required that the terrorist be understood in terms of his living in squalor, etc, while the strong could not be the victim. In this scenario, lies are as valid as the truth. With no such thing as the truth, journalistic objectivity is destroyed. This worldview had become pervasive and even adopted by Israelis and Jews on the Left.

The Left was fashionable and set the moral tone, which had made anti-Israel and anti-Jewish hatred acceptable in its turn. There was an extremely worrying attitude to Jews who 'came out of the closet', and for a journalist to defend Israel was regarded as being almost beyond the pale. "I believe that Jews are not allowed to be living victims that fight back," concluded Melanie Phillips. "Dead Jews are preferred and the Holocaust is a burgeoning industry." Israel could never win the argument even if it won the battle.

## Newsround

### December deadline met for Czech restitution

Claimants will share in a fund of almost £2 million made available by Czech legislators, who agreed to provide money for victims of war-time property seizures unable to claim compensation from other sources. Over 1,200 applications were received, mainly from the US, Britain, Israel, Canada and Australia, before last December's deadline.

### Claims Conference leader dies

Rabbi Israel Miller, who played a key role in efforts to obtain compensation and restitution for Holocaust survivors through the Claims Conference, has died at the age of 83.

### Cash crisis for care homes

In the light of a growing financial crisis, the heads of Jewish residential homes in London are calling on local authorities to increase their funding, the *Jewish Chronicle* reports.

### Arab newspaper regrets anti-Jewish slander

The editor-in-chief of the Saudi newspaper *Al-Riyadh* has apologised for a column which resurrected the blood libel charge by claiming that the Jews use the blood of Christians or Muslims to prepare Purim pastries.

### Parent donates books to university

A parent of a Jewish student who was concerned about an invitation (later withdrawn) to David Irving to speak at Nottingham University, has donated several books on Holocaust denial to the university.

### Attacks on Jewish cemeteries on rise in Germany

German Jewish leaders have expressed deep concern over a number of attacks on Jewish cemeteries in Germany, including a dynamite explosion in Berlin.

### Russian leader promises to fight antisemitism

At a meeting with Russian rabbis, President Putin promised to stamp out antisemitism. A number of violent incidents against Jews and synagogues in the last few years raised the spectre of a return of Soviet-era antisemitism.

### 'A renaissance of German Jewry'

German Jewish leader Paul Spiegel has said that Jews in Germany are stronger than at any time since the war. 'We are standing on the brink of a renaissance of German Jewry', he said.