

AJR journal

The Association of Jewish Refugees

Germany on the London stage

It is not often that the London stage plays host to two productions about Germany in quick succession. The first, *The Captain of Köpenick*, an English adaptation of Carl Zuckmayer's classic comedy *Der Hauptmann von Köpenick* (1931) and starring Anthony Sher, had a recent run at the National Theatre, while the second, a stage adaptation of Kressmann Taylor's short novel *Address Unknown* (1938), opens at the Soho Theatre later this month. Both throw light on the troubled history of Germany in the first half of the last century, though the adaptation of *The Captain of Köpenick* restyled much of the play into knockabout farce.

That was a missed opportunity, for Zuckmayer's play, based on a real incident that occurred in 1906, is the model of a very funny play that has serious points to make. Those who mistakenly believe that there is no such thing as German comedy would do well to compare Zuckmayer's comic masterpiece with its British contemporaries, the best-known of which are 'Oh Dahling' comedies by Noel Coward or farces like *Rookery Nook*. There are few works of literature that challenge the authoritarian mentality more effectively, and with greater comic force, than *Der Hauptmann von Köpenick*. It was inspired by the exploits of a petty criminal and unemployed cobbler, Wilhelm Voigt, who, in desperation at his inability to obtain papers officially permitting him to work and live in Berlin, acquired a second-hand captain's uniform, commandeered a unit of soldiers, marched them off to the town hall of the south-eastern suburb of Köpenick, declared a state of siege, arrested the mayor and absconded with the contents of the borough treasury. The way in which everyone he encountered, soldiers and civilians, kowtowed to the all-powerful aura of the army uniform caused a storm of hilarity across Germany.

The drama's action skilfully weaves together the stories of its two main agents, Voigt and the uniform, over a period of some ten years, before bringing them together for the climax at Köpenick. One strand of the action traces Voigt's dispiriting quest for the papers that would allow him a stable life, through scenes in



Old friends: Martin Schulse and Max Eisenstein (*Address Unknown*)

soulless police offices, seedy bars, a prison and a dosshouse, while the other develops the story of the uniform. After initially adorning the person of a Prussian officer, Captain von Schlettow, the uniform passes

to the aspiring young local politician Obermüller, at that stage also a junior officer in the army reserve, and ends up in a cheap Jewish second-hand clothes shop. There Voigt acquires it for his daring impersonation of an army officer, in which his principal victim is none other than the unfortunate Obermüller, now mayor of Köpenick.

Zuckmayer ironically subtitled his comedy 'ein deutsches Märchen in drei Akten', a modern 'German fairy tale in three acts', in which an unemployed cobbler disguised as an army officer triumphs over a soulless bureaucratic machine bent on denying him his basic rights. The play's vibrancy and lasting appeal derive from its skilful exploitation of its principal comic theme: the collision between self-important bureaucrats, pedantically insistent on the observance

continued overleaf ➔

Kindertransport 75th Anniversary

For anyone who has not yet signed up, there are still some places for the **Kindertransport Reunion at JFS on Sunday 23 June**.

To date, we have registered some 350 guests, including Kinder and their families, from Australia, Germany, the USA, Israel, Italy and Switzerland as well as across the UK.

We are delighted that the actress Maureen Lipman, who starred in *The Pianist*, the former Foreign Secretary the Rt Hon David Miliband MP, whose father was a refugee from Nazi oppression, and Sir Andrew Burns, the UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, will be the guest speakers. The day will begin with registration at 1:30 pm and end after a light supper at 7 pm.

As part of the proceedings, JFS pupils will be performing a re-enactment of the debate in the House of Commons which precipitated the creation of the Kindertransport, and the JFS Choir will be singing a selection of evocative songs.

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, whose grandfather Dr Georg Salzberger was the Rabbi of the Westend Synagogue in Frankfurt am Main, the interior of which was destroyed on Kristallnacht, will lead a service of remembrance, and there will be an opportunity to view the new exhibition on the Kindertransport which the Wiener Library is curating.

To register for this historic gathering, please call **AJR Head Office** on 020 8385 3070 or email kt@ajr.org.uk

Kinder and their families may also wish to participate in the **Symposium on the Kindertransport** which the Leo Baeck Institute London is organising in co-operation with the German Historical Institute London (GHIL), the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, and Aberystwyth University (School of European Languages) on **Tuesday 25 June at the GHIL**. You can see a provisional programme for the day on our website at www.ajr.org.uk and details on booking can be obtained at info@leobaeck.co.uk

Please also encourage the children and grandchildren and nieces and nephews of AJR members to come along to a **Special Reception at the Wiener Library for the Second and Third Generations between 6:30 pm and 9:30 pm on Monday 24 June**. The focus of this event will be how their parents and grandparents arrived here, where they came from, and the various ways in which they travelled. There will be notable guest speakers and time to socialise and network, eat and drink, and meet old friends and make new ones. Please direct any queries to events@secondgeneration.org.uk or visit the organisers' websites www.secondgeneration.org.uk and www.kindertransport.org

Sir Erich Reich

Germany on the London stage *continued*

of administrative regulations, and the slyly disrespectful, Schweikian outsider, who uses the tools of wit and irony to undermine pompous officialdom and who successfully turns the system's own weapons against it in his escapade at Köpenick. Zuckmayer's attack on militarism and the authoritarian, hierarchical mentality that flourished in imperial Germany is clad in exuberant, often hilarious comedy. He satirises the military spirit that pervaded so many German institutions, for example by showing how Voigt gains the knowledge of the Prussian army that enables him to pull off his impersonation from a spell in Sonnenburg prison (of all places), where the governor is bent on instilling patriotic, military behaviour in his charges.

The drama is also a variation on the perennial literary theme of 'Kleider machen Leute', illustrating how people are judged (or misjudged) according to the clothes they wear. In this case, the uniform guarantees the success of Voigt's ruse, thereby demonstrating the continuing hold of authoritarian, militaristic attitudes on the civilian population of a supposedly constitutional, democratic state and the continuing unthinking deference of civilians, up to and including the mayor of Köpenick, to the militarised symbols and values of the 'Obrigkeitsstaat', the authoritarian state. That such attitudes spilled over from the era of the Wilhelmine Empire into the Weimar Republic, helping to undermine its democratic structures, was demonstrated in 1925, when Field Marshal Hindenburg, former head of the imperial army and symbol of its values, was elected president of Germany; in that office, he appointed Adolf Hitler chancellor in 1933.

Address Unknown, written in 1938 as a warning to a largely ignorant America about the insidious dangers of Nazi ideology, was the work of (Kathrine) Kressmann Taylor (1903-96); her publisher used only her two last names, thinking the story too hard-hitting to appear under a woman's name. The novel takes the form of an exchange of letters between two business partners: a Jew, Max Eisenstein, who has stayed in San Francisco, and a German, Martin Schulse, who has returned to Germany; the exchange, beginning in November 1932 and ending in March 1934, reflects the seismic changes wrought by the Nazi assumption of power in January 1933.

Kressmann Taylor's novel was a huge success when it appeared and, though it vanished from view after 1945, has sold well since its republication in 1995. The British edition is published by Souvenir Press (London) at £7.99. Its success derives from the author's extremely effective use of the simple device of tell-

ing her story entirely through the letters of her two protagonists, allowing the deterioration in their relationship and the reasons for it to emerge from their own words, with no narrator or authorial comment intervening. The hallmark of the epistolary novel has always been to allow the reader direct, unmediated access to the thoughts, feelings and motives – real, pretended or concealed – of its characters. That applies to texts where the reader enters the emotional world of a single figure, as in Goethe's *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (*The Sorrows of Young Werther*) (1774), or those which chart the relations between two characters, like Helene Hanff's *84, Charing Cross Road* (1970), or those written from multiple perspectives, like Choderlos de Laclos's *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (*Dangerous Liaisons*) (1782).

Address Unknown begins as a correspondence between two old friends, as Eisenstein in San Francisco expresses his envy of Schulse's return to pre-Hitler Germany. But the cordial tone of Schulse's reply of December 1932 cannot conceal the weaknesses in his character: while lamenting the poverty afflicting Germany, he boasts from Munich of the palatial residence that he has been able to pick up cheap, and his decision to take up an official position hints at an unattractive streak of self-interested ambition. His attempts to sing the praises of Eisenstein's younger sister Griselle, an aspiring actress, ring false; the reader soon gathers that Schulse has had an affair with Griselle, but has abandoned her to return to his wife.

In Schulse's next letter, dated 25 March 1933, his fickleness emerges all too clearly. Though impressed by Hitler's fiery oratory, which he compares to an electric shock, he still has serious doubts about the methods, goals and even the sanity of the Nazi leader. But he leaves us in little doubt that he will follow the path dictated by his own interests as an official; he has already joined the Nazi Party. While deploring the Jew-baiting with one breath, with another he seeks to trivialise the Nazis' ruthless

use of violence: 'But these things pass; if the end in view is right they pass and are forgotten. History writes a clean new page.' A less than convincing attempt to justify the persecution of defenceless minorities.

Sure enough, by July 1933 Schulse has become a loyal Nazi, seeing Hitler as the great Leader sent to rescue Germany from the morass of defeat and poverty. He now argues that Eisenstein's horrified condemnation of Nazi outrages merely demonstrates the defects innate in those of Jewish race, and that it is those defects that are to blame for the persecution visited on the Jews. In line with his new-found Nazi beliefs, Schulse insists to Eisenstein that their correspondence must cease. But Eisenstein is forced to disregard his ex-friend's demand, in his desperation to discover what has happened to his sister, who, having rashly accepted a role on the Berlin stage, has now disappeared. Schulse's reply to Eisenstein's pleas is chilling. 'Heil Hitler!', it begins. 'I much regret that I have bad news for you. Your sister is dead.' From Schulse's account of events, the reader can deduce that Griselle has fled to Munich, but that Schulse has refused her refuge, out of naked cowardice and fear for his position, leaving her to the tender mercies of the pursuing Storm Troopers. I will not reveal the means by which Eisenstein exacts revenge on his faithless friend; suffice it to say that it brings the novel to a compellingly dramatic conclusion.

Anthony Grenville

Address Unknown runs from 13 June to 27 July 2013 at London's Soho Theatre



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Frankfurt unveiling of plaque to British diplomats who helped Jews



Families representing 'rescued': (from left) Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg (his grandparents Rabbi Salzberger and wife saved); George Blumenthal (parents saved) and son from New York; John Goldsmith and Ann Stanton (parents saved) with daughters Talia Baum and Claire Katzenellenbogen; and David and Ruth Rothenberg (his grandparents saved)

'Day by day for several months, these men provided comfort, advice and help to the unfortunate people filling the waiting room. This is surely a shining example of true humanity.' This quote, from Rabbi Georg Salzberger, appears on a plaque unveiled on 8 May on the site of the former British Consulate General in Frankfurt and refers to the former British Consul General Robert T. Smallbones and Vice Consul Arthur Dowden. Georg Salzberger was for 30 years Rabbi of the Liberal community in Frankfurt (today's WestEnd Synagogue) and later founded what is now Belsize Square Synagogue.

The bronze plaque, its cost borne entirely by the City of Frankfurt, was unveiled in a moving ceremony attended by some 100 invited guests. The key-note speakers were the Oberbürgermeister of Frankfurt, Dr Peter Feldmann, the British Ambassador to Germany, Simon McDonald, and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, Senior Rabbi of the UK Masorti Movement. Present from outside Germany were members of the families of the two diplomats (Wellingtons

from Brazil and Dowdens from the UK) and members of the families of those rescued represented by Rabbi Wittenberg and the Rothenberg, Goldsmith-Stanton and Blumenthal families.

Following the rise to power of the Nazis, not only did the Consulate become a safe haven for many Jews but, due to the unceasing efforts of Robert Smallbones and Arthur Dowden, many Jews were able to escape to England and Palestine. Mention was made of the 'Smallbones visa scheme', by which thousands of Jews reached safety.

Thanks to Robert Smallbones, the grandfathers of both Rabbi Wittenberg and of David Rothenberg were released from concentration camp and arrived in England just before the outbreak of war. My parents, Ruth and Max Goldschmidt, fled Germany in 1936 thanks to the efforts of Robert Smallbones (and Frank Foley in Berlin).

Vice Consul Dowden, immediately after Kristallnacht, drove in the Consulate car through the streets of Frankfurt distributing food to Jews forbidden to leave their homes for seven days. The car

was later vandalised by Nazi thugs.

On 15 April 2013, at a ceremony in London, Robert Smallbones and Arthur Dowden were posthumously awarded the British Heroes of the Holocaust medal by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP.

John D. Goldsmith

The Frankfurt project was initiated by the author of this article (Ed.).



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Kindertransport Exhibition Launch at The Wiener Library

As home to one of the world's most extensive collections of material relating to the Kindertransport, The Wiener Library is delighted to announce that it will be launching a brand new exhibition charting its history on Thursday 13 June 2013.

The exhibition will feature a range of original artefacts and documents and will be complemented by a travelling exhibition. This will be displayed for the first time at the 75th Kindertransport Reunion event, to be held at JFS on Sunday 23 June 2013.

A special viewing of the exhibition for contributors and honoured guests, to which members of the AJR are cordially invited, will be held at The Wiener Library, 29 Russell Square, on the evening of 13 June. **For further information, or to register your place at this event, please visit jmiles-harrison@wienerlibrary.co.uk or call 020 7636 7247.**



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Stolpersteine in south-west Germany: Commemorating the first deportations

The *Stolpersteine* or Stumbling Stones project has been going on throughout Germany for the last 18 years. Small concrete blocks, 10 x 10 cm square with a brass plaque on the top, have been set in pavements around Germany and in some neighbouring countries in front of the homes of people who were deported by the Nazis.

The plaques give the names and dates of these individuals and an indication of their fate. Many towns and cities have taken up the idea enthusiastically, as local activists commemorate citizens who fell victim to Nazi ideology – Jews and those non-Jews who did not fit into the Nazi framework.

For the south-west corner of Germany, the salient date is 22 October 1940 – 15 months before the Wannsee conference. This was the day on which nearly all the Jews from Baden, the Rhine-Palatinate and the Saarland, totalling some 6,000 people, were deported to a camp at Gurs near Pau at the foot of the Pyrenees in south-western France.

The camp had been built in 1939 to hold Republican refugees from the Spanish Civil War. After Germany's invasion of France in June 1940, it was run by the Vichy French. Conditions were primitive. Although there were stoves in the windowless wooden huts, no wood was provided for heating. Constant rain turned the heavy ground into a quagmire for anyone searching for firewood or going to the makeshift latrines. There were no beds: initially, men slept on the bare ground while women were given straw to lie on. Nutrition was utterly inadequate.

However, there was no deliberate policy of sadism. People could be liberated from Gurs if they had relatives to pay their transfer to another country (mostly America). It was possible to write, though paper was difficult to get hold of. Much information comes from their letters, as well as volunteer workers' diaries and later memoirs. It was also fairly easy to escape, though difficult to survive outside without ration cards.

Of the 6,000 deportees from Germany, 1,050 died in the first four months, 60 per cent of them aged over 60. The German authorities had not informed the French about these arrivals so the

latter had had to find some *ad hoc* way of dealing with them. Not all remained in Gurs. Many were transferred to other camps, such as Rivesaltes near Perpignan, Récébédou and Noé near Toulouse, or Masseube in the *département* of Gers. There was a camp for families with children (but with men and women separated) and camps for the sick and the elderly.

Humanitarian organisations like the Quakers, Swiss Children's Aid and the

resident, Patricia Baber, who moved there in 1965 as translator for a subsidiary company of ICI, set up in Germany to sell to the EEC. (Britain did not join the European Economic Community, today's European Union, until 1973.) There she met her English husband, industrial chemist Geoffrey Hillier. The couple, who are not Jewish, settled outside the small town (population today 27,000, up from 10,000 in the 1930s-40s) and brought up their family there.

Mrs Hillier was intrigued by the *Stolpersteine* but says she really got going when she attended a small ceremony in Wiesloch in 2010 on the 70th anniversary of the deportation to Gurs: 'I found another person who was interested, and she and I put an ad in the local newspaper asking who would like to join a *Stolperstein-Initiative* in Wiesloch, and somewhere between 15 and 20 people came to the first meeting. We started out by interviewing people in Wiesloch who still remember the Jewish people living in the town. From there we went on to making contact with two people in America who survived the Nazi era, and from there

to corresponding with archivists in France to verify as much as we could of the information we had been given. To learn how to organise such an initiative and the laying of stones, I regularly went to the *Stolperstein-Initiative* in Heidelberg. The stone-laying we had in Wiesloch on 15 November 2012 was the 807th. Baieratal, a village which was once independent but is now administratively a part of Wiesloch, is planning to lay stones [this was scheduled for March]. We shall have another stone-laying in Wiesloch centre sometime in the future, but not earlier than in a year's time.'

The research for each name is meticulously recorded in brochures, which Mrs Hillier has translated into English.

The Wiesloch ceremony, attended by local dignitaries, including the Bürgermeister and local councillors, was well covered in the local press, which praised the efforts of Mrs Hillier and her team. Before the actual placing of the stones, a short service was held in the evangelical church, where a speech from the rabbi of the Heidelberg synagogue was read out, as neither he nor the rabbi from the University for Jewish Studies in



The artist Gunter Demnig lays *Stolpersteine*. The lady with a white scarf is Patricia Hillier

Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE, founded as a health organisation by Jewish doctors in Tsarist Russia in 1912 and metamorphosing into an underground children's rescue service in wartime France) placed some of the children in homes, from where they were helped to escape to Switzerland. Adults were less fortunate. Once the 'final solution to the Jewish question' was reached, the Jews in the camps of southern France were an easy target for the Nazis. They leant on the French to organise the transport. In August 1942 trains left these camps for the transit camp of Drancy, outside Paris. Here the *convois* which left Paris with one destination – Auschwitz – were put together.

These people are now being recognised in their former homes. As a regional centre, Heidelberg has already conducted three stone-laying ceremonies for some of the 300 people deported from there. The most recent was in November 2012 and the next was due to take place this March.

Wiesloch, 13 kilometres south of Heidelberg, has also joined the programme, thanks to the interest and persistence of a long-standing British

continued opposite ➔

'The presence of the absence'

The presence of the absence' – this phrase of Katherine Klinger, founder of the Second Generation Trust – touches a major issue in Vienna, where I live. Almost everywhere in the city, the absence of those residents, mostly Jewish, who were deported, put in prison or killed by the Nazi regime, is evident. About every tenth flat in Vienna – including the one my flatmates and I have lived in since 1999 – was 'arianised' or taken away from its owners and inhabitants. I discovered in the files of the Austrian Documentation Archive of Resistance (DöW) that Lea Deutsch, born in Vienna on 4 November 1883, was deported from that very flat on 3 December 1941 to Riga, where she was presumably murdered.

In 2005 Katherine Klinger encouraged me to put a note on the AJR website addressed to descendants, relatives and friends of Lea Deutsch suggesting a visit to the flat or offering my help in doing research. Many years went by. In 2010 I received an email from Sue Rutherford in England who was looking for a relative by the name of Friedrich Deutsch. We emailed back and forth only to discover that Lea and Friedrich obviously did not share more than their last name.

Nonetheless, Sue's email was the beginning of an on-going conversation. She asked me what were my motives in doing research. When replying, I was prepared not to hear from her again given that I am the granddaughter of two couples who were German Nazis and whose families profited from the Nazi regime. But Sue *did* get back to me and, despite our different perspectives, we became friends. She told me about her mother, who survived the Nazi regime by being sent to England on a Kindertransport, and about her grandparents and other relatives who were killed by the Nazis. I

began digging into files in Vienna archives to find the missing links Sue and her sister Laureen were looking for. When in 2011 they came to Vienna together with their cousin Chantal, I felt as if nothing but 'the presence of the absence' was the ground we were walking on. I thank Sue, Laureen and Chantal for their openness and for sharing their thoughts and feelings, their



Lea Deutsch with baby daughter (Greta or Hertha)

silence and laughter. During their visit, the sun made Vienna appear warm and bright as if the city wanted to conceal the atrocities inflicted on their family. This friendliness of Vienna made me angry. But unexpectedly Sue 'fell in love' with Vienna, as she put it. I understood that my anger, shame and negativity about Vienna were not the way Sue felt and I slowly opened my eyes to a more complex way of looking at the city of her mother's childhood and at its houses, stones and park benches – and the sun.

Sue and Laureen were keen to see the Prater. Sitting on a bench in the park, they said, was something they owed their mother and grandparents. They asked

me if I would like to accompany them. I couldn't imagine sitting with them on a bench in the Prater or standing beside the bench or behind it – nor even sitting on a different bench! In the end, I resolved that I would decide at the moment in question what felt right. When we arrived at the Prater, a 'Vienna Oktoberfest' was going on with hundreds of people in traditional costumes. Sue and Laureen changed their plans and we left the park. Intense days went by. When finally we had to say goodbye, I walked home crying. I couldn't figure out what exactly it was that made the tears run down my cheeks.

February 2013, three years later: another email – Debbie from England, who had also read that note about Lea Deutsch. Debbie's husband David is Lea's great-grandson. We began sharing information about Lea and the vegetable stall she and her husband Emanuel had been running at the nearby Naschmarkt until it was taken away from them by the Nazi authorities and their market 'neighbours'.

I hope to have the chance to meet Debbie and her husband sooner or later. This possibility changes my everyday thoughts and responsibility as I am a current inhabitant of the flat that was violently taken away from Lea Deutsch. My flatmates and I do not own the flat and I wonder how anyone – including its current owner – can claim to own it. We live our everyday lives at that address as the third, even fourth, generation. But Debbie's husband and his relatives might have chosen to live in that very place had their ancestors been given the opportunity to survive.

We cannot undo what is done. The chance to meet and become a friend of the descendants of those who are absent means a lot to me. A lot.

Lilli Axster

Stolpersteine continued

Heidelberg was able to attend due to previous commitments. The initiator of the entire project, Cologne artist Gunter Demnig, looked in before going on to the Heidelberg ceremony, held on the same day.

As part of the protocols governing the project, Demnig has laid down that relatives of the victims should, where possible, be asked for their consent to have the *Stolpersteine* placed in front of former family homes. (Not everyone wants to be thought of as a victim, especially if they in fact survived.) The Heidelberg team has come up against a problem which, Mrs Hillier hopes, can be solved through AJR members. This is a plea for information on **Ludwig**

Durlacher, who came to England on a Kindertransport.

The Durlacher family lived in Heidelberg. The father, Hermann Durlacher, was a teacher with a reputation for great kindness who taught the city's Jewish children after they were excluded from state schools in November 1938. He and his wife, Marta, had two sons: Walter, born in 1924, and Ludwig, born in 1927. The two children arrived in England on a late Kindertransport in 1939, but Hermann and Marta were deported to Gurs and later murdered in Auschwitz.

Walter, the older brother, was sent from England to Canada, where he was interned. He eventually returned to Germany. Diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia, he lived in a nursing home

in Mannheim and had a legal guardian. When he died in 2006, his legal guardian and a lawyer tried in vain to find his younger brother.

Despite extensive enquiries, the Heidelberg *Stolperstein-Initiative* members have had no better luck in trying to track down Ludwig – who would possibly have changed his name. All that is known about him is that he married and had children. He may have lived near Manchester and perhaps had a business there.

Any information should be sent to: Mrs Patricia Hillier, Am Hang 33, 69231 Rauenberg 3, Germany, telephone 0049-(0)7253-23385, email patricia.hillier@gmx.de

Ruth Rothenberg



Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication

'THE SPIRIT OF SWISS COTTAGE'

Sir – One after another – first Lauren Collins (March), then Ursula Trafford (April) – conjure up memories of days long gone by, of buildings long ago pulled down, of shops and restaurants whose names and owners have changed innumerable times over the decades, making me feel like the Spirit of Swiss Cottage. I have, after all, lived here almost all my life.

Yes, I was there when the erstwhile Dorice was still the Balsam, though I never set foot in either. I can't remember any delicatessen shop called Assan, but one in Finchley Road, not far from us, is called Silver Store.

What Ursula Trafford refers to as the Peter Herz Revue was really called the Blue Danube Club, Peter Herz being its chief presenter. 'Ich wünsche Ihnen eine Peter-Herzliche Unterhaltung' was his catchphrase. I sometimes went there of a Sunday afternoon with my parents but disliked the whole atmosphere, whereas the Laterndl in Eton Avenue was, I thought, on a much more artistic level.

Lauren Collins talks of a coffee shop at the corner of Finchley Road and Broadhurst Gardens, but there is no such corner. It was at the corner of Finchley Road and Goldhurst Terrace and is a photo shop now. As for a place called Schmitt, I only knew of a German restaurant by the name of Schmitt in Charlotte Street in the West End.

If my dear father, whom I lost in 1962, were to come to life again, he would probably no longer recognise our neighbourhood, and even my mother, who passed away in 1973, would be amazed at the change.

As for Peter Phillips's letter in your April issue – 'I suggest to her that maybe she should return to Germany' – I would just like to point out that I have not been back to Germany since I left there 80 years ago, whereas he has basked in Austrian *Gemütlichkeit* and indulged in Viennese (non-kosher) cuisine on I wonder how many occasions. Do me a favour – as they say in Yinglish – do me a favour, Mr Phillips!

As for his article 'Israel has not aged well', my only comment is – there he goes again!

Margarete Stern, London NW3

Sir – Lauren Collins's article took me back to our many visits to the Dorice, from the early fifties onwards. A crowd of us would go for an after-dinner concert with the 'boys' of the Amadeus Quartet and other, mostly Continental, friends and relatives. Those lovely, noisy evenings, punctuated by the telling of Jewish jokes, were magic – even though some of the participants melted away when the bill was brought, frequently leaving my husband and me the poorer after footing it! So many years ago and so many memories – thanks again, AJR!

Mary (Putzi) Brainin-Huttrer, London N3

Sir – I too remember being taken to the Cosmo by my sister and brother-in-law, Lisl and Karl Weiss. When Doris, one of the waitresses, opened the Dorice they moved with her, and Karl had a lunchtime *Stammtisch* with Pepi Suschitzky, Erwin Brecher, Harry Lehmann, Bruno Marian and others. The main topic of discussion appeared to be how a certain hand of bridge should be played. When it came to paying, they all wanted to pay the whole bill and ended up by leaving it to the toss of a coin.

Victor Garston, London NW11

PS: I also had the good fortune to be kissed by Putzi Brainin (as she then was). Happy days!

'EVA LUNCHTIME'

Sir – In your leader about Dr Hermann Sinsheimer (April), you report that his English nieces-by-marriage had difficulties in pronouncing his name and so simply called him 'Dr Sunshine'. This brings to mind my late wife's experience as a young girl whose colleagues had difficulties in pronouncing the name Loewenstein and so she became known as 'Eva Lunchtime' – very apt for a bevy of typists, I would say!

Walter Goddard, London SW7

AN UNFORGETTABLE PROGRAMME – 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KINDERTRANSPORT REUNION

Sir – I am delighted the AJR has taken on organising the Reunion on the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport this month. The AJR has done a fantastic job in organising what promises to be an unforgettable programme.

It is very important to me as by the time of the 80th Reunion, some of us may not be here or may not be able to go. These Reunions have been enormously important to me and I therefore look forward to this one. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales took so much trouble to talk, in an empathetic and relaxed way, with every group on the last occasion and it is magnanimous of him and his wife to invite us to St James's Palace this time.

I remember the first Reunion, organised by Bertha Leverton in 1989, so well. I had never knowingly heard the word 'Kindertransport' until then – I thought no one other than my brother and I had come to England from Berlin! It was an epiphany for me! And it led to my going in to schools to tell my story when Holocaust education was put on the national curriculum in 1991 – something I have been enjoying doing ever since.

This time, my husband and all three of our offspring are accompanying me – see you all there!

Ruth Barnett, London NW6

GRETA BURKILL, 'DOUGHTY VOLUNTEER'

Sir – Mike Levy's article on Greta Burkill in your March issue was a pleasant surprise. I knew Greta Burkill well while I was living in Cambridge from 1945 to 1961. I doubt, however, that you will find more than a casual reference to me (then Ilse Ursell) or my brother Fritz in the Greta Burkill papers donated to Cambridge University as we never needed to ask her for assistance.

My brother unfortunately died last May and I don't know how he first met her, although this may be due to the fact that he came as a mathematics scholar to Trinity in 1940 and, of course, Charles Burkill was a mathematician. He was treasurer to Peterhouse at the time and offered my parents 4 Belvoir Terrace to rent as the college didn't require it for one of its own members.

My parents were Dr Siegfried Ursell and Leonore Helene (generally known as Leni) née Mayer. However, when I was on sick leave from the BBC Monitoring Service in December 1944, Greta mentioned two jobs that were going in Cambridge. One was as secretary to herself as her then secretary had married an American and was shortly going to the USA. The other was as assistant to Dr Joseph Kemp at the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning (SPSL) – Dr Kemp was expected to return to academic work as soon as the war was over and the assistant would be expected to succeed him. I chose the second and took up the appointment in June 1945 as it took the Ministry of Labour until May to release me from the BBC, which was considered war work. My brother may be recorded as a refugee success as he finished as professor of mathematics in Manchester. I kept in touch with Charles Burkill until he died.

You will find in the Greta Burkill papers reference to Sybil Hutton, who was also working for the Cambridge Refugee Committee. Her husband, Professor Robert Hutton, was on the committee of the SPSL and I obviously knew them both. They too lived in Chaucer Road.

I have a dim notion that I knew Erik Neumann. If he was the one I knew slightly, there were two brothers and the parents lived in Cambridge. If Mike Levy thinks I might be able to fill in the odd gap, he shouldn't hesitate to contact me.

(Mrs) Ilse J. Eton, London NW11

Sir – I was very interested in Mike Levy's article. I guess he will have found my sister's and my name in Greta Burkill's files. Greta Burkill was a tremendous person and nothing was too much trouble. My sister, Erika Plaut (Rath), died in 2009.

We arrived in this country on 20 April 1939 and were whisked by Greta from Liverpool Street Station to Cambridge, where Miss M. S. Rickard gave us a home. What I was never clear about was who arranged for us to go to her home and who paid for our education at Perse School in Cambridge.

Doris Moritz (Rath), Cardiff

TREATMENT OF KINDER IN LEEDS: NO COMPLAINTS

Sir – Reading the last few issues of the Journal, I have noticed the numerous complaints by 'Kinder' about their treatment on arrival in the UK.

I arrived on the first Kindertransport on 2 December 1938. We were placed for the first four weeks in two camps near Harwich. At the end of December we were sent to Leeds. As the hostel was not ready we lived in houses near the town centre. In mid-January 1939 we were moved to the hostel in Stainbeck Lane. The building and accommodation, as well as the food, were very good. The property was located in very big grounds and included a large lawn for our use. Every morning for a good many months we received English lessons. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Mark Labovitch, met every Sunday at the hostel to ensure that the hostel was run smoothly. We were given new clothing etc as required by individuals and the Jewish population of Leeds contributed 1 shilling or 1 shilling and 6 pence per week. The vast majority of Jews were employed by Montague Burton or Fifty Shilling Tailors.

When war broke out most of the boys were allowed to work and by then could speak English. There was a similar hostel for girls in Harrogate under Mr Labovitch's chairmanship.

I remember the Committee was very helpful to the Kinder in every way. Around March 1939 I asked them if they could help my two younger brothers to join us at the hostel. Mr Labovitch agreed and in June-July 1939 my two brothers arrived and joined me there.

When we started work we had to hand in our earnings but could keep a small amount for pocket money and fares to commute to work. We were told the balance would be refunded in due course. We did indeed receive the balance some years later.

I have nothing but praise for the way we were treated in those difficult times and I have been forever grateful for the kindness and generosity shown by the Committee and the Leeds Jewish community.

Manfred Landau, London NW11

GHETTO UPRISING COMMEMORATED IN WARSAW

Sir – On 19 April this year the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was commemorated at Warsaw's Monument to the Ghetto Heroes. The event was attended by five presidents, including the president of Israel. An Israeli army orchestra was also present. One minute's silence, preceded by a siren from factories, was observed.

For myself, I was interviewed on this subject for about half an hour by the BBC, an interview broadcast live on the BBC World Service on 18 April. However, up to the time of writing, I have failed to notice anything about the Ghetto uprising anniversary in the UK Jewish press. On the other hand, I have received copies of 16 articles on the subject which appeared in Poland (in Polish of course).

*Ronald Leaton, London NW8
(Roman Licht, prisoner number 86833,
Mauthausen Concentration Camp)
Mr Leaton's attention is drawn to page 9
of this issue of the Journal (Ed.).*

A SCAPEGOAT NEEDED – ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY TODAY

Sir – Traditional anti-Semitism has resurfaced in Hungary on a large scale and it has an institutional framework. Jobbik, an openly anti-Semitic and anti-Roma party, is well represented in parliament. Shops are allowed to sell fascist literature. Also allowed are Nazi festivals and events. The far-right Magyar Garda marches in uniforms reminiscent of the Arrow Cross. Holocaust denial too is voiced. Anti-Semitic incidents in everyday life are accepted and trigger no action from the government. Fidesz, the ruling party, understands very well that this helps maintain them in power. They came to power as a right-of-centre party and are progressing towards the far right. The economy is in a bad way – a scapegoat is needed. This is where the Jews come in. Whereas Jobbik received 17 per cent of the vote in the last elections, I believe that, as in the forties, the 'silent majority' agrees with their aims.

Where does all this leave the 90-100,000 Jews living in Hungary? Doubtless there is a revival of Jewish culture and religion. One can observe this best in Budapest's Seventh District, where one can

visit the beautifully restored Dohány Street Synagogue and various cafés, restaurants and book shops catering mostly, but not exclusively, for a Jewish clientele. The Lauder Javne School is thriving. The Israel Cultural Centre has an impressive programme; every year there is a Jewish festival. Muzsikás, the leading folk ensemble, which has no Jewish members, often performs Jewish and klezmer music.

So what are the prospects for this large Jewish community? I would not like to say but I know I would not consider living there. I would feel extremely uncomfortable in today's Hungary.

Janos Fisher, Bushey Heath, Herts

THANK YOU, AJR

Sir – Our dear mother, Mrs J. E. Weissbraun, passed away in February. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for the abundant kindnesses AJR staff showed towards our dear mother. As with most of your recipients, she had a traumatic beginning to her life. It was, however, through your generosity that she was able to end her life with great dignity and in comfort. She had every bit of the care she needed and our endeavour to ensure that all her requirements were met was fully supported by your amazing organisation.

As a family, we want to thank you for everything and to assure you that we have not taken anything for granted!

(Mrs) Judith Fine, London N14

Sir – Reading the Annual Report in your May issue, I continue to be most impressed with the enormous range of work the Association covers not only centrally but also throughout the country. You are indeed a most positive example to the many communal bodies in this country.

*Professor Eric Moonman OBE (President,
Zionist Federation), London N7*

Sir – Since losing most of my sight last year I now get the Journal on a disk – not quite the same as reading it but still one of my monthly enjoyments. A super little magazine that keeps us all in touch. Thank you.

Bob Norton, Nottingham

SCARLET PIMPERNEL

Sir – Dorothea Shefer-Vanson (February) describes Varian Fry's efforts in the rescue of prominent Jews. Charles Fernley Fawcett was part of that team of rescuers.

I had the honour of knowing Charles, who was not Jewish but born to American 'WASP' parents in Georgia. After his earlier escapades in Vichy France, involving Jewish women, he flew with the RAF and later served in the French Foreign Legion, earning the Croix de Guerre. He spent his last years here, living on the Chelsea Embankment, and passed away, aged 92, in 2008. He was a fearless adventurer all his life, going to places where angels fear to tread and wherever he could do good.

continued on page 16

ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

Years ago I visited Pompeii. The Roman villas, the frescoes, the streets all had an air of having just paused for lunch on a hot Mediterranean day. But it took just 24 hours in AD 79 to submerge both Pompeii and its seaside neighbour Herculaneum under a pyroclastic deluge of volcanic ash and stones which erupted from Mount Vesuvius, killing some 16,000 inhabitants.

Pliny the Younger recalled the utter blackness; poets like Statius lamented the cities' loss. I vividly remember the entwined bodies of a pair of lovers,



Wall painting of the baker Terentius Neo and his wife. From the house of Terentius Neo, Pompeii, AD 50-79 © Soprintendenza Speciali per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli & Pompeii / Trustees of the British Museum

entombed in ash for eternity. They had a Sleeping Beauty-like stillness.

This is the pathos of the **British Museum's** excellent exhibition **Life and Death: Pompeii and Herculaneum**. But it is not death that the BM celebrates, but the intensity of industrial city life: from the frescoes to the marble statues, from the garden room murals to the ionic pedestals lining a shimmering pond, from the reconstructed sounds of hammering, tiling, hewing to the lilt of birdsong and the sound of water.

A beautiful wall painting featuring the baker Terentius Neo and his wife holding writing materials to prove their literacy personifies marital equality. Another finely modelled sculpture of the priestess

Eumacha, a wealthy landowner, denotes the highest office achievable by a woman.

It's true that none of this represents the working or slave class of society. Inevitably what has survived is the lushness of the *über-rich*, whose homes bore names like the House of the Golden Bracelet. About one tenth of the bodies recovered were found with their jewellery – gold or bronze, iron or glass. We see lavishly decorated walls and floors, ornate mouldings, fabulous garden wall frescoes showing flora and fauna of every type. The 250 objects include marble reliefs and sculptures, carved ivory panels, an elegant table supported by a panther. There is an adorable white marble bust of a small boy with painted curly hair.

The Romans were a showy, libidinous lot, happy to walk around naked. Their bedrooms were erotic shrines to the gods of wine, love and fertility. In one painting, a man teaches his lover to play the lyre. A fresco of an amorous couple almost anticipates Degas in style and composition. Yet couples shared their bedrooms with the children. The gardens benefited from an aqueduct ordered in 10 BC by Emperor Augustus to bring piped water directly into the gardens.

However, there are already intimations of mortality. A mosaic skeleton warns that death comes in the midst of feasting. The famous dog in his death throes is the totemic image in explanatory texts and is extremely moving, as is the carbonised cake or the wooden cradle in which its tiny occupant was found swaddled.

These artefacts culminate in the inevitable tragedy: a 24-hour wall chart announces the times and dates of the first eruption – at mid-day to the following morning – when the utter darkness described by Pliny covered the Bay of Naples. There, at the end, perfectly preserved, are a family who died with their two children, together and yet each one alone. Go see it! Until 29 September.

Émigré Artists, Graphic Designers, Curators, Art Historians, Conservators

Any recollections of wartime émigré artists, graphic designers, curators, art historians, conservators etc working in the UK from 1933 onwards sought by curators at Ben Uri/The London Jewish Museum of Art, who are compiling a database of such information.

Please contact Rachel Rotrand on
020 7604 3991

or email émigré@benuri.org.uk
or write to Ben Uri,

108a Boundary Road, London NW8 0RH,
marking the envelope ÉMIGRÉ

REVIEW

A vital contribution to Holocaust literature

BO, JENNY AND I: SURVIVING THE HOLOCAUST IN BRITAIN: A FAMILY MEMOIR (Jews in Space and Time series)
by Hugette Herrmann

Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2012, 228 pp. hardback, ISBN-13: 9781936235735, available at amazon.co.uk

This book brings back many memories for those who, just before and in the early part of the War, had to leave Nazi-ridden Europe as children and seek safety here in the UK. The first part of the book describes life in Antwerp; the second part covers the author's arrival in the UK and how she settled down. We Kindertransportees are able to identify our experiences more closely with the latter part of the account, both a family story and a wartime memoir.

The introduction by Jim Wald, Associate Professor of History, Hampshire College, USA, explores the question of who is to be considered a Holocaust survivor. He concludes: 'Today [...] the prevailing practice is to take a broader view, letting the term encompass anyone who suffered persecution under the Axis rule or who hid or fled in order to avoid such persecution.' He further gives a brief, but extremely useful, history of Belgian and Antwerp Jewry. At the outbreak of the Second World War, there were 65,000-75,000 Belgian Jews, of whom only a small percentage were Belgian citizens. The remainder were immigrants from Eastern Europe following the First World War or refugees from Germany.

The author opens her story with the admission that she did not grow up in a 'normal' family, in which 'the mother and father are the towering deities': the 'gods' that ruled her were her mother, Jenny, and the latter's mother, Bo. Hugette describes in great detail her early life, when poverty was a third ruler, obliging the family to move several times. The father disappeared. We see the life of a poor Jewish family in Antwerp. May 1940 changed their life completely as the German army drew ever closer to Antwerp. The family of three decided to flee. They eventually reached Calais, where, with the help of the British consulate (Bo was a British citizen), they reached the harbour, boarded a destroyer and arrived in England safely.

Once in England, the adolescent girl went to school, suffered evacuation, whilst

continued opposite ➔

Yom Hashoah, 2013

70th Anniversary of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

AJR members at local events Glasgow

The overflowing audience included many AJR members. Our own Michael Sankie, who passed away recently, had personal knowledge of the subject of the commemoration, the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. His reminiscences were read out in fragments in the presence of his daughter Shirley Kay. Film footage gleaned from sources such as the Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw and Yad Vashem was shown with musical accompaniment.

Halina Moss

Liverpool

Johnny Cohen and Naomi Kingston organised the Liverpool Yom Hashoah commemoration. A packed audience of all ages appreciated a magnificent talk by Sir Eric Reich on his Kindertransport experience. A short film of a survivor's experience was shown and Johnny Cohen gave an informed presentation on the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Naomi Kingston read out the names of family members of the Liverpool Jewish community who so tragically perished. Candles were lit in memory of the six million Jews.

Susanne Green

Manchester

Tania Nelson, Chair of the Manchester Yom Hashoah Programme, together with Sarah Moise and the Yom Hashoah Programme Committee 2013, organised a moving commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The programme included survivor Sam Laskier's personal testimony of the Ghetto, a survivor's legacy by Rebecca Scherer, and Second and Third Generation presentations by Tania Nelson, Benny Weiss, Michael Rubinstein, Chazan Michael Isdale, Rabbi Mati Kos and Devorah Moise.

Susanne Green

Pinner Synagogue Remembrance Service



Janine Webber and Lili Stern-Pohlmann in front of Pinner Synagogue memorial stone

PHOTO: STEPHEN GEE

Pinner Synagogue was filled to capacity for the annual Yom Hashoah Remembrance Service. Remarkably, the diplomatic corps numbered 11, including the Ambassadors from the Polish, German and Albanian Embassies. The Polish Ambassador gave a brief address, acknowledging the atrocities and outlining ongoing efforts in Poland to recognise those who helped save Jewish lives and to restore some Jewish culture in the country.

Lili Stern-Pohlmann and Janine Webber, survivors of the Lvov ghetto, spoke about their experiences, with Lili paying tribute to her friend Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic who had rescued 2,500 children from the Warsaw Ghetto.

Brian Eisenberg

Review continued

Jenny found work in London. I, and many others, can identify with her educational progress and living conditions. Tragically Jenny died at a youngish age.

A little more of Jewish life enters as the author goes to a summer camp under canvas and joins the Socialist-Zionist youth movement Habonim. At the age of 17 she fell in love with an American soldier but, despite gaining court consent to marry (she was legally regarded as a child), the two never married and drifted apart. She concludes her story with passing her Higher School Certificate and eventually gaining a BA in French at Queen Mary College.

I found the book most absorbing and thought-provoking, despite the minute details of her family life and growing up in Antwerp. All in all, I would consider this a vital contribution to the general Holocaust literature. There are, however, a couple of minor errors. First, Habonim was founded

in 1929 and not in the 1930s. Second, the bus in Lordship Park, London N16 was the 106 and not the 73. I can vouch for this as in the late 1940s I lived on the corner of Lordship Park and relied on the rarely appearing 106 bus!

Bernd Koschland

ARTS AND EVENTS JUNE

Extended to 12 June 'Wit's End: The Satirical Cartoons of Stephen Roth' Exhibition at Wiener Library. Stephen Roth was a prolific Czech-Jewish artist whose cartoons lampooned fascist dictators and put a wry spin on political events during WWII. Prior to the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, he immigrated to London, where he remained the rest of his life contributing pieces to English newspapers.

Thur 27 June Book launch: 'Ruta's Closet' The story of a Lithuanian-Jewish family's struggle to escape the 'Final Solution'. Journalist Keith Morgan relates how he met Holocaust survivor Ruth Kron Sigal and was moved to help her tell her story to the world. Wiener Library, 6.30 - 8.00 pm. Free admission. Booking essential.

Fri 28 June 'The Making of the Last Boat' Filmmaker Alan Reich tells the story of the rescue of 70 Jewish children and their two chaperones out of Poland on a British boat, arriving in England three days before the start of WWII. Wiener Library, 1.00-2.00 pm. Free admission. Booking essential.

Tues 2 July 'How to Enjoy Your Retirement and Feel Fulfilled' A seminar for those approaching retirement or recently retired. At London Jewish Cultural Centre, 1.30-4.30 pm. £10 (special price for 2 people £15). To book tel 020 8457 5000 or visit www.ljcc.org.uk

Wiener Library telephone 020 8636 7247; email wienerlibrary.co.uk/whats-on



Buying a computer? Curious about the internet?

If you're thinking about buying a computer or just curious about the internet, this might be the event for you!

JFS are inviting AJR members for an exciting afternoon at the school. Find out all you wanted to know about the internet and computers! Discover with JFS students how to email, play computer chess and bridge, view pictures and art galleries, watch videos from around the world and much much more!

No previous computer experience required; limited spaces

Free event – includes refreshments

Dates: 8 or 24 July

Times: 1.30 – 3.30 pm

To sign up or find out more, contact
Jonathan on 020 8385 3070 or at
jonathan@ajr.org.uk

Theatrical Lives from Vienna to London

An Exhibition of Treasures from the Miller Archive

19 June-30 August 2013, Monday to Saturday, 9 am-6 pm

Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1 – Admission free

Seventy-five years since the German annexation of Austria in March 1938, the exhibition at the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, University of London, illustrates the lives of two Jewish refugee actors from Vienna, Martin Miller and Hannah Norbert-Miller. Scripts, photographs, letters, theatre programmes and other items from the Miller Archive trace the Millers' lives from their theatrical successes in pre-war Vienna, through the challenges of exile theatre in wartime London, to their achievements in radio and theatre in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the items in the collection are only now being systematically identified and contextualised, and this is the first time that they will be displayed.





HONG KONG REPORT



I was invited by the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre (HKHTC) for a week in April this year to speak in a variety of schools and organisations. The HKHTC was set up a year ago by prominent members of the local Jewish community. The new centre is housed in the Carmel School Association's Elsa High School and its chairman is Jeremy Amias, a former Londoner and the son of an AJR member.

My visit to Hong Kong was on behalf of the London Jewish Cultural Centre's (LJCC) Holocaust and Anti-Racism Department, which holds annual seminars in mainland China. My purpose was to set up a new annual conference for teachers, both to promote Holocaust education to schoolchildren and to show teachers how effective it is to have a survivor stand up in front of the classes to give first-hand information. In addition, I wanted to set up, together with the LJCC, an annual conference for Hong Kong teachers which would enhance the programme in mainland China.

I reached 15 different schools and organisations, including two Jewish schools, in one week – a gruelling programme which involved speaking three or four times each day and included a short address at the Yom Hashoah ceremony at the Jewish Cultural Centre there. My talks were extremely well received and I was overwhelmed by the generous notes of appreciation and gifts. I look forward to further co-operation with the community in the future.

No time was spent shopping, with the exception of a very necessary couple of pairs of trousers which a local tailor made for me in only three days so that I could take them home with me back to London.

Most of the schools at which I spoke were international or local schools which are teaching in English. I was driven to and from the venues as parking is virtually impossible in Hong

Kong. Taxis were plentiful except when it rained, which was quite often. The ferry system is amazing. Boats dodged past tankers, warships, small craft and other ferries to get to their destinations. Travel is cheap and efficient in comparison with the UK.

I took the ferry to Macau, where I visited a school, and then on to the university in the evening. On the way back to the ferry, I passed all the amazing hotels with flashing lights –

them went on the March for the Living. I met two Israeli students there and, naturally enough, I was asked many searching questions about my history and reasons for speaking.

Another memorable visit was to a Born Again Christian group. I wasn't at all sure how they would react but they were very anxious to please and asked many appropriate questions. This was the only group with whom a translation was necessary, though many of the people there did understand a significant amount.

My visit to the Lycée Français International was extremely well received. I had not expected this as it had proved difficult to persuade them to cover Holocaust education and they had not previously been engaged with the HKHTC. My visit generally tended to cement relations throughout the English-speaking community with the Centre. This was true also of the Diocesan Girls' School, which had never had a speaker before.

I was invited to lunch with the Czech Republic's Vice Consul at the 1930s-style Press

Club. He gave me some papers which should prove useful for my research. I also met the European Union Vice Consul and his wife, who were Dutch and Croatian respectively, and the Polish Vice Consul and his wife, all of whom attended a Friday night dinner at the Jewish Cultural Centre.

There was huge interest in my visit, which gave increasing visibility to the HKHTC. An article and photo about my visit appeared in the *South China Morning Post* with a reference to *theholocaustexplained* website, launched at the Foreign Office by the LJCC two years ago. Additionally, one of the students to whom I spoke wrote a very moving poem following my talk (see above).

Joanna Millan

Breathe Once More

by Clemence Yung

A baby's bawling is muffled
By his mother's frail hand
Little does she realize
Those sobs would never sound again

For the infant breathes no more.

'Water!' The siblings plead
Their throats parched and dry
But soon, the girl's knees buckle
As her brother stifles a cry

Then the girl breathes no more.

The weeping girl crouches
And bends her head low
Her lips crush onto her lover's
But they are as icy as snow

For the youth breathes no more.

The crippled man hobbles
To dodge the soldiers' shrill shots
Suddenly, he topples backwards
His chest patched with crimson blots

And the man breathes no more.

Sputtering, an old woman boards
The train with other campers in line
A soldier kicks her and bellows,
'Hurry, or you'll be left behind!'

But it no longer matters ...
For the old woman breathes no more.

A soldier clutches his rifle
His forehead clammy with sweat
He aims and pulls the trigger ...
Only to face his greatest setback yet -

For he is too exhausted
And the soldier breathes no more.

With children crying, people dying
The bloody streets without an echo of peace
The whole world murmurs a single prayer,
'How we long for these battles to cease!'

How much fear and fighting
Must war plague upon us before
Love, laughter and life
Can breathe once more?

just like Las Vegas. (I was told they take more money in the casinos there than in Las Vegas even though there are fewer hotels.) I was also invited to a school on Lantau Island, which is where the new Disney Resort is located. The international school at Discovery Bay on this island is a very pleasant, more rural, location, where many international families live.

My most amazing visit was to the United World College, which has a campus in Hong Kong similar to the one in Wales. Two students from countries all over the world are invited to attend. The standard of education is extremely high and the students are selected for their academic ability. This organisation is all about working together and tolerance. The students all live on campus and engage in many activities which involve co-operation. Some of

Joanna Millan is a Director of the AJR.

CCJ clergy speak of experience gained on Israel study tour

The AJR welcomed some unusual speakers to its April Luncheon Club at the AJR Centre in Belsize Square Synagogue: four Christian clergy spoke of their experiences on the Council of Christians and Jews' (CCJ) study tour to Israel in 2012.

Revs Debbie Davison, Jeremy Howard, Catherine Shelley and Colin Smith related how they had been affected by their studies at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Education Centre in Jerusalem. Debbie Davison spoke of her deeper understanding of the Jewish people she had encountered. Jeremy Howard said he and colleagues in Birmingham were planning a Holocaust Education Day there next year. Catherine Shelley spoke of her engagement with

the Jewish community in Manchester. Colin Smith said that he and his colleague Revd Bruce Thompson had founded the Methodist Friends of Judaism, whose aim was to celebrate the contribution of Judaism to the Church and the world and to challenge anti-Semitism.

The group also heard moving tales from AJR members, many of whom had suffered under the Nazis, been interned and lost loved ones. Appreciating the value of Holocaust education, the AJR has generously supported the CCJ's study tours by sponsoring two 'AJR Fellows' each year.

AJR Executive Director Carol Rossen noted that it was 'a very significant thing for our members to hear Christian

clergy speaking about their commitment to good relations with the Jewish community and to education about the Holocaust.'

Fiona Hulbert, who led the CCJ group, said: 'It is a privilege to lead these study tours to Israel and to see the learning Christian leaders acquire while they are there. We are so grateful to the AJR for its support, which enables us to continue this important programme.'

The next study tour to Yad Vashem will take place on **28 October-7 November this year**. Places are available – for details, contact Fiona on 020 7015 5160 or at fiona.hulbert@ccj.org.uk

Fiona Hulbert

**Encounters Programme Manager
Council of Christians and Jews**

Nightingale Hammerson: working closely with the AJR

Nightingale Hammerson, a leading provider of care for older members of the Jewish community, runs two care homes. Nightingale House has been serving the needs of the community on its Clapham, south-west London site for 100 years and is able to trace the origins of the charity back to 1840. Hammerson House in north-west London recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Nightingale House and Hammerson House merged in April 2012.

The two charities have a very similar ethos in that they both strive to provide the highest possible standards of care coupled with a wide range of quality facilities. The Charity also places enormous emphasis on activities, entertainments, stimulation, etc. Nightingale Hammerson is able to care for residents for the rest of their lives, regardless of any deterioration in physical or mental health.

The Nightingale Lane site has undergone significant redevelopment over a period of many years. It is particularly proud of its new Wohl Wing, which was opened some 18 months ago by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. This wing was purpose-built for a group of our residents who are living with dementia. The design was based on recent research relating to the impact of the environment on people living with this debilitating illness. Further redevelopment at Nightingale House is currently under way to improve and upgrade another section of the Home, where a similar range of facilities and amenities will be provided.

Redevelopment is also taking place at Hammerson House. Initially, works will

be taking place on the ground floor to improve communal sitting space and to establish a new shop, café, library, and activities area. We will also be providing some further assisted living apartments. Ultimately, the plan is to redevelop a significant part of the site in order to ensure that we have state-of-the-art accommodation and facilities to meet the ever-changing needs of those wishing to come into our homes both today and for generations to come.

Across our two homes we are able to provide the entire spectrum of care, ranging from those who are still particularly active through to those requiring 'heavy' nursing care or dementia care.

We always consider admissions on the basis of need; however, preference will be given to members of the refugee community. Nightingale Hammerson works closely with the AJR and is delighted to be able to do whatever is possible to support that organisation in its important work.

We have also been generously supported in our development programmes by OSHA through the Six Point Foundation.

If you think you would be interested in finding out more about our facilities and would like to visit either of our homes, please contact either Leon Smith at 1smith@nightingalehammerson.org telephone 020 8673 3495 or Andrew Leigh at aleigh@nightingalehammerson.org telephone 020 8458 4523. Alternatively, visit our website www.nightingalehammerson.org

**Leon Smith, Chief Executive
Nightingale Hammerson**

When North Met South



Tania Nelson of Manchester (left) and Catherine Gardner of London at Beth Shalom Holocaust Education Centre on a Second Generation visit – when North met South! Other Second Generation visitors came from Sheffield, Oxford and Nottingham. Simon Winston spoke movingly of his wartime experience in hiding with his family in Poland/Ukraine. All agreed that the long journeys to the Centre were well worthwhile.

Barbara Dresner

IT clicks with Graham Curzon



North London members had an exciting day out at JCoSS school, where they learned from students how to use computers and the internet. If you would like to join us, there are still limited places available on 10 and 17 June. Call Jonathan at AJR Head Office on 020 8385 3070 to sign up.

INSIDE the AJR

A Wonderful Experience: Visit to the Royal College of Physicians

Our group was given a tour of the gardens and shown numerous herbs, some of which could have been used medicinally. The very modern building is impressive inside and out. We were awed by the vast collection of medical instruments displayed, many of them hundreds of years old. Our guides, Hazel and Esther, ensured no one got lost. It was a wonderful experience to be escorted around this college, tucked away in the Inner Circle of Regent's Park and quite unknown to many of us before our visit.

Meta Roseneil

Glasgow Great Day Out in Crieff

Our first port of call was the Caithness Glass Factory, where we saw glass paperweights made by hand in the traditional way, then we continued on to the Waterford and Stuart crystal outlet. After lunch at the Crieff Hydro's elegant Winter Garden, we headed off to the famous Glen Turret Whisky Distillery – our hardest decision was which of the finest whiskies to taste! A great day out.

Halina Moss

Pinner Jewish Life in Victorian London

Philippa Bernard gave a fascinating talk on Jewish life in Victorian London, describing how the Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities developed side by side in the 19th century. She also spoke of the integration of Jews into the wider society as they were allowed to take seats in parliament and enter the key professions.

Robert Gellman

Manchester

Story of a Refugee from Chile

What we heard from guest speaker Professor Benny Pollack was certainly something very different – the story of a refugee not from Nazi tyranny but from the political turmoil in Chile, where he was born. Benny was for a time Chilean ambassador to China.

Werner Lachs

HGS Outing to Syon House a Must

Andrea Cameron talked about the history of Syon House – its relationship with past monarchy and the Duke of Northumberland today. An outing in the future is a must!

Hazel Beiny

Essex (Westcliff) A Personal Friend of Margaret Thatcher

Former MP for Southend Sir Teddy Taylor was a personal friend of Margaret Thatcher. It was poignant that he gave his talk and showed us photos of Margaret Thatcher and himself the day after she died.

Larry Lisner

Welwyn Garden City Unexpected Joys and Stories

An invitation to bring objects which mean a lot to us yielded unexpected joys and stories. What to bring in the only suitcase allowed when fleeing persecution? Sam found room for his *talith* in its beautifully embroidered bag. Two Steiff teddies and a doll called Edith were lovingly carried and still have pride of place in their owners' homes.

Marianne Lonford

St John's Wood For Amateurs and Connoisseurs alike

Rob Lowe gave an impressive, rich and informative talk on the lives and work of Gilbert and Sullivan for musical amateurs and connoisseurs alike.

Yvonne Klemperer

Surrey

Get-together on a Real Spring Day

Our get-together coincided with the first real Spring day for six months, enhancing a very pleasant morning's conversation. Edmee's hospitality was, as ever, welcoming, with lots of good food to go with the chatting.

Eva Gold Young

Leeds CF Favourite Hobby or Interest

In a very animated meeting, members spoke about 'a favourite hobby or interest'. Items brought along included model cars and planes and beautiful cross-stitch pictures. One member was wearing her hobby – a very special knitted pinafore dress. All was polished off with Barbara Cammerman's famous baking.

Wendy Bott

Edinburgh CF The Intriguing World of Auction Houses

Edward Green, the Queen's former jeweller, introduced us to the intriguing world of auction houses and the wonders of eBay. Armed with our new-found knowledge, we are planning to attend an auction later in the year. The beautiful tea, hosted by Francoise Robertson, was enjoyed by all, including a family of Second, Third and Fourth Generations.

Agnes Isaacs

Brighton-Sarid (Sussex) Jews and jazz

Alf Keiles spoke about the Jewish contribution to jazz, giving an audio demonstration of Jewish musicians and singers. Benny Goodman, 'the King of Jazz', was, we heard, the first to include black musicians in his orchestra. A lively and enjoyable meeting.

Ceska Abrahams

Edgware Colourful Inhabitants of Syon House

Andrea Cameron gave a very interesting talk on the history of Syon House with a brief description of its sometimes rather colourful inhabitants.

Felix Winkler

Midlands W (Birmingham) Comfortable New Venue Found

We met at a new venue, the Andrew Cohen Residential Hall, which provides comfortable – even palatial by most standards – accommodation and insists on providing us with free but tasty afternoon refreshments. There was unanimous agreement that we need look no further for future meetings in 2013.

Fred Austin

Oxford Film on Immigration to Israel

After a splendid lunch we enjoyed the first UK viewing of the film *A Dream is Born*, showing immigration from all over the world to Israel.

Anne Selinger

Song for Marion outing

How many dry tissues and handkerchiefs were there left among the 90 AJR members and friends at the end of this film, I asked myself as we came away from a private viewing of *Song for Marion*. A delightful film.

Ernest Simon

Radlett Public Sector on the Brink

Retired civil servant Jenny Manson spoke of the changes in culture the public services have been undergoing for several years – what is clear is that many of these changes do not contribute to the public good. Her talk sparked a very animated discussion which could have gone on for many hours.

Fritz Starer

Wessex Items of Memorabilia

Members brought along items of memorabilia, including small glass flower-holders for place settings, a monogrammed napkin, a German Iron Cross, and a book called *Death Book Theresienstadt*. A watch strap belonging to an uncle who had died in the War and a rendition of Hungarian songs completed the entertaining afternoon.

Liz Harris

Book Club Innocents and Innocence

Our book was *The Innocents*, which won the Costa Prize for a first novel. We were fortunate to have the author, Francesca Segal, with us. Francesca told us, among other things, about the parallels between her novel and Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*.

Thea Valman

Midland E (Nottingham) Exchanging News after a Long Winter

We had an informal lunch in a small village hotel, glad to see each other after the long winter and exchange news. As usual, we were delighted to see Esther Rinkoff, who came to keep us in order and tell us what was happening elsewhere.

Bob Norton

North London When Gender Discrimination Was the 'In Thing'

David Barnett was our guest speaker

once more and this time the subject was 'London's First Hotel'. He described the progression of inns/coaching inns at the time of horse-drawn traffic. Sorry ladies, but gender discrimination was then the 'in thing'!

Herbert Haberberg

North West London A Living Memorial

Esther Hazel and the Helpers are not a pop group but the lovely ladies who served us a delicious lunch at Danescroft. Afterwards Laurence Stein told us about Boys Town Jerusalem. Founded in 1948 as a living memorial to the one and half million children who perished in the Holocaust, it now houses over 900 Jewish boys from difficult backgrounds in Israel and elsewhere.

David Lang

Newcastle Visit to BBC Studios

On our tour of the local BBC studios, we were shown the very tiny studio from which the weather forecast is broadcast; the library – no books, just shelves full of films and videotapes; and the studio from which the local news is broadcast, so much smaller than we had imagined. Finally, we were given an opportunity to record our own radio show, reading from scripts.

Elaine Goldsmith

OUTING TO WESTCLIFF AJR GROUP

TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2013

We are pleased to announce an outing to visit the AJR Essex Group, which meets in Westcliff-on-Sea. This is an annual event and always a most enjoyable and relaxing day out.

The price of £20 per person includes refreshments on arrival, buffet lunch, a tour of Westcliff and return coach journey from London.

For further details, please contact
Susan Harrod, Regional Groups
Administrator, on 020 8385 3070
or at susan@ajr.org.uk

OUTING TO REGENT'S PARK OPEN AIR THEATRE

Thursday 8 August 2013 at 2.15 pm,
finishing at 5.00 pm

*THE SOUND
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Tickets £20.00 per person

Please note that if the performance cannot be completed owing to bad weather, tickets will be exchanged for an alternative performance. If you are unable to make the alternative date arranged by AJR, there is no time limit on exchanging your tickets. However, no refunds will be given.

For further details, please call Susan
Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or email
susan@ajr.org.uk

JUNE GROUP EVENTS

Cardiff	3 June	Nicholas Winton film
Ealing	4 June	Jenny Manson, 'The Public Sector on the Brink'
Liverpool	4 June	Outing to Llandudno
Marlow CF	4 June	Lunch and Prof Michael Spiro, 'New Zealand'
SCOTLAND REGIONAL GET-TOGETHER, EDINBURGH 5 JUNE		
Speaker: Howard Falksohn, Wiener Library, 'A History in Pictures'; Discussion Groups, including Second Generation; 3-course lunch £10 including transport, musical entertainment		
Ilford	5 June	Angela Schluter, 'Jewish Mother, Nazi Father'
Leeds CF	5 June	Screening of <i>Israel Inside</i>
Norfolk	6 June	Screening of <i>Watermarks</i>
Pinner	6 June	Raymond Sturgess, 'The Scandal of Alfred Dreyfus'
Manchester	9 June	<i>The Bar Mitzvah Boy</i> at Jewish Museum
HGS	10 June	David Barnett, 'The Story of Joseph Nathan and GlaxoSmithKline'
Prestwich/Whitefield CF	10 June	At Ruth and Werner Lachs
Essex (Westcliff)	11 June	Annual Luncheon
Kent	12 June	Helen Aronson, 'Nigeria in 1956'
Liverpool	12 June	<i>Anne Frank + You</i> exhibition, Southport
St John's Wood	12 June	Stuart Wollach, 'Hedge Funds and the City'
Brighton-Sarid (Sussex)	17 June	David Wass, 'The Story behind Shoplifting'
Broughton Park/Crumpsall CF	17 June	Social at Beenstock Home
Café Imperial	18 June	Social Get-together
Edgware	18 June	Greg Beitchman, 'How Reuters Was Started by a German Jew'
Midlands W (Birmingham)	18 June	Fred Austin: Annual Talk
Oxford	18 June	Details to follow
Radlett	19 June	Judith Lawson, 'Life as a Guide at Kew Gardens'
Welwyn GC	19 June	Lunch, Social Get-together
Wessex	19 June	Annual Outing, details to follow
Cambridge	20 June	Details to follow
Leeds HSFA	23 June	Malcolm Taylor, 'Life and Times of a Prosecutor'
North West London	24 June	(at Hendon) Details to follow
Book Club	26 June	Social
Glasgow CF	26 June	Social
Wembley	26 June	Social Get-together
North London	27 June	Helen Fry, 'How the German-Jewish Refugees Discovered Hitler's Secrets for British Intelligence'

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H.obstfeld@talk21.com



Pride & Prejudice

**OUTING TO REGENT'S PARK OPEN AIR THEATRE
THURSDAY 18 JULY 2013 at 2.15 pm finishing at 5.00 pm**

'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife'

Tickets £20.00 per person

If the performance cannot be completed owing to bad weather, tickets will be exchanged for an alternative performance. If you are unable to make the alternative date arranged by the AJR there is no time limit on exchanging your tickets.

However, no refunds will be given.

For a booking form, please contact Susan Harrod
on 020 8385 3078 or at susan@ajr.org.uk



The AJR Paul Balint Centre

at Belsize Square Synagogue
51 Belsize Square, London NW3 4HX
Telephone 020 7431 2744

Open Tuesdays and Thursdays – 9.30 am to 3.30 pm

Activities June 2013

Lunch is served at 12.30 unless otherwise stated

Tuesday 4 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 10-12 One-to-One Computer Tuition
- 12.00 **KT LUNCH Speaker: Ruth Barnett,**
'Literary Justice and Appropriation of Personal Histories'

Thursday 6 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 10.30 Art Class – all welcome
- 13.45 **Entertainers – Lynne and Michael**
'Rule Britannia'

Tuesday 11 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 10.30 Current Affairs Discussion Group
- 10-12 One-to-One Computer Tuition
- 11.30 Seated Exercises
- 13.45 **Entertainer – Mike Ryan**

Thursday 13 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 11.15 Seated Exercises
- 13.45 **Entertainer – Mike Marandi**

Tuesday 18 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 10-12 One-to-One Computer Tuition
- 11.00 Seated Exercises
- 13.45 **Entertainer – Roy Blass**

Thursday 20 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 10.30 Art Class
- 11.15 Seated Exercises
- 13.45 **Entertainer – Margaret Opdahl**

Tuesday 25 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 10-12 One-to-One Computer Tuition
- 11.00 Seated Exercises
- 13.30 **Entertainer – Paul Coleman**

Thursday 27 June

- 10-12 Coffee/Chat/Knit/Board Games
- 10.00 French Conversation
- 10.45 Let's Read and Discuss
- 11.15 Seated Exercises
- 13.45 **Entertainer – Ronnie Goldberg**



CALLING ALL BRIDGE PLAYERS!

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and fortnightly thereafter

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FAMILY ANOUNCEMENTS

Death

Labi (née Bechert), Evelyn Evi passed away suddenly in London aged 90 on 26.2.13. Born in Vienna 11.6.22, she fled in March 1938 and arrived in Britain in May 1938. Only daughter of Johanna and Viktor Bechert and widow of Aldo 'Don' Labi. An irreplaceable loss for her children Robert and Doona, many friends worldwide and her new-found family Rindskopf.

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OBITUARIES

Dr Herbert Loeb1 OBE, born Bamberg 18 April 1923 – died Newcastle-upon-Tyne 28 January 2013

In the months since my father's death, I have had time to reflect on his life and many achievements and to ask myself how, like many of his fellow refugees, he was able to turn adversity into success. He had the confidence and drive to do this in both his public and family life.

Herbert was born into a middle-class family in Bamberg, Bavaria. His father and uncle were manufacturers of electrical components. He was a talented boy and no doubt had many ambitions for his future, but we can only imagine what these might have been. His adolescent years passed in the most turbulent time the Jewish world has endured and many of his family perished in the Shoah. In 1938, aged 15, he came to England, soon afterwards followed by his parents and two sisters. For a time he and his father were interned on the Isle of Man.

The family was allowed to open a factory in north-east England as part of the government's initiative to bring trade and employment to depressed areas. Herbert worked in the family business and, after several apprenticeships, completed his education at Kings College, Durham, gaining a degree in electrical engineering.

In 1949 his father, aged just 56, died suddenly on a business trip. In 1951 Herbert founded Joyce Loeb1 with fellow graduate Bob Joyce. They developed a number of pioneering scientific instruments. As my daughter Kate, also a scientist, notes: 'He was 60 years ahead of his time in recognis-

ing the medical and industrial opportunities presented by the genomic revolution.' A particular achievement was the commercial development of the optical microdensitometer, a machine that was to play a pivotal role in the experiments that led to our current understanding of the fundamental science of genetics.

Herbert was a man of dynamism and ambition. He excelled in many fields both as scientist and entrepreneur. Later in life he devoted himself to academia and spear-headed economic development in the north of England through various initiatives. As my sister Miriam said in her eulogy at his funeral: 'In his life he gained many qualifications and awards including a BSc, MPhil, PhD, an honorary doctorate, an OBE, and the Queen's Award for Industry.' For four years he represented North-East business as a Commissioner at the European Commission in Brussels. He was a founder member of Enterprise North and the Herbert Loeb1 Export Academy at Newcastle University Business School.

In his spare time Herbert loved going to concerts, playing the violin in the string quartet that met regularly in his home, and doing cryptic crossword puzzles. He was a true *bon*



viveur. He liked nothing better than a walk in the beautiful Northumberland countryside, preferably with his children trailing behind, clutching jam jars for picking wild berries. He could never understand why anyone would wish to live in 'dreadful' London.

In his last years he was determined to create a new era of mutual understanding and respect, forging links with his birthplace Bamberg. In his autobiography, *A Coat Too Long* (2005), he describes his childhood and career and chronicles his return to Bamberg. His research into the death of the community is detailed in *Juden in Bamberg: die Jahrzehnte vor dem Holocaust* (1999; 2nd edition 2000).

From 1980 onwards he made regular visits to Bamberg to research his family history. He wrote his 'Letter from Bamberg', connecting with émigrés from around the world. In his autobiography he described an intense need to remember. Almost everything he did at the end of the nineties was concerned with remembrance of the Bamberg community. He wanted to address what he saw as a deficit of local knowledge and an inadequate awareness of the past. His activities included education in the town's high schools supported by the mayor's office, the erection of a synagogue memorial monument, and the installation of memorial panels for Bamberg victims of the Holocaust in the prayer hall of the cemetery.

In 1950 Herbert married Annalise Wertheimer. She survives him, together with their three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Naomi Baker (née Loeb1)

Susan Clara Lustig (née Cohn), born Breslau 29 April 1921 – died Muswell Hill, London 11 March 2013

Susan Lustig, the only child of Georg and Ilse Cohn, fled Nazi Germany and immigrated to Britain on a domestic permit in July 1939. Having lost her job because her employer 'did not want a German in the house' after the outbreak of war, she took up a post with an émigré dentist, also originally from Breslau.

In 1943 she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, her first posting being to Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In December 1943, following an interview at the War Office, she was transferred to a top-secret unit in the Intelligence Corps, first at Latimer House and then at Wilton Park in Buckinghamshire. The unit was also known as Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Service, part of MI19. Here German émigrés, headed by MI6 officer Colonel Thomas Kendrick, were bugging the conversations of German prisoners-of-war for British Intelligence. Susan was immediately promoted to Sergeant and worked on prisoners' personal classified intelligence files. She was required to sign the Official Secrets Act.

It was at MI19 that Susan met fellow refu-

gee Fritz Lustig, who became her husband of 67 years. Fritz was one of those who worked in the 'M Room', bugging prisoners' conversations. In June 1945 they married. After the war Susan learned that her mother had been included in one of the first groups of Jews in Breslau to be rounded up in November 1941 and deported. Her mother was taken to Kaunas, Lithuania, where she was among the thousands of Jews killed in mass executions.

Immediately after leaving the army, Susan worked for the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations in London, where she was among a group of staff who met King George VI. She then took a series of secretarial and administrative jobs while bringing up her two sons. In 1960 the family moved to Reading, where she worked for 15



years as school secretary at Hugh Faringdon Roman Catholic School.

Susan's life was dominated by her love for her family, her friends and food. For many years she was one of the principal cooks at Music Camp, a legendary institution among British musicians, where she fed many young performers who went on to become household names, among them the conductors Sir Colin Davis and Sir Roger Norrington. She was also for many years a keen amateur singer and a member of various choirs in Reading.

Susan is survived by her husband Fritz, two sons – BBC broadcaster Robin and publisher Stephen – and two grandchildren.

Helen Fry

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LETTER FROM ISRAEL

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

Singing along – Israel in a different light

By a strange coincidence, I found myself in three separate situations within the space of one month in which I was required to sing along – an activity in which I am not usually prone to participate. All three situations occurred in very different circumstances and were far from unpleasant, but I think they each show the society of modern Israel in a new and different light.

The first occasion was the annual gala evening laid on by the Israel Museum for its hundreds of volunteers. For a variety of reasons (demographic, medical, sociological), most of these volunteers seem to be female and of retirement age or more. Having been among their number for the last five or six years, I can also vouch for the general high level of culture, affability and intelligence of this group. Of course, there is a sprinkling of men among them, but they are a definite minority.

As is customary, the evening consisted of an hour or so of entertainment followed by a dinner. The entertainment segment of the evening started off with congratulatory speeches from various members of the Museum's directorate and the volunteers'

organisation, followed by a musical interlude.

This year the music was provided by five young men calling themselves The Magical Mystery Tour and – yes – they played a medley of songs by the Beatles. As is obvious from the ages of the volunteers, many of them were young when the Beatles first burst onto the scene and thus feel quite attached to that kind of music. Even the most ardent adherent of classical music, such as myself, feels a certain affinity for those songs.

But the band on the stage were not content with playing their guitars and singing the songs. They invited us all to sing and clap together with them and – better still – dance in the aisles. No one who was there that evening will forget the sound of dozens of ladies of a certain age belting out 'She Loves You, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah' and 'I Wanna Hold Your Hand', or the sight of the more adventurous among them standing up and wriggling and writhing where they stood.

The second occasion was at a concert in the village of Abu Ghosh just outside Jerusalem. The church there hosts choral

concerts throughout the year. At the concert I attended, the Stuttgart Chamber Choir sang cantatas by Bach and Buxtehude. The choir is semi-professional and its singing is of the highest quality. But lo and behold, when the audience demanded an encore the conductor turned round to us and explained that the driver of the bus that had taken them around Israel each year for the last ten years had taught them an Israeli song they would like to sing to us. After the choir had given a touching rendition (in Hebrew) of 'Eli, Eli', the conductor exhorted the audience to join in, which we duly did. Nothing could have been more surreal, or more touching, than to hear an Israeli audience singing that song in a church in an Arab village together with a choir from Germany.

And the last occasion, in that same month, was the first concert of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra subscription series in Jerusalem's Binyanei HaOoma, a huge auditorium which can accommodate almost 2,000 people. The conductor, Zubin Mehta, is originally from India but is virtually considered an Israeli due to his longstanding association with the IPO. Since it was the first concert of the series it began with the national anthem, *Hatikva*. At the familiar drumroll everyone stood up and, accompanied by the orchestra, sang the words that have meant so much to so many people for so many years. It never fails to move me.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *cont. from p.7*

I first befriended Charles some 14 years ago, at Beth Shalom, currently the Holocaust Education Centre, where I gave talks to students. On occasion he and I would give a joint talk, I about my 'adventures' on the run in wartime Poland, and Charles about his 'bigamous marriages' to Jewish women. He would smuggle each woman across the French border into neutral Spain. At the frontier, as police passed through the carriages checking papers, Charles and his 'current bride' would embrace passionately in a dark corner, as newly-weds do. He finally had to flee France when the Gestapo almost caught up with him and his game.

After the war, Charles, a tall, good-looking man, became a Hollywood

bit-actor, with roles in many Hollywood productions, alongside such actors as Alan Ladd. I feel sure some readers here would recognise his face, if not his name. I once asked him in front of an adult audience if any of his 'brides' expected him to consummate their marriage Needless to say, the room erupted in laughter! Charles was nominated for the Righteous among the Nations award at a ceremony on one Holocaust Day in London.

Rubin Katz, London NW11

ISRAEL WARTS AND ALL

Sir – Please could your 'Letter from Israel' column be about life there as it is, problems and all? Is your columnist afraid of censorship? The Journal is good at

publishing conflicting opinions! Or does she wish to create the impression that life in Israel is no different from that in north-west London? One reads good books, goes to concerts, visits museums, where there are groups of schoolchildren from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, and meets Muslims in shopping centres.

Is the area east of Jerusalem (or indeed is Israel) the safest place for the valuable books mentioned in April's 'Letter from Israel' – a possible war zone on one side and among blinkered fundamentalists on the other?

I hope to provoke letters from various age groups as well as various points of view from Israelis taking an active part in the life of their country!

Bettina Cohn, Bristol

Published by The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), a company limited by guarantee.

Registered office: Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL

Registered in England and Wales with charity number: 1149882 and company number: 8220991

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Printed by FBprinters LLP, 26 St Albans Lane, London NW11 7QB Tel: 020 8458 3220 Email: info@fbprinters.com