

AJR journal

The Association of Jewish Refugees

Jews, minorities and anti-Semitism in Britain today

Recent events in some European countries have created something of a climate of fear among those Jewish communities that now feel themselves under threat. Both the terrorist outrages in Paris in January 2015, which began with the attack on the magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, and that in Copenhagen in February 2015, which began with an attack on a group discussing art, blasphemy and freedom of expression, ended with attacks on Jewish targets – a kosher supermarket and a synagogue respectively. In particular, in the Jewish communities of France and Belgium, where four people were killed in an attack on the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May 2014, the rate of emigration to Israel and elsewhere has increased to the extent that the future of those communities has been called into question.

Those atrocities were carried out by Islamist extremists. The Muslim communities in France and Belgium are largely composed of immigrants (and their descendants) originating from the countries of north Africa, which also contained substantial Jewish populations until the end of French colonial rule, in Morocco and Tunisia in 1956 and in Algeria in 1962. The Jewish population then left, much of it joining the exodus of the French non-Arab population (the *Pieds-Noirs*) to France. As the Jewish and Muslim communities had lived in close proximity to one another in cities like Algiers and Oran, the tensions between them that had already been in existence there were transferred to France, following the substantial emigration to that country of Muslim Arabs from north Africa that created a community now numbering several million.

In Britain, the Muslim community is largely drawn from Pakistan and Bangladesh, countries with little or no historical tradition of anti-Semitism. Relations between the Jewish and Muslim communities in this country are accordingly less fraught than in France, and there has been no equivalent to the murderous attacks on Jewish people and institutions launched by French-born or French-domiciled Islamists. One should, of course, beware of over-optimism: we all

remember that many people considered it well-nigh unthinkable that British Muslims would ever undertake a terrorist outrage on home soil – until 7 July 2005, the day of the Tube and bus bombs in London.

But what of anti-Semitism among the 'native' British population? Overt levels of anti-Semitism are low in this country when compared to, say, France or Belgium, where hostility to Jews has historically been stronger and more deeply rooted. This is not to deny that anti-Semitism exists in Britain, but physical attacks on Jewish people by 'native' British aggressors are mercifully rare, while the derogatory term 'Jewboy', commonplace



even in polite society in the 1930s, has all but disappeared from public discourse. Anti-Semitic feeling appears to arise mostly where Jews have a high profile as outsiders or are perceived as an exotic, alien presence. That is especially the case in areas with substantial Orthodox or ultra-Orthodox communities like Stamford Hill in London, scene of a recent attack on a synagogue by a group of drunken young people. With the British National Party, the repository of such swastika-waving anti-Semitism as remains in Britain, currently at an all-time low, the threat to Britain's Jewish communities from that quarter would appear to have diminished significantly.

I should make it clear that for the purposes of this article I am distinguishing between anti-Semitism as hatred of Jews pure and simple, which has existed for millennia, long antedating the founding of the state of Israel, and what has become known as anti-

Zionism, hostility towards Jews on account of their alleged identification with Israel and the policies of the Israeli government. I do so even though the two forms of prejudice often overlap and cannot always be disentangled.

I would argue that anti-Semitism is a particularly ugly excrescence that feeds on a larger body of hatred and prejudice against ethnic minorities in general. The Jewish refugees from Hitler who fled to this country after 1933 sometimes experienced the raw reality of this poisonous brew. An example was the young Charles Hannam, born Karl Hartland in Essen, who described in the second and third volumes of his autobiography, *Almost an Englishman* and *Outsider Inside*, the intense and vicious racial prejudice he encountered when serving with the British Army in Burma and India. Hannam's fellow soldiers appear to have harboured a visceral, deep-seated hatred and contempt for everything connected to the native population.

Writing of himself in the third person, Hannam states: 'Both the officers and the men he lived with had attitudes towards the Indians, their civilization and their customs that contained the same mixture of contempt, hate and ignorance that the Nazis had shown towards the Jews.' When he gave a lecture to his comrades on famine in India and ended by asking them 'And you don't want the Indians to starve, do you?', he received the loud and unanimous response 'Oh yes we f***** do!' All too aware that this reservoir of racial prejudice might easily be redirected against Jews, Hannam was at pains to conceal his origins from his comrades throughout the years of his wartime service.

That kind of crude, lower-class racial prejudice has continued to lurk below the surface of British society since the war, only partially driven underground by the race relations legislation that has been enacted since the 1960s, and erupting periodically into public view. In April 1968, London dockers demonstrated in support of Enoch Powell with the chant 'Paint them black and send them back.'

Jews, minorities and anti-Semitism in Britain today *continued*

Earlier this year, video footage appeared of English football supporters, Chelsea fans, apparently preventing an African man by force from boarding the Paris metro, while proclaiming their pride in their racist views. Shortly afterwards, another group of football supporters, West Ham fans, were reported to have shouted highly offensive anti-Semitic chants while heading to a match against Tottenham Hotspur, a team with strong Jewish associations. Again, the potential for the racial prejudice prevalent among such groups to be targeted against Jews, rather than against more visibly 'alien' minority groups, came to the fore.

Prejudice against minorities flourishes at times of febrile and inflamed nationalism. In the general election campaign of May 2015, foreign affairs played a notably small role but, when the outside world did intrude on the parochial concerns of the British media, it was mostly presented in such figures as workshy migrants exploiting the National Health Service (a service that would collapse overnight without its immigrant doctors, nurses and cleaners) or as an indistinct but threatening horde gathering to menace 'our' borders. Such views seem to stem from a curious combination of a loudly trumpeted sense of British superiority over other, lesser breeds and a deep-seated insecurity bred by the long decline in Britain's power and standing in the world and its problematic adjustment to its post-imperial situation. Though Jews have not been the prime targets of the xenophobia latent in these attitudes, that is no reason for complacency: people who go around shouting 'We're racist, we're racist and that's the way we like it' are hardly likely to form the most solid bulwark against any future wave of anti-Semitism.

The political discourse of the May 2015 election was also not always reassuring to Jews. Some will have been alarmed to hear a minister of the Crown attacking the Leader of the Opposition by claiming that he was prepared to 'stab his country in the back'. Any Jew with a passing knowledge of modern European history would have

recognised this phrase as one of the most potent founding myths of Nazi propaganda, which took up with fatally telling effect the false claim that Germany had never been defeated on the battlefield in November 1918 but had been 'stabbed in the back' by Jews and Socialists on the home front – the *Novemberverbrecher* (November criminals) on whom vengeance must be wrought.

Some AJR members will also remember how the argument that immigrants are taking scarce resources from native British people – in itself a not unreasonable point of view – can, in unscrupulous hands, be given a racist slant and turned against Jews. In autumn 1945, anti-Semitic groups of the far right sought to use the housing shortage in the then Borough of Hampstead to rid the area of its large contingent of refugee Jews. A petition was launched, demanding the repatriation of German and Austrian refugees to their countries of origin, in order to free up accommodation for British people returning to the borough from war service. What became known as the 'anti-alien petition' was signed by over 2,000 local residents but eventually collapsed ignominiously in face of determined resistance from the liberal elements prominent in the borough. That did not stop similar arguments being deployed, and against similar targets. In 1953, opposing the admission of East European Jews, the Fascist leader Oswald Mosley wrote in *Union*, the publication of his Union Movement: 'They will make no better citizens of Britain than the flood that reached our shores in the 1930s. Let us put the British people first.'

Anthony Grenville

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SCOTLAND REGIONAL EDINBURGH WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015

**Our keynote speaker
Agnes Hirschi,
the daughter of Carl Lutz, is coming
from Switzerland to join us**

**The title of her talk is
'Swiss Diplomat Carl Lutz
on Dangerous Missions'**



Carl Lutz, Swiss Vice-Consul in Budapest from 1942 until the end of WWII, is credited with saving over 62,000 Jews, the largest rescue operation of Jews of the war.

Please bring along your family

Lunch will be provided

There will also be discussion groups and the opportunity to socialise with friends old and new

*For full details and an application form,
please telephone Agnes Isaacs
on 07908 156361
or email agnes@ajr.org.uk*

NORTHERN REGIONAL LEEDS TUESDAY 21 JULY 2015

**Our keynote speaker will be
Dr James Smith,
Co-Founder of the Beth Shalom
National Holocaust Centre and
Museum, who will speak on
'Cultural Genocide: Did the World
Learn from the Destruction of
Germany's Jews?'**

The day will include refreshments and lunch, discussion groups and an opportunity to meet and socialise with friends old and new.

*For full details and an application form,
please contact
Wendy Bott on 07908 156365 or at
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VIVE LA DIFFÉRENCE!

Some months ago I spent a few days with friends in Augsburg and I soon became aware that something was missing. What was it? Of course, there were only white faces! A city without immigrants. Much as I loved my friends' company, I was glad to get back to the diversity of multi-ethnic London.

As I am writing this, we are a month away from a general election and, along with the NHS and the economy, immigration is supposedly one of the issues that concerns voters most. Consequently, rattled by the rise of UKIP, the two main parties are vying with each other in their promises to stem the flow of people settling in Britain, despite the findings of several independent enquiries that immigrants benefit this country.

Well, I can only speak of London, but how would this great city fare without migrant workers?

Closest to home, neither I nor any of my friends would have a cleaner. There are certain jobs the British simply don't want to do.

That I am sitting here in front of my computer, that I wasn't gassed, shot or starved to death in the 1940s, is due not to the compassion of the British government for someone in mortal danger but solely to the fact that the middle class was desperately short of domestic servants.

Do you remember Gordon Brown's ill-fated proclamation 'British jobs for British workers'? Well, according to two BBC documentaries, British workers are, for instance, totally unwilling to pick fruit or wait at tables in restaurants. If employers want the jobs done they have to look elsewhere.

Let me just describe one fairly ordinary day in my life. I get on a bus. The driver is black. I shop in a supermarket. At least half the staff are of Asian or African/Caribbean origin. Even at the bank, I have an interview with a young Polish woman. In the evening I visit a dear friend who, sadly, has been in a wheelchair for well over three years. There are six of us: one man – our host Ernst – and five women, three of whom are guests and two

are carers. Ernst arrived in Britain from Germany at the age of 13 in 1936 and was joined by his parents and younger brother a year later. He did well at school and got a scholarship to Cambridge and eventually became a professor of mathematics. Of the five women, only one, Jeannie, Ernst's gardener, was born in Britain, of an English-Jewish father and a Catholic-Spanish mother. I, as I believe you know, was born in Vienna and the third guest, Marsha, a psychologist, is an American Jew. Of the two carers, Nesa comes from the Philippines and Jan is South African.

So, as you can see, there isn't a true Brit among us. Yet I think that none of us has ever been a burden on this country. I worked from the day I arrived in England to the day I retired; Ernst had a brilliant career and, by all accounts, became an outstanding teacher; Jeannie and Marsha are still working incredibly hard; and would Ernst get such excellent care if it weren't for people like Nesa and Jan? Of all the agency carers he has had, not one was British.

Of course, not all immigrants are saints. There are spongers, criminals and yes, let's face it, terrorists among them and I abhor some of the practices they have imported, such as forced marriages and FGM. But, on the whole, I think, whether they have come here as asylum seekers or for a better standard of living, they are prepared to work hard and are trying to assimilate.

And, quite apart from the fact that – to give just two examples – the NHS and public transport in London would collapse without foreign workers, this great city would be so much less interesting without migrants. Even my great-niece, born and bred in Paris and who loves her native city, admitted that London was more exciting than Paris.

Give me multicultural, multilingual, vibrant London any time, and you can keep uniform, boring places like Augsburg.

Yes, *vive la différence!*

Edith Argy



Visit to Brooklands Museum, home of Concorde

Tuesday 30 June 2015

The first UK meeting between Great Britain and France to discuss Concorde took place at Brooklands and more than 30 per cent of every Concorde airframe, British and French, was manufactured here.

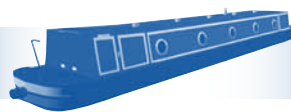
Now her flying days are over, Concorde G-BBDG is at Brooklands Museum. The first aircraft ever to carry 100 people at twice the speed of sound – 1,350 mph – she arrived at Brooklands in 2004 and, after a two-year restoration, largely by volunteers, was officially opened by HRH Prince Michael of Kent in July 2006.

Join us for a visit to the Museum. Sit inside Concorde. Lunch and refreshments included.

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

Visit to the London Canal Museum

Thursday 16 July 2015



At the London Canal Museum you can see inside a narrow boat cabin and learn about the history of London's canals, the cargoes carried, the people who lived and worked on the waterways, and the horses that pulled their boats.

Peer down into the unique heritage of a huge Victorian ice well used to store ice imported from Norway and brought by ship and canal boat.

This unique waterways museum is housed in a former ice warehouse built in about 1862-3 for Carlo Gatti, the famous ice cream maker, and features the history of the ice trade and ice cream as well as the canals.

Following on from this visit we will have lunch in a nearby restaurant.

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

MEMORIES OF HILDE

My mother, Hilde Schueler, née Susskind, escaped to England from Cologne on a domestic permit in 1939. She left behind her mother, two brothers and everything she ever knew. She never saw them again! Her position as cook and home help, which enabled her to leave Nazi Germany and come to England, was a tribute to her resourcefulness. She always claimed to us that she had 'never even cooked an egg' before her arrival in England!

On the day she left Germany her mother presented her with two recipe books – 'one for best cooking', the other for 'everyday'. They became her bible, though it must have been a huge culture shock to be cooking for English palates. I still have her 'everyday' book.

Food became a defining element in my mother's life after the war. Visits could rarely be spontaneous because meals needed to be planned – her table always overflowed and no one was allowed to leave remotely hungry. If anything was left on the plate they would be chastised: 'What's the matter – are you on a diet?' Woe betide you if you announced you were full: 'Oh no, what am I supposed to do with all this food!' It never occurred to her to cook less.

She had a disdain for 'English cooking', as she called it. Based no doubt on her refugee memories when she first arrived in an England suffering war rations, everything seemed watered down and tasteless. Even in the last months of her life, when she lived in her very grand nursing home, she managed to complain about the menu and the blandness of the food – voicing again her mantra 'The English can't cook!'

I was never aware of mum measuring anything – she either guessed, or used a table spoon, though the results were usually delicious. Chicken soup and broiled chicken were our comfort foods and medicine for all ills, physical and emotional alike. It had to be kosher chicken, mind you! We never kept a kosher home, but she was adamant that nothing less than a proper kosher chicken would suffice and would travel miles to obtain one.

She firmly believed that vegetables needed to be boiled to extinction. This was always a constant source of conflict between us as I watched even



frozen vegetables turn to mush under my mother's strict regime. She was convinced that current-day pesticides used in growing vegetables were dangerous and was determined to ensure they were properly destroyed. Once cooked though, everything was doused in butter so, if we didn't succumb to the chemicals, our arteries took the strain.

Hilde was expert in cooking duck. No one – not even her daughters – could cook duck as well as she could and she didn't hesitate to tell us so – often! Many a time I tried to prove I could match her expertise but somehow, whenever I tried, the duck just didn't work. Either too tough or too dry or any of a long list of failings. Even now, over eight years since her death, I hesitate before buying duck, still hearing her voice in my head.

Throughout her life in England budgets were tight, especially when my father took early retirement due to ill health. However, mother was very fussy about where she shopped. She had a repertoire of different outlets for different food products. Marks and Spencer was top of her list and even Selfridges Food Hall. She thought nothing of bussing up to Oxford Street to buy a *challa* from Selfridges.

As children we were taught to appreciate everything that was put in front of us and were in serious trouble if we made a fuss or refused to eat something. It was served up again the next day, and even the next, until we summoned up the courage to eat it!! And pudding certainly did not feature on the menu if the main dish was not eaten up!

At the end of the war my parents moved to London and mother supplemented the family income throughout the 50s by taking a part-time job. She joined a small catering company run by the formidable Mrs

Mandel, catering for bar mitzvahs and weddings. Most of her work was at weekends so my father took over my mother's role as child minder and cook at home. On reflection, this must have been quite unusual for those times. One of my earliest memories is the incongruity of living in a post-war slum with no bathroom or running hot water and a shared toilet with three other families, and mum coming home on Sunday evenings with lots of luxurious food and left-overs. I am recorded as uttering the immortal line 'Oh, not smoked salmon again!' on one such evening.

To me, Mrs Mandel seemed such a sophisticated wealthy lady. She originally came from Vienna and ran the catering company from her smart one-room flat in Marble Arch. This room was multi-faceted. It was her office (complete with telephone), her sitting room (two armchairs and coffee table arranged around a two-bar built-in electric fire), and her bedroom, with a huge double bed with lots of soft cushions and fringes. It took up the majority of the room. She was the epitome of sophistication to my child's eyes. I was fascinated by the full-sized crocodile skin (body and head) lying on her bed, her very smart clothes and wonderful furs. Looking back, I realise that her lifestyle and the 'company' were all faux. The 'company' was merely a collection of part-timers who, like my mum, were all refugees looking for pin money. They were all paid in cash and occasional tips from grateful customers. I later learned that Mrs M had assumed the title of Mrs because she felt it would be better for business. So far as we know, there never was a Mr Mandel. It was nevertheless quite a brave thing for a single lady to do in the 1950s.

Mum's main role was to decorate and design the *hors d'oeuvres*, salads and open sandwiches for Mrs M's creations. She quickly became an expert in the use of slices of cucumber to create flowers which sat on potato salads. Under mum's deft hand, a buffet table was quickly transformed into a mouth-watering gourmet display. Even in her 80s, she still loved to show her culinary skills, helping to prepare teas at the St John's Wood Synagogue in Abbey Road.

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REMEMBERING HANNERL

What a week of Holocaust programmes on TV it was back in April! Just when we felt we had been sated with black-and-white footage of living skeletal figures moving like ghosts across our screens, came another horrific testimony from a survivor – and more footage of the barely living and dead.

Why do we keep on watching, reading, listening?

'You shouldn't – it all happened so long ago!', cry our grandchildren. For them it was all back in the Middle Ages. My partner Frank Beck and I are nevertheless compelled to bear witness once again, even if only to hold hands and remind each other once again how lucky we were. How easily it could have been us.

The televised film and documentary of the Eichmann trial was one such reminder. It packed a powerful punch although not a whiff of Hollywood went into its making. One of the last scenes in the production was a recreation of an interview with a Belsen survivor living in Israel. There was a close-up of the tattoo on her forearm, the number which had been given her when she no longer had a name.

'After we were released and I came out to live in this community,' the Belsen survivor tells the interviewer, 'no one seemed to want to know where I had come from, where I had been. When the media finally opened up, years later, and the world was flooded with films and books, when there was television in people's homes, then suddenly there was a big interest in stories like mine. It became almost chic to be associated with the Holocaust. Survivors vied with one another to tell their tales. What had been rather distasteful – not to be discussed in public – was almost shouted from the rooftops. The unbelievable suddenly became believed. But for me,' she finishes, 'it

was too late.'

And I was overcome by a sudden deep flush of guilt as I thought of Hannerl.

I was 17, she 30, when we were introduced to each other. She hadn't long been in England and her elderly father had been looking for company for her, young people to go out with. I knew very little about the family, other

I sat with Hannerl over coffee one afternoon and asked her, tentatively, why she had never told me what had happened to her. 'You know, darling,' she said gently, 'when I first needed to talk, nobody wanted to listen. And after a while I no longer needed to.'

than that her father had escaped to England from Vienna, leaving his family to follow. It was only after the war that Hannerl was able to do that, having lost her mother and younger sister in Theresienstadt. I was never told, nor had I asked, the circumstances of her coming over. She never volunteered information, nor had I encouraged it. Incredible now, thinking back.

We fell into an easy friendship, an intimate relationship, based on the fact that I was the youngest of a large family, three of my siblings having recently left home to live abroad. For me Hannerl became a confidante, never a rival, but a loving friend. And I, though it was years before I realised it, must have been a sort of replacement (albeit, I fear, a poor one) for the sister she had lost.

Outwardly Hannerl was always cheerful, agreeing to come to parties, concerts and dances with me, popular

with the crowds I mixed in. We went to the seaside for weekends, sharing a double room and big bed, giggling like schoolgirls, talking about boys and dates. We went to the cinema and discussed silly film stars. I was never aware that she was not an ordinary, carefree young girl like me. I did know that Hannerl was excessively attached to her father, careful of his health and well-being, concerned about his heart condition. At some point during his flight from Vienna and settling in London, he had acquired a companion, a kindly and competent Viennese lady who looked after him well, so that Hannerl was able to go to work and go out.

The age difference between us never mattered. We moved in a largely Viennese refugee circle and even went dinner-dancing on double dates. When I went to New York at the age of 19, I left behind not only my dear Hannerl but also my Viennese boyfriend. When I returned to London after a six-month absence, Hannerl had become engaged to an older Viennese man and I was able to attend their wedding.

At some point during the later post-war years, when we were both married, I with children, there had been another spate of Holocaust literature. I sat with Hannerl over coffee one afternoon and asked her, tentatively, why she had never told me what had happened to her.

'You know, darling,' she said gently, 'when I first needed to talk, nobody wanted to listen. And after a while I no longer needed to.'

I am still deeply ashamed that I never asked her directly, thinking, in my ignorance and mislaid sensitivity, that it seemed better not to broach the subject.

Even though Hannerl has been dead for over 40 years, I still regret it.

Mary Brainin Hutterer



MEMORIES OF HILDE *cont. from p.4*

Mum survived separation from all that she knew and made a life for herself (and us) in a strange land. She then nursed her husband throughout a long illness before enjoying the role of grandmother to my own children. Until the last year of her life, she still lived in the flat in Maida Vale she and Alfons had made their home for most of their married life. Her eyesight and hearing deteriorated considerably and her food repertoire

became much narrower. However, she continued to cook and bake every day for herself and her visitors. We cannot eat apple strudel or smoked salmon without her ghost making sure it is prepared properly

Throughout her life, she remained positive and sought only the good. When asked why she employed as a cleaner a young girl who couldn't speak English so well, she would simply say 'I remember!' Hers is not a

story of remarkable bravery or heroic acts, but her refusal to be cowed by circumstances and her determination to make a life in the face of much hardship stand as a testament to those unheralded refugees who merely 'got on with it'.

We miss her terribly: Hilde Schueler, née Susskind, 29 September 1911 – 4 March 2007.

**Yvonne Susan Maxwell
(née Schueler)**



Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication

PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Sir – I was both saddened and shocked by the letter from Bronia Snow (April) regarding the government's commitment of £50 million to preserve the memory of the Holocaust.

This gesture, supported by all parties, to commemorate the greatest crime in the history of the world is to be greatly welcomed, especially by all those directly affected by it. The purpose of the proposed National Memorial and Learning Centre is not only to remember what happened but also to ensure that nothing similar can ever happen again to any group of people simply because of their religion, race or colour.

There is a great deal of ignorance – especially among young people – about the terrible events which particularly, but not exclusively, affected our people, and unfortunately racism and anti-Semitism are again on the increase. Any resources used in combating this is money well spent.

Bronia Snow's suggestion that the £50 million would be better spent on increasing our defence budget would have an entirely negligible effect – much more could be achieved in this respect by more efficiency and better allocation of resources.

George Vulkan, Harrow

'PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT' FOR NATURALISATION OF EX-REFUGEES

Sir – In Anthony Grenville's interesting article (April) on the treatment of previous general elections by *AJR Information*, he also refers to the naturalisation of ex-refugees. I should like to add that at the end of March 1946 an Army Council Instruction was issued according to which ex-refugees from Germany and Austria who were in the Army would be given 'preferential treatment' if they applied for naturalisation.

Special forms were issued by the Army authorities, which we had to complete and which then had to be counter-signed by the Commanding Officer. I was still in uniform, serving with the BAOR (British Army of the Rhine) in Germany, and of course filled in the application form. Even so, it took until May 1947 before my naturalisation came through.

At that time, married women could not be naturalised in their own right, and my wife, who had been in the ATS from 1943 to 1945, had to wait until I became a British citizen before she was also naturalised as my spouse. This delay worried us a lot as she was employed by the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations in London, who issued a booklet with the names and nationalities of all their staff. The British Government did not recognise the Nazi decree depriving us of our German nationality, so officially we were still considered 'German nationals' in

this country. Obviously it was impossible for my wife to be described as 'German' in the UN booklet so eventually her name appeared as the only one without a nationality behind it. I had tried to press the War Office to accelerate the granting of my application for naturalisation, but without success.

Fritz Lustig, London N10

'THE JOYS OF ADS'

Sir – George Vulkan (April) claims to have lived in a boarding house at 3 Adamson Road during the Blitz. He must obviously have meant Boarding House Sachs, which was at 4 Adamson Road (later converted into the Swiss Cottage Hotel) and an additional house just across the road at number 9 (later taken over by the AJR). I do remember the delicatessen shop Kallir too.

As for Francis Steiner's letter, Dr Michaelis certainly did practise as an orthopaedic specialist or bonesetter here in Swiss Cottage. My mother used to swear by him. I remember him too as well as his middle-aged German-born Jewish nurse quite clearly. Such a friendly place!

As for Anthony Grenville's front-page article 'The joys of advertisements', I found it interesting to read that Peter Herz returned to his native Vienna as long ago as 1953. I never found him funny or entertaining with his standard 'Ich wünsche Ihnen eine Peter Herzliche Unterhaltung!' (I wish you Peter Herz-ish Entertainment). I used to find the Laterndl

on a far superior level of entertainment – some real talents there!

I remember many of the businesses mentioned. So strange to see all those names of long ago come to life again as it were!

Mr Breuer, the typewriter repair man, used to come to our office at the Yugoslav Government-in-Exile, I recall. He was Croatian-born himself.

As for that fur shop, I'm not sure if it was the one my mother used to take her furs to each spring to be repaired and taken care of till the winter – a good idea. The shop was near West Hampstead Tube Station.

I also remember seeing the name Hallgarten advertising German wines a lot.

Margarete Stern, London NW3

Sir – I was interested to read Anthony Grenville's very good article 'The joys of advertisements' on the front page of your March 2015 edition. He references my grandparents' chocolate shop Ackermans, saying the first shop was opened in Kensington High Street (in fact, I think it was Kensington Church Street) and the second in Goldhurst Terrace. I always thought it was the other way round. I was wondering if Anthony had a particular source for this?

Michael Rose, London NW6

Anthony Grenville: Michael Rose is right that the shop was in Kensington Church Street. But I'm right in saying that the Kensington branch came first. I obtained all my information from the ads in the back issues of AJR Information, where in December 1956, page 3, Ackerman's Chocolates of 43 Kensington Church Street announced the opening of their new Hampstead branch in Goldhurst Terrace.

Sir – My sister Ann Stanton and I wanted to express our appreciation, albeit belatedly, of Anthony Grenville's including our late father Mac Goldsmith (Max Goldschmidt) in his interesting article.

Metallastik was already 'of national importance' during the Second World War and became the largest European producer of specialised metal to rubber-bonded components in the 1950s until taken over by Dunlop.

John D. Goldsmith, Pfaeffikon, Switzerland

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE FOR YOUNG JEWS IN NAZI GERMANY

Sir – It may be of interest to some of your readers to know that an interview with me by Mark Lucas has been made into a film. My eldest granddaughter, Joanna Gibbons, organised the film so that my family (I have 11 great-grandchildren) can learn what life was like for young Jews under the Nazi government in Germany. A short version of the film can be seen on YouTube.

I am now nearly 94 years old and my

four children and nine grandchildren are all very involved with our history.

I came to Scotland with my mother as domestics. We were fortunate not to be arrested in Germany and to be able to start a new life in a tolerant country.

Ruth Young, Sidcup, Kent

SHARING CHILDHOOD RECOLLECTIONS

Sir – I have just returned from a Pesach break in Brighton, where I met many friendly people, but I was especially delighted to find quite a number of AJR members with whom to reminisce about our childhood years. I can remember so many songs from those early years like 'Kommt ein Vogel geflogen' or 'Es klappert die Mühle', but the one that really always unites us is 'Hänschen klein ging allein'.

It must be a curious sight indeed to see a number of elderly people singing children's songs but it does bring back happy memories before the Nazi years destroyed our youthful innocence.

It always gives me great pleasure to meet fellow AJR members. I feel we have a great bond and it gives me the happy opportunity to share many of my childhood recollections.

(Mrs) Meta Roseneil, Buckhurst Hill

A PUBLICATION FOR EX-REFUGEES?

Sir – In your May issue, Henri Obstfeld accuses me of misrepresentation for my statement that the *AJR Journal* is produced by ex-refugees for ex-refugees. This gentleman confesses never to have been a refugee – which is, or was, his good luck.

As for the Second Generation of AJR members, whom I am accused of overlooking, they are simply the descendants of ex-refugees – no more no less.

E. G. Kolman, Greenford, Middx

300 KINDER

Sir – Leslie Baruch Brent, in his review of Michele Gold's book *Memories That Won't Go Away*, regrets that only some 300 Kinder were mentioned and wonders how Michele Gold selected these Kinder.

Two or three years ago, I came across her request in the Kindertransport section of the AJR for Kinder to contact her as she intended to write a book. I replied and sent her my story. I assume that is how she acquired most of the names. In some cases, she was only able to produce a name and dates.

The book is a wonderfully original one and a fine addition to the many Kindertransport accounts we will all have read. Looking at the beautiful young faces pictured in the book, one feels an enormous sense of gratitude to the many kind people who gave the children a home, thus saving them from Hitler's gas chambers. Most of these children went on to forge very successful careers and contribute to society. They married and had children and grandchildren and great-

great-grandchildren.

The parents of many children did not survive. Some managed to get to this country and work as domestic servants.

The varied adventures of those who managed to get out of Austria and Germany also make fascinating reading. Some went to France, Holland and Belgium thinking they would be safe, only to be caught in the trap once again. Some travelled to Russia, across Siberia to Vladivostok, and boarded a ship to get to Japan or China.

The book is enthralling on every level and very attractive to look at.

Bronia Snow, Esher

WHO IS A JEW?

Sir – I refer to Professor Brent's recent review of Shlomo Sand's book *How I Stopped Being a Jew* in your journal. I agree that Mr Sand's views lack intellectual rigour as he dislikes Israeli policies but will not divest himself of citizenship while yet attempting to divest himself of Judaism. Who is a Jew has been and remains a recurring topic.

Why is it that people who dislike the idea that they are classed as Jews and want to be dissociated from them have such an obsession with the wrongs in Israeli society and are ever ready to join the UN Human Rights group (a misnomer considering its members), and anti-Semites in general, in their strictures against Israel while totally ignoring the awful wrongs and literally thousands of deaths in other parts? There are many things wrong in Israel but words such as genocide and apartheid so freely used are really beyond the pale.

I feel that what should always be borne in mind is that no one, whether a Christian convert or not, had the luxury of resigning from 'Jewry' – whatever it means – during the Holocaust or the expulsions from France in 1182, from England, from Spain, Vienna in 1670 or St Petersburg in 1891. It therefore appears that the world will judge who is a Jew and treat them as they will and we can discuss this question endlessly.

Hans-W. Danziger, London W4

MATTERS OF ORTHODOXY

Sir – My respect for Benjamin Netanyahu is disappearing fast, as is my love of Israel. The cabinet he has put together in his new coalition government frightens me. Members of the two ultra-orthodox religious parties – Shas and United Torah – have now been joined by Jewish Home, the party of the ultra-orthodox settlers, in important ministerial positions.

Herzl envisaged Israel as a secular state and prime ministers like Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir ran it as such. As we all know, Netanyahu will do anything to keep power. Now he is in danger of turning Israel into a religious fundamentalist state just as his Arab neighbours have done in their lands. Israel could have an 'Ayatollah' – an ultra-orthodox rabbi – taking over from Netanyahu when he finally decides to

retire. Jerusalem is already an extension of Mea Sharim. Tel Aviv and Haifa must hold out.

And, while writing about the ultra-orthodox, I must mention the Bushey *eruv*. There was very recently a nasty anti-Semitic letter in the *Watford Observer* attacking the *eruv* but I understand the objections. The Bushey United Synagogue is attempting social engineering by tempting more Jews, particularly ultra-orthodox ones, into Bushey with this *eruv*. This could well cause anti-Semitism in the small Hertfordshire town.

On a happier note, personally I am delighted with the UK election results. At least we have a prime minister who is not siding against Israel as his opponent was.

Peter Phillips, Loudwater, Herts

SECOND-CLASS SOLDIERS

Sir – As additional information to the review 'Second class soldiers' by Edward Timms (April), it may be of interest that my father, Julius Hirsch, a journalist and junior colleague of Theodor Herzl in the *Neue Freie Presse*, was the Austro-Hungarian press representative at the German headquarters with, I believe, the honorary rank of major. In those days there were not many war correspondents about. I am in possession of his book, *Aus der Mappe eines Kriegsberichterstatters* (From the Folder of a War Reporter), published in Gothic print.

Frederick Hirsch, Pinner

FRIENDS' SCHOOLS

Sir – Besides the Friends' School in Saffron Walden, the Friends' School in Great Ayton (Yorkshire) had a number of boys from Vienna and I attended it as a day girl, being fostered in the area for the first year of my arrival in the UK. As my brother, two years my senior, had already left the school with School Certificate he visited it for their open day, which happened to coincide with the day all 'enemy aliens' at the school were interned.

Following the Anschluss the Quakers were deeply involved in helping Jewish children. They apparently arranged for some to come on the Kindertransport, though I have no detailed information about this.

Eva Frean, London N3

A MUST FOR FOOTBALL FANS

Sir – Stephen Brownstone's review in your May issue of Dominic Bliss's biography of Ernő Egri Erbstein, the Jewish football manager, reminded me of an absolutely fascinating and entertaining book: *Does Your Rabbi Know You're Here?* by Anthony Clavane. This is the story of the involvement of Jews as players, administrators and owners in English professional football. I was given a signed copy by my son, who is a friend of the author, but it is a must for any of you who are football fans.

Peter Gildener, Truro

ART NOTES

GLORIA TESSLER

Cornelius Johnson (Cornelis Janssens van Ceulen, 1593-1661) was called Charles I's forgotten painter but now the **National Portrait Gallery** is rehabilitating him with its first exhibition devoted to his work (to 13 September 2015). The Gallery has trawled through its collection to include portraits of Charles's children, his successor Charles II, the future James II, and Mary, later Princess of Orange-Nassau, all painted in 1639.

In 1657 Johnson painted the future William III of Orange, only son of Charles I's widowed daughter Mary, and the young man's lugubrious face beneath his shoulder-length dark hair betrays a grimly striking resemblance to his doomed grandfather.

Cornelius Johnson's reputation was overshadowed by that of his contemporary, Sir Anthony Van Dyck, who came to London as royal painter in 1632 only to have his own British career trounced by the Civil War. But Johnson's gifts should be recognised in their own right. More than 350 years later we see how clearly he captured the siblings' similarity and lovingly recreated the lavish fabrics, the lace and voluminous sleeves of his royal sitters as civil war loomed. The almost deathly pallor of their skin contrasts with the lushness of the materials which clothed them and seems, in retrospect, a metaphor for the royal family – a doomed species on the edge of war.

Johnson portrayed other nobles too, like Thomas, first baron of Coventry, appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal by Charles I, in lavish velvet robes.

One particularly striking image is that of a notorious society beauty, Frances, Countess of Somerset (1590-1632). Divorced from Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, in 1613, she married Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, but the pair were later imprisoned on charges of poisoning Sir Thomas Overbury, who had opposed their marriage. In this painting, Johnson pays great attention to her dress, her stiff lace ruff, but does not shrink from suggesting the *femme fatale* in her wryly conniving expression. We shall never know the truth as the pair were later pardoned but, in typical *cherchez la femme* fashion, she was blamed for having brought her husband so low.

Johnson trained in the Netherlands

and after the Civil War he returned there, joining a painters' guild in Middleburg near Zeeland. Despite the toughness of the Dutch art market he succeeded and died a wealthy man.

There is a subtlety about his work and his ability to capture likeness makes him an accessible artist even to modern eyes.

No Set Rules (to 15 June 2015) includes the **Ben Uri's** own collections plus works from the **Philip Schlee Collection** and features artists working in Britain between 1920 and 2004. Nearly 50 leading artists, from **Frank Auerbach, David Bomberg, Jane Joseph, Leon Kossoff, Michael Rothenstein, Glenn Sujo and Edward Toledano** to **Gillian Ayres, David Hockney, Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland**, cover subject matter, technique and practice, from figuration to abstraction, monochrome to colour. I loved revisiting Leon Kossoff's monochromatic tumbledown *Christ Church* – more 'shetel' than Spitalfields – and Frank Auerbach's *Study for Mornington Crescent*, which shares that fragile quality, but a few tenuous slabs of colour somehow lend it permanence.



Leon Kossoff
Christ Church, Spitalfields, Spring (1992)

Annely Juda Fine Art

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

CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

REVIEWS

'Second-Generation Syndrome'

SPLINTERS FROM KRISTALLNACHT:
TWO YOUNG JEWS IN HITLER'S
GERMANY

edited by Ann Bradshaw and
Stephen Kaufmann

2014, 123 pp. paperback.

The print version and a Kindle version (without photographs) are available at Amazon.co.uk

This slim volume is self-published and contains many photographs, which are mostly interspersed among the text. The editors are children of the couple Gerda Just and Hans Kaufmann, who tell their life stories, and Ann Bradshaw has written quite a long introduction (24 pages) in which she describes their attitude to each other and to the world around them. She also states that 'we, the children of these German Jewish refugees, have our own life-long psychological scars'. It is perhaps worth pointing out that this does not apply to all ex-refugee families – my two sons, for example, do not suffer from what might be called the 'Second Generation Syndrome'.

Ann Bradshaw makes it clear that her mother came from a somewhat higher social background than her father: 'she maintained all her life that she was interested in classical music and opera, perhaps to distinguish herself from Dad, who was definitely not a "cultured person".' Gerda came from a town called Crossen an der Oder (now Krosno Odrzanskie in Poland), her father from Lichtenau, a small village in Bavaria. Hans spoke German with a Bavarian accent whereas Gerda had no accent. Hans was from an Orthodox Jewish family, which kept the Sabbath and a kosher household. After he arrived in England he continued to go to the local synagogue although professing that he was an atheist. His daughter says 'to him, his religion was his personal link with his forefathers and his former life in Lichtenau.' Gerda refused to run a kosher household: for her these food laws were outdated and were introduced only because of the hot climate in Palestine.

Gerda and Hans's children

persuaded them to write down their life stories mainly for the benefit of their grandchildren but also as historical evidence and a warning to posterity. Gerda did so when she was in her fifties, in 1976, going as far back as joining the ATS in 1943, and completed the story, after a long interval, in 1988. Gerda's story is very much longer than Hans's – over 70 pages and 11 pages respectively.

Gerda writes in great detail about their extended family and friends and about her pre-school years and also life at school, which she did not enjoy as she was not an academic type. She came to Britain with the Kindertransport and became a student nurse, which she also hated. Following the outbreak of war the ex-refugee girls at the hospital were told to leave as the hospital was turned into a military one. She then took a job in a private nursing home but never qualified as a nurse. Subsequently she became a nanny, looking after an 18-month-old boy. When she was called up for war work in 1943 she chose to join the WAAF but, unaware that the RAF did not accept 'aliens' at the time, found herself in the ATS. There she trained as a cook and worked as such, first in Bulford on Salisbury Plain and then in Ilfracombe in north Devon. She was medically downgraded in 1945 and then worked as a clerk until she got out of the ATS.

Hans's story can be summarised very briefly. He and his twin brother were the youngest of five siblings. By the end of 1934 their two elder sisters and brother had emigrated to other countries. Hans's twin brother obtained a job as an apprentice baker some 70 miles away and Hans became an apprentice painter and decorator, remaining in that business for four years. But - as a Jew - he was not allowed to take the examination making him 'officially' a trained decorator. During the Kristallnacht pogrom he was arrested and sent to Dachau concentration camp, where he remained for two-and-a-half months. His mother was able to get him released as he had obtained permission to come to Britain as a member of the advance party refurbishing Kitchener Camp at Richborough.

In January 1940 Hans joined the

Pioneer Corps and stayed in the army for six-and-a-half years. On his release he worked for a year as an employee of a painting and decorating firm and established his own business in the same trade afterwards. At about that time he married Gerda.

In the last chapter Ann Bradshaw describes very briefly – in barely two pages – conditions at the French camp Gurs, where her father's mother had been sent shortly after the war started. She survived but nothing is said about her later fate.

The lives Gerda and Hans relate are similar to those of most refugees and their stories do not include any extraordinary events or experiences. I wonder therefore whether potential readers who are not connected with the family, and particularly AJR members, would find the book interesting. Unfortunately the reproduction of most of the photographs is rather poor – if there are groups of people you cannot see their faces and on the numerous photos of documents you can hardly read a single word. Because the book is self-published no professional editor was involved and this is noticeable: the punctuation could be improved and there are some factual errors and misprints.

Fritz Lustig



**OUTING TO
REGENT'S PARK
OPEN AIR THEATRE
THURSDAY 9 JULY 2015
2.15-5.00 pm
'The Seagull'
by Chekhov**

As guests assemble at a country house for the staging of an *avant-garde* open-air play, artistic temperaments ignite a more entertaining drama behind the scenes, with romantic jealousies, self-doubt and the ruthless pursuit of happiness confusing lives, loves and literature.

Directed by Matthew Dunster and featuring Olivier Award-winner Janie Dee, 'The Seagull' was the first of Chekhov's great works and is celebrated as one of the most important plays of the nineteenth century.

Tickets £22.50 pp

In the event that 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: as long as you keep your original tickets you can attend another performance, even a year later, at a date to suit. However, no refunds will be given.

For a booking form, please contact Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or at susan@ajr.org.uk

AWARD NAMED IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR LESLIE BRENT

The Transplantation Society (TTS) has announced two new prestigious prizes to be awarded annually to the best basic science and translational science published in the journal *Transplantation*.

The Leslie B. Brent Award will be for the most outstanding paper published in *Transplantation* in the field of Basic Science research. The Anthony J. Monaco Award will be for the most outstanding paper published in *Transplantation* in the field of Translational Science research.

The Awards comprise a certificate and \$1,000 USD to the first author(s).

The winners will be featured in

the *Transplantation*, TTS *Tribune* and TTS website at www.tts.org

Professor Brent, a member of the AJR and a frequent contributor to the *AJR Journal*, is considered a pioneer in the field of tissue and organ transplantation. He was the co-author with P. B. Medawar (Nobel Prize Laureate 1960) and R. E. Billingham of a very influential publication in the 1956 *Philosophical Transactions B* of the Royal Society, a paper

that was recently selected by the Society as one of the 17 most influential papers published in the 350 years of its existence. At the age of 90, Professor Brent continues to be invited to international conferences.



'CONSULTANT FOR HUMAN HAPPINESS' Otto Neurath and post-war housing in Britain

On 27 November 1945, the Viennese mathematician, philosopher and sociologist Otto Neurath wrote what was to be his final letter to his dear friend, the architect and designer Josef Frank. The two men had collaborated since the early 1920s, when Neurath invited Frank to be the exhibition architect for his Museum for Settlement and City Planning (1923), later renamed the Museum for Society and Economy (1925). Just weeks before his sudden death from a heart attack at his Oxford home on 22 December 1945, Neurath expressed his desire for Frank to come to England and embark on an enterprise that would be similar in style and spirit to what they had accomplished in 'Red Vienna'. He was particularly excited to share the news that he had been invited to be a 'Consultant for Human Happiness' in the Black Country town of Bilston, just outside Wolverhampton.

Neurath's ideas on 'happiness' evolved out of his central role in creating new housing estates to accommodate the working-class residents of inter-war Vienna. In the late 1920s, he and Frank became the chief planners of the Austrian *Werkbund* estate (*Werkbundsiedlung*), a project intended as a critical response to the *Weissenhofsiedlung* in Stuttgart, executed by members of the German *Werkbund* in 1927. It was in the writings around the *Werkbundsiedlung* that Neurath began to talk about a 'maximum of happiness' (*Glücksmaximum*) in 'real', as opposed to 'ideal', homes. This could be accomplished only by encouraging residents to engage actively and thoughtfully with the furnishing of their own homes, with an emphasis on the power of colour and ornament to bring 'happiness' into everyday domestic life. Neurath and Frank called for modern architecture to be deeply integrated into society, far away from the abstract concepts of modernity that until 1932 had only been developed and explored

in the artistic circles of a small social and economic elite.

In 1932, just two years after the *Werkbundsiedlung* opened, both Frank and Neurath would be forced to flee the increasingly volatile political situation in Austria. Frank emigrated to Sweden and enjoyed success with *Svenskt Tenn*, the famous interior design company in Stockholm. Neurath's escape from Austro-Fascism was not as straightforward – after time spent in the Soviet Union and the Netherlands, in 1940 he arrived in Britain, where he was interned on the Isle of Man for six months before settling in Oxford. The two maintained a close friendship and corresponded regularly, although sadly they were never to meet again.

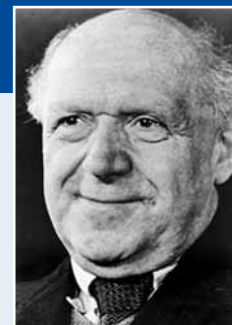
In 1945, Dr Robert Abbott, the Chairman of the West Midlands Development and Reconstruction Committee, commissioned Neurath to organise an exhibition on 'housing and happiness' in Bilston. Located in the geographical centre of the Black Country, Bilston provided a unique opportunity to apply Viennese social housing to a new context. The landscape was derelict and essentially uninhabitable due to the long history of coal mining and heavy industrialisation. In November 1945, Neurath received a formal invitation to be a consultant for the re-planning of Bilston and the following month he was appointed by Abbott to be a key advisor on the town's Health Committee, where he would work on issues of health education and rehousing. This was a situation not unlike that in Vienna following the First World War, and so Neurath, given his ground-breaking work with urban planning initiatives, was an exceptionally suitable candidate to guide this programme.

Neurath's untimely death meant that his activities in Bilston could never be fully realised; nevertheless, his ideas on 'housing and happiness' made their mark on the town and paved the way for future projects. Neurath's widow Marie Reidemeister curated a 'happiness'

exhibition in a local shop in Bilston which made use of Neurath's trademarked pictographic language Isotype, and Ella Briggs, who had

worked closely with Neurath and Frank in inter-war Vienna, would become the chief architect behind the Stowlawn Estate (1947). The exhibition *Bilston's Happy Housing: Otto Neurath's Vision for Post-War Modern Living* ran at the Bilston Craft Gallery from March 2015 and closed on 2 May 2015. It presented the stories and objects of the Viennese legacy in the Black Country and looked at how Neurath's ideas on 'happiness' could continue to shape the future of British housing.

Dr Sabrina Rahman
Northumbria University



Otto Neurath,
1882-1945

ARTS AND EVENTS JUNE DIARY

3-27 June 'Now This Is Not the End' To coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust, Rose Lewenstein's play receives its world premiere. The author explores the meaning of legacy, identity and our sense of belonging through the eyes of three generations of Jewish women. At Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL, box office 020 7503 1646. All tickets £12 using code PARTNER12

Wed 3 'Helen Fry with Melanie McFadyean' In this illustrated talk, journalist Melanie McFadyean discusses her family's 70-roomed house *Herbertshof*, one of the grandest and most beautiful houses in Potsdam, Berlin. The house and its paintings, which belonged to her grandfather, Herbert Guttman (a founder of the Deutsche Bank), were confiscated by the Nazis. At JW3, 2.00-3.30 pm. Tel Immanuel on 020 7433 8988

Wed 24 'Double Exposure' Dr Bea Lewkowicz's film, shown here in the UK for the first time in its entirety, explores the lives of 25 Jewish refugees from Austria who emigrated to Britain as young adults and children. Plus post-screening Q&A with the director. In association with the AJR. At JW3 Cinema, 2.00 pm. Tel Immanuel on 020 7433 8988

To 2 Oct 2015 'Humanity After the Holocaust: The Jewish Relief Unit, 1943-1950' This newly curated temporary exhibition at the Wiener Library marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. The exhibition focuses on the Library's outstanding collections relating to the post-war relief and rehabilitation work of the Jewish Relief Unit in Bergen-Belsen and elsewhere. 10 am-5 pm Monday to Friday and until 7.30 pm on Tuesdays. Admission free. Tel 020 7636 7247

'Memories That Won't Go Away'

The speaker at our April Kindertransport Group monthly lunch meeting was Michele Gold, author of *Memories That Won't Go Away: A Tribute to the Children of the Kindertransport* (reviewed in the AJR Journal's March 2015 issue). The book tells the stories of many *Kinder* whose photographs were put in the

windows of ceramic train carriages created by artist Gabriella Karin.

Michele's mother was a *Kind* from Germany and Michele, who now lives in the USA, is a Board Member of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, where she works as an educator, speaking mainly to young people.

David Lang

Out of the depths: A commemoration of the liberation of the concentration camps in 1945

This emotionally fraught commemorative concert took place in Temple Church in the Inns of Court on 21 April. It was meticulously and lovingly organised by the Temple Music Foundation and the Temple Church, in close collaboration with the West London Synagogue. Two women rabbis sang prayers and intoned blessings. The Temple Church Singers and the choir of the West London Synagogue had joined forces and, supported by soloists and the magnificent church organ, performed a number of works.

The event focused largely on the liberation by British troops of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Before the concert the names of hundreds of those who had died were solemnly read out and, at the end, those who had survived were likewise remembered. We were first shown a video prepared by British cameramen at the time of the camp's liberation, accompanied by Richard Dimbleby's contemporaneous commentary. The effect was devastating, even though we had seen these horrendous images of the dead and the skeletal survivors before. Towards the end of the evening we were shown further footage of the rehabilitation of the survivors and it was heartwarming to witness the joy and relief on many of the faces.

Some of the very moving music had been written in the camps, especially in Theresienstadt, and the songs by Pavel Haas, who was killed in 1944, were especially memorable. The choir also performed *De Profundis* by Arvo Part and the 'Sanctus' from Verdi's *Requiem*. Extraordinary as it may seem, the *Requiem* had been performed in Theresienstadt under the leadership of Rafael Schächter on some 20 occasions, including the infamous visit of the International Red Cross Committee. Tragically this did not save the lives of the singers or of Schächter himself, as they were all sent to Auschwitz. The concert ended with a performance of the touching final movement of Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, sung of course in Hebrew.

Interspersed in the programme were readings of an account from the Vilna Ghetto, a chilling 1933 prophesy by General Ludendorff, extracts from a letter sent by R-H. Hoepfner to Adolf Eichmann 'on the solution to the Jewish question' (1941), bloodcurdling speeches by Hans Frank and Heinrich Himmler (1941), and the protocol of the Wannsee Conference (January 1942), at which the fate of European Jews was decided. Included too was the testimony of Eva Oppenheimer, a camp survivor.

My wife and I left Temple Church in a deeply sombre and reflective mood, regretting that the event had not been advertised in the *AJR Journal*.

Leslie Baruch Brent

Newcastle upon Tyne service: 'The Jewish community in Germany post-1945'

Members of the AJR Northern Social Work Team, led by Head of Social Services Sue Kurlander, attended a Yom HaShoah service at the Newcastle upon Tyne United Hebrew Congregation synagogue. The service was dedicated to the memory of Andrew Frankel, a former inmate at Mauthausen who had been the last remaining camp survivor in the congregation.

Keynote speaker Rabbi Yitzchak Mendel Wagner spoke on the subject 'The Jewish community in Germany post-1945'. Rabbi Wagner, who studied at the Mayanot Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, is the first and only rabbi to have served in Krefeld, near Düsseldorf, since the war, as well as being the first German-born rabbi to be ordained since that time.

Rabbi Wagner said that Krefeld had had an illustrious Jewish community, dating back to Napoleonic times, until it was decimated during the war. The city did not again have a significant Jewish community until the 1980s with the arrival of a Jewish businessman followed by a large influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union which began in 1989. There is now in the city a Jewish community which exceeds 1,000, many of them Russian-speaking immigrants.

Jim Sutherland
AJR Social Worker for North East of England

70th anniversary of liberation of Bergen-Belsen

I was honoured to be part of a delegation of over 100 people who took part in international commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. It was an incredibly moving day and a privilege to be there on what was probably the last significant anniversary of the liberation that will be marked with survivors and liberators present.

On arrival at Bergen-Belsen, we attended a commemoration at the site of the Jewish memorial, where we heard addresses from German President Joachim Gauck and UK Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. We also heard a moving recital of the Jewish memorial prayer led by the Shabbaton Choir in a ceremony also attended by the Duke of Gloucester. This was followed by a service led by the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (AJEX) alongside Holocaust survivors, dignitaries and delegations from across the world.

Later there was an extremely moving commemoration at the Jewish cemetery at the British Bergen-Hohne Garrison, originally the site of a Displaced Persons' Camp. The Jewish cemetery is where almost 14,000 people who could not be saved in the weeks following liberation were buried.

Part of our delegation included Bernard Levy and Eva Behar. Bernard Levy was one of the British liberators of the camp. What he discovered when he arrived at Belsen shocked and horrified him so much that he only felt able to speak about it 68 years later. Eva was liberated at Bergen-Belsen and this was the first time she had returned since her liberation. She thanked Bernard for all the British soldiers had done to restore her freedom.

Carol Hart
Head, AJR Volunteer and Community Services



Former Bergen-Belsen inmate Eva Behar expresses gratitude to Bernard Levy, one of the British Army liberators of the camp

'Unexpectedly finding a brother': Yom Hashoah Commemoration in Glasgow

On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen by the British Army, AJR First and Second Generation members from Glasgow and Edinburgh joined the 200-strong Jewish community at this year's Yom HaShoah commemoration at Giffnock Synagogue.

Guest speaker from Israel Eli Oren spoke about 'Unexpectedly finding a brother'. His parents, who were from Poland, thought each had perished, as well as the children, only to discover many years later that both had survived and lived only a short distance away. A most moving story.

Agnes Isaacs

Yom Hashoah Remembrance Evening at Pinner Synagogue

On Wednesday 15 April – 70 years to the day that Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was liberated by British troops – Pinner Synagogue held its annual Remembrance Evening in a packed hall of close to 400 people.

In addition to the speaker, Tania Freiin von Uslar-Gleichen, representing the German Embassy, in attendance were the Mayor of Harrow, the Hungarian and Austrian Ambassadors,



Freddie and Freda Knoller with the Austrian Ambassador, HE Martin Eichinger

continued on page 16 →



GLASGOW Recollections of the Kindertransport

Several members attended the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre Open Day to hear Michele Gold discuss her new book on the Kindertransport. Following a clip from a TV programme of some years ago of Esther Rantzen interviewing Sir Nicholas Winton, Michele invited *Kinder* present to stand up and they were applauded enthusiastically. Renee and Henry explained that shortly after arriving on the Kindertransport, they were uprooted again – evacuated from Glasgow to the countryside.

Anthea Berg

ILFORD In Search of Jewish Ancestry

Although British-born, Anthony Joseph joined the AJR to honour a refugee who had been a close friend. This started his interest in genealogy and over the years he has traced his family on both sides back to the 17th century. A very unusual talk but full of interest.

Meta Roseneil

ESSEX (WESTCLIFF) The Holocaust Education Trust (HET)

HET's Karen Van Coevorden explained the work they do with government backing to educate children and their teachers about the Holocaust. Southend survivor Lesley Kleinman gives talks about his experiences in Auschwitz to two schools a week across the country, while former *Kind* Otto Deutsch, who saw Hitler in Vienna, also gives testimony.

Larry Lisner

WOMAN IN GOLD A Very Moving Film

Hazel and Esther arranged for a few of us to see *Woman in Gold*. Starring Helen Mirren, this very moving film is about the restitution of the Klimt paintings, which were seized by the Nazis in Austria. It was very poignant to me as it brought back all the memories.

Gerda Torrence

HARROGATE/YORK 3-Hour-Plus Epic

Our little group, meeting at Inge Little's home, became a 3-hour-plus epic. The discussion became surprisingly animated as topics ranged from our favourite films – e.g. *Fiddler on the Roof* – to Inge's amateur dramatics, to Israel. All this followed by home-made goodies supplied by Inge and Rosl.

Suzanne Ripton

HGS '30 Years of Photography'

A fascinating talk by Paul Lang on the changes in wedding and barmitzva photography over the years. With digital photography and technology, anything can be achieved.

Hazel Beiny

RADLETT Cartoon Class

Martha Richler the cartoonist paid a second visit to our group, bringing some of her drawings. These were hilarious and very clever. Better still, however, was her attempt to teach us how to draw. This was not hugely successful but it did demonstrate her amazing wit and artistic skill. Please come again, Mart!

Fritz Starer

LEEDS CF A Most Interesting Afternoon

We were treated to a presentation by Philippa Lester, who had recently co-written a book on Leeds Jews entitled *From the Leylands to Leeds 17*. A typically scrumptious tea provided by Barbara Cammerman finished off a most interesting afternoon excellently!

Wendy Bott

BRISTOL Beyond Right and Wrong

Due to building works our venue was changed to our speaker's house, with Lisa Saffron kindly offering her home to our small gathering. Following a delicious lunch we watched an excerpt from the documentary *Beyond Right and Wrong*, which provoked a lively discussion.

Kathryn Prevezer

LIVERPOOL Children of the Holocaust

We had a presentation by Kath Shackleton from Fettle Animation on their multi-award-nominated *Children of the Holocaust*. We were all overwhelmed by how much an animated film could portray such difficult subject matter so effectively.

Wendy Bott

BRIGHTON & HOVE 'SARID' Library Facilities on Offer

Ben King of Brighton Library Services told us about the projects currently run by the libraries – computing, exhibitions, creative writing, dancing and many others. He urged non-members to join the library of their choice and take advantage of the free cultural activities on offer.

Ceska Abrahams

'UNsung HEROES' An Incredible Event

At JW3 Dr Susan Cohen spoke about Eleanor Rathbone, who made such an important contribution to the lives of many refugees in so many ways. Mike Levy of Keystage Arts and Heritage in Cambridge spoke about Greta Burkill, who set up the Cambridge Refugee Committee to find homes for every child brought them and even filled her own home with *Kinder*, three of whom were with us and spoke of her warmth and kindness. A group of wonderful children aged 7 to 17 movingly enacted the stories of several *Kinder*. A most incredible event.

Susan Zisman

MANCHESTER The Delights of Jewish Humour

Budding comedian and klezmer performer Ian Stern revealed to us much of the humour with which Jewish performers have delighted the world. We laughed at video clips of the likes of Mason and Borge. A delightful afternoon.

Werner Lachs

KENT Favourite Poems

We read/recited a favourite poem, which led us to remember other favourites, and learned something of the lives of the poets. We thought it would be a good idea to do this again.

Josephine Singer

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM Insight into the History of Conflict

Our visit to the Imperial War Museum provided us with a most interesting insight into the history of conflict. The Museum has recently had a £40 million facelift, including the interactive First World War galleries. Several members had provided material for the section on the Holocaust. We were also introduced to the art section and learned about the effect of war on ordinary people.

Janet Weston

MARLOW CF Many Topics of Interest Discussed

We are fortunate in having a fixed venue for our meetings: the beautiful home of Alan Kaye, whom we thank for his hospitality. During the delicious lunch Hazel had prepared for us, we discussed many topics of interest, including the general election, the recent Israeli election, and the 'Mediterranean boat people'.
Arthur Mayer

WELWYN GC Lively Chat

It was good to return to Monica's house for an afternoon social. We had a lively chat on many subjects, ranging from our experiences of the NHS to how supportive families are when old age beckons.
Leonora Koos

NORTH WEST LONDON Nutrition Demonstration

Nutrition therapist Sarah Walford demonstrated quinoa burgers and an aubergine cake. Along with delicious salad, her explanation of healthy and non-healthy food was most informative. A delicious meal and a welcome change.
Hazel Beiny

NEWCASTLE 'A Family's Escape'



Writing competition runner-up
Betty Weiner

Our very own Betty Weiner was runner-up in the Memoirs section of the 2014 *Fish Anthology* writing competition and her 4,000-word entry on her family's journey from Vienna in 1938 was selected for publication. Betty read us excerpts from her entry. Her talk, entitled 'Writing about a Family's Escape', was well attended and followed by a sit-down tea.

Agnes Isaacs

EDINBURGH CF Smiles All Round

It was smiles all round at our get-together at the home of Eva Baer. Funny stories of moments, some from long ago, brought back happy memories for both First and Second Generation members. A good way to break the ice for first-time visitor Pat. The comradely atmosphere carried on over a most scrumptious tea.
Agnes Isaacs

EDGWARE 'The Truly Indomitable Judith Montefiore'

Judith Montefiore, David Barnett told us, was one of 10 children and home-schooled. She was fluent in several languages and an accomplished singer and musician. She and her husband travelled extensively, including a 4-month journey to Jerusalem. In her later years she wrote the first Jewish cookery book.
Hazel Beiny

CORRECTION

The Radlett Group report in our April issue should have read 'The Bank of England's Tim Pike believes that the most favourable development would result from limiting the involvement of the public sector and encouraging the growth of private enterprise'

JUNE GROUP EVENTS

Ealing	2 June	David Barnett: 'Daniel Mendoza'
Kensington and Notting Hill	2 June	Social Get-Together
Ilford	3 June	Debbie Pearson: 'London and the Wine Trade'
Bromley CF	4 June	Lunch
Pinner	4 June	Susan Cohen: 'Six Point Foundation'
HGS	8 June	David Barnett: 'Jewish London in 1815'
Essex (Westcliff)	9 June	Annual Lunch and Visit to Porters
St John's Wood	9 June	Naomi Games: 'The Work of Abram Games'
Didsbury	10 June	Group Discussion
Wessex	11 June	Annual Outing
Brighton & Hove 'Sarid'	15 June	David Barnett: 'A Truly Indomitable Victorian Woman: The Story of Lady Judith Montefiore'
Edgware	16 June	David Barnett: A new talk
Kent	16 June	David Barnett: 'The Story of Joseph Nathan'
Leeds CF	16 June	Group Discussion
Radlett	17 June	Andrew Roth: 'Hungarian Roots'
Scottish Regional	17 June	See page 2
York CF	17 June	Meal out
Cambridge	18 June	Simon Garnham, Deputy Head of Dovercourt/Harwich High School, will speak on his experiences in Afghanistan and Iran
Edinburgh	18 June	Judith Passow Exhibition
Kingston and Surrey (Joint Meeting)	21 June	Social Get-together
Bradford	23 June	Salt Beef Tea
Birmingham	24 June	Outing to Blenheim Palace
Wembley	24 June	Debbie Pearson: 'London and the Wine Trade'
North London	25 June	Kathryn Prevezer: 'My Trip to the WWI Battlefields'
Cheshire CF	29 June	Group Discussion
North West London	29 June	Lesley Wolfe, Reflexologist

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Child Survivors Association-AJR
Henri Obstfeld
020 8954 5298 h.obstfeld@talk21.com

FAMILY ANOUNCEMENTS

Death

Marianne Leavor, wife of Rudi for 59 years, died peacefully on 15 April aged 81 surrounded by all four children, two spouses and Rudi. She will be very much missed.

Books Bought

MODERN AND OLD



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For information please contact The Association of Jewish Refugees on 020 8385 3070.

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OBITUARY

Hans Egon Schafer, born Vienna 18 June 1915, died Toronto 11 October 2014

Hans was born in Vienna, a city where culture and knowledge mattered and these were integral to his life. He spoke six languages fluently, loved business and finance, and was never without a project. He formed the Vienna *Junggeselligkeitsklub*, a youth group that met for outings and dances. All his life he looked to see which members of this group had survived.

Hans's heart was set on learning English so in 1933 he set off for England for a year. On returning home, he was restless and did not like what he saw going on in Europe. Through his father, who was President of the B'nai B'rith Lodge Eintracht (Harmony), he met a businessman who employed him to go to Aden (then a British colony, now Yemen) in the export business.

As the only one out of Vienna, it fell to him to help. He obtained a visa to Aden for his boss, who was then able to get to England. His parents and sister sought to follow but were stopped by English officials and were fortunate to make it to Paris. Other family members joined them there and, after moving south, were rounded up



and taken to the Rivesaltes camp. His parents and sister survived but he never forgot those who did not.

In 1938-46 Hans lived and worked in Aden. He opened trade with Abyssinia, Eritrea, India and Palestine – and became a walking 'history book' for anyone wanting to

know about these countries. During the war he organised paramedical teams to deal with attacks by Italian planes from Abyssinia: there were 12 such teams consisting of Arabs, Hindus, Somalis and Jews, all without any friction. After the war he received a war medal for his efforts.

In 1946, in England on business, Hans met his boss's daughter Kitty. It was 'love at first sight' but he had to return to Aden. They had planned to marry the following year but the next day he persuaded British Airways to issue a second seat for Kitty. They decided to marry immediately - with the meal at the reception organised through ration coupons - and three days later they left for Aden.

In December 1947, with the vote for the state of Israel imminent, riots erupted across the Arab world, including Aden. They fled from their home and were fortunate that

Hans had established a close friendship with the Governor General, a most wonderful person. Through him they obtained shelter, a huge relief as Kitty was six months pregnant, and a visa for England. They left with just the clothes on their backs together with a few personal items.

Always an entrepreneur, Hans soon started up his own business and they joined the émigrés who frequented the Dorice, played bridge and enjoyed cultural activities. Hans and his wife were both ardent Arsenal fans and belonged to the founding group of the Gunners' Supporters Club.

Hans had one daughter, who married and moved to Toronto. On retirement, he and his wife moved to be near her and their two grandchildren and, undaunted, they made a new life. His involvement led to scholarships being set up in his honour at Rotary and the University, where they took lectures.

Hans was proud of his Jewish heritage, intelligent, charming, a storyteller and always with a joke to tell. He lived to be 99 and was lucid almost to the end. He is survived by Kitty, his wife of 68 years, his daughter, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren in Israel and the US.

The family of Hans Schafer

Search Notices

I would like to contact **Joachim Lothar Auerbach** to obtain information on a relative of mine who stayed with his family in Berlin until her deportation to Auschwitz. Joachim came to England by Kindertransport and in 2012 he still lived in Manchester. Any information please to Eva Bonfil, Jerusalem, at eva.bonfil@gmail.com

I am conducting a local history project on the Jews in my home town of **Chesham, Buckinghamshire**. There were many Jews here during the war and they had an Orthodox synagogue in the cricket pavilion. If anyone has info, memories and photos of that time, pls contact Neil Rees at nwrees@gmail.com

Harald Hechter came to the UK by Kindertransport and stayed with my grandfather, who had sponsored him. Harald had been registered to go to Bolton School but went to stay with a relative (an aunt?) by the name of Fuchs in Manchester. If anyone has any further info on Harald, pls contact Jane Freer at jane.freer1@ntlworld.com

In 1939-40 my parents took in for a while two refugees named **Jackie and Siggie (Siegfried?)**. We lived in Brighton, Sussex, at the time. Any info on these refugees pls to Mike Simmons at ekimart@hotmail.com

My father, **Heinz (Herbert) Klein**, born 13/6/24 in Vienna, spent about a year in England,

probably in Felixstowe, working in a hotel or hostel. He arrived in the UK in mid-1939 and went to New York on the *SS Samaria* from Liverpool on 12/4/40 to rejoin his parents and sister. The contact person listed for him on the ship's manifest was Mrs L. Phipps, Bloomsbury House, London. Any info pls to Barry Klein, MD, Agoura Hills, California, USA, at barrydklein@gmail.com

My cousin **Helga Loewenstein**, born Krefeld 23/11/28, was apparently put on a Kindertransport from Berlin in 1939. Her mother, Carola Loewenstein, escaped to Brussels in 1939 with her husband Dalbert deVries. If you have any info, pls contact Gwen Solomon, New York, at gwensol@earthlink.net

I am searching for those who survived in Budapest because they had a *Schutzbrief* issued by **Swiss Consul Carl Lutz** or survived in one of the 72 houses under Swiss protection. Pls contact his daughter at Agnes.Hirschi@gmx.net

My mother **Margaret Mason (née Elliott)** was a mentor and friend in Sheffield to Ruth Salinger, a refugee schoolgirl from Germany. Any info on Ruth please to John.mason75@btinternet.com

Morgenstern: William, Caroline, daughters Marie Antoinette and Antonirisu, born Cologne. Had connection with Talbot Hotel, Richmond, Surrey, 1880-ish. Any info pls to Marie Antoinette's great-granddaughter Carol Haworth on 01254 813910 or at carolhaworth0@gmail.com

The grave of a **Dr Carl Nachmann Nathan** (9/11/1858-11/2/1929) is to be found in Eutin. He apparently had a daughter, Raymonde Weil, who in 1965 was in correspondence with the town authorities re repair of her father and aunt's gravestones. Raymonde then lived at 41 Kingston Mill, Kingston on Thames, Surrey, and was legally represented by Dr Paul Sulzbacher of 50 Barn Rise, Wembley Park, Middx. Re issues of ownership of the graves, could descendants of the family please contact Rabbi Dr Walter Rothschild at Rothschild-Berlin@t-online.de

My grandparents, Jack and Evelyn Angel, fostered a boy from Berlin named **Victor (Viktor?)**. He went to America and would be in his late 80s now. My grandparents lived in Windermere Avenue in London. If you have any info pls contact Jenni Angel at 123jlr@gmail.com

Has anyone information on the **Victoria Tools Company**? During the war, my father Hermann and many other refugees from Germany worked in the factory, which was owned by **Bruno Frey**. If you have any info on the factory or Mr Frey, pls contact Helga Kurzchalia at kurzchal@gmx.de

During the war my grandparents, **Harry and Elsie Young**, lived in St Peter, Norfolk, near Lowestoft, Suffolk. A Kindertransport arrived in Lowestoft just before the war and several of the children stayed with my grandparents. Any info pls to Timothy Wright at timothy.wright@sky.com



LETTER FROM ISRAEL

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson



An admirable enterprise: The Kagan Learning Centre

Helena Kagan was born in 1889 in Uzbekistan, where her father, who was originally from Lithuania, had been sent as a chemical engineer to establish and supervise the construction of glass-manufacturing plants. In 1914, after qualifying as a physician, she settled in Jerusalem and was a pioneer in tending to the health of both Arab and Jewish children, establishing clinics and pediatric centres throughout the region. She died in 1978, having devoted her life to improving the health and welfare of Jerusalem's children.

Among her spheres of activity was the prevention of juvenile delinquency and she was instrumental in providing an environment where youngsters could find a positive and supportive atmosphere rather than roaming the streets, providing them with coaching in their school work and thereby reducing delinquency and school drop-out rates.

In 1968, with the aid of WIZO UK and the Jerusalem municipality, the Kagan Community Centre was established in Jerusalem's Katamon Tet neighbourhood in honour of Dr Kagan's 75th birthday. Within that framework the Kagan Learning Centre enables youngsters to spend time in a warm and friendly environment where they can receive help in subjects with which they are having difficulties at school.

When I visited the Centre I found a large, modern, well-lit building, set back from the dingy street in one of Jerusalem's less salubrious areas. Inside it are rooms in which tutors, some of them volunteers, provide one-on-one teaching for youngsters who are having difficulties at school, as well as a library, a computer room, a recreation room for teenagers, and a general atmosphere of relaxed and positive activity.

Most of the children attending the Centre today come from families that have immigrated from Ethiopia, where the language used at home

is generally not Hebrew, which puts the child at a disadvantage in their first years at school. Much of the work of the Centre involves bringing children into line with the level of their peers in basic subjects such as reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as providing them with the basic concepts that are learned by Israeli-born children even before they start school.

The Centre's devoted teachers and administrator maintain contact with the parents of the children who attend and are always willing to help resolve problems connected with the child's schooling. The Centre originally provided its services to the children of the Katamon neighbourhood, many of whose parents had immigrated from the countries of the Maghreb and were unable to provide their children with the head-start that these children often required. Today the children who attend the Centre live in the neighbourhood as well as coming from elsewhere in Jerusalem.

As is usually the case with such institutions, the Centre is chronically short of funds: its basic upkeep is provided by the Jerusalem municipality, but it is the Kagan Fund that pays for its staff and equipment, including computers and enrichment activities. For further details on this admirable enterprise, visit its website at www.israelgives.org/amuta/580126605

'Keep the memory alive' – 2015 and beyond

On 27 January this year Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) commemorated 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. This year was the most marked yet with 3,614 commemorative activities taking place across the UK in memory of the millions murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides. Communities and individuals from Stornoway to Southampton and from Neath to Norwich 'kept the memory alive'.

HMD brings hundreds of thousands of people together across ages, faiths and backgrounds to learn about the Holocaust and its lessons for humanity, marking the day in numerous ways. This year our education resources were viewed 45,000 times online, bringing HMD to the classroom and other learning environments. We supported 38 HMD Youth Champions who organised their own activities for their peers, ensuring these important messages reach the next generation.

Memory Makers helped to bring the stories of survivors to new audiences when a group of British artists, including Stephen Fry, explored the life stories of Holocaust survivors through film, illustration, essay and collage.

Moving Portraits used photography to tell survivor stories by picturing survivors holding objects that have deep significance to them. These beautiful images were projected onto the Southbank's Royal Festival Hall and



displayed on public screens in city centres across the UK.

We also worked with sculptor Sir Anish Kapoor to design a candle for *70 Candles for 70 Years*, which drew attention to the range and diversity of HMD activities.

HMD Trust also drew on the power of the media. This year we generated over 1,000 pieces of media, from around 4,000 mentions of HMD in the press. We worked with the BBC to bring the UK Commemorative Ceremony in Westminster to an audience of over 1.3 million on BBC Two. We were delighted that Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall joined the Prime Minister and other leaders to show their commitment to keeping the memory alive.

Independent opinion polling shows that 83 per cent of people in the UK say they have now heard of HMD (up from 77 per cent in 2014) and 31 per cent of British adults report that they know HMD well (up from 21 per cent in 2014).

But HMD doesn't stop with one day. Its powerful messages reverberate throughout the year. Last month we launched our theme for HMD 2016: 'Don't stand by'.

'Don't stand by' encourages people to consider their individual responsibilities not to be bystanders to hate crime and prejudice, nor to international threats of genocide.

If you would like to find out more about our work please contact **Communications Officer Alice Owen** at alice.owen@hmd.org.uk or call 020 7785 7029.

Yom Hashoah Remembrance Evening at Pinner Synagogue *continued from p.11*

and senior representatives from the Dutch, Lithuanian, Polish and Romanian Embassies, as well as numerous local (Harrow) councillors.

Following the candle-lighting ceremony by youth and Bergen-Belsen survivors together with Pinner Youth and an introduction by Committee Chair Gaby Glassman, the Chargé d'Affaires of the German Embassy, (acting Ambassador) Tania Frein von Uslar-Gleichen, expressed her lack of understanding of how Germany, a nation priding itself on its cultural advancement, could have sunk so low.

The evening's guest speaker, 94-year-old Freddie Knoller, himself a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, spoke of his experiences, which began during the horrific period between the Anschluss and Kristallnacht. Freddie took the audience on a journey from the comfort of his home in Vienna, through escape to Belgium, thence to France, to capture and incarceration in Auschwitz. As the Russians approached that camp, he was forced onto a death march, briefly in Dora-Nordhausen, and then onto Bergen-Belsen, where he was liberated.

The evening ended with the playing of the BBC recording of the singing of the *Hatikvah* led by army chaplain Rev Leslie Hardman shortly after the liberation of Bergen-Belsen.

Brian Eisenberg

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