



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

A lethal cocktail

On 8 April over 2,000 people joined the Campaign Against Antisemitism demonstration – the second in a fortnight – calling for Labour to hold Jeremy Corbyn to account. There appear to be three strands to the antisemitism which has allegedly grown and flourished on the Labour Left since Corbyn was elected party leader in 2015.



Campaigners outside Labour Party HQ call for Corbyn to be held to account for his inaction.

“Britain in 2018 is a place where left-wing Jews who are the grand-kids of those who fled the Nazis are talked to as if we are Nazi collaborators.”

@JVoiceUK 26 March 2018

First, anti-Zionism. This is closest to Corbyn’s heart and is part of his political formation going back to the 1970s. It has nothing to do with Netanyahu or the rise of the Israeli Right but is grounded in the belief that the very existence of the state of Israel is unacceptable and is part of a larger

white colonialist project. Anti-Zionists do not understand that Jews here and in Israel often criticise specific Israeli government policies. That counts for nothing.

This has led to the second and more
Continued on page 2

A YEAR OF CHANGE

We hope you enjoy reading our ‘new look’ Annual Report on pages 9-12. The dynamic design reflects a busy year for the AJR.

Also worth highlighting is a very interesting analysis of gender statistics on page 4 which speculates whether survivors of genocide are more likely to give birth to girls.

Meanwhile the latest in our series ‘At your service’, which features different aspects of the AJR’s work, explains the process for securing support through Claims Conference funding.

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AJR Team

Chief Executive Michael Newman
Finance Director David Kaye

Heads of Department

HR & Administration Karen Markham
Social Services Sue Kurlander
Community & Volunteer Services Carol Hart

AJR Journal

Editor Jo Briggs
Contributing Editor David Herman
Secretarial/Advertisements Karin Pereira

A lethal cocktail (cont.)

pernicious strand of Jew-hatred in the Labour Party: antisemitism. Look at all the vile cartoons, the obsession with media ownership and finance and the revival of images and tropes which go back to *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and Nazism. That's why it is impossible to believe those who complain that they didn't understand that a particular image was so offensive. Take the now infamous mural. How could Corbyn have missed all those big noses, the references to finance and world domination?

It is inconceivable that any other ethnic, religious or sexual group would be treated in this way by Labour activists. Imagine if that mural had depicted recognisably gay or black figures. There would have been a deafening outcry, above all from the Labour Left, from precisely those people who recycle antisemitic images and abuse today.

The third strand is also deeply offensive, especially for refugees and their children. This is the trivialisation, even denial of the Holocaust. This is not an attempt to question whether there should or shouldn't be a Holocaust Memorial Day or to argue that other forms of mass murder have not been given due recognition. Deniers make no attempt to ask whether popular accounts of the Holocaust are too sentimental or pious or that the so-called Holocaust Industry has exaggerated the uniqueness of the Holocaust.

Those who deny the existence of the Holocaust argue that it never happened, or that if it did happen, it was never on the scale which historians claim. This brings us to what is really at stake here: what have all these museum exhibits, all the novels, films and TV documentaries, all those visits to classrooms by Holocaust survivors, what has all that been for? Worse still, has it all been in vain?

When Jews, and those who join us in the battle against antisemitism and all forms of racism, say we are offended, what exactly is the nature of the offence? Is it the attacks on Jewish MPs, the call to have them deselected because they are Jewish? Above all, though, it is taking the worst tragedy of the Jewish people in modern times, and saying it didn't happen, we don't believe it. Who says this about slavery or apartheid?

This is what makes Labour's problem with antisemitism so different. It is not confined to some lunatic fringe like 9/11 deniers. This mix of anti-Zionism, antisemitism and Holocaust denial has taken root at the heart of one of our two largest political parties.

But there is something else as well. What is so striking about this new Left-wing antisemitism is not just the irrationality, but the sheer anger, hatred and madness, that confronts us. I won't quote any of the really nasty stuff you see daily on social media now but take this example: "Harriet Harman, Stella Creasey, John Mann, Ruth Smeeth & Chuka stood shoulder to shoulder [at the Westminster Square rally on 26th March] with Tory Jews."

Or this: "Tell me Jews aren't numerous in big banks and the media. Tell me the banks and media don't influence the nation. ... Weimar Germany says 'Hi.'" @Kheapathic1 26 March 2018

This isn't just anti-Zionism with an antisemitic twist. There is something truly nasty here. This is classic antisemitism, red in tooth and claw. What explains this kind of antisemitism, the hatred of "Tory Jews", Jews who own "big banks and the media", the Jewish figures in the mural that got Corbyn into all that trouble back in March?

Historians argue that a number of factors explain the rise of antisemitism in the 1930s. First, the economic crash which led to huge unemployment throughout Europe and America. This undermined people's faith in liberal democracy and sent people rushing to extreme solutions. Second, the long-term crisis in traditional rural society, more in central and east Europe than in Britain. Farmers and craftsmen were undercut by the new urban department stores, often owned by Jews. This all started with the fall in agricultural prices in the late 19th century as European farmers couldn't compete with cheap American grain and South American meat and took a further twist with the terrible inflation of the 1920s and then the Crash of 1929.

It is no coincidence that the rise of populism and nativism on both sides of the Atlantic has followed another huge financial crisis, that of 2008. This in turn followed a long-term period of economic crisis: the inflation of the 1970s

followed by the unemployment and deindustrialisation of the Thatcher years. But the problem with this argument is that we don't find rising antisemitism in the Welsh or Yorkshire mining communities, the shipyards of Glasgow or the North-East or the old steel towns of Wales and the Midlands. That may explain the appeal of Brexit in these areas but the heartland of Corbynista antisemitism is London and especially those in their 20s and 30s, many of them university graduates.

Why should people who have grown up in multicultural London hate Jews? After all, the young are arguably more tolerant when it comes to issues of ethnic difference than older people who grew up in largely white communities. However, the young have been hit by several economic hammer blows. First, university tuition and maintenance fees which replaced decades of free university tuition. Second, rising property prices and rents which have now made buying or even renting a home almost impossible for most young people in London and the South-East. Third, the prospect of Brexit, which many fear will cause further economic instability. The young largely voted for Remain, older voters largely voted to Leave. As a result, their life prospects are bad. For the first time since the war, young people have no confidence that they will be better off than their parents.

These three factors have disproportionately affected many young metropolitan voters far more than people in other parts of the country. In their despair and anger they have looked to Jeremy Corbyn's ultra-leftism and have turned to Jew hatred as part of a cocktail of leftism. Extreme conditions create extreme irrationalism.

British politics has never seen anything like the Corbyn cult and it has never seen anything like Corbynista antisemitism. This will not go away any time soon. It will need concerted opposition from the forces of decency and moderation, right across the political spectrum. Corbyn will not change. He has shown no signs of taking a stand against the antisemitism of his followers and he won't do so now. He has never changed his views on anything in forty years. The only solution may be for Corbyn to go and for his new Labour Party to be rejected again at the polls.

David Herman

NORTHERN REGIONAL MEETING

Prestwich Hebrew Congregation (Shrubberies), Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 9WN

WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2018

Please join us at our annual Northern Regional Get-together and lunch

We are delighted that our keynote speaker will be **Lilian Black, Chair of HSFA**

The HSFA (Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association) is a Leeds based charity set up in 1996. Its aim is to preserve the memory, testimony and records of the Holocaust survivors and refugees in Yorkshire, for research, teaching and learning and also promotes friendship and support for Holocaust survivors.

Lilian will talk about the new Holocaust Learning Centre at Huddersfield, of which the AJR is a prominent financial supporter, and her own part played in setting up this incredible project.

Lilian was recently quoted in the press *"Over recent years we have been able to collect digital testimony, gather thousands of photographs and access survivors' records of Nazi persecution through the International Tracing Service in Germany. We have built strong partnerships in the UK and internationally which can now be brought together in a wonderful community resource at Heritage Quay within the University of Huddersfield, all thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund."*

To book contact Wendy Bott on 07908 156365 or wendy@ajr.org.uk

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The Anschluss at 80



Commemorating the Anschluss (Sir Erich Reich speaking)

On 13 March Sir Erich Reich, chair of the AJR's Kindertransport specialist group, delivered an opening address at a joint AJR / Austrian Embassy event commemorating the 80th anniversary

of the Anschluss. The event was attended by the Austrian ambassador, Sir Eric Pickles and many other dignitaries. A detailed report is on the AJR website.

BREXIT AND US



The Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council have jointly produced a 16 page report *Brexit and the Jewish Community* to outline the particular opportunities and challenges it presents to the Jewish community.

One of its conclusions is that, with powers returning from the EU to Westminster, there will be an additional moral responsibility on the UK government to listen to groups, such as the Jewish community, who represent small and vulnerable minorities.

<https://www.bod.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Brexit-booklet-amended.pdf>

Kindertransport 
 A special interest group of
 The Association of Jewish Refugees
 Winston House, 2 Eddis Park, London N16 1HF
 T 020 8385 3070 E enquiries@ajr.org.uk www.ajr.org.uk

LUNCH

Wednesday 9 May 2018
At Alyth Gardens Synagogue
12.30pm

We are delighted to be joined by Children's Author Ally Sherrick

THE BURIED CROWN

In this new story one of the characters is a young German Jewish refugee, Kitty Regenbogen, who has come to England as part of a Kindertransport to live with her grandfather, a German Jewish archaeologist in Suffolk, where the story is set. The hero, George Penny, an evacuee boy from London, is befriended by Kitty and her grandfather and, as the story unfolds, the pair of them join forces to save a priceless piece of ancient treasure (the buried crown of the title) which is at risk of being stolen and taken back to Berlin for Adolf Hitler.

The story is linked to the real-life discovery of a famous archaeological treasure, the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial, just before war broke out and was also inspired by Ally's father's own time as an evacuee during the war.

Call Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or email susan@ajr.org.uk

Booking is essential for catering purposes.
 £7.00 per person

Skewed statistics

As I have access to the membership application forms of the Child Survivors' Association of Great Britain (CSA), I spent some time looking at a few simple statistical aspects. It was surprising to find that the total number of applications submitted since the Association was founded in 1994 was 39 males and 89 females, equivalent to 30% males and 70% females.

According to the 2014 Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Fact Book the global sex ratio at birth is 107 boys to 100 girls (Boys 51.7, Girls 48.3).

The Kindertransport Survey on the AJR's own website (which provides data on the children sent to Britain before the start of WW2) states "Boys 43.6%, Girls 56.4%". Although these percentages are not as skewed as those of the Child Survivors, they are not similar to the 'global sex ratio' either.

It should be noted that Child Survivors born between 1 January 1928 and the end of WW2 (May, 1945) are accepted for membership of the CSA. Therefore, the oldest would be less than seventeen

SOURCE	CSA	KINDER	GLOBAL RATIO	GERMANY 1.1.1933	GERMANY 31.10.1941	ISRAEL 2017
MALE	30	43.6	51.7	50.8	49.1	49
FEMALE	70	56.4	48.3	49.2	50.9	51

Comparison of percentages of male and female groups of similar age (0 to 17 years)

years old. The Kindertransport Survey shows that the oldest children in its survey were seventeen years old.

During the period that the Nazis were in power in Germany and, later, also in Austria, the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland (Reichs Organisation of Jews in Germany) produced records of the Jewish population for the period 1939 – 1945 but included earlier data. The data in the columns marked Deutschland are based on a table dated 14 November 1941 and represent the percentages *im Altreich* (in the earlier territory) for males and females up to 19 years old, on the dates specified. The data show that the distribution varies only slightly from the 'global sex ratio'.

The same table shows a total of 109,700 in 1933 and only 16,511 for this age group in 1941, a reduction of about 93,000. This last number will include almost 10,000 predominantly Jewish children of the Kindertransport who were sent to Britain between December 1938 and the outbreak of war in September 1939. Of course, another group of Jewish

children reached Britain during this period with the help of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). However their "index of refugees" is currently closed for research. (McQuillam, L. 2018).

In their book *And life is changed forever* Kroll & Glassner wrote: "Of the 42 offspring identified by gender, 29 were female and 13 were male, a 2:1 ratio." They added: "Given that Jewish lineage is determined by the mother according to Halacha (Jewish law), is it possible that survivors of genocide produce more female offspring?" Note that this ratio does not refer to the same generation as the Child Survivors and Kindertransport groups, but to the next generation.

This made me wonder whether the birth rate of Jews is different from the 'global sex ratio'. A search on Wikipedia provided a November 2017 report by Demographics of Israel showing a ratio of males to females under age 15 of 49:51. This does not depart significantly from the global sex ratio.

It is possible that all males included in the Child Survivors and Kindertransport groups were counted by circumcision. However, no specific reference to this element seems to have been made in the sources consulted.

Another complication is that the CSA records started in 1994, some 50 years after the end of the War. During that period more males than females will have passed away, but will this detail have created such a large difference?

How can the differences in ratio between the two groups and the global sex ratio be explained? Your observations are invited.

Henri Obstfeld

IHRA ONLINE

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's new website offers news and resources on a variety of topics from Holocaust denial and antisemitism, to the genocide of the Roma and education about the Holocaust. Latest resources include the fourth volume of the IHRA's seminal publication series *Refugee Policies from 1933 until Today: Challenges and Responsibilities* www.holocaustremembrance.com

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AT YOUR SERVICE: Reparations advice

Each year the AJR receives dozens of enquiries from Holocaust refugees and their families about compensation from Germany and other countries. These are generally dealt with by Rosemary Peters, PA to our Chief Executive, who over the last 12 years has built up detailed knowledge about the various schemes as well as all the relevant contacts within this very specialised field.



Rosemary Peters

According to Rosemary, AJR members might be eligible for one of several different funds, depending on their individual experiences during WW2, including where they came from, when exactly they arrived in the UK and if they spent time in a ghetto or a camp. Criteria for the various funds are reviewed regularly, for example someone who received a small compensation payment in the 1950s for loss of education may now be entitled to claim more, whereas until recently any previous payment – no matter how small – ruled out any possibility of further claims.

Her initial advice always is to gather together any documents which might help to prove one's entitlement. She can then help to direct the member to the appropriate fund and agency and advise them what other information might be needed, if necessary obtaining further documentation via our colleagues at World Jewish Relief, The Wiener Library, Yad Vashem and other archives.

Enquiries are often triggered by something that a member or one of his or her relatives has read in the media. Another common source is via one of the AJR's social workers, who may be trying to help a client secure support through Claims Conference funding, such as Homecare.

"As people get older they are likely to need more help and support so it makes sense for their families

to investigate what funds might be available," explains Rosemary. "That's partly why, eight decades after the Holocaust, fresh claims are still being made. Perhaps people were too busy making a new life for themselves when they were younger, or they personally didn't wish to revisit their experiences."

The AJR does not charge members for advice or assistance with restitution claims – it is one of the many benefits covered by our annual £25 membership fee. "This often comes as a surprise to members who might also have received letters from lawyers offering advice for payment," says Rosemary. "Over the years I have met many people who have paid solicitors large sums to make claims on their behalf, not realising that the AJR could have helped them with this for free."

As an approved social and welfare organisation the AJR is also able to notarise *lebensbescheinigung* (proof of life) certificates, as well as to countersign applications for pensions and payments. A regular stream of visitors avail themselves of these services at the AJR office, and we are always delighted to see them.

Other enquiries that Rosemary frequently deals with concern the process for reclaiming German or Austrian nationality, or what pension entitlements a spouse might be entitled to after the sad loss of their partner.

"Between us all we know the answers to most questions," explains Rosemary.

"And when we don't know, we are always happy to try to find out. It's all part of the service."



AJR member Monique Blake was a 'Hidden Child' and has recently secured a pension from the Claims Conference with Rosemary Peters' help. She writes: "I can only say how thankful I am that I was put in touch with AJR a few years ago. At that time I didn't really know about the organisation but with Rosemary Peters' help I was able to apply for a pension from the Claims Conference which I would never otherwise have known about.

"I can't praise Rosemary enough – she steered me through all the paperwork with patience and understanding. I hadn't realised how painful it would be to go through all the minute details of my history but she guided me through it all and thanks to her I was granted the pension."

Letters to the Editor

Due to the very high volume of letters received this month we have had to abbreviate them considerably, which we feel is preferable to leaving letters out completely. We have tried very hard to retain the sense of all the original correspondence.

THE ANSCHLUSS & NOW

I was very interested in your recent articles relating to the Anschluss. Living on Austria's doorstep from 1933 to 1938 it seemed the vast majority there were Nazi sympathisers although it was claimed at the time that the proportion of anti-Nazis in Vienna was markedly higher.

My mother and sister, travelling on a train from Maribor to Graz for Rosh Hashanah in 1934, were overheard speaking German by some fellow passengers. Realising from their accents that my mother and sister were from Germany-proper, and not from Austria as they were, one of them exclaimed in her Austrian dialect: "Ach, ihr seid's aus dem Reich. Ach, gebt uns doch euren Hitler! Ich bet' für unseren Führer Tag und Nacht". "Ich auch!" replied my mother. ("Oh, you've come from the Reich. Oh, do give us your Hitler. I pray night and day for our Führer". "So do I!" replied my mother).

Margarete Stern, London NW3

The Austrian brand of antisemitism and brutality equalled, and perhaps exceeded, that of the Germans. That the Austrian government claimed to have been victim rather than perpetrator of the Nazi crimes was ludicrous; it took a long time but a gradual change from the old guard to younger, more open minded politicians caused them to reverse their attitude.

Some years ago the Austrian Ministry of Education began to teach youngsters about Austria's recent history. They invited Jewish refugees to speak at schools, much as we do here in Britain.

Since part of my extended family returned to Austria after the war, we have frequently been back to Vienna. They tell us that such antisemitism as still exists does not impinge on them and that socially no distinction is made between Jews and non-Jews. One should not blame people for what their forebears did before they were born; nor are Germans and Austrians inherently any worse than citizens of other countries. But I have

every sympathy for people who have suffered from Nazi excesses hating the idea of visiting Germany or Austria.

Marc Schatzberger, York

My father was a doctor in Vienna 2 (the Jewish district) at the time of the Anschluss and was allowed to continue practising medicine. It was my mother who warned him about what was to come. "It won't happen" he declared. But it did happen. After Kristallnacht he realised he had to flee, together with my mother and me.

Many UK Jews do not seem to understand the danger of a possible Corbyn government. "Nothing will happen here", they maintain. "The British aren't like the Germans". Please don't be naïve like my father was after the Anschluss. Vienna had the antisemitic Karl Lueger as Mayor between the two World Wars and he paved the way for the coming of the Nazis: Corbyn would do the same. He would try to make it uncomfortable and unpleasant for Jews to live in the UK. At nearly 83 I am too old to flee again but I advise all younger Jews to: Beware Corbyn.

Peter Phillips, Loudwater, Herts.

REGIONAL DELIGHTS

Thank you AJR for your monthly Cheshire gatherings. Wendy Bott facilitates our group discussions so smoothly, with lively conversations jumping from one topic to another. They are an absolute delight.

Karen Wright, Altrincham, Cheshire

SAVE OUR SHULS

Your article *Save our Shuls* (March) reminded me of a wonderful book *The Lost Synagogues of London* by Peter Renton, published by Tynsder Publishing.

May I say how much my husband and I enjoy the AJR magazine? Every time it arrives it is a highlight and we have to agree as to who gets to read it first.

Miriam Mark, Brussels, Belgium

HMD REMIT

Frank Bright's statement that "the first HMD in 2001 commemorated only the six million" (April) is inaccurate. The Rt Hon Jack Straw wrote in his introduction to the first national ceremony: "HMD is about learning the lessons of the Holocaust and other more recent atrocities which raise similar issues. We will commemorate all the individuals and communities who suffered as a result of the Holocaust. We will also focus on its contemporary relevance in the light of continuing instances of genocide and other appalling atrocities around the world."

The word 'Holocaust' rightly conjures thoughts about the Nazi Holocaust which was undeniably unique, and the choice of 27 January – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz – invites the accusation of exclusivity. Whilst the events ethos is laudable, its title and timing may have been misleading from the outset.

Barbara Dean, Birmingham

HMD has included other genocides than the Holocaust from the start.

In 2000 I was Deputy Leader of Cambridge City Council. The material we used for HMD included the subsequent genocides (not yet including Darfur) and also Armenia which the UK Government later excluded when setting up the HMD Trust. It is regrettable that confused UK relations with modern Turkey and the Ottoman Empire have led to it being dropped. But the prime focus of HMD remains on the Holocaust. The other genocides show how little account is taken in today's world of the phrase "never again".

Colin Rosenstiel, Cambridge

DECADENT MUSIC

I recently came across "Swing Tanzen Verboten – Unerwünschte Musik", a 4 CD collection of Nazi-prohibited music and musicians. The music is redolent of "the jazz era" and my partner tells me that it was constantly played by her mother in the early post war years and lifted spirits immeasurably. The jazz element is largely third division but presents a treasure for first



and maybe second generation survivors of happier times, after that most evil phenomenon of the 20th century.
Peter Gildener, Truro

DIPLOMATIC EXPULSIONS

All newspapers agreed that the spy and his daughter were poisoned by the Russians. To date the accusations continue. Our PM asked the Russians to provide proof of their innocence and the Russians, on their part, denied any involvement. There is no end to the check-mate in sight.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 11, states that the burden of proof is on the accuser, not the defender. Most countries have acted symbolically by expelling just one diplomat each. A number of other countries have refused to adhere to the British exigency, by rejecting the same measures. The diplomatic expulsions must now be rescinded to ensure the continuation of adherence to the sanctity of the law.
Fred Stern, Wembley, Middx.

DEBATES OF THE MONTH

Antisemitism In Football (April)

I go to football every week and travel all over the country and also abroad. There has always been racism at matches but the worst antisemitism is in London. The West Ham V Spurs game is a disgrace with loud hissing noises emanating from the West Ham supporters to equate to gas noises. The stewards take no action, nor do the owners (who are both Jewish) and Spurs fans call themselves the Yid Army.

In the '70s the anti-black racism included monkey chants and throwing bananas at black players. The recent passing of the wonderful Cyrille Regis brought this into focus again and one could clearly hear racist chants on the old television coverage. This is now virtually nonexistent in England although what will happen in June in Russia remains to be seen.

English football has dealt with black racism but there does not seem to be the same appetite to deal with antisemitism. After all, if the Labour party can't deal with it then this sad state of affairs continues.
Glenn Hess, London

(Re)-claiming a Passport (February)

Gisela Freeman's letter (April) was disingenuous. Victimhood should never be placed in a moral ranking order. Murder is murder, rape is rape, and injustice is injustice. To say one should be eternally grateful to a country which provides a safe haven is often a way of silencing the said citizen's right of free speech and protest.

Ms Freeman uses right wing propaganda to rationalise Britain's colonial record. The same arguments were used to justify Apartheid in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The Brits may well have developed the railways in India but they also oversaw many atrocities elsewhere: the suppression of the Mau Mau rebellion, the Irish potato famine, the British slave trade. Many UK supporters of Nazism in the 1930s thought that the persecution of the Jews was a price worth paying for Hitler's improvement in the German infrastructure and economy.

I embraced the original vision of the EU which was to prevent a war occurring in Europe ever again through reconciliation, economic union and softening borders. It is the UK's rejection of this that has prompted me to retrieve my German and EU nationality.
Andrew Nelson, Leeds

ARCHIVES

I enjoyed your feature in the April issue regarding preservation and donation of family archives and encourage other AJR members to follow your advice.

I inherited many documents, photographs and letters from my late parents who managed to get us out of Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia in July 1939.

My son and I consulted the Wiener Library and were most impressed with their state of the art facilities. Careful records are maintained and they also have a superb library of Holocaust era books. Tony Gray of Words by Design guided me with my family history 'The House That Saved Us'. He was most helpful and cooperative.
Peter Briess, London, NW3

GOOD AND BAD

I regularly read the AJR journal as it is sent for my mother who lives with us in Israel. However it also gets me upset.

Starting with the good points, I was pleased to see a suitable reaction to the Polish hush up of their war crimes and several other articles I felt were relevant. However the article "Will we ever learn?" in which Kurt Marx compares his experiences at Maly Trostenets with President Trump (who is pro-Israel and pro-Jewish) is in my opinion evil writing which reflects a leftist leaning.

Then I read a letter about how the University of Suffolk and other places commemorate HMD by comparing extracts from Anne Frank's diary with the plight of modern Muslim refugees. I would like to see the AJR organise committees combating this false equalising memory.

But the cherry on the cake goes to the "Letter from Israel" whose author apparently has nothing better to write about in the month of Israel's 70th year than her pride in her granddaughter's kindergarten where half of the children are Arab Muslims and half are Jewish. When her granddaughter grows up and probably marries one of her Arab Muslim classmates will she be proud they are bringing less hatred and peace to the world?

It saddens me that so many descendants of Holocaust victims appear to have forgotten their roots and why they and their parents were persecuted. It was because they were Jews.
Mirry Reich, Israel

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler



Les Femmes



The Dream

It has been called Picasso's 'year of wonders', 1932, the last year of his life. But not everyone who has visited Tate Modern's EY Exhibition, Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy feels the same.

One person, who signed herself 'Disappointed Member' wrote on Tate Modern's review space: "In the wake of #MeToo, I cannot believe we'd be showcasing the work of a man who cheats on his wife, paints nudes (without consent) of his 22 year old mistress... I question why we'd choose to laud this year of his life – which only made me recoil at the "taste" of the art world. There must be female artists we could promote instead."

Picasso was an uber-romantic, who as a Spaniard of his era, loved women as much as his own role in the merry-go-round of erotic experience. He pushed out the artistic boundaries of his time, from Cubism to Expressionism to Surrealism, to express his feelings for the female form, and now risks being challenged as a voyeur. Is this justified?

The woman who delivered the angry riposte wants to know what women artists we could regard as role models. Of course there are plenty, from **Paula Rego** to **Freda Kahlo**, **Laura Knight**, whose self-portrait painting a nude woman, shocked the art establishment in 1913. There's **Lubaina Hamid**, the first black woman to win

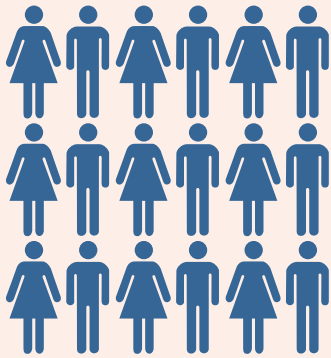
the Turner Prize; the Palestinian **Mona Hatoum**, who challenged the European art world's understanding of non-Western perspectives; the Impressionist **Berthe Morisot** and from as long ago as the 17th century, **Artimesia Gentileschi**. As far as I understand, none of the above was voyeuristic.

But back to Picasso. Yes, he wasn't perfect. Like most people. But as ever in this contemporary blame game, do we attack his work on the basis of his morals? I think not. We are all humans, and who among us is a saint, after all? In many of his curvilinear depictions of the female form, you can see love. Not just sex – despite the more detached erotic detail, despite the garishness of some work which just looks like the sum of its parts, or his sexual statement sculptures. But Picasso's last year also showed his preoccupation with mortality. You see that in the ubiquitous red armchair in which he places his models and which, he says, represents death. It adds a poignancy to his art. For instance, *Woman in the Garden* is extremely erotic but also sensitive and wistful. His oil on wood painting of his lover Marie Thérèse looks like an organic flow of linear shapes,

deceptively simple but it is the thoughtful face he captures. Picasso's preoccupation with death is also reflected in his charcoal crucifixion scenes, once more a series of disconnected shapes apart from the anguished face of Christ himself. His humour is ever present, as is his wit. The inclusion of his 1905 figurative painting *Jeune Femme en Chemise* contrasts with later works, featuring women reading or sleeping, like *Repos*, in which a girl's face rests on her hands. There is an innocence and naturalism about Picasso's art. One of his statements reads: "You start a painting and it becomes something altogether different. It's strange how little the artist's will matters."

Picasso's surrealism is of things that can pass away at any moment, and in these beautiful portraits we see the physical moments of love as something that can endure only in the memory, or in the vision of a great artist. I don't see it as just voyeuristic.

In June 'Art Notes' will include a review of the Fred Uhlman retrospective: The Making of an Englishman, which is showing at Burgh House, London NW3 until 27 May.



1,990
AJR
MEMBERS

50

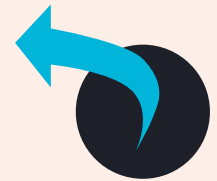
AJR STAFF



£4,072,522
TOTAL INCOME

350+

AJR
VOLUNTEERS



£5,363,268
TOTAL
EXPENDITURE



116
NEW AJR
MEMBERS

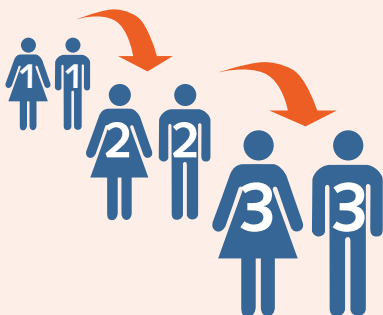


43

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SPECIALIST
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HOMECARE AND
OTHER SUPPORT
SERVICES



132
2ND & 3RD
GENERATION
MEMBERS

300+

NATIONAL
& REGIONAL
EVENTS



£29,399,228
RESERVES CARRIED
FORWARD

2017 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2017 was a year of both visible change, with our new corporate identity, and also underlying change as the AJR adapts to the challenges posed by our ageing membership and 21st century technology and attitudes.

Representing and supporting our members remains our number one priority and during the year our social services team identified many new and existing members who need assistance from the programmes supported by the Claims Conference and also through our own Self-Aid fund.

One of our biggest work streams is the provision of Homecare support and in April 2017 we informed members that the savings cap for Claims Conference Homecare had been restored to £325,000, opening the door for dozens of members who had previously been ineligible. This support enables many members to remain in their own homes and lead independent lives. Alongside this critical work, we continued to offer advice and support regarding relocation to sheltered housing and residential care.

Assessments and applications now require a much greater level of detail, as well as involvement from medical professionals, care organisations and local authorities. AJR teams worked closely throughout the year with a number of organisations and professionals across the country, including archives and medical experts, to ensure our members' needs were met.

As ever, our social services and welfare activities were complemented by a much wider outreach programme. During 2017 we organised an average of 19 regional events each month, plus countless outings and film and book club meetings. Some 1,500 of our members took part in one or more of these activities, perhaps

joining us on a visit to the V&A's archives or a stroll along the seafront at Westcliff, or coming with us to see *Half a Sixpence* or *An American in Paris*.

One particular high point was our five-day trip to Liverpool in May, when 22 AJR members explored the fascinating maritime, musical and Jewish heritage of Merseyside. Dozens of AJR members also joined us on holidays to Eastbourne and Israel.

INVALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

Much of our work relies on support from volunteers. Over 350 people now willingly give up their time to help at our events or to visit or call one of our members. Their support is invaluable and we were delighted to show our appreciation to some of them during special receptions in Manchester and London, the latter at the House of Commons hosted by John Mann MP.

Some of our volunteers help us to provide emotional support to our members, whereas for others the assistance is of a much more practical nature, for example in guiding a member to write his or her memoir or use a computer. The latter can be a lifeline for members, largely thanks to the Six Point Foundation, which over six years to last March helped connect up over 450 survivors and refugees and whose work the AJR is now continuing. Meanwhile our My Story project, which helps members to publish their life stories, greatly intensified during the year with the introduction of a co-ordinator for London and the South East.

All AJR members are special but we also run two special interest groups, one for Kindertransportees and another for Child Survivors. Both these groups were very active during the year, meeting regularly and producing their own dedicated newsletters. At the end of 2017 the Child Survivors Association decided to discontinue its membership of the World Federation of Child Survivors and Descendants, on the basis that the Federation's focus is now shifting

towards subsequent generations.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Holocaust education and commemoration is an increasingly important aspect of the AJR's work. An early highlight was our Holocaust Memorial Day service when over 150 people attended our commemoration ceremony with His Excellency the German Ambassador as the guest speaker. Dozens of AJR members also joined us for the national event to mark Yom HaShoah in May, of which the AJR continues to play a leading organisational role.

In May we also contracted Alex Maws as Head of Educational Grants and Projects, a position which has now been made permanent. As well as professionalising this area of our work, which we believe will develop further in the coming years, our new grant application process is enabling us to support financially several projects, including from organisations and agencies we are working with for the first time. These include the Holocaust Educational Trust, which is developing a project based on the play *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*. Among the other initiatives we sponsored, we partnered the Jewish Film Festival's screening of *The Essential Link*, a documentary about Wilfred Israel. In so doing, we are now proud to be the largest benefactor of Holocaust educational projects and programmes in the UK.

Senior AJR staff were also actively involved in responding to the consultation on the design for the new National Holocaust Memorial and Education Centre which will be constructed at Westminster. We will continue to feedback our thoughts to the Foundation regarding the content as the project moves from concept to reality.

Our communications also moved up a gear during the year, with the appointments of Debra Barnes to lead on PR and social media, alongside her role as My Story co-ordinator, and Jo Briggs as editor of the AJR Journal. Our new logo has spearheaded a

TREASURER'S REPORT

thorough rebranding exercise which, despite some inevitable teething problems – for example in the initial recolouring of the AJR Journal – has received widespread appreciation. We are also now active in the 'Twittersphere' and almost 1,000 people follow our Facebook page.

Work on the new AJR website intensified towards the end of 2017 and we were able to launch our site earlier this year.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The number of new members who joined the AJR during 2017 outweighed the number of cancelled memberships by 4:1. We were deeply saddened, though, to learn that more than 100 of our members passed away during the year. They are sorely missed and we extend our sympathies to their families. We are always delighted to welcome to our membership children or even grandchildren who wish to honour their elders and help maintain the family connection to the AJR.

At this point I should pay tribute to all staff members of the excellent AJR team, so ably led by Michael Newman. In addition to those who have already been mentioned, we welcomed Sharon Cass to help with Homecare claims, Sid Grant to help with the delivery of our meals on wheels, and Aimee Cooke, Basil Hamzie and Marilyn Thomas to augment our social work team, the latter covering Kathryn Williams' maternity leave. We sadly said goodbye to Sam Cohen in Accounts and Esther Rinkoff in our Outreach team..

With the retirement of Anthony Grenville, after 12 years of entertaining readers of the AJR Journal with his authoritative, insightful and well-crafted lead articles, we were delighted to appoint David Herman as our new Contributing Editor. I would also like to thank my fellow trustees whose wisdom and guidance helps to direct the organisation as it strives to deliver the best services for our members.

Finally, on a personal note, I was delighted that 10 AJR members joined me on the New Year's Honours list at the end of 2017. It is impossible to do full credit to all of them but their awards are richly deserved, and, like most of our members, they are truly remarkable people.

Andrew Kaufman
Chairman

The Charity's healthy financial position was further enhanced during 2017 as investment markets grew strongly. Investment gains of £2.2m along with legacy income of £1.7m helped increase our net asset base by nearly £1m even after substantially increasing our charitable activity during the year.

During 2017 the AJR benefitted from further increases from our major funder, the Claims Conference, to whom as always we extend our heartfelt thanks. The AJR continues to act as lead agency of the Umbrella Group of five agencies which now benefit from over £5m in Claims Conference funds, despite being accompanied by the requirement to follow more complex processes in administering those monies.

Our Accounts show that the Charity increased its expenditure on welfare grants to individuals and spend on social services by over £500k. £331k of this increase related to assisting our members with their care needs in their homes. As Claims Conference funding increased, principally for Homecare, we were able to broaden our support to members and we now administer the funding of around 500,000 hours of Homecare along with other welfare services across the group. The Trustees were also able to expand our own Self-Aid programme by more than £80k,

providing £680k of support to our most needy members. All this activity naturally creates a need for additional administrative resource; a consequential 10% increase in spend was incurred here.

We also made some very substantial grants to other organisations to support educational initiatives. This reflected some conditional commitments made in previous years, which had now become firm, effectively "evening-out" the relatively low expenditure of previous years.

It is once again my great privilege to express my gratitude to our former members whose legacies in 2017 supported the organisation. Legacy income for 2017 included a particularly generous bequest from a former member and I respectfully encourage our members to remember that legacies provide a vital income source which enables our critical services to be enhanced in the way that we have been able to achieve in recent years.

As always, I offer my thanks to the finance team, so capably led by its Director, David Kaye, for their continued dedication in relation not only to our own administration but also in carrying out the increasingly complex administrative requirements of the programmes we manage.

We move into 2018 with a robust balance sheet, well placed to continue to develop and expand the services we offer.

David Rothenberg
Treasurer

FINANCE REPORT

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2017

Income:	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
Claims Conference, Six Point & Other Grants	1,545,951		1,290,412	
Subscriptions/Donations	101,184		68,982	
Investment income	721,241		705,168	
Other Income	5,293		4,016	
		2,373,669		2,068,579
Legacies	1,698,854		955,160	
Total Income		4,072,522		3,023,739
Less outgoings:				
Self Aid, Homecare and Emergency Grants	1,767,630		1,340,495	
Social Services and other member services	1,224,065		1,090,403	
AJR Journal	93,687		112,937	
Other organisations	983,550		61,443	
Internal Educational Initiatives	35,016		86,359	
Relocation	0		23,595	
Administration/Depreciation	1,259,320		1,129,424	
		5,363,268		3,844,655
Net operating deficit for the year		-1,290,746		-820,917
Surplus/-Deficiency on realised and unrealised investments		2,246,198		2,591,297
Net movement in funds		955,452		1,770,380

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
Summary Balance Sheet
Year ended 31st December 2017

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets and Investments	26,610,077		24,839,259	
Current assets	5,148,007		4,675,147	
Current liabilities	2,358,825		1,070,600	
Net current assets		2,789,182		3,604,547
Net assets		29,399,259		28,443,806
Reserves brought forward		28,443,776		26673396
Net movement in funds for the year		955,452		1,770,380
Reserves Carried Forward		29,399,228		28,443,776



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REVIEWS

FOREIGN PARTS: GERMAN & AUSTRIAN ACTORS ON THE BRITISH STAGE
CAMBRIDGE: LEGENDA, 2017
 by Richard Dove
 ISBN: 978-1-781884-73-7

Richard Dove, Professor Emeritus at the University of Greenwich, is already well known for his biography of the German-Jewish writer and political activist Ernst Toller, *He Was a German*, and for *Journey of No Return*, an outstanding study of five refugee writers. Fans will not be disappointed by *Foreign Parts*, a fascinating presentation of five actors who, forced to leave Germany and Austria by Hitler, set about plying their trade on the stage in Britain. They were Friedrich (Frederick) Valk, Gerhard Hinze (Gerard Heinz), Lucie Mannheim and Lilly Kann from Germany, and the multi-talented Martin Miller from Austria.

Dove states his central thesis in a characteristically elegant opening paragraph: 'Theatre aspires to be an international art form, but theatre practitioners do not always travel well, particularly across frontiers drawn by language'. Dove then demonstrates how this challenging combination of having to act through the medium of a foreign language and of conforming to an unfamiliar theatrical tradition impacted on the actors' careers.

All five were gifted actors who already had promising careers behind them when they left for Britain. Four were Jews, while Hinze was a Communist who had initially fled to the USSR, only to be expelled during Stalin's purges. All five struggled to establish themselves on the British stage in the pre-war period; Dove draws a depressing comparison between the high standard of theatre in pre-Hitler Germany and the lightweight, well-made plays that dominated the commercially driven theatre of London's West End. That began to change during the war, when the British government established the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts, the predecessor of the Arts Council, which transformed the arts in post-war Britain.

After the difficult pre-war years, the refugee actors attained a measure of success on stage and screen in wartime. Friedrich Valk's performance in *Thunder Rock*, an anti-fascist play by the American dramatist Robert Ardrey, propelled him into the limelight in 1940. The turning point in Gerhard Hinze's career came with his performance as a Polish airman in Terence Rattigan's *Flare Path*, which began a long run in London in August 1942.

Lilly Kann, who had the greatest difficulties as a foreign actor, enjoyed sensational success in Clifford Odets's *Awake and Sing*, at London's Arts Theatre in May 1942. Martin Miller's performance in the same play launched him on a career that led to parts in such famous West End successes as *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Mousetrap*. Only Lucie Mannheim had enjoyed success before the war, thanks in part to her association with the British actor Marius Goring, her future husband. During the war, she worked mainly for the German Service of the BBC; after 1945, her stage career stalled, causing her to return to work – though not to live – in West Germany.

Dove's section on the post-war years concentrates on the work they undertook in plays, films and, from the 1950s, television, but does not engage with their settlement in or attitude towards Britain. The book ends with a consideration of the potential left unfulfilled by these actors' forced emigration to Britain, questioning whether they might have achieved more if they had returned to Germany after 1945.
Anthony Grenville

KING OF CHILDREN. THE LIFE AND DEATH OF JANUSZ KORCZAK
 by Betty Jean Lifton
 London, Valentine Mitchell, 2018
 ISBN: 978-1581101843

This edition is a paperback reprint of a 1988 hardback which remains of value as the record of a courageous, remarkable and inspirational life. Janusz Korczak was born as Henryk Goldszmit in Warsaw in 1878, an unfortunate time and place for a Jewish person to be born, but Korczak's alternate names indicate his desire to unite Poles and Jews. This attempt, however, was not generally popular. His broadcasts to children were derided as 'part of a

Jewish plot to ruin Polish children', while some in the Jewish community found his orphanage 'too Polish'.

Korczak was a doctor, broadcaster, author and storyteller who was conscripted as a doctor into the Russian army for the Russo-Japanese war of 1905 and again for the First World War. In 1910 he gave up a successful medical practice to become director of a Warsaw orphanage for Jewish children. His life's work was to understand and help children. He came to Britain once and visited a children's home in Forest Hill, where this review is being written and where he is still remembered. Such work was, of course, under threat during the Nazi occupation of Poland. Korczak refused to wear the compulsory Star of David and instead wore his Polish officer's uniform. He was also imprisoned after trying to instruct a Nazi officer about "human laws which are transitory, and higher laws which are eternal". The powerful and moving final chapters of this book provide an account of the daily miseries of running an orphanage in the Warsaw ghetto.

In the 1920s Korczak dismissed Zionism, but by the 1930s he pondered going to live on a kibbutz. But his orphans came first and he stayed with them until the end, calmly leading 200 children towards the cattle cars that took them all to Treblinka and death.

As Lieutenant Goldszmit told soldiers during the industrial unrest of 1905: "Before you go to war for any purpose, you should stop and think of the innocent children who will be injured, killed, or orphaned."
Michael Levin

BOOKS BY AJR MEMBERS

On the basis of Hearsay by **FJ. Fishburn** is a story of a young boy's journey into manhood, starting with emigration from Nazi Germany and told with affection and wit. *MAZES 1 – Murder in Munich* and *MAZES 2 – Conspiracy in Vienna* are both epic thrillers written by **Eric Sanders** based around the growing menace of fascist movements. *Kerry's Children* by **Ellen Davis** vividly recounts childhood in Nazi Germany and South Wales.

Around the AJR

Most of these reports are summaries of much longer reviews which, due to lack of space, we are unable to include in their entirety. If you would like further information on the actual event please contact either the author or the AJR regional co-ordinator.

BRIGHTON & HOVE

Pam Fox and her husband spoke of the Jews of Golders Green. They highlighted the continuing changes and the Jewish humour.

Ceska Abrahams

EDINBURGH

Mike Ireland, a production/buyer in TV design, spoke of his work on 'The Lost Tribe', a series about Jewish Lithuanians who ended up in Edinburgh. Coincidentally, Rev. Ernest Levy, the father of our member Judy, was programme adviser and, because he was a cantor, sang in the series.

Karl Stern

GLASGOW

42 people from as far away as Arran – both 1st and 2nd generation – attended a lovely lunch at Marks Deli. There was a fantastic atmosphere lasting hours after lunch, and repeats were requested.

Ruth Ramsey

ILFORD

The versatile Nick Dobson spoke about Agatha Christie's life in crime. A dramatic morning!

Meta Roseneil

MANCHESTER

We enjoyed a musical portrait of Irving Berlin, expertly presented by Brian Greene (paying a most welcome return visit). This was followed by tasty refreshments and lively, happy socialising.

Werner Lachs



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CONTACTS

Susan Harrod
Lead Outreach & Events Co-ordinator
020 8385 3070 susan@ajr.org.uk

Wendy Bott
Northern Outreach Co-ordinator
07908 156 365 wendy@ajr.org.uk

Agnes Isaacs
Northern Outreach Co-ordinator
07908 156 361 agnes@ajr.org.uk

Kathryn Prevezer
Southern Outreach Co-ordinator
07966 969 951 kathryn@ajr.org.uk

Eva Stellman
Southern Outreach Co-ordinator
07904 489 515 eva@ajr.org.uk

Karen Diamond
Southern Outreach Co-ordinator
07966 631 778
karendiamond@ajr.org.uk

KT-AJR (Kindertransport)
Susan Harrod
020 8385 3070 susan@ajr.org.uk

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

MAY GROUP EVENTS

All AJR members are welcome at any of these events; you do not have to be affiliated to that particular group. As the exact timings of these events are often subject to last minute changes we do not include them in the AJR Journal and suggest you contact the relevant regional contact for full details.

Ealing	1 May	Jo Briggs – Editor of AJR Journal
Ilford	2 May	Kathryn Prevezer – My Australian Adventure
Glasgow	3 May	Outing to Kelvingrove Museum
Pinner	3 May	Nick Dobson – Agatha Christie, Queen of Crime
Essex (Westcliff)	8 May	Herbie Goldberg – Jewish refugee composers
K.T. lunch	9 May	With children's author Ally Sherrick (<i>The Buried Crown</i>)
Glasgow Book Club	10 May	Book Club
Film Club	22 May	'My Cousin Rachel'
Book Club	23 May	Social get-together
Edinburgh	24 May	Francoise Robertson
German Embassy exhibition	30 May	"Finchleystrasse – German artists in exile"
Glasgow main meeting	30 May	Second generation lunch at Duck Bay Marina
Muswell Hill	31 May	Social get-together: Bring a photo or object that has special meaning for you.
North London	31 May	Marcus Ferrar – <i>The Budapest House</i>

JUNE GROUP EVENTS

Card & Games Club	4 June	Lunch & assorted games
Excursion	11 June	Salomon Estate & Tudeley Church
Scotland Regional, Edinburgh	20 June	Lunch & discussion with Ruth Davidson SMP
Police Event	28 June	Lunch with Assistant Commissioner DC Martin Hewitt

JULY GROUP EVENTS

Northern Regional, Manchester	4 July	Get-together and lunch with Lilian Black, chair of HSFA
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LOOKING FOR?

The AJR regularly receives messages from our members and others looking for people or for help in particular subjects. Here are some of the most recent requests – please get in touch directly with the person concerned if you can help.

BOOK RETURNS

The Municipal Library in Nuremberg is hoping to reunite many books in its possession with their rightful owners. All looted from their owners between 1933 and 1945, these books represent an important historical monument and legacy. There is a catalogue on: www.nuernberg.de/internet/stadtbibliothek/sammlungikg.html
leibl.rosenberg@stadt.nuernberg.de

ALBERT BUTKUS

Jacqueline Lewis Leary is looking for descendants of Albert Butkus, who lived with her grandparents, Harry and Rae Lewis, in Belfast for at least 10 years. Jacqueline was born in 1939 and he was already her “uncle” when she arrived. She says “I have always loved him and have spent the last 50 years trying to find him and his wife, Stella Mooney”.
lebalewis@yahoo.com

LEA(H) TRISKER

Martin Sugarman at AJEX is seeking information concerning Lea(h) Trisker, born 1919 in Berlin to Regina and Solomon. She came to the UK in 1939 and worked as a civilian nurse and lived at Friary Court, Old Windsor. Died Harefield Hospital Feb 1943 aged 23 of TB or typhus and is buried at Willesden Jewish cemetery.
martin.sugarman@yahoo.co.uk

MARIA AND BIRGITT POPPER

Richard Canter is seeking to return a collection of letters to the family of Maria and Birgitt Popper, who stayed with his wife’s grandmother (Elsie Mabel Attenburrow) in Melton Mowbray in 1942. The girls’ parents Theodor and Henriette Popper were stranded in Sweden, but wrote regularly to their daughters.
richardcanter@virginmedia.com

MARGATE HOSTEL

Marc Schatzberger (known as “Wolfi”) is seeking former residents of the refugees children’s hostel in Cliftonville, Margate, run by Mr Myers. Marc had his Barmitzvah at the Margate Synagogue in July 1939 and would like to make contact with any boys or girls who were there at about that time.
m.schatz@btinternet.com

FOOD INSECURITY

Coventry University would like Holocaust survivors to assist with important research on food insecurity. Would you like to share your stories about how ‘access to food’ changed from 1933 onwards, for example, through the use of ration cards, growing or smuggling food in the ghettos or concentration camps? Dr Andrew Adam-Bradford is particularly interested in meeting anyone with experience of labouring in concentration camp farms or on surrounding local farms.
ab3805@coventry.ac.uk
or 02424 77651684

WELSH SURVIVORS

Mark Griffiths is an award winning photographer based in Cardiff. He is looking for Jewish refugees who settled in Wales, or their relatives, to take part in a special photographic session on Sunday 13 May in Cardiff.
markgriffithsphotography@gmail.com

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CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

FACES - by LARA YOUNG, aged 13

AJR member Erika Judge was so impressed by this poem that she felt it merited a wider audience: it was written with pictorial illustrations by Lara after lessons on the Holocaust at her school. As Erica says, it is “quite incredible for a child of that age, who was apparently very affected by the lessons”.

The faces. I still see them; they haunt me all the time,
All these years later and faces still cloud my mind.
I can see all the children, screaming, crying for their mothers.
Fathers taken away as well as their loving brothers.
The only male faces that I thought I would ever see,
Were those of the Nazis, watching us in glee.

I thought God was omnibenevolent, that He would save us all,
But instead He watched us from above whilst one by one we’d fall.
If God was omnipotent, why could God not end the war?
As the days added up, the deaths were more and more.
If God is omniscient, does he not know our pain?
However, He watches all of us break over and over again.

I had heard all the rumours, of the deathly showers.
People going in and never out because of the gas’s powers.
Every day we went to work, doing pointless jobs.
Then back to the camp each night to sleep in our shared bunks.
Each day we all prayed, prayed for our freedom.
Children cried, mothers wept, now He was really needed.

Then the day came that we were eventually freed.
We were finally released from the control of the Nazis.
As I stepped out the camp, thin and weak, I knew it was God that had helped me stay alive and on my feet.
I hoped I could build a new life, and forgive them all.
I know I won’t forget the time that I had, trapped inside the wall.

Another Gelsenkirchen

I was intrigued to read in the AJR Journal Sandy Potschnick's account of her family visit to Gelsenkirchen. I too have visited Gelsenkirchen to commemorate the sad deaths of my two aunts, the sisters of my late father Eugene Black.

I met the leader of the Jewish community in Gelsenkirchen, Judith Tasbach, and visited the synagogue; I saw the beautiful commemorative wall dedicated to the Jewish community deported from Gelsenkirchen and I saw a sad-looking memorial in the local cemetery to 151 Hungarian Jewish women killed in an RAF bombing raid. Two of those young women were my father's sisters, Jolan and Paula Schwarcz, aged 19 and 22. They were transported with my father and grandparents to Auschwitz-Birkenau in May 1944. After separation, my father never saw his family again and assumed they had all been gassed. My father was sent to Buchenwald, Mittelbau-Dora, Ellrich and Harzungen concentration camps and was liberated by the British at Bergen-Belsen.

Only on our visit to the International Tracing Service in 2008 was the true fate of his sisters revealed. They had been selected for slave labour and sent to the oil refinery in Gelsenkirchen (Gelsenlager) where they endured horrendous conditions and hard labour on meagre rations. I know this because Judith Tasbach's mother was also a prisoner there and from seeing written and filmed testimonies.



Eugene Black at the Jewish Memorial in Gelsenkirchen cemetery

After the bombing raid the remains of the bodies were burned in a mass grave within the complex, which is now owned by BP. Not so much as a plaque or memorial acknowledges the deaths. Access to recover the remains has always been denied. After the war, the then owners of the oil refinery claimed 'no involvement' in the use of slave labour which "came under the control of the SS".

Today a local man, Andreas Jordan, works tirelessly in his community to combat racism. He is a true hero who has taken responsibility, even though he was not alive

at the time. His own website tells the full story of these Hungarian Jewish women. www.gelsenzentrum.de

There is a terrible irony about this story: father was forced to work in the V2 underground rocket factory and his two sisters in the oil refinery, neither party knowing the other's fate. It was an Allied bombing on a legitimate war target, so Britain both killed his sisters and gave him a new life and a new home in the UK.

Lilian Black
Chair, HSFA, Leeds

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FINCHLEYSTRASSE EXHIBITION AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY

WEDNESDAY 30 MAY 2018
AT 2PM

Please join us to view this exhibition

FINCHLEYSTRASSE:
GERMAN ARTISTS IN EXILE IN GREAT
BRITAIN AND BEYOND, 1933-45

and

JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY TODAY

Following a short introduction you will then be able to view the Exhibition at your leisure followed by refreshments.

For details and to book please contact
Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070
or susan@ajr.org.uk

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SUNDAY 1 JULY TO
SUNDAY 8 JULY 2018

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Make new friends and meet up
with old friends

£450pp for twin/double
£475 for single room



Sea View rooms an additional £15 per room per night

Carol Rossen will be among those
accompanying the trip

Space is limited so book early

For further details,
please call the AJR on
020 8385 3070



FANCY A CRUISE?

Carol Rossen is planning a cruise for AJR members this Autumn and would love to hear from people interested in coming along. The suggested dates are in October/November for 11 or 12 nights and proposed destinations include Portugal, Spain, Gibraltar and the Canary Islands. Departure would be from Southampton with coach travel included.

Contact karenmarkham@ajr.org.uk or 020 8385 3070 for more info.

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THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2018 LUNCH AND GUEST SPEAKER ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DC MARTIN HEWITT



Deputy Assistant Commissioner Hewitt began his policing career with Kent Police in 1993, after completing seven years in the army. He has worked in a number of uniformed and detective posts and now heads the Metropolitan Police's 'Total Professionalism Programme'.

Cost is £8 per person.

Please call Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or email susan@ajr.org.uk

Begins at 12pm, Finish at 2.30pm
Shar'arei Tsedek,
120 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20 9EZ

AJR CARD AND GAMES CLUB



Please join us at our Card and Games Club

Monday 4 June 2018 at 1.00pm

at North Western Reform Synagogue,
Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune, London NW11 7EN

Open to all levels Bridge players – come and join us

We also offer card games, backgammon, scrabble. You decide.

Games are dependent on numbers being sufficient – the more the merrier

A sandwich lunch will be served upon arrival with tea, coffee and Danish pastries.

£7.00 per person



Booking is essential – when you book please let us know your choice of game.
Please either call Kathryn Prevezer on 07966 969951 or email kathryn@ajr.org.uk

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OBITUARIES

Frank Meisler

Born Danzig 30 December 1929,
Died Israel 24 March 2018



The AJR was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Frank Meisler, the sculptor who designed and manufactured the series of iconic statues in dedication to the Kindertransport, including the monument at Liverpool Street station that was co-commissioned by the AJR and World Jewish Relief.

Frank was born in Danzig and arrived in England on one of the last Kindertransports in August 1939. After the war he learned that his parents had been murdered in the Holocaust. He was raised by a grandmother, who lived in London. He attended school in Harrow, and then did national service in the Royal Air Force. He studied architecture at the University of Manchester, and was involved in the construction of Heathrow Airport. In the 1950s he made his home and studio in the Artist's Quarter of the Old City of Jaffa.

Leading the tributes was Frank's friend, fellow Kind and Chairman of the AJR-Kindertransport special interest group, Sir Erich Reich, who said "Alongside his great wit and wonderful sense of humour, Frank leaves us a rich legacy of memorials, sited across European cities from where the Kinder travelled to England. Frank was always keen that the local communities be thanked, especially so in England to which he was eternally grateful. In this special year, when we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the creation of the Kindertransport, his absence will be keenly felt but he can rest knowing that his great works remain appreciated every day."

In addition to one-man exhibitions and public sculptures in many parts of the world, Meisler's work is on permanent view in galleries in Old Jaffa, Tel Aviv, New York, Moscow and Kiev.

He designed the interior of the first synagogue built in Moscow this century as well as sculptures on the site of Russia's National War Memorial.

His public sculptures have been erected in Jerusalem, Los Angeles, Miami, Santo Domingo, England, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Holland and Poland and he was given numerous international awards.

Meisler's work was always characterised by a sense of movement and revelation – "The opening and closing of the doors of life". It is a synthesis both powerful and personal.

AJR Editorial Team

Prof Dr Pavel Novak

Born Czechoslovakia 7 September 1918,
Died UK 24 February 2018



Our father was born in Stribro in western Bohemia. His parents were Rudolf and Elsa Novak, our grandparents, whom we never had the opportunity to meet.

When he was five the family moved to Plzen, where he attended the local Czech schools and had his Barmitzva in what is still the largest synagogue in Europe. At the University in Prague he read Civil Engineering, specialising in Hydrodynamics and Hydrology.

With the rise of Nazism Pavel left Prague, arriving in London in March 1939. Unfortunately, his parents and sister with her family could not escape and they perished in the Holocaust. The only memorial that exists for them is the inscription of their names in the Pinkas Synagogue in Prague, just a few of the 77,297 souls remembered in this way.

Pavel finished his studies at the University of London, graduating with BSc Hons in Civil Engineering in 1941. He secured a job as assistant engineer for the Trent Navigation Company in Nottingham and in 1942 as an assistant lecturer at University College, Nottingham. There he met Risa Elizabeth, a refugee from Vienna, and they married in August 1943.

After the war they returned to Prague where Pavel continued working and studying, gaining the titles of Ing Dr in 1949, CSc in 1958 and DrSc in 1965. He published extensively and thereby became internationally known despite being prohibited from travelling abroad by the Communist regime. He became Director of the Institute of Hydrodynamics in Prague and Professor of Hydraulics at the Prague Technical University.

His career in Prague was cut short by events in August 1968 and he had to emigrate for the third time in his life. Although entirely unfamiliar with Newcastle, he accepted an offer from that University and ended his career as Emeritus Professor, Head of Department of Civil Engineering and Head of School of Civil and Mining Engineering. He was an examiner and supervisor for research students in the UK and overseas, and was awarded numerous Honorary Memberships and Fellowships of international academies of Science.

After he retired Pavel indulged his passions for painting, classical music, theatre, opera and reading and he became a valued member of Newcastle Reform Jewish Community. He travelled frequently with Risa and they both thoroughly enjoyed their visits to the Czech Republic after the fall of the Iron Curtain. They were married for over 70 years and after Risa died he spent the last four years of his life at the Philip Cussins House.

He is survived by his two children, Michal Novak and Zuzana Segelman, twelve grandchildren, over fifty great grandchildren and a great great granddaughter.

Michal Novak



Kurt Wilhelm Weinberg

Born Czechoslovakia 7 September 1918,
Died UK 24 February 2018

Kurt Weinberg lived many lives. The son of Elsa and Julius Weinberg, Kurt was born in Werther, Germany and spent happy days with his brother Bernd and his twin sisters Eva and Resi in their family's eighteenth century Westphalian manor house and its large garden.

That first life was shattered when Kurt and his family were forced to flee Germany. His father was sent to Buchenwald on Kristallnacht and returned a broken man.

His second life began in May 1939, arriving in London at age 14 on the Kindertransport, his siblings having left earlier. In the first few days in London he received both hospitality and the chance to go to a private school. He was evacuated with this school to the Cornish coast. The headmaster, Mr Crombie, charged no tuition. Kurt never forgot these kind acts. When Kurt left the school in June 1942, Mr Crombie wrote on his report "Kurt has continued to work with unremitting energy at all his studies...I cannot speak too highly of him as Prefect, House Captain and troop leader."

Kurt often said that those three years with the freedom and responsibilities were the most fulfilling and joyful times of his life. Kurt contributed by growing vegetables for the school kitchen and collecting newspapers for recycling on his bicycle to help the war effort. After leaving school in 1942 Kurt went to London where he worked in the radio industry, essential for the war effort.

In 1950 he returned to Werther to sell his father's cigar factory, which had been restored to the family. The process took four years. Returning to London, he began his "next" life, starting his own cigar importing business, the Anglo-Dutch Cigar Company.

Kurt met and married Charlotte Alexander in 1955. Her family were also refugees from Germany. They settled in London and raised four daughters: Judith, Miriam (Mia), Naomi and Ruth. Kurt and Charlotte were both aware of the discrimination that foreign students were facing in the 1960s, especially finding accommodation. He began his "next" life when they envisioned and built a non-profit housing development providing homes for married international postgraduate students. They were supported by the British Council and friends.

Completed in 1971, Nansen Village in North Finchley has now grown to 51 flats and 15 individual bungalows. Students and their families from around the globe enjoy its vibrant community, its gardens, and the playground.

Nansen Village embodies Kurt's values. The 1,700 families who have lived in the Village reflect his faith in the human spirit and his belief that people of differing cultural backgrounds will build lifelong friendships. He enjoyed being actively involved in the management and activities until the end of his life.

Amongst Kurt's many other activities, he was a visitor for the AJR. Kurt lived a rich life which he enjoyed with Charlotte, his wife of more than 62 years. His wanderlust and awe of nature took him on adventures across the globe. He was a man deeply committed to family, always ready to help others. He embraced his love of life with unremitting energy.

Family Weinberg



Professor Walter Elkan

Born Hamburg
1 March 1923,
Died London 21 February 2018

Walter was born into an old, established Jewish Hamburg family and came to England in 1938.

Relatives in the UK arranged for him to study at Frensham Heights School and financed his education; it was there that he met his future wife, Susan Jacobs (died 2007) as well as Sir Claus Moser, and the three of them enjoyed music-making together.

Walter went on to study economics at the LSE, where he also obtained a PhD. His speciality – development economics with a particular interest in African economies and patterns of labour - led to a lectureship at Makerere Institute of Social Research in Uganda, where he undertook ground-breaking research into patterns of migration in East Africa. He was subsequently appointed to chairs at the University of Durham and Brunel University, as well as being in demand as a consultant for the World Bank and advising a number of African governments. An original and empirical thinker, his work on the economics of recycling and 'upcycling' in East Africa in the 1950s provided a rich seam of interest, long before Western economies had begun to turn their attention to the issue. Subsidiary interests included research into methods of financing museums, for which he received a British Academy award.

Walter had a life-long interest in art (despite being colour blind) and music. He played the violin regularly in chamber music groups until he was ninety.

Throughout his life, his own early experiences meant that he went out of his way to support people fleeing repressive regimes. He had a great gift for making friends on all possible occasions. He is survived by his partner of many years, Anne Eames, as well as three children from his earlier marriage and five grandchildren.

Jenny Swann

100 FACES

BAFTA-nominated composer/filmmaker, Benjamin Till is making a film exploring what it means to be Jewish, told from the perspective of one hundred British Jewish people, aged 1-100. The film will be premiered at the 2018 UK International Jewish Film Festival.

Anyone interested in being considered as one of the contributors should send a photograph and potted history to Benjamin. They also need to write down, in two sentences or less, what being Jewish means to them. Answers can be funny, sad, inspiring, moving, bizarre.

ben@benjamintill.com
or 07970 569 125

WHY NOT TRY AJR'S MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE?

The AJR offers a kosher Meals on Wheels service delivered to your door once a week.

The meals are freshly cooked every week by Kosher to Go. They are then frozen prior to delivery.

The cost is £7.00 for a three-course meal (soup, main course, desert) plus a £1 delivery fee.

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For further details, please call
AJR Head Office on 020 8385 3070.

SCOTLAND REGIONAL WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE 2018 IN EDINBURGH



with special guest **Ruth Davidson MSP**

Ruth Davidson heads the Scottish Conservatives, the second largest party at Holyrood. She sits as MSP for Edinburgh Central.

After graduating from Edinburgh University, she worked as a BBC journalist. She served in the Territorial Army, as a signaller. After leaving the BBC in 2009 to study at Glasgow University, Davidson joined the Conservative Party.

Our event, which will also be attended by AJR chief executive Michael Newman, will include lunch and discussion. Transport from Glasgow will be provided.

For further details contact
agnes@ajr.org.uk or 07908 156 361

ERRATA

A report in the April journal quotes David Barnett as saying that at the time of the Balfour Declaration the Prime Minister was Arthur Balfour. Clearly he didn't say that as it was Lloyd George. Arthur Balfour was foreign secretary! Apologies to all concerned.



90 YEARS YOUNG

The AJR is delighted to wish a hearty mazeltov to three of our Sheffield members who are all celebrating their 90th birthdays. From left to right: Sue Pearson, Dorothy Fleming and Otto Jacobovic.

Events and Exhibitions

THE MAKING OF AN ENGLISHMAN

Anthony Grenville, former Consulting Editor of the AJR Journal, will give a talk at Burgh House in conjunction with the retrospective exhibition of the works of Fred Uhlman, who journeyed from Stuttgart to Hampstead.

Nicolabaird@aol.com
24 May, 7pm

OSTRAVA AND ITS JEWS

David Lawson, Libuse Salomonovicova and Hana Sustkova will launch their book 'Now no one sings you Lullabies' in Westminster Synagogue. The book encapsulates a miniaturised history of Europe – its rise and almost overnight destruction by bigotry and intolerance.

david@lawsonassoc.co.uk
6 June, 7pm

COMMIT TO DUBS

The eightieth anniversary of the Kindertransports represents an opportunity to remember and use its legacy. This November the Safe Passage organisation, which helps unaccompanied child refugees and vulnerable adults find safe, legal routes to sanctuary is planning a national, community led campaign to ask the government to commit to the Dubs Amendment. The campaign will be launched at an event at the House of Lords.

www.safepassage.org.uk

JOSEPH PEREIRA

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