

AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

From Toasters to Posters

A new year-long festival, part-supported by the AJR, will celebrate the astonishing impact that Jewish refugees and émigrés have had on post-war Britain.



Retro design toasters made by Dualit, which was founded by émigré Max Gort-Barten

Jewish refugees have transformed almost every area of British culture. They established the Edinburgh Festival and Wolfson College in Oxford, the Warburg Institute and Glyndebourne, Thames and Hudson and the Ballet Rambert. They ran world-famous science labs and built some of the landmarks of 20th century British architecture. And they transformed our everyday world: Fritz Landauer's shop-fronts for Boots and Burtons, Vicky's newspaper cartoons of 'Supermac', Hans Schleger's advertisements for MacFisheries, the GPO and London Transport, and



A Hans Shleger poster for the GPO, the former British postal system

the Dualit Toaster - an iconic classic, designed by Max Gort-Barten.

Refugees revolutionised psychoanalysis and art history, music teaching and publishing, physics, art and design. They changed the way we think about Englishness and they re-wrote the British past, from GR Elton's revolution in Tudor government to the 18th century high politics of Lewis Namier and the 19th century social history of EJ Hobsbawm. They opened British eyes to European culture and ideas, and they played a *Continued on page 2*

HAPPILY FULL

The various 80th anniversary commemorations continue, among them the hugely exciting *Insiders/Outsiders* year-long festival described in David Herman's lead article. More detail on the full programme of festival events will follow in future issues.

We were delighted to receive an especially full postbag last month, so as a one-off we are bringing you three whole pages of letters alongside our usual mix of reports, reviews and life stories.

We very much hope you enjoy reading everything and, as always, will be happy to receive any feedback.

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From toasters to posters (cont.)

crucial role in the Cold War.

Their impact was enormous. The migration is a major chapter in British 20th century culture. And yet it remains curiously invisible. There have been a handful of books on particular groups: on scientists, publishers, or historians. But there has only been one book on the whole migration, Daniel Snowman's The Hitler Emigrés. There have been no television series about these two generations and only a handful of programmes about the best-known individuals, including a fascinating drama about Sir Ludwig Guttmann and his pioneering work treating spinal injuries at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and a documentary about mathematician Jacob Bronowski presented by his daughter, Lisa Jardine.

All this is about to change. In an ambitious nationwide festival to mark the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the WW2, dozens of events will celebrate the achievements of these refugees. The Festival, *Insiders/Outsiders: Refugees from Nazi Europe and their Contribution to British Culture*, begins on 27 February and will run until March 2020. The AJR is one of its supporters and the patrons include Lord Alfred Dubs, Sir Erich Reich, Sir Nicholas Serota, Sir Norman Rosenthal and Edmund de Waal.

The Festival will concentrate on the arts, especially visual arts. From June to November, Tate Britain will show an exhibition on The Bauhaus in Britain; and a London Transport Museum exhibition will celebrate the work of émigré poster designers including Moholy-Nagy, George Him and Hans Schleger ('Zero'); Burgh House in Hampstead will hold an exhibition on Art and Politics in 1930s Hampstead; in the summer a Sotheby's exhibition will pay tribute to émigré art dealers, publishers and collectors; and the National Portrait Gallery is planning a trail of portraits of and by émigrés.

The Insiders/Outsiders festival will be accompanied by a book, Insiders/Outsiders: Refugees from Nazi Europe and Their Contribution to British Visual Culture, edited by Monica Bohm-Duchen and published by Lund Humphries.

Contributors include Michael Berkowitz, Charmian Brinson, Rachel Dickson and Sarah MacDougall from Ben Uri, Anna Nyburg, Sir Norman Rosenthal and Daniel Snowman. Here I should declare an interest. My father was the Jewish refugee artist, Josef Herman, and his painting, *Refugees*, has been chosen for the cover of the book and features on The *Insiders/Outsiders* website.

There will also be a series of events focussing on the vital contribution of émigré architects to be held in association with RIBA, the Twentieth Century Society and the Isokon Gallery Trust. In addition, there will



be screenings of films by Emeric Pressburger, Conrad Veidt, Lothar Mendes, Karel Reisz and other great refugee directors and actors at venues including the BFI, JW3, and Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image.

A season of performances and workshops at Dartington Hall and Trinity Laban Conservatoire will celebrate pioneering choreographers Rudolf Laban, Lisa Ullmann, Kurt Jooss and others, whose work transformed modern British dance. There will be a centenary tribute to music critic Hans Keller (The Wigmore Hall and Cambridge University), and Norbert Meyn of the Royal College of Music, founder of the online project Singing a Song in a Foreign Land, is organising a number of related concerts and events.

Many famous names are represented in the Festival. But *Insiders/Outsiders* sets out to feature less familiar figures and broaden the canon in other ways. It will feature refugees from Germany and Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, as well as Holocaust survivors who arrived after 1945, and members of the Second (and even Third) Generations. Many of the lesser-known artists are women, such as Grete Marks, who will be exhibited at the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, and the ceramicist Lucy Rie.

Through many events around the country it will also show that the story of these refugees was complicated in many ways. For example, there are those British figures who welcomed and worked with refugees. The story of the Academic Assistance Council (the AAC) is well known, but there are many examples of people who put on exhibitions of work by continental artists or publishers who took a risk on a relatively unknown European author or academic. It was John Christie, for example, who brought Fritz Busch, Carl Ebert and Rudolf Bing to Glyndebourne and Herbert Read who curated the exhibition of Twentieth Century German Art in 1938, raising money for exiled

This is a difficult path to tread. Of course, the Festival organisers want to be affirmative and celebratory. But they are also right not to underplay the experience of loss, displacement and isolation which affected so many refugees, or the many difficulties they encountered on arriving in Britain. This may be the greatest challenge facing the Festival organisers. How do you put together exhibitions and events about dispossession and loss?

One of the main achievements of the *Insiders/Outsiders* Festival is getting the involvement of large cultural institutions, from the Tate to Glyndebourne and the BFI and many, many more. Much of this is down to the creative director, Monica Bohm-Duchen and her team, project manager, Marilyn Greene and project co-ordinator, Sue Grayson Ford.

Bohm-Duchen is the daughter of two refugees. Her father came from Poland and her mother, the celebrated photographer, Dorothy Bohm, was born to a German-speaking family of Jewish-Lithuanians with origins in Konigsberg in east Prussia, and came to Britain in 1939.

MY STORY ONLINE

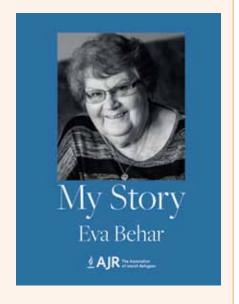
AJR's *My Story* book project is going strong, and now moving to the next phase – we're going digital!

The first *My Story* book to be available digitally via our website is that of Eva Behar.

Eva was born in Romania in January 1925. Despite the horrific conditions, she survived Auschwitz and Belsen, and then met her husband Sammy at a camp in Germany for Displaced Persons after the war. They married in Germany in November 1946 but Eva had to wait until May 1947 to be allowed to come to live in England.

Read Eva's story in her own words. Her book is now available to download free of charge directly from the AJR website. If you're using an Apple device, the book can be viewed in the iBooks app from the App store. If you're using an Android device, the book can be viewed in the Google Play Books app. Both Mac and Windows will read these in Adobe Digital Editions too or Microsoft Edge on Windows 10.

If you would like more information about the My Story project please contact



Debra Barnes at AJR on **020 8385 3093** or via email **debra@ajr.org.uk**

An exhibition of Dorothy's photos of children opened in November at the V&A Museum of Childhood and continues until March. Monica grew up with the experience of Jewish refugees and this has played an important part in her career as an art historian and curator. She co-curated an exhibition called *Art in Exile in Great Britain 1933-1945* and more recently was the author of *Art and the Second World War* (2013).

This festival could not be more timely. It celebrates the work of this extraordinary generation of Jewish refugees just as they are passing. Secondly, the subject of refugees is very topical. As Bohm-Duchen told *The Guardian*, "These issues are very much in the air at the moment... The contribution of refugees then and now is clearly deeply topical." Finally, *Insiders/Outsiders* coincides with a series of dark 80th anniversaries from *Kristallnacht* and the *Kindertransport* to the beginning of the Second World War, events which drove so many brilliant refugees to Britain.

The inaugural event on 27 February, at Senate House, will feature former Consultant Editor of the AJR Journal, Dr Anthony Grenville, talking about *Britain* and the British in novels and memoirs by refugees from Nazism.

More information about *The Insiders/*Outsiders Festival can be found on
www.insidersoutsidersfestival.org

David Herman

New compensation for Kinder

The AJR has received dozens of enquiries in response to the December 2018 commitment by the German government to pay a one-time compensation award to the child refugees who came to Britain on the Kindertransport.

Eligible Kinder will receive a one-time payment of 2,500 Euros, approximately £2,250. Receipt of previous compensation awards will have no bearing on eligibility for this payment and there is no income limit for eligible applicants, who can contact the AJR for assistance with completing all the necessary forms.

Applications must be submitted by survivors, not heirs. This means that the Kindertransport survivor must be alive at the date of application to be eligible for this payment. If the Kindertransport survivor applying for the fund subsequently dies, the surviving spouse may be entitled

to payment. If there is no surviving spouse, the child(ren) of the eligible child survivor may be entitled to the payment.

Kindertransport-AJR Chairman, Sir Erich Reich, said: "While no amount of money can ever compensate for our emotional or material losses, this award recognises our experience of being separated as children from our parents and having to live in an alien country with a foreign language and culture, and the unique story and act of rescue of the Kindertransport."

The one-off payments are expected to come through latert this year via the Claims Conference, who have negotiated this compensation with the German government and who will be overseeing all claims. In January the Claims Conference worked alongside the AJR to host a series of surgeries for potential claimants, providing practical and timely advice.

For more information please contact the AJR's Claims and Pension Advisor Rosemary Peters on **020 8385 3088** or **rosemary@ajr.org.uk**

Letters to the Editor

In response to the huge volume of correspondence received this month we are delighted, on this occasion, to be able to allocate more space than usual for our Letters pages. As ever, the Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication.

RIGHTEOUS GENTILES

Eve Kugler responded to David Herman's article on Righteous Gentiles (November 2018) by juxtaposing the 5,596 Dutch righteous against the loss of 90% of Dutch Jews. She was right to do so. The Dutch civil service carried on its "duty", the trains never failed to run, there were over 1,000 volunteers to the Dutch Special Battalion to deal with the Jews, and the Dutch were represented in the German army (including members of the Dutch SS who served in the gas chambers of Auschwitz).

The Dutch government of the 1960s commissioned Dr J. Presser (a hidden Jew) to conduct a study of the Dutch response to the Nazi occupation. His findings are published in "Ashes in the Wind" and they do not flatter the Dutch people. I will never know how well or badly I would have behaved but the great Dutch response is a myth.

Michael Hilsenrath, Borehamwood, Herts.

AHARON APPELFELD

David Herman writes about Aharon Appelfeld (January) who as a boy of thirteen ran away from a camp in Transnistria and zig-zagged for two years between European battle fronts. In 1946 he arrived in Palestine where he had to learn his fifth language - Hebrew - after German, Yiddish, Romanian, Russian. It became the language in which he wrote his novels. In an interview he called it difficult, "severe and ascetic", its biblical cadences "offering the heart of the Jewish myth".

His stories are full of wisdom about the Jewish condition. They are relevant to survivors of the Shoah. Through a character in his novel *The Immortal Bartfuss* he asks "What have we Holocaust survivors done? Has our great experience changed us at all?" Appelfeld refers to the survivors' burden of guilt, but can offer no relief, "...no consolation. The experience reduces (one) to silence".

There is no answer. Appelfeld died in 2018. *Victor Ross, London W9*

TASTES OF HOME

David Herman's lead article Tastes of Home (December 2018) clearly had several AJR members salivating.

Helen Grunberg fondly recalled how "Grandfather enjoyed carp over Weihnachten while goose was extravagantly cooked at our home. We loved going to Ken & Marie's, across from John Barnes, for barrelled cucumbers and sauerkraut, also for various würstchen. Schmidt's in Charlotte Street was a regular visit where our parents bought Teewurst and Leberwurst and Knackwurst along with Lebkuchen for Weihnachten. The Dorice, with pianist, and Cosmos were where we sat for Kaffee and Kuchen at the weekends. They had white linen if one dined on one side of Cosmos, without linen if one stayed on the left side coffee shop."

Gisela Feldman lived "in West Hampstead in 1941/2 and had coffee at Dorice, where I met fellow refugees, as often as I could afford it. David Herman also mentions the Czech Club and Herbert Lom. We were friends in those days and went dancing in the Tottenham Court Road area as well as out for afternoon tea. This was well before he became a famous actor. In June or July 1942 he invited me to a Czech Garden Party on Hampstead Heath and that was where I met my husband. After that our outings stopped and the rest is history!"

Doona Labi wrote "David Herman's article had me absolutely drooling but he was wrong about one thing, namely the Czech Club having gone. It's still there in West End Lane and we still regularly go. Nowadays the menu selection is far bigger, and of course it's printed in both Czech and (for us lot!) English."

Eva Evans says her family still eats Zwetschkenkuchen whenever she "can find the right kind of plum, (referred to as 'Twetches' by a long lost English greengrocer who imported them before the Balkan crisis)". She is proud that at the age of 95 she can still make the essential yeast pastry. Margarete Stern praised our photo of "mouth-watering Stollen – though maybe a little less dried fruit would have been more to my liking!"

CZECH MATES

Thank you for featuring the achievements of some of the Czechoslovak children (October 2018) who arrived on the Winton transports. However, the list of names does not mention the surprisingly large number of Kinder who volunteered to join the British Forces during the war, potentially risking life and limb.

The following statistics may be of interest:

- Total of Czechoslovak Kindertransport children from Prague: 669
- Children not old enough to join up even by the end of the War: 372

Of the remaining 297 Kinder many served as Air Raid Wardens, Nurses, Firemen, Land Girls etc. and 114 joined the Armed Forces. 104 of these were boys (Army 65, Royal Navy 3, RAF 36) and 10 were girls (ATS 6, WAAF 4).

Kurt Taussig, Stanmore.

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION

The decision to hold a commemoration in Westminster Abbey of the Kristallnacht devastation was a unique act of commiseration by the Church of England, immeasurably appreciated by the refugees who were given asylum in the UK. The Abbey's vastness fitted the magnitude of the atrocity committed on the night of 9th November 1938.

My aunt and uncle directly bore the brunt of the hordes' actions, having their flat totally destroyed. I distinctly remember their bedroom furniture, made of black ebony wood, of which they were particularly proud. As if my uncle had a premonition of what was going to happen one day, he had the entrance to an adjacent room covered with the same wallpaper, thus hiding valuable articles from the perpetrators. By some miracle my whole family escaped that pogrom. Watching the synagogue, in which I was Barmitzvah, burn to the ground, just metres away, left an indelible impression on

my brain. Hitler read the universal silence on the atrocities as a green light to carry out his murderous plans.

Had it not been for my mother's courage and devotion, finding a job in England, leaving me and my father temporarily in Vienna, this account would not have been written. The ceremony at Westminster Abbey recalled the events which happened many years ago which reshaped my life.

In memory of the Kristallnacht, I designate my own crystal collection to my progeny in perpetuum et unum diem. Fred Stern, Wembley

AJR's STAR ADVERTISERS

I would like to tell you how pleased I am. Joseph Pereira assembled a DIY bookcase, fitted a toilet seat and a loose cupboard as well as solving my tap and basin problem. He was so nice and really helpful and also gave me good advice about what to do with my venetian blind.

I would also like to mention that I got Paul, the electrician, from your magazine. I thought I needed a new, expensive doorbell fitting but he assured me he could repair my existing one. That was about 18 months ago and it's still working.

I am 78 and not much use with household stuff; these were two very fine, capable men and I would definitely recommend them. So it occurred to me to let you know this. Jane Roth, London NW6

ART NOTES QUESTION

In response to Gloria Tessler's January article, is not Egon Schiele's signatory gesture of pulling down, or closing, one eyelid a play on his surname (schielen = to squint)?

Peter Oppenheimer, Oxford

VIENNA'S NEW YEAR CONCERT

As in previous years, I listened to the BBC broadcast of the New Year Concert from the elegant gilded Musikverein in Vienna

and watched the beautiful, cleverly-staged ballet from the Vienna Opera House.

My mother loved these concerts that reminded her of her youth in Vienna. Until now I had not realised that this traditional event does not go back to the era of the Strauss family, but was instituted in 1939 under the auspices of Baldur von Schirach, Nazi Gauleiter for Vienna. That was the year that I left Vienna on a Kindertransport in March and my parents came to England as domestic servants in August. Many friends and relatives were not so lucky and perished.

I have been back to Vienna many times since then - from the shabby grey 1950s Vienna of The Third Man to the wealthy, sophisticated city of art, music and chocolate cake that it has become today. Strauss, Mozart and Schubert are as much my inheritance as are British and Jewish culture. I respect the majority of today's Austrians, particularly those who have dropped the pretence that Austria was a "victim" of the Nazis (I can still hear the cheering of the crowds that greeted Hitler in Vienna in March 1938), but I still have mixed feelings, not least because of the rise of the far right in Austria. As an enthusiastic pro-EU citizen I would be sad if the UK leaves, but this country has been good to me and that's where I am staying for the few years left to me.

RE-ENACTING THE KINDERTRANSPORT

John Farago, Deal, Kent

It was kind of you to include in the Kindertransport section of the January issue the article on the re-enactment of my journey in January 1939 from Harwich to Liverpool Street station. However, it was the Daily Mirror, not the Mail, which organised the trip. If I remember correctly the Daily Mirror was one of the few national papers that welcomed the arrival of the Kindertransports in 1938.

Leslie Baruch Brent, London N10

KINDERTRANSPORT 'COMPENSATION'

The recent announcement by the German government of an offer of 2500 Euros to each Kind still alive has provoked a wave of

enquiries, some of them with quite strong views.

Ruth Barnett writes that she feels "... incensed that those Kinder no longer alive are excluded. The same 2500 Euros per Kind should be offered as inheritance for those Kinder not alive, and claimed by their children. Otherwise it suggests that the German government grudges this compensation - which is already far too late - and was hoping to reduce it as the Kinder came to the ends of their lives." She also questions why this decision has been made now, and whether it was only prompted by the intense media interest surrounding the 80th anniversary rather than a genuine desire "to recognise and honour the Kindertransport".

Another AJR member wrote that "The timing and payment of these awards seems totally arbitrary and far too late. My mother was a 13 year old Kind from Bratislava in 1939. She applied in 1988 for restitution from the German government for the loss of her parents, brother and her home and was told her application was out of time. This current offer of compensation is also too late as she died 6 years ago. To offer a very small award now, 80 years after the event, to the 10,000 Kinder many of whom (like my mother) are no longer alive, feels like an insult. The award might have felt more genuine and more heartfelt had it been offered to Kinder or, in the event of their demise, their immediate families."

This particular AJR member added: "What is not arbitrary for me is the pain my mother suffered as a result of her adolescent upheaval and loss. Pain which resulted in severe bouts of depression throughout her life, the need for continual, extensive psychiatric treatment, all witnessed with great distress by her husband, children and later grandchildren for many, many years."

DUTCH COMPENSATION

This is what I call a 'metzie' (a bargain). The Dutch state-run railways (NS) will set up a commission to consider compensating Continued overleaf

Letters to the Editor (cont.)

Holocaust survivors for having willingly assisted in deporting them to death camps.

The NS found trains and time-tables to transport 107,000 Jews from all over Holland to the Westerbork transit camp, run by the Dutch SS, and from there to their death in the East. 5,000 survived, a death rate of 95.3%. For this the NS was paid £2.2 million in today's money.

The NS then waited a mere 76 years for the few survivors to die out. As whole families were deported there were not many surviving relatives left. The Dutch government and its railways, both efficient corporations, made quite sure that the state's coffers will not unduly suffer from this belated goodwill gesture.

Frank Bright, Martlesham Heath, Suffolk

TORN FROM HOME (January)

Governments all over the world are dealing with refugees by creating new laws which prevent them from entering their countries. When refugees are eventually allowed in, hostilities from the locals bar them from worthwhile interaction with local populations. Mental sickness, depression, paranoia and schizophrenia are common in refugees, reinforced by lack of support from family and friends. Some commit suicide; some can't fit in, feeling rejected and dislocated from society.

As a qualified doctor, I am used to different kinds of behaviour and when I first arrived from my country of origin I did not take too much notice. The house where I lived was damaged by graffiti and then someone was always using my parking space, which only stopped when I applied for a County Court injunction.

When applying for postgraduate training I received only refusals but one polite reply stood out. They wrote "We cannot take you on because we do not have enough supervisors". I badly needed to work so, through the Employment Tribunal, I enquired "How many supervisors do you have and how many trainees?" The reply was: "Three supervisors and two trainees". I was

financially compensated for this malicious and discriminatory reply.

Dr. Elena Rowland, London, SE18

BASQUE REFUGEES (January)

When I arrived in England with a Kindertransport from Frankfurt, aged just 10, I was sent to a hostel in Tynemouth. There I soon discovered signs, such as labels with names of its previous inhabitants, in the "trunk room". I had no idea who the Basques were but someone pointed out to me that I was wearing a "Baskenmütze" a beret basque, as the French would have it, and indeed, so were most of us, warm and practical and easy to wear. Later I discovered that there was a Basque language, not in the slightest like any other European language. I eventually visited the south west corner of France and saw and heard samples of the language, full of "a"s and "x"s with a very guttural sound.

Approximately 4,000 children arrived in England from the Basque country. Most of them returned to their homes in France and Spain before WW2 broke out. After the failure of the Spanish Civil war, with the dictatorial leader Franco, Spain turned itself into a better country. All I remember of the Spanish military police was their very unpleasant helmets. Quite frightening I thought. It made English policemen without weapons seem remarkably civilised. And kind too. One could ask the "bobbies" for help! We would never have done that in Germany, nor in Spain, I imagine. Ruth L. David. Leicester

WIDENING OUR FOCUS

I have been reflecting on a number of your contributors' letters and articles in recent issues of the AJR Journal. A repeated theme is remembrance of the Holocaust. As a Jew, a refugee from Berlin, whose family suffered death and disruption, but lucky in escaping with my parents and brother to London in April 1939, I fully understand the importance of not forgetting the biggest crime in world history.

Nevertheless I regret the narrow focus on

our history. Instead of using our experience to show an understanding of the crimes against humanity we see all around us, the focus remains on our own victimhood. For example, we, above all, must be sensitive and I hope constructive about the world's refugee problem, and that, of course includes the Palestinians. Please let the Journal take a proactive role in using our experience to be used in searching for solutions to some of the human rights abuses we see around us. *Emeritus Professor Frank Land, Totnes, Devon*

Note from Editor: Thank you for your comments. By coincidence we have just commissioned an article on the potential implications of Brexit to modern-day refugees.

AJR & BREXIT (December 2018)

I read with interest your piece on the above indicating a huge rise in the numbers of applications by British Jews for German citizenship.

I was surprised to hear Mr Newman thought only a small number of people applied for a German passport as a protest against Brexit. I live between England and Portugal but my status in Portugal has not been threatened and I do not need a German passport. My main reason for applying in 2016 was rage and distress about the narrowness, insularity and self-centeredness lying behind the Brexit vote. One of our children has also applied for a German passport and the others may follow.

I remain very grateful to the UK for offering shelter to my parents and some of my grandparents in the 1930s. I owe much to the generosity of the British people and am very saddened by the current surge in petty nationalism and xenophobia across Britain - and elsewhere. We have to counter it where we can and stand together with other minorities.

Among the 1667 applicants mentioned I am sure I am one of very many who took this course of action largely as a "protest".

Sonia Lauber Sampson, Cascais, Portugal

Re-enacting Parliament

One of the most impressive and imaginative events held to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the Kindertransport took place in the Speaker's House at the House of Commons on the evening of 21 November 2018.

That was exactly eighty years after the debate on 21 November 1938, during which Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare announced the British government's intention to allow unaccompanied Jewish children from Nazi Germany to enter Britain without passports or visas. AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman and former Consultant Editor of AJR Journal Anthony Grenville had decided to create a re-enactment of that debate, in which present members of parliament would read extracts from the speeches made by their predecessors in 1938, selected by Dr Grenville.

The event was opened by the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon John Bercow, who delivered an emotional speech of welcome. Jon Silverman, formerly of the BBC and now Professor of Media and Criminal Justice at the University of Bedfordshire, acting as master of ceremonies, explained that the Kindertransport debate was a reaction to the anti-Jewish pogroms of 9/10 November 1938. Anthony Grenville then read a short account of the pogrom in Vienna, taken from an interview with the late Otto Deutsch, an AJR member and former Kindertransportee who had experienced the pogrom in Vienna as a boy aged ten.

The debate in November 1938 was opened by Philip Noel-Baker (Labour, Derby), a champion of the rights of refugees. After graphically detailing the atrocities committed during the 'Reichspogromnacht', he appealed for the admission of Jewish refugees into





Britain. Extracts from his speech were read by the Rt Hon James Brokenshire (Conservative, Old Bexley and Sidcup), Luciana Berger (Labour, Liverpool Wavertree), Ian Austin (Labour, Dudley North) and Ruth Smeeth (Labour, Stokeon-Trent North). The emphasis on the need for practical assistance was echoed by Samuel Hamersley (Conservative, Willesden East), whose words were read by Tulip Siddiq (Labour, Hampstead and Kilburn).

Herbert Butcher (National Liberal, Holland with Boston) proposed, in a speech read by Baroness Ruth Deech, that 10,000 of those most likely to integrate into British society should be admitted. A striking contribution in favour of a humanitarian approach came from David Logan (Labour, Liverpool Scotland); this extract was read by Dame Louise Ellman (Labour, Liverpool Riverside), whose constituency contains most of the former Liverpool Scotland constituency. By contrast, Commander Sir Archibald Southby (Conservative, Epsom) argued that parliament's first duty was to British people, not to foreign immigrants who would compete with them for employment; Oliver Dowden (Conservative, Hertsmere) assumed the task of voicing this ungenerous view.

Home Secretary Samuel Hoare set out the government's position on the immigration of Jewish refugees from Nazism. Though wishing to avoid large-scale immigration that might fuel anti-Semitism, he expressed the government's willingness to admit unaccompanied children. His words were spoken by Matthew Offord (Conservative, Hendon), the Rt Hon Yvette Cooper (Labour, Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford) and John Mann (Labour, Bassetlaw). David Grenfell (Labour, Gower) delivered the final speech in the debate; his impassioned plea for tolerance and understanding between the races was spoken by Councillor Jo Roundell Greene, a granddaughter of Clement Attlee, and by Lord Ian Livingston of Parkhead.

After contributions from Sir Erich Reich, Chairman of the AJR Kindertransport Special Interest Group, and Lord Alf Dubs, himself a former Kindertransportee, Anthony Grenville read from Otto Deutsch's account of his final parting from his family at Vienna's Westbahnhof station on 4 July 1939. At 7.33pm, the time at which the 1938 debate had begun, a minute's silence was observed, in memory of those who did not escape. The event was closed by Lord Eric Pickles. All those present would have been proud to have participated in this moving commemoration of the debate.

Anthony Grenville

The link to view the film of this event is https://youtu.be/7fv9KeELRkI

Susi's Story

Susi Loeffler (Löffler), the aunt of AJR Birmingham member Cameron Woodrow, died recently in Sydney, aged 95. She was born in Vienna in 1923 but her hometown was Jihlava (Iglau) in Moravia. The story of her escape from Eastern Europe and her first few years in England is one that will resonate with many AJR members. It is told here by her nephew.

About 20 years ago, my late mother received a letter in the post from a man named Marom, soliciting financial assistance for a man named Barazetti. The letter explained that Barazetti had been involved in the rescue of Jewish children from Prague. My mother had never heard of Marom or Barazetti.

She did not understand why the letter had been sent to her. It was possible that the letter might be connected with Susi's escape from Prague during the summer of 1939 "on the last train before the war began". Although my mother had sponsored Susi's entry to the UK, she had no idea how the escape from Prague had been arranged. She decided that the letter must be an elaborate scam and threw it in the bin.

Ten years later, I made a random search on the internet for the name of her sister. I was surprised to find Susi's name on a type-written list, together with the names of my mother, their elder sister and a mysterious Miss Hirst. The list was dated 15 February 1940 and had been compiled by a Mr Winton. Susi's story then emerged.

When her elder sisters emigrated to England from Germany in 1935, to work as domestic servants, Susi had not been old enough to apply for a visa. The family held Czech citizenship, so she returned to Czechoslovakia with their parents, where they settled in Sušice (Schüttenhofen) and Susi attended a German school in the Sudetenland. The tension of the time is evident in the faces of Susi and her father in a photograph taken of them shortly after the Munich Agreement in late 1938, and Susi herself later recalled:

"The Germans invaded the Sudetenland and my mother turned up in the middle of the night to take me back to Sušice, which was actually a waste of time as the Germans were there too, not long after. Mother rushed here, there and everywhere in the hopeless task of finding an escape. Father lost his job and from a friendly outgoing man he became very withdrawn.

"One night my mother, I don't know why, wanted to take me to Hlinsko to see [her relatives]... I had never been there or met any of my great-uncles and aunts before.

".....The things they discussed with my mother I never knew...Eventually we went home, in a quieter resigned mood....The rest you know, except that I particularly liked Sušice. It was so beautiful. I always liked until today Czech music and I enjoyed their literature, much of which I got to know much later on. Unfortunately the Czechs didn't like us. 'Žid, Žid' ('Jew, Jew') they chalked on our house."

Susi's eldest sister Mila (then working as a governess in Tunbridge Wells) was friendly with a violinist in the local orchestra, a Miss Hirst, who offered to accommodate Susi. Mila and my mother had to deposit £50 (about £3,000 today) to cover the cost of Susi's assumed eventual repatriation to Czechoslovakia.

Susi's recollections of her departure from Prague were limited:

"I came on the kindertransport in the summer of 1939, I cannot remember which month....My parents and I came to Prague two days before. They sent me on a sightseeing trip of Prague and then a matinée of the opera Rusalka, they knew I



Susi Loeffler and her father in 1938

loved Dvořák's music.

"They must have seen in the meantime N. Winton to arrange everything. At 15 I was old enough to be told what was going on but in those days children even as old as 15 were never told much, or...they felt I couldn't take it. But I had to 'take it' the next day.

"We went to the Wilson station in Prague. Hordes of upset children and parents were there. Our luggage was minutely examined. I had a little ring on my finger and a modest gold bracelet which was taken off me. I am not going to tell you about our good-byes it is too painful. I repressed that memory for 30 years and then I got flashbacks all the time and got quite sick here in Sydney....

"We came by boat. Lots of children. I was very strained and didn't take in anything much. Just a few words of English. Which didn't give me much trouble. Much easier than Czech."

There were only three matinée performances of Rusalka during the period when the eight Winton trains left Prague. None occurred within 24 hours of the date of departure of any of the trains. It is probable that Susi attended the performance on 21 June, ten days before the departure of the third last train on 1 July. Consistently with Susi's reference to "hordes", it carried the largest contingent of 240 children.

They travelled 800 miles from Prague to Harwich and then train to London. Susi registered belatedly with the police at



Susi Loeffler as a young woman

Susi Loeffler when she was older



Susi Loeffler's plaque for her parents

Tunbridge Wells on 8 November 1939.

She described her first few months in England:

"What gave me more trouble [than learning English] was the metric system. But I got over that in time. I went to Leeds to stay with business friends of father and then to Tunbridge Wells to Miss Hirst. I was very lucky. She was a sweet lady. She had been a music teacher and played the violin in the local orchestra. I got to hear all the great artists, refugees from the continent....I was simply ecstatic to hear Ida Haendel.....

"I went to school there. But my English wasn't up to it. We had to study 'Pride & Prejudice' which has given me a lasting aversion to Jane Austen; that seems to upset a lot of my acquaintances. After a few months I felt I no longer could impose on Miss Hirst and decided to stand on my own feet. I took a job as a cadet nurse at Crowborough Cottage Hospital in Kent. Full board...and some pocket money. I cannot remember how long it lasted, two or three months. Then I was told to leave as I think aliens weren't allowed to work in hospitals.

"So I bought a cookbook (I still have it). Went to the local labour exchange and told them I was an experienced general maid. They asked me could I cook. 'Of course' I said. I got a job with a lady in a big Tudor mansion; she had two children and employed a nanny. I don't know to this day how I did it. But I did.

"[Your mother] got me a job in Staines as a maid of everything...the lady (very old) did all the cooking and I learned a lot of English ...her daughter kept pupils and refugees in the house and did all the teaching. They had couples living there as well. The work was very tedious."

The restrictions imposed on the employment of refugees were relaxed in 1942. Susi then returned to the nursing profession and trained at Harefield Hospital until 1946:

"Did I have my eyes opened on the first day! I had to work a long day on the children's ward. We were two nurses. Quite a few of the children couldn't get up. They were on plaster beds. TB spines. We had to do everything. No help at all. As it was Xmas nobody could get a day off and 12 hour shifts. That was the first and only time in my life I fainted."

She then spent several years doing agency work until she took a post-graduate course at the Hospital of Nervous Diseases:

"... I was there two years. Most interesting and excellent conditions for staff. We had two months in school on full pay and one month vacation. Only

nine months' work. Full pay of course. Then I went to Moorfields Eye Hospital and that was ghastly. We worked for instance eleven twelve hour shifts straight and then we were supposed to get three nights off. Most of the time we were told 'we haven't got anyone to replace you, nurse' so we continued and the work was hard. No time sheets. No hospital had time-sheets in England. So we didn't get paid any overtime."

Susi emigrated to Australia in 1953 with the help of a cousin who found accommodation for her. Her passage by ship cost £11, the journey took four weeks and she found a job as a nurse within two days of arrival. She spent the rest of her working life in the profession, retiring in 1981.

During the 1950s, Susi purchased a modest bungalow in Sydney, where she lived until her 94th birthday. Fortunately, 60 years of rising property values allowed her to move to an elegant apartment in an exclusive care home, where she lived in comfort for the last year of her life.

The lives of (Sir) Nicholas Winton, Bill Barazetti and Hugo Marom are of course celebrated for their respective achievements. Miss E. Hirst of Tunbridge Wells ought also to be remembered.

Cameron Woodrow

LOEFFLER

Brigitte

25.10.23

o/o Mrs R. Hirst, 138 St. Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Gertrude Loeffler, 13 Coline Road, Winchmore Hill, lnohmo re and Ludmilla Loeffler, 102 Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Deposit

Susi Loeffler's name on Nicholas Winton's list

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

What is Jewish art exactly? And what is immigrant art? Now that the Ben Uri Art Gallery in London has abandoned its 100-year-old commitment to house its Jewish art collection and dedicate itself, instead, to immigrant art of all faiths and none, a deeper question arises.



The challenge requires a sell-off of 700 paintings, including some of the collection's greatest Modernists and Expressionists, many of whom were condemned by the Nazis as Degenerates, and fled with only their talent to sustain them. The sale represents more than half of the entire collection of 1,300 works of art painted by 380 Jewish artists from 35 countries,

Five works by leading Jewish Modernist painter David Bomberg have already been auctioned at Sotheby's and another nine were due to go under the hammer, including works by Mark Gertler, Alfred Wolmark and Frank Auerbach. More 19th century works will be sold off. The mass walkout by the Ben Uri's entire 11 member international advisory panel was followed by condemnations of the sale by the Museums Association, which said: "Collections should not normally be regarded as financially negotiable assets" adding that the move risked "damaging public confidence in museums." The Ben Uri has resigned from the Museums Association which means it will no longer be eligible for future grants, funding and other support.

Beyond all the brouhaha remains one vital fact: the collection represents a true landmark of Jewish history. The geniuses who created these works spanned some two centuries of religious thought, secular and social change, political awareness, persecution, and creative majesty. They were

the luminaries who lit up the Jewish journey, often at great personal cost, and many of them are contained in what David Glasser, the Gallery's executive director, has regretfully called its "hidden collection", because of the eternal problem: lack of space. Its mini London gallery in Boundary Road, St Johns Wood has done its best to present regular and imaginative exhibitions and has digitised the collection. But finally these great works of art are kept in storage, in the dark. Because they have nowhere else to go.

It has long been a thorn in Glasser's side that in all these years no Jewish philanthropists have come forward to finance a more substantial property. Instead their money has gone to the Tates, the Royal Academy, the National Gallery, and others, no doubt in a quest for social status. This has clearly driven the gallery's long-coming change of heart. After its centenary exhibition in 2015 at Somerset House. Glasser told me he would be happy to find an area of 60,000 sq ft to share the Jewish émigré experience with other immigrant communities. This, he said, could reach an audience of four million rather than the 150,000 from the Jewish community alone.

So now, cut adrift from its advisory panel and the Museums Association, the Ben Uri remains alone in uncharted waters. Where is it headed? Will it become just another non-specific art gallery? I ask again: what is immigrant art?

Jewish art has often had to fight the media for its right even to be called that. Yet now it faces a kind of virtual extinction, to be replaced with an amorphic concept: immigrant art. But this term has no meaning; if anything it is desultory, degrading to artists from wherever they come. I don't wish to sound demeaning; far from it. All communities have talents to offer, and there are many immigrant communities in Britain from far afield, particularly perhaps women from certain societies, previously barred from making their creative presence known. But for the Ben Uri to abandon its Jewish artistic heritage is a total dereliction of its duty. Remember Bomberg's heart-rending Ghetto Theatre; Soutine's endearing La Soubrette; Mark Gertler's Merry Go Round with its Hitleresque imagery (since sold to the Tate), or his Rabbi and Rebbetzin, she kneading challah dough, he prayerful and introspective. I would urge the Ben Uri not to give up on this scion of its long, creative journey. Because if it goes now, it will not come again. And perhaps even now a philanthropist with a big heart may yet come forward.

Annely Juda Fine Art

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

PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

LOOKING FOR? Q

The AJR regularly receives messages from members and others looking for people or 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.

PIONEER CORPS.

"We are the Amps, the jolly good Amps.

We give a good show wherever we go.

We are working hard, but are always smart, whether it is on parade or outside the gate

Till final victory - 246 Company are we"

Peter Block would like to know whether there is anybody from 246 Company who could fill in the missing gaps after "gate"?

ruthcablock@hotmail.com

FAMILY HEIKORN FROM OLOMOUC (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Researcher Tomas Perny is seeking information/photos/descendants of family Heikorn from Olomouc: Adolf Heikorn (born 1880) and son Friedrich (born 1915), who emigrated first to London and then the USA. Also Gertruda Zweig/Rakova (née Hanf, in 1901), wife of Felix Zweig (owner of a malt distillery) who emigrated to London in 1947. *Tomas.Perny@seznam.cz*

KINDERTRANSPORT & JEWISH IDENTITY

Moses Seitler is a Masters student at the University of Oxford reading Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. His current research concerns the influence of the Kindertransport process on the religious and Jewish identity of Kinder, and how they managed – on the whole – to integrate so successfully to new surroundings. He would love to hear from any Kind who may be prepared to be



interviewed on this fascinating subject. moses.seitler@seh.ox.ac.uk

BRUNSTEIN / BRUNICKI

The boy in this photo (above) came to the UK in 1938 from Vienna and Radautz (Roumania), and is being sought by a relative in Germany. His name is not known but his father was Otto (Isidor) Brunstein/von Brunicki who died in London in 1942. Otto's wife, Camilla (née Reiss) died in London in 1978. The boy's surname may have been Brunstein, Brod or Reiss.

sieglindebartz@sb-energie.de

DESCENDANTS OF REFUGEES

TV production company Wall to Wall Media, which is known for programmes such as Long Lost Family and Who Do You Think You Are?, are looking for contributors for an upcoming history series to be broadcast on the BBC. The series will follow descendants of those who experienced the Holocaust as they retrace their family's stories. They hope to sensitively explore both individual family stories and the wider historical importance of the Holocaust. Wall to Wall Media are in the early stages of research at the moment and are looking to speak to members of the second, third or fourth generation who would be interested in exploring their family history. katie.bryant@walltowall.co.uk or call 020 7241 9286



Photographer Marion Davies is renowned for focusing her lens on the remarkable numbers of Holocaust memorials in Berlin; on the sculptures, art instillations, and unusual plaques and signs that can be found in public places - on street corners walls and pavements; in market places or on railway lines.

On Tuesday 5 February Marion will give an illustrated talk about her photographic journey to explore Holocaust remembrance and memorialisation.

Marion's work portrays the total disruption of the lives of those who fell outside Hitler's world vision and explores how Germany is trying both to confront and address the consequences of its past, while grappling with and acknowledging the loss of a vibrant part of its population and culture.

The 5 February event, which is taking place at the Wiener Library, has been arranged by the Second Generation Network in conjunction with the ACJR (Association of Children of Jewish Refugees) and is open to everyone. After the talk there will be an opportunity to share your own experiences of visiting Holocaust memorials and your thoughts about the design chosen for the new memorial in London.

Places are free but booking is essential. Please email: davidwirth@ secondgeneration.org.uk

Uncovering Yorkshire's... Schindler?

In his obituary in the Jewish
Gazette, 4 January 1974, it is
suggested that David Makofski
was responsible for aiding nearly
700 young men who were saved
from the fate suffered by their
parents. His grand-daughter
Diane McKay takes up the story.

Really? This was my grandpa? There had been a few fleeting remarks from my parents, but saving nearly 700 lives? This was definitely big news to me and, as it became apparent, to my cousins also. Why had no one ever mentioned this?

My grandfather, David Makofski, died just before I was born, so he had always remained an enigma. Neither my mother or father (his son) spoke much of him but I'd built up an image from information I'd picked up over the years. 'Little David... small man, big voice', recalled an ageing member at Moor Allerton Golf Club during a summer I spent working there. He was an avid golfer and in the days when Jews were excluded from such places, he was instrumental in founding Moor Allerton as a Jewish golf club open to all, irrespective of race, creed or colour (as it remains to this day). I knew he had fought for Britain in WW1 and that he was a successful tailor. My dad's family were among the first to move out of Chapeltown, Leeds' Jewish ghetto of the 1920s, to the more affluent and suburban Moortown, and David was one of the first in Leeds to own a car.

The following excerpt is taken from an introduction to the Makofski Collection, held at West Yorkshire Archives in Leeds. The collection comprises ledger books, each page a beautifully handwritten entry about an individual including name, date and place of birth, arrival date in Leeds, proposed employer and a residential address, many marked in red pen with a 'paid £50' or 'paid £100', some with photographs and further details. Folders include correspondence between David, headed with his office address of Excelsior



David Makofski and family in the 1940s - From left daughter Muriel, wife Ada, son Geoffrey (Diane's father), David, daughter Sybil

Buildings, Lands Lane, Leeds, and various contacts at Bloomsbury House (the headquarters for the Jewish refugee organisation), the Home Office, the Polish Consulate, the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia, amongst others. There were also application letters, often incorporating a CV and references from refugees or family members, pleading for David's help:

David Makofski was Chairman of the Leeds Jewish Refugee Committee, German Jewish Aid Committee (formerly Council for German Jewry) from 1934 to 1939 (Kafkaesque bureaucracy evident in the most pressing of times). The Refugee Committee's role was to oversee the immigration and settlement of refugees in Leeds. The principal means was the Trainee Scheme, which enabled German male Jews, who had to be aged under thirty five, being found positions as trainees by local employers who had first to certify that no English person could be found for the position. The trainees had to provide a deposit of £100, or in exceptional circumstances £50, before application for a permit was made by the committee to the Home Office. If the proposed employment was deemed suitable by the Home Office, the permit would be forthcoming in a fortnight,

enabling the refugee then to proceed with the immigration.

The archive had been stored in my parents' house for years and a few local community members had requested to view it. My dad donated it to West Yorkshire Archives in 2002.

What had motivated my grandpa to take on such an immense task? As it turns out, circumstance may have chosen him, and life experiences shaped his humanitarian values.

David was born in Leeds in 1895, the youngest son of refugee immigrants from the Baltic area and the first of his family to be born in the UK. After leaving school, probably at 14, he was apprenticed at the Leeds factory of Montague Burton, where he learned the tailoring trade.

David joined the army voluntarily during WW1 as a Royal Field Artillery horse driver on the Somme battlefield. Towards the end of the war he was badly injured and returned unconscious to a military hospital in England. After the war David set up his own credit tailoring business in Leeds which he ran for around 40 years, most of it with one assistant, a formidable clerk called Vera.



David Makofski

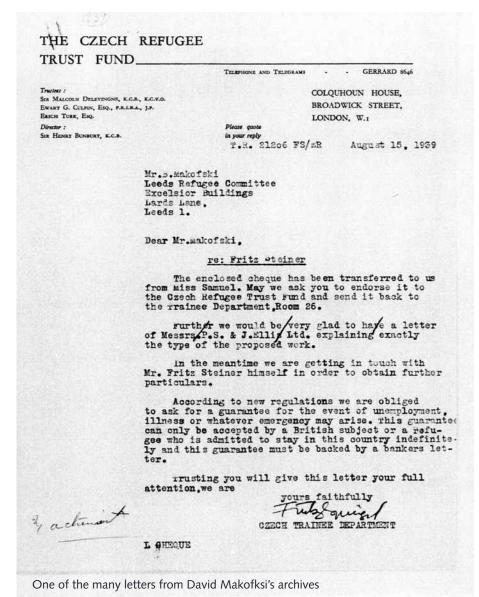
David's war injuries left him with arthritis and in the 1930s he frequently travelled to the Czech spa town of Karlsbad (now Karlovy Vary) for treatment. The area became part of Nazi Germany and he was initially approached by local Jews at his hotel to see if he could help them escape. He also witnessed at first-hand how Jews were being treated.

So began David's years of relentless admin, using his network of the local Jewish community and contacts further afield to find both jobs and homes for refugees, as well as taking bi-weekly trips to London to collect the visas. David's clerk, Vera, typed his dictated letters and documented by hand the details of each refugee in the ledger books. As word of my grandfather's work spread, he started to receive hundreds of applications from across the entire Nazi-occupied region.

Many of the trainee scheme jobs were with local Leeds Jewish businesses; Salinsky's shoe manufacturers, Rakusen's biscuits, H Freedman tailors, Bellows machine tool manufacturer, with Burton's menswear factory taking the largest number. While the majority of refugees were housed in Chapeltown, sympathy for the plight of German Jewry extended beyond the confines of the local Jewish community, noted by accommodation listings in Boston Spa, York, Bradford, Bolton Abbey and Huddersfield.

Aside from reports of a few refugees having been in concentration camps, it is clear that many were unaware of the horrors awaiting them. Largely highly skilled, educated and from comfortable backgrounds, some shunned the menial tasks the apprenticeships provided and turned up their noses at the working class homes willing to open their doors.

An application letter dated August



13th, 1939 relays 'You surely will know about the bad situation in which we German Jews are in, and especially we young people. We have no possibility to learn or to get education. Neither are we allowed to go to universities nor to museums nor to the theatre. Every educational establishment is forbidden to us. We also have no possibility to study a trade. The factories are not allowed to have Jewish apprentices and the small establishments which are arranged by the Jewish congregation are not at all able to satisfy our desire of learning. The life itself is full of sorrows.'

What pressure my grandfather must have been under during these years. Each letter, a life.

David's work is certainly impressive and though he appears as the instigator, the scheme could not have been conducted without the help of Leeds Jewish community, the Quakers of York and countless others named in the correspondence, who generously gave their time and effort to make it happen.

Antisemitism was rife in Leeds during the 1930's and much of this operation remained undercover. Yet, David's life itself wasn't in danger, so maybe Schindler is too high an accolade. And anyway, he wasn't one for public recognition, titles or awards. Maybe 'Yorkshire's Hidden Hero', or simply 'a mensch', would be a more fitting title.

My family has digitised the archives to assist the descendants of those he helped and for the work to be used as an example of humanity in taking refugees facing persecution, which remains just as relevant today. The Makofski archive can be accessed at catalogue.wyjs.org.uk, reference WYL5047 or email leeds@wyjs.org.uk.

OBITUARIES

EDWARD TIMMS

Born: 3 July 1937, Buckfastleigh Died: 21 November 2018, Brighton

Edward Francis Timms was the third of eight children of the Rev. John Timms, Vicar of Buckfastleigh in Devon, and Joan Timms, née Axford.

He read Modern Languages at Cambridge, concentrating on German. After a year teaching in Nuremberg, he was appointed an Assistant Lecturer at the newly founded University of Sussex. Returning to Cambridge in 1965 he lectured on Hegel, Marx and the Frankfurt School.

His first book, Karl Kraus, Apocalyptic Satirist: Culture and Crisis in Habsburg Vienna (1986), set Kraus's satirical writings against the background of late Imperial Vienna, highlighting Kraus's importance as a campaigner for social and sexual emancipation. It was immediately recognised as towering over all other studies of Kraus.

Returning to Sussex as Professor of German, Timms was instrumental in founding the Centre for German-Jewish Studies which aimed to illuminate the history of Jewish emancipation, assimilation and persecution in German-speaking countries. At that time the Shoah was achieving its rightful place in the history of the 20th century with increasing numbers of academics and museums concentrating on the Holocaust

The Centre held a number of major conferences, established the bi-annual Max and Hilde Kochmann summer school for PHD students in European cultural History, and - with the support of AJR - initiated an annual Holocaust Memorial Day event at the University of Sussex.



Timms published a second Karl Kraus volume, focusing on Kraus's exposure of the horrors of Nazism, and also *Freud and the Child Woman* (1995), which explored how eroticism helped to power creativity in the Vienna of Freud and Kraus.

In 2003 Edward became Research Professor in History, continuing to publish and receive multiple academic awards. In 2005 he was awarded the OBE for services to scholarship and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2006.

These achievements are the more remarkable as, from about 2000, Timms was increasingly disabled by multiple sclerosis. Yet, together with Fred Bridgham, he accomplished the seemingly impossible translation of Kraus's monster drama *The Last Days of Mankind* (2015) which was awarded a translation prize by the Modern Language Association of America.

His honest and detailed autobiography, *Taking Up the Torch* (2011), reveals how, in Nietzsche's phrase, he became who he was. His strong moral seriousness shows in all his writing but he also had a distinctively modernist sensibility. Everyone who knew him will remember his unfailing humanity, self-control, patience, kindness and forbearance.

This obituary is taken from a longer one by Professor Ritchie Robertson of St. Johns College, Oxford, which appeared in the *Times Literary Supplement*.

STEPHEN TENDLOW

Born: 10 September 1937, Harrogate Died: 1 October, 2018, Yorkshire

Stephen Tendlau (later changed to Tendlow) was born at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate to Eva and Max. After his birth, they left England and returned to Germany.

After Kristallnacht his father was taken to Dachau. Stephen and his mother fortunately escaped and with Stephen's British passport obtained a visa to go to England.

His father turned up in Sweden, six months after his incarceration, and Stephen never knew how he had escaped. Max was interned on the Isle of Man and later served in the armed forces. Mother and son settled near Saltaire, Bradford, and both learnt English listening to the radio programme "Listen with Mother". Stephen was later a very

able pupil at Bradford Grammar School, fluent in German and French as well as speaking other European languages. His National Service followed in the Navy where he was sent to learn Russian.

He read law at Cambridge but never practised and went into his father's textile machinery business in Bradford and was a Director of E. & L. (Erhardt & Leimer) Ltd., a company based in Augsburg (Germany). This work enabled him to travel the world.

Stephen had a love of classical music, an extensive knowledge of the composers and attended concerts far and wide. He was a mountaineer and knew Allen Austin who was one of the best climbers of his generation.

Stephen was a member of the Halifax German Circle, and treasurer of Cambridge Society of North and West Yorkshire. He was a very knowledgeable man, had many true friends and was a loyal and caring person.

Sheila Patchett et al.

WALLY HOWARD (formerly Werzberger)

Born: 28 December 1922 Ruskova, Romania Died: 9 November 2018 London

Wally Howard was born to a religious family in Transylvania. He was the youngest child, did not go to school but went away to Yeshiva.

As war approached, his father and one of his older brothers left for England, hoping the rest of the family could follow, but it was not to be. Wally, his mother Leah and his sister Rosie were sent to the camps - the women to Auschwitz (which Rosie survived) while Wally was sent to labour camps and on a death march before ending up in Mathausen. The labour camp involved working in coal mines and he had claustrophobia for the rest of his life.

He often described the day he woke up to find the SS guards gone. On the way to the nearest town to find food he saw two US soldiers coming towards him: the most memorable day of his life.

He eventually joined the family in the UK, working as a teaboy in London in South Molton Street, before going to Llanelli where his brother Bernard lived with his wife and two children. He started selling clothes from a suitcase, going door to door in the Welsh valleys and working in markets. He often remarked how

welcoming the Welsh people were, many of whom had never met a refugee before.

He married Ruth in 1963. Louise was born in 1964, followed by Bernard. At the age of 50 he bought a jewellery shop in Swansea. When Ruth asked him what he knew about jewellery he replied "what did I know about anything?" He



gave up the jewellery shop at the age of 75 but, helped by Ruth, continued to work until his 90s.

Wally was a complex character, resilient, determined, tenacious and with an indomitable will. He was a loyal, devoted and supportive husband: family came first. He was also a "mensch". As the Swansea Jewish Community dwindled in numbers he could always be relied upon to help make a minyan for a yahrzeit, leaving home on the dot and being one of the first to arrive in Shul.

He spent his last year at Rosetrees, the Jewish Care home. Even when he had dementia, he was still "a character" and when any of the family visited him his face would light up and he would say he was "bloody marvellous", perhaps his most used phrase.

Bernard Howard

LETTER FROM ISRAEL BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



THE SECOND GENERATION SYNDROME



Growing up in postwar London I was unaware of the term 'Second Generation' until many years later. In Israel in the

1960s or 1970s there was a discussion, possibly even an argument, as to whether people who had fled Europe before, during or even after WW2 could be considered Holocaust survivors if they had not actually been incarcerated in a concentration camp. Once that debate was settled, anyone whose life had started somewhere in Europe or Russia (or even North Africa in some cases) and had been obliged to wander as a result of Nazi persecution was officially defined as a Holocaust survivor. Their offspring became known as the

Second Generation.

My parents were refugees from Germany, and although they – thankfully – did not experience a concentration camp themselves, their lives were completely disrupted and they experienced terrible personal loss as a result of Nazi persecution. Nonetheless they, like their friends and acquaintances, went on to live active and productive lives, and as a child I was not aware of the dark cloud that must have overshadowed their life. Much later I learned that both my parents had experienced Kristallnacht, and that my mother would often scream in her sleep.

As a child I was very conscious of the fact that my parents spoke English with a foreign accent. I must have been a very nasty child, as I remember laughing at them with my sisters. However, I felt that my parents were no different from most of their friends, many of whom were also refugees. Some of their friends' children were my friends, and we all found it perfectly normal for our parents to speak with a foreign accent. What did bother me, however, was the absence of a

grandparent, and I managed to persuade one of my father's elderly cousins to let me call her 'Auntie Grannie.'

I went to a Jewish primary school, an all-girls' grammar school and belonged to a Zionist youth movement. I mixed with young people like myself, some of whose parents were born in England and others who were not, but it never occurred to me to ask about their parents' origins. Most of my friends at school and university were Jewish, but I prided myself on also having non-Jewish friends.

When I realised that I belonged to a group that I hadn't known existed, the Second Generation, gladly accepted this new sense of identity. I found that in many ways it defined who I was, and it led me to explore this situation in articles as well as in my first two novels. In fact it has informed much of my thinking and writing, some might say excessively. I suppose there is more than a grain of truth in that, but I am happy to accept it as an intrinsic aspect of my being.

REVIEWS

ENCOUNTERS WITH ALBION: BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH IN TEXTS BY JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZISM By Anthony Grenville Cambridge: Legenda, 2018 ISBN: 978-1-78188-707-3

This book has been awaited with eager anticipation by AJR members, not least because it is written by the former Consultant Editor of their journal, Anthony Grenville, whose editorials were distinguished by their learnedness and fluency. Grenville's new book will certainly not disappoint. It focuses on the Jewish refugees from Nazism, a subject on which Grenville is an expert; however it is not a study of the conventional sort, written largely from a British perspective. Rather, this book proceeds primarily from a refugee perspective, examining and analysing their perceptions of their British 'hosts'.

And how varied these reactions are! For his source material. Grenville has accumulated a large number of autobiographical and semiautobiographical texts including letters and diaries, both published and unpublished. The common factor is that they were all written by Germanspeaking refugees, some of whom were and are well-known figures, others largely unknown or at any rate now forgotten. The book is subdivided into seven chapters, with the first four covering refugee perceptions and reactions in chronological order: arrival and early years in Britain; internment; memories of wartime service and combat; and the years of settlement from 1945-1960. The remaining three chapters are devoted, in turn, to the established refugee writers, the perspective of child refugees, and the large number of autobiographies by former refugees published in the 1990s and 2000s.

Exiles of note in this narrative include Stefan Zweig who left Britain in 1940, having been reduced to despair by the outbreak of war and his own classification in Britain as an 'enemy alien', and the elderly Alfred Kerr (father of Judith who herself makes an appearance in a later chapter) who, while sadly reduced in status in emigration, adopted a largely positive view of his 'host nation'. In addition the collection of writings on internment that feature in Chapter Two are of particular interest. Here Grenville examines texts by both male and female internees such as Hans Gal, Fred Uhlman, Robert Neumann, Eugen Spier, Richard Friedenthal, Livia Laurent and Ruth Borchard. And while these are names with which readers versed in the period may perhaps be acquainted, the following chapter, on military service, breaks altogether new ground in its selection of authors: Louis Hagen, for instance, a German Jew who wrote of his experiences in the British forces in the Battle of Arnhem.

Chapter Four, which analyses refugees' views on their own settlement in post-war Britain and their transition from refugees to 'new British citizens', occupies a pivotal position in this study and sets the scene for the remainder of the book. The established refugee writers who follow, like Hilde Spiel, who left Britain, and Elisabeth Castonier. who remained, and the proliferation of middle-aged (or older) memoirists of around the millennium featuring in the final chapter all fit to a greater or lesser degree within this landscape. Only the child refugees in the penultimate chapter present a perspective of their 'host nation' and reactions to it that stand out from those of their adult counterparts (even if, interestingly, the childhood accounts were usually written in adulthood). From his analysis of the texts, Grenville concludes that the conflicts and tensions of refugeedom, visible in most or all refugee accounts, are still more prevalent in the accounts of the younger refugees who were particularly vulnerable and particularly subject to conflicts of identity, pertaining both to nationality and religion.

This book considers an impressive wealth of auto/biographical material, some of it previously unknown and unexplored, that will appeal not only to readers interested in the subject and the period but also to a wide general readership. In addition, the book will enrich the field of German Exile Studies to which it is a significant contribution.

Charmian Brinson

FRIEND OR FOE?

The story of Women's Internment on the Isle of Man in WWII
Produced and published by the Rushen
Heritage Trust IoM 2018
ISBN 978-0-9932914-4-9

In April 2018 I reviewed *Involuntary Guests* by Alan Franklin which covered the story of the internment of enemy aliens on the Isle of Man during WW2. This new book concentrates on Rushen Camp, which was set aside for women and children, and is based on extensive research and interviews with local residents and some internees.

Rushen Camp comprised two coastal villages, Port Erin and Port St Mary in the south-west of the Island. Both were popular resorts before the war but by 1940 their hotels and boarding houses were virtually empty. After the defeat of France and Churchill's 'collar the lot' decision, about 8000 enemy aliens including 3500 women were arrested and had to be housed. The majority were transferred to the IoM and women, including many with young children, were allocated to Rushen Camp. Dame Joanna Cruikshank DBE, a retired and highly experienced nursing officer, was appointed as Commandant to oversee the Camp. She immediately faced the challenge of over 3500 women and children suddenly arriving at Rushen at the end of May 1940 and needing to be housed and fed. Hotels and boarding houses were requisitioned and people quickly allocated to shared rooms, without any discrimination between Jewish refugees, longstanding German residents in Britain and avowed Nazis. The local residents did not discriminate. considering all internees to be 'enemies'.

Unlike in the men's camps, the landladies remained and administered the internees with light support from the police. They were given one guinea per week per internee as an allowance. The camp was surrounded by wire and local residents needed permits to enter the area.

A chapter on religion suggests that there was a warm welcome from local churches for the Christian female internees, but many Jewish women found settling in more difficult until a temporary synagogue was set up. Initially the only contact allowed between the women and their husbands was a weekly half hour meeting in a café, with the men brought under military escort. In March 1941 a married camp was established in Port St Mary so families could live together. In August 1943, after considerable numbers of internees had been released, the married camp was transferred to Port Erin.

The Illustrated Roll Call came to light in 2015. It was written in 1940 by the internees of the Golf Links Hotel as a Christmas present for their landlady. Containing humorous poems and sketches, it provides insights about life at the hotel, which had about 120 residents. After 1941, when the majority of Jewish internees had been released, the hotel became predominantly German and there was even an unsuccessful attempt to make it pure 'Aryan'.

For the general reader probably the most interesting chapters are those describing daily life in the camp and the remarkable initiatives developed by the internees to keep themselves mentally active. There were educational courses, plays and, as in the men's camps, there were numerous musicians and artists among the immigrants who helped to make life more bearable. A CD is included with the book of two recordings made by Edith Bach-Kaczynski, one of the internees.

The book is beautifully produced, with photos and reproductions of posters, documents and personal hand-written or typed letters on almost every page. The initial impression is of a 'coffeetable book' but this would not do it justice. The detailed descriptions of the administration of the camp will greatly interest academics and historians. The book provides great insights into the human side of the internment, both at community level and in describing individual characters and their stories. *George Vulkan*

THE EMERGENCY ZOO By Miriam Halahmy. Age range 8–9 Emerald ISBN: 978-1-846883972

A heart-warming celebration of the

inclusivity of children, this book incorporates children from all backgrounds working together to ensure the safety of their beloved pets. Whether it be best friends from the same class, Rosy and Tilly, or Lotte and Rudi, Jewish children all the way from Germany, they're all welcome at the emergency zoo – provided they know the password of course. No one's allowed in without the password or an adorable pet! And you'd better not give away the secret to any of the heartless adults or all of the animals will be in peril.

This book would be perfect for younger children looking for an enjoyable introduction to education about the war. Before reading it, I hadn't even considered what could possibly happen to pets during the war, but now, I want to research more! An easy read, it took me about two hours to read, partly because I completely couldn't put it down and also because, unlike some books that feel like wading through syrup to get through, this book flew by.

The imagery used to describe the place they kept their pets is so vivid you can see it clearly in your mind when reading. I could immediately imagine the flickering campfire from their night in the woods and the crinkling of the foil on the sandwiches. The innocence and imagination of childhood is beautifully portrayed in the way that the children believe they can get away with hiding their pets in the woods without any parents having to be involved or catching on to the circumstances. In reality, children aren't as excellent at hiding things as they think they are! However these characters are surprisingly inventive and smart, developing a secret language and careful strategies to take care of the animals they love so much.

The ambiguous ages of the children means that this book is accessible to any age of reader. Whether a teenager or a young child, you will find different bits about all of the children that you can identify with and their bright charming personalities practically jump

out of the book.

All in all, this book is an amazing and fun read that can be picked up by any person at any point and enjoyed on many different levels and provide a positive message about uniting during difficult times.

Tabitha Gibson (age 15)

THE CHOICE By Edith Eger Rider

ISBN: 978-1846045103

Edith was born in Hungary. At Auschwitz in 1944, at the age of 16, she watched her parents and grandparents get sent to the gas chamber while she had to dance for Mengele for her survival. During liberation she was pulled, barely alive, from a mound of rotting corpses at Gunskirchen. The love of her life having also been murdered, she married for practicality. Continued antisemitism in Hungary forced them to Texas where they raised their family while she silently battled her inner traumas.

Today, Edith is an internationally acclaimed psychologist whose patients include survivors of abuse and soldiers suffering from PTSD. She explains how many of us live within a mind that has become a prison, and shows how freedom becomes possible once we confront our suffering – just as she herself managed to do once she finally confronted her demons.

Edith's Holocaust story was horrific, but she was certainly not alone in that. Nor is she the only survivor to have reframed her experience in a way that has benefited others. But Desmond Tutu put it well when he wrote "The Choice is a gift to humanity. One of those rare and eternal stories that you don't want to end and that leaves you forever changed. Dr. Eger's life reveals our capacity to transcend even the greatest of horrors and to use that suffering for the benefit of others. She has found true freedom and forgiveness and shows us how we can as well".

Jo Briggs

Around the AJR

These are just a few of the many recent AJR events around the country.

GLASGOW



45 first and second generation members and volunteers attended our Glasgow "AJR family" annual Chanukah lunch. It was also a great opportunity for AJR to thank volunteers who generously give their time to visit our members at home for a chat, an afternoon out or much needed help with computers. Menorah lighting, a delicious

meal, raffle and the magic of the Great Aziz all added to the tremendous atmosphere. *Agnes Isaacs*

ESSEX

At our Chanukah party Nick Dobson with colleagues from the Savoy Players entertained us with songs from Gilbert & Sullivan and other shows making it a festive morning much enjoyed by us all. *Meta Roseneil*

PINNER



A good crowd of Pinner members gathered for the 21st annual Chanukah party. Entertainment was provided by the Plonkers, a well-known local trio, who played and sang a medley of evergreen songs as well as a selection of Jewish tunes.

Robert Gellman

NORTH LONDON



Over 75 members attended the AJR's biggest Chanukah Party, which was held at New North London Synagogue. After a welcome by Michael Newman guests were entertained by Zap the Magician during a delicious lunch. We were then delighted to welcome the Choir from Akiva School who kept us entertained with their lovely voices and Chanukah songs.

Susan Harrod

FEBRUARY GROUP EVENTS

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All AJR members are welcome at any of these events; you do not have to be affiliated to that particular group. Please contact the relevant regional contact for full details.

Edinburgh	3 February	Social get-together
Ealing	5 February	Joint HMD Event with Northwood HMD Committee
Didsbury	5 February	Social
Ilford	6 February	Charlotte Balazs – The Dorice Restaurant of Finchley Road
Leeds CF	6 February	David Repper - Stolperstein Ceremonies
Pinner	7 February	Jenny Nemko - The Village of Hope
Essex	12 February	David Barnett - Joe Lyons Tea Shops
KT LUNCHES	13 February	Architects from UK HMD Memorial - Asa Bruno from Ron Arad
Kingston and Surrey	14 February	Rosalynde Lewis – Kingston Shul
Glasgow CF	17 February	Social get-together
Card & Games Club	18 February	Card & Games
Edgware	19 February	Judy Karbritz - Behind the Camera
Norfolk	19 February	Janet Marshall - The Secrets of Norwich Cathedral
Radlett	20 February	Herbie Goldberg -The First King of Swing - Louis Moreau Gottschalk
Bradford	21 February	Lunch at Saltaire Mills
Glasgow Book Club	21 February	Book Club
North West London	26 February	Michael Newman – CEO of AJR
Book Club	27 February	Book Club
Muswell Hill	28 February	Lesley Urbach - The Story of Herbert Morrison
North London	28 February	David Barnett - Jewish London over the last 200 years

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KT-AJR (Kindertransport)

Susan Harrod 020 8385 3070 susan@ajr.org.uk

Child Survivors' Association-AJR Henri Obstfeld 020 8954 5298 henri@ajr.org.uk

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≜AJR ☐ AJR CARD AND GAMES CLUB

Monday 18 February 2019 at 1.00pm

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

Bridge, card games, backgammon, scrabble. You decide. £7.00 per person, inc lunch

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

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LUNCH



on Wednesday 13 February 2019 at 12.30pm

at Alyth Gardens Synagogue

We are delighted to be joined by the Architects involved in the new UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre

Call Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or email susan@ajr.org.uk
£7.00 per person.
Booking is essential.



Telephone: 020 7209 5532 robert@jackmansilverman.co.uk

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AJR FILM CLUB

on MONDAY 18 March 2019 at 12.30pm

Sha'arei Tsedek North London Reform Synagogue, 120 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20 9EZ

Lunch of Sandwiches, Bridge Rolls, Danish pastries and tea or coffee will be served first

FINDING THEIR FEET

Staring Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie and Timothy Spall

On the eve of retirement a middle class, judgemental snob discovers her husband having an affair with her best friend and is forced to live with her bohemian sister on an inner city council estate. She is ike a fish out of water next to her outspoken, serial dating, free-spirited sibling, but she reluctantly lets her sister drag her along to her community dance class, where gradually she starts finding her feet... and romance. In this hilarious and heart-warming modern comedy, a colourful group of defiant and energetic 'baby boomers' shows her that retirement is only the beginning, and that divorce might just give her a whole new lease of life - and love.

£8.00 per person incl. lunch

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Please either call Ros Hart on 07966 969951 or email roshart@ajr.org.uk

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Jonathan Fishburn

buys and sells Jewish and Hebrew books, ephemera and items of Jewish interest.

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Books Bought

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Events and Exhibitions

THE DROWNED AND THE SAVED

Bernard Barnett will talk about Primo Levi's last book, The Drowned and The Saved, which was his final attempt to make sense of Auschwitz for all of humanity, and his own survival, both of which remained an enigma to him.

2pm 12 February JW3

www.jw3.org

ANNE FRANK'S LEGACY

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of Anne Frank's birth the former chair of the Anne Frank Trust, Gillian Walnes Perry MBE, will present her new book and then take part in a panel discussion about the legacy of Frank's story, which is a microcosm of children in the Holocaust. 7.30pm 27 February JW3

www.jw3.org

INFORMING THE WORLD

Dr. Hans-Christian Jasch, Executive Director of the Memorial and Educational Site of the Wannsee Conference, will explore how news of the Holocaust first reached the Western world. 6.30pm 28 February

The Wiener Library

www.wienerlibrary.co.uk

A CONCERTED SUCCESS



A unique memorial concert for the anniversary of Kristallnacht and the Kindertransport raised over £30,000 towards the Wiener Library's mission to collect, preserve and share evidence of the Holocaust for present and future generations.

The concert, held on 22 November at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood, featured the renowned German cellist Friederike Fechner, who made it her mission after discovering the house she had bought in Stralsund on Germany's Baltic coast had formerly belonged to the Blach family who were

Dame Esther Rantzen introduced an unforgettable evening which has prompted widespread praise. One guest, Lady Esther Gilbert, wrote: "It was a very moving event, beautifully brought together, inspiring and hopeful". For those who were unable to attend, a film of the concert is available in the Wiener Library's archive.

AJR AJR ANNUAL TRIP

Sunday 12th May - Thursday 16th May 2019 **NOTTINGHAM** AND SURROUNDING AREAS



We are pleased to announce that this year AJR will be based in Nottingham for our Annual Trip.

Highlights of the trip will include Chatsworth House, Beth Shalom, Wedgewood Potteries, Southwell Minster, plus the company of old and new friends, plenty of food and drink.

Coach travel from London to Nottingham, plus four nights' accommodation. We will also help arrange travel from other parts of England to Nottingham.

All meals and travel will be included. Places are limited.

Please call Susan Harrod or Karen Diamond on 020 8385 3070 for full information pack and booking form or email susan@ajr.org.uk or karendiamond@ajr.org.uk

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