



# AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

## The gift that keeps on giving

We all know what an extraordinary contribution Jewish refugees made to wartime and post-war Britain. And the contributions of some of their children and grandchildren are proving equally extraordinary.



Stephen Fry, Dame Margaret Hodge, Ed Miliband, Bella Freud and Ben Elton are all descendants of Jewish refugees

There is hardly any area of British culture which was not transformed by refugees: from psychoanalysis and physics to classical music and history, from publishers and art dealers to economists and cartoonists. It was as if European culture was tipped up and the greatest intellectual and cultural figures of central Europe fell into Britain and America. The legacy, as the year-long Insiders/Outsiders festival shows, was simply astonishing.

You could see and feel their impact everywhere. The Academy Cinema on Oxford Street, owned by George Hoellering, or Ackermans Chocolates at the top of Goldhurst Terrace; eating places like Cosmo's, the Dorice and Café Daquise in South Kensington; the Penguin Pool at London Zoo, designed by Berthold Lubetkin; Selfridge's, where Ernst Stern did the Christmas decorations, or Simpson's in Piccadilly, where Moholy-Nagy arranged displays. Any bus stop, because Hans

Schleger designed the distinctive London bus-stop sign.

Of course, this was partly a matter of circumstances. Architects benefited from the massive rebuilding of post-war British cities. Money was poured into new universities, art schools and concert halls. The post-war boom meant there was a new middle class to buy art books like Gombrich's *The Story of Art* or paintings by artists such as Lucian Freud and Frank Auerbach.

But that was not the end of the extraordinary story of the impact of refugees on Britain. A second and third generation have emerged whose contribution is also just as spectacular. Again, this has touched every area of British life. Broadcasters like Dame Jenny Abramsky, who ran Radio Five Live and was the daughter of Professor Chimen  
*Continued on page 2*

## A GREAT MIDSUMMER MIX

As the popular song goes, our June issue is busting out all over, with a great selection of reports and comments.

Articles include tributes to Bruno Kresiky, Arthur Koestler and Julius Braunthal and – on our obituaries page – Rabbi Harry Jacobi, among others.

June is also a very busy month for AJR's Outreach department and we hope that many readers enjoy taking part in at least one of the various inspiring and entertaining events that are advertised throughout these pages.

News.....	3
German Citizenship Restoration .....	4
Letter from Israel.....	5
Letter to the Editor .....	6-7
Art Notes.....	8
Bruno Kreisky .....	9
Two political thinkers.....	10-11
Reviews.....	12
An appropriate response .....	13
Looking For.....	14
Lament to Rosa, Susi & Lotte .....	15
Obituaries .....	16-17
Around the AJR.....	18
Adverts.....	19
Events & Exhibitions.....	20

### AJR Team

Chief Executive Michael Newman

Finance Director David Kaye

### Heads of Department

Community & Volunteer Services Carol Hart

HR & Administration Karen Markham

Educational Grants & Projects Alex Maws

### AJR Journal

Editor Jo Briggs

Editorial Assistant Lilian Levy

Contributing Editor David Herman

Secretarial/Advertisements Karin Pereira

## The gift that gives on giving (cont.)

Abramsky, and Mark Damazer CBE, former Controller of Radio 4 and the son of a Polish-Jewish deli owner in north London.

Academics, of course, such as Jeremy Adler, emeritus professor of German at King's College, London, son of HG Adler; Gustav Born, Professor of Pharmacology at Cambridge and later at King's, London, was son of the great physicist Max Born; Benjamin Chain, Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology at UCL and son of Ernst Chain, one of the men who discovered penicillin. Orlando Figes, the acclaimed Russian historian, is the son of the German-Jewish refugee writer, Eva Figes, and Lord John Krebs, a leading figure in zoology, is the son of Sir Hans Krebs, the famous biochemist.

Then there are household names like the comedians David Baddiel, whose mother, Sarah (then five months old), escaped from Nazi Germany three weeks before the outbreak of World War II, and Ben Elton, son of physicist Professor Lewis Elton, born Ludwig Ehrenberg, and nephew of the Tudor historian GR Elton, born Gottfried Ehrenberg.

In the media there are journalists like Tom Bower, Anatole Kaletsky, Lord Daniel Finkelstein and Alex Brummer. Kaletsky's mother was born in Odessa just before the Russian Revolution. Her parents managed to get onto the second last train out of Leningrad before the Nazis completed their encirclement. Finkelstein's mother, Mirjam, survived Bergen-Belsen, while his father Ludwik (Ludwig) Finkelstein OBE was born in Lviv (now in Ukraine) and became Professor of Measurement and Instrumentation at City University London.

Brummer said that, 'My wonderful father, just like Ralph Miliband, arrived in Britain on a boat as a refugee from what is now Ukraine, in 1939.' 'My father's parents,' Brummer said, 'died at Auschwitz. His younger sisters survived the horror of the death camps, partly because Nazi doctors found them useful as human guinea pigs during their eugenics experiments.'

Talking of Ralph Miliband, his sons David and Ed became leading Labour politicians under Blair and Brown, Ed going on to lead the Labour Party while David runs a

refugee charity based in New York.

Other politicians are also the children of refugees. Dame Margaret Hodge is the daughter of Jewish-German refugees. Lord (Michael) Howard is the son of Bernat Hecht, born and brought up in northern Transylvania. Hecht left Romania in 1939 and arrived in South Wales, aged 23. His brother and sister were deported to concentration camps, but survived and emigrated to Britain after the war. Michael Portillo's father, Luis Gabriel Portillo, was a Spanish republican, forced to leave Spain after the Spanish Civil War. Nicholas Clegg's paternal grandmother, Kira von Engelhardt, was a Baroness from Imperial Russia, of German-Russian and Ukrainian origin, whose aristocratic family fled the Bolsheviks after the 1917 Russian Revolution. Baroness Deech is the daughter of Josef Fraenkel, a Viennese journalist and historian, and his wife Dora. The parents of David Cameron's advisor, Steve Hilton, fled Hungary after 1956.

Many children and grandchildren of refugees became significant cultural figures. These include the composer Alexander Goehr, son of the German-Jewish composer and conductor Walter Goehr; the publishers Ursula Owen, one of the founders of Virago, Tom Maschler, whose parents left Berlin in 1938 and Peter Halban, son of physicist Hans Halban and stepson of Isaiah Berlin; the famous children's writer, Judith Kerr, daughter of the great Weimar theatre critic, Alfred Kerr; and the pop musician Mark Knopfler from Dire Straits, son of Erwin Knopfler, a Hungarian Jew who fled in 1939 and settled in Glasgow.

Some, of course, are quintessentially English. Take Stephen Fry, for example. He grew up in the village of Booton in Norfolk. He went to Cambridge and at Fitzbillies, the famous cake-shop near Pembroke College, you can see his recommendation of their Chelsea buns. Perhaps his most famous acting role was as the butler Jeeves in *Jeeves and Wooster*. What could be more English? His maternal grandparents, though, Martin and Rosa Neumann, were Hungarian Jews, who emigrated from Šurany (now in Slovakia) in 1927. Rosa's parents, in Vienna, were not so lucky. They were sent to Riga in Latvia where they were murdered by the Nazis. His mother's aunt and cousins were killed at Auschwitz and Stutthof.

Closer to home, significant second-generation figures within the AJR, include Chairman Andrew Kaufman MBE, the son of two refugees. Antony Grenville, formerly of this parish and a leading historian of German-speaking refugees, is the son of two Jews from Vienna.

There are extraordinary dynasties such as the three generations of Borns, Ehrenbergs/Eltons and Freuds, psychoanalysts but also PR people (Matthew), fashion designers (Bella) and novelists (Esther). Some stories are of getting out in time and what seem to be relatively smooth assimilation. But there are also desperately sad stories of loss and struggles. No one at the recent AJR conference on the Kindertransport will forget Jane Merkin's account of her mother's lifelong battle with depression.

A key theme of the conference was that, as the first generation passes away, we need to listen to the stories of the second and third generations. They are becoming increasingly engaged with the AJR and the experiences of their parents and grandparents. Often this is an extraordinary legacy. But it also has a dark side which has haunted many lives.

David Herman



### THE AJR CRUISE IS SETTING SAIL AGAIN



**6 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2019**  
**SOUTHAMPTON – NORWEGIAN FJORDS**  
**Stavanger, Olden, Innvikfjorden, Nordfjord, Alesund, Bergen**

<p><b>Prices:</b>  Twin/Double Cabin  inside from £874 p.p.  outside from £1150 p.p.  balcony from £1530 p.p.</p>	<p>Single Cabin  inside from £1399 p.p.  outside from £1859 p.p.  balcony from £2500 p.p.</p>
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Prices include all meals and coach transport to and from Southampton from London. Any excursions from the ship are extra.  
An AJR staff member will be available at all times for any assistance or queries and will accompany all trips off the ship.

We will eat our evening meals together, but aside from that you are free to do as you wish.

For details, email Susan Harrod on [susan@ajr.org.uk](mailto:susan@ajr.org.uk) or call 020 8385 3070

# REMEMBERING & RETHINKING

More than 200 people took part in **Remembering & Rethinking: The International Forum on the Kindertransport at 80**, the landmark event in April that was organised by the AJR and co-hosted by the UK Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Pickles.

Sponsors included the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the embassies of Austria and Germany, all of whom thanked the AJR for convening such an important gathering. As James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Communities, said "The Kindertransport has been seminal to countless lives and remains relevant to politics today, underlining the need to always challenge inequality or division or hatred... Although the Kindertransport is



a story of great pride, it is also marked with deep sadness at every turn and provokes many painful questions, underlining the important role that we have today in helping in international crises."

A central theme of the forum was rethinking the historical narrative about the Kindertransport. A range of academic scholars were given a platform to share their essential but often-overlooked research. Now the **AJR Journal** plans to carry on this theme by casting its spotlight on some of the lesser-known strands of history and critically debating some of the commonly accepted narratives.

Starting next month, we will be looking in

depth at how children were selected, how they were welcomed and the contributions made by many key players behind the initiative, including Wilfred Israel, Doreen Warriner, Trevor Chadwick and, of course, the Quakers.

As James Brokenshire said, "Learning and remembrance is at the heart. It is so important that we come together, that we remember, and that we apply those lessons for the future."

Email [editorial@AJRJournal.org](mailto:editorial@AJRJournal.org) if there is a particular aspect of the Kindertransport – or indeed of the wider refugee movement – you would like the **AJR Journal** to cover.

## Plaque to Chain

AJR has unveiled a commemorative plaque in honour of Nobel Prize winning Jewish émigré Professor Sir Ernst Chain at Imperial College, London.

Born in Berlin in 1906, Ernst Chain received his degree in chemistry from Friedrich Wilhelm University in 1930 but fled Germany immediately after the Nazis came to power, arriving in England in April 1933.

Together with Alexander Fleming and Howard Florey, Ernst Chain was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1945 in recognition of the discovery of penicillin and its curative effect on various infectious diseases.

Ernst Chain, who was knighted in 1969, arrived at Imperial in 1961 and is remembered for his foresight around the importance of biochemistry.



From left to right: Frank Harding (AJR), Prof Alice Gast (President Imperial College), Judy Chain (daughter), Benny Chain (son)

Under Chain's direction, the College became a leading international centre for physiological biochemistry with a focus on fermentation technologies that were essentially industrial biotechnology years ahead of their time.

Through its plaque scheme the AJR is honouring prominent Jewish émigrés from Nazism who made a significant contribution to their adopted homeland. AJR Trustee Frank Harding, who devised the plaque scheme, said: "It is with great pleasure that we are recognising and honouring Prof Sir Ernst Chain,

the pioneering and eminent scientist whose endeavours and research have profoundly impacted and benefited people throughout the world.

We believe that these commemorative plaques will help form a tangible link between illustrious refugees who have made an everlasting contribution and the local community, as well as fascinating residents and visitors. As well as being instructive and informative, they bring the past into the present, and they perpetuate the memory of the person being honoured."



# Missing those “black and white” days

**London based Sara Leshem tells us how life led her to become intrinsically linked to Germany, the only country she vowed never to visit.**

Born in 1975 into a British third generation family, I always felt 100% British, with a strong traditional Jew-“ish” identity. We were not particularly observant but always a fixture in Shul on the obligatory High Holydays. Family Friday nights were special, always spent in loving company and I was one of the first few to celebrate a Bat Mitzvah.

My early years were a fuzzy, lovely bubble of friends, family and security. At no point did I ever encounter antisemitism; on the contrary, I was proud and outspoken about being Jewish. We seldom talked about our past or about the Holocaust; on the rare occasions when we did, blame obviously went to Hitler, the Nazi Germans and conspirators. Such discussions of the past would evoke images of ghettos, yellow “Jude” stars, train tracks, carts of rotting bodies and vivid blood red, Nazi flags. I vowed NEVER to go to Germany and NEVER to mix with Germans. Let’s face it, most of them had relatives who conspired, at the very least, and some whose roles were unforgivable. It was crystal clear to me – black and white.

Destiny had other plans. It laughed in the face of my youthful naïvety and highly principled beliefs. In 1999, I found myself exactly where I vowed I’d never be – in Munich, Germany, at a UJIA European conference for Jewish youth. Hosting a Jewish event in Germany seemed totally crazy, wildly inappropriate even, but the persuasive powers of my friend, coupled with the promise of meeting “gorgeous guys” proved too tempting. As a former French & Spanish student, I was excited at the prospect of dating a European guy, perhaps even a dashing Italian but definitely NOT a German.

The rest, as they say, is history with a serious sprinkling of irony. I did indeed marry a German from that conference, a Munich born, Jewish guy, from precisely the country I vowed NEVER to visit. We live happily in London with our two boys and they too, have German Citizenship. With regular trips to Munich they often refer to their grandparents’ house in Germany as their “second home”.

With the birth of my first son in 2004, I remember feeling extremely uncomfortable when my husband applied for our son’s German passport. Thankfully, I didn’t allow my former prejudices to veto the application. Now with the Brexit fiasco, I’m deeply grateful (admittedly still a touch bemused), that my boys have German citizenship and full EU rights.

This Spring, to add to the irony, together with a partner we are launching GCR, German Citizenship Restoration, a legal service to help former Jewish German citizens and their descendants, unlawfully stripped of their citizenship in the country’s darkest period (1933-45), to restore it and access their EU freedoms.

Holding on to hate, resentment, and preconceived beliefs won’t help us survive as British Jews today. We are in uncharted waters: antisemitism is rising globally even here, in my beloved UK. Which is why, despite my former self, I’m applying for a German passport of my own. Hopefully, I’ll never have to use it to leave the UK but history has already bitterly warned us: expect the unexpected.

My friends, the lovely bubble has burst, those black and white days are over ...

**Sara Leshem can be contacted via  
020 8066 9900,  
[sara@germanpassport.co.uk](mailto:sara@germanpassport.co.uk)**



## ROYAL BRADFORD

HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, recently visited Bradford’s Tree of Life Synagogue, which overcame possible closure in 2013, partly due to support from the local Muslim community.

Synagogue Chair and AJR member Rudi Leavor said: “The synagogue has enormously close relations with the Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities.” Prince Edward, who unveiled a plaque at the shul, described it as “...a snapshot of our heritage in this country.”



Rudi Leavor BEM and HRH The Duke of Wessex, Prince Edward

**Please join us for an outing to  
AUDLEY END HOUSE  
Thursday 20 June 2019**



**Coach pick-ups in  
Edgware and Finchley Road**

**Explore this decadent Jacobean mansion house and meet the staff in the Victorian Service Wing. Enjoy stunning views across the unspoilt Essex countryside and wander the tranquil gardens created by ‘Capability’ Brown.**

**For full details and a booking form please contact  
Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070  
or email [susan@ajr.org.uk](mailto:susan@ajr.org.uk)**

# LETTER FROM ISRAEL

BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



## A COLLEGE IN WESTERN GALILEE



'The Future of Holocaust Testimonies' was the subject of a three-day conference held last March at

the Centre for Holocaust Studies of the Western Galilee College, situated just outside the ancient city of Acre (Akko) in the north of Israel. Scholars from all over the world attended, among them Dr. Verena Buser of the University of Applied Sciences in Potsdam, Germany, whose lecture was entitled '*The Lucifer Effect, A Promising Approach to Understanding Functionaries' Holocaust Testimonies,*' and Professor Wolf Gruner of the University of South California, USA, whose subject was '*Salvation Through Servitude: Life Narrations of Jewish Refugee Domestics, 1938-1950.*'

To reach the Western Galilee College, an academic institution established in 1994 and recognised as an academic institution by Israel's Council of Higher Education in 2000, I took a trip to the north of Israel on a sunny winter's day.

The college is supported by the UK's UJIA which supports a number of educational projects and institutions in northern Israel in cooperation with Israel's government.

The college, which focuses primarily on the humanities and social sciences, numbers about 2,500 students, half of them drawn from Israel's Arab population. Pre-academic studies are provided for students who lack the necessary qualifications for acceptance to the academic track (accounting for another 1,000 students). The college also has a programme for gifted schoolchildren.

I spoke to Dr. Inbal Veinberg, the Dean of Students, who stressed the college's emphasis on outreach to local communities, which constitute part of Israel's periphery, thereby providing a link to different segments of the population. Students who are awarded scholarships to cover tuition fees are required to undertake community service, which in several cases involves visiting elderly individuals living alone. This project is implemented in conjunction with the Akko municipality's social services department.

I was introduced to two of the students involved in this program. The first, a mature woman student from the Arab

village of Dir al-Assad, visits an elderly lady, a Christian Arab, living in Akko. 'She is like a second mother to me,' she told me, visibly moved, noting that she had lost her own mother at a very young age. She was full of praise for the way the college has helped her to continue her studies, despite her financial and physical difficulties, and hopes to continue to a second degree in economics. The second student I interviewed pays weekly visits to a Holocaust survivor aged ninety-four, who lives alone and writes poetry in several languages. The student proudly told me how he has helped the survivor to realise his dream of publishing a book of his poems.

Some seventy percent of the students are women, and in many cases the programme enables Arab girls and women from villages in Galilee to overcome the traditions and customs that restrict them. Regarding education as the key to social progress and integration, the college focuses on providing financial and moral support for students experiencing social and/or economic difficulties, thus enabling them to complete their degree. The college also provides assistance in helping graduates to find employment.

## YOM HASHOAH IN PINNER

**Pinner Synagogue was packed to capacity for its annual Holocaust commemoration on Wednesday 1 May.**

Guests included the Polish and Lithuanian Ambassadors and senior diplomats from Germany, Hungary, Lithuania and The Netherlands.

The focus was on Poland at the outbreak of WW2, eighty years ago. Six survivors, all originally from Poland, led the candle lighting ceremony. Only children when the Germans invaded, they each beat the odds, considering that 90% of Polish Jews were annihilated by the Nazis during the war.



Six survivors from Poland, from left to right: Helena Kaut-Howson, Henry Margulies, Helen Aronson, Lili Stern Pohlmann, Ralph Lubinsky, Jan Goldberger

PHOTO CREDIT STEPHEN GEE

AJR member Lili Stern Pohlmann, who was interviewed by Antony Lishak, founder of the charity 'Learning from the Righteous', recalled her experiences with wit and candour, especially a daring escape from the Lwow ghetto one snowy night in November 1942. She emphasised how non-Jews saved her and her mother at great risk to themselves.

The Polish Ambassador took pride in the number of Righteous Gentiles but also acknowledged the atrocities committed by individual Poles against Jewish neighbours before, during and after the war.

**Sharon Mire**

# Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication and respectfully points out that the views expressed in the letters published are not necessarily the views of the AJR.

## TRUMPF MIGRATED

Ruth Deech (April) believes that the luminous success of Israel (at present cheerily arm-in-arm with fellow musketeers Trumpf and Mohamed Bin Salman) makes it the ideal role model for vulnerable minorities. Jaroslav Hasek, Orwell, Joseph Heller are long dead. Tom Lehrer is in retirement. Who will chart the inexorable rise of Roma and LGBT when they become heavily militarised nations?

(The spelling Trumpf is a little reminder that his parents, like his wives, were economic migrants).

*Joyce and George Schlesinger, Durham*

## THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

Israel's Declaration of Independence took place on 14 May 1948. The Arabs surrounding Israel attacked it, but were driven back and Israel annexed portions of Arab lands to ensure the security to which every country has the right. The Golan Heights were part of this move. At that time there was no international law on annexation. In fact, it has been flouted numerous times by many nations since.

At one time Britain occupied one quarter of the globe. Therefore, it ill behoves Britain to admonish Israel, an insignificantly small country, for ensuring its existence.

Given that only two in every thousand people are Jews, a disproportionate amount of attention is devoted to us. However, the many contributions to life on earth, created by Jews, are immeasurably out of all proportion to the population of this world. The influence of Levy Strauss' jeans and Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook alone are enormous. There are or were hundreds of Jews, from Jesus Christ to Karl Marx, from Sigmund Freud to Albert Einstein, who changed the world.

There is not an area in which Jews were not predominant. Civilisation would be back many generations if it were not for

Jews. The world would be very different and it is this difference which causes all the trouble.

Keep the Golan Heights, I say.  
*Fred Stern, Wembley, Middx.*

## THE POWER OF THE INTERNET

For the last seven months, our granddaughter has prepared for her Bat Mitzvah. My husband and I were privileged to attend the service, held in Tarrytown, New York, and join in with the celebrations on the face of it a wonderful but quite commonplace event. However, our American granddaughter did not attend one class at her New York temple, as she lives 3500 miles away in Essex. She performed everything quite beautifully although she had never sat in a class to learn anything; everything had been done in twenty minute sessions held once a week facetimeing with the cantor!

Whether speaking in Hebrew or in English, or performing in the service, everything was learned via the tiny screen of her iPhone. The internet enabled her to participate perfectly and we were moved to tears during the service: grandparents' privilege. To have travelled to the USA to witness and participate in the service was one of the proudest experiences of our lives. We wouldn't have missed it for the world.  
*Susie Barnett*

## WHAT TO TELL THE CHILDREN

I read the May issue of the AJR journal with great interest and pleasure, as always: It gets better and better.

David Herman's fascinating article "What shall we tell the children?" about a conference in 2011 made me realise how much I miss the LJCC although the LJCC-ites who transferred to JW3 have been doing some great stuff. One of these was the panel on "Has Holocaust Education Failed?" It was a most inspiring event, jointly organised with the AJR, which showed

how far Holocaust education for future generations has developed since 2011.

I also very much appreciated Dr Elena Rowland's letter about genocide. In my experience of 20 years involvement in Holocaust education there has not been enough focus on, and understanding of, the term 'genocide'. Most genocides do include killing but the definition (see Greg Stanton's online website 'Genocide Watch') makes it clear that the basic element is to deliberately destroy a people, its culture and identity. The Yazidi culture is being deliberately destroyed by Isis; the Uyghur culture is systematically being subjected to mass deportation of whole Uyghur families into what the Chinese Government claims are 're-education camps'. Similarly, the first major genocide of the 20th Century was the Ottoman Turks' attempt to 'Turkify' the Anatolian Peninsular.

There is a danger of defining genocide by numbers killed – a perverse sort of pecking order – instead of focusing on the attempt to destroy the ethnic cultural core of the target group. "If it doesn't reach the stage of killing it isn't a genocide" is a distortion often used by politicians, and those with a vested interest, to avoid acknowledging genocide.

*Ruth Barnett, London NW3*

## FRANCIS STEINER

Further to your obituary of Francis Steiner (May), I recall writing an article for the AJR Journal in 2008 on the Isle of Man Internment Records. I was contacted afterwards by Francis and had considerable post and email correspondence with him and some entertaining telephone calls in his distinctive accented voice. I then had the pleasure of meeting him and driving him around some of the Isle of Man Internment Camps when he returned to the Island for his first visit since the war.

Whilst interned on the Isle of Man in a 'Catch 22' situation – he failed to meet



any of the many release clauses – he unusually moved around three camps over 18 months in 1940-41, writing letters to his older brother Wilhelm (William) who had also been interned on the island, but only for about six months. When his brother's family heard he was visiting they returned the letters to him and he deposited them in the Manx National Heritage Library Collection [MS 11882] along with a family memoir [MS 12001]. Such material is a vital link to the experiences of refugees both for family use and researchers and I included it in my 2017 book *'Involuntary Guests'*. He was a very cultured man who lived a long and successful life and will be sadly missed.  
*Alan Franklin,*  
*Librarian 1992-2016,*  
*Manx National Heritage*

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#### CHARMING CALL

I was one of the favoured 300 who received a charming telephone call from your team before Pesach. It was a wonderful idea, although I did not subsequently receive the Red Cross parcel of chicken soup I had requested!

My sincere thanks to you and to the lovely lady on whose list I was fortunate to land.  
*Dr Hans Eirew, Manchester*

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#### GIVING BACK TO CHILD REFUGEES

Recently the German Government decided to donate some £2000 to Kinder still alive. A pittance and certainly does nothing to alleviate the pain of losing or separating from parents as a result of the Holocaust. Unfortunately we have not learned a lot from past experiences, so that today we still have unaccompanied children fleeing from death and extermination.

But the Kindertransport was not the same as the unaccompanied children today. It was more organised and the distances far less. Furthermore the children coming today from the Middle East, because of the time taken and

the distances that have to be covered, are on average a little older than some of the younger children on the Kindertransport.

Nevertheless the Kindertransport remains a symbol of what should and can be done if the will is there. That is why Lord Dubs, Dame Steve Shirley and myself are suggesting that the money from the German Government be given to help unaccompanied children of today. By donating these funds to Safe Passage we are assisting them in persuading the British Government to allow 10,000 children into the UK over 10 years. So far fewer than 300 have been absorbed into the UK. Out of the thousands strewn over the European continent, and those who have been lost, the number is indeed very small.

I am very aware that not all those reading this article will think the same or be financially in a position to donate their grant, but any sum will be of help. I personally am unlikely to ever forget those words of Prince Charles at our 70th anniversary commemoration at JFS, when he said: 'I am delighted that the Government of the time allowed you in. You have given so much back to this country. I am proud to be British!'

By donating what we can we will not only save these children but will at the same time also strengthen the future of this country. Who is to say how much the unaccompanied children of today will give back to this country?  
*Sir Erich Reich*  
*Chair, AJR's Kindertransport Special Interests Group*

**Note from Editor:** *If any other AJR members would like to financially help today's child refugees please contact Safe Passage, the charity which helps unaccompanied children, as well as vulnerable adults, access safe legal routes to asylum. You can call them on 020 8017 2937, email [info@safepassage.org.uk](mailto:info@safepassage.org.uk), or even donate online at [www.safe-passage-c.fundraise.tech](http://www.safe-passage-c.fundraise.tech)*

#### EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

In her Letter from Israel, Dorothea Shefer-Vanson (May) writes about the Eurovision Song Contest taking place in Tel Aviv, saying that "the last time Israel's entry was victorious was forty years ago, with Gali Atari and the Hakol Over Habibi ensemble singing 'Halleluya'".

However, Dorothea seems to forget that Israel won the contest in 1998 with Dana International singing 'Diva' in Birmingham. Consequently, the 1999 contest took place in Jerusalem. Eurovision is a bit of fun, but facts are important and it's a shame not to acknowledge Dana International's victory!  
*Claire Wills, London SE15*

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#### KINDERTRANSPORT RESEARCH

I am a sociologist/oral historian based in Budapest, Hungary, and I work as a contracted researcher for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum ([www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)). We are working on finding and documenting Jewish and non-Jewish testimonies about the events of the Holocaust in different countries in Europe. Since 2011 we have recorded around 300 video interviews mostly in Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary, Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Romania and recently also in France, UK and Ireland).

Recently we have started a project in England in which we are particularly interested in memories about the Jewish children's arrival with the Kindertransport in 1938 or later. We are looking for foster families (Jewish or non-Jewish) who took in children, and British people (including those who were themselves children at that time) who spent time with a Kind in school or elsewhere during the war.

I would be very grateful if you could help me to find and contact those kinders who are in your Association.  
*Borbala Kriza,*  
*+36 20 392 0949 or [krizab@gmail.com](mailto:krizab@gmail.com)*

# ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Van  
Gogh's  
Self  
Portrait



Who influences an artist? And who is influenced by him? In The EY Exhibition *Van Gogh and Britain*, at Tate Britain, we learn that Vincent spent nearly three years in England from 1873, during which time the social conscience of Charles Dickens, the works of Shakespeare, Christina Rossetti and the art of John Constable and the Pre-Raphaelites inspired a lifelong love of British culture.

And then there were those who came later, like Charles Bacon and David Bomberg, Vanessa Bell, and Walter Sickert, who brought his influence to their own work. Van Gogh loved London, its galleries and museums even before his brother Theo persuaded him to become an artist himself. The symbolism for which he became famous: avenues of twisted trees, the radiant blues and yellows, solitary figures in woodlands, old boots and yellow sunflowers, all transcend his own time.

His only painting of London, *The Prison Courtyard*, 1890 on loan from the Pushkin State Museum in Moscow, is a poignant reflection of his own experience in the Saint-Paul asylum in France; based on a print of Newgate Prison by Gustave Doré, it was painted during the last year of his life and recalls Dickens' accounts of the seamier side of London and his own city walks.

At the beginning of his creative life he had written of a "prison of poverty and social prejudice" that prevented him from expressing his art. Later, in hospital, he would say "the prison was crushing me."

For this exhibition the Tate has brought together the largest group of Van Gogh paintings shown in the UK for nearly a decade and includes over 50 works from public and private collections around the world. "My whole life is aimed at making the things from everyday life that Dickens describes and these artists draw",

he said. And when he left briefly for the Paris cosmopolitan art world, he met British-based painters and collectors who responded to his work.

Yet Vincent Van Gogh was the very essence of the tortured artist; a man who cut off his ear when he felt betrayed by his friend Gauguin, who desperately needed silence yet who craved love and understanding.

His raw pain is expressed in every leaf on every tree, in every petal, in every face and in every shoe. He worked passionately, believing a painting must be finished in one day, almost a nod to the classic concept of unity of time, place and action. The truth he revealed behind each work was usually a bitter one.

He inspired many great artists. Yet who among them can convey the human character in his *Shoes*, 1886 or the feelings of the solitary figure in *Avenue of Poplars in the Asylum* 1889, a place where his genius was derided, is painted in blood-red vermilion; the trees are surely tortured human souls as they are in *Olive Trees*, 1889, while *Starry Night* is a continuum of light drifting back and forth between the stars, the land and the water.

**William Nicholson's** *Miss Jekyll's Gardening Boots* demonstrate Van Gogh's influence, as does **Christopher Wood's** *Yellow Chrysanthemums*. There is a virtual garden of flower paintings here,

but compared to Vincent's *Sunflowers* – which speak not of beauty but of an entire life-cycle of growing and dying and falling away – these others are simply beautiful yellow blooms. However, his influence contributed to a renaissance in British flower painting. Many are united here with the source of their inspiration.

**David Bomberg's** *Flowers* do have a touch of Van Gogh and also suggest that wavering and too human world of plant life. **Jacob Epstein's** *Epping Forest*, 1933 was inspired by Van Gogh's *Pollard Willows at Sunset* and his dramatic dark blue trees on an orange and yellow landscape also convey some alliance with the Impressionist. It is not hard to see the Impressionist's hand on **Francis Bacon** either. Van Gogh's original interest in flower painting came from a baroque painting of a vase overflowing with flowers by **Adolphe Monticelli**, given to Van Gogh by a Scottish dealer. He wrote to Theo: "if our Monticelli bouquet is worth 55 francs to an art lover... then I dare assure you that my sunflowers are also worth 500 francs to one of those Scots in America!"

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CONTEMPORARY  
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE



# Bruno Kreisky, 1911-1990, a life-long socialist

**Bruno Kreisky was born in Vienna into a time of great change. He started school towards the end of WWI and growing up saw the consequences of the demise of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.**



The post-war years brought great hardship for wide segments of the Austrian population.

Kreisky's was a well-to-do but not at all observant Jewish family. However they never denied or renounced their Jewishness. At school Kreisky noticed that not everybody lived in such charmed circumstances as himself. The unfairness he saw motivated him to join the Youth Wing of the Socialist Party of Austria at the age of 15, progressing to the Young Socialist Workers in 1927.

While studying law at the University of Vienna he remained politically active. An interesting detail mentioned in Wolfgang Petritsch's biography: Kreisky graduated in March 1938, on the same day as the Anschluss!

After Dollfuss' government banned the Socialist Party in 1934 Kreisky became active in clandestine political work. For this activity he was arrested in January 1935. He was convicted of high treason but released from prison in 1936, and in September 1938 he made his escape to Sweden.

In Sweden Kreisky met other exiled socialists, among them Willy Brandt. The two became firm personal friends.

They, together with others of the group of international Social Democrats in exile, determined to enter politics and laid plans for a European post-war order. In 1969 Brandt became the first social democratic German chancellor and in 1970 Kreisky was elected Chancellor of Austria. In his moving speech at Kreisky's funeral Brandt called Kreisky a "lieber, schwieriger und guter Freund" – a dear, challenging and good friend. One could not define Kreisky better.

As an agnostic, Kreisky had decided in 1931 to leave the Jewish community in Vienna. His relationship to Judaism and Israel was complicated. He had an uneasy relationship to Zionism and was very critical of Golda Meir and Menachem Begin. All the same, he used his position and contacts in the Arab world as a mediator to promote peace between Israel and the Arab States.

Kreisky's efforts brought Shimon Perez, Anwar El-Sadat and Willy Brandt to meet in July 1978 in Vienna. A Middle East peace proposal was published after this meeting and, following the Camp David Accords in 1978 and in 1979, Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty, the first with an Arab State.

In 1970, after a close electoral result, Kreisky had to form a minority

government. Simon Wiesenthal revealed that several of them, including SS Obersturmführer Friedrich Peter, had been Nazis. Kreisky as Chancellor of Austria had to retain them to maintain his coalition. This led to a bitter and long-lasting feud between Kreisky and Wiesenthal, culminating in several legal actions and bringing Kreisky to state that "he was no longer Jewish". Wiesenthal retorted: "the only Austrian who does not believe that Kreisky is Jewish is Kreisky himself."

That after the Shoah a Jewish socialist could be elected as Chancellor of Austria is certainly due to Kreisky's political ability but also to the fact that Austria. That former Nazi served in his government, though now as democrats, shows better than anything else how widely Nazism had embedded itself into society; and that, like in Germany and other German occupied countries, it was impossible to bring them all to justice. This resulted in many unsavoury compromises and highly complex post-war relationships. The Kreisky-Wiesenthal conflict demonstrates this very poignantly.

**Shulamit Spain**

# Two political thinkers

This month we bring you profiles of two very different left-wingers, Arthur Koestler and Julius Braunthal, both of whom had great influence.

## ARTHUR KOESTLER

Arthur Koestler, the author of *Darkness at Noon* was described as the “last renaissance man”. He had an unbelievable life and the book is, according to some, one of the most influential works of the 20th century.

The inspiration for the book came from the Moscow Trials in which prominent figures, many of them known personally to Koestler, confessed to non-existent sins against the state in open court. These included Kamenew, Zinoviev, Bukharin and many others, and the book is dedicated to their memory.

He wrote *Darkness at Noon* in Paris, just before the Germans arrived. The details are based on his experiences in Franco’s jail, where he was condemned to death, and as a result of which he wrote *Dialogue with Death*.

Rubashov, the hero of *Darkness at Noon*, served the communist state heroically all his life. One night two men come to arrest him, an older one who symbolises the civilised generation and a younger one, the brutality of the new generation. Meditating when not with his interrogators, he thinks he loyally served the Party and doubts awaken in him. Eventually the older interrogator disappears; he is executed as an enemy of the people. This is when Rubashov capitulates, signs his false confession and is condemned to death on false charges.

The book is difficult to put down. It is a study of state brutality, fear and victimhood. Neither the Soviet Union nor Stalin is named, but the allusions are obvious. On a lighter note, President Clinton, at the height of the media attention during the Monica Lewinsky affair, referred to the novel saying he felt like a character out of *Darkness at Noon*.

If you wish to know more about Koestler’s extremely interesting life I recommend you read *Arrow in the Blue*, *The Invisible Writing*, (both autobiographical), *Dialogue with Death*, *Spanish Testament* and the very moving *Thieves in the Night*, based on his stay in Israel.

## Janos Fisher

## JULIUS BRAUNTHAL

In the regenerated docklands of Amsterdam stands the International Institute of Social History whose 50km of shelf space house archives dealing with labour relations from all over the world – from slavery to self-employment. Here you will find an important collection of documents about Julius Braunthal, the internationally prominent Social Democrat who fled from ‘Austrofascist’ Vienna and ultimately settled in Teddington on the Thames.

Born in Vienna, Julius Braunthal began his career as a bookbinder’s apprentice and studied socialism at night classes. In his twenties he worked as a left-wing journalist, but was caught up in the near civil war that shook ‘red Vienna’ in particular and brought about a Mussolini-influenced autocratic regime in 1934. With other Social Democrats, Braunthal was arrested, charged with high treason and put behind bars where, he complained, he was ‘von den Wanzen zerfressen’ (‘devoured by bugs’). The archives include a letter in which Thomas Mann thanks an imprisoned Braunthal for his kind remarks about, presumably, the recently-published second volume of Mann’s four-part *Joseph and His Brothers*. The two had met at a reception in Vienna.

Braunthal was released without trial after a year, on condition he leave Austria; he moved to Brussels where his wife, Ernestine (‘Tini’) née Gernreich and their two sons were awaiting him. He accepted a job in the Belgian capital as assistant secretary of the Socialist International, a body that to this

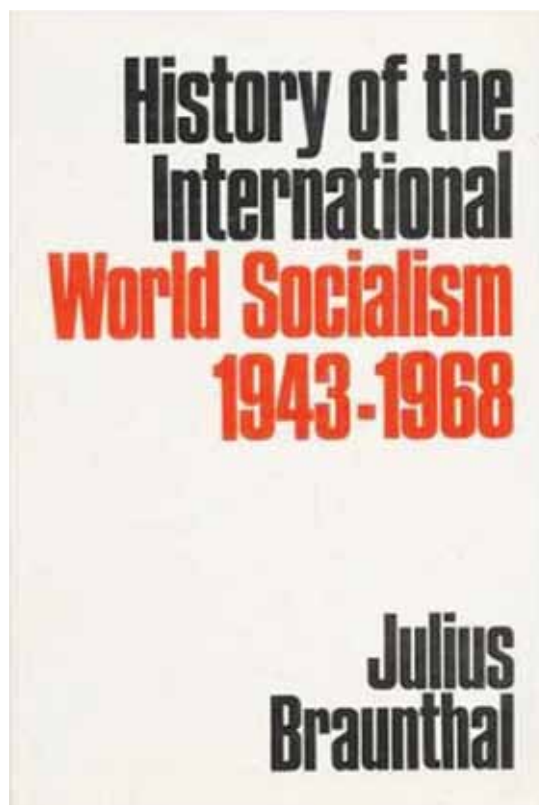
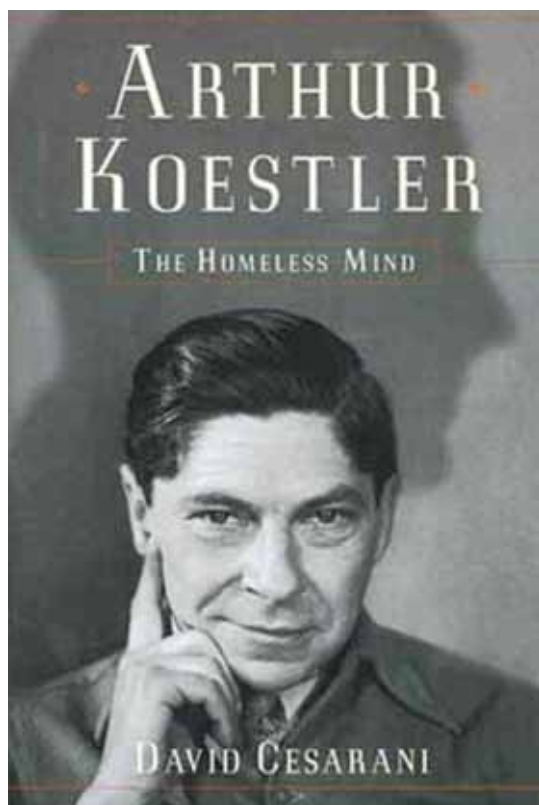
day brings together what would earlier have been seen as non-communist left-wing parties.

He left Belgium for Britain the day Hitler attacked Poland. The UK authorities exempted Braunthal from internment because he was a well-known refugee from Nazi oppression but only weeks later he was struggling with red-tape. Edward Grigg (later Lord Altrincham) at the information ministry told him on 17 October ‘...I do not think it will be right for me to ask you to prolong your stay in London, and...I expect you will, in due course, decide to return to Brussels... Should you wish later on to come back to England, I feel sure you will have no difficulty in getting a visa from the British Passport Office in Brussels.’

Braunthal also had to worry about bringing over his family. His wife had worked for the Socialist International, too. She was suffering from a glandular ailment, and she had in her charge her frail mother and her two sons. Stafford Cripps, a renegade Labour MP with a legal background, acted as political guarantor and intervened. On 20 February the Aliens Department of the Home Office told Cripps ‘...we have felt able to authorise the desired visas in this case...’ Tini was allowed to come to the UK for the duration of the war.

She and the rest of the family landed in March 1940, some two months before Hitler occupied Belgium. She managed to bring ‘all our belongings and even half our books,’ Julius recorded. By the following May, however, she was interned, for six weeks, in Port Erin, on the Isle of Man – not because she was suspect, but because she had not had the chance to appear before the tribunal that decided whether enemy aliens were dangerous spies or genuine refugees.

And then there was the disappearance of their elder son, Friedrich/Fritz/Freddy, born in August, 1922. He was a student at the London School of Economics which had been evacuated to Cambridge, a ‘protected area’ at the time. Aliens in the Cambridge region



Two of the many books either by or about Arthur Koestler or Julius Braunthal

were rounded up as ‘enemy aliens.’ In July 1940 Braunthal asked the War Office for news of his son, explaining that the Post Office had returned a telegram because his son had been sent overseas.

It was four months before Braunthal received a letter from Freddy – from Canada: he had been given no opportunity to inform his parents and had been sent away without a penny in his pocket and without warm clothes for the severe Canadian winters. Canada, which regarded internees as prisoners of war, allowed Freddy to work twice a week to earn enough for cigarettes. In August 1940 Braunthal asked ‘My dear Michael (Foot)’ to approach the prominent Canadian Social Democrat, David Lewis, for help in securing the release of ‘Internee F. G. Braunthal...’ The following January Freddy was able to return from Canada and went on to have a career in the British army.

Braunthal, meanwhile, was struggling to make a living. He wrote in October 1940 ‘The tide is against foreigners, though not the feeling of the people...I am entirely idle and getting rather desperate...I cannot bear to watch, unactive (sic), the struggle which

I consider my own. I am therefore thinking of emigrating to the United States...’ But Braunthal stayed in Britain, and did take part in the struggle. On reaching these shores he had tried to get the government to engage in ‘political’ warfare in Germany, taking advantage of the anti-Nazi labour organisations in Germany’s neighbours with which he was so familiar, but there was no follow-up.

Braunthal commented bitterly that the Chamberlain government was ‘apparently unwilling to make use of the services of international labour.’ Later he did write scripts and broadcasts for the Foreign Office; the Daily Mail used him to monitor radio broadcasts; and, at the US embassy, he worked for the Office of War Information, which dropped millions of leaflets over Germany.

In the pre-war years and during the war, Braunthal wrote for *Tribune*, started in 1937, and other socialist publications. He became acquainted with leading left-wing figures. One of them, Victor Gollancz, published his first works in English one of which, in 1943, was the provocatively titled *Need Germany Survive?* Gollancz shared his view that the Allies should bear in mind the ‘other

Germany – the many who had resisted the Nazis.

But Braunthal, living in London, was freelancing, unable to find a permanent job. He sometimes earned nothing for weeks, using up his precious savings. He applied for citizenship soon after the war ended but in January 1946 the Home Office told him it could not give priority to his case: it did not want to face charges that it gave preference to those known to ministers and MPs. He became British in 1948.

With the Socialist International based in postwar London, Braunthal became its secretary. He was now recognised as a leading figure in the movement. On retirement, he lectured on it around the world and wrote a major history about it. The city of Vienna honoured him in 1971 for his journalism. Two of his five siblings, Bertha and Gerard, became well-known in left-wing politics, in Britain and in the USA respectively. Another relative, his fashion designer nephew in Los Angeles, Rudi Gernreich, acquired international if fleeting celebrity in the 1960s, when he unveiled his ‘monokini’.

**Martin Uli Mauthner**



# REVIEWS

## **THE EXIT VISA: A family's flight from Nazi Europe**

by **Sheila Rosenberg**

**Bloomsbury Academic**

**ISBN 978-1-78831-495-4**

Holocaust poet Hilda Schiff's story is unveiled in this moving book telling how she and her older sister, Gitti, came to England on a Kindertransport, leaving their mother Toni behind. Toni stayed in Vienna planning her own escape but tragically they never saw her again. The account – written by Hilda's literary executor Sheila Rosenberg – explores her life in a strange country without parents and her tireless and heart-breaking quest to discover what happened to Toni.

Until Germany annexed Austria in March 1938, as Hilda turned seven, the family led a happy, fairly prosperous existence. Her father, Moses, ran a textile business and shop. She remembered Kristallnacht: as Moses was ill he was allowed to remain at home – and Toni was taken away to barracks instead. She was released that evening and never spoke about her experience. But the brush with the Gestapo convinced Moses to flee soon afterwards with other relatives into neutral Switzerland.

Meanwhile Hilda – later an AJR member – and Gitti arrived here in February 1939. Hilda came with a case of beautiful clothes but what she later minded most was that she had no recollection of saying goodbye to her mother. The girls ended up with different families and Hilda soon learned fluent English before her school was evacuated to Penzance, where she acquired a Cornish accent. Here she lived with the Rogers, a childless local butcher and his wife who was devoted to her young refugee. Mrs Rogers provided love, support and fun until Hilda's twenties. The school's head teacher Mr Canfield also gave tireless encouragement. Hilda always regretted leaving Toni's loving letters unopened and unanswered.

After her daughters left, Toni found a new courage and fled via Cologne to

Belgium living mainly in Antwerp over the next three years where she met up with relatives. Descriptions of Jews' hand to mouth existence are very touching. Many were destitute but Toni, although careful with money, always had means. She corresponded with Moses who went to Herculean lengths to secure her precious permission to enter Switzerland.

The plan was to cross over from France but unfortunately summer 1942 saw increasing tightening up of paperwork as the Nazis pursued deportation quotas. At long last Toni reached the border and saw Moses within yards on the other side but she lacked a crucial exit visa so was disastrously called back. His anguish that she did not leap across haunted him for the rest of his life.

Hilda searched tirelessly to find out what happened to her mother. In 2002, 2004 and lastly 2009, nine months before her own death, she visited sites of her mother's last fatal journey; on these visits Hilda was accompanied by Sheila or her nephew Benny.

This is a well-researched and often heart-rending book, illustrated with poignant poetry. It draws from Hilda's own recollections and extensive investigations as well as on historical research by others. It is strong in human interest and painstakingly put together with helpful headings to make reading easier.

*Janet Weston*

## **EDUCATED**

By **Tara Westover**

**Windmill Books**

**ISBN978-0099511021**

This is a hugely compelling and well-crafted true story that chronicles a young woman's efforts to study her way out of a tough childhood in Idaho and find herself through books.

Tara Westover was born in 1986 to Mormon fundamentalist parents, the youngest of seven. Her father Gene was convinced the world was going to end at the stroke of the millennium. He did not believe in sending his children to

school, in fact he didn't even register their births. Her unfailingly loyal mother largely deferred to him, although she found some independence in her roles as a kind of faith healer and as an experienced but apparently unlicensed midwife.

Life was grim and money was a constant struggle. An amazing number of freak accidents befell the family, but hospitals and western medicine were forbidden so injuries persisted and festered. Tara herself was repeatedly beaten and abused by an elder brother who called her a whore because of her innocent friendship with a local boy.

Yet despite having no formal education she managed to study her way to college. She struggled initially but got good enough marks for a PhD scholarship at Cambridge. And in the course of all that, she found herself – through what some might call a "transformation" and others a "betrayal". As she writes in the last line of the book: "I call it an education."

For me, the level of Tara's childhood ignorance was most highlighted by the fact that she never even heard of the Holocaust until she got to college. When she challenged her father about this, he told her that "...Jewish bankers in Europe had signed secret agreements to start WW2 and that they had colluded with Jews in America to pay for it. They had engineered the Holocaust because they would benefit financially from worldwide disorder. They sent their own people to the gas chambers for money."

Although Tara was quick to highlight the untruth of these shocking allegations, I find it very disturbing that in this day and age, after all the effort that has been invested into Holocaust education, such views can persist. For every Tara, who has managed to escape the clutches of her radical parents, there must be hundreds who never even dream of getting away. No wonder antisemitism is flourishing, and no wonder that this inspiring book has won so many literary prizes.

*Jo Briggs*

# An appropriate response

**Professor Robert A. Shaw** was born in Vienna on 2 November 1924. Following the Anschluss, he left Austria by a Kindertransport, arriving in England on 6 July 1939. At the earliest opportunity, he joined the British Army, seeing service in India, Burma, Thailand and Singapore before embarking on an academic career in Chemistry, and building a distinguished international reputation. Last March he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Vienna. This is an extract from his acceptance speech.



Professor Robert Shaw (seated) with his Honorary Doctorate, together with colleagues

I am honoured to receive this award from one of the oldest (founded in 1365) and most famous universities in Europe. But I feel I must also tell you about the considerable soul-searching I had to undergo to be here today.

We are commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Anschluss*. Welcomed at the time by many Austrians, the event proved catastrophic for Austria's Jewish citizens, who experienced brutality, humiliation and the looting of all their property. For the lucky ones (including my parents and myself), survival meant a penniless exile; for the less fortunate ones (including five members of my family) a brutal death. *Kristallnacht*, in November 1938, was followed by the most depressive and hopeless period of my life.

The British *Kindertransport* was my salvation. A very religious Church of England family in Suffolk deposited the required £50, which allowed me to join a Kindertransport less than two months before war broke out. A society which, in 1942, sent my 76 year old grandmother to a death camp, would hardly have spared a youth then reaching military age. Instead of being here today, I would have just been another number added to the six million Holocaust victims.

In emigration, I was young and resilient enough to adapt; my parents were not. After the war, they desperately tried to regain possession of, or compensation for, their stolen property. They ran into a brick wall, which is best demonstrated by Robert Knight's book: *"Ich bin dafür, die Sache in die Länge zu ziehen"* (I am in favour of dragging this matter out).

As a result my parents died impoverished. I find this very difficult to forgive and unable to forget.

The Austrians' delaying tactics lasted over half a century and yielded only after very strong American pressure. Even then, the compensation offered was derisory. I, personally, refused to accept this and will continue to fight for complete restitution of my family's property. This is not a question of money, but of Justice!

All these add up to not very rosy memories of the country of my birth. Thus my instinctive reaction, when I first learned of the honorary doctorate, was "a polite decline".

Then friends (academic and diplomatic), whose opinions I greatly value, pointed out that the University of Vienna is independent of the Government and has made its position regarding Austria's dark past very clear. They also suggested my views might be of interest to younger Austrians. Their arguments convinced me and I have established new friendships with academic colleagues here. Sadly this does not apply to a variety of other Austrian organisations, with whom I am still, regrettably, in disagreement about a number of issues. I hope that Justice will eventually prevail, perhaps still in my life time.

My circle of friends includes my former students and my colleagues. They come from all over the world. Their ethnicity, the colour of their skin, their different cultures or their religious affiliations (if any) play no part. Their knowledge, humanity and personality are what counts!

I have spent the whole of my professional life practising and proselytising for

Interdisciplinary and International collaboration in scientific research. This led to my becoming a UNESCO Consultant and in 1977 to a mission to Turkey, to advise the Turkish Government on the establishment of Faculties of Science. In Adana at Çukurova University, I met my future wife, Leyla, a young Turkish physicist. She was very beautiful, highly intelligent, had a wonderful personality and a smile more dazzling than the sun. Our love has now blossomed for over 40 years and our joint research has also flourished, Leyla's expertise in crystallography bringing a new dimension to my Phosphazene research. The Nazis had destroyed my Schlesinger family in Vienna; Leyla and I have created our Shaw family in London. We have two wonderful children, a son Robert Jr and a daughter Lily. Both are young NHS physicians.

Another refugee from Vienna who found sanctuary in Britain, was the great Sigmund Freud. He defined Happiness as Love and Work. I had both of these, in great abundance, for the last 40 years.

I would like to finish with a wish. If we would learn to collaborate more, help and respect each other, the world would be a much better place. Mankind faces grave dangers from Global Warming, new virulent diseases, tsunamis, earthquakes and many other natural disasters. Let us work together, to defeat these dangers, which threaten us all!

Finally, I wish to dedicate my honorary doctorate to the principles which have guided me through life: Love & Friendship, Tolerance & Respect and, above all, Justice.

# 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.

## DORA MITZKY

Anna Antonello is a researcher in German literature, currently collecting material on Dora Mitzky, an Austrian refugee who escaped from Italy to England in 1938/1939. She taught at various colleges (especially at the Wentworth School in Boscombe, Bournemouth) until 1956.  
[anna.antonello@googlemail.com](mailto:anna.antonello@googlemail.com)

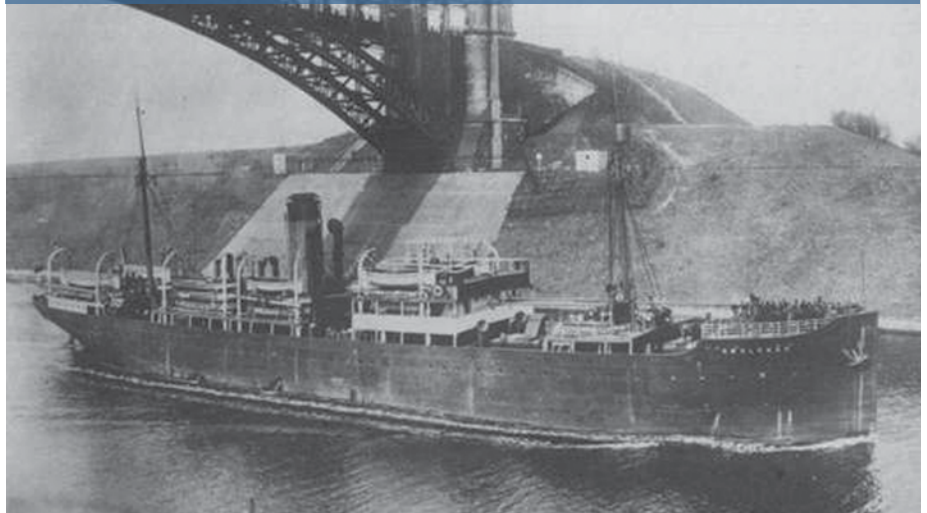
## WOLFSTEIN/WOLFSCALE

Duncan Stirk is looking for information on Wolfstein or (less likely) Wolfscale, who fled Germany just before WW2. He may have settled near Rugby, and by 1944 he was serving in the Army Air Corps and participated on D-Day, perhaps as a glider pilot. His son David passed on his father's battledress uniform, which Duncan has acquired and would now like to know the full story.  
[aecern.archaeology@googlemail.com](mailto:aecern.archaeology@googlemail.com)

## THOMAS HALL FRAME MBE

Matt Smith is producing a special programme for the Antiques Roadshow commemorating 80 years since the outbreak of WW2 and is hoping to find survivors who knew the former British consul in Berlin, Thomas Hall Frame MBE, who helped Jews to emigrate to Britain by issuing visas, working with Frank Foley until August 1938.  
[Matt.Smith3@bbc.co.uk](mailto:Matt.Smith3@bbc.co.uk)

SS Warszawa, which brought several Kinder to Britain in 1939 before being sunk by a U-boat in 1941



## FAMILY VON MARX

Ed van Rijswijk seeks information on Ellen May von Marx, born 1 May 1898 in Amsterdam, Alexander von Marx, born 6 June 1895 in Wiesbaden, and their children, Vera, Paul and Robert. The family came to the UK and then moved to Canada.  
[erijswijk@gmail.com](mailto:erijswijk@gmail.com)

## PETER DAVID KATZ

The local history society and Stolperstein Initiative in Malsch, Germany, is looking for help locating Peter, son of Emanuel & Hilda Katz (née Hess) and any other descendants in the UK, USA or South America. Hilda was born in Malsch and emigrated to the UK in 1939. Her last known address in the 1980s was Collingwood Court, Queens Road., NW4.  
[stolpersteine-69254-malsch@gmx.de](mailto:stolpersteine-69254-malsch@gmx.de)

## IRMA RAWITCSHER & INA LAUTENBACH

Tim Grubb, the owner of the historic Algars Manor in South Gloucestershire, is hoping to find more information about Irma Rawitscher (née Werner and, post-war, Kohlberg) and Malvene/Ina Lautenbach, who both worked at the house during WW2. Irma arrived in 1939 from Bremen, while her son Heinz escaped to America via Norway and Sweden and her brother Georg also made it to the UK and served in the pioneers. Both Irma and Malvene/Ina moved to London after the war.  
[timmy.grubb@gmail.com](mailto:timmy.grubb@gmail.com) or 07786 067336

## WARZAWA REUNION

AJR is planning an event to mark the 80th anniversary of the 29 August 1939 arrival of the packet steamer Warszawa from Gdynia, bringing several hundred Polish Kinder. Organisers would be delighted to hear from family members of Kinder who travelled on the Warszawa, and who are interested in commemorating this special anniversary.  
[susan@ajr.org.uk](mailto:susan@ajr.org.uk)

  
**AJR Scotland  
Regional Lunch**  
Wednesday  
17 July 2019  
**Holocaust Learning  
and Education Centre  
Huddersfield University**  
**With Guest Speaker  
Rt Hon David Mundell MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland**

  
AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman will also be attending.  
Transport will be provided from Edinburgh and the surrounding area.

**For further details contact  
[agnes@ajr.org.uk](mailto:agnes@ajr.org.uk) / 07908 156 361**



# LAMENT FOR ROSA, SUSI & LOTTE

**One thing my mother, Susi Bechhöfer, had been looking forward to before she died in April 2018 was attending the placing of a *Stolperstein* in memory of her mother, Rosa, who died in Auschwitz.**

The idea for a *Stolperstein* in memory of my grandmother was that of Steven Bechhofer, the son of my mother's first cousin, Fred, who returned from the US to Germany after WW2 (most of the family dropped the umlaut in Bechhöfer on moving to the US). Steven lives in Munich, where my mother and her twin sister Lotte were placed in an orphanage shortly after their birth. They escaped Germany on the Kindertransport in 1939 aged just three. Rosa, their mother, could not escape and worked as a domestic servant until the Nazis caught up with her. She was deported to Auschwitz in 1942, where she died.

Adding tragedy to tragedy, Lotte was ill for much of her life after arriving in England with a gradually-developing brain tumour; she died in her early 30s.

My mother was fostered by a Baptist minister and his wife in Wales and it was not

until her 50s that she discovered her birth mother was from an orthodox Jewish family, who had been ostracised because of her affair with a non-Jewish German, Otto – my grandfather. My mother changed her name from Grace Stocken back to Susi Bechhöfer, the name she had as a child in Germany, and her story has been widely told in books and on TV.

Ever since my mother first discovered her heritage, I have conducted my own exploration of my German background. I was in my early 20s and began to learn German, which was also integral to my doctoral work on the music of Anton Bruckner. When I was asked to compose a piece of music commemorating the war in Bosnia, I dedicated it to the memory of my grandmother, Rosa. I was eventually commissioned to write a ballet for the State Theatre in Giessen, Germany, called *Alice*. I was also privileged to be asked to conduct my own music with the strings of the Royal Academy of Music at the opening of the permanent Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in 2000.

I accompanied my mother to Bechhofen in 2013, the town where my grandmother was born, and which gave us the family name of Bechhöfer. My mother was an honoured guest at the unveiling of a memorial to local victims of the Holocaust, who included various members of our family. The

memorial in Bechhofen consists of stones, commemorating each victim individually by name, placed in a long wall. In 2014 I returned to Bechhofen to give an organ recital, by way of thanks, in the church next to where the memorial stands. I was touched to learn that, despite being Jews, my family in Bechhofen gave money towards the building of the church, an example of how well Jews had coexisted with Christians in Germany in times gone by.

I travelled to Munich in November 2018 for the unveiling of three *Stolpersteine* – to my mother, my aunt and my grandmother – with some friends. After we arrived at our hotel we asked for directions to good traditional German food and were pointed to the Augustiner Keller. It was only whilst eating that we discovered it was here that Hitler had given many speeches in his early days.

I knew that many *Stolpersteine* were being laid around the city that day, but it was something of a shock to arrive at the site the following afternoon to hear the loud hacking of the pavement, and to witness the actual placing of the stones. It gave drama to the event, on one of Munich's grandest streets, as if my grandmother, my mother and her sister, were physically claiming back a part of the city. It was also uncomfortably reminiscent of my mother's burial only months before. Kaddish was said, speeches were made, and a singer sang traditional Jewish songs. Words I prepared to say at the ceremony translate into English as:

'From one perspective WW2 is a long time ago – many people can no longer imagine this period, or its ugly political ideology. From another perspective this era seems not so far distant, as these *Stolpersteine* signify – after all, these are memorials which commemorate not only my grandmother and aunt, but also my mother, who died only six months ago. Finally, there is a third perspective; that of God, who not only forgets nothing, but also understands everything.'

**Frederick Stocken**

**Frederick's *Lament for Bosnia*, dedicated to his grandmother, can be heard on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-t63OZj47Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-t63OZj47Q)**



Frederick Stocken (left) and Steven Bechhofer

# OBITUARIES

## RABBI HARRY MARTIN JACOBI MBE

Born: 19 October 1925, Berlin

Died: 24 April 2019, London

**Rabbi Harry Jacobi survived strafing from a fighter-bomber while on an escape boat and went on to be a much-loved Liberal rabbi. He was an active member of AJR, campaigned on behalf of child refugees, spoke to hundreds of school children about his experiences, and was interviewed last year for AJR's *Refugee Voices*.**

Born Heinz Martin Hirschberg, his early childhood was spent in Auerbach, until the Nazis refused him access to the grammar school. Returning to Berlin, attending the Theodor Herzl Schule made him a lifelong Zionist. His Barmitzvah was held at the Friedenstempel in October 1938, just before Kristallnacht, and he forfeited his 64 Marks of Barmitzvah money as part of the reparations demanded by the Nazis.

The following February, his uncle in Amsterdam could afford to bring one nephew from Berlin and chose Heinz. Sadly, his cousin, Werner Lesser, perished in the Holocaust. Heinz himself survived diphtheria and then stayed in the Burgerweeshuis orphanage in Amsterdam. As Nazi troops invaded, he

was among 74 children rescued by Truus Wijsmuller-Meijer, who was later honoured as a Righteous Gentile. Harry contributed to the film about her, which is being released this year.

Coming to England, Heinz lived in a Manchester boys' hostel, where his passion for classical music was kindled by Halle Orchestra concerts. Called up in May 1945, he served for three years, mainly with the Jewish Brigade. After demobilisation, he changed his name to Harry Martin Jacobi – his mother's maiden name – and returned to Amsterdam. In July 1949, as a delegate to a conference on Progressive Judaism, an address given by Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck inspired him to become a rabbi.

While working as a lay minister in Aberdeen, he made a pen-pal in Bombay, Rose Solomon, who became his wife in 1957. Rose and Harry were a formidable and inseparable pairing, and Harry was a real romantic, with a love of surprises and fun.

He began his ministry at Southgate Progressive Synagogue, which quadrupled in size under his leadership. A pioneer of interfaith relations, Harry founded the Southgate branches of the Council of Christians and Jews and B'nai B'rith.



His rabbinic career took him to Wembley, Zurich and South Bucks, and to chair the Liberal Bet Din. Wherever a rabbi was needed, Harry responded, touching people through his warmth, compassion and integrity. He was awarded an MBE for services to the Jewish community in 2006.

In 2016, Harry visited the Calais refugee camp with Lord Alf Dubs and the visit moved him deeply. He joined the UNICEF campaign for child refugees, saying, 'There shouldn't be any restrictions at all to saving lives when you can save lives.'

He was proud that two of his children followed him as rabbis and of David, a chemical engineer. Harry's resilience and optimism, especially in caring for Rose and David before their deaths in 2014 and 2016, was inspirational to all who encountered him.

He is survived by children Margaret and Richard, grandchildren Josh, Abigail, Hannah, Yoni and Tali, and great grandchildren Zachary and Harry.

**Margaret and Richard Jacobi**

## ANITA RAPP (née STRAUSS)

Born: 7 February 1925, Essen, Germany

Died: 15 February 2019, London

**Anita Rapp on a 1939 Kindertransport, living in Manchester, New York and London.**

In Essen, Anita witnessed first-hand the rise of Nazism and after Kristallnacht her schooling effectively ended. An aunt and uncle in Manchester vouched for Anna and her sisters to come over. Parents Klara and Siegfried planned to come later, but sadly were deported to Theresienstadt and then Auschwitz.



Without any formal qualifications, Anita worked as a dressmaker, a book keeper, a secretary and even a capstan operator, keeping Spitfires in the sky.

In New York in 1949 she met Heinz (Henry) Rapp from Düsseldorf. They married in 1950 and returned to London, where Henry joined his father's metal business. Anita took pride in her role as a wife, mother and homemaker, bringing up David and Nicola.

Anita discovered her true forte doing voluntary work at Alyth Gardens (North Western Reform Synagogue). She was the personification of *gemilut chassadim* – doing selfless acts of loving kindness.

Despite suffering ill-health for many years, Anita bravely kept going, maintaining her dignity when others would have given in. She wanted and managed to stay in her own home – and kept it pristine – till the end.

When asked how she was, she would say, with typical gallows humour: "Wonderful. Are we going dancing tonight?"

**Nicola Baker**

## **BEN (BENNO) GODFREY (GOTTFRIED)**

**Born:** 5 June 1916, Vienna  
**Died:** 3 March 2019, London

**Ben was born in the Second District of Vienna. As a child he had a beautiful singing voice and was one of the soloists at the main Synagogue in Vienna.**

Ben's mother died when he was 17 and he left home to work in Loewen, outside Vienna. During this time he met Lily Markovitz who was later to become his wife. He was called up into the Austrian army in 1937 and in March 1938, when the Germans marched into Austria, he paraded with a loaded rifle as Hitler's motorcade passed. Being the only Jew in the company, he was soon discharged.

Ben came to England in February 1939. Lily had left Vienna in July 1938 for London on a domestic permit. She asked her employers

to vouch for Ben and they found him work as an apprentice to a butcher.

Ben and Lily were married in July 1939 in the West End Talmud Torah and Bikur Holim Synagogue. In August 1939 Ben went to Belgium to visit his father, sister, husband and child who had escaped from Vienna. His sister and father later perished in Auschwitz.

When war broke out Ben and Lily were working in a boarding house. In June 1940 he was interned in Huyton near Liverpool and in September 1940 he joined the British Army, changing his name to Ben Godfrey. Upon his discharge he worked as a waiter in Lyons Corner house in Piccadilly and eventually opened his own working class café which he ran until 1975.

Ben's wife Lily passed away suddenly in



March 1975 but shortly afterwards he was given another chance of happiness with Mrs. Lily Nelson, also a widow originally from Vienna, Austria.

After retirement, Ben and Lily kept themselves active, delivering meals-on-wheels and doing other charity work. They were regular visitors to the AJR centre where they enjoyed playing bridge.

His last few months were spent as a resident at the Lady Sara Cohen home in Friern Barnet. He is survived by two sons, three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

**Yisrael Geffen (son of Ben Godfrey)**

## **ALICE SLUCKIN (née KLAUS)**

**Born:** 21 July 1919, Prague  
**Died:** 15 February 2019, Norwich

**Alice Sluckin OBE was a distinguished social worker employed by Leicester City and Leicestershire Social Services as a psychiatric social worker, specialising in children who did not attend school and those with incontinence problems.**

After retirement she continued on a voluntary basis and established an academic career, contributing to several books on social work. In 1992 she founded the Selective Mutism Information and Research Association (SMIRA). Selective Mutism is a relatively rare condition: children can speak at home but not at school. Experts thought that the symptoms were simulated, but Alice established that the problem was anxiety. For this work, Alice was awarded an OBE

(2010) and the Sir Sigmund Sternberg Active Life Award (2012).

She was the daughter of Otto Klaus, a doctor in Prague. Her mother came from a large family in Radom, Poland. They met when her father was in the Austrian army, billeted in her maternal grandparents' home. After the Munich crisis in 1938 the family fled to Prague. In February, 1939 Alice came to England, working as an assistant nurse in Southampton Children's hospital.

Her parents were transported to Theresienstadt, dying in Auschwitz in 1944; her younger brother Martin died of typhus in Dachau in 1945. Alice was able to transmit news of her marriage in 1942 to Władysław (Wladek) Sluckin, an electrical engineering student whom she had met at the Jewish Refugees' Club in Cambridge. She studied social work at Leeds University and LSE. Alice masterminded Wladek's transformation



from failed electrician into professor of psychology at the University of Leicester (1966-84). Unfortunately he died young from oesophageal cancer in 1985.

In widowhood Alice loved hiking, birdwatching, the Labour Party and photography. She and the late Trude Dub (Leicester Jewish Chronicle correspondent) were the mainstays of the Leicester Czech-speaking circle. In 2018 she moved to Norwich, near her son Andy and his extended family.

Alice died after a short illness, only five months short of her centenary. She leaves two sons (Tim and Andy), five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

**Tim Sluckin**



# Around the AJR

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

## PINNER

Music Therapy can help reduce the need for prescription medicines for a range of illnesses and disabilities. Rosie Axon of Chesham Music Therapy told us about the fascinating work of her organisation

and got us all playing a range of simple musical instruments to illustrate some of the methods used.

*Robert Gellman*

## SHEFFIELD

Dennis Dell (recently relocated from Aylesbury with his wife, Sonia) treated us to an illustrated talk on his lifelong hobby of butterflies; we learned about their different habitats and the threats to their survival.

*Wendy Bott*

## PRESTWICH

Members giggled throughout Werner's presentation on "What makes you laugh?"

and we spent a most lovely lunchtime full of laughter and smiles... just what everyone needs!

*Wendy Bott*

## LIVERPOOL

We enjoyed a talk on the fascinating and troubling life of Coco Chanel. The guest speaker was the actor and author Christine Dawe and a wonderful afternoon was had by all.

*Wendy Bott*

*ERRATUM: Please note that the North West London meeting with Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg is on Tuesday 25 June.*

## JUNE GROUP EVENTS

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.

Cardiff	3 June	Social get-together
Cheshire	3 June	Social get-together
Ealing	4 June	Maurice Kanerek – 'The Refuseniks'
Ilford	5 June	David Morris – 'My Woodcraft Creations'
Pinner	6 June	Helen Pankhurst – 'Deeds not Words. The story of Women's Rights'
Bromley CF	11 June	Social get-together
Essex/Westcliff	11 June	Social get-together
Didsbury	11 June	Social get-together
Birmingham	12 June	Lunch and a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan songs by Rob Mead
KT Lunch	12 June	David Lawson – 'The Story of the Czech Scrolls & Ostrava Jews'
York	12 June	Visit to Beningbrough Home Farm
Wessex	13 June	Bournemouth outing to Exbury Gardens
Cards & Games	17 June	Cards and games
Edgware	18 June	Caroline Stock – Deputy Mayor of Barnet
Radlett	19 June	Barbara Nadel – 'Jewish Istanbul'
Lees	20 June	Peal Leach, former Police Inspector – 'A Policeman's Life' (re-scheduled from May)
Nottingham	24 June	Social get-together at Ruth & Jurgen
N.W. London	25 June	Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg
Book Club	26 June	Anthony Grenville, author
Muswell Hill	27 June	Maurice Kanerek – 'Palestine Police'
North London	27 June	Rabbi Celia Surget – 'The Marathon-Running Rabbi'
Oxford	27 June	Lunch and social meeting

## CONTACTS

**Susan Harrod**  
**Events and Outreach Manager**  
 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


**Ros Hart**  
**Southern Outreach Co-ordinator**  
 07966 969 951  
 roshart@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  
 henri@ajr.org.uk

**AJR CARD AND GAMES CLUB**



**Monday 17 June 2019 at 1.00pm**  
 at North Western Reform Synagogue,  
 Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune,  
 London NW11 7EN



**Bridge, card games, backgammon, scrabble. You decide.**  
**£8.00 per person, inc lunch**

**Booking is essential – when you book please let us know your choice of game.  
 Please RSVP to Ros Hart on 07966 969 951 or email roshart@ajr.org.uk**

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## NORTH WEST LONDON LUNCH & TALK

on **Tuesday 25 June 2019**  
**12:30pm**

at **Alyth Gardens Synagogue**

**We are delighted to welcome**  
**RABBI JONATHAN**  
**WITTENBERG**

Highly respected rabbi of New North London Synagogue, President of the council of Christians & Jews, Member of the Council of Imams and Rabbis, co-founder of Eco-Synagogue and deeply engaged in environmental issues, as well as being a best-selling author of 9 books, a dog lover, hiker, devoted family man and an all-round really good guy

Please come along and hear him speak – he is articulate, funny and endearing

**A delicious deli lunch will be served first.**

**£8.00 per person**

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

Call Ros Hart on 07966 969951  
or email [roshart@ajr.org.uk](mailto:roshart@ajr.org.uk)

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## LUNCH

on **Wednesday 12 June 2019**  
**at 12.30pm**

at **Alyth Gardens Synagogue**

**We are delighted to welcome**  
**DAVID LAWSON**  
*The Story of the Czech Scrolls  
and Ostrava Jews*

Ostrava is located near the Polish border, where the Odra, Opava, Ostravice, and Lucina Rivers meet. It is the third-largest city in the Czech Republic. Until 1918 Ostrava was part of the Austrian Empire. During the interwar period, and from the end of World War II until 1993, it was part of the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

One of the Torah scrolls sent from Ostrava to the Central Jewish Museum in Prague during WW2 is currently located in the Kingston Synagogue in the United Kingdom.

**£7.00 per person incl. lunch**

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

Call Susan Harrod on  
020 8385 3070 or email  
[susan@ajr.org.uk](mailto:susan@ajr.org.uk)

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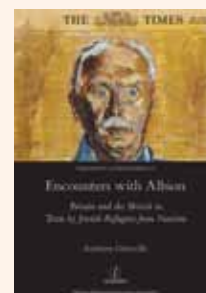
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**A BOOK TALK**  
**with Author**  
**Dr Anthony Grenville**

who will be discussing his latest book:

'Encounters with Albion: Britain and the British in Texts by Jewish Refugees from Nazism'

**Wednesday 26 June 2019**

at The Wet Fish Café

242 West End Lane, London NW6 1LG

Starts promptly at 3.00pm

Ends at 4.30pm

Books will be available for purchase

Coffee, tea, cakes, snacks and a full lunch menu will be available for purchase

*Please note that due to the age of the venue, there are a few stairs to climb for the W.C. and there are no disabled facilities.*

Booking is essential for this event as seating is limited.

Please call Karen Diamond on  
07966 631778 or email  
[karendiamond@ajr.org.uk](mailto:karendiamond@ajr.org.uk)

[www.fishburnbooks.com](http://www.fishburnbooks.com)

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# Events and Exhibitions

## JUNE 2019

### BERLIN/LONDON: THE LOST PHOTOGRAPHS OF GERTY SIMON

The Wiener Library's summer 2019 exhibition displays the remarkable work of German-Jewish photographer Gerty Simon, and features many of her original prints from the 1920s and 1930s. She photographed the likes of singer and actress Lotte Lenya, theatre critic Alfred Kerr and his young daughter Judith, the artist Käthe Kollwitz and Albert Einstein.

The quality of the photographs and significance of many of Gerty Simon's sitters, as well as her story of displacement from Germany and re-establishment in Britain makes this a particularly compelling collection

30 May – 15 October  
Wiener Library

[www.wienerlibrary.co.uk](http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk)

### DOROTHY BOHM PHOTOS

A selection of small and exquisite colour prints by the doyenne of British photography, Dorothy Bohm, many of them images never seen in public before, are on show. Dorothy was born in Königsberg, East Prussia in 1924, coming to England in 1939.

Until 14 June  
Avivson Gallery, London N6 5JX  
[www.avivsongallery.com](http://www.avivsongallery.com)

### KITCHENER CAMP

An exhibition of Kitchener camp documents, letters, photographs and histories will create a

better understanding of how the Kitchener men managed to escape from Germany, Austria, Poland, and Czechoslovakia in 1939.

1 September  
Jewish Museum, London  
NW1 7NB  
[www.kitchenercamp.co.uk](http://www.kitchenercamp.co.uk)

### JANKEL ADLER

This will be the first museum exhibition of Jankel Adler's works in Britain since the Arts Council memorial show in 1951, and commemorates the seventieth anniversary of his death.

Opens 3 June  
Ben Uri Gallery, London,  
NW8 0RH  
[www.benuri.org.uk](http://www.benuri.org.uk)

### HIDDEN HISTORIES

Arts lecturer Caroline Marcus takes a closer look at famous paintings and reveals their hidden histories.

17 June at 2.30pm  
JW3 London  
[www.jw3.org.uk](http://www.jw3.org.uk)

### JEWISH WOMEN COMPOSERS: A Musical Heritage of the Holocaust

Josefine Auspitz-Winter died in Theresienstadt, Ilse Weber died in Auschwitz and Johanna Spector survived the Holocaust. Pianist Sigrid Hagn and violist Janina Ibel present a versatile programme commemorating these brave composers.

10 July at 7.30pm  
JW3 London  
[www.jw3.org.uk](http://www.jw3.org.uk)



## NORTHERN REGIONAL

Wednesday 17 July 2019

### Holocaust Learning and Education Centre Huddersfield University

We are delighted to be able to hold our Annual Northern Regional at the Holocaust Learning and Education Centre at Huddersfield University.

We will be arranging transport from all major areas in the North of England.

Lilian Black, Chair of HSFA, will be welcoming us and talking about the key part she has played in setting up this new learning facility.

We will also hear from Professor Tim Thornton, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Huddersfield University on the impact the new centre has had on the University.

There will be an opportunity to tour the exhibition at your leisure.

Please join us for lunch and the opportunity to socialise with old friends and meet new ones

We will be joined by Michael Newman CEO of AJR and other Heads of Department from AJR

For full details and an application form please contact: Wendy Bott on 07908 156 365 or at [wendy@ajr.org.uk](mailto:wendy@ajr.org.uk)

## Unveiling of AJR Plaque at Belsize Square Synagogue



The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) is unveiling a plaque at Belsize Square Synagogue on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 2pm

Belsize Square Synagogue was founded in 1939 by Refugees from Germany and Central Europe and is still a place of worship for many families from a refugee background today.

There will be a small reception following the unveiling

Places must be booked due to security and catering

Please contact Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or email [susan@ajr.org.uk](mailto:susan@ajr.org.uk) if you wish to attend

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