



# AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

## The Year in Review

The history books may well look back at 2020 as the start of a pandemic. But as we reflect on the past twelve months it is important to realise there have been many other highlights, some exciting, some sad.

### LOOKING BACK

Our lead article looks back twelve months. But we are also inviting you to look back over 75 years of the *AJR Journal* and be part of our commemorative issue next month – see page 3.

Other highlights this month include a preview of two new memorials which are being developed to honour two British icons of the Kindertransport (pages 10 & 11) and a light hearted look at the origin of Jewish names (page 9).

Nostalgia is also at the root of our article on continental cooking (page 12) while the husband of one member was so inspired by a book review in our October issue that he has now written about his own father's history.

We hope you enjoy this final issue of 2020.

News.....	3
Kristallnacht commemorated.....	4
Letter from Israel.....	5
Letters to the Editor.....	6 – 7
Art Notes.....	8
The Name Game.....	9
Icons of the Kindertransport.....	10 – 11
Continental Cooking.....	12
Put off travelling for life.....	13
Looking for.....	14
Unlocked thanks to Lockdown.....	15
Reviews.....	16 – 17
Obituaries.....	18 – 19
Events.....	20

*Please note that the views expressed throughout this publication are not necessarily the views of the AJR.*

- 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  
**Social Services** Nicole Valens
- AJR Journal**  
**Editor** Jo Briggs  
**Editorial Assistant** Lilian Levy  
**Contributing Editor** David Herman



2020 saw some excellent new TV dramas related to the Holocaust and Jewish refugees

First, there are those distinguished Jewish refugees we have lost this year. The literary critic George Steiner died in February. He fled from France to America in 1940 before settling in Britain in the 1950s. His Viennese father, he wrote in his memoir, *Errata*, “embodied, as did every corner of our Paris home, the tenor, the prodigality and glow of Jewish-European and Central European emancipation.” “German metaphysics and cultural criticism,” Steiner wrote, “from Kant to Schopenhauer and Nietzsche, the classics of German-language poetry and drama... crowded the shelves of my father’s library.” This was the cultural world that formed Steiner. In later years, his greatest contribution as a critic was to introduce so many central European writers and thinkers to post-war Britain.

The publisher, Elly Miller, who died in August, grew up in a similarly cultured

home in Vienna, one of three children of Béla and Lotte Horovitz. He was soaked in classical culture and her parents were deeply involved in Viennese music and art. Her father co-founded the famous art publisher, Phaidon, which was transplanted to Britain when the family left Austria in 1938. Elly Miller later ran Phaidon with her husband Harvey and they then founded Harvey Miller Publishers. At her Shiva a publishing colleague said, “Who else has worked with Gombrich, spoken with Toscanini as a young girl and knew Thomas Mann as a family acquaintance?”

Romek Marber, who died in March, was best known for designing the covers of Penguin books. Born in Poland in 1925, he was deported to the Bochnia ghetto, but survived and came to Britain in 1946, where he was reunited with his father and *Continued on page 2*

## The Year in Review (cont.)

brother. He went to art school and later redesigned the Penguin crime series, giving them a distinctive new look.

A critic, a publisher and a graphic designer, these three cultural figures represented the range of interests of Jewish refugees who came to Britain in the mid-20th century. They came from Paris, Vienna and Poland. Others, like the distinguished inventor and philanthropist, George Weisz, who died in March at ninety, came from Budapest.

2020 also saw a number of cultural highlights. BBC 2 celebrated Holocaust Memorial Day with a moving drama-documentary, *The Windermere Children*, about the rehabilitation of a group of young Holocaust survivors. The extraordinary story of Ludwig Guttmann, the German-born neurologist who started the Paralympic Games, was retold in the Netflix documentary, *Rising Phoenix*. And, in a very different vein, Amazon Prime showed the first series of *Hunters*, with Al Pacino. The drama tells the story of a group of Nazi hunters living in 1970s New York who discover that Nazi war criminals are alive and causing mayhem in post-Watergate America.

Tom Stoppard's play *Leopoldstadt* won Best New Play in the Olivier Awards. While it presents a central European Jewish milieu, the playwright said it was "not autobiographical". "It's so far from being the story I lived through," he told an interviewer from *The Jewish Chronicle*. "It's a lot to do with being Jewish, knowing you are Jewish, acknowledging you are Jewish, acting like you are Jewish...or not. And that's the area where I felt I was looking inward rather than outward."

In her biography, *Tom Stoppard: A Life*, published in the autumn, Hermione Lee described Stoppard's experience as a child refugee from Czechoslovakia, who fled with his parents to Singapore in 1939 and grew up in post-war Britain. It was only much later in his life that Stoppard began to engage with issues of loss and belonging, writing plays about Czech dissidents, 19th century Russian intellectuals in exile and the Jewish quarter of Vienna, though perhaps his experience of childhood trauma was more evident in his screenplay for Steven Spielberg's *Empire of the Sun*.

A German film of Judith Kerr's ever-popular children's classic, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* opened the UK Jewish Film Festival on 5 November. It is directed by Caroline Link, one of Germany's best-known directors. She won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film for *Nowhere in Africa* (2001), which tells the story of the life in Kenya of a German-Jewish family, the Redlich family, who emigrated there in 1938 to escape persecution in Nazi Germany. Her new film movingly tells the story of the Kemper family, closely based on Kerr's own family, and their experience of leaving Berlin in 1933 and passing through Switzerland and Paris before eventually settling in Britain. The film is beautifully shot, but too often deviates from the book. Anna's father looks nothing like Alfred Kerr, who was fifteen years older than the actor playing him. There are numerous scenes which are added in the film and scenes from the book which are removed. Too often, the dark tone of the book (and especially the later books in the trilogy) is replaced by the soft-lit interiors of the film and the sunlit Alps, which have never looked more beautiful.

It has also been a good year for books on refugees and the Holocaust. Some of the more interesting books include *The Jews, The Holocaust, and The Public: The Legacies of David Cesarani*, co-edited by Larissa Allwork and Rachel Pistol, a tribute to the late David Cesarani, a leading Holocaust historian, author of the posthumously published, *Final Solution*. Philippe Sands followed his astonishing book, *East West Street* (2016), part family memoir, part Holocaust history and part history of ideas, with *The Ratline: Love, Lies and Justice on the Trail of a Nazi Fugitive*. The book tells the story of Otto von Wächter, Nazi war criminal and fugitive, and how his son could never come to terms with his father's dark past.


Another fascinating family story is Thomas Harding's *The House by the Lake*, which was recently republished as a children's picture book, beautifully illustrated by Britta Teckentrup. Bryan Cheyette, published his book on the history of *The Ghetto* in the Very Short Introductions series published by OUP. It lucidly describes different kinds of ghetto from early modern Europe to Nazi Germany and the black 'ghettos' in 1960s America. The Spectator called Rosie Whitehouse's recent book about Holocaust survivors, *The People on the Beach*, "A gripping story of human drama and historical seriousness."

Finally, Holocaust Education, a subject close to the AJR's heart. Karen Pollock, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET), was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Honours List, Olivia Marks-Woldman, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, was awarded the OBE and, most recently, Sir Ben Helfgott was awarded a Pride of Britain award for his work helping fellow survivors and educating younger generations about the Holocaust.

Marks-Woldman's grandfather, Leon Blumenkehl, came to Britain from Poland in the early 20th century, leaving behind many family members who would later be murdered in the Holocaust. "He arrived," she said, "penniless and friendless yet built a new life and created a community of friends in the UK. For his granddaughter to receive this honour is a further symbol of the diversity and richness of British life."

It is a good note on which to end this review of 2020. We have lost many leading cultural figures, but there has also been so much to celebrate this year, in almost every area of British life.

David Herman



**benuri.org**

**DISCOVER**

The three strands of our Arts and Health Institute pioneering new ways of working with older people and those living with dementia at [benuri.org](https://benuri.org)

THE FIRST FULL SCALE VIRTUAL MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTRE

# Get onto DIAMOND

**Hundreds of AJR members who could be eligible for Homecare support in the future could significantly speed up the process at their time of need simply by registering their details now.**

The AJR has recently written to approximately 750 members, who are not currently residing in a care home or in receipt of any form of Homecare allowance, inviting them to register for the Claims Conference's DIAMOND database.

The DIAMOND database was created to enable the Claims Conference and its partner agencies, such as the AJR, to better serve the ongoing needs of Holocaust survivors.

While it is true that many who came to the UK were able to rebuild their lives with tremendous success, there are also many who may require welfare support as they get older. The Claims Conference, which provides the funding for many of the welfare programmes that the AJR administers, needs to be able to plan for this. The data collected in DIAMOND also helps the Claims Conference negotiate with the German Government.

Rosemary Peters, the AJR's Claims and Pensions Advisor, explains: "We are pleased that so many of our members are managing independently now, but it is not impossible that some of them may one day require some assistance at home – be it carers, medical supplies or other. This is exactly what Homecare allowance is for.



The AJR is able to offer advice and assistance with claims for Homecare support, providing the member is already registered on the DIAMOND database

The problem is that if they are not already known to us or registered in DIAMOND, it could take months before they receive any form of allowance."

It can currently take up to six months for a full Homecare assessment to be carried out, approved by the committee and then validated by the Claims Conference. Only then can assistance be granted.

"By getting your details into the DIAMOND system, and validated now, this may alleviate months of waiting should the need for any form of Homecare arise in the future," explains Rosemary, who is quick to point out that this is not about getting any additional grants, simply about making the grant application process smoother.

It should also be stressed that successful registration in DIAMOND is no guarantee of support, which is dependent on available funding.

**If you have already received your pack of DIAMOND forms please complete**

**and return them as soon as possible, remembering to sign and date each page where required and to tick the Consent and Data Privacy forms. Please take care to include:**

- **A brief background history, explaining when and how you arrived in the UK, on page 1.**
- **Registration numbers or details of any previous claims or pensions which you may have received, in the yellow boxes on page 2.**
- **A photocopy or photograph of the photo page of your passport. If it is simpler, you may email this to us at one of the email addresses below.**

**If you have any questions about completing these forms, or if you require another set, please contact Rosemary Peters on 020 8385 3088 / [rosemary@ajr.org.uk](mailto:rosemary@ajr.org.uk) or Melanie Jawett on 020 8385 3072 / [melanie@ajr.org.uk](mailto:melanie@ajr.org.uk)**

## SHARE OUR 75 YEARS

**Next month will be the 75th anniversary of the AJR Journal. And we would love you to be part of our special anniversary issue.**

It was January 1946 when the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain published the first-ever issue of *AJR Information* "to keep its readers informed about the position of Jews on the Continent and about the work for their relief and rehabilitation." Seventy-five years and 900 issues later, a huge amount of content has been included within these pages.



The banner from our first ever issue

We are sure that you must have your own memories of the *AJR Journal* as well as impressions of how it has adapted over the years. We'd love to hear your thoughts. Please write to the Editor by 10 December – either by email to [editorial@ajr.org.uk](mailto:editorial@ajr.org.uk) or by conventional post. We promise to consider every letter for our special 75th anniversary issue.



# Record numbers commemorate Kristallnacht

**Almost 350 households joined this year's Kristallnacht commemoration organised by AJR, held online for the first time due to lockdown restrictions.**

Michael Newman, AJR Chief Executive, and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg from New North London Synagogue, both descendants of refugees, spoke live during the 9 November event. Austrian Ambassador Michael Zimmerman pre-recorded his message at Belsize Square Synagogue, the usual location for this annual event, while Hannah Lessing, General Secretary of the Austrian National Fund, gave a very moving speech from the Stadttempel in Vienna, which included a recital of the poem below by Erich Fried.

The event also featured testimonies from AJR members Robert Shaw, John Izbicki and Kurt Marx, the latter two extracted from interviews in the AJR's Refugee Voices Archive.

AJR has been inundated with messages of thanks following the online event. Care coordinators at Sunridge Court in Golders Green wrote, "We had 15 residents attending and after they said it was beautiful, very moving as well as



Kristallnacht had to be commemorated online this year

informative. Some of our residents are members of Belsize Square Synagogue so it was extra special for them."

Jenny Evans, an AJR third generation member from Birmingham who is disabled and has never been able to attend the ceremony in person said, "May I thank you for the opportunity to attend the AJR commemoration of Kristallnacht. Please extend my thanks to all those involved. It was beautifully presented."

Jacques Weisser said, "Today's 'Digital' Remembrance and Commemoration of

Kristallnacht was, if at all possible and in some ways, even more poignant than usual. The whole event was incredibly moving and even though we could not be together in person at Belsize Square Shul there was tremendous and palpable resonance in the way it was produced and, I am sure, received by all attendees."

Peter Phillips, who participated in the online candle-lighting ceremony, wrote afterwards "Your very moving remembrance service was immensely appreciated by a large congregation of viewers.

The AJR is to be congratulated on the wonderful service it offers the membership in these difficult times, in particular the selection of Zoom participation with such a large range of interests."

## GEGEN VERGESSEN (Against Forgetting) by Erich Fried, 1985

*As recited by the Austrian National Fund's Hannah Lessing during the AJR event*

*Denn ich kann nicht denken  
ohne mich zu erinnern  
denn ich kann nicht wollen  
ohne mich zu erinnern  
denn ich kann nicht lieben  
denn ich kann nicht hoffen  
denn ich kann nicht vergessen  
ohne mich zu erinnern*

For I cannot think  
without remembering  
because I cannot want  
without remembering  
because I cannot love  
because I cannot hope  
because I cannot forget  
without remembering



**WHY NOT CONVERT  
YOUR OLD CINE  
FILMS  
AND PUT THEM  
ON DVDS  
FREE OF CHARGE?**

Contact Alf Buechler at [alf@buechler.org](mailto:alf@buechler.org)  
or tel 020 8554 5635 or 07488 774 414

# LETTER FROM ISRAEL BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



## SPEAKING OUT



In these difficult times Israel finds itself facing a fresh scandal on an almost daily basis. The latest was the

bold statement made by the outgoing head of a hospital situated in the ultra-orthodox town of Bnei Brak, and hence treating primarily that population.

As a rule I prefer not to write about negative aspects of life in Israel, or to tackle political issues which are amply covered in the media. Given the current situation, however, matters seem to have got out of hand, and this bodes ill for the future.

In a radio interview to mark his departure, Professor Motti Ravid had some harsh things to say about the population he has been serving for the last twenty years. The views he expressed were essentially akin to those held by large segments of the general population in Israel, though because of political considerations they are not often voiced out loud by public officials.

The vast majority of Israel's population is secular, or at most traditional. Some segments adhere to the full panoply of religious precepts, but they are a minority. Most Israelis are happy to

mark the various festivals that punctuate the year with traditional observances such as lighting candles (Chanuka) or holding a token Seder and eating matza (Pesach), and that's about as far as it goes. They still want to go to the sea or a national park on the Sabbath, eat out in all kinds of restaurants or drive to visit friends and relatives whenever it suits them. Living in Israel enables one to identify as Jewish without having to be observant.

When Israel was founded its first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, agreed to exempt a small quota of ultra-orthodox Jews from serving in the military. Since then the political clout wielded by ultra-orthodox politicians has extended that quota considerably, as well as managing to extort enormous sums from the government to support those communities, whose birth-rates are far higher than those of the general population.

And so today, in the middle of the twenty-first century, the general Israeli population finds itself supporting a huge and growing ultra-orthodox segment that has come to constitute a millstone round its neck. These groups of ultra-orthodox Jews cling to modes of behaviour, dress and religious observance that were current in Eastern Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Most of them do not work, do not pay taxes, do not serve in the military, and thus benefit from the efforts of the rest of the population.

When restrictions were imposed on the entire country in order to stem the tide of coronavirus infections, several ultra-orthodox groups blatantly ignored the ban on large-scale gatherings by insisting on congregating together for mass prayers and festivities. The latest lockdown imposed on the country as a whole was in part due to their refusal to abide by these restrictions, as well as to their politicians' threats to cease supporting the current government if the restrictions were imposed selectively on areas with a high proportion of ultra-orthodox residents, which is where infection rates are highest.

Thus, many ultra-orthodox groups appear to have made it part and parcel of their ethos to hold the rest of the country to ransom, and it was the good doctor, Professor Ravid, who pointed this out fairly and squarely, without quailing before the repercussions to his position and reputation.

Israel's tragedy is that the current government, and especially the individual at its head, show themselves only too ready to kowtow to the threats and pressure exerted by the ultra-orthodox and their leaders.

Once the coronavirus is beaten and the world – Israel included – can return to normality of some kind, it will be time for a thorough reassessment of the values and political systems that have prevailed to date.

### Write Your Life Story Record a Family History

Whether you have begun writing, researched your ancestors, or never put pen to paper, we offer a personalised service to help you preserve your precious memories for future generations.

[www.wordsbydesign.co.uk](http://www.wordsbydesign.co.uk)  
[tony@wordsbydesign.co.uk](mailto:tony@wordsbydesign.co.uk)  
 01869 327548

### PillarCare

Outstanding live-in and hourly care in your home at flexible, affordable rates.



020 7482 2188 [pillarcare.co.uk](http://pillarcare.co.uk)

### SPRING GROVE

*London's Most Luxurious*

#### RETIREMENT HOME

214 Finchley Road  
London NW3



- Entertainment
- Activities
- Stress Free Living
- 24 Hour Staffing Excellent Cuisine
- Full En-Suite Facilities

Call for more information or a personal tour  
**020 8446 2117**  
 or **020 7794 4455**  
[enquiries@springdene-care-homes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@springdene-care-homes.co.uk)

# 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.

## THE 'SCHULTÜTE'

I have been a reader of this Journal for at least 50 years and usually read it immediately, from cover to cover. I found your article about the Schultüte (October) fascinating. I came via Kindertransport on 6 January 1939, age 7, arriving from Germany to Croydon Airport. I clearly remember carrying a Schultüte filled with candy, much of which I ate on the plane, causing me to throw up and creating my only salient memory of the journey.

I have been speaking about the Holocaust and my story for the past 18 years. I usually tell the students that the basic reason for the Schultüte was to give the candy to my new English classmates so that they would like me! Is that really so? And what does it say about acceptance? Thanks for providing context to my memory, and story.

By the way; I do not know from where the plane took off, whether Dresden airport had international flights at that time or if I was taken to Tempelhof in Berlin for the flight. I wonder if any of your readers know?

*Ralph Samuel, Oakland, Calif.*

For my first day at school I was given three Schultüten: a large one from my parents and two small ones, from my grandmother and a family friend.

My mother gave me one of the smaller ones to take to school rather than the big one, so as 'not to appear ostentatious'. Why on earth had she bought the big one in the first place, I remember wondering.

At some point the teacher led us to the toilets, where we queued in the anteroom. She was carrying another pupil in one arm and offered to hold my Schultüte with her free hand (I don't know why I had taken it to the toilet with me, probably for fear that someone would steal it). When I came out of the toilet she handed me back my cone, almost empty. I found it a big cheek on her part to have given nearly the whole

lot away without asking me. I've never been a big sweet eater, but that was neither here nor there.

I left my cone at school that day so carried it home the following day, feeling very foolish to be the only child with a Schultüte on the second day of school!  
*Margarete Stern, London, NW3*

## EU REALITY

David Kernek (October) ignores the fundamental fact that the EU is a free association of peoples. Whereas empires, from the Romans to the British, relied very largely on conquest and coercion, all member states of the EU joined freely, by parliamentary vote, often supplemented by a referendum; a country can vote not to join, as Norway did in 1972, or to leave, as the British – or at least 51.9% of them – did in 2016.

Power does not reside in Brussels, it is just the location of the EU's institutions, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Commission, broadly like the British civil service, is responsible for the administration of policy, but the setting of policy remains the preserve of the Council of Ministers, representing the member states. So Michel Barnier receives his negotiating brief for Brexit from the Council of Ministers, and it is they who will take the ultimate decision whether or not to accept any settlement that he negotiates.

In the sixty years of its existence the EU has created no armed forces of its own, because member states control their own defence policy, like foreign policy. There is no European Ministry of Health or Education, for example, which helps to explain why the European Commission is a fraction of the size, and cost, of the British civil service, though it caters for a much larger population.

If the EU collapses, it will be because enough of its component peoples vote to leave, in a fit of inflamed nationalism. The result would be a return to something like the Europe of the 1930s,

a wasp's nest of competing states, whose peoples would again be divided from one another by border posts and 'hard' frontiers, and whose trade would be hampered by tariff and other barriers – as we British will learn after 1 January 2021.

*Anthony Grenville, London NW6*

## 'QUALIFYING' FOR THE KINDERTRANSPORT

I have often wondered why I had to attend a medical before I left Vienna (October), needed a certificate that I did not owe any tax (aged 13) and why my mother packed all my school reports into my very limited luggage.

I had assumed the medical and tax certificate were a requirement from the Nazis and now read with incredulity that it was Mrs. Lola Hahn-Warburg who requested certificates of "good physical and mental health, educational achievement and a child's social worth". I find it unbelievable that a Jewish woman of her standing should have had the right to make such decisions. I knew several girls from poor homes, but intelligent and academic high achievers.

I am doubly lucky, having passed the medical despite having a shadow on one lung – after having had double pneumonia – and the doctor saying to me, roughly translated: We will not finish you off but the English climate will! (It is taking rather a long time as I have just reached the age of 95!).

I would also like to thank the AJR for all the help, support and advice: the wonderful Anthea Berg, my befriender, and Florina, my social worker – an absolute treasure, who even came to see me during the first lockdown and we talked through the window.

*Erika Judge, Harrow, Middx*

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL & LEARNING CENTRE

I read with interest the debate (November) about where the Centre

should be built. The proposed proximity to the Houses of Parliament makes a frank statement: *'Never Again'*. It has taken 75 years since the end of WW2 and by the time it is built most of the Holocaust survivors and refugees will have died. Build The National Holocaust Memorial Centre in London next to Parliament while there are Jewish men and women still alive who experienced those dreadful days!

My father came to England after five years in the camps. He was brought over by his uncle, Charles Glicksman who was knighted for his philanthropic work. In 1955 my father opened up his first ladies coat factory with two other survivors, in the Minories in London.  
*Larry Lisner, Essex*

---

#### THE ORIGINS OF RACISM

Ruth Barnett writes, "Superior and inferior individuals and groups of humans are created by us, not by biology or by God" (November). I think that they are created by biology: the animal world, of which we are a part, has a biologically created pecking order. But humans differ from animals in being able to tame this biological tendency, and I agree with her, of course, that we can and should combat these instincts.  
*Ralph Blumenau, London W11*

---

#### SHANGHAI JEWISH MUSEUM

My wife and I visited the Shanghai Jewish Museum (November) many years ago. A remarkable place and a real treasure. Joe Linton ZL, head of the International section of the World Jewish Congress, told me that the City took in more Jewish refugees than Australia, Canada and New Zealand put together. When the Japanese invaded they were, in his words, asked to round up all the "sub human Jewish vermin". They replied "We are not at war with them" and refused. So, in the end Shanghai, did indeed take in more Jewish refugees than Australia, Canada and New Zealand put together. Quite a historical story.  
*Anthony Curtis, Uxbridge, Middlesex*

---

#### DEPORTATIONS TO POLAND, 1938

Michael Newman's article (November) referenced the Polish Jews living in Germany who were deported to Poland in October 1938. I was then a very small boy living in Frankfurt. My parents and their families originated from Poland and we were about to be sent to Poland. We were already on the transport, but were then told to get off, and were able to return to our home in Frankfurt. I never knew the reason for this, but I assumed it had something to do with the documentation.

Do any of your readers know of other Polish Jews who were about to be deported to Poland, but were then released and allowed to return to their homes? And do they know the reason?  
*Mendel Storz, London N16*

---

#### AN OMISSION TO OUR HONOURS' LIST

With regard to people who received honours in the latest list (November), another person who received an MBE for "services to Holocaust Education" is Nelly Ben-Or, concert pianist and Professor at the Guildhall School of Music. Nelly recently published her autobiography *Ashes to Light*. Nelly and her family are survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto.  
*Bronia Zelenka Snow, Esher, Surrey*

---

#### A SHARED HERITAGE

Regarding the letter from Cameron Woodrow about Elisabeth de Waal (November), how odd that two Jewish refugee families in Tunbridge Wells often spent Christmas together, yet "Elisabeth did not volunteer any biographical detail and they had been too polite to enquire"! Nor, apparently, did she ask the Woodrows about their foreign accent. These details throw a shattering light on the inhibitions of the 1950s although for my parents in Holland Park (who always had *The New Yorker*, the *TLS* and the *AJR Journal* on their coffee table) it would have been inconceivable not to ask a new acquaintance with a German accent about their (shared) background.

---

I wonder, too, if Elisabeth thought it impolite to mention that during the post-war years she wrote five novels, three in German and two in English. Persephone Books has published the two in English, *The Exiles Return* and *Milton Place*, the former about exiles returning to Vienna in the late 1940s, the latter about a large country house near Tunbridge Wells not long after the war.  
*Nicola Beauman, Persephone Books, London WC1*

---

#### A BIG THANK YOU

Susan Harrod and her Outreach Team have arranged an impressively varied series of online talks, events, discussions during these challenging times. Just knowing that all this is being done to ease the stress, isolation and frustration is a great help. I really look forward to the AJR online bulletin arriving on Monday morning and seeing what treats are on offer. I was even asked to do 'my bit' a few months ago and give a talk about the Dorice and Cosmo restaurants. Thanks again Susan, Karen, Ros and the rest of the wonderful team.  
*Charlotte Balazs, High Barnet*

---

#### REMEMBRANCE

We Leopoldstaders are, of course, delighted that Sir Tom Stoppard's play, *Leopoldstadt*, won Best Play at the 2020 Oliviers. Brilliantly produced by Sonia Freedman and directed by Patrick Marber, the play also won another award – Best Actor – for Adrian Scarborough. I was privileged enough to go with my wife and three adult children to the performance at the Wyndham Theatre on Holocaust Day last February. We were each given Yahrzeit candles with a name wrapped around it. We had Matilda Elsner of Austria, perished in Minsk, Belorussia, aged 50. Also Lea Erlichman of Poland, perished in Majdanek, aged 19. We lit the candles to commemorate Kristallnacht. *Leopoldstadt* may not return to the West End but the wrappers will be used in Remembrance year after year after year.  
*Peter Phillips, Loudwater*

---

# ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

What do we know about the people who live and work in a perpetual ice age? For 30,000 years the indigenous Arctic people have made welcoming homelands out of icy ecosystems. Ice is their world. From ice they build roads and shelters. Permafrost, frozen soil, the Arctic bedrock is thawing at an alarming rate, as we know. Now the British Museum's attractively presented Citi exhibition, *Arctic Culture and Climate* shows us the life and art of the population in the most northerly place in the world. The Arctic covers 4% of the earth's surface. Its centre, the North Pole, rests over the Arctic ocean, which until recently has been covered by relatively stable, year-round sea ice.

Yet the people who live in this changing climate do not feel threatened, but are positive, resourceful and artistic – nearly everyone makes art here. But without this bedrock, what will happen if within 80 years roads will sink, structures collapse and solid ground gives way?

As you enter the exhibition you are faced with a dramatic representation of a white tundra against an azure blue sky. From this icy theatre rises a massive waterproof whaling suit, large enough to contain a giant. There is a sophisticated looking sled, highly ornamented boots– made from caribou, moose hide and beaver fur. Examples of the Khanti people's beaded woollen coats would happily grace a Paris catwalk. An enlarged parka hood in which Inuit women still carry their babies today is shown on video and on a drawing by **John White** from the reign of Elizabeth 1.

Arctic Art:  
Aquatic Birds  
and Seals



(the Inuit are a unified indigenous group, sharing a common language, culture and history). At the end of the icy mock-up stands an imposing stone sculpture, *The Silent Messenger*. Described as a voiceless land marker, it is a powerful symbol of Inuit survival.

The dark winters may be barren, sterile times with only moonlight reflecting off snow and ice, but the continuous and intense summer sunlight can cause blindness. The 19th-century Dolgan glasses from north-central Siberia made from pierced metal and beads embroidered onto reindeer hide are very artistic, helping to communicate identity through their different styles. But today's functional hats and sunglasses have replaced these elegant historic artefacts.

Talking of hats, there's a bright pink high coned Sami Norwegian woman's hat from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, like a Viking helmet. A truly stunning artwork is **Kilii Yuyan's** inkjet print of an umiaq boat drifting through melting ice during spring whaling. His *Whaling Crew on Watch at Amuaq* lets you feel the stillness in the ice-blue waters and his *Boreal Forest Dash* evokes a truly barren snowscape. I loved **Kenojuak Ashevak's** delicate lithograph, a mandala representing the seasonal change crucial to Arctic life, with a white moon and a yellow half sun surrounded by stars and the animals and birds of the tundra.

Recent archaeologists have found that Paleolithic hunters in the mouth of

the Yana River of north eastern Siberia 30,000 years ago developed the first Arctic art: animal-teeth pendants and beads made from mammoth tusks, hare bones or rare minerals. They also made bracelets engraved with detailed personal identity markings. This raw animal material of ivory, skins, scales and guts – its all there for your delectation – because art goes practical here.

Arctic people's reciprocal relationship with weather was marked by nurturing ceremonies and offerings to the weather gods represented by terrifying masks. A beautiful figurative mat shows a shaman kneeling and holding a wooden goblet during the *yhyaig* summer festival with two male figures entwined in a seesaw dance high above – almost a Chagall!

The final artwork, *Reflections on Climate Change* honours the actions and responses led by the Inuit communities. It is a paper hung presentation of Arctic people floating above the surface of their icy world, their shadows reflected against a white background. A powerful vision in naïve art. *Until February 21, 2021*

## Annely Juda Fine Art

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

CONTEMPORARY  
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE



# The Name Game

**"I was wondering what name to choose. Roosevelt? Churchill? Rosen? Field? Then I had an inspiration."**

I was born Victor Theodor Karl Rosenfeld but my soldier pay book said Ross and it has stuck. Like all refugees serving in the Pioneer Corps I was offered a change of name in case the Germans got me. Many of us accepted, more as a step towards assimilation than for fear of capture. I was young and foolish and gave no thought to the act of identity-denial, being more concerned about what name to choose. Roosevelt? Churchill? Rosen? Field? Then I had one of those inspired moments that comes so rarely and gets wasted on trivial projects. Not this time.

I was stationed in Lanarkshire, in mid-winter, under canvas. The grim weeks had one bright spot, Saturday night in the pub, in the warmth of Fiona's smile. Duncan Ross was the landlord and getting to walk out with his daughter Fiona was as competitive as tossing the caber. My great idea was to gain a march on my fellow Pioneers by changing my name to hers.

When I told her, she asked: "What? To Fiona?" "No, to Ross," I suggested. "Whatever for? I think your name is the bonniest thing about you," she replied.

Jews have been changing their names ever since they had to take cover. Forcing them to take on surnames came in two great waves, the first in the 10th century in the Iberian peninsula. Designed to identify and tax, it also facilitated their expulsion in the 15th century, spreading Sephardic surnames like Da Costa,

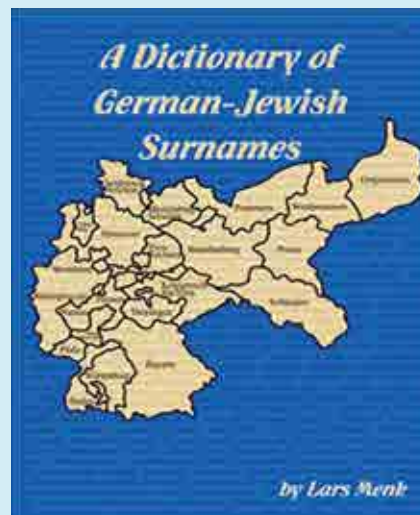
Mendoza, Perez, Vidal throughout the Diaspora.

In the 18th and 19th centuries it was the Ashkenazis' turn. Emperor Joseph II decreed in 1787 that every Jew adopt a surname. Thirty years later Napoleon followed suit for lands west of the Rhine. German being the dominant language of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it's no wonder that many Ashkenazis have German names without speaking a word of the language. And how did they choose those names?

Two sources of inspiration are easily recognised: function and places of origin. Cohen (priest), Shamash (sexton), Cassirer (cashier), Wechsler (money changer), Schneider (tailor), Geiger (fiddler) is about what they do. And place names tell where they or their ancestors come from: Bacharach (Rhineland), Spinoza (Spain), Schlesinger (Silesia), Warschauer (Warsaw), Wiener (Vienna), Kissinger (Bavaria), Hamburger (McDonald's?) and so on.

A desire to merge into the background with a solid German name must have influenced choice. Did Berg, Tal, Feld, Baum, Blume, Stein conjure up a breath of fresh mountain air after the Pale? Berg (mountain) being the most popular prefix or suffix may be a pointer. Bergmann, Berghof, Steinberg, Weinberg, Wittenberg, Rosenberg, Schoenberg, Zuckerberg – there is no end to possible combinations.

In the October issue of the *Journal* I spotted Braunberg, Bomberg, Eilenberg, Rothenberg. Montefiore (flower mountain) is a Sephardic variant, Bloomberg in English. Kid Berg was a British world champion boxer. Royalty, saddled with Battenberg, turned it into Mountbatten. Jewish royalty has steered clear. There are no Bergs among such luminaries as Weizmann, Herzl,



This 800 page book was published in 2005, demonstrating our ongoing fascination with the origin of names

Golda Meir, Einstein, Freud, Warburg, Rothschild, Gustav Mahler, Arthur Schnitzler.

Jews under pressure make good copy. They like to tell stories about themselves, their forefathers, how things were in the old days. Changing names under corrupt oppressors gave rise to tales of payment according to a scale of value, Diamant being the most expensive, with Gold, Silber, Kupfer (copper) and Blei (lead) priced in descending order. Blech (tin) was supposed to come free.

Have we come a long way? It depends on how you view the prospect of Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg becoming Emperor of the World with Stephen Spielberg as his Minister for the Bigger Picture.

For comfort my thoughts turn back to my name game with Fiona. I knew a Pioneer would get her in the end. The lucky chap's name? Talberg.

**Victor Ross**

"...by any other name would smell as sweet." (*Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare)

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

**Jonathan Fishburn**

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

He is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association.

Contact Jonathan on 020 8455 9139 or 07813 803 889 for more information

**SWITCH ON ELECTRICS**

Rewires and all household electrical work

**PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518**

**Mobile: 0795 614 8566**



**JACKMAN SILVERMAN**

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

Telephone: 020 7209 5532

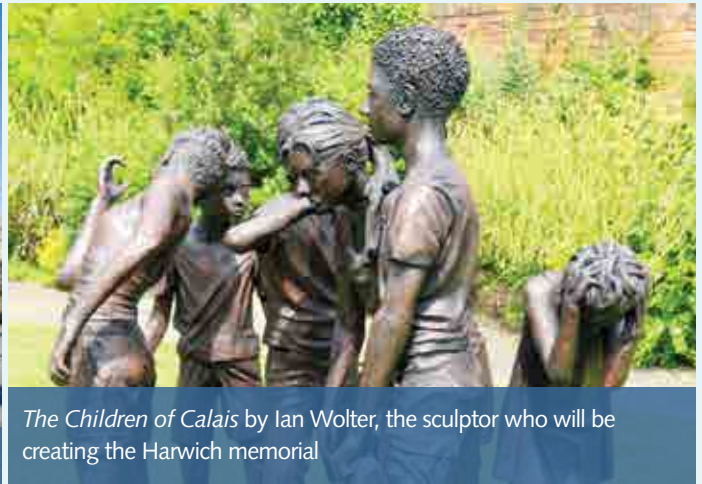
robert@jackmans.co.uk

# ICONS OF THE KINDER

## HONOURING HARWICH



Harwich Quayside, the location for the proposed memorial



*The Children of Calais* by Ian Wolter, the sculptor who will be creating the Harwich memorial

**Imagine a group of Jewish refugee children descending a ship's gangplank and placing their feet on British soil for the first time. Most of the 10,000 Kindertransport children arrived here via the Essex port of Harwich. Yet there is currently no memorial to their 'first sight of freedom', writes Mike Levy.**

Though their journeys on the Kindertransport have been commemorated with Frank Meisler's iconic memorial sculptures, one crucial leg of their journey, the arrival by ship in Harwich, has been left out of the story. Harwich has no memorial sculpture and, apart from a couple of obscurely located plaques, there is little to remember the crucial part played by this Essex port in the much-commemorated history of that mass rescue. This is about to change.

After eighty years those children who arrived by ship to the safe shores of Britain will now be commemorated. Plans are now afoot to erect a new memorial to the Kindertransport in the harbour – in effect, to 'complete the journey'; to ensure that Harwich is remembered alongside the other important stages in the flight from persecution starting in December 1938.

But what should the memorial sculpture be? We were inspired by the classic image

of the first arrivals descending the gangplank of the ship that brought them to safety. The memorial then should reflect the distinctive role played by Harwich and Dovercourt. There had to be a maritime theme. Our enthusiastic team in Harwich favoured using a local sculptor, someone with a passion for the refugee narrative. One name rose to the top of our deliberations.

Ian Wolter is an Essex-based, award winning sculptor who in 2018 created a powerful set of figures in his hometown of Saffron Walden. *The Children of Calais* was his personal response to the dire refugee situation in the 'jungle' camps on the French coast. Choosing Ian as our sculptor would provide a thematic bridge between the crises of 1938/39 and those of today. Ian's initial ideas are very exciting – a group of children descend the steps of a ship; one looks back to a former home, another places a foot on English soil. There will be five figures in total.

We intend to support the memorial ensemble with a full programme of educational resources, a Kindertransport heritage trail including interpretation boards around Harwich and Dovercourt, and an audio bench in the quiet of the town's Mayor's Garden.

The educational resources will, for the first time, tell the full story of the arrival in Harwich – the first on 2 December 1938, the last on the 1 September 1939. They will focus on the role of the Dovercourt holiday camp

which housed at least 1500 of the Kinder; the largest concentration of Jewish refugee children. The online resources will tell the story of how Warner's summer camp came to be used as a holding centre for the first wave of escapees. The story involves the kindness of strangers, the cruelty of separation, the warm-hearted volunteers and the freezing cold chalets.

The memorial and its attendant resources will attempt to fill in the many gaps in our knowledge: who were the volunteers who ran the camps, the organisers, the rabbis, doctors and teachers who tried to help the children overcome the trauma of separation from their dear parents and families? The memorial on the Harwich quayside will provide an exciting stimulus to answer these questions and more.

It is hoped that the memorial will be in place by 2022. But of course we are looking for donors. We need £220,000 for the whole project. If you would like to be a benefactor for the Harwich memorial and help us to 'complete the journey' see [www.kindertransport-memorial.org](http://www.kindertransport-memorial.org) or email [info@kindertransport-memorial.org](mailto:info@kindertransport-memorial.org) We would also love to hear from anyone whose own family stories include that first arrival at Harwich or a stay in Dovercourt camp.

*Mike Levy is Chair of The Harwich Kindertransport Memorial and Learning Trust.*

# KINDERTRANSPORT

## SWANAGE STATUE FOR 'PURBECK SCHINDLER'

Trevor Chadwick, dubbed as the "Purbeck Schindler", helped Sir Nicholas Winton rescue 669 children from Czechoslovakia. Yet it is only in recent times that the link has been made between Trevor Chadwick and Swanage in Dorset, writes Josephine Jackson.

Trevor Chadwick's father and uncle ran the Forres Preparatory School for Boys in Swanage. Trevor, aged 31 in 1938, was a resident Latin teacher at the school. He was very involved in charity work in the community, arranging bus trips for townspeople to attend sporting events and organising parties for local disadvantaged children. and was a popular volunteer member of the Swanage Lifeboat crew.

After the British government voted to accept Jewish children from Nazi Europe the Forres School decided to sponsor two boys, as many British private schools did. At the end of December 1938, Trevor and another teacher, George Phelps, left for Prague to collect their boys. On arrival at the office for the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia (BCRC)



Artist Moira Purver's tribute to Trevor Chadwick in progress, August 2020



Trevor Chadwick with some of the children that he helped

they met Nicholas Winton, Martin Blake and Doreen Warriner.

Nicholas and Martin had originally planned to go on a skiing trip but Martin had gone to Prague instead and persuaded Nicholas to join him on New Year's Eve. Nicholas went to work as soon as he saw the chaos and terrible dilemma of thousands of parents queuing for a place on Kindertransport for their children.

Trevor and George took two boys, Willi Weigh and Peter Walder, and also Gerda Mayer, who became a poet and was sponsored by Trevor's mother. After delivering the three children to Swanage Trevor immediately went back to Prague. While Nicholas returned to London to obtain permits and sponsors, Trevor remained in Prague to organise trains and the children. After Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in March 1939 he had to deal with Nazi officials. He took some great risks getting forged documents and smuggling adults on board.

Trevor returned to Swanage in June 1939 when the situation in Prague became too dangerous. He had waved off five trains and organised another three, in all carrying 669 children. The ninth train, with 250 children on board, the largest number, was stopped on 1 September. Trevor and Nicholas always regretted not being able to rescue more.

Nicholas once said, "Trevor did the more difficult and dangerous work after the Nazi invasion and he deserves all the praise".

In 2010 Trevor's son William published a book entitled *The Rescue of the Prague Refugees 1938/39*. He quotes one of the Czech Kinder, Inge Pendelty: "My memory is of a smiling man who put my very nervous mother at her ease. He made us laugh."

In recent correspondence with Paul Walder, whose father Peter was among the Kinder, Paul wrote: "Trevor is a hero who put his own life at risk to save so many children, among them my father."

Believing that widespread recognition for Trevor is long overdue, the people of Swanage have recently established The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust. At the heart of the Trust's activities are plans for a bronze statue in the centre of Swanage to commemorate Trevor's bravery. Designed by local sculptress Moira Purver, the statue is due to be unveiled in 2022.

The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust hopes to have some Prague Kinder and their families at the unveiling, and would also love more support for the project. A public appeal for the £80,000 is underway – see [www.trevorchadwick.uk](http://www.trevorchadwick.uk). Please send cheques (payable to Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust) direct to the Treasurer, The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust, 12 Bon Accord Road, Swanage BH19 2DS.

*Josephine Jackson is a member of the Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust.*

# Continental cooking

The AJR is very grateful to **Martin Mauthner** for submitting these two short items which, when combined, give great insights into the culinary heritage of some of our members.

Before 1938, Vienna's Christians baked 'Vanilla Kipferl', delicious crescent-shaped biscuits, for Christmas, while the city's Jews did the same for Chanukah.

This indicated one way in which Jews and Christians shared the Habsburg capital's cuisine, says Susanne Belovari, archivist at the University of Illinois. The classical Viennese cuisine was 'a collective creation, product and legacy of Viennese Jews and non-Jews alike'. She sees the 'Wiener Küche' as showing how creating and eating the same food brought together two hitherto distinctive groups.

Susanne, who grew up in Vienna, has spent over twenty years looking into the history of Viennese cuisine. When asked what sparked her interest Susanne explains that she has a 'hospitality' background: one grandmother ran a café in Vienna, the other was a pastry chef for a rich family.

She was studying in the US and also working for an orthodox family, who asked her to help prepare the meals for Passover. As typical Passover desserts did not enthuse her, Susanne consulted recipes her family had used at Christmas. To her surprise, she found they were suitable for Passover.

In her research she discovered that, unlike other cities and countries, pre-war Vienna did not have a specifically Jewish cookbook. The collective invention, production, sale and consumption of food items even narrowed the culinary-related Jewish stereotypes with which antisemites polemicised against their Jewish neighbours. Susanne cites as an example the way observant Jews could use a recipe that included 'lard': at the time, the word lard also referred to non-pork fat.

The mass flight of Vienna's Jews wiped out knowledge of this shared history. Susanne concludes her essay: 'It required the



Vanilla kipferl

memories and cookbooks of Jewish refugees and survivors across the world to rediscover the contributions of Viennese Jews to the famous Viennese cuisine.'

## How the Nazis 'stole' Alice's cookbook

Meanwhile, after decades of denial and refusal, a German publisher has finally expressed regret for 'aryanising' a best-selling Viennese cookbook.

Alice Urbach, born in 1886 into a middle-class Jewish family, was struggling to make a living in the unstable Austrian capital in the 1930s. A widow with two children, she opened a cookery school; Sigmund Freud's daughter Anna was one of her students. She then wrote a 500-page manual, *So kocht man in Wien!* which was published by Ernst Reinhardt in Munich. She also started Austria's first catering service.

Although written by a Jewish chef, Alice's book was not restricted to Jewish recipes and appealed to a mass audience. It was so popular that it was already in its third edition by the time Hitler annexed Austria in 1938. As publishers were no longer allowed to market books by Jews, Reinhardt brought out a 'new' guide to the Viennese table, using the same title and Alice's illustrations, but under the authorship of a mysterious 'Rudolf Rösch'. It was on sale till 1966; there is a copy in New York's public library.

In 1949 Alice spotted the Rösch version in a bookshop in Vienna and recognised her own work. She confronted the publisher, who rejected her claim to authorship and



'The Oldest Cooking Teacher in America' – Alice teaching in San Francisco at the age of 90

to any royalties. Alice abandoned any hope of restitution and emigrated to the US, teaching in a cookery school in San Francisco; in her nineties she appeared on television as 'the oldest cooking teacher' in America. She died in 1983 without realising her dream of bringing out an English-language edition of her book.

Alice's granddaughter, Karina Urbach, heard about the scandal. As a German-born historian and senior research fellow at the University of London, Dr Urbach is well-known for her unsettling work on the links between the German and British aristocracy – including the royal families – and the Nazis.

Dr Urbach approached Reinhardt, who told her that they had no information on Alice because much of the company's archives from that era had been destroyed in the war. Yet two postwar publications celebrating the firm's history used material from precisely that period.

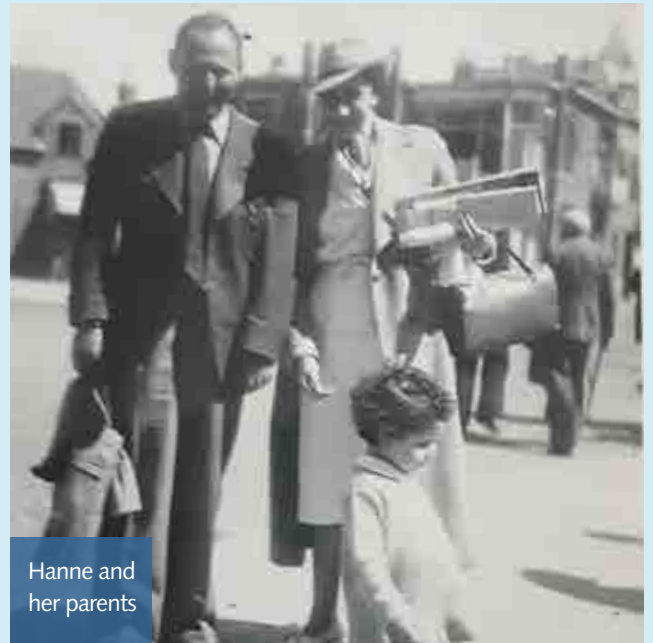
Karina told Reinhardt the family was not seeking financial compensation. It merely wanted the publisher to recognise its error and apologise. Reinhardt has now said it is returning Alice's rights to the family.

Karina Urbach, meanwhile, has published the full story as *Das Buch Alice – Wie die Nazis das Kochbuch meiner Grossmutter raubten* (Alice's Book – How the Nazis stole my Grandmother's cookery book). It has been widely acclaimed in German-speaking Europe. She hopes this shocking example of Nazi *Raubkunst* (looted art) will encourage scholars to undertake further research into the pillaging of literary property.

# PUT OFF TRAVELLING FOR LIFE



Joseph  
Freedman



Hanne and  
her parents

**Having read Michael Levin's inspiring review (October) of Felix Theilhaber's book *Jewish Flyers in the World War*, Les Freedman – whose wife, Hanne, is a refugee from Austria – was encouraged to relate his own father's history during this period.**

My father, Joseph Barnett Freedman, was brought up and educated in the East End. His parents refused to allow him to take up a scholarship as the family needed his financial help. Instead, he obtained a job as a Post Office messenger boy, complete with bicycle, whilst also a member of the Brady Street boys' club where, amongst other experiences, he learned to box.

Although he was still underage at the outbreak of World War One my father joined up immediately and ended up at the Army School of Wireless in Farnborough. The site eventually became the Royal Aircraft Establishment. Apart from square bashing, and because of his technical prowess and mathematical ability, my father was taught the Morse Code, and how to operate a spark transmitter and crystal receiver and how to read maps. He was

transferred into the then recently formed Royal Flying Corps, and subsequently into an operational flying squadron in France, flying de Havilland 4 two-seater biplanes. His job was as an observer/wireless operator, communicating with our big guns at the front. His ability was rewarded with a stripe, which was most unusual for a Jewish lad at the time.

However, his moment of glory did not last long. My father's Flight Sergeant was grossly antisemitic and one day, unable to stand any more bullying, my father floored him with one stroke. Because of his skills and abilities he was not court martialled, but he did lose his stripe. One result was that the bullying stopped, and all the other conscripts became his friends.

After about 24 flights, he was grounded, as the observer flights were seeking sitting ducks, and he was thought to have used up all of his cat lives. He was transferred to the other end of the wireless link, located on the ground alongside the big guns. In those days there was no such thing as ear defenders, and after several months he became severely shell shocked, unable to speak and suffering a nervous shake.

He was sent back to the UK to the RFC hospital located near the ponds at Hampstead, probably in what we

nowadays call the Royal Free Hospital. He spent some months there and regained his power of speech, although he still had a bad stutter whenever he was excited. After one week's home leave, he was sent to northern Italy where his new commanding officer was Hugh Dalton, the then future Chancellor of the Exchequer. Facing them were the Austrian forces. Interestingly, my father in law, Maximillian Weich, served on the opposite side in the Austrian army. Hanne was born in Austria and the family managed to escape to England just days before World War Two.

By this time my own father had been transferred to the Post Office engineering department where his team was responsible for the supply of telephone switchboard systems to service sites and airfields etc.

Up to a year before his death in 1977 he was still able to read fluently the Morse Code from Aldis lamp signals on shipping.

But at no time after World War Two did my father express the idea, or any desire to take his family abroad for a holiday. On the contrary he completely refuted the idea.

Incidentally, I spent 36 years with de Havilland / British Aerospace.

# A DAUGHTER OF OFFENBURG

**AJR member and textile artist Eva Mendelsson was one of 6500 Jews deported in October 1940 from the Baden town of Offenburg to the de Gurs camp in south west France. A series of 80th anniversary commemorations had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus, but a very nice article about Eva appeared in the *Badische Zeitung* nevertheless. Here is an extract:**

Eva Mendelsson was born in 1931 in Offenburg. Together with her sister Myriam she escaped from the de Gurs camp, to which around 6500 Jews from Baden and Saarpfalz were deported in 1940. After a year-long odyssey, hidden by an aid organisation, the two ended up with their father Eduard, who had been able to escape to England in 1939. Their mother Sylvia and sister Esther were murdered in Auschwitz. Eva married Wolfgang Mendelsson, raised three children and became a gifted textile artist. She now lives near Hereford.



Eva Mendelsson with the Torah mantle which she made for the North London Synagogue

It was only in 1986 that she returned to her old home at the invitation of the City of Offenburg and slowly began to come to terms with the history of her family. This resulted in a series of documentary books. Remembrance days were introduced and in 2019 a permanent exhibition was inaugurated. Eva Mendelsson and other contemporary witnesses regularly spoke to school classes about their traumatic experiences. This work has lasted for decades and she has received several awards. On her 80th birthday in 2011, the museum in Offenburg honoured Eva with an exhibition of her colourful works of textile art.

Eva says "I always carry my story around with me, it's like a disease that you have and that always hurts. Offenburg invited me for the first time in 1986 to come and tell my story and a lot has emerged from this: new friendships, magical encounters with children and young people who wrote me many letters. It was right and important that I did this work and it was worth it. Because so much good came out of it. I firmly believe that I was able to give some of the children and young people I met something important for life: to be courageous, not to exclude others and to fight for peace".

## LOOKING FOR?

### **HENDRIKA van GELDER (1870 – 1943)**

Art journalist seeks information on the Jewish artist Hendrika van Gelder who lived and worked in Amsterdam. In 1943 she was deported to Sobibor and most of her work was confiscated and probably destroyed.

[renee.simons@xs4all.nl](mailto:renee.simons@xs4all.nl)

### **ELLEN and FRED EISNER**

Daniela Torsh of Sydney, Australia, wishes to contact her relatives Ellen & Fred Eisner, children of Desiree Frankl (who came from Austria in 1938) and Rolf Eisner. Daniela believes the family lived in Tyneside.

[danielat1@bigpond.com](mailto:danielat1@bigpond.com)

### **NEUSTADT and TURGEL**

Charlie Knight is researching the lives of Dr Ernst Neustadt and his wife Gertrud (née Stadthagen) who fled Frankfurt in 1939 to Scotland. Ernst was a Latin and Greek scholar and was interned on the Isle of Man. He committed suicide in April 1942 after his wife died of cancer.

[crsk98@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crsk98@hotmail.co.uk)

### **FEMALE REFUGEES**

Abi Exelby, a PhD student at the University of Chichester, is seeking families of female Jewish refugees who settled in London from 1938 onwards. Also, information on Bloomsbury House, the Unemployment Assistance Board, and the Women's Appeal Committee.

[aexelby1@stu.chi.ac.uk](mailto:aexelby1@stu.chi.ac.uk)

### **KURT BRASCH**

Kurt Brasch, born 7 October 1911, attended the Reuchlin-Gymnasium at Ingolstadt (1921-1928), came to Britain in 1939, married Sybil Irene Hyman, and died in 2001 in Hampstead. His former school needs photos/more information for an exhibition.

[markus.schirmer1@gmx.de](mailto:markus.schirmer1@gmx.de)

### **MEMORIES OF BRATISLAVA**

Do you remember Bratislava in the late 1930s/40s? Author Raffi Berg is doing research and would like to speak to Bratislava-born survivors/refugees with memories of Jewish life in the city in that period.

[raffiberg@gmail.com](mailto:raffiberg@gmail.com)

# Unlocked thanks to lockdown

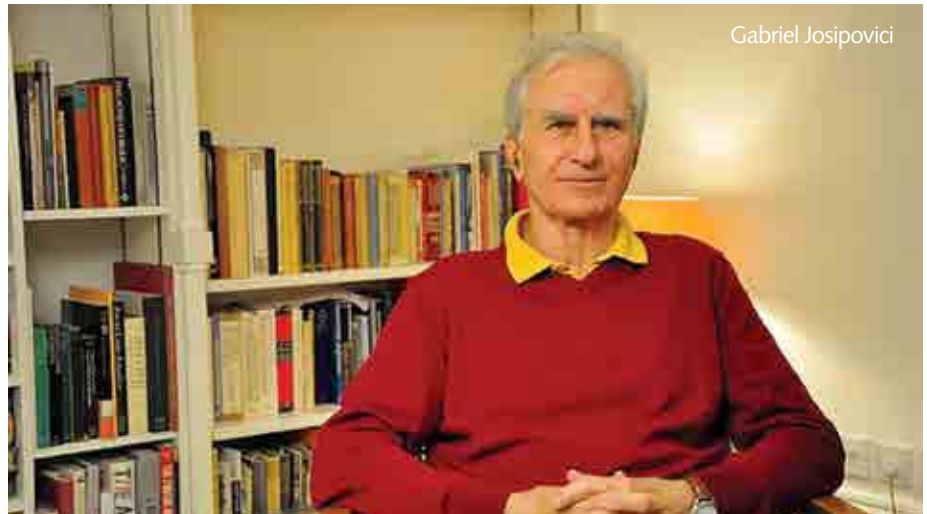
**The acclaimed writer and critic Gabriel Josipovici celebrated his 80th birthday in October. Later that month many AJR members enjoyed hearing him in conversation with Dr Bea Lewkowicz during one of our most popular Zoom events.**

Gabriel Josipovici was born in Nice in 1940. He spent his early childhood with his mother in wartime France, before returning to his mother's native Egypt in 1945. He studied at Victoria College in Cairo until 1956, when, just a few weeks before the Suez crisis, he and his mother managed to secure a visa for the UK. Gabriel finished his schooling at Cheltenham College and read English at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford. In 1963 he joined the School of European Studies at Sussex University, where he taught for 35 years. He is the author of numerous novels and works of criticism.

In March, at the start of lockdown, Gabriel decided to keep a 'Lockdown Diary' for 100 days. He openly admits that he had previously been experiencing something of a writer's block and that he is not normally a diarist. He attempted to conclude each entry with a personal thought or memory, using the alphabet to trigger these thoughts. The end result was both incredibly wide-ranging and often surprising and we were privileged to hear Gabriel read a couple of entries during his Zoom conversation with Bea.

Writing about himself is a fairly recent phenomenon for Gabriel, whose major early successes came from short fiction. His first published autobiographical work was actually a biographical memoir of his mother, the translator and poet Sacha Rabinovitch, which was published in 2001 under the title of *A Life*. Although ostensibly about his mother, who passed away in 1996, the book inevitably covers many incidents from Gabriel's own life and he told Bea that the process of writing it helped him to make sense of his loss.

Gabriel is an only child. His baby sister,



Gabriel Josipovici

born in wartime France, died from malnutrition just days after she was born. His mother told him that she felt guilty for giving her own food rations to Gabriel at the expense of nourishing her unborn child, and one senses that Gabriel has adopted this guilt as his own. While writing his mother's eulogy he realised that he never knew his sister's name, something he regrets to this day.

Asked about his own memories of childhood, Gabriel said he remembers little from France but has much stronger recollections of his time in Egypt and being with his mother's extended family, whose once massive wealth had sadly all but disappeared. After what seemed like numerous house moves, Gabriel and his mother ended up in, as he described it, a "wonderful home on the edge of a canal, very close to the sporting club which was the centre for Cairo's middle class youth". Despite this, Gabriel never really felt that he belonged in Egypt and even today he puts a metaphorical bracket around those years of his life.

His mother was adamant that Gabriel should study at Oxford and in 1956 began making arrangements to move to England. Gabriel recalls an entire summer spent in the "Kafka-esque" building that housed the British Embassy, being directed from pillar to post and back again in an effort to secure a UK visa. Eventually something in the system unblocked, and his mother's dream of living, working and studying in Britain was realised. Gabriel admits that he is one of the few Jews from Egypt living in

the UK who does not harbour nostalgia for the Egyptian way of life.

When asked about his own sense of identity, Gabriel says that he has always felt European but that Brexit has made him feel how he imagines Austro-Hungarian Jews felt at the end of the First World War when they found themselves as simply Austrian, and the large multilingual empire from which they had come from had been pulled from under their feet.

Although he regularly studies the text of the Hebrew Bible, Gabriel does not describe himself as a "Jewish writer". He is struck by the concept of the wandering Jew as something not to overcome but to celebrate and enjoy the journey, and believes there are great dangers of thinking of promised lands as something that must be fulfilled.

Looking forward, Gabriel says that the process of writing his lockdown diary has "certainly loosened things up". He has now started work on another novel (his last published fiction work was *The Cemetery in Barnes*, 2018) which sounds intriguing but, in his typical rather self-effacing way, is reluctant to say at this stage whether anything will come of it.

**Dr Bea Lewkowicz in conversation with Gabriel Josipovici was a joint venture between *Sephardi Voices* and *Refugee Voices* and can be watched in full on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvthyVplYE4&feature=youtu.be>**

# REVIEWS

## AGAINST ALL ODDS: THE DRAMATIC STORY OF ESCAPE FROM THE HORRORS OF NAZI-OCCUPIED VIENNA TO A LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

Jillian Rothwell

David Ling Publishing Limited

Never could Ludwig Bieder have imagined as a child growing up in Vienna's golden cultural age that he would be forced to emigrate to the other side of the world. Here with great energy and tenacity he carved an incredibly successful career in a vastly different climate in New Zealand.

The book opens with author Jillian Rothwell revisiting the homes of her ancestors who from small beginnings steadily grew more prosperous. Her father Ludwig's parents Abraham and Bertha – whose moving story is a central theme – were born on the eastern outskirts of the Austro-Hungarian empire in Galacia and Bukovina, now Western Ukraine.

They migrated to Vienna – capital of the vast Hapsburg Empire – where Abraham became an affluent financial manager. However they returned to Czernowitz, Bukovina for the birth of their only son in 1910 where the baby's maternal grandfather, now a distinguished doctor insisted on supervising the delivery. Ludwig was to follow in his footsteps in the choice of career. Although he left his birthplace at only 10 days old it had the unforeseen consequence of severely limiting emigration choices under Nazi persecution. The downwards spiral began with the collapse of the mighty Hapsburg Empire after the First World War.

Meanwhile Ludwig made lifelong friends, graduated with distinction from Vienna University in 1935 and became university tutor at the city's Rosenhügel Neurological Hospital. After Austria was annexed the hospital was taken over by the SS, Jewish doctors were dismissed and patients – no matter how ill – forcibly discharged. Indeed the Nazi takeover of Austria and consequences for Jews is graphically described.

Ludwig's escaped home from the hospital and later just as borders closed his train arrived in Switzerland where he found a gruelling job in a psychiatric hospital. This storyline of how he was helped is an extremely intriguing thread running through the book. But he needed to move on and after numerous fruitless inquiries was again helped to get a precious visa, sailing to Wellington in the nick of time the week war was declared. Here a very different and much more rural outdoor ethos prevailed including some suspicion and prejudice towards Jewish refugees. To practice medicine he had to do three years study again in a foreign language, working tirelessly in challenging conditions as a locum in the holidays. He was finally on his way to becoming a very eminent doctor.

By then he had anglicised his name to Lewis and met the beautiful fourth generation New Zealander Lois Little from an affluent establishment background. He had heard nothing of his parents for years presuming them dead but after the war discovered they were miraculously still alive in Brussels having spent most of the time in hiding. Excerpts from Abraham's diaries including great hardship and hair-raising adventures are gripping reading in this fascinating book. Eventually they settled in a granny flat in the garden of the family's new home in Palmerston North. Lewis and Lois went on to have five daughters – including two sets of twins – and there is a charming picture of them as little children in the book.

Janet Weston

## THE GLAMOUR BOYS

Chris Bryant  
Bloomsbury

Chris Bryant was the first MP to celebrate a same-sex civil partnership in the Palace of Westminster. In this gossipy book, he reveals what he calls 'the secret story of the rebels who fought for Britain to defeat Hitler.'

Some of those rebels, it turns out, were youngish, mostly affluent MPs leading a precarious double life as closeted gays or bisexuals. Apart from Harold Nicolson and Bob Boothby, Bryant's ten main characters are hardly household names today, but their story is nevertheless well

worth telling. AJR readers will note that two of them, Philip Sassoon and Robert Bernays, had a Jewish background; the latter was related to Freud's wife, Martha Bernays and to her sister Minna, whom the author categorically terms Freud's mistress.

Bryant's engrossing tale is the fruit of prodigious research. He recounts how this group of outspoken right-wing politicians were among the earliest to warn of the Nazi menace, and how their votes ultimately undermined Appeasement and helped drive Neville Chamberlain from power. He is convinced that 'without them, we would never have gone to war with Hitler, Churchill would never have become prime minister, and Nazism would never have been defeated.'

In that era male homosexuality was an offence in Britain as in Germany, where liberals were campaigning for the reform of the dreaded paragraph 175 of the criminal code. The Weimar regime, however, in effect told the police to turn a blind eye to the practice. The result was that Berlin became what Bryant calls 'a pervert's paradise.' Writers such as Christopher Isherwood, but also the 'glamour boys' – a sneering Chamberlain's disparaging phrase – would flock to the German capital to frequent its night-clubs and bath-houses. There they encountered German 'queers' – Bryant's preferred word; some were Nazis, others Jews. And they easily lent a sympathetic ear to German gripes about the Versailles treaty and urged closer ties between the two countries.

That understanding attitude changed after Hitler brusquely ended Weimar tolerance. As Nazi violence gripped the nation these MPs began to empathise with the persecuted gays – and German Jews. They resolved to act as a well-informed lobby determined to contest the pro-Hitler (and pro-Franco) element in their own party, as well as the propaganda of the Anglo-German Fellowship.

Bryant recalls the activities of Chamberlain's special adviser, the sinister Sir Joseph Ball, and *Truth*, the notorious pro-fascist weekly he covertly controlled. Disloyal MPs were subject to 'dirty tricks' such as phone-tapping and intimidation.



Pro-government newspapers would telephone them and ask why they were still 'bachelors.' Their constituency party, they were warned, might de-select them and choose another candidate; perhaps even worse, their sexual preferences might be exposed.

After Kristallnacht, Bryant writes, the protection of the Jews became a 'moral imperative' for the 'glamour boys.' They launched their weekly, *Whitehall News*, whose small but influential readership 'derided the tendency of the British to cling to pleasing delusions.' Britain's failure to occupy part of Norway in the spring of 1940 sealed Chamberlain's fate, though the botched initiative was less his than Churchill's.

One way to measure the achievement of the 'glamour boys' – some of whom were subsequently killed in action – is to recall that in 1940 the Conservatives still had a more than comfortable majority of some 200 seats, that figure having shrunk from the 1935 general election's colossal 248. Bryant is surely right to insist that here is another area where we must revisit our traditional history-telling.

*Martin Mauthner*

#### PORTRAITS FOR POSTERITY

**Matt Writtle**  
Gomer Press Ltd

They say that every picture tells a story and nowhere is that more true than in this wonderful book which features stunning portrait shots of 101 Holocaust survivors in Great Britain.

Photographer Matt Writtle began taking these photographs in 2008 for a series of exhibitions across the UK. They have now been brought together in an impressive coffee-table style book, with each portrait accompanied by a short biography drawn from the sitter's own words and with four separate *Viewpoints* written by leading figures from the field of Holocaust commemoration and education.

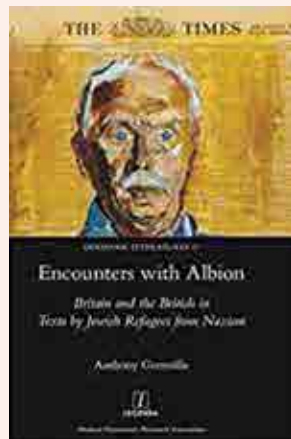
As Matt explains: "I was honoured and privileged to associate with the most remarkable and resilient people I have ever met....The power in the message of this project comes from the faces and the testimony of the people who had

experienced, and survived, this terrible persecution."

Sadly, several of the survivors featured in the project have now passed away but the book helps provide a permanent voice to what Matt describes as this "vanishing generation".

The book is available to purchase from [www.mattwrittle.com](http://www.mattwrittle.com)

Jo Briggs



**ENCOUNTERS WITH ALBION:  
BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH IN  
TEXTS BY JEWISH REFUGEES FROM  
NAZISM**  
Anthony Grenville  
Legenda 2020

The paperback edition of Anthony Grenville's fascinating study of refugee attitudes to the British is now available, making it a very affordable read.

In our February 2019 review of the hardback edition Dr Charmian Brinson wrote:

"Grenville's new book will certainly not disappoint. It focuses on the Jewish refugees from Nazism, a subject on which he 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!"

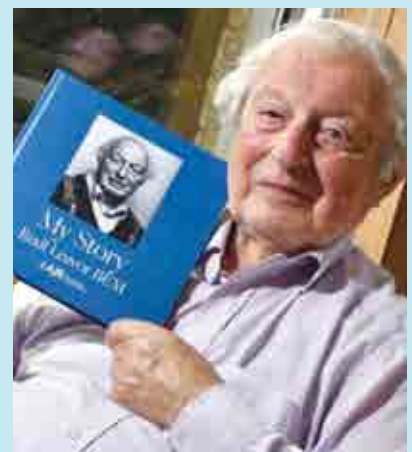
Jo Briggs

## FRANKFURT REOPENS

After five years of rebuilding and renovation, costing around £50 million, Frankfurt's new Jewish Museum has reopened.

Some of its collection dates back to the Museum of Jewish Antiquities in Frankfurt, opened in 1922, which in turn developed out of the Society for the Study of Jewish Art Monuments that was founded in 1897.

## MAZELTOV RUDI



**Rudi Leavor, a regular contributor to these pages, has been inducted into the Bradford Hall of Fame.**

Taking his rightful place alongside other local notables, including singer Kiki Dee and football centre half Dean Richards, Rudi has already been awarded the British Empire Medal for his work strengthening bonds between Jewish and Muslim communities in Bradford.

Rudi has reflected on his escape from Nazi Germany in his recently published *My Story* book – one of 23 books that are now free to download from the AJR's dedicated website [www.ajrmystory.org.uk/interviewees](http://www.ajrmystory.org.uk/interviewees)

# OBITUARIES

## HENRY EBNER

Born: 20 April 1937, Vienna

Died: 17 October 2020, London



**Henry Ebner arrived in London with his parents two weeks before war began in 1939. They came with few belongings, and a single teddy bear for Henry, but made a successful life here and Henry grew up to become a lawyer running his own firm, part-time judge and proud parent and grandparent.**

He was born Heinz, to Berthold and Margarethe who ran two cinemas (The Admiral and Johann Strauss Kinos). After the Anschluss Berthold was arrested for refusing to show Nazi propaganda films and sent to Dachau and, subsequently, Buchenwald.

He was arrested in late March 1938 and did not return until April 1939. Margarethe had tried her hardest to get her husband out of the camps, but she had been thrown out of their flat and all her possessions taken.

The family escaped from Austria, leaving as part of an amnesty for those who could show they had another country to go to, and who were prepared to pay the exit tax. Their visas allowed them to work in domestic service only and they became cook and handyman to a vicar in the village of Binham in Norfolk.

Berthold was interned on the Isle of Man for a few months as an enemy alien and Henry and his mother subsequently moved to London. After Berthold's release the family was

evacuated to Guildford by the Jewish Aid Committee. They shared a three bedroom, one bathroom house with three other German and Austrian families.

His father's concerns that he was "mollycoddled" by his mother led to Henry being sent to boarding school, Stroatley Rough School (also in Surrey), from the ages of eight to 18. The school catered especially for refugee children, with pupils helping to clean and run it. Henry eventually became head boy.

Henry's grandfather was a lawyer, his father trained to be one, and after school Henry took a law degree at the LSE. While there, he started doing "Poor Man's Lawyer" – offering free legal advice at a local Law Centre and carried this on for many years. He was one of the initial advisers at the North Kensington Law Centre as, later, were members of his own firm, and involved in legal aid throughout his career. He saw the law as a force for good.

In 1958, Henry joined Sylvester Amiel, qualifying in 1961. In 1965 he decided to strike out on his own and took over a small firm in Hammersmith, renaming it Myers, Ebner and Deaner. He worked there until retiring as a partner in autumn 2002, although he continued as a consultant until 2016.

Later in his career he sat on tribunals as a social security judge, greatly enjoying the challenge as it meant learning a new tranche of the law.

Most of his legal work was non-litigious commercial and family, but he was also involved in German work, and, after German reunification, with restitution

claims with Germany and pensions claims with Austria. He served on two AJR committees, including one for the Austrian fund.

Henry features in the AJR Refugee Voices archive and in Bea Lewkowicz's film, *Double Exposure: Jewish refugees from Austria in Britain*. In 2011 this was screened at Vienna's Admiral Kino, once owned by his parents.

Henry married Ann Domb in August 1964, and the couple spent two decades in Kenton before moving to Primrose Hill. They had three children, Joanna, Mark and Sarah, and seven grandchildren. Henry was very proud of his family, particularly given his refugee background, and described having grandchildren as "a privilege" as he never knew his grandparents. He took each grandchild to Vienna before their bar or batmitzvah.

He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of sport and was also extremely interested in current affairs, political history and theatre. For many years he was involved in Hammersmith's Rotary Club, was President twice and helped raise thousands of pounds for charity. While in his 80s he joined the local Probus Club (for semi-retired and retired professionals) and became President of that too.

Ann died in 2016 and Henry kept himself extremely busy with friends, family, trips to the theatre and more. He spent much of the final months of his life organising Austrian citizenship for his family, telling his daughter: "I feel that the wheels should come full circle."

**Sarah Ebner**



**HEDWIG (HEDI) FRANKL**  
**née Fischer**  
 Born: 8 May 1927, Balassagyarmat, Hungary  
 Died: 15 October 2020, London

**Hedi's remarkable escape from the Holocaust began when her mother managed to arrange false identity papers; Hedi became Borishka Kovacs, and was sent to live with a Christian family.**

But after only a few weeks she was betrayed, arrested and handed over to the Gestapo, who deported her on a harrowing five-day journey in a cattle wagon to a transit camp in Strasbourg.

Between 1944 and 1945 Hedi had to do forced labour at the Siemens Electronic Company; here she became friends with a 19-year old girl called Alice Hersch, who shared food and warm clothes with her.

Towards the end of the Holocaust they were spared from a Nazi death march when Herr Meier, a foreman at the factory, took pity and hid them in his Vienna home until the end of the war.

After liberation Hedi was reunited with one of her brothers. In 1947 they were helped to come to the UK by an uncle who had escaped Nazi-occupied Europe. Hedi's four other siblings and parents were murdered in Auschwitz.

She married in 1949 but later divorced. She had one daughter who lives in Israel and grandsons in New York and Amsterdam.

During a long and varied career Hedi was a social worker for the Jewish Welfare Board (now Jewish Care) and opened an embroidery factory in East London.

She also set up The Hedi Fisher Marriage Bureau in 1969, which operated for 25 years and led to her publishing her book, *Matchmaker, Matchmaker*.

Michael Newman, CEO of the AJR said: "Hedi was a popular presence at our events, someone who lightened the atmosphere with her sparkling character and friendly personality. With her experiences captured for posterity and future study, she will be greatly missed but will be remembered fondly." Rachelle Lazarus of the Holocaust Survivors' Centre, wrote that she was one of the first members of the centre 30 years ago, and was always extremely determined, independent and elegant.

Speaking at the centre last year, Hedi said, "The past must not be forgotten. Make the best of your life, it's not a rehearsal so give it your best and have a positive attitude."

**Kathy Cohen**



**INGRID WUGA**  
 Born: 24 June 1924, Dortmund  
 Died: 17 October 2020, Glasgow

**Ingrid arrived from Dortmund via Kindertransport in 1939, going to a Christadelphian family in Leicestershire. She joined her parents in West Kilbride in 1940, moving to Glasgow a few months later.**

There she met another Kind, Henry. They married in 1944 and were "an item" for 75 years.

Henry, with Ingrid as his indispensable partner, established Wuga Kosher Catering in 1960s. In Glasgow, the name Wuga still elicits happy memories of many simchas they catered.

Ingrid and Henry travelled the world, sharing their passion for classical music. For 67 years the Edinburgh International Festival was an essential part of their calendar. Ingrid's devotion to Henry also meant following him down the ski slopes. They passed their enthusiasm on to their daughters, Hilary and Gillian, and to their four grandsons, with whom they spent a week every winter in the Alps.

In retirement they worked with BLESMA, which supports Limbless Veterans, to offer

amputees rehabilitation on the ski slopes. Servicemen and women readily opened up to 'Auntie Ingrid' and she helped talk them down the mountain when they 'froze' with fear. Many became lifelong friends. The couple also volunteered at the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, where Ingrid's warmth and compassion helped many patients. They raised £10,000's for both charities.

Ingrid and Henry also volunteered for the Holocaust Educational Trust, telling their stories to over 5,000 pupils throughout Scotland and also engaging with German youth at the Jewish Museum Berlin. Laura Pasternak, HET ambassador, said: "Ingrid and Henry have taught me so much, to never be a bystander to hate and prejudice and to proactively show kindness to others. I look forward to keeping on sharing both of your stories. You are a great source of inspiration to me!"

In 2019 Ingrid was awarded the BEM for Services to Holocaust Education and in January she became a great-grandmother to twins. She will be remembered for her values of kindness, compassion, sense of humour and hospitality across international borders.

**Hilary Hodsmann**

# ZOOMS AHEAD

Details of all meetings and the links to join will appear in the e-newsletter each Monday.

Tuesday 1 December @ 2.00pm	Rabbi Danny Bergson – The 100 year old siddur <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87421613313">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87421613313</a>
Wednesday 2 December @ 2.00pm	Ross Montgomery – author of <i>The Midnight Guardians</i> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81882505888">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81882505888</a>
Wednesday 2 December @ 4.00pm	FILM: THE FORGOTTEN HERO (about Swiss diplomat Carl Lutz, who saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews) <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89243875505">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89243875505</a>
Thursday 3 December @ 2.00pm	Lynne Bradley – Jews in the Musicals <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89631359518">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89631359518</a>
Tuesday 8 December @ 2.00pm	Philip Heyman – Viola player with the Welsh National Opera <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81294962420">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81294962420</a>
Wednesday 9 December @ 2.00pm	Kate Anthony (better known as ‘Auntie Pam’ in Coronation Street) – a life on stage <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81805092112">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81805092112</a>
Thursday 10 December @ 4.00pm	Online Book Club – Dr Rebecca Clifford, author of <i>Survivors</i> <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ajr-book-club-with-rebecca-clifford-author-of-survivors-tickets-126231891987">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ajr-book-club-with-rebecca-clifford-author-of-survivors-tickets-126231891987</a>
Tuesday 15 December @ 2.00pm	Chanukah singalong with Sidney Austin, with candlelighting and address by Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ajr-chanukah-party-tickets-127677684391">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ajr-chanukah-party-tickets-127677684391</a>



## ONCE MET NEVER FORGOTTEN

Tributes are pouring in from AJR members, staff and trustees for Lilian Black, who sadly lost her life to Covid shortly before this issue went to press.

AJR CEO Michael Newman said: Lilian was the dynamic Chair of the Holocaust Survivor Friendship Association, the Leeds based charity with which the AJR works closely and which it strongly supports.

AJR Trustee Anthony Spiro said: Lilian

was a tremendously energetic person and did so much for Holocaust survivors and Holocaust education in the North of England. Once met never forgotten!

AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman said: She will live on in our minds as someone who was almost invincible, only beaten by this dreadful virus and it is now incumbent on us to ensure her legacy is preserved.

A full obituary of Lilian will appear in our January issue.

## German audio books

AJR member Bob Norton has a number of German language books on long playing discs. There are detective stories, spy stories and books on other subjects, all by famous authors. He

would be pleased to send them to anyone interested, free and without charge. Please contact him via email at [gerrybob@talktalk.net](mailto:gerrybob@talktalk.net) or phone on **0115 998 9144**.

### Books Bought

MODERN AND OLD

Eric Levene

020 8364 3554 / 07855387574  
[ejlevine@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ejlevine@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

Registered office: Winston House, 2 Dollis Park, Finchley, London N3 1HF

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

Telephone 020 8385 3070 e-mail [editorial@ajr.org.uk](mailto:editorial@ajr.org.uk) AssociationofJewishRefugees @TheAJR\_

For the latest AJR news, including details of forthcoming events and information about our services, visit [www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

The AJR Journal is printed by FBprinters, 82b Woodside Park Lane, London N12 8RY Email: [info@fbprinters.com](mailto:info@fbprinters.com)

The AJR Journal is printed on 100% recycled material and posted out in fully recyclable plastic mailing envelopes.