



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

The voices of the future

I have recently taken part in some fascinating interviews with the *grandchildren* of refugee artists, including Charlotte Grant, the granddaughter of Martin Bloch, and Tommy Zyw, the grandson of Alexander Zyw. I have also watched interviews with a number of *second-generation* writers and academics including Kim Philby's granddaughter who has written a novel about Philby and his affair with the refugee photographer, Edith Tudor-Hart and an AJR event with the grandson of the famous pioneer of photo-montage, John Heartfield, one of the great creative figures in Weimar Germany.



On Holocaust Memorial Day, I read a deeply moving tribute by the journalist Hugo Rifkind to his grandfather. Suddenly the second and third generation are finding their voices and in no time, they will be joined by the fourth generation.

Two new books have brought this into sharp focus. *Debating the Zeitgeist and Being Second Generation* (Valentine Mitchell, 2021), edited by Miriam E. David and Marilyn Moos, is about how the experience of twelve British-born

children of refugees from Nazism affected them and especially their politics.

In an interesting foreword, Lord Dubs writes, 'This book is not about the second generation but gives voice to the second generation themselves... How did it feel to be the only Jewish child at school? How did it feel to have parents, whether or not Jewish, who often wished their children to be more English than the English?'

Continued on page 2

A GOOD REPORT

As is customary for this time of the year, our May issue features the AJR's latest Annual Report, summarising our organisation's many and varied activities over the last calendar year.

2021 was an especially busy year for us, as we marked our 80th anniversary with a number of special projects and events. Caring for and supporting our members remained at the heart of everything we did.

In addition to the Report, this issue of the Journal contains several fascinating articles and commentaries. Please enjoy them all and send us your feedback.

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

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The voices of the future (cont.)

One problem with *Debating the Zeitgeist* is the process of selection. Eleven of the twelve contributors are women, all are in their early or mid-seventies, all are on the Left and/or are feminists and 'mainly come from highly educated middle-class backgrounds'. Their age matters because they grew up before the silence about the Holocaust began to be broken. Their politics may grate on some readers.

In the Introduction, the editors write, some of the contributors are steeped in Jewishness, either culturally or by religion, others 'have little or no consciousness of being Jewish.' This may be more because of their parents' secular and left-wing values (how representative is this?) or because many grew up away from Jewish centres. It's curious that they don't deal more with these questions.

Several interesting themes stand out from this collection. First, silence. Many of their parents were silent about their pasts and that of their families. 'These pasts,' write the editors, 'were too often peopled by members of family who had been left behind and murdered. ... As children and youngish adults, we often knew little or nothing about the lives of the parents before they came to the UK, never mind our grandparents or other kin.' As a result, many felt frightened to ask about their family's past for fear of upsetting their parents. 'I remember once, when little,' writes Marilyn Moos, 'somehow seeing a photo album and pointing to a picture: "Who is he?" I asked. My father snatched the album out of my hands and stormed out of the room.' As a result, she grew up knowing nothing about her grandparents. She did not know their names, where they lived, or how they had died.

Second, how much some children felt they stuck out as being foreign. Alice Bondi writes about how her family ate 'much more adventurous food' and how her father 'had a foreign accent and wild "mad professor" hair.' Another writes how she 'was brought up to "blend in."' Curiously, neither asks why their parents didn't move somewhere with a larger Jewish community where they might have felt more at home.

Finally, how many write about the importance of growing up on central

European food at home, either because it made their families stand out or because it was such an important part of their Jewish identity. The emphasis is on central not east European food. Their parents were mostly German and Austrian not Polish or Hungarian.

The Journey Home – Emerging Out of the Shadow of the Past (Peter Lang, 2021), edited by David Clark and Teresa von Sommaruga, is very different. It is a book of twenty essays, each telling a different story about how important it has been for these Jews of the Second Generation to visit places connected with their family history, usually homes their families had been forced to flee.

It seems that as they became older, making these journeys, a kind of modern pilgrimage, becomes more not less important in the lives of many Second Generation Jews with refugee or survivor parents. As the editors write in their Introduction, what is striking is how many of the contributors grew up with a feeling that 'they are not quite right, their parents are not quite right, [they] feel ashamed of who they are and often work hard to deny the obvious differences between themselves and mainstream society around them.' One crucial reason for this is how often family history has been buried or is 'accompanied by unbearable pain and unwanted memories that cannot be shared,' which makes for 'an unstable and frightening upbringing.' They seem faced with a choice of ignoring the past, as their parents have done, or trying to discover what happened to their parents' families and make some sense of it and one way of doing this is to go on a journey. 'The journey home,' they write, 'is one way of making sense of this emotional burden and breaking free from it.' Sometimes it is triggered by a family crisis, a parent's death or illness. That leads people to discover their Jewish roots. It is as if by visiting the places where their parents or grandparents once lived 'the reality of a culture lost is given life.' In other cases, though, this search for a lost home becomes almost an obsession.

One fascinating detail is how important it is for people to find long-lost objects. There are moving moments when a person is handed back a cooking pot that belonged to her grandmother or when someone else is given a crystal glass belonging to a relative. In many

other cases, however, the house and its contents are lost forever or even a whole neighbourhood, and with it an entire social world, has vanished without trace.

The Journey Home is divided into three parts: journeys undertaken with a first-generation parent, those undertaken without a parent and journeys undertaken as part of a commemorative event, perhaps to see the installation of *Stolpersteine* or some other plaque or monument. The journeys undertaken with a parent are often fraught. Many parents turned out to be reluctant, or at best ambivalent, about returning to their birthplaces. Some would have preferred to leave it all behind, never to return. My father never returned to his native Warsaw, my mother never revisited Berlin.

It is striking that in this collection as well nearly all the contributors are women and university-educated professionals. As a result, the language is often academic, and full of psychological insights (or jargon, according to your point of view).

Both books are part of an explosion of interest in the Second Generation and the transmission of trauma between survivors and their children. It is now almost half a century since analysts began to ask if survivor parents could transmit anxiety and depression to their offspring as a result of their own trauma. *The Journey Home* is the better book but at their best these books both offer real insight into issues about silence and repression and the need to make sense of the experience of one's parents and grandparents.

David Herman



REINTRODUCING OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMME

We are delighted so many of you have joined us on our Zoom events over the last two years.

To give you some headline figures: during 2020 and 2021 we ran over 500 Zoom events each year, with over 7,000 total attendances in each period. We think that's pretty impressive and we hope you enjoyed the many offerings.

We are continuing to run our Zoom programme of speakers and events, the details of which are in the e-newsletter each week and *the AJR Journal*. However we are delighted that with the lifting of lockdown restrictions in the UK we are now able to meet in person. We are arranging social get-togethers all over the country, for members in the same locality to meet up for a cup of tea or coffee, some cake, or even lunch (we know food is essential at all get-togethers).

Our Outreach Team is working hard to fill the diary and travel around the UK to reach out to as many people as possible and we are busy exploring new areas and locations, so that everyone has the opportunity to meet others in a social setting.

We thought this would be a good time to reintroduce you to the team, with their contact details. We are delighted

that Michal Mocton has joined us as the Outreach Co-ordinator for the North of England, covering Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and surrounding areas. Michal looks forward to meeting members in those areas.

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Please don't hesitate to be in contact with us if there is anything we can assist you with and bear with us as we work our way through our busy diaries arranging meetings. We look forward to seeing you all in person and catching up.

Susan, Karen, Ros, Agnes and Michal

KINGSTON REUNITED

The AJR's Kingston group is one of several which have reconvened in person and are loving it!

On a sunny Monday in April the group met in a centrally located pub with an outdoor space. Warm enough to sit outside, the group basked both in the sunshine and in each other's company, whilst enjoying a cup of tea and some delicious snacks. Ros Hart, who runs the Kingston group, explains: "Having been

starved of company for so many months everyone was animated and took such delight in the social interaction. We were all reluctant to leave, but did so with the promise of another meet up in the not too distant future, when hopefully more members will gradually feel comfortable to come and join us."

Pictured in the photo from left to right: Anthony Portner, Janet Clarke, Marcel Laddenheim, Bobbie Laddenheim, June Wertheim, Pat Coen, Alfred Kessler and Helen Levy.

MARKING MINDU

Mindu signing copies of her *My Story* book



Over 80 people came to honour AJR member, Mindu Hornick MBE, at an event hosted by Singers Hill Synagogue in Birmingham. After a welcome by Rabbi Jacobs, there was a showing of the film *Return to Auschwitz* which followed Mindu's visit to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the notorious death camp where she was a prisoner and her mother murdered.

Mindu was then in conversation with AJR volunteer Nick Lampert, who took Mindu's testimony as part of our *My Story* project. In a fascinating and moving interview, Nick asked Mindu about life after Auschwitz, and how she came to settle in Birmingham. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Keith Rowe, who first approached Mindu to participate in the *My Story* project when he was working for AJR. Over 50 people bought copies of Mindu's *My Story* book, which she was delighted to sign with her usual charismatic flair.

Just days later, Mindu received a second honour when she was presented with an honorary doctorate by Coventry University in recognition of her significant contribution to raising the profile of reconciliation and tolerance. The ceremony took place in the magnificent Coventry Cathedral, when Mindu spoke about her work with Coventry's Peace and Social Action programme and how she herself has benefitted from the support of volunteers helping her with their computer skills.

Mindu's *My Story* book is available to read online: www.ajrmystory.org.uk/people/Mindu-Hornick-MBE Copies of the DVD 'Return to Auschwitz' can be ordered from paul@vyka.co.uk

Fourth time lucky in Cologne

Maybe providence was at play. At the fourth attempt, my family and I travelled to Germany in March to participate in a poignant ceremony in Cologne to install a Stolperstein in memory of my grandmother, who fled to England on a domestic visa, arriving on 31 August 1939. The installation coincided with what would have been my grandmother's 110th birthday.

Originally, stones were laid only to honour those who perished, so we took the opportunity to somehow reunite my grandmother with her parents and brother, Max, after whom I am named, who were murdered in the Holocaust.

My grandmother was born in what is today Ukraine and around Cologne we saw gatherings of refugees freshly-arrived from the current conflict, including encountering two women who had endured a seven-day journey from Kyiv. In the span of just over

100 years, Cologne has taken in Jewish emigrants fleeing the pogroms - including my grandmother and her family - to those escaping from a murderous neighbour, a turmoil we thought was confined to history.

Shortly before the trip to Cologne, my children and I became German citizens, having become eligible through a change in German law last summer that enabled descendants of refugees who were resident in Germany and fled Nazi oppression to acquire citizenship.

Our new passports will give us back a sense of belonging to a wider European community, but I am conscious that such a precious document could have made all the difference to my great-grandparents, as well as to those fleeing oppression today.

In a letter written by my great grandmother dated 2 July 1940 she expresses concern for her daughter from whom she has not heard. She says she has received word from Max and that he is well, but that she is very lonely.

She concluded the letter, "May the good Lord grant that we will be happy and reunited in the coming year. Then we can all



tell each other everything in contentment. I greet you and kiss you."

So, in reuniting my grandmother with her family and the little neighbourhood in Cologne that was her home before the unimaginable happened, we hope that she may rest in peace knowing that her descendants, which now include her eight great grandchildren, have remembered her name: Chaje Sara Geppert.

Michael Newman

CHILDREN OF HEROES

The Embassy of the Czech Republic in London has launched a new project called Children of Heroes to acknowledge the brave Czechoslovak air personnel and soldiers who settled, married and had children in the United Kingdom during and after the Second World War.

Over 10,000 Czechoslovak servicemen and women took part in the fight for freedom in the United Kingdom. Many of them started new families and stayed

here or returned here after the end of the War. Given the time that has passed since the War there are now very few veterans still alive; nevertheless, their legacy lives on in their descendants.

H.E. Mrs Chatardová, the Czech Ambassador, hopes that the project will provide a sense and feeling of the real size of the longest established Czechoslovak community, as well as creating a digital map of the descendants of all of those brave heroes who fought alongside their British colleagues during the War.

The project has two main objectives. The first one is to find and create a database of their living children, grandchildren and families so, if they are interested, the Embassy can engage them in



Winston Churchill visiting Czech troops in the UK

commemorative and other social events. The second objective is to introduce the life stories of the descendants via a series of short video reports published on the Embassy's website and social media.

LETTER FROM ISRAEL

BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



LIVING WITH COGNITIVE DISSONANCE



It goes without saying that a certain amount of cognitive dissonance is inevitable in the psyche of

anyone living in western society in this day and age. Our mental balance depends on finding a way of coping with the situations in which we find ourselves.

Recent events in Israel and elsewhere have led me to wonder if there is a way of quantifying the extent, or amount, or intensity, of the phenomenon. Would it be fair to say that life in Israel gives rise to more or less cognitive dissonance? When I immigrated to Israel in 1965 the country was smaller, life was simpler and yet there were constant threats from the surrounding Arab countries, leading eventually to the outbreak of war in 1967. That marked a turning point in Israel's existence, with the necessity of maintaining some semblance of order in the areas that had been conquered in the course of that war, known variously as conquered or liberated, Judea and Samaria or the West Bank (of the kingdom of Jordan, which had controlled it till then).

Suddenly a few weeks ago the attention of all Israelis was diverted away from the events in Ukraine to a series of terrorist attacks inside Israel. Towns that had been considered free of tension between the Arabs and Israelis living in and around them became targets of killing sprees by Arab citizens who had till then been considered part of Israeli society. The Arabs who live in Israel have the same rights as the Jews; they serve in the IDF and the police force as well as sending their representatives to the Knesset and even forming part of the coalition government.

Ironically, the day of the third and most serious attack was the first day of sunshine and warmth after an unusually long, cold and rainy winter. Knowing that we had to be in Tel Aviv in the evening to attend an opera, my husband and I decided to spend the day there. We had lunch in a restaurant overlooking the sea and took our dessert sitting on a comfortable couch beside the promenade, watching young parents with babies, youngsters on bikes and older people with zimmer frames strolling in the sunshine.

Tel Aviv has a lot to offer, if one can manage to navigate the traffic. We contrived to spend time in the Tel Aviv Museum visiting some of the excellent exhibits there, and ended the day with a performance of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. The acting and singing were excellent, and acclaimed opera director David Pountney managed to introduce

all manner of sly and entertaining elements into the show, including placing a (fake) anti-tank missile in the hands of Cherubino in an allusion to events in Ukraine.

It would have been a perfect day had it not been for the news of the attack in Bnei Braq and the five victims – both Arabs and Jews – that we heard on the car radio as we drove back to Jerusalem. That came after two murderous attacks on the two preceding days. And that just about sums up life in Israel. Beauty, tranquillity, culture and happiness at one moment, and murder, brutality and hatred the next.

There have always been attacks and murders in this part of the world, the birth of the state of Israel was not an easy one, and yet the country has survived and even thrived. Coping with cognitive dissonance is just part of the price we have to pay for having a country of our own.



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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.

UKRAINE

I thoroughly appreciated David Herman's article about Ukraine in your April issue. He could also add the story of the Waffen SS Galicia troops (1945!), which is celebrated on every 28 April (last time in 2021) and the very recent Azov Brigade with its openly antisemitic stance.

I further quote Sharansky based on his Ukrainian experience: "When I grew up in Ukraine, in Donitzk, there were many nations and nationalities there. There were people who had written in their certificate 'Russian', 'Ukrainian', 'Georgian', 'Kozaki'. It wasn't that important, there wasn't a big difference, but one thing was important - if it was written 'Jewish', it was like you had some disease".

Tomi Komoly, Wilmslow

Six years ago I donated all my late husband's clothes (apart from his dinner jacket, of course) to a Jewish charity for poor people in the Ukraine. It was called The Together Plan – www.thetogetherplan.com.

All our thoughts are, of course, with the Ukraine. It is incredible to reflect that during the Nazi era they were ardent antisemites and now have a Jewish President and help from Israel!

Bronia Snow

ISLE OF MAN

I was interested to learn of the joint AJR/Jewish Renaissance visit to the Isle of Man. My father Ludwig Rosenberg was interned there as a possible "enemy alien" in June 1940 and was there for at least 6 months. During his enforced stay he began his autobiography which he continued when he got back home to Totnes in South Devon.

My parents and I (age 2 and a bit) came to England from Berlin in 1934, settling in Devon in 1935 when my father became the main language teacher in the school at Dartington Hall.

I've always wanted to go to the Isle of Man to see where my father had spent his internment but have never managed it so far. Now at 90 years of age I doubt I ever will!

Gabriele Foti (née Rosenberg)

We are totally mystified why more credence has not been attributed to this piece of unpleasant history before now and to the plight of the Jewish refugees which seems to have been buried and lagged behind in the pecking order of the Holocaust émigrés.

My mother fled Austria alone in July 1939 aged 18, speaking no English, with nothing but the shoes on her feet, leaving her family behind, on a domestic permit and, just a few months after arrival was interned in Rushen Camp, Port Erin for 10 months - trauma after trauma! My father also from Vienna was interned on IOM, before being carted off (to internment) in Canada for two years.

Meanwhile the refugees had little to no support with a couple of shillings here and there from the Central British Fund - exceptionally and largely had to fend for themselves without a peer group. They had it very tough, they were not allowed to work, other than as domestics, butlers, chauffeurs, no matter their background or occupation and later on for the Pioneer Corp, or for the War effort, a condition of release from internment.

I once asked why there was no compensation for the internees, from the British Government who had inflicted yet more torment on people who had suffered enough. It absolutely pains me that throughout the years so little recognition has been given to those who fled Europe just before the outbreak of WW2 leaving everything behind.

What I find upsetting and astonishing is that this was the FIRST official commemoration and recognition for these refugees - not kindertransport, not survivors of the camps, not the 45 Aid Committee. I always felt that

the aforementioned took precedence in hierarchy and at the forefront of Holocaust remembrance and education. When HMDT started their events my mother had to actually ask to be included and when Prince Charles started opening the Palace doors, it was largely aimed at the Kindertransport - and as a royalist refugee a disappointment to be excluded yet again.

This trip was the very first trip of its kind to the Isle of Man, 82 years after the refugees' internment as enemy aliens to an island, behind barbed wire, where in addition to their suffering under Hitler, they were now imprisoned by the British. All credit to those involved in arranging this trip - I hope there will be more.

Susan Birnbaum

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Please see the report from our recent trip to the Isle of Man on pages 14-15

COLUMN FROM EUROPE?

In the distant days when my late, German refugee parents were readers of what was then called *AJR Information*, the journal contained interesting, useful, and topical news from Europe, in particular from Germany.

Today's readers may be less concerned with such matters, but after Brexit and the enormous increase in number of second generation members who have received German or Austrian nationality I wonder whether a column from, for example, a Berlin or Vienna correspondent would not be both welcome and instructive.

Joseph Seelig, London NW2

NOTE FROM EDITOR: We would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be prepared to write such a column. Please email editorial@ajr.org.uk

2G

I was very impressed and moved by the contributions of Joan Pollack and Eve Kugler in your March issue. It seemed

to me that both demonstrated a vital longing and need for second generations and others to touch base with their lost roots and come together with others who feel similarly.

I live in South Hampstead and feel particular empathy with Joan. It would be encouraging, given the divisiveness and fractured society we live in, to make the effort to get together with others socially and locally in the real sense and across the generations. Maybe post-Covid we can gradually move away from the Zoom mode of connection and come together in the real world, either through 2G's work or through other interested and motivated parties. Such informal initiatives as Joan's birthday gathering through 2G at the Czech Club might be considered, with variations of meeting places, and taken up on a regular local basis and in other areas of London too, drawing in a discreet network of interested participants?

Yvonne Klemperer, South Hampstead

WILLY KATZENSTEIN

I was interested to read Susan Hamlyn's story regarding her grandfather Moritz Willy Katzenstein (April). Although I have little additional information about her family, I cannot help comparing her story with that of my own parents and grandparents.

My father's name was Walter Rose, born in 1885. Like Willi Katzenstein he was born in Bielefeld, as were his eight brothers and sisters all born between 1874 and 1886. They lived in 7 Hagenbruchstrasse, above the butcher's shop, which had been the family business for a number of generations. This address is only a few minutes away from the Katzenstein home, and it is hard to believe that there was not some form of acquaintanceship, either because they were members of the Liberal Synagogue, or because the Katzensteins may have occasionally frequented the only Kosher butcher in town!

My father moved to Münster in 1906.

LOOKING FOR?

SELMA REICHMAN/RICHMOND

Selma Reichman, born Vienna, came to London in 1939 via Antwerp. Lived with Josephine and Samuel Cohen who changed her name to Richmond. She had a brother. Selma and her friend, Janice Bronkhurst, were evacuated. Janice returned to London, Selma did not. The Cohen family have photographs of Selma aged about 10 or 11.

myralivingstone@hotmail.com

GISELA AND RUTH NATHAN

The Wiener Holocaust Library has received a collection of very moving postcards from the parents of two sisters, Gisela & Ruth Nathan, who were apparently sent on a Kindertransport, probably by their parents, Agathe and Carl Nathan, from Berlin in June 1939 to a family in Gartcosh, near Glasgow. It is assumed that the receiving family, Mr and Mrs Alex Martin, were the children's guarantors. The last postcard sent from a Mr Levy in London is addressed to a Dipl. Ing. Hans Nathan, perhaps a relative?

hfalksohn@wienerholocaustlibrary.org

Like Willy he joined the German armed forces in WW1 and won the Iron Cross (I have mixed feelings about this). In the 1930s he became President of the Liberal Synagogue in Münster, where his best friend, my uncle Dr. Fritz Steinthal, was the Rabbi. In the late 1930s he was forced to close down his business, and spent most of his time helping members of the Jewish Community to emigrate. After Kristallnacht, and having spent some time in Buchenwald, my father decided it was time for us to leave the country. So my parents, my sister Eva and I arrived in the UK in August 1939.

The *Stolpersteine* outside Willy Katzenstein's home in Bielefeld have already been consecrated. My uncle Richard, his wife and two daughters remained in the family home. In 1942 they were deported to Warsaw and murdered. The *Stolperstein* laying at 7



Evelyn (Eve) Levy and young friend, May 1948

EVELYN SARA LEVY

John Davidson is searching for Evelyn and/or any of her relatives or friends. Evelyn came to the UK, into the care of John and Gladys Davidson in the late 1930s, aged about 3. Her mother survived and collected Evelyn; they emigrated to America by 1950. Any information greatly appreciated.

tutorjd@gmail.com

Hagenbruchstrasse will take place on the 16 June this year.

Hans Rose, Manchester

My father also won an Iron Cross in WW1, after being wounded on the Russian Front and surviving the Somme - even making it to Feldwebel (which I was told was unusual for a Jew). My parents also left it too late and died in Concentration Camps together with my younger brother - so I was EXTREMELY lucky that I was placed in a Kindertransport, and continued lucky all my life, right up till now at age 94.

Incidentally, I was amazed to see - on page 15 of your April issue - a road sign marked "Finchleystrasse"! Can that be true, and where can it be?

Werner Conn (formerly Cohn), Lytham St. Annes

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

I think of Raphael as the artist for whom the clocks stopped. They stopped because he had so perfected his technique that you could almost feel and smell the texture of his paint. That technique was considered the ultimate in artistic perfection by the Royal Academicians of his time.

Well, of course the clocks never really stopped with Raphael. Many art movements followed in his wake, most pointedly the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood some three centuries later in the mid-1880s. They preferred the freedom and innocence of the earlier Italian Renaissance and medieval art that came before him. They felt the prescriptive rules laid down by the Royal Academy stymied true feeling and self-expression. And we know how their romantic ideas flowed from that, Ophelia drowning among water lilies, red-haired divas gazing over their shoulders.

Raphael (at the **National Gallery** until July 31) may make you question their judgement. In a short life spanning two decades Raphael proved himself a true Renaissance man, a painter, poet, sculptor and even an architect, tapestry and print maker. He was a prominent figure and his standing is equal to that of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo in the development of European art.

The exhibition claims to be one of the first to show as complete a tapestry of this artist's work as possible in what they believe to be a once in a lifetime show.

Born in Urbino, in the Italian Marche region, Raphael was only 37 when he died on his birthday, Good Friday, 1520 and yet he won commissions from two Popes, Julius II and Leo X and several other luminaries of his era. His standing

Raphael's
The School of Athens,
1511



is equal to Leonardo's – whose influence you can detect in many of his portraits – and Michelangelo's. His sketches after their works are on show here. By his late teens he was working on major commissions, including the *Mond Altarpiece* (1502-3). It is a somewhat static Crucifixion scene, with Mary and disciples gazing up at a blank blue sky peopled with two angels and lots of magenta.

Many of his popular Madonna and Child paintings followed and in some the static quality remained. And yet something else was developing – his ability to capture that sensual quality of skin itself. In *Madonna of the Pinks* (1506) the only pink is the radiant flush on the cheeks of the mother and the baby she is playing with. A knowledge passes between them and the soft pastels of her dress and the furnishings emphasize the gentle intimacy between them.

In *The Madonna and Child with the Infant Baptist* (1509) the soft colours strengthen, the Madonna's face is sadder and more remote, there are clouds on the horizon; the babies are playful but in her tight lips you read her knowledge of their fate.

Many painters were romantically involved with their subjects and in *La Fornarina*, painted in Rome, around 1519, he projects a dazzling seductress, whose inviting eyes are clearly gazing at him, as her left hand caresses her naked breast. This lambent portrait shows her black hair parted beneath an elaborate gold and blue headdress, and her deep and knowing look could not

be in starker contrast to the Madonna's spiritual delicacy. A love affair, perhaps?

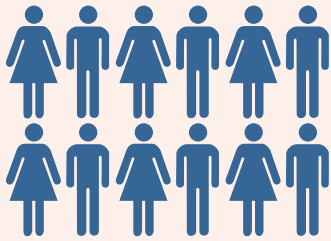
Raphael was summoned to Rome in 1508 to redecorate Pope Julius II's apartments in the Vatican. To reflect his patron's cultural aspirations, he created one of the most famous works in Western art – a fresco peopled with all the greatest Greek philosophers and natural scientists all arguing with each other. There is a near-life-size reproduction entitled *The School of Athens* on the wall of the Stanza della Segnatura.

In his *Portrait of Pope Julius*, 1511, Raphael turns away from both spiritual and sensuous themes to present a man with papal rings on his fingers, clad in papal burgundy with a face full of self-doubt and deliberation. But then we see a portrait of his friend Bindo Altoviti, with shoulder length golden curls, looking back at us with an insouciant gaze – someone who would certainly cause the young maidens in Rome to swoon! He had little time for portraiture once he became chief architect of the potential St Peter's Basilica, and became a successful designer of villas and stage sets, plus his immersion in the artefacts of ancient Rome. His work load was endless – where might his prodigious gifts have taken him had he lived?

Annely Juda Fine Art

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

CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE



1,843
AJR
MEMBERS



536
SOCIAL WORK
CLIENTS
OF WHOM
399
ARE 1ST GEN



946
2ND & 3RD
GENERATION
MEMBERS

294

AJR
VOLUNTEERS
OF WHOM

54 ARE 'TELEPHONE
FRIENDS' TO ONE OR
MORE AJR MEMBERS

135 ARE AGED
OVER 70

67 ARE AGED
UNDER 40

57 HAVE VOLUNTEERED
FOR MORE THAN
10 YEARS

51

AJR STAFF



335
REGIONAL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM

38
SPECIAL ONLINE EVENTS

1,600
RECEIVING OUR WEEKLY
E-NEWSLETTER

2,686

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

80

TREES FOR 80 YEARS

527

LOCATIONS ADDED
TO THE UK HOLOCAUST MAP

18

MAJOR EDUCATIONAL
GRANTS AWARDED

50

MY STORY BOOKS

15,171

USERS ENJOYING AJR REFUGEE
VOICES ARCHIVE



£5,050,134
TOTAL INCOME



£7,427,975
TOTAL EXPENDITURE



£5,489,038
DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO MEMBERS
FOR HOMECARE AND OTHER
SUPPORT SERVICES



£23,698,850
RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD

2021 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year was a challenging but hugely important year for the AJR as we attempted to support and connect members during another 12 months of the Coronavirus pandemic, as well as carry out some special programmes to mark our 80th anniversary year.

As this is my first report as Chairman, having taken over the helm last December, I want to start by paying tribute to my predecessor Andrew Kaufman, who led the organisation so diligently and passionately for 25 years and for his remarkable contribution to the wider refugee community. Andrew will be a hard act to follow, but I am grateful to him, and our fellow trustees, for their warm welcome. I will endeavour to repay the trust they have placed in me.

80th ANNIVERSARY

Despite the pandemic, we succeeded in marking the AJR's 80th anniversary with a series of events and celebrations as well as two high-profile nationwide projects.

In July we launched our 80 Trees for 80 Years project, planting native species of trees, mostly oaks, at 80 different locations throughout the UK to mark places that were significant to the Jewish refugees. AJR members were invited to sponsor a tree in honour of a loved one – an initiative that was so popular that the first 80 trees 'sold out' within 10 days. The tree planting ceremonies, which began last November, have to date been attended by a combined physical audience of approximately 1,500 people, including eight Lord Lieutenants, 50 Mayors, 15 MPs and countless other local dignitaries and influencers as well as you, our wonderful members. The events also attracted considerable media interest, with approximately 150 items of national and local media generated.

In December, we also launched The UK Holocaust Map, in partnership with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). This online platform

highlights sites of memory across the UK related to Britain's responses to Nazism and the Holocaust. As well as the trees, the map features layers of information drawn from numerous sources, including from partner organisations and the AJR's own resources such as our Refugee Voices archive.

SOCIAL WORK

Unsurprisingly, given the backdrop of the pandemic, 2021 was a very busy year for the social work team. We had 82 new referrals, of which 73 were first generation, allowing us to help many more people access funding for Homecare and other vital health and welfare services to enable them to remain safely at home. As in previous years, this support is drawn from Claims Conference funding as well as our own monies from Self-Aid. We always welcome new referrals, so if you know any survivors or refugees who may benefit from having care at home, or might now need some assistance, do encourage them to contact us.

As restrictions lifted we made the transition gradually from working remotely to doing face to face visits. Initially we met people outside and we are now able to meet people in their homes again.

There have been some changes within the team. We said goodbye to Sandie, who retired after eight years' service, and wished Madeleine well as she went on maternity leave. We welcomed Esther, George and Jasbir to the London office, and Sara who is based in Manchester, all of whom bring much experience and expertise.

In August, we carried out a survey of our social work clients. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with many of our members taking the time to write lovely words of praise for their social workers and for the AJR.

VOLUNTEERS

As the pandemic ebbed and flowed, the volunteers department continued to support our members both in person and remotely, helping people to stay connected being at the core of all our work. Our Telephone Friend service expanded and we have

over 70 volunteers regularly calling over 300 members. We continued to offer Pen Pals, with both young people and adults corresponding with members, and through our computer supported many members to learn how best to use their technology and access Zoom events. Meanwhile, our Carer Support service continued to provide one to one and group support.

Carer's Week, in June 2021, saw us providing a wide range of activities, including a wonderful remote painting session. Through AJR Connect members were able to have conversations with those with similar backgrounds or experiences while members living with memory loss and dementia continued to receive bespoke support through trained volunteers. Particular favourites last year also continued to be our range of online activities, Poetry Please and our on-line exercise classes.

Our Celebration of Volunteering event was once again on Zoom, but volunteers enjoyed the little 'tipple' they received in the post, so they could raise a glass at the event, and we continued to provide assistance with Holocaust Memorial Day and Yom HaShoah activities across the country, supporting members with their invaluable contributions at these events.

No report of 2021 would be complete without acknowledging the untimely passing of our indefatigable Head of Volunteer Services, Carol Hart MBE. Her contribution to volunteering – as well as to the AJR – was immeasurable, and her loss continues to be keenly felt.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS & PROJECTS

The AJR continued to support innovation in Holocaust teaching, learning and commemoration through our educational grants programme. Grant recipients included '45 Aid Society, Aberystwyth University, Jewish History Association of South Wales, Council of Christians and Jews and Facing History and Ourselves. Also receiving a grant were the Harwich Kindertransport Memorial and Learning Trust, National Holocaust Centre and Museum, National Literacy Trust, UK Jewish Film Festival, University of the West of Scotland, Wiener

2021 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Holocaust Library and Yom HaShoah UK. Beyond our financial support for these institutions, we aim to help them in other ways, not least by connecting them to our other grantees. In August we hosted our first Funding Partners Forum, an online event for organisations from across the sector to share best practices.

NEXT GENERATIONS

We continued and expanded our work to engage our members of the Next Generations. The two-day 'Connecting Next Generations' conference was held in October, in partnership with the Chelsea Foundation and the *Jewish News*, both online and in person at Stamford Bridge. Highlights included Michael Rosen, Elisha Wiesel, Dr Anne Karpf and Lisa Lipkin. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Other online events aimed at Next Generations members featured authors including Marilyn Moos, Meriel Schindler and Simon May, and monthly online social groups. The Next Generations committee has reached out to other next generation groups worldwide and created an umbrella group to enable collaboration on future projects.

MY STORY

AJR's life-book testimony project, run by Debra Barnes and Naomi Kaye, added seven new books to the collection. 18 further books will be finished before the project ends, leaving us with an archive of 50 individual life story books. Copies are now in the National Library of Israel as well as The Wiener Holocaust Library and the Holocaust Centre North at Huddersfield University, and have been featured in JAMI workshops.

REFUGEE VOICES ARCHIVE

Our online library of video testimonies was enjoyed by a wide audience throughout the year. The site received 15,171 unique users and its various pages were viewed 37,514 times. The team expertly uses social media to promote its content; a tweet about Herman Frankel's testimony in Nowy Sącz was seen by more than 25,000 people. The Archive's content was also expanded, with a new section dedicated to interviews from 2nd

generation members complementing our large library of testimonies from the first generation. The Director of the Archive, Dr Bea Lewkowicz, created partnerships with several organisations in Germany, Austria and the US to further extend our reach, and began planning for two major projects: a dedicated conference on Holocaust testimony, and a national portal to bring together testimonies from a range of sources.

EVENTS & OUTREACH

We started 2021 with the hope that the Covid vaccine would allow us to re-introduce in person meetings. Sadly this took much longer than we anticipated. However, the Outreach Team of Susan Harrod, Karen Diamond, Ros Hart and Agnes Isaacs worked incredibly hard to arrange an array of interesting and varied virtual events, whilst also coping with the demands of working from home and the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

During 2021 we held 335 regional meetings via Zoom and the total number of attendees was 7,335.

We also held a further 38 special events via Zoom, including commemorations for HMD and Kristallnacht, Book Clubs and keynote events; collectively, these were attended by some 1,200 people.

The Zoom programme has proved so popular and reached so many 'new' audiences around the UK that we will be continuing it for the foreseeable future, alongside our long-established physical events & activities programme.

COMMUNICATIONS

We currently have 2,666 Twitter followers, 1,715 Facebook followers, 283 Instagram followers and 453 subscribers on YouTube. Our most watched YouTube recording, *In Conversation with Miriam Margoyles*, has had 17,677 views. Our most successful press coverage for the year was the feature in *The Guardian / Observer* in June 2021 on AJR member Eve Lipmann who receives Claims Conference Homecare support, read by over a third of a million people after being picked up by *Apple News*.

AJR Journal

Our monthly Journal marked its own 75th anniversary in January 2021 with a bumper issue, followed by another commemorative issue in July for the AJR's 80th anniversary. The magazine continues to punch above its weight, enjoyed by readers across the world and attracting feedback and contributions from hundreds of people.

e-Newsletter

The weekly e-newsletter, introduced at the start of lockdown and produced by Susan Harrod, is now received by over 1,600 people each week, with new members signing up all the time to enjoy the wide variety of topics and events that are covered.

ORGANISATION AND STAFF

We were delighted to welcome Esther Duggan, as Madeleine Herman's maternity cover, and George MacDonald, who has temporarily joined the Social Team to assist with our many referrals. Following the departure of Christine Brazier in 2020, we welcomed Sara Dietz to the North West of England. The Finance department welcomed Adam Daniels as Finance Director following David Kaye's retirement after ten years' dedicated service. The Volunteers department said farewell to Ros Collin, who retired after nine years with AJR, and Larissa Jaffe, who returned to a previous career. We were delighted to appoint Fran Horwich as Head of Volunteer Services after the very sad passing of Carol Hart.

After a period of lockdown at the beginning of 2021, all Head Office staff finally returned in July with many protocols remaining to ensure everyone's safety. Covid has certainly not left but we are all trying to deal with it in the best way possible.

All in all, 2021 was a year of determined perseverance amid great uncertainty. As I get to know our wonderful staff, led by Chief Executive Michael Newman, I am hugely impressed by their endeavour and commitment enabling us, above all, to deliver our vital social welfare services. My congratulations and thanks to them all for their successes.

Mike Karp
Chairman

2021 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

As I write this and think about our own history it is distressing to see a refugee crisis once again in Europe, millions separated from their families and displaced from their homes, uncertain about what the future may hold. Surrounding countries and those further afield have been sympathetic and have welcomed and embraced refugees; we hope those who wish to are able to return to their homes very soon.

2021 saw the tide starting to turn against the pandemic with the roll out of the vaccine programme early in the year. We saw several spikes in Covid cases during the year and are seeing them today, but there is renewed hope that while Covid 19 remains we are able to live alongside it and we are able to start getting back to some kind of normality.

Last year was my first full year as treasurer. During the year we said goodbye to our Finance Director, David Kaye, who led and inspired the finance team for a decade; we wish him a long and healthy retirement. At the same time

we welcomed a new Finance Director, Adam Daniels, and wish him well in his now not-so-new role.

Notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic, the delivery of financial support to our members and the wider Umbrella Group, which we lead, has continued unabated with very little delay. Welfare payments for care and other emergency services funded from all sources increased by over £700k (20%) to £4.4m, of which the AJR itself contributed £0.7m in Self-Aid payments to our most vulnerable members. As always, we extend gratitude to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for providing the balance, and for their continued support, and congratulate them on their great success in the negotiations with the governments of Germany and Austria in the provision of funds for this life-changing support. Their funding to the entire Umbrella Group increased by £0.6m. Through the course of the year, 291,000 hours of care were funded for AJR members and 353,000 hours to survivors and refugees through other Umbrella Group agencies.

The Trustees of the AJR remain committed to ensuring that the historical memory of the Holocaust and its impact are preserved through general education as well as in ways that are personal to our members. To this end, more than £300k was allocated to these aims

through projects that the AJR led and by partnering with other educational institutions.

While legacy income fell back in 2021, we remain grateful to the foresight and generosity of former members whose bequests supported the organisation and enabled us to deliver both our services and our mission. I echo the message and encourage our members to remember that legacies provide a vital income source enabling us to continue and further our charitable work.

Following the volatility of the global financial markets due to Covid-19 in 2020, 2021 saw a rebounding of markets, with investment gains significantly up at £2.2m compared to £0.2m in 2020. At the end of 2021, net assets had fallen by £0.2m to £23.7m. The Trustees continue to take regular steps to ensure the organisation has sufficient liquid resources to maintain our vital services. Our reserves remain strong thus enabling us to ensure that these services can continue uninterrupted for the foreseeable future.

I offer my sincerest thanks to the finance team, who are continuing to manage the finance function in most unusual circumstances.

Frank Harding

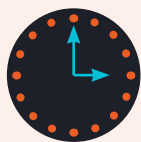
Treasurer

8 April 2022



**20%
INCREASE**

IN WELFARE PAYMENTS



**644,000
HOURS**

OF CARE FUNDED



ALLOCATED
TO EDUCATIONAL
PROJECTS



£2M

INCREASE IN
INVESTMENT GAINS

2021 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

FINANCE REPORT

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2021

NB all figures are subject to audit

Income:

Claims Conference, Six Point & Other Grants
Subscriptions/Donations
Investment income
Other Income

Legacies

Total Income

Less outgoings:

Self-Aid, Homecare and Emergency Grants
Social Services and other member services
AJR Journal
Other organisations
Internal Educational and testimony projects
Administration/Depreciation

Net outgoing resources for the year

Surplus/-Deficiency on realised and unrealised investments

Net movement in funds

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Claims Conference, Six Point & Other Grants	4,432,229		3,486,014	
Subscriptions/Donations	156,788		296,922	
Investment income	386,096		355,659	
Other Income	4,525		3,326	
		4,979,638		4,141,920
Legacies		70,496		161,173
Total Income		5,050,134		4,303,092
Less outgoings:				
Self-Aid, Homecare and Emergency Grants	4,363,369		3,646,109	
Social Services and other member services	1,125,670		1,106,182	
AJR Journal	78,055		84,542	
Other organisations	307,913		92,246	
Internal Educational and testimony projects	223,263		258,295	
Administration/Depreciation	1,329,705		1,231,320	
		7,427,975		6,418,694
Net outgoing resources for the year		-2,377,841		-2,115,601
Surplus/-Deficiency on realised and unrealised investments		2,208,708		181,527
Net movement in funds		-169,133		-1,934,074

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
Summary Balance Sheet
Year ended 31st December 2021

Fixed Assets and Investments

Current assets

Current liabilities

Net current assets

Net assets

Reserves brought forward

Net movement in funds for the year

Reserves Carried Forward

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets and Investments		20,099,692		18,894,090
Current assets	5,354,158		6,525,570	
Current liabilities	1,755,000		1,551,678	
Net current assets		3,599,158		4,973,892
Net assets		23,698,850		23,867,982
Reserves brought forward		23,867,982		25,802,056
Net movement in funds for the year		-169,133		-1,934,074
Reserves Carried Forward		23,698,850		23,867,982

LEAVING OUR MARK ON THE ISLE

At the end of March some 50 AJR members and other interested parties joined a four-day *Enemy Aliens on the Isle of Man* trip organised by Jewish Renaissance. This article is based on information provided by Dr Anthony Grenville for a speech given by AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman during this seminal trip.

In May and June 1940, the British government interned almost 30,000 refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria, some 25,000 men and 4,000 women, mostly on the Isle of Man. These internees were predominantly Jewish; they had been classified at the outbreak of war as refugees from Nazi oppression who posed no threat to the security of the United Kingdom. But in 1940, as Hitler's armies began their advance across western Europe, an unscrupulous campaign was mounted in the right-wing press, portraying the refugees as a potential fifth column of agents for Germany.

On 12 May 1940, the government of newly appointed Prime Minister Winston Churchill commenced the mass internment of enemy aliens; his infamous call to "collar the lot" came three days later. Those detained were mostly held in temporary camps, then transferred to the Isle of Man, where they were accommodated in requisitioned boarding houses. The government also deported some 7,000 refugees to Canada and Australia. But when the *SS Arandora Star*, en route to Canada, was sunk by a German submarine with heavy loss of life on 2 July, the policy of internment was discontinued. Beginning in August 1940, most were released by mid-1941.

Internment was a disastrous government policy. Not only did it cast the shadow of suspicion on the very

community of people most impacted by Nazism, it separated families and caused additional unnecessary displacement. So ill-conceived was the policy that Jewish refugees and Germans with Nazi sympathies were interned together. Internment represented the lowest point in the relations between Britain and the Jewish refugees.

On 28 March 2022, our group gathered at Hutchinson Square, the very location where the refugees were given homes and supported by people on the island, to remember this dark history but also the lives of those impacted. And we also had in our minds those fleeing oppression and conflict today. The parallels between the Russian invasion of Ukraine and WW2 are obvious, but the sight of the refugees fleeing their homes from a murderous neighbour is something we thought was confined to the history of Europe. Unimaginably, those now being displaced include Holocaust survivors who witnessed the Nazi invasion of Ukraine in 1941 and then experienced life under Communist oppression after the war. Indeed, the AJR is now providing our unique support to the first Holocaust survivors from Ukraine who have arrived here.

While many of the internees could not forgive what Victor Cazalet MP, termed a "bespattered page", a senseless and inhumane action against an innocent, defenceless group of people, curiously many internees subsequently took a conciliatory view of internment. Notwithstanding its deprivations many also recalled a rich cultural time while interned, reflecting what Dr Anthony Grenville, in his masterly book *Encounters with Albion*, called "the wealth of creative, intellectual and academic talent confined there."

Dr Grenville cites the example of the composer and musicologist Hans Gal, who recalled in his diary, "And who is punishing us? Are these our friends, the same British people who received us in friendly fashion, recognised our work, offered our children their hospitality, gave us the feeling of a new homeland?" As Dr

Grenville notes, "Internment undermined the stable core of their identity by placing their loyalty in question and treating them as potential traitors."

The futility of Internment is reflected in the response to the publication of the White Paper providing the internees' release, with one British officer noting, "They couldn't release the lot of you at once, after all the fuss they made over your internment. It would look too silly."

These reflections are in contrast to interviews given more latterly to AJR's own Refugee Voices archive, with Kurt Treitel recalling visits from Rabbi Schonfeld to make sure those who wanted it got kosher food for the High holidays, while Walter Brunner remembered: "There was no shortage of food, Isle of Man kippers were very good. We got sick of them because we had them every day. Smoked kippers, you know what they are? And there was nothing wrong, the sun was shining and really if we wouldn't have been parted from our family it was almost like a holiday camp. I learnt tailoring to make ladies coats and costumes."

In his interview for AJR's *My Story* project Heinz Skyte recalled being more or less left to his own devices inside the camp but that a double fence of barbed wire encircled his accommodation in the Central Promenade Internment Camp in Douglas. He said "we cooked for each other and started arranging activities. There were quite a considerable number of academics, artists and professionals as well as us youngsters. They soon started giving lectures and holding discussions. You could have lectures on almost any subject."

Another interviewee, Suzanne Lee, shared that her father taught Spanish to the other internees and met many interesting people, including the musicians of the Amadeus Quartet, while Edith Whyatt recalls: "My mother and I were in a small boarding house. We had meals provided for us; we hardly noticed we were being interned. My mother was delighted with the situation – she loved the view from the window of the sheep

E OF MAN

in the green pastures. We would often feed the seagulls our leftover kippers.” She continued, “At that time I had no idea what the future would hold. We had given up our home, I had to cut my studies short, but we were away from the Nazis and that was the main thing. I don’t remember how long we were on the island, but it wasn’t very long. On the whole, our experience felt very much as if we were guests not internees. I, however, would have liked the opportunity to be patriotic for England.”

Internment is also indelibly linked to the foundation of the AJR in July 1941. It was their experiences here that convinced the refugees of the need for their own organisation – for themselves and by themselves – to represent their interests, and maintain their culture and heritage, and address and support the practical needs of their community.

In its formative years the AJR dealt with the settlement of the refugees and the absorption into British life of those who fled. Assisting people with locating missing loved ones, naturalisation and the fight for restitution were key post-war priorities.

Our focus in more recent years is the provision of social welfare services and the sponsoring of educational and commemorative projects. We were delighted to mark our 80th anniversary last year by planting trees around Britain in honour of people and places that symbolise the enormous contribution made to every walk of British life by the refugees from Nazi oppression.

The tree we have planted here on the Isle of Man honours the family of Manfred (Fred) Kalb who endured displacement and internment. In 1939 Fred’s father, Mendel, managed to escape Nazi oppression in Austria and to come to the Richborough Camp in Sandwich. The following year however, classed as an ‘enemy alien’, he was sent to Australia on the ill-fated ship *Dunera*. Despite the torpedoes and the dysentery he survived the 57 day voyage and was transported with the rest of the refugees to New



AJR Trustee Frank Harding with Alfred Cannan, Chief Minister of the Isle of Man



Sponsor Fred Kalb speaking at the tree planting ceremony in Hutchinson Square

South Wales where they were detained by the Australian government. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour, they were re-classified as ‘friendly aliens’.

Meanwhile Fred, who was just a small child, was brought to the UK by his mother and the pair of them were interned on the Isle of Man for 18 months. As soon as Mendel was allowed to return to the UK he joined them there and the family was reunited.

Another AJR scheme that honours the

lives of especially prominent refugees is our Blue Plaque scheme and during the trip we unveiled our latest plaque at the port of Douglas in remembrance of internment.

We are grateful to Jewish Renaissance’s Aviva Dautch, curator Monica Bohm-Duchen, and everyone who was involved on the Isle of Man for conceiving, persevering and delivering this wonderful trip and for connecting many of the second generation to this compelling history.

Our Isle of Man trip was most memorable, nostalgic, hectic and very interesting.

I would like to thank all at AJR for your hard work in collaboration with Jewish Renaissance in making the tour so successful.

Hutchinson Square made an ideal setting for the tree that I have sponsored in honour of my parents

and I am so pleased that you managed to co-ordinate its planting with the tour dates.

The arranged programme for the four days was most interesting and informative, with excellent guides, lectures, musical entertainment, and a coach driver who even gave us an insight on the TT motorbike circuit.

Manfred (Fred) Kalb

SEAL OF

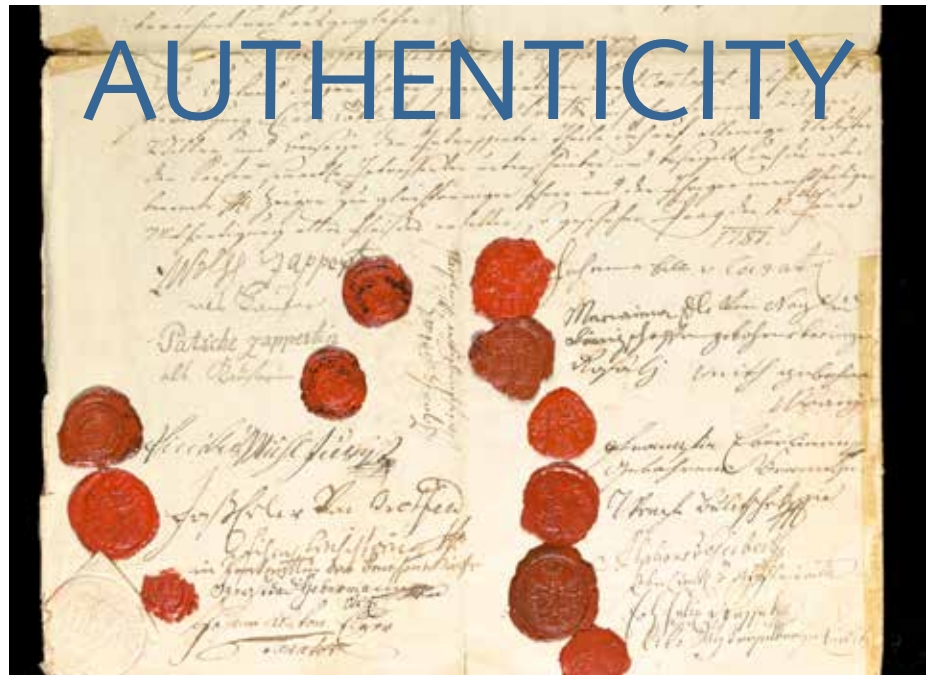
In this digital age where we possess the ability to produce copies, representations and surrogates of documents in ever higher resolutions and apparently ever increasingly realistic formats, it's a relief and privilege to still be able to work with real manuscripts.

Original family correspondence and diaries, reports and certificates, even official letters often have a visceral quality which transcends their function as mere conduits for information. It is especially true where a letter may be the last physical reminder of a loved one. The artefact is a tangible link to those memories.

One of the Wiener Holocaust Library's oldest documents is a contract for a property transaction, dated 1787, the earliest evidence of the purchase of domicile property outside the walls of the Prague Ghetto by a Jew, Wolf Zappert, a wealthy jeweller and philanthropist. It is therefore not only a historically significant document, in the immediate aftermath of Emperor Joseph II's Edict of Toleration 1782, which opened the door to Jewish emancipation, but is also a remarkable object to behold, replete with seals and the signatures of witnesses, the signs of authentication.

The document is part of a collection belonging to an assimilated Jewish family whose roots were in the Austro-Hungarian empire. The survival of the collection is a saga in its own right. It was entrusted to a non-Jewish friend by the twin sister of the donor's father, Karl Zappert (1902-1981), shortly before she committed suicide in Vienna under the Nazis. The papers were eventually retrieved from another friend (the first friend also committed suicide) by the said Karl Zappert on his return to Vienna in 1955 having spent the previous 15 years in Brazil. The papers not only document the affairs of the donor's ancestor, Wolf Zappert, but also Julius Zappert, Karl Zappert's father.

Wolf Zappert (died 1810) was a Jewish jeweller from Prague, by all accounts an exceptional entrepreneur, but also a benevolent employer and supporter of worthy causes. He had many wealthy



customers, some of whom were members of the aristocracy. Whilst his initial attempts to break into the Viennese 'Jahrmärkte' failed on account of the restrictive trading laws for Jews, he did enjoy early recognition by the Imperial Court Chancery when they granted him permission to purchase a house outside the Prague Ghetto walls and very close to the famous *Thein Kirche* (Church of Our Lady before Týn). The first transaction of its kind. He could not only live there but was also allowed to let to other Jewish tenants. Today the building still exists as a gift shop.

Julius Zappert (1867-1941), the great-great-grandson of Wolf Zappert, was a paediatrician and university professor working in Vienna. He was one of a select few pioneers in the field of child neurology in the German speaking world. From 1903 to 1918 he worked as head of the paediatrics department at the Kaiser Franz Joseph Ambulatorium. In 1918 he was nominated director of the newly established *Kinderspital der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde* where he worked until 1938. He became senior lecturer ('*ausserordentlicher Professor*') at the University of Vienna in 1915. In 1917, he received the military medal of the Red Cross for his services during World War I. Julius Zappert was nominated privy councillor ('*Hofrat*') in 1937. From 1930 to 1938 he was a paediatrics consultant for the public health department. He was also actively involved in building and managing a summer camp for sick Jewish children between 1920 and 1938. He held a number of other honorary and charitable positions. After being imprisoned in the immediate aftermath of Kristallnacht he emigrated to



Julius Zappert (1867-1941)

England in 1939.

Karl Zappert (1902-1981) was one of three children of Julius Zappert. He fled Vienna with his wife Hilde (née Singer, 1903-1995) and their daughter Marianne shortly after the annexation of Austria, when Marianne was still a toddler. They initially went to Denmark where they stayed with a family of farmers. At the end of 1939 they managed to obtain permission to go to England. They lived in Slough for about two years before emigrating to Brazil. Marianne taught English as a foreign language (she was fluent in German, Portuguese and English). She returned to England in 1960 and soon found employment with the BBC where she made her career as programme producer in the Latin American department of the World Service.

Howard Falksohn, Senior Archivist
The Wiener Holocaust Library

Thank you Manchester

Two Manchester brothers, sons of refugees from Nazi Germany, recently sponsored the planting of one of AJR's 80 Trees for 80 Years in honour of their parents Fanny and Tony Hunter as a special thank you to Manchester, where their parents settled after the Second World War.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Tommy Judge, and the Lady Mayoress both attended the planting in Fog Lane Park, Didsbury, where the AJR's Fran Horwich explained that trees were being planted throughout the UK to mark the AJR's 80th anniversary and to say "Thank you" to the UK for taking in refugees.

Lord Mayor Councillor Tommy Judge said that Manchester had gained significantly from the many contributions made by these refugees not only to Manchester, but also to the UK. Marc Levy, CEO of Manchester's Jewish Representative Council, expressed the heartfelt thanks of the Jewish community for the refuge given by Manchester to those fleeing Nazi Germany.

Brothers Peter and Ernie said the family was proud of what their parents - just ordinary people - had tried to do to counter Hitler and Nazism. Their parents had, each individually, taken stands against Hitler and the Nazi Party.

Father Anton (né Hundsörfer) was a lifelong communist who, despite the risks, actively opposed Hitler. He used his beloved motorbike to transport illegal anti-Nazi propaganda and even fellow refugees over the mountain passes between Germany and Czechoslovakia, stopping only when it became too dangerous. Wanted by the Gestapo, he managed to escape via Poland, arriving in the UK in May 1939, aged 37, penniless and speaking no English.

His first job was as a farm hand near Worcester. The farm was owned by a Mr. Bibby who also owned a major Liverpool shipping line. When Mr Bibby realised that Father was actually a skilled joiner he moved him to his farm near Liverpool



Peter & Ernie Hunter with their tree

to maintain the buildings, fences etc. In June 1940 he was interned as an 'enemy alien' and although Mr. Bibby managed to get him released, within weeks he was sent to Llangollen to work for the Forestry Commission.

There he met Fanny Hochstetter, who was Jewish and also a refugee from Nazi Germany, and they got married. Fanny and Anton shared similar ideals - as a senior civil servant in the small market town of Laupheim Fanny had defied bullying by demanding an official document stating she had been forcibly retired just for being Jewish.

In early 1945, as the end of the war neared, Fanny and Anton decided they wanted to set up home in a big town and chose Manchester. They both worked hard and contributed to the local economy and community. Tony set up his own joinery business which employed and trained joiners in Ardwick. Fanny set up a well-known local home improvement and timber store in Northenden, employing many staff.

Ernie's experience as the son of refugee parents inspired him to establish the Northern Holocaust Education Group (NHEG) to fill the gap increasingly being left by speakers from the first generation survivors and refugees. By learning about the past we can learn from the past to inspire people to stand up against hatred, discrimination and persecution of any kind. NHEG now has a bank of accredited volunteer speakers who pass on their family stories to future generations (see www.nheg.org.uk).



The young Hunter family in Manchester

northernholocausteducationgroup.org.uk

Both Fanny and Tony had a close affinity with wood and trees, making it appropriate for their sons to plant a British native oak tree as a thank you to Manchester for being so welcoming to them. They were loyal and proud British citizens with a great love for the Royal family – Peter was even given the middle name George, after the then reigning monarch – so it is also appropriate that the tree is part of Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee and her Green Canopy project.

Ernie, wearing a yellow tie and a blue shirt in sympathy with the Ukraine, noted that Fog Lane Park was the park with the greatest diversity of tree species in the North. This diversity of trees can also be seen as a reflection of the great and vibrant diversity of people within Manchester and the North West. The area has a proud record of hosting refugees from all over the world – and continues to do so. Lessons and classes are now being held for the Ukrainian refugees who have already arrived in Manchester.

Ernie Hunter

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

REVIEWS

FICTION DERAILED: FORM FOR THE MODERN

Leon Yudkin

Paris: Editions Suger, 2020

Professor Leon Yudkin was a leading scholar and literary critic, specialising in the study of Jewish and Hebrew literature. He was a prolific writer, the author of more than a dozen works and editor and co-editor of another five books; the range of his interests was prodigious, from individual writers like Shmuel Agnon, Josef Roth and Else Lasker-Schüler to the Prague Circle, French feminist writers, and, above all, authoritative surveys of Hebrew, Yiddish and Israeli literature.

Yudkin had a distinguished academic career. He taught at the University of Manchester for thirty years (1966-96) before joining the department of Hebrew and Jewish studies at UCL in 1996. He died in 2013 and his last book, *Fiction Derailed*, has just been published posthumously.

Fiction Derailed is a book of essays exploring different aspects of the modern novel. What is immediately striking, as always in Yudkin's work, is the range of subjects he covers, individual writers like Joseph Roth and Eric Maria Remarque (author of *All Quiet on the Western Front*) and bigger subjects such as German Expressionism, and, of course, his beloved Jewish writers, from Yiddish literature to Israeli novelists. As he says in the Foreword, 'much ground has been attempted here.'

What is immediately striking about the essay on Roth is the fascinating insights. 'The typical Roth fiction,' he writes, 'shifts between first person narrative and external observation.' But perhaps the most interesting moments are about Roth's life, a homeless outsider, a disastrous personal life and his relationship to Galicia, where he was born. In a letter to his publisher in 1930, Roth wrote, 'Nowhere, in no church record or parish register, is my name entered, or the date of my birth. I feel at home in myself, but otherwise I have no home.' 'His personal life was always in tatters,' writes Yudkin, 'unable to impose control over his physical

decline, his alcoholism and his relationships.' Above all, Yudkin is surely right to say that much of Roth's writing is preoccupied with borderlands and the relation, especially in his most famous novel, *The Radetzky March*, between 'the centre of Empire and the borderlands.' Perhaps this explains Roth's appeal to modern readers today, this sense of the collapse of empire and parts of east Europe which have changed identity over the last hundred years.

In the second half of the book Yudkin turns to Jewish writing with a group of fascinating essays about Hebrew, Yiddish and Israeli literature. The first is about the revival of Yiddish and Hebrew literature in the 20th century. 'One of the paradoxes of the language story of Modern Jewry,' he writes, 'is the revival of languages just at the point when their existence seems to be threatened with terminal decline and even possible future extinction.' He traces the very different histories of Yiddish and Hebrew literature from the 19th century to the creation of Israel as an independent state, their relations to Jewish history in the diaspora and to the surrounding world of east European and Russian nationalism and antisemitism. For example, he links the revival of Yiddish to the pogroms of the late 19th century. Instead of assimilation and embracing the languages and cultures of their Russian environment, he writes, there is 'a counter renaissance of both Yiddish and Hebrew, leading to political as well as cultural revivalist tendencies...' A new kind of Yiddish writing appears, 'less apologetic, less imitative and more assertive.'

But with the Holocaust and the suppression of Jewish culture by Stalin, 'Yiddish was to be more associated with the diaspora.' Hebrew, by contrast, was to be 'more and more associated with the specific aspiration towards a return to Palestine ... and cultural expression in the *yishuv*...' This leads to three essays on different aspects of modern Israeli fiction, from Yehoshua, Appelfeld and Grossman to Amir Gutfreund and Ronit Matalon.

Yudkin's books were published between 1971 and *Fiction Derailed*, almost fifty years later. Leon's greatest achievement, as a critic and a scholar, was that he was a *pioneer*. Who else in this country was writing about Isaac Lamdan in 1971, about Israeli Literature in 1974, about Jewish writing and identity in 1982? Yudkin was one of a very

few critics who opened up a new world for so many of us – a new Jewish literature, written in places far away and sometimes long ago. He helped open the eyes of what was in the 1970s an extremely insular culture to all the great forms of Jewish literature. Leon Yudkin was a great pioneer, a courier, who brought treasures from literatures which were off the map in Britain in the 1970s and this is at the heart of his legacy.

David Herman

OUT OF THE SIEGE OF SARAJEVO

Jasna Levinger-Goy

Pen & Sword Books

The horrors of the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992 may have paled against the drama currently playing out in Ukraine, but they certainly do not deserve to be forgotten.

In this new book AJR member Jasna Levinger-Goy offers a vivid, personal story of a family of Jewish origin who identified as Yugoslavs. It traces their journey over a period of ten years, starting with their life in Sarajevo under siege and ending in the United Kingdom.

Without belonging to any of the warring factions, this is Levinger-Goy's true story, a story that takes place on the front lines in the heart of Sarajevo. The book offers a perceptive view of the civil war through the eyes of those who witnessed it. It presents the motives, reactions and behaviour of people caught in the crossfire of political and military events outside their control. It illustrates coping with dangers and the resourcefulness needed during the siege and during the perilous journey out. It also shows that almost the equal amount of coping mechanism and resourcefulness was required in adapting to new circumstances as well as in building a new life.

Levinger-Goy's venture into the unknown is tangled with the sense of loss – of home, of a country and the loss of identity. Her experience provides an insightful commentary on how these intersect, overlap and ultimately affect an individual. It sheds light on human suffering and resilience, frailty and ingenuity, cruelty and empathy. It describes unique personal circumstances, but illustrates universal behaviours. Although the book inevitably deals with fear, pain, desperation, loss, and

even hatred, it also reveals much about love, hope and happiness and above all about the prevalence of good even in the most difficult of circumstances. Set against the backdrop of a brutal conflict, this book reminds us of the very human cost of war.

ANNA AND DR HELMY: HOW AN ARAB DOCTOR SAVED A JEWISH GIRL IN HITLER'S BERLIN

Ronen Steinke

Oxford University Press

A story of hope in times of extreme hatred is uncovered in this very original story of an Arab doctor who saved a Jewish girl hiding in Berlin – during the war – in plain sight. Anna Boros wearing a headscarf and masquerading as the doctor's niece and assistant, Nadia miraculously managed to survive despite some desperately tricky situations, including being questioned by the Gestapo.

Anna was of Romanian extraction and had lived with her mother and grandmother on the Alexanderplatz, enjoying a comfortable life above the prosperous family greengrocery. Dr Helmy was summoned to visit one day in 1936 when Anna was 11 and it was obvious her elders were trying to ingratiate themselves with the doctor. Later the links were to prove vital.

Mohamed Helmy arrived from Cairo to study medicine in 1922. He worked with Jewish doctors at the Robert Koch Hospital in Moabit which was brutally purged as early as 1933. Helmy was allowed to stay amongst the "Aryan" practitioners and was even promoted, continuing to treat Jewish patients and helping them circumvent Nazi laws. Eventually he was forced into private practice but annoyed Rudolph Hess's younger brother Alfred who denounced him, the brothers having grown up in Alexandria. So Helmy was imprisoned in 1939 but soon released by the Nazis in the hope of securing freedom for German prisoners in Egypt. Afterwards he was able to continue practising, although not allowed to marry his German fiancée, Emmy.

As the war continued Anna's family were systematically impoverished, her step-father lost his job and life became increasingly difficult. Helmy helped other Jews and arranged for her histrionic grandmother to go into hiding with

APPEALING FOR TREVOR

The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust needs to raise additional funds to complete an important Kindertransport memorial at Swanage.

Trevor Chadwick worked for the British Committee for Refugees from Prague from January to June 1939, helping to save 669 children on Kindertransport from Prague Czechoslovakia. He took great risks under the eyes of Gestapo officials, even forging documents when the originals didn't arrive in time and smuggling out adults. He was forced to leave Prague in June when his own life was in danger.

Trevor was a Latin teacher at the family boarding school in Dorset who first visited Prague to collect two refugee boys sponsored by the school and saw the desperate situation there. His subsequent bravery was largely unknown until 2020 when the Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust was established, and plans were unveiled to erect a life size bronze statue on Swanage seafront to commemorate the bravery of this unsung hero.

Although the Trust has managed to raise a considerable sum towards the cost, fundraising has been hindered by Covid. Some additional £18,000 are



A miniature of the Trevor Chadwick memorial statue that will be installed at Swanage

required to get the statue finished and erected this August.

Cheques made payable to: **Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust** should be sent to: **The Treasurer, The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust, 12 Bon Accord Road, Swanage, BH19 2DS.**

By BACS transfer to: **Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust, Lloyds Bank, Account No 2738460. Sort Code 309912.**

Josephine Jackson

a patient. Her mother proved a liability showing a "complete lack of self-restraint" in what she said about Anna's whereabouts at a time when deportations were rife. Anna had so many anxious moments, the pinnacle was perhaps being summoned with Helmy by the SS to meet the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, a fierce antisemite.

Finally it was decided Anna should make a "paper" marriage but the documentation very nearly proved her undoing. With the authorities on the case Anna was forced to move from Helmy's home where she lived. But at great risk to himself he continued to take her to work daily and also helped other Jewish fugitives.

Miraculously Anna survived the war together with her close family. After

marrying Polish orthodox Jew Chaim Gutman she moved to New York. Author Ronen Steinke – a political journalist on the German broadsheet paper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* – met her family while researching. As her daughter Carla told him. "If Dr Helmy hadn't existed, this room filled with 25 people, would simply be empty." He also visited Dr Helmy's family in Cairo. Mohamed Helmy remains the only Arab honoured at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem amongst more than 25,000 non-Jewish men and women "Righteous Among the Nations" who saved Jewish people. The book deftly translated by Sharon Howe also explores the close pre-war connections between the Jewish and Muslim communities. It is an intriguing read.

Janet Weston

OBITUARIES

ERIKA JUDGE

Born: Vienna, 27 September 1925
Died: London, 8 February 2022

Erika Leiter had a happy early childhood but, to quote from her own recently-written life story: “In May 1938 there was a knock on the door and there stood a young man in SS uniform. He marched in, looked around, said ‘Ja, das gefällt mir’.” (“Yes. I like it.”)

The Leiters had to leave within 48 hours. Erika would walk the streets with a can to get food at soup kitchens, enduring constant insults from young Nazis. Jews suffered daily atrocities and were shot on the spot on a whim. Miraculously, Erika left Vienna on a Kindertransport in May 1939.

“Mother took me to the Westbahnhof where about 300 children were waiting for the train. There were mainly mothers as most of the men were already in camps. No-one cried, I think we were all too terrified lest one mistake would stop us leaving. And so we set off on a journey into the unknown”.

Speaking no English, Erika arrived in Cambourne in Cornwall where she was billeted with a certain Nurse Green. She was locked into the house while the family were at work and school, and treated like a servant; she managed to alert the police and was moved eventually to a kinder and happier home. By an extraordinary series of circumstances Erika’s parents also managed to leave Austria.

After school Erika attended secretarial college in Penzance. Now a stunning, elegant 19-year-old, she came to London and got a job at Harry Judge’s law practice where she met and later married his son Robert.

Her only child Susan was born in 1951. Susan lived most of her adult life in Sicily and had a son, Basilio. She tragically died of cancer in 2018.

Erika was intelligent, well read and had an excellent knowledge and appreciation of classical music. She worked for over 25 years at the Citizens Advice Bureau, delivered many talks about the Holocaust, and was interviewed by *The Sunday Telegraph* on the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

When her husband died in 2002, Erika coped admirably, running her affairs most capably, developing new interests, making new friends and still taking regular trips to Sicily to see Susan and her grandson Basilio.

Stephen Warsaw

RICHARD DOVE

Born: 14 July 1938, Brighton
Died: 18 January 2022, London

Professor Richard Dove was a Germanist who adopted what was in the 1990s still an unusual specialism, that of German and Austrian Exile Studies.

He was a brilliant linguist, studying French and German at the University of Oxford, and he initially made a career in business, for which he travelled widely. In a subsequent change of direction to academia, he began to teach German at Woolwich Polytechnic, later renamed University of Greenwich, where he rose to become Head of Department. French had been his main language at university but he now found himself more in tune with German, a preference reinforced by his PhD on the dramatist and political activist Ernst Toller. It was through Toller, who fled Germany in 1933, that Richard first became interested in the study of German and Austrian exiles from Nazism, researching, writing and lecturing prolifically on the subject. In 1995, he co-founded the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies at the University of London, remaining closely involved until his death.

Richard Dove’s works were characterised by thorough research and elegance of style. His biography of Ernst Toller, *He Was a German*, is still widely admired, as is his path breaking study of five German-speaking refugee writers in exile in Britain, *Journey of No Return*. His last book, the delightfully titled *Foreign Parts*, explored the experience of the refugee actors who came to Britain and enriched both theatre and film in their adopted homeland. An important part of his work was his collaboration with Charmian Brinson. This resulted in three pioneering volumes, *Politics by Other Means*, a study of the Free German League of Culture; *A Matter of Intelligence*, a study of the surveillance of refugees from Nazism by MI5; and *Working for the War Effort*, a study of the contribution made by refugees from Nazism to British propaganda at home and abroad during the Second World War.

Richard leaves a wife, Iris, two children, Judith and Robert, and two grandchildren.

Charmian Brinson and Anthony Grenville

TEA WITH CURRIE?

Join the AJR online this month to hear the writer, broadcaster and former Tory MP Edwina Currie talk about her life in politics.

Born in Liverpool to Orthodox Jewish parents, Edwina originally went up to Oxford to study Chemistry before switching to Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Her career in local politics began in 1975 and in 1983 she was elected Conservative MP for South Derbyshire.

John Major, Edwina's political career lasted until 1997. Since then she has written several books and appeared on numerous TV and radio shows, including *Strictly Come Dancing* and *I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here* and her own *Late Night Currie* and *Currie Night* series.



Edwina Currie

Remembered for many things, not least the salmonella-in-eggs controversy and her close friendship with Prime Minister

Edwina will be joining us on zoom at 2pm on **Tuesday 17 May** for what promises to be an entertaining and insightful

afternoon. Join us on <https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/84603112715>, meeting ID **8460 311 2715**.

ONE SPECIAL STONE

AJR Social Worker Lesley Miller is thrilled that her special painted stone will feature on the new UK Holocaust Map.

Lesley, who helps provides social and welfare services to several AJR clients in North West London and Hertfordshire, took part in a 'Foundation Stones' digital workshop organised on behalf of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation in 2021, after which she sent her painted stone by post. A few weeks ago she was told that her stone was one of just 100 selected out of some 100,000 received that will be used to create a special digital trail to help guide people around the map and tell the stories

that inspired the stones.

Lesley covered her stone in dark blue and painted an angel's wing with sparkling silver highlights that glisten when they catch the light. Her accompanying narrative explained that the angel wing "represents a safe place for the souls of the murdered children to seek comfort, shelter and warmth amidst such unimaginable terror...to let them know they have found a place of eternal peace."

Lesley has asked for the stone to be placed on the digital map near Stanmore, Middlesex, where several of her clients are based "...some of whom were just children themselves when they lost everything," she explains.



Lesley's Foundation Stone



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INSPIRED BY STRANGE GROUNDS

AJR member Janet Sayers writes:
As a 9-year-old living in England
my mother Shirley Toulson knew
nothing about the suffering of
fellow Jews in Hitler's Germany
in 1933. Nor did she know
anything at the time about
the November 1938 horror of
Kristallnacht. Many years later
she sought to make amends by
learning about the experience
of Jewish poets like herself
following their arrival in England
as child or teenage refugees in
the months before the September
1939 start of WW2.

Sixty years later Shirley collected some of the poems her Jewish friends and acquaintances had written about their refugee experience. They included a poem in which Karen Gershon, remembering her mother's fear for her in early 1930s antisemitic Germany, said:

*One day when I was nine years old
 My mother shouted in the street
 Which I had never heard her do
 "Remember that you are a Jew!"*

Of the bleak arrival from Germany to England in December 1938 Gershon wrote:

*At Dovercourt, the winter sea
 Was like God's mercy vast and wild
 A fever to a land-locked child
 It seemed fire and cloud to me.*

Together with other teenage refugees from Nazi Germany at that time Gershon had to make her own way. Or, as she put it:

*We unlike the Egyptian slaves
 Were exiled individually
 And each in desolation has
 Created his own wilderness.*



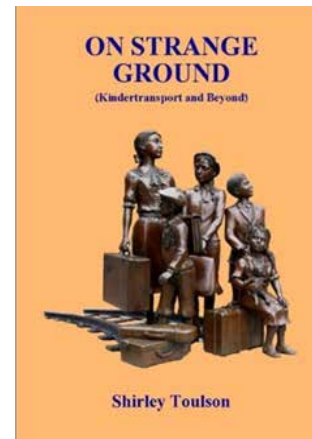
Shirley in England with her aunt at the time of Hitler's 1933 rise to power in Germany

Shirley also quoted another refugee, Lotte Kramer, who, after arriving in London aged fifteen from Germany via the *Kindertransport*, learnt from a brief Red Cross message that her parents had been transported to the camps. Incorporating this message into a poem, she wrote years later:

*"We have to move,
 Our residence will not
 Remain this town,
 Farewell beloved child."
 How can I ever sing?
 A requiem
 In silent, dark despair,
 Transfiguring
 Your Calvary of nails
 And gas and graves.*

Less painful but still problematic for Kramer was discovering that, having been the object of antisemitism in Germany, she was the object of anti-German prejudice in war-time England. Writing about this, she said:

*As a child I began
 To fear the word "Jew"
 Ears were too sensitive.
 That heritage was
 Almost a burden
 Then broke the years of war
 In a strange country.
 This time they sneered at me*



*"German" as blemish,
 And sealed a balance.*

Shirley incorporated this and other poems quoted here into a book, *On Strange Ground*.

Among its many poems it includes one in which Karen Gershon remembered the following occasion after the war:

*I climbed some stairs to a bare room
 in which the Red Cross lists were
 spread
 naming the German Jews not dead
 I could not find my parents' names
 so glad was I they could not claim
 compensation from me for
 the martyrdom that they had to bear
 that I did not grieve for them.*

'It was in fact a grief compounded with the guilt of surviving that Karen gave words to,' Shirley explained.

She then turned to the problem posed to refugee poets of becoming bilingual in German and English. Dwelling on this, Kramer observed:

*Myself, I'm unsure
 In both languages. One, with
 mothering
 Genes, at once close and foreign
 After much unused. Near in poetry.
 The other, a constant love affair
 Still unfulfilled, a warm
 Shoulder to touch.*

Some gave up. Examples included Erich Fried. He was seventeen or eighteen when, following the murder of his father by the Gestapo, he fled his native Austria

THANKS AGAIN ANDREW



Andrew Kaufman MBE and wife Susie Kaufman, together with Julia Gross, the Chargé d'Affaires at the German Embassy, and Michael Newman, at a reception to mark the end of Andrew's 25 years' service as AJR Chairman and the AJR's 80th anniversary year.

for London. Years later, in a poem translated from German into English, he said:

*I will try
not to strive any more to be
understood
only to get back to myself
to the place where I was at home*

*and which now
isn't there any more.*

Language posed problems. So did post-war visits to Germany. Recalling one such occasion, Gershon said:

*When I returned to my home town
believing that no-one would care
who I was or what I thought
it was as if the people caught
an echo of me everywhere
they knew my story by my face
and I who am always alone
became a symbol of my race.*

For some 'familiar childhood sights were set against a backdrop of total change', my mother noted in introducing a poem by Gerda Mayer. In it Mayer said of her post-war Czech birthplace, Karlsbad:

*It has changed its language.
it calls itself by a new name.
It speaks neither my mother tongue
nor the
language of my enemies
(Which is the same)?*

Others were also struck by alterations that had occurred in the town where they had been born. Michael Hamburger, who arrived from Berlin in London aged eight or nine in 1933, observed many years later:

*If now a guest, I go back
To my native city
What I see is not what I know*

*Who from certain death in childhood
Was removed for a second birth
In another city, another country.*

Kramer recalled the kindness and courage of a Catholic family in her childhood home Mainz. Talking as if to them, she said:

*To call you faithful would not be
enough
You came at night because the laws
were wild
With hate. It could have meant a
broken rough
Diminished life for you and for your
child.*

She also explored her feelings about visiting various towns in Germany having previously left there many years before. In doing so she wrote:

*The pavements would not let me rest
they urged me on from street to street
houses and gardens led me past
people whose eyes I could not meet
for fear that one would recognize
and know me by my family
and yet I did not feel that I
was walking among enemies.*

Why, though, devote a book to these and other German Jewish refugee experiences? By way of answer my mother quoted Barbara Dorrity. Of letters her father received from his parents after he arrived, aged thirteen, from Leipzig to London on the *Kindertransport* in June 1939, Dorrity said:

*Words, symbols, connections
With another world, place, age
These words – my unique bridge
To my past, my heritage.*

To this my mother added a poem by Berlin-born Ruth Barnett who arrived in

England via the *Kindertransport* together with her seven-year-old brother when she was four. In this poem Barnett explained:

*I want to tell them how it was for me
to know the horror of my people's
fate.*

*I want to help them hear and bear to
tell
the horror that is theirs as well.*

My mother too wanted other people to know. Hence her book *On Strange Ground*. Her publisher however decided there was a glut of such books and dumped it. Not wanting to disappoint the many people who had shared their refugee poems and experiences with her, she was grateful to the Wiener Holocaust Library for housing the book's typescript.

Some years later, in her early nineties, Shirley helped my brother publish it. In doing so he included on its cover a copy of the *Kindertransport* memorial at Liverpool Street station commemorating the arrival of many child and teenage Jewish refugees there in the late 1930s.

Janet Sayer



Shirley a few months before the publication in 2018 of her book *On Strange Ground*

ZOOMS AHEAD

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

Wednesday 4 May @ 2pm	David Barnett - Fortnum and Mason to Selfridges: the Story of London's oldest super stores https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/81807288757	Meeting ID: 8180 728 8757
Wednesday 4 May @ 4.30pm	Ruth Mandel - Gunter Demnig's Stolpersteine: the intersection of art and Holocaust memorialisation https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/81974729917	Meeting ID: 819 7472 9917
Monday 16 May @ 10.30am	Online yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439
Monday 16 May @ 4pm	Ephraim Borowski - SCoJeC - Representing, Connecting, and Supporting Jewish people in Scotland https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/81523488263	Meeting ID: 815 2348 8263
Tuesday 17 May @ 2pm	Edwina Currie – My life in politics https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/84603112715	Meeting ID: 8460 311 2715
Wednesday 18 May @ 2pm	AJR Book Club Discussion (no speaker) - <i>The Island of Missing Trees</i> by Elif Shafak https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/84377850290	Meeting ID: 8437 385 0290
Monday 23 May @ 10.30am	Online yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439
Monday 23 May @ 4pm	Rona Hart - Positive Psychology, or how to be happy https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/84899986618	Meeting ID: 848 9998 6618
Wednesday 25 May @ 2pm	Dr Rachel Blumenthal - The origins and operations of the Claims Conference https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89008457935	Meeting ID: 8900 845 7935
Thursday 26 May @ 11.30am	Kinder Contact Project https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/82040592840	Meeting ID: 8204 059 2840
Monday 30 May @ 10.30am	Online yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439
Tuesday 31 May @ 2pm	Celia Aberly - Life is a Strudel: Cooking for the rich, famous and infamous https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88458506988	Meeting ID: 8845 850 6988



IN PERSON EVENTS

DATE	REGION	CO-ORDINATOR
Thursday 5 May @ 12 noon	Glasgow 2g	Agnes Isaacs agnes@ajr.org.uk ; 07908 156 361
Thursday 5 May @ 2pm	Pinner	Ros Hart roshart@ajr.org.uk ; 07966 969 951
Thursday 5 May @ 12.30pm	Norwich	Karen Diamond karendiamond@ajr.org.uk ; 07966 631 778
Monday 16 May @ 2pm	Muswell Hill	Ros Hart roshart@ajr.org.uk ; 07966 969 951
Tuesday 17 May @ 10am	Ilford	Karen Diamond karendiamond@ajr.org.uk ; 07966 631 778
Thursday 19 May @ 12 noon	Edinburgh, Newcastle and Glasgow	Agnes Isaacs agnes@ajr.org.uk ; 07908 156 361
Wednesday 25 May @ 12 noon	Glasgow 1g	Agnes Isaacs agnes@ajr.org.uk ; 07908 156 361
Thursday 26 May @ 11.30am	Nottingham	Karen Diamond karendiamond@ajr.org.uk ; 07966 631 778
Tuesday 31 May @ 10.30am	North London	Ros Hart roshart@ajr.org.uk ; 07966 969 951

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