



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

The Voices for Forever

It is almost exactly twenty years since AJR launched *Refugee Voices*, through which first-hand testimonies from almost 300 Holocaust survivors and refugees are captured on film for time immemorial. What's next for this remarkable project?



In a new book, *Émigré Voices: Conversations with Jewish Refugees from Germany and Austria*, the editors Dr Bea Lewkowicz and Dr Anthony Grenville explain how *AJR Refugee Voices* began. Together with Carol Seigel, they curated the exhibition *Continental Britons: Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe*, shown at the Jewish Museum in London from May-September 2002. A highlight of the exhibition was Lewkowicz's 53-minute film, *Continental Britons*, consisting of extracts from twenty interviews with Jewish refugees, which was

shown in a recreation of the Cosmo Café, a famous landmark for many years on the Finchley Road. Inspired by the success of the film, Grenville and Lewkowicz submitted a proposal to the AJR for a *Refugee Voices Archive*, consisting of video interviews with Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors.

AJR Refugee Voices now includes more than 270 filmed interviews with Jewish Holocaust survivors from Nazi Europe who came to Britain. A full list of the interviewees
Continued on page 2

WINTER WANDERS

This month we feature reports from a number of overseas trips undertaken by AJR staff and members. Destinations include St Louis, Burgenland and Carinthia.

We also bring news of a forthcoming conference on testimonies, a special group for younger AJR members and a possible holiday to look ahead to next summer.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and, as always, would very much welcome your feedback and/or suggestions for future issues.

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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 for Forever (cont.)

can be seen on www.ajrrefugeevoices.org.uk/interviewees. They include well-known names such as Sir Kenneth Adam, responsible for the look of over eighty British and Hollywood films, including the first seven James Bond movies, and the immunologist, Professor Leslie Brent, whose work contributed enormously to organ transplantation, the long-time Labour MP Lord Alf Dubs, the publisher Ursula Owen, the journalist Hella Pick CBE and the artist Milein Cosman. But most are ordinary people from all over Britain.

The interviews cover a wide range of experiences. Survivors and refugees talk about persecution in central Europe before the war, how they escaped, those who were left behind, the problems of assimilating and what it meant to become British. Many interviewees are no longer with us, including all of those interviewed in *Émigré Voices*. As the First Generation come to the end of their lives, interviews are increasingly with child refugees and child survivors.

To mark the 20th anniversary of *Refugee Voices* I interviewed Dr. Lewkowicz in London last month. Bea had an extraordinary childhood. Both her parents were Holocaust survivors. Her mother, born in 1929, grew up in Slovakia and survived with her parents and sister with a false identity. Bea's father grew up in Katowice in Poland and was sent to six different concentrations camps. His mother was killed in Auschwitz. Both fled from Communism and settled in Germany after the war. "It was a second trauma. First, the Holocaust and then there was Communism," Bea explains.

Bea grew up in Cologne where she felt an awkwardness. German people didn't know what to say when she told them she was Jewish. "We were oddities but I did not experience antisemitism." Her parents sometimes talked about their experiences but never in detail. The Cologne Jewish community was very small and just two out of a thousand children at her school were Jewish. Nobody really talked about the Holocaust with reference to their own families or Cologne. But when her mother died recently, Bea discovered an account of her wartime experiences.

As a daughter of survivors Bea learned that there are many questions you just

can't ask. She later went to Salonika as an undergraduate, and then as a postgraduate in England, to interview survivors. In Salonika, she says, "there was *real* silence," no memorials, the few survivors kept a very low profile. She is glad that "this situation has now changed and the Holocaust has become part of the Greek memorial culture."

In the late 1990s Bea started conducting interviews in Britain for the Shoah Foundation. "I learnt how to listen properly and to ask questions which I could not have asked my parents." She also encountered more philosophical questions, for example who is a survivor? Is it someone who was in the camps or went into hiding or is it someone who experienced Kristallnacht (hugely important in many of the interviews in *Émigré Voices*)? The photographer Wolfgang Suschitzky, for example, came to Britain in 1935, in his early 20s, but his father committed suicide. Does that make Suschitzky a survivor?

Interviews can help our historical understanding enormously, Bea says. Above all, their stories are there, preserved, for family members, researchers, and Holocaust educators. The interviews provide a record of the lives of interviewees but also of their parents and others who didn't survive. She shows me a Jewish prayer book, given by a father (Ferdinand Brann) to his daughter (Ursula Gilbert née Brann). In his handwriting you can see 'ten guiding principles by your father.' He died in the Holocaust but these 'principles' provide a lasting record of his values.

Some stories are inspirational but not everyone can overcome the trauma of loss and displacement. Bea says "sometimes the trauma is still so present for the interviewee that it is impossible to conduct a chronological interview. The traumatic memory intrudes and just can't be fitted into a neat chronology. Silences are also part of an interview, and these silences also reveal a lot about the difficult past the interviewees have experienced."

Bea has conducted over 120 of the *Refugee Voices* interviews herself. She doesn't use a questionnaire. Interviews are open-ended and usually last between two and six hours. She usually starts with an open question, eg what is your family background? What is fascinating, she says, is how interviewees respond. "It tells you so much about the person. How do they want to tell their



Dr Bea Lewkowicz and Hella Pick CBE during *Refugee Voices* interview, 2019

story?" The violinist Norbert Brainin begins briefly, factually: 'I was born in Vienna in the year '23, March 12th, 1923. I'm Jewish, as is my family.' Freud's grandson, Anton Walter Freud, begins very differently: 'Well, I was born in Vienna like my parents. My grandparents were born in the Austrian provinces. I've got one sister and, luckily, all my immediate family survived the war, except for my maternal grandmother, Ida Drucker, and the four sisters of Grandfather Freud who stayed back in Vienna. All four ended their lives in eastern camps.' Right from the beginning the Holocaust is centre stage, who 'luckily' escaped and who didn't.

For the last section of the interviews the team films photographs and documents, ranging from passports, exit documents, school reports, birth certificates, diary entries and poignant letters. Over 3800 photographs and documents have been filmed thus far. Often it is the key detail that is most powerful, such as when correspondence between a Kind and their parents stops.

Since the interviews started twenty years ago, technology has changed hugely. Instead of video cassettes, Bea and her colleagues use new digital technology. Social media is now so important, the *Refugee Voices* Twitter account has almost 2000 followers, who read the daily tweets. A short clip from an interview with Mirjam Finkelstein, a Bergen-Belsen survivor and daughter of Dr Alfred Wiener, describing how Jews had to pay for their own yellow stars, received more than 55,000 views. Yet some of this new technology, social media in particular, poses its own problems and will be one of the subjects for debate at AJR's international conference about testimony in the Spring.

David Herman

Émigré Voices: Conversations with Jewish Refugees from Germany and Austria, edited by Bea Lewkowicz and Anthony Grenville, is published by Brill and is Volume 21 of *The Yearbook of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies*.

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES FORUM

To coincide with the 20th anniversary of the *AJR Refugee Voices* testimony archive, a very special international conference on testimonies will take place in April.

Organised in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and the UK Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, the AJR's **Remembering and Rethinking: The International Forum on Collecting, Preserving, and Disseminating Holocaust Testimonies** will take place on 19 – 20 April at the magnificent Lancaster House in London.

Numerous organisations around the world are involved in collecting, archiving, and disseminating Holocaust testimonies, many in different cultural settings and/or using different methodologies. As the number of first generation survivors dwindles the curation and sharing of these testimonies becomes ever more important. At the same time, new technologies and social media are presenting new avenues for the use of testimonies but also creating ethical challenges and increasing potential for their misuse.

To deal with these pressing questions the Forum, timed to coincide with Yom HaShoah, will bring together archives, museums, and other institutions which hold

collections. World experts will re-evaluate the many ways Holocaust testimonies have been collected, creating dialogues between archivists, curators, educators, film makers, and oral historians to preserve best practice for future generations. The conference may also appeal to children and grandchildren of refugees who have given their testimony.

To book: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/int-forum-on-collecting-preserving-disseminating-holocaust-testimonies-tickets-468435341717>

For more info please email Dr Bea Lewkowicz, Director AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive, at bea@ajr.org.uk

Introducing The Hyphen

ONLINE LAUNCH:
Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 8pm

New Year, new friends, new community! We're excited to announce the creation of a new group **for those aged between 18 to 40 years**. We're calling ourselves The Hyphen, the name adopted by the AJR Youth Club in 1949!

During the launch event we will introduce the committee and talk about

the exciting events and activities we have planned, as well as a few surprises along the way (think G&T and laughs). Tell your children and grandchildren. Anyone in the 18-40 age group who is the child, grandchild or even great-grandchild of a Holocaust refugee or survivor will be very welcome.

Original Hyphen advert from the
AJR Information in 1949

AJR INFORMATION March, 1949

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Youth Club which, meanwhile, adopted the name "The Hyphen," announces the following functions for March:

Sunday, March 6, 7.00 p.m. (not 7.30 p.m., as usual) at 30 Buckland Crescent: H. W. Freyhan on "The Music of Mendelssohn" (illustrated on the piano). 9.00 p.m.: Annual General Meeting & Election of new Committee.

Saturday, March 19, 7.30 p.m.: Social at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue. Games and dancing to radiogram.

Sunday, March 20, 7.30 p.m. at Buckland Crescent: Hugh J. Schonfield, Historian & Vice Chairman of the World Citizenship Movement: "World Citizenship in our Time?"

Sunday, April 3, 7.30 p.m. at 30 Buckland Crescent: Details to be announced later.

Further particulars may be obtained from the hon. Secretary, Miss Ilse Apt, 121 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6 (stamped addressed envelope to be enclosed).

AJR HOLIDAY ?

Monday 26 June – Monday 3 July 2023
Warner Hotels, Portsmouth

Several members have asked about the possibility of reinstating the AJR Summer Holiday. We now have an option on a week at Sinah Warren Warner Hotel in Portsmouth.

Sinah Warren is situated on Hayling Island, an exclusive inlet reached by a causeway from the Hampshire coast. It is a large and elegant hotel located in what was a 15th century health farm. Surrounded by gorgeous gardens, many of its rooms have balconies or patios overlooking Langstone Harbour. Facilities include a heated



outdoor pool, giant chess, a spa, and tennis courts. There's live music and entertainment every night, and an excellent restaurant.

The cost would be around £900 per person, including coach travel, bed, breakfast and

dinner, and other activities.

We need to gauge the level of interest before we confirm so please email carol@ajr.org.uk asap if you like the sound of this.

We met in St. Louis

In early November the AJR's **Debra Barnes** attended the 32nd annual conference of the World Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Descendants in St Louis. Here are her reflections.

We laughed, we cried. We met old friends and made new ones. We hugged those we had only ever seen on Zoom. We shared our stories and our ideas for the future. And we danced!

I was honoured to be attending the conference together with the chair of AJR's Next Generations special interest group Danny Kalman. Due to Covid this was the first time in three years that the conference had taken place, but even so the number of participants was relatively low compared to previous years. A number of people were unable to attend due to having been exposed to the virus and at dinner on Saturday we were informed that the band had cancelled due to Covid! Luckily there were a couple of enthusiastic would-be DJ's present to save the evening and we were able to party the night away.

While the majority of the attendees were from the US, there were also representatives from Israel, France and, of course, Danny and me from the UK. The incredibly full-programme, which in some sessions allowed a choice of up to six different talks, included plenary panels on the emotional impact of the pandemic and current world events on survivors from Charles Silow and Yonit Hoffman, and Jonathan Ornstein on how JCC Krakow is rebuilding a Jewish community and helping Ukrainians in the shadow of Auschwitz.

For the panel on Creative Ways of Remembrance I spoke about AJR's wealth of resources including *80 Trees for 80 Years*, *Refugee Voices*, *My Story* and the *UK Holocaust Map*, while Danny was part of another panel on Starting and Maintaining Second, Third and Intergenerational Groups. Clinical psychologist Irit Felsen, who spoke at AJR's Connecting Next Generations conference last year, ran a number of workshops and gave a plenary speech on *Living Our Best Lives Now*, which was a highlight of the conference for myself and many others.

To close the conference there was a panel discussion on 'Where do we go from here?' Representing the AJR, Danny (using the analogy of King Charles' reign) said the 2Gs will have a short tenure and should have a succession plan in place ready to handover to the 3Gs. Dave Reckess, executive director of 3GNY (with whom AJR partnered for the online Eichmann Trial event during lockdown) said that we're in the middle of an exciting 3G movement and we need to work quickly and together.

There were opportunities to continue these discussions throughout the conference. We debated the past, present and future, and we ate, drank and danced together. We laughed together. As one speaker pointed out "We have our responsibility to continue remembering the Holocaust, but we also need joy in our lives. We mustn't lose sight of ourselves."

Additionally, we had the opportunity to see something of our host city. A bus tour took us to the St Louis Union Station, once the largest railway station in the country, now a hotel and entertainment complex: absolutely stunning and well worth a visit. The Missouri Historical Society Library and Research Center is another beautiful building we visited which was the former United Hebrew Congregation Synagogue. The interior reminded me of the Stadttempel in Vienna which I visited this summer. We stopped at Washington University in St Louis to see the outdoor exhibition of portraits of Holocaust



Danny Kalman and Debra Barnes at St Louis' Gateway Arch

survivors, *Lest We Forget* by Luigi Toscano. Incredibly, Luigi was there to greet us. He has photographed over 500 survivors from all over the world, and is keen to bring the exhibition to London!

There was no time during the bus tour to stop at the Gateway Arch (the tallest arch in the world) so Danny and I nipped down there during a break.

At the end of the conference, after the tears and hugs and promises to meet again, we made a quick visit to the brand-new St Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum, due to open later that week. This impressive and beautifully-designed space features the lives of many of the 850 Holocaust survivors who settled in St Louis. Some of our group recognised family members in the exhibits which cover life before, during and after the war.

This was an unforgettable weekend. The 2023 conference will be held in Washington DC in late-August, and the 2024 conference will be somewhere in Europe. I would urge everyone to consider it but, be warned... if you go once, you will want to go every year!

LETTER FROM ISRAEL

BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



OUR PRAGMATIC NEIGHBOUR



We decided to hold a celebration marking a milestone birthday on the neighbouring island of Cyprus.

Family members came from various parts of Israel and the world, a hotel in the seaside resort of Ayia Napa was chosen and the dates for our four-day stay were selected to coincide with Israel's eight-day festival of Sukkot, when schools, colleges, universities and many places of work are closed.

The flight from Tel Aviv to Larnaca takes about half an hour, the drive to Ayia Napa another half-hour and then we reached our destination – a small hotel on the beautiful coast. Our rooms overlooked the sea and the marina where yachts and fishing boats bobbed up and down with the waves, and fishing and sailing excursions were offered.

The history of Cyprus goes back many millennia, and the island has been invaded and settled by different nations and cultures, among them the Greeks and the Romans, of course. Its inhabitants appear to have learned to adapt, with its two main groups identifying as either Turkish or Greek. In 1925 the British made it a Crown

Colony, and established a strategic military base there. In 1960 the island gained independence, but tensions between the two groups persisted. Anyone like me (and presumably many readers of this publication) who has lived long enough can remember the name of Bishop Makarios and the Enosis movement and a time when violence ravaged the island. Events culminated in 1974, when Turkey invaded the country. The resulting combat ended with the partition of the island into two parts, one Turkish the other Greek. However, the Turkish part is not recognised by the UN or any country other than Turkey.

While we were there we were not aware of any tension or hostility and, since the livelihood of a large proportion of the inhabitants rests on tourism, it is evidently in their best interests to maintain the prevailing mood of optimism and charm. The climate is very similar to that of Israel (mostly Mediterranean), which leads most hotels to close down completely during the winter months. Along the promenade of Ayia Napa restaurants cater to every taste, with special emphasis on fish and seafood.

Whether in the hotel or outside it, everyone was friendly, helpful and polite. Most people spoke excellent English. It was something of a surprise, therefore, to come across a memorial plaque installed on the promenade in 2021 commemorating the victory in a 'heroic battle between Greek Revolutionaries and Turkish soldiers of the Famagusta

Guard' held there in 1828 'with the victory of the Greeks.'

There is no avoiding the parallels with Israel's own history and the conflict between two populations both laying claim to the same land. The Turks and Greeks of Cyprus seem to have settled into the *modus vivendi* of partition, with a clear line dividing the two parts of the island. At present there are no overt hostilities, and it would seem to suit both sides to keep the situation as peaceful as possible, enabling everyone to get on with their lives and livelihoods.

Ah well...

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VIENNA'S STEINE DER ERINNERUNG

Barbara Dean writes: In his letter to the *Journal* (October 2022), Irving Adler suggested a standalone article about Vienna's *Steine der Erinnerung* [Stones of Remembrance]. Mr Adler is right to advocate this amazing project, and I hope to do it justice.



Elisabeth Ben David-Hindler

The park at Elderschplatz in Vienna's 2nd district is named **Dr Elisabeth Ben David Hindler Park**, in loving memory of Liesl, the guiding light behind the *Steine der Erinnerung* project who tragically died prematurely in May 2016. In 2005 she had received a letter from her uncle in Israel, Ephraim Levanon (born Fritz Weiss), asking her to create a memorial in Vienna to his parents (her grandparents) who were victims of the Nazis. Liesl consulted with her partner Karl Jindrich (sadly also deceased in the very same year), a mechanical engineer, who worked out how memorial stones like the *Stolpersteine* of Germany's Günter Demnig could be made. Karl's new mission as technical project leader was thus sealed, but Demnig saw such a project in Vienna as competition and refused to allow the name *Stolpersteine* to be used. So the alternatively named *Verein [association] Steine der Erinnerung* was born with six committee members of relatives and friends.

Founded in 2005, association and its partners have placed hundreds of brass memorial stones in the pavements of

Vienna. There are now stones at 800 addresses, remembering 3,500 of the 64,000 Viennese Jews who fell victim to the Nazis. More are being set all the time. The stones help to keep alive the memory of the murdered Jewish residents of Vienna before the Holocaust, by providing symbols that anchor them in the districts where they lived, worked, studied, raised families, went to concerts and theatres, worshipped in synagogues, walked in parks, socialised. The project also enables the victims' descendants to commemorate their ancestors, who have no grave. Further, since support is forthcoming from today's Viennese population, Jewish and non-Jewish, it is a sign of promising change in Vienna.

Another sign is the city's willingness to finance the maintenance of the stones. Classed as official memorials, they are regularly cleaned and repaired as necessary at the expense of the capital. As well as the *Steine* themselves, each at its own *Station [address]*, *Wege der Erinnerung [paths of remembrance]* in the City's 2nd and 20th districts commemorate specific scenes of Jewish life, eg theatres, synagogues, schools, etc. Such projects are financed by



Daliah Hindler sets a stone in Vienna's 8th district

sponsorships and voluntary donations, and of course anyone wishing to place a stone faces a moderate charge. Stones are usually placed in the pavement, with the agreement of local residents. Occasionally, they are installed on the walls of doorways in apartment blocks instead. The dedication is frequently witnessed by the next generation of the family, or succeeding generations, often travelling long distances from overseas, as well as neighbours, passers-by, and representatives of the City.

In keeping with her personal philosophy, Dr Ben David-Hindler did not wish to burden her daughter, Daliah, with this difficult work. However, Daliah sees it as a privilege. As well as sitting on the committee with six others, she sings with the ensemble *Avanim* (Hebrew for "stones"), a music group performing songs in Yiddish and Hebrew which often accompanies the "stone settings" and has even produced its own CD.

More information on www.steinedererinnerung.net

The late Elisabeth Ben David Hindler, who began this project in Vienna in 2005, arranged a wonderful moving ceremony in 2010 for myself, my brother and our children. What surprised us was the number of people who attended from the neighbourhood. An extremely moving occasion, it was attended not only by Elisabeth, who welcomed everyone, but also the Vize-district Head Councillor Madelaine Reiser who in her speech took personal responsibility for what had happened to the Jewish community.



Gordon family Stolperstein in Vienna, 2022

I spoke about my family followed by a class of school children from

SchülerInnenschule, who had been learning about my family who read out a text they had prepared. They brought lilac, my mother's favourite flower, to lay around the stones.

On a recent visit to Vienna, 12 years later, the stones are intact and my granddaughters and daughter-in-law helped me to clean them. As the lilac season had ended we placed roses around the stones and were gratified to see they were undisturbed two days later.

Continued on page 7

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.

NANSEN PASSPORTS

I've never quite understood the Nansen Passport 'issue' so am especially grateful for David Herman's thoughtful essay on the subject (November).

I'm a devoted reader of the *Journal* and am impressed with how interesting the new and enlarged format has become.

Tom Freudenheim, London W11

BARBARA WINTON

I was very saddened to read that Barbara Winton had passed away (November).

Having been one of the lucky children that her wonderful father, Sir Nicholas Winton, rescued from Prague on one of his Kindertransports, I subsequently had several opportunities to meet both her and her father. Barbara and I sat together at the Holocaust Memorial Day *Antiques Roadshow* broadcast a few years ago.

How very sad that she died so relatively young – her father lived past his 100 years!
Bronia Snow, Esher

TRUFFLES & TALES

I get the newsletter, having inherited it from my father who liked to read it. My parents had many friends from continental Europe. My father came here from Byelorussia aged 9 months in 1921 and my mother was a Holocaust survivor born in Komarno near Lvov in 1922, who came here in 1945.

In a previous edition I was interested in the

passage on 'Jewish Hampstead' about the Louis Patisserie, which descended from its heights probably in the 1970s. I was told it was owned by a Prollmeyer Louis who wasn't Jewish but who had many Jewish friends. Your newsletter recounts a version saying he was Jewish. Are you correct? I used to occasionally see the man in the shop and he had a tallish, very untalkative daughter with fair hair, who used to stand near the window and serve. In the 1970s I used, more often than not, to find I spent £5 a week there on rum truffles and pretzels.

On another matter, I do not seem to recall ever noticing articles in the newsletter in which people mention how much better or worse it was where they came from than where they are now writing from – presumably the UK or USA. It would be nice to see some articles either of first-hand comments or those passed down to them by their parents.

Martine Ellman, London N12

COMPLIMENTS

Please pass my compliments on to the production and editorial team of the *Journal*. It's always such a pleasure to receive it, and I am sure many other members think the same. I enjoy it a lot. With very kind regards to all at the AJR.

Simon James (Rikowski), Wales

Art Notes: Gloria writes so well again... And G2G is set up very well - I really am impressed with the quality of their work.
Michael Marx, Watford

When visiting Vienna, one must also visit the Wall of Names, Vienna's Shoah Memorial in Ostarrichi Park, listing the names of the 65,000 Austrian Jews who perished. To see the names of my grandmother, aunt and uncle carved on the bare stone as well as those of our large, wider family was an emotional experience which will never leave me.

Judith Gordon, Wilmslow, Cheshire

LOOKING FOR?

FAMILY NAJMANN

The Wiener Holocaust Library was recently given a box containing restitution files of a Jewish family from Breslau. It was discovered in a house in Belsize Park.

The files relate to Chuno and Blima Najmann, whose four children (John, Herbert, Jochi and Hannah) were born in the 1920s & 1930s. The Library has already ascertained that John died in Jerusalem in 1998 and is hoping to trace any other family members.

hfolksohn@wienerholocaustlibrary.org

HANNAH WEINSTEIN/WINTON

Helen Levy is looking for anyone connected to Hannah Weinstein/Winton, who lived at 'Clevedon', Prestwich Park Road South, Prestwich, where she took in Helen's mother, a 12 year old Kind from Berlin, in 1939. According to records, Hannah was born on 19 July 1896 and died on 30 June 1962 in Manchester. She married Martin Winton, who died in 1955.

levy_allan@hotmail.com

RABBI SCHMUCKLER

Rabbi Abraham Leib Schmuckler was born in Pshworsk, then in Galicia / now Ukraine. In 1912/13 he moved with his family to Leipzig. He was the Rabbi of the Chevrah Mishnayoth Shul at Humboldt Strasse 24, made Aliyah just before the War, then returned to Leipzig.

kgraham@hwca.com

OLGA GLÜCKSMANN

Chile-based Ricardo Glücksmann Meissner is looking for any information about his grandmother, Olga Glücksmann, born 1884 née Silberstein, whose name appears in a transport list from Bielko Biala on 29 June 1942, destination unknown. Her son, Ricardo's father, survived but was never able to ascertain exactly what happened to his mother.

r.glucksmann@ictinos.cl

Continued from page 6

Helping the relatives of Nazi Victims from Vienna reclaim their Austrian citizenship I was surprised to learn how many of them were unaware of this project, which is now managed by Elizabeth's daughter Daliah. She gave me permission to share the application form (<https://steinedererinnerung.net/en/my-contribution/my-stone/>) and also asked me to emphasise the need to be patient as the process takes a while.

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

The Royal Academy's *Making Modernism* is its first exhibition devoted to women artists in Germany in the early 20th century. Included are 67 paintings and works on paper, which the RA claim have never been shown in Britain before.

The German Expressionist **Käthe Kollwitz**, who was born into a socialist family in East Prussia in 1867, had an exceptional gift for portraying the raw and visceral emotions released by worker poverty, war and bereavement. She wrote in her diary in 1920 – "I have no right to withdraw from the responsibility of being an advocate. It is my duty to voice the sufferings of men, the never-ending sufferings heaped mountain high."

But in her most powerful work it is women whose torments she conveys in her etchings of the deaths of mothers and children. Kollwitz is one of mainly four women artists featured by the Royal Academy. The other artists are **Paula Modersohn-Becker**, **Gabriele Münter** and **Marianne Werefkin**, with additional contributions from **Erma Bossi**, **Ottlie Reylaender** and **Jacoba van Heemskerck**.

Their work is as key to the history of Modernism as that of their male contemporaries such as Kandinsky or Klimt.



Käthe Kollwitz, *Lovers Nestling Against Each Other*, 1909-10

Gabriele Münter,
Portrait of Anna Roslund,
1917



Mainly figurative, there are several urban or rural scenes, but it is interesting to study their contradictory treatment of women's lives and expectations.

The masculine representation of the mother and child, for instance, has been largely inspired by the Madonna theme. Yet Berlin-born Gabriele Münter's stunning portrait of the writer *Anna Roslund* eschews any sense of conventional womanhood altogether. Deep in thought, the stylish, pipe-smoking writer, blue eyed and distant, is presented with an insouciant confidence typical of the 'new' woman of the early 20th century. Yet by contrast her thickly applied impasto self-portrait shows a questioning, uncertain and introspective face. Münter began an affair with Kandinsky after studying at his Phalanx art school in 1902 and her house in Murnau was the regular summer setting for Kandinsky and fellow artists Jawlensky and Werefkin to discuss contemporary art.

Motherhood is barely celebrated in Marianne Werefkin's *Twins*. Two long-faced women dressed totally in black appear to sit waiting for something, each holding a faceless child. Their inscrutable expressions against a cheerful background of orange and green seem to question motherhood as a source of fulfilment, in fact they appear constrained by it.

The Moscow-born, aristocratic Werefkin spent an itinerant youth studying at several cities around the Russian Empire and retrained as a painter after an accident when she shot her own hand during a hunt. Initially inspired by Velasquez, her exposure to Symbolism and Fauvism and the work of Gauguin, Matisse and Derain, infused her with new ideas. Moods and fleeting human emotions galvanise colourful works such as *Circus – Before the Show*, where a sense of nonchalance and waiting while crowds gather, has its own tension.

German-born Paula Modersohn-Becker's *Girl with Child* offers a different approach. Instead of her mother, the baby in a red spotted dress clings to a teenager, possibly her sister, who regards her with both sibling tenderness and a distance that questions her

own future maternal role. In *Self-Portrait on the Sixth Wedding Day*, a radical painting for its time, she turns to the viewer with a challenging smile, proudly indicating her pregnancy. The quizzical look is sadly prophetic: just a year later, at the age of 31, she died after the birth of her first child.

Yet for me nothing rivals the visceral agony of Kathe Kollwitz's *Woman with Dead Child*; here the etching of the mother holding her dead baby turns death and bereavement into a circle of unrelenting pain and loss. The raw emotion of Kollwitz's work transcends any genre.

These early 20th Century artists challenge current ideals of female roles as objects of desire or reproduction. Their portraiture questions how they see themselves and others in an entirely female way, unrelated to prevailing male attitudes. Yet such Modernist ideas were all swept away in the '30s with the rise of the Nazis who rejected all Expressionist art, and favoured a vapid, stylised *kaffee und kuchen* poster art, placing women back in the kitchen. Thankfully, Modernist art has survived and proved women have played a major role in its development.

Making Modernism at the Royal Academy until 12 February 2023

Annely Juda Fine Art

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

**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**

AJR FUNDING PARTNER

Jewish History Association of South Wales

In the second of our series looking at organisations that receive grant funding from the AJR we look at a wonderful project that has overcome lots of challenges to create the first ever range of Holocaust resources for Welsh schools.

Although teaching about the Holocaust is compulsory in England, this is not the case in Wales. This meant that there were hardly any Holocaust educational resources in Welsh, and none with any link to Wales. The Jewish History Association of South Wales (JHASW) felt that making available free, high-quality resources to educators would encourage them to introduce Holocaust education into their classrooms.

So in October 2022, working in partnership with the Centre for the Movement of People (CMOP) at Aberystwyth University, the JHASW began a year-long project entitled **Côf a lithr, llythrau a geidw**. This is an old Welsh saying that translates as 'Memory slips, letters remain'.

The aim of the project was to develop 20 bilingual (English/Welsh), locally relevant Holocaust resources for Key Stages 3 and 4, using testimonies from the archives of AJRs Refugee Voices, Imperial War Museums, and JHASW (whose Welsh name is *Cymdeithas Hanes Iddewig De Cymru*, or CHIDC).

These resources would be listed on *Hwb*, the Welsh Government's digital platform for learning and teaching in Wales, and published on the *Learn* section of People's Collection Wales, which is a free website dedicated to bringing together Wales's heritage. *Hwb* is the primary source for educational resources in Wales, acting as a portal to various 'Creative Learning Partners' such as People's Collection Wales.

The JHASW drew up a list of topics to be covered in the new Welsh language



One of the 20 new teaching resources focuses on the Holocaust and the Welsh language. It includes the story of Kate Bosse-Griffiths, a German-Jewish refugee, who fled to Wales and became a leading figure in the Welsh-language movement. Our image shows Kate Bosse and Gwyn Griffiths on their wedding day, Pontypridd, September 1939, courtesy of Heini Gruffudd.

resources: Kindertransport; Kristallnacht; Jewish refugee artists; Treforest Trading Estate; Internment of 'enemy aliens'; Jewish refugees in domestic service; the religious life of Jewish refugees in Wales; Jewish refugees and the Welsh language; Jewish refugee doctors, dentists and nurses in Wales; Jewish refugees who joined the British armed forces during World War Two; the liberation of camps and ghettos; Jewish refugees' sense of identity in post-war Wales; Holocaust commemoration.

The basic workflow was to identify sources, obtain permissions, create and then publish the resource. This might sound simple on paper. But some projects sail through calm seas with good wind and clear skies: This was not one of those projects. This project had storms, doldrums, reefs and an unruly leviathan.

Klavdija Erzen, JHASW/CHIDC Programme and Project Manager, explains: "The short timescale of the project, allowing for set-up and evaluation, meant that we had to produce two resources a month. We envisaged a smooth, continuous process but we proceeded by fits-and-starts; some permissions took a long time to arrive; some

didn't arrive at all, so we had to revise the resource; there were delays in translation; there were delays in publishing; and there was a major change to the criteria."

For example, in May 2022 the JHASW was advised by the Welsh Government that the 10 resources that had already been loaded on *Hwb* needed to be adapted for the new Curriculum for Wales. In the absence of any specific guidance as to how to do this the JHASW struggled with how best to change their approach for the remaining resources, and in September 2022 was told that the final six lessons could not be listed. This was a major setback.

Eventually the Welsh Government relented and all 20 resources have now been listed.

Other challenges included working with a wide number of external partners. As Klavdija explains: "Some were small with few staff, which meant that, despite their immense professionalism and goodwill, they were not always able to process our resources as quickly as we wished. Conversely, some organisations were huge and bureaucratic, which, ironically, produced the same result, but for entirely different reasons."

Klavdija and the rest of the project team, which included Rob Jones, JHASW/CHIDC Digital Content Manager, are grateful to the AJR for its support throughout the project. As Rob explains: "Not only did AJR, especially Alex Maws, give us invaluable advice at the start of the project, they also recognised and accepted that some of the changes we made mid-voyage were beyond our control."

"Looking back, this project was at times really frustrating but ultimately, extremely rewarding. We have created Holocaust education resources where none existed before; hopefully, they will contribute significantly to Holocaust Education in Wales."

The resources can be seen at <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/learn/query/holocaust>.

Diary of a German

Werner Cahn was a Kindertransportee who spent the war in Belfast. He left a diary with one of his host families, the Kennedy family, which offers great insights into his life during those years.

In 1933 following the rise to power of the National Socialist party in Germany the lawyer, Doctor Fritz Cahn-Garnier, of Jewish origin, was relieved of his post as Deputy Mayor of the City of Mannheim. However, he escaped further persecution until after Kristallnacht in November 1938. Fortunately, he was able to send his son Werner, then aged 15, to England on a Kindertransport on 20 July 1939. Werner's guarantor was Lady Cleaver of 'Robinson and Cleaver' fame, one of Belfast's largest department stores, and he stayed in regular contact with her throughout his time in Belfast.

Werner travelled to Belfast on the Liverpool boat, arriving in Northern Ireland on 22 July 1939. He lived initially with Mr and Mrs Fulton and their daughter Ella at 24 Wellington Park Avenue, Belfast, and within two weeks of arrival was diagnosed with appendicitis which required surgery. He would not have received treatment back in Germany.

Werner was sponsored by the Belfast Committee for German Refugees. Mrs Norah Douglas, whose husband was Headmaster of Friends' School, Lisburn, a Quaker school, applied to get Werner free education and dinners at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (Inst). The Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr JK Stephens, approved the application and consequently Werner enrolled at Inst that September. It was his first experience of formal school for five years.

For Christmas 1939 Lady Cleaver gave Werner a new 'Sunday suit' and with the Fultons he went to Bangor to spend the day with Mrs Fulton's parents, Dr and Mrs Frank. They went for a walk after listening to the King's Speech on the

wireless and returned to a Christmas turkey dinner and plum pudding.

Werner remained at Inst until June 1941 when he sat the Intermediate Certificate Exam. He experienced the Belfast Blitz, which may have been difficult for him, but he never spoke of any misplaced animosity shown towards him by other boys because of his German origin. Denis Maniece, who knew Werner at Inst, commented that "we were all just boys together, why would we show him any animosity?" In October 1940 Werner's classification was changed from enemy to friendly alien. His final school report highlights his industry and discipline and his interest in boxing and rowing. There is now a trophy at Inst awarded annually for outstanding contribution to sport called the Cahn-Garnier Trophy and dedicated to the Kindertransport Children who came to Northern Ireland.

One of the items in Werner's diary is a cutting from the *Belfast Telegraph* of an obituary for Dr. Frederic J Litten. He had been Vice-Chancellor of Königsberg University but had fled Germany in 1939 and died on 19 February 1940 at Lisburn. His eldest son, Hans, a brilliant lawyer, died in Dachau concentration camp after nearly five years of imprisonment and torture. His 'crime', as well as being Jewish, had been in accepting a brief to defend communists before the Nazis came to power. He had called Hitler to the stand and interrogated him about the violence of his paramilitary thugs and made a fool of him. Mr and Mrs Douglas and Werner attended Dr. Litten's funeral.

On 8 January 1941 the Belfast Refugee Committee informed Werner that he would be moving that summer to Campbell's farm, Ballycarn, Portaferry where another refugee had already been placed. There he learned to dip sheep and milk cows, which he found difficult at first, and even how to plough behind two great Clydesdale horses. He also learned to shoot, and to sail on Strangford Lough where on two occasions he was caught out by the tide and had to be rescued.

On 31 July 1943 Werner wrote that he was moving to a new job in market gardening



Werner in July 1939 on arrival in Belfast

at Hamilton's on the Malone Road, Belfast, with nearby lodgings at Dr Kidney's in New Forge Lane. He was paid £2-10-0 a week. He started work at 8am, working through to 5.30pm. He described the work as tiresome and monotonous and the men as being "not too good to talk, otherwise alright". This is the only time in his diaries he comes close to a complaint. On wet days he worked in the greenhouses.

On 19 August 1943, his 19th birthday, Werner moved in with Bob and Isabel Kennedy and their children Peggy, Robin, Rosemary and John at Pembroke House, 3 Sandhurst Road. Kind-hearted Bob and Isabel had heard of Werner through Belfast's First Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church. They had known hardship themselves after they had emigrated to the United States in the 1920s and were caught up in the Wall Street Crash and the Depression. They would help many more young people along life's way, including Simon from Ghana and Gwenneth from Antigua, who would both go on to become doctors.

Werner and Bob hit it off straight away, with a common interest in boxing and rowing. Sometimes, for their joint amusement, Werner would translate Hitler and Goebbels' wireless broadcasts.

n boy in Belfast



Dr Fritz Cahn-Garnier

Occasionally he would help Robin, who was at Inst, with his German homework. Werner himself now attended Belfast Technical College and on 13 September 1943 he started courses in Book Keeping, Arithmetic, English, Commercial Law and Business Methods. He joined the Rover Scouts on the Malone Road, the Fortieth Belfast (McCracken Memorial) Group and, on 28 March 1944, was awarded a certificate for his work in connection with the formation of the first Air Scout Troop in Ulster. Towards the end of the war Werner became a volunteer part-time fireman and Bob and Isabel often talked of the day Werner came home bursting with pride with his British fireman's uniform; Isabel stitched the silver buttons on for him. Now he could make his own contribution to the war effort.

On 1 May 1945 Werner received a letter from a US Army soldier telling him of his parents' well being and that his father had been re-instated in his post as a city counsellor of Mannheim. He answered the letter straight away.

On 8 May 1945, VE Day, Werner went to work as usual from 8am till midday. Then he cycled into town to join the celebrations at the City Hall. Peggy Kennedy was there and, unknown to her, so was her future husband, John Burke. Werner listened to Churchill's broadcast on the wireless at 3pm at home. Then he returned to town with a friend to take photographs of the celebrations and went to church for the thanksgiving Service at 7.30pm. After the



Bob and Isabel Kennedy with son Robin.

King's address to the nation at 9pm he returned to the City Hall. He stayed there until 12.30am and assisted the first aiders.

Werner's section of the Fire Service was disbanded on 12 June 1945. At the final parade its members were requested to return their rubber boots and waterproof leggings. He was thanked for his efficient service. Tuesday 19 June 1945 was the National Fire Service stand down dinner party at the Grand Central Hotel.

After the war in 1945 Werner was employed by the US Army as an interpreter in Germany, where he was reunited with his parents. Dr Cahn-Garnier had been interned in Dachau from November 1938 until February 1939. He went to ground first in Heidelberg and then in Mannheim, where he survived the war. Werner barely recognised his parents when he saw them again as they had both prematurely aged in appearance.

In 1948 the people of Mannheim elected Dr Cahn-Garnier as their Oberbürgermeister. However, the years of living in fear and deprivation took their toll and he died of a heart attack in June 1949 aged sixty. He is buried in a grave of honour in the City of Mannheim cemetery. He and Wera were further honoured in 1959 when a street was named after them, the Cahn-Garnier River Bank beside the River Neckar.

Werner's parents hoped he might settle in Germany and even marry a 'nice German girl'. But Werner now considered himself British. In 1948 he left the service of the US Army and returned to England. He joined the All Nation's Club, a social club based in Piccadilly, and it was on a club outing in 1949 that he met his future wife Josephine.

In 1950 he changed his name to Vernon Colin Garner and on the Festival of Britain Day, 3 May 1951, Werner and Josie were married. She taught him to play Bridge, at which he excelled. They had two children, Christopher, born in 1952, and Valerie, born in 1957, and they now have 4 grandsons and a granddaughter.

Werner settled with Josie in Horley, Surrey, where he was a buyer of power tools for Warsops. In 1956 Werner brought Josephine and Christopher to meet Bob and Isabel while touring Ireland on a motorbike and sidecar.

Werner died in March 2008. He was a generous man who always tried to help his neighbours, friends and family. At his funeral it was said that Werner was probably so good natured because he had been helped so much by others during the war years and this was his way of repaying what he felt was his debt.

The Kennedy Family

The Café Mensch

The end of November marked 100 years since the birth of our late member **David Hackel**, who arrived on the Kindertransport. One of our volunteers, **Trevor Bedeman**, used to visit David regularly and has shared this lovely poem and painting together with his reflections.

David died on 4 February 2019 after spending his final years at Nightingale House in Clapham, which will be familiar to many AJR members. Whilst there he liked to visit the nearby Nightingale Patisserie, whose owners were very hospitable to a 94 year old customer in a wheelchair. This was such a contrast to the persecution that David had experienced as a young Jewish man, when visiting cafés in Nazi Germany would have prompted certain arrest. Trevor was very struck by how much meaning every visit to a café had for David in terms of this history even in 2016, and it prompted him to write this observation, in the form of a poem:

CLAPHAM CAFÉ KINDER

By Trevor Bedeman, 2016

Children crying, mothers laughing,
Eyeing up the young man in the corner,
This is the cool café for the Clapham set;
The Nightingale Patisserie -
Row on row of Italian specials:

White peaks, bitter tastes, brittle sugars,
A shining lattice. Wheelchair on the patio,
David is playing his coffee – the smallest splash of milk
As the conversation rolls or lies in folds;
Stylish and social; savoury and sweet:

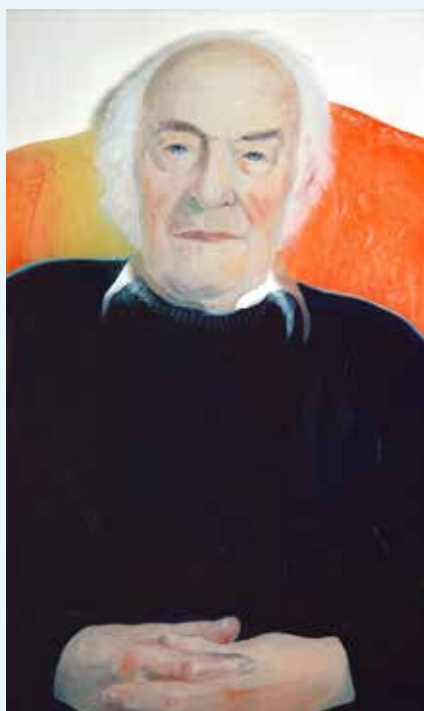
'I am - a café mensch' -
Brought with his baggage
In the train from Karlsruhe to Harwich:
'Now your father is out of Dachau,
Now you can go.'

He comes if he can to the café -
No stares, no arrest,
Nicht unerwünscht,
Not un-wished for:
Camaraderie in the Patisserie.

Trevor has also shared this lovely portrait of David, which was painted in oil on reverse glass by his own son, Oliver Bedeman.

Trevor would love to know whether any other *AJR Journal* readers have recollections of David.

Please contact him on
trevor.bedeman@london-risk.co.uk



ORION ORCHESTRA PRESENTS
NEVER FORGET
Holocaust Memorial Concert

*Mendelssohn, Mozart,
Prokofiev, Pärt*

Presented by Robert Rinder, MBE



Duke's Hall, Royal Academy of Music
Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT
Sunday 22nd January, 6.30-7.30pm

TICKETS £20 / £15 / £6 (under 21)
Available online now via tickets.ram.ac.uk

FREE CONCERT TICKETS

We have been offered a number of pairs of complimentary tickets to this one-off event which takes place just before Holocaust Memorial Day. If you would like a pair of tickets please email susan@ajr.org.uk asap.

Terezin II

AJR CEO Michael Newman recently attended the Terezin Declaration Conference, which explored how Holocaust remembrance and education can help to prevent similar atrocities.

A highlight was the stirring address from Joshua Ross, grandson of AJR member Leo Wiener, repeating his grandfather's demand for restitution. He incorporated a short film, borrowed from our *Refugee Voices* archive, of himself, his mother and Leo describing the impact of the injustice.

Participating countries were invited to make pledges based on the original Terezin Declaration; Lord Pickles, the UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, gave the UK commitments.

Delegates also saw the winning entries in a film competition, including a submission from a young Ukrainian girl who – together with her mother – has been given refuge in the UK by AJR member Lydia Tischler, herself a survivor from the former Czechoslovakia.

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBERED

Over 100 guests joined AJR at Belsize Square Synagogue on 9 November to mark the 84th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Many others watched the live stream of the ceremony, which was led by Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg and Cantor Dr Paul Heller. Speakers included Bob Kirk BEM, who is still dedicated to speaking about the Holocaust at the age of 97. Bob and his wife Ann both came to the UK on Kindertransports from Germany.

Other speakers were renowned Holocaust educator Mike Levy, chair of The Harwich Kindertransport Memorial and Learning Trust, and Lily Shaw, who shared the story of her late father Professor Robert Shaw's experiences in pre-war Vienna, his reflections of Kristallnacht and her perspectives as the child of a Kindertransport refugee.

Guests of honour included representatives from the German, Austrian, Czech and Slovak Embassies.



Kristallnacht ceremony speakers and candle-lighters

Hardship Claims Update

The Claims Conference has confirmed that the deadline for Supplemental Hardship Fund payments is 31 December 2022

If you have ever received a one-off payment from the Hardship Fund or from the BEG (original German government compensation) in the past and have NOT applied for or received the Supplemental Hardship Fund payments of 2 x €1200 (approx. £2000), please contact the AJR asap so we can submit your application before the fund closes.

Please note that recipients of these three reparation pensions are ineligible for these Supplemental payments:

- Claims Conference (Article 2)
- BEG
- Israeli Authority for the Rights of Holocaust Survivors

(Recipients of an Austrian pension can apply for the Hardship Fund.)

If you received a payment from the Kindertransport Fund in 2019/2020 and have not received a Supplemental Hardship Fund form from the Claims Conference, please contact us as soon as possible as you may be eligible for the Supplemental payments. You are also eligible if you received a one-time payment from the BEG.

Any refugees and survivors who have never applied for compensation should contact Rosemary or Melanie as soon as possible, to ensure their application is received by the Claims Conference by **31 December 2022**.

More information:

Rosemary

020 8385 3088 / rosemary@ajr.org.uk

Melanie

020 8385 3072 / melanie@ajr.org.uk

TUESDAY EXERCISE

Shelley holds a live online exercise class every Tuesday at 11am. Everyone is welcome.

Please have to hand a small towel and a couple of food cans and small bottles of water, as well as something to drink.

JOIN IN BY ZOOM

<https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88466945622>

Meeting ID: 884 6694 5622



Save the Date

**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY
SERVICE**

MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2023
at 2pm at Belsize Square Synagogue

Full details will appear in the January 2023 Journal and in the weekly e-news

SECOND GENERATION GROUP FOR CHILDREN OF SURVIVORS AND REFUGEES

The group will meet weekly over Zoom, on Tuesday evenings from 8.00 – 9.30pm for 12 weeks, from January 10 to March 28. The group will be

facilitated by psychologist and psychotherapist Gaby Glassman. Applicants will be invited to a free individual, preliminary meeting in the first instance.

Please contact Gaby via gaby@glassman.com or **07811 353 423**.

Commemorations in Carinthia

We are grateful to AJR member Jurgen Schwiening for sharing this account of a very special trip to southern Austria.

In September of this year, we went to Austria. Nothing unusual in that. But this was no ordinary holiday. To be precise, my wife and I had been invited by the small town of Sankt Andrae in Carinthia to take part in a very special event: the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the expulsion of my wife and her family in 1938.

Carinthia is in the south of Austria, close to the Slovenian border which is only 90 minutes' drive by car. It is border country. In the 1930s the NSDAP, Hitler's party, rapidly grew in strength in Carinthia and by early 1938 it was the first Austrian province to declare the completed *Anschluss*.

My wife's parents had been farmers in Eastern Germany and, as a result of the *Blut-und-Boden* policy of the Nazis, were forced to sell their farm in 1936 at a loss. As Jews they had now been deprived of their livelihood and came under increased pressure to leave Germany. However, there were few countries that were prepared to accept Jewish immigrants, so their choice fell on Austria, at that time still an independent country, not too far away and with the same language and a similar culture.

In a very small village in remote

Carinthia they were able to buy a small farm. However, their luck was short-lived. Germany annexed Austria in March 1938. In the course of the November *Kristallnacht* my wife's father and their farm-hand, Gerhard Gadiel, were arrested and taken to Dachau concentration camp. Shortly after that Frau Auerbach and her three small children were evicted from their home and given the choice either to emigrate or relocate to Vienna. Had she done the latter, the Auerbachs would not have survived for long.

My wife's mother wisely decided to go to Berlin with her three small children. Here the Auerbachs had relatives and friends. My wife was accepted into a Jewish orphanage and then included in a children's transport to England where she arrived on 3 February 1939. Her mother hoped to obtain visas to emigrate to Denmark or England. In December 1938 she succeeded. Her husband was released on the condition that he and his family emigrated. At this time Frank Foley was head of the visa section of the British Embassy, and it was due to his generous interpretation of the strict regulations for issuing visas that they were able to enter Britain: Mr. Auerbach for agricultural training and his wife as a domestic help. These stamps in their passports saved their lives.

We had long thought that there ought to be a public recognition in the town of the injustice done to the Auerbachs and others just because they happened to be Jews. Before the onset of the Covid pandemic we had approached the town administration to



Poster advertising the event in Corinthia

officially recognise the expulsion of some of their citizens. They eventually acceded to our request, but the pandemic then intervened. We agreed on a date in late September and invited our family and friends to share the occasion with us.

It turned out to be a very moving event. The mayor's office had chosen a location in the newly completed park following the old town wall. Official invitations were sent out. On the day there was a speech by a local historian putting the expulsion into its historical context, followed by my wife's speech thanking the town and particularly the deputy mayor for their generosity and understanding; a violinist provided a musical interlude, followed by a reception in the town hall. A local paper had already published a long article about the Auerbachs.

We were able to meet friends in the area whom we had met on several occasions before, such as the present owners of the farm which is now a successful organic farm, specialising in bread baking, using their own organically-grown grain.

We were very happy that several members of our family and friends were with us on the day, which was a landmark both in our family's and the town's history.



Jurgen's wife's parents were forced to sell their farm in 1936 at a loss. Today it is a successful organic farm called Bio-Hof Puck, which specialises in making bread using the current owners' organically-grown grain.

BURGENLAND REMEMBERS ITS JEWS

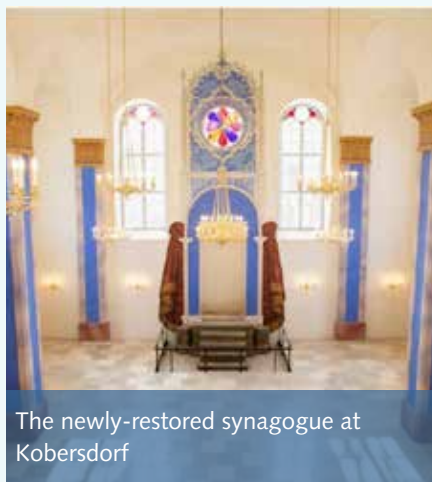
In September the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) came to eleven small towns of Burgenland, the easternmost province of Austria. Among them was Eisenstadt, the capital of the province and the town of my birth.

I had been involved in introducing the EDJC to the communal leaders of Burgenland and had been instrumental in promoting the history of the Jews. The first event took place in September 2014 with five towns; it has now developed and this year eleven towns participated, including the towns of the *Sheva Kehillot* (the seven communities consisting of Eisenstadt, Mattersdorf, Kobersdorf, Lackenbach, Frauenkirchen, Kittsee and Deutschkreutz).

Each year a European-wide theme is chosen and every participating country creates events to feature this theme. In 2014 it was *Women in Judaism*. This year it was *Renewal*, which was particularly appropriate in Burgenland as two former synagogues have been beautifully restored, not as synagogues since Jews no longer live there, but as cultural centres which will remind the local population of their rich Jewish heritage.

Schloss Esterhazy in Eisenstadt hosted a fascinating exhibition detailing the centuries-long history of the link between the Esterhazy family and the Jews of the *Sheva Kehillot*. The communities were established after 1670 when Paul I, first prince Esterhazy, accepted the approximately 3000 Jews who had been expelled from Vienna by Leopold I. They were predominantly Orthodox, living in Mattersdorf and Deutschkreutz where there were famous *yeshivot*.

In 1618 Count Nikolaus Esterhazy had become the protector of the Jews of Lackenbach and, a few years later, also of Eisenstadt and Mattersdorf. He recognised the importance of the Jewish communities



The newly-restored synagogue at Kobersdorf

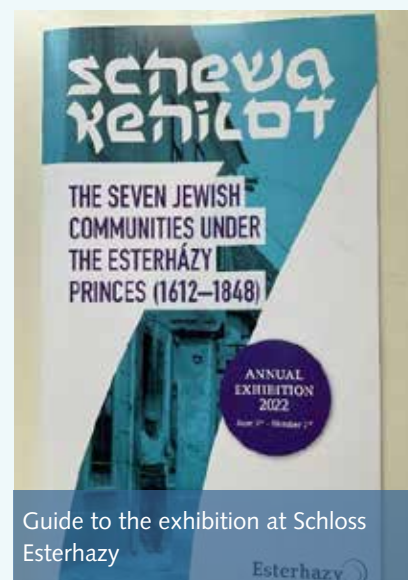
for the economic life of his estates and in 1627 issued a *Schutzbrief* (letter of protection) for the Eisenstadt community.

Some years later life for Jews became difficult again. Prince Paul I Esterhazy, a successor to Nikolaus, was positively inclined towards Jews at first, but when Leopold I expelled the Jews of Vienna in 1670/71 Paul followed suit, expelling the Jews of Eisenstadt, Mattersdorf and Lackenbach. Gradually they were allowed to return and new letters of protection were issued. Nevertheless, the situation between Paul's successor, Paul II Anton, and the Jews remained tense throughout his reign (1734–1762).

His successor, Prince Nikolaus I Esterhazy, was a friend of the Jews. He reigned from 1762 to 1790. Letters of protection of his Jewish communities were confirmed in full and they prospered. Arguments between Jew and Christian were handled with fairness, and levies were not increased.

This changed in 1794 with the accession of Prince Nikolaus II. In the seven communities tough restrictions were again imposed on the numbers of Jews allowed: Jews and Christians were not allowed to live together: Jews wishing to marry had to obtain prior permission and had to prove a fixed income and abode. The death of Nikolaus II marked the end of this difficult phase.

Paul III Esterhazy, his son and successor, was a diplomat. He was ambassador to Great Britain of the Habsburg monarchy. He ruled over his estates from afar but was present at the laying of the foundation stone of the new synagogue in Eisenstadt in 1832. The



Guide to the exhibition at Schloss Esterhazy

letters of protection remained in force until 1848, a revolutionary period which brought an end to the subjugation.

This was the basis of the splendid exhibition in Schloss Esterhazy. Dr Felix Tobler, curator of the Esterhazy archives, was the speaker.

Kobersdorf, 40 minutes by car from Eisenstadt, was my second destination. The former synagogue reopened in April 2022 after renovations lasting three years. Originally inaugurated in April 1860 today it is the only free-standing synagogue in Burgenland. Devastated by the Nazis, it was returned to the Vienna Jewish Community after the war but remained unused. The Burgenland regional authority purchased it in 2019 in order to renovate it: "The building should be a visible sign that Burgenland is aware of its Jewish roots, its Jewish traditions and its responsibility for the Jewish victims of the Nazi terror."

Back to the EDJC event where Dr Johann Hagenhofer gave a presentation about Uri Winkler: a family friend, who had escaped the Nazis via the Kindertransport and had eventually made his way to Israel. Nearly 300 people were in the synagogue to listen to this hour-long presentation.

My day in Burgenland was wholly positive. The events have helped enormously in reminding the local population (entirely non-Jewish) of the traditions of their former Jewish neighbours and of the significant contribution they made to the economic well-being of the region.

Ernest Simon

REVIEWS

FINDING REFUGE

Stories of the men, women and children who fled to Wales to escape the Nazis

Andrea Hammel

Honno Press

The author of this book is a German academic who has made Wales her home; she works at the University of Aberystwyth and has researched the stories of the men, women and children who fled (or were sent) to Wales to escape the Nazis.

Initially, most adult refugees to the UK wanted to settle near large urban centres in England, close to the larger, more vibrant established Jewish communities. Many had little knowledge of the four nations of the UK but refugee entrepreneurs were 'encouraged' to establish their factories in the so-called Special Areas, of which there was one in South Wales.

This book examines numerous personal stories; each is different, most are complex and contain elements of escape, rescue, hospitality and resilience, but also of trauma and loss. It is remarkable to see how many of these traumatised arrivals forged new, productive lives and ultimately even achieved fame in many fields.

Biographies include the artist Josef Herman (father of AJR's Contributing Editor David Herman), the photographer Edith Tudor-Hart, Robert Borger (father of *Guardian* journalist Julian Borger) and many others whose names will be familiar to AJR members.

The author makes it very clear how difficult it was for the refugees, whether young or old, to adapt to their new lives: many spoke no English and they had all been subjected to trauma of one kind or another and, once war broke out, received little or no news of loved ones left behind. An attempt has been made to choose stories that illustrate different aspects

of the refugee experience of those fleeing National Socialism who settled in Wales; many of them expressed positive feelings of gratitude for being given refuge and the book is brought up to date with the stories of more recent refugees. This is a collection that is harrowing and sad, but also at times funny and hopeful.

There is now a very considerable body of work concerning the refugees from Nazism, to which this book is a valuable addition. It is very well researched and the author expresses the opinion that the subject is more relevant to contemporary life than one would imagine: Wales has been a nation providing sanctuary for refugees for a long time – most recently from the Mediterranean refugee crisis in 2015 and to refugees arriving from Ukraine in 2022. Wales has therefore become a far less homogenous country than previously thought.

Lilian Levy

A 'JEWISH MARSHALL PLAN'

Laura Hobson Faure

Indiana University Press

Many have long held that the United States - regarded as **the** land of refuge - more or less 'abandoned' the European Jews to their fate - before, during and after the war. Laura Hobson Faure has set out to modify this prevailing view, as far as post-1945 France is concerned. Professor Faure, chair of Modern Jewish History at the Sorbonne, also challenges another 'conventional wisdom': that French Jewish reconstruction after the Holocaust was essentially a French affair, between Jews and the French Republic.

She shows that American Jews contributed many millions of dollars to help reconstruct European Jewish life, and that much of this was channelled to France, where about three in four Jews survived - a higher proportion than elsewhere.

Faure's wide research indicates that, for a decade or so, American Jewish individuals and non-governmental organisations (the execution of the Marshall Plan proper was, of course, an inter-governmental achievement)

did a lot to help Jews recover from Nazi persecution and its aftermath. She has found examples of Jewish GIs and army chaplains, as the Allies were liberating France, seeking out local Jews as they emerged from hiding, so that they could provide them with basic necessities such as food and blankets, and help reopen synagogues. They also assisted the victims as they began their long search for survivors in the United States, and their battle to recover stolen property. American Jewish associations were prominent during the negotiations on Jewish compensation claims against Germany.

Faure's chapters on Jewish organisations focus in particular on 'The Joint,' as the Joint Distribution Committee was familiarly known. It had moved its European head office to Paris from Berlin in 1933, and, surprisingly, remained active even after Washington broke with Vichy France in 1942. In December 1944 it sent a representative to Paris, whose task was to use Joint money to fund a network of 'Americanised' (read 'coordinated' or 'more efficient') Jewish welfare organisations. These French bodies, new and old, were supposed to import U.S. social work methods, and train nurses and welfare workers to operate on American lines. Friction sometimes accompanied the cooperation, needless to say, but overall it was fruitful.

Despite those ups and downs, Laura Hobson Faure argues convincingly that the humanitarian efforts of American Jews have been well rewarded. French Jews, who quickly became the largest Jewish group in Europe, are today a vibrant community, despite the ever present menace they face from extremists.

Martin Mauthner

JOSEPH PEREIRA

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The Tea that took us by surprise



The singing waiters

The AJR Annual Tea Party is always a highlight of our year. But this year the fun reached new heights when some of the waiters suddenly burst into song.

Over 170 members and guests very much enjoyed a delicious tea at the Stone X Stadium in Mill Hill. The surprise musical entertainment had been planned, along with the rest of the event, by AJR's Outreach Team, who had also hand-picked a few AJR members to be serenaded by the 'Singing Waiters'.

The event was also opportunity to wish an early 100th birthday to Rolf Penzias, who the following week became one of the

28 centenarians currently on our books, offering - as AJR Trustee Eleanor Angel said in her speech at the tea - "...further proof that being a member of the AJR brings longevity".

Rolf came on a Kindertransport from Munich and has been a loyal attender at our celebratory and commemorative events over many years. As well as being a member of our Kindertransport committee, where he has helped to organise the fabulous receptions with (now King) Charles and the *Last Train to Tomorrow* concert, he took on the additional task to contact fellow members during lockdown to check in on them. He has also spoken at many schools and community events here and in Germany about his experiences.



Just a few of the tables at the tea party



Rolf Penzias - who celebrated his 100th birthday the following week - standing up to take his own photos, and with Michael Newman during a separate celebration (inset).



OBITUARIES

SIR ERICH REICH

Born: 30 April 1935, Vienna

Died: 2 November 2022, London



It was with great sadness last month that AJR announced the sudden passing of Sir Erich Reich, at the age of 87 years. Sir Erich was a long-time prominent member of the AJR, a former trustee and chair of AJR's Kindertransport group, a role which he embraced with great responsibility. He was always ready to advocate for and represent his fellow Kinder.

In the announcement, AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman wrote: "Erich was a great personal friend and mentor to me, and a popular presence at any AJR gathering. We will all miss him terribly. We send our sincere condolences to his family and will greatly treasure the happy memories we have of him."

Sir Erich was proud to be the smallest boy depicted in the famous Kindertransport statue by Frank Meisler at Liverpool Street Station, yet he had few memories of his own journey to the UK in 1939, at the age of four. Born in Vienna in 1935, Sir Erich never saw his parents again after they made the decision to send him and his brothers to safety; he later found out that his parents were murdered at Auschwitz.

The following is an edited version of the eulogy given by Erich's son, **Allon Reich**. Erich's four other children – Rameet, Liora, Jonathan and Joel – also read moving tributes to their father

A man too full of life to be contained by just one name, Erich was born in Vienna where his parents, Szapse and Mina, had emigrated from Poland. They were a family going up in the world until the Anschluss, when all the Polish Jews were deported back to Poland.

With true foresight and strength Szapse and Mina secured passage for Erich and his two brothers, Ossie and Jacques, on a Kindertransport boat – *The Warszawa* – bound for England. Erich always used to say that his parents had given him life twice over. Sadly they themselves did not survive.

Erich was one of the youngest of all the kinder, and one of the last. He was placed in a foster home in Dorking, Surrey, with Joseph and Emily Kreibich – themselves émigrés from the Sudetenland – before re-uniting with his brothers, discovering his Jewish heritage and moving to Israel. He stayed with family on the slopes of Mount Carmel and also spent time in the Kibbutzim Merhavia and Zikim.

Back in the UK he became a part of the Hashomer Hazair youth movement before entering the embryonic British travel industry where he worked for Thomson Holidays and then became MD of Thomas Cook Holidays.

He set up his own company, Classic Tours, and began organising exciting bike rides which raised an extraordinary amount of money for all sorts of wonderful causes. He also became increasingly involved in the Kindertransport committee. In 2010 he was knighted by the now King Charles for his charitable work.

Erich was curious and adventurous. He ran the London marathon and

took part in countless bike rides. He loved company and could relate to anyone he encountered. He adored strong black coffee, red wine and French cheese, Sacher torte, schnitzel and classical music. He handed down his passion for singing and sport, especially Arsenal FC. He leaves a legacy not just forged in the tragedy of the Holocaust, but also the most extraordinary example of how someone can transcend misfortune: the 4 year-old boy who arrived where the statue he helped inaugurate – and in which he himself is depicted – now stands in Liverpool Street Station. A refugee from war torn Europe without his parents and without a word of English. He leaves five children, 11 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and a large extended family.

In later years he found a new lease of life with Linda. They travelled the world and she gave him a renewed energy and vigour. She inspired him in his tireless campaign to go round schools all across the country and tell his story.

Erich also constantly used his voice as a knight of the realm to urge the powers that be to stop and think again about their pernicious attitude to refugees today, particularly unaccompanied children. In his eyes he was that child and those children were him.

What a story. What a life. May his memory be for a blessing.



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CHARLOTTE LANG

Born: 21 February 1935, Vienna

Died: 25 January 2022, London



As the only child of Irma and Siegfried Diamant, 'Lotte' had a happy early childhood until the storm clouds of Nazism began to spread.

Charlotte and her parents were kicked out of their home after the Anschluss; they first lived with her maternal grandparents in Mödling before the whole family moved to the Jewish ghetto in Vienna. In October 1938 Charlotte's father placed an advert in *The Times* which was answered by a farmer from Nailsea, near Bristol. After much correspondence and Nazi bureaucracy they left Austria on 3 May 1939. Unfortunately Charlotte contracted measles soon after arriving and, as the farmer had a young daughter, he asked them to leave.

Charlotte and her mother went to a large house in Warren Wood near Hatfield, where Charlotte's Aunt Amely, who had fled Austria previously, was working as the housekeeper. In 1942 they joined up with her Father, first in West Hampstead and then Cricklewood. The family were evacuated to Chapeltown in Leeds, where they lived out the rest of the war.

On return to London, Charlotte was given a free place at the newly opened NW London Jewish Day School, and then the NW London Jewish Grammar School. She left school at 15 to support her family (her father had had a heart attack in 1946 and was suffering from lasting effects of a serious accident in a munitions factory during the war).

Charlotte worked as a secretary at various estate agents and accountants

mainly in the West End. These were enjoyable times, meeting friends at coffee houses, and enjoying the cinema and theatre. She also worked for British Lion Films, meeting many famous movie stars of the day.

She met David at a Jewish dance at St Johns Wood shul. They were soon engaged and married on 1 April 1962, the nearest date to honour Charlotte's murdered grandmother's birthdate of 31 March. They married at the Western Synagogue at Marble Arch and at the time Charlotte said her parents Irma & Siegfried were so proud of her that after all the trauma their own lives seemed to start again for the better.

Charlotte and David moved into a house in Golders Green where they had many Jewish friends and neighbours and enjoyed shul life. Charlotte relished married life and on 28 February 1963 Michael arrived, with Paul coming along on 7 May 1966. These were really happy times. Charlotte lived for her family, it was her whole world. The icing on her cake was the subsequent arrival of her grandchildren: Jamie, Matthew and Adam.

Charlotte was an avid fan of the Royal Family, loved watching tennis, particularly Wimbledon, and soap operas. Both she and David regularly attended AJR meetings, which gave

Charlotte a real feeling of connection to survivors and refugees of the Holocaust. In later years AJR provided tremendous support to both Charlotte and David.

About seven years ago Charlotte started falling. A diagnosis of Parkinsonism was made. Charlotte's decline was gradual but inevitable. Two and a half years ago Charlotte lost the ability to walk. The last few months before she passed away were not easy, especially her time in hospital.

The trauma of the flight to freedom, and her life being turned upside down, led to a lifetime of depression and anxiety. Yet Charlotte left this world surrounded with love and her every need cared for. Despite the trauma of fleeing her homeland and her difficult early life, she did manage to escape with her parents, she had a wonderful and loyal husband in David, the delight and nachas of her children and grandchildren, and saw her grandson Jamie marry Dani. Charlotte enjoyed the freedom and liberties of her country of refuge, and even stayed in her own home, the very same home she moved into as a newlywed, back in 1962, until the very end of her days. Her life was indeed complete.

Michael Lang

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IN PERSON EVENTS

DATE	TIME	IN PERSON MEETING	CO-ORDINATOR
Thursday 1 December	2.00pm	Pinner Pre-Chanukah Party	Karen Diamond
Thursday 1 December	12 noon	Newcastle Pre-Chanukah Lunch	Agnes Isaacs
Sunday 4 December	12 noon	Glasgow Pre-Chanukah Lunch	Agnes Isaacs
Monday 5 December	2.00pm	Hampstead	Ros Hart
Tuesday 6 December	12 noon	Nottingham	Karen Diamond
Wednesday 7 December	12.30pm	Edinburgh Pre-Chanukah Lunch	Agnes Isaacs
Wednesday 7 December	11.30am	Central London (Baker Street)	Karen Diamond
Thursday 8 December	10.30am	Radlett	Karen Diamond
Thursday 8 December	10.30am	Edgware	Ros Hart
Monday 12 December	12 noon	Bournemouth	Ros Hart
Thursday 15 December	1.30pm	Muswell Hill	Ros Hart
Monday 19 December	TBC	Leeds and Yorkshire end of year meet up	Michal Mocton

CO-ORDINATOR DETAILS

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ZOOMS AHEAD

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

Monday 5 December @ 10.30am	Get Fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439
Thursday 8 December @ 11.30am	Kinder Contact Project https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/82605468378	Meeting ID: 8260 546 8378
Monday 12 December @ 10.30am	Get Fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439
Monday 12 December @ 4pm	Myer Green - Audrey Hepburn: a very special person https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/84272337679	Meeting ID: 842 7233 7679
Wednesday 14 December @ 10.30am	Online Dance Class with Jackie Turner https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86302485494	Meeting ID: 8630 248 5494
Thursday 15 December @ 11am	AJR Book Club Discussion (no speaker) - OH WILLIAM! by Elizabeth Stroud https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85846295050	Meeting ID: 8584 629 5050
Monday 19 December @ 10.30am	Get Fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439



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