

AJR *Information*

Volume LI No. 4

April 1996

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

Eleanor Rathbone remembered p2

Discreet charm of the schmooseoisie p14

'Re-migrants' p15

The world must act

Our main editorial describes Israel as 'feeling secure'. This holds true in the sense that no Arab state now entertains realistic dreams of conquering her.

At the same time, the Jewish state faces relentless terror. Middle Eastern peace is vital to the world, which must devise counter measures to terror. European advocates of "critical dialogue" with Iran call to mind Lord Halifax pinning his hopes on the - non-existent - moderates in the Nazi leadership □

From Exodus to exit?

Diaspora blues and variations

This week we celebrate Passover - the ever-recurring festival of Jewish liberation in commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt.

In significant ways we, too, experienced liberation in our own lifetimes. We were liberated from the threat to our very lives - and from the subsequent threat to the survival of the State of Israel.

In fact the Jewish State now feels so secure that the bestselling Israeli writer A B Yehoshuah, has recently put the *galut* in its place. Diaspora Jews he said should not presume to counsel Israel on what to do, and should first learn Hebrew if they nonetheless insisted on proffering advice.

The Israeli President, Ezer Weizman, has in turn offered counsel to Jews living in Germany, a country indelibly associated with the Holocaust in his mind. His one-word advice 'Don't!' elicited a spirited rebuttal from Frankfurt City Councillor Daniel Cohn-Bendit in the columns of *Die Zeit*.

The exchange between Weizman and Cohn-Bendit was given added relevance by the publication of Bernard Wasserstein's book with the self-explanatory - and attention-grabbing - title *The Vanishing Diaspora*.

In the aftermath of Hitler's War the ghost communities of camp survivors and U-boats reconstituted on German soil had been viewed as *Liquidationsgemeinden* till an influx of East European DPs made them semi-permanent. The addition of over 10,000 ex-Soviet Jews since the fall of the Iron Curtain guarantees continuity. With a population of over forty-thousand, today's German-Jewish community is larger than the Italian one - and who would deny the permanence of the latter?

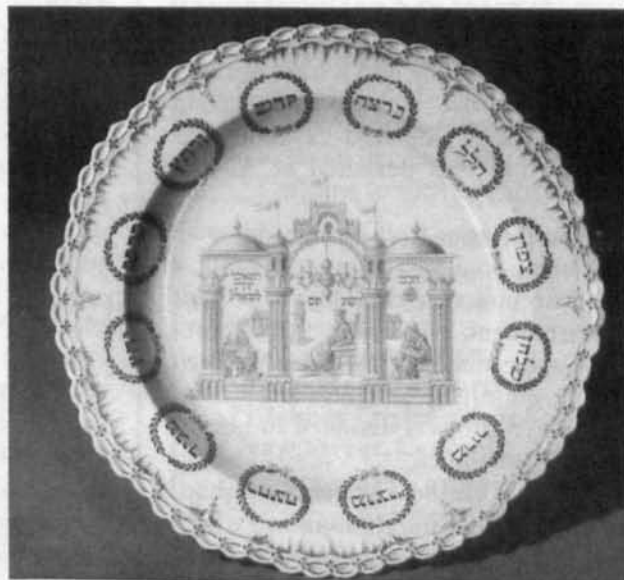
Germany is not the only area which fails to bear out Wasserstein's thesis of the irreversible decline of Diaspora Jewry (though, of course, the present German community is but a shadow of its predecessor).

Wasserstein has a point when he says that *aliyah* has practically halved the size of Russian Jewry - but there has also been a sizable counter-*aliyah* of Israelis settling in Western Diaspora countries (with New York, Los Angeles and London as favoured

destinations). At the JFS in Camden Town - Anglo-Jewry's largest educational institution - Israeli-born children form an integral part of the intake.

Education ranks alongside social work, charity and fundraising as a major Anglo-Jewish communal activity. Literally in the last few weeks the community has also spawned a new institution which analyses the attitudes of its own members. The first findings of this new body, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, make encouraging reading: sixty per cent of Anglo-Jewry reject the idea that "the only long-term future for Jews is in Israel".

This perception is totally at variance with Wasserstein's prediction that the Diaspora is doomed. In reply he could point out that the figures - 450,000 UK Jews in 1945, 300,000 today - have their own irrefutable logic. However, linear extrapolation of the future from the past is a most imprecise method of forecasting. (See *Demographic disaster* page 13) □



Seder plate showing the four sons, from the right - clever, bad, simple and the one who does not understand how to ask. (KPM, early nineteenth century).

Profile

Bridge builder

Rolf Rosner was born in Berlin in 1917 to parents no longer strongly attached to Judaism; even so he retains fond memories of his barmitzvah at which Rabbi Joachim Prinz officiated. Not long after that event, alas, his film importer father and mother divorced. This meant that as a teenager Rolf experienced first a 'private' and then a 'public' trauma – i.e. the Nazi takeover – within a short time of each other.

In autumn 1933 his father sent him to a (fee-paying) vocational school in Czechoslovakia for training in woodwork and interior design. The mid-thirties found Rolf alone in London where, thanks to the Depression, work was scarce and pay barely enough to keep body and soul together. After hard times, and a bout of illness, the coming of war drastically transformed employment prospects.

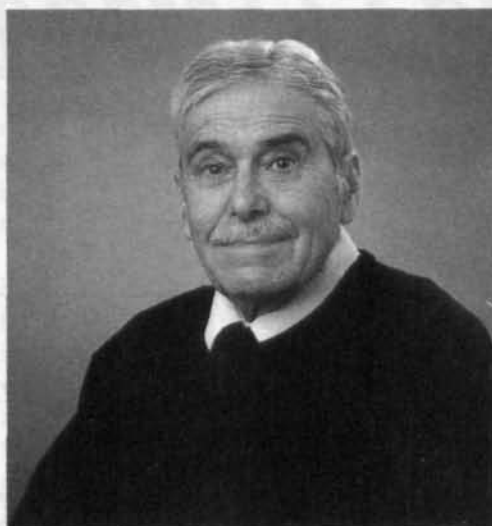
As an evening-class trained draughtsman Rolf now found work at a factory making components for Royal Navy ships. (It was at the same workplace, incidentally, that he met his wife).

Long habituated to study outside of working hours Rolf managed to become an Associate of the Institute of British Architects at the end of the war, when he joined the LCC Planning Department (and shared in designing the Ashburton Estate near Putney Heath). When the LCC job came to an end he went to Germany where he worked on public housing projects, lectured and published several books.

In Germany too, he had a fraught reunion with his father whose life the second – non-Jewish – wife had saved (while Rolf's mother had perished at Auschwitz).

In the mid-sixties Rolf brought his own family back to England and became a housing architect at the Department of the Environment, Newcastle. Since retirement on age grounds in 1982, he has been channelling most of his considerable energy into two projects designed to benefit the wider community.

The first was the Benchmark Workshop, established with Church support, where the unemployed were taught skills such as textile printing and painting on china. The second is the far more ambitious Bridge Project. This, Rolf Rosner's spe-



Rolf Rosner

cial 'baby' tries to instil an interest in science, technology and the environment in school children, and to develop inter-regional partnerships between local schools, industry and commerce. The scheme has gathered broad support and involves dozens of schools with literally thousands of pupils.

Is it too fanciful to suggest that living close to Newcastle – emblem: the Tyne Bridge – has inspired Rolf Rosner to become a bridge builder in a different sense of the word?

□RG

Eleanor Rathbone remembered

Eleanor Rathbone, daughter of a wealthy Liverpool mercantile family, entered the House of Commons in 1929 as a fiercely independent Member for the Combined English Universities. Immediately she devoted her considerable reforming zeal and powerful personality to the advance of social reform and to pioneering family allowances. More particularly, she was an outspoken opponent of the evils of Nazism, and passionately concerned herself with the plight of refugees in Europe during the 1930s and World War II.

On the 50th anniversary of her death, the life and works of Eleanor Rathbone were celebrated at a meeting held at the House of Lords, hosted by Lord Merlyn-Rees and organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

Greville Janner QC MP saluted "the memory of a great and formidable lady". Frank Field MP spoke eloquently of the many aspects of her work: her attack on a

wage system which favoured men – seeking equal pay for women; her dedication to achieving family allowances; and not least, the importance she gave to protecting the individual, especially women and children. That commitment had led her to warn the Commons as early as 1934 of the evils of the Nazi regime and to champion the interests of Jews trying to escape the Nazi terror.

Ben Helfgott, chairman of the Yad Vashem Committee, recollected her utter devotion to justice and humanity and her "passionate support for Jewish emigration to Palestine". From 1939 onwards she was known as the 'Member for Refugees' as she headed a House committee seeking to protect their interests.

Eleanor Rathbone's great-nephew, Tim Rathbone MP, spoke of the family's enormous pride in 'Aunt Eleanor' and recounted a meeting with that larger-than-life character when he was a young boy. From the audience, Simon Reiss recalled that, together with 9,500 other Kindertransport children, he owed his life to the urgency with which Eleanor Rathbone had introduced legislation in the wake of *Kristallnacht* which had allowed him 'temporary' refuge in Britain.

Prior to her death in 1946, legislation was passed which brought family allowances into existence. A school was named in her memory in Israel in 1949 as was Eleanor Rathbone House in Highgate in 1969, a block of sheltered apartments with which the AJR remains closely associated.

□Ronald Channing

THEODOR HERZL
and the
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16-19 April 1996

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Exodus 1939

Chance has played an incredible part in my survival. Travelling on a tram in post-Anschluss Vienna after I was dismissed from my job, I met a Jewish friend in overalls and with greasy hands. "How come you still work?" I asked him. He told me he was a voluntary worker for the *Hechalutz*, assisting to move furniture for destitute Jews driven from their homes by the Nazis, and invited me to join. When, next day, I came to the address I was given, I found that it was an emergency home for some 20 youngsters doing 'urban' *hachsharah*. As I was, at 27, the eldest and had professional experience, I was asked to look after the running of the home. I was able, in due course, to deal with attempts by Nazi youth to invade us, and to organise work and living conditions. I had to call almost daily at the main office of the *Hechalutz*, situated opposite the hotel 'Metropole', the Gestapo HQ. After a few weeks, I was asked to organise the various training camps where about 2,000 youngsters were schooled for agricultural work in Palestine. The young man in charge of the *Hechalutz*, with whom I discussed my new task, was Ehud Überall (subsequently known in Israel as Ehud Avrieli, director of Ben-Gurion's office).

In the course of my work, I had on one occasion to visit the dreaded Gestapo HQ. There, by chance, I met a female officer or clerk whom I knew from happier days. She gave me a card with her name and phone number, just in case I was molested on my frequent travels to the camps, which were situated within about 50 miles of Vienna. I also became involved, in a minor way, in the organising of illegal transports out of Austria. We assembled the chosen youngsters in groups of about 60, behind the massive entry gate of number 1 Gonzagagasse, within direct view of hundreds of windows of the Gestapo opposite. They were then taken by bus either to points outside Vienna, for on-transport to Italy, or to a boat on the Danube.

Shortly before the outbreak of war, I was at long last able to make use of my English visa. I travelled by train via Aachen. At the border with Belgium, I was searched by the SS, who found on me, besides an extra 2/6d above the permitted 10s, a pack of Hebrew reports and letters I had been asked to hand to Teddy Kollek. I was arrested, screamed at, and

heard them phone Cologne for a car to take me away. It was now or never - I had to invent a believable story, and I told them: "The Gestapo in Vienna won't be happy if you prevent me from being in London tomorrow, as I have a meeting with the authorities trying to obtain 500 visas for children." With that, I gave them the card I had received from the girl at the Gestapo and asked them to check my statement.

They hesitated in their rage, one of them dialled the number and found that it was indeed the number of the Gestapo in Vienna. He did not pursue the inquiry as the train was about to leave. They put their heads together for a few seconds, grabbed me, and literally threw me and my luggage back into the train. As I got to my seat, the passengers, all refugees, looked at me wide-eyed. Two men were praying, but I don't know if it was the prayer or my chutzpah that saved me - but not the letters to Teddy Kollek; they remained confiscated.

□ F Lane

'Conscience and Honour'

Professor Overy's lecture refuting the revisionist contention that Britain could, and should, have negotiated peace terms with Hitler in 1940, drew an audience of three hundred to London University's Logan Hall on Sunday 25 February. An abridged version of the lecture will appear in a future issue □

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Reviews

Sephardi journey

Victor Perera, *THE CROSS AND THE PEARTREE*,
André Deutsch, 1995, £17.99.

Although the number of Jewish victims of the Spanish Inquisition was far less than those of Hitler's Final Solution – and despite the fact that the latter did not even have the ghastly option of conversion, exile or death – the events before and after 1492 were for Victor Perera's forebears 'a holocaust stretched out over centuries'. It is the memory of this dark chapter in his family's history which prompted him to undertake the quest chronicled in great detail in his latest book. The result is a fascinating account of one person's endeavour to understand and live up to his legacy of ancestral pride, grief, prejudice and joy.

With his mother's Ladino admonitions still ringing in his ears (and ours), he sets out to travel back and forth through times and distances, opinions and events from medieval Spain to modern Israel. Along the way he looks impatiently for more and more knowledge of his own ethnic background, as well as of the general history of Iberian Jews and non-Jews dispersed along the shores of the Mediterranean, the North Sea and into the New World. We enjoy with him the glories of the Golden Age in Andalusia, Aragon and Castile and suffer with him the indignities and pain inflicted on his ancestors and others by Torquemada's execution squads. We relive with him some emotionally powerful personal experiences, such as his bizarre encounter in Madrid with a Catholic priest purporting to be a kinsman, his visit to the Great Synagogue in Amsterdam and to Spinoza's 'Christian' grave, his trips back to his native Guatemala. We are intrigued by his friendship with an Israeli Arab and we feel for him as he tries to forgive his parents for inflicting on him a supernumerary circumcision.

At times the pace of his narrative may leave readers slightly breathless. But he also takes time off for reflection, not least upon what he refers to as the 'other Israel', that of the Sephardi and Oriental Jews who form a large percentage of the country's population but have not been (at least not since Jehuda Halevi and Shlomo Ibn Gabirol dreamed their romantic dreams) more than peripheral to

Zionist leadership.

Some aspects of this book may leave the Ashkenazi reader somewhat perplexed. There is, for example, among the profusion of Ladino phrases and expressions of street wisdom a considerable number which display overtones of gratuitous surrealism (was Dali a Marrano?). The author claims that the once flourishing community of Salonika, overwhelmingly Sephardi in its make-up, was wiped out by the German occupiers with the disgraceful help of its Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi. And is the statement that "...self-effacing humility has never been the Sephardi's strong suit" not also an unsubstantiated generalisation?

That said, however, it is important to see this work in its proper light. It is not a textbook on five centuries of Jewish history; the author readily admits that he has done his research with "the storyteller's licence" rather than with strictly academic scholarship. The book is not a guided tour round a museum of antiquities: it is the logbook of an adventurous voyage of discovery to a world of which all Jews are part.

□David Maier

Where are the emperor's clothes?

David Hare, *SKYLIGHT*, Wyndham's Theatre,
London WC2.

Picture this. Kyra, a veritable St Joan of the chalkface, lives in squalid discomfort while teaching disadvantaged – and frequently delinquent – children.

And this. In a previous incarnation the selfsame Kyra had been closely involved with the family of a wealthy restaurateur, sharing the wife's business responsibilities, baby sitting the children, and secretly sleeping with the husband.

Then, after six unconscionably blissful years, the wife had twigged the *liaison*. With his marriage close to collapse the restaurateur had proposed to Kyra who had not only said 'No', but instantly packed her bags.

Thereafter a blight had descended on the family. The wife developed terminal cancer, the daughter went her own way, and the son, after escalating rows with the father, left home.

All this pre-history is regurgitated when the widowed restaurateur tracks down

Kyra in her freezing garret in Kensal Green. In between nostalgic exchanges the two ex-lovers 'sing' individual arias – he a hymn to job-creating capitalism, she a paean of praise to selfless community service.

Meanwhile the garret grows cold enough to give the term 'chattering classes' a new meaning. The restaurateur pleads that they adjourn to somewhere warmer – for instance the West Indies, or at least a nearby restaurant – is rejected, but finally Kyra thaws out sufficiently to go to bed with him again.

Nookie occurs during the interval – a tasteful departure from current theatrical usage for which I would like to thank David Hare. But not for what follows. While the first act mainly reprises the history of the *affaire*, the second largely repeats – at higher decibel level – the Capitalism v Socialism clichés the ex-lovers had previously bandied about. By curtain fall the warmth of their affection has dropped to room temperature, while the basic argument remains unresolved. However, since in any debate between head and heart we, the public, incline to side with the latter, Hare can claim to have succeeded in smuggling a Socialist message into his wintry love story of the chalkface St Joan and the fat-cat restaurateur.

But, I would ask, is Kyra really a St Joan figure? What sort of a conscience-driven Socialist would have carried on a six-year liaison with the husband of a woman friend who trusted her?

This larger inconsistency is compounded by any number of smaller ones. One minute the playwright lauds social workers – the next he pokes fun at bereavement counselling on the rates. Then there is the restaurateur's puzzling speech contrasting entrepreneurs (good) with bankers (bad). Shades here of the Nazi distinction between *schaffendes und raffendes Kapital*.

I could go on, but I won't. Suffice it to say that for me David Hare has again failed to justify the hype surrounding him. (Having sat through his film *Wetherby* I defy anyone to tell me what it was all about). Yet I am obviously in a minority of one, for he is currently (next to Cézarne) the hottest ticket in town: darling of the National Theatre directorate, critics and public alike. All I can say is: Cromwell, thou shouldst be living at this hour (and not only because you readmitted the Jews to England)!

□RG

The Oedipus of Belsize Square

Robin Hirsch, *LAST DANCE AT THE HOTEL*
KEMPINSKI, University Press of New England.

The past is another country' – classic opening line of LP Hartley's *Go-Between* – hardly applies to Robin Hirsch, who subtitles his book 'A life in the Shadow of History'.

The author's parents were refugees who had met in Nazi Berlin, married in London and started a family during the Blitz. Despite this unpropitious backdrop, on the surface the author had little to complain of in his early life. He grew up in reasonable comfort, went to prep school, got into St. Paul's and obtained an Oxford scholarship. Hirsch's smooth progression from salubrious St John's Wood to the dreaming spires was, however, darkened by two shadows.

The first was, of course, the Holocaust which had decimated his parents' family and shattered the few scarred survivors.

The second shadow over the author's life was cast by his father – a near-ogre who consistently bullied (and occasionally beat) him. The mother's reflex of making out that an act of filial disobedience was at the root of every row didn't help matters.

In this mood of Oedipal disaffection, Robin Hirsch, not surprisingly, cast around for father substitutes. He found two who filled the bill: uncle George, an Auschwitz survivor, and Jochem, his mother's first husband. (I personally found the art-loving Jochem with his endless *Schwärmerei* about feminine beauty a bit of a pain, but no matter).

Nonetheless, by the book's end the father emerges as a character from whom neither author nor reader can wholly withhold admiration: it is he, after all, who enters his son for the Fulbright scholarship that takes him to America and thus determines the subsequent course of his life.

For all that, the fact that once in the USA Hirsch forewent an academic career and metaphorically 'dropped out' (by working in the theatre and – briefly – flirting with what can only be described as Hare Krishna Judaism) could be read as a, possibly unacknowledged, act of Oedipal rebellion. Then, when he was well into his forties, Robin became a father himself. The circumcision that follows prompts one of defining ex-

changes in the book: 'Martha wants to know what to wear' 'I don't know. Whatever you wear to a conventional bloodletting'.

In other words, though the author had strong reservations about the *bris*, he cleaved to Jewish tradition sufficiently to go through with it.

He also followed tradition to the extent of abandoning his hitherto half-nomadic life style and (together with his psychotherapist wife) acquiring a brownstone house in New York. His current workplace, however, is a theatre café where episodes from this autobiography have apparently been performed.

I enjoyed the book though at three hundred pages I found the narrative unduly extended. Even so the occasional repetition or long-drawn-out passage was compensated for by a touch of cosy familiarity. The early chapters abound in references to Belsize Square and such stalwarts as Rabbi Salzberger, Cantor Dollinger, Dr Falk and the theatre enthusiast Herbert Levy (the last mentioned three, thankfully, still with us). Even *AJR Information* receives a mention!

□RG

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Letters to the Editor



REKINDLING THE MEMORY

The 'Our forgotten Neighbours' exhibition was displayed from May till October in a small district museum in Vienna.

It attempted to piece together data about some of the 13,000 Jews who resided in the Third District in 1938. Over 60% were traced, some still alive (mainly in the USA, Israel and Britain), others on deportation and death lists.

The initiative, planning and compilation of materials was the work of the museum curator, who received funding from the Vienna municipality.

Having assisted the curator and having introduced some pedagogical features to enhance learning from these 'snapshots' of the Holocaust, I am keen to present a related programme consisting of two videos and support material to schools, interested groups of adults and museum/exhibition centres in the UK.

Anyone interested, please contact Peter Waldmann, 11 Dalegarth, Hurst Park Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2AG. Tel. 01223-500521.

VIENNA'S YIDDISH THEATRE

Sir - No holds Bard (December issue) put me in mind of dimly remembered visits to Yiddish plays at the Nestroy-Platz. Occasionally I would join some other kids hanging about in front of the theatre. We barely had the price of a ticket between us. 10-15 minutes before the end of the show the manager allowed us to come in and stand at the back of the stalls. Even seeing just the end of a play was a little bit of magic. The theatre orchestra vividly evoked the East European world of our parents.

One I do recall, which had the audience in stitches, was a *Gstanzl* type Yiddish song set to new words, with the refrain 'Oy is Wien a shtetl, Oy a shtetl Wien'. A stanza about the football club Hakoah, then struggling at the bottom of the First Division, went like this: *Und die Hatschikoiach/shpielen kennen se oiach/bey jeden match ward full die kasse/goals schiessen se a masselse werden noch meister weren/fün der Zweiten klasse!*

Another stanza included the lines: *Und de Wiener weiblach/sennen frümme teiblach/kurten Shpielen se de gauze necht/Weihnachten bensch se lecht...*

Netherhall Gardens Michael Hellman
London NW3

GREAT GERMANS

Sir - I refer to your February item on desk calendars for 1996 produced and published by the Federal Government's Information Office.

I would like to thank you for your interest in "a beautifully produced illustrated desk calendar devoted to the theme of great Germans and their home towns".

For your information I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the work of Albert Einstein has been honoured in our desk calendar 1994.

Embassy of the Federal K Peter Gottwald
Republic of Germany

CHARITY SHOP

Sir - Some time ago, when my mother died, like all daughters I had to dispose of her goods. She specifically wanted everything in good condition to go to a Jewish Charity shop.

However, these are not easy to find, and I was pleased to be recommended to the ORT shop at 80 Ballards Lane, Finchley N3.

They were glad of the clothes, small furniture and bric-à-brac. As I have a car I could deliver, but they tell me they can also collect if you phone 0181 349 4554.

I hope this information will be helpful to others and save them the bother of the search I had.

A regular reader

RED BROWN DAWN

Sir - I was rather surprised to see you putting Boris Yeltsin into the same category of statesmen as Gustav Stresemann (February issue). Surely the latter worked tirelessly for reconciliation and peace, in collaboration with his French counterpart Aristide Briand, whereas the former -

judging by his performance in Chechnya - can hardly be described as a "dove"!

I should also like to take issue with RDC's reference to the "friendly duels" of pre-War German university students as an essential part of the university ritual (Profile of Gary Leon in same issue). Both my father and older brother were undergraduates (1891-95 Freiburg and 1930-33 Berlin, respectively), and although holding firmly "assimilationist" views, neither found it necessary or desirable to imitate their non-Jewish co-students in their pursuit of this crazy and typically Teutonic "cult of manliness". Why, I wonder, should Jews of all people have wanted to adopt these less admirable German traits?

Southcote Lane F Lustig
Reading
In June the Russian electorate will face the stark choice: Yeltsin or the Communist Zyuganov (and/or the Fascist Zhirinovskiy). Hence Yeltsin has to be the West's favoured candidate. Ed.

JUSTICE DENIED

Sir - Arthur Rudolph who was production manager of V2 rockets which cost the lives of at least 20,000 prisoners, including several thousand from nearby Buchenwald, lived to the ripe old age of 89, died peacefully, and the West German Government could find no charges on their statute book to bring against him.

The perverse verdict of the Hamburg tribunal which would pay him a pension because he worked willingly for the Nazi machine and deny it to those who were forced to do so, a decision which affects me too, is only too typical. So is the discrimination against Jews who were born in Germany but held foreign passports. Czech in my case, as regards pensions. The SS-man who sent me to work on arrival in Auschwitz, and my parents to their death, didn't ask first what sort of passport we had been entitled to. A state willing and able to reconstruct its eastern half is able to recompense a small and dwindling number of survivors if it has a mind to.

These reverses, indeed humiliations, seem to be taken on the collective chin, with a stiff upper lip as an addition to our physiognomy. Sterile mushrooming museums too, seem to avoid the issue of those still living.

Warren Lane Frank Bright
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich

EMIGRATION FROM NAZI GERMANY

Sir - Would anybody who benefited from the services of the Palestine and Orient Lloyd travel office, Meineke Strasse, Berlin between 1933 and 1938 please contact me and give me details of services received so I can supplement the archives in Berlin.

30 Linkswood, Compton
Place Road,
Eastbourne BN21 1EE

Susanne Dyke
(née Exiner)

AUTHOR, AUTHOR!

Sir - Your readers are both knowledgeable and kind. May I thank those who have replied to my enquiry about the author of 'Das Riesenspielzeug'? (It's Chamisso!) *AJR Information* was my last (but inspired) port of call. Thanks.

Gerda Mayer

HALT THE DECLINE

Sir - A survey by the Institute of Jewish Affairs confirmed the danger of an increasing loss of Jewish identity in this country.

The survey described Jews as "tough minded on social welfare for the unemployed", and found them on average more affluent than the general population.

What extraordinary un-Jewish findings! Core Jewish values - the sanctity of life, family, education, charity, social justice and compassion for the less fortunate - have always evoked admiration by non-Jews.

Should they not receive the same admiration from us?

To halt the decline, Rabbi Julia Neuberger (*The Times* 17th Feb), wants us to be brave about what Jews stand for, braver about our attitude to social justice, and braver about standing up for other minorities.

A clear understanding and appreciation of Jewish values by all of us, could not only halt the decline but restore the pride we take in our Jewish identity.

Solihull
West Midlands

Kurt Rose

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- Discussion
- Election of Committee of Management*
- Followed by a talk to be given by George Clare.

**No person other than a committee member retiring by rotation shall be elected or re-elected a committee member at any general meeting unless:- (a) he or she is recommended by the Committee of Management, or (b) not less than twenty one clear days before the date of appointment for the meeting, notice has been given to the Society of the intention to propose that person for election or re-election together with notice executed by that person of his willingness to be elected or re-elected.*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - APRIL 1996

- APRIL**
- Ongoing Leon Greenman, Auschwitz Survivor: Jewish Museum, Finchley.
 - Mon 1 What do we tell our children? Being a second generation Jew in Britain. Simon Maier M.Ed reads his prize-winning poetry. Club 43, 8pm
 - Tues 2 Economics in the Jewish Enlightenment: Prof. Derek J. Penslar, Indiana University. Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £2
 - Mon 15 Heimat, Sprache und Exil (in German): Fritz Beer OBE, President des PEN Zentrums deutschsprachiger Autoren im Ausland. Club 43, 8pm
 - Tues 16 Chutzpah, How Come I'm a Theatre Reviewer? Hazel Kyte, broadcaster. JACS 2pm
 - Thurs 18 Theodor Herzl & the Dreyfus Affair: Prof. Julius

- Sun-Mon 21 & 22 Schoeps, 6pm Senate House, London University (org. by Sussex University) De-Nazification, Re-education & Reconstruction in Germany 1946-1949. Conference organised by the Wiener Library at Birkbeck College. £12 (concessions)
- Mon 22 Reflections on life in the former GDR: Anthony Webster, Middlesex University. Club 43, 8pm
- Tues 23 Variety in Voluntary Service: Rita Levy, Ex Mayor of Barnet. JACS 2pm
- Mon 29 Images of Women in German Expressionist Film: Dr. Carol Diethe, Middlesex University. Club 43, 8pm
- Tues 30 Question Time: Guest Panel. JACS 2pm
- MAY**
- Tues 7 Origins & Development of the Wiener Library: Ben Barkow, Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £2
- Tues 7 The Isosceles Trio: Recital with piano, violin & cello. JACS 2pm
- Sun 2 Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners. Musical afternoon, 2.15pm. Contact Judy Field on 0181-452 9681.

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

- Club 1943, Anglo-German Cultural Forum, meets at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360
- JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949
- RSGB/Jewish Museum/Manor House Society, Sternberg Centre for Judaism, 80 East End Road, Finchley, NW3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288
- Jewish Museum, either Sternberg Centre (as above) or at: 129/131 Albert Street, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997
- Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. Administrative Secretary 0171 636 7247
- University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. Diana Franklin 0181 455 4785 or 01273 678 495
- AJEB (Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners). Peter Sinclair 0181 882 1638

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The AJR at Work

Singing along

Angela Arratoon, with her ebullient, cheerful personality and lively mezzo-soprano voice, leads the weekly sing-along sessions at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. Angela has a strong musical background in piano, choral work and opera. Completing her team is pianist Maurice Hermele who can play just about any melody, as well by ear as from music. Originally from Poland, during the thirties while studying in Paris he earned a precarious living by playing illegally in dance bands. On retirement from his career in dentistry, Maurice took up the piano again to entertain the Day Centre members.



Angela Arratoon and Maurice Hermele run through some of their favourite melodies for a sing-along at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.

When Angela moved into West Hampstead back in 1967 she befriended Gusti Weiss, a German-speaking Jewish refugee (who today is a resident in Leo Baeck House). Despite moving from the district for more than 20 years, Angela kept in contact and on a visit picked up a copy of *AJR Information* which called for volunteer home visitors. While Angela was home visiting, AJR volunteers' coordinator Laura Howe spotted her musical potential and invited her to lead the Day Centre's choir where she was soon to be joined by Maurice.

Angela and Maurice present a wide range of melodies sung in several lan-

guages - from songs in German which recall members' childhoods, through Viennese waltzes, Israeli favourites, hits like *Bei mir bist du shejn*, Lily Marlene, Roses of Picardy, A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square, to London cockney favourites. Angela catches the idiom of each, though she is not Jewish herself!

Any member is invited to turn up for a good sing-song, or just to listen; music has to be the best therapy there is □

RDC

Manchester Holocaust Centre planned

At the inaugural meeting of Manchester's new AJR group, local historian Bill Williams discussed plans for a Holocaust Centre to be established in Manchester's Jewish Museum.

As envisaged, the premises of the museum would be enlarged to enable the creation of themed sections, one of which would be of Holocaust exhibits. A quiet room would also be included in which visitors could sit, reflect and recover their composure. Many of the fifty members who participated in the meeting related their own experiences and promised to donate items of memorabilia; others suggested appropriate names for the proposed centre.

Manchester AJR is planning a visit to *Bet Shalom*, the new Holocaust Memorial Centre near Nottingham. A programme to record survivors' stories is being initiated which will be included in the centre's archival material.

The meeting was chaired by Werner Lachs who can be contacted on 0161-773-4091 for further information □

New Leeds group

Anyone living in the Yorkshire region who has Jewish roots, and is either a refugee or a survivor from the Nazi era, is invited to join in the formation of a new group centred on Leeds. It will aim to provide people from similar backgrounds with opportunities to share their experiences and meet socially.

The 50th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in Europe prompted many commemorations and re-

unions. Among many people who particularly recalled their earlier lives were those who escaped from Nazi persecution or survived the atrocities of the concentration camps.

Preliminary meetings to discuss the new group have already been held by a number of former refugees with the full support of the AJR (which has successfully established a number of associated groups) and Leeds Jewish Welfare Board. Please telephone Ruth on 0378 780 838 if you would like to know more □

Spanish connection

Aretired couple who are long-standing members of the AJR have set about forming a new AJR group if there proves to be a sufficient number of people from their shared background in their locality. New AJR groups have been recently started in South London, the Midlands, the North West and currently in Yorkshire. The latest group proposed is rather different - it centres on the holiday resort of Marbella in Spain where many people from England have chosen to spend their retirement years in Mediterranean sunshine rather than in the cold and gloom of an English winter.

Any member who may be interested, or anyone knowing a potential member who would be pleased to participate, in the first instance should write to Box 1284 at AJR's offices from where your letter will be forwarded to the organisers in Spain □

AJR 'Drop in' Advice Centre Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

15 Cleve Road, London NW6 3RL
between 10am and 12 noon on the
following dates:

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Monday | 1 April |
| Tuesday | 16 April |
| Wednesday | 24 April |
| Thursday | 2 May |

and every Thursday from
10am to 12 noon at:

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*No appointment is necessary, but please bring
along all relevant documents, such as Benefit
Books, letters, bills, etc.*

Message from the Director

Thirty years ago when computers generally were no more than high speed calculators, fed by punched cards or paper tape, producing voluminous printed reports, I joined BEA, one of the constituent parts of what today is British Airways. The company was an industrial leader in *real time computing*, in the shape of the airline reservations system. I was in charge of computer systems' development, and we developed a number of sophisticated systems with ever more (to use the jargon of the time) *man machine interface*.

While some of us dreamed and forecast immense new applications for computers, I do not think that anyone foresaw either how commonplace would be the use of computers or how powerful they would become. In the intervening years we have become quite used to computers controlling moonshots and probes to Jupiter, planning war strategies, running factories, or analysing medical conditions, but how many of us would have imagined a computer capable of making the world chess champion sweat?

Chess, and I know this is a game played by many of our members, has always been thought of as one of the supreme intellectual achievements of mankind, and to think that this kind of achievement can now be emulated by a machine is quite a sobering thought. It is true that the IBM machine capable of this feat has been programmed by human beings, but those human beings could never themselves have beaten Kasparov. Although the champion managed to win, it was not without difficulty. Computers can be programmed to learn from their mistakes and to adopt different strategies, so perhaps it will not be too long before they will be able to defeat any chess champion.

This leads us to speculate whether in the Brave New World of the coming millennium, man and computer will live in symbiosis, or whether man will be enslaved by the machine he has created.

I have no answers to this conundrum, but talking of slavery, let me wish you all a Happy Pesach, the festival commemorating our escape from bondage.

□ Ernest David

Continuity funds

Jewish Continuity committed a total of £368,000 to support 40 projects in its latest round of awards aimed at ameliorating the decline of Britain's Jewish community □

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Tel. 0171 328 0208

Open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 a.m. – 6.30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday 9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Morning Activities – Bridge, kalookie, scrabble, chess, etc., keep fit, discussion group, choir (*Mondays*), art class (*Tuesdays and Thursdays*).

Afternoon entertainment –

APRIL 1996

- Monday 1 APRIL MISCELLANY – Louise Lavilles (Mezzo) accompanied by Sally-Anne Satkin (Piano)
- Tuesday 2 TRINITY DUO – Amanda Palmer (Soprano) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski (Piano)
- Wednesday 3 CLOSED AFTER LUNCH
- Thursday 4 CLOSED – PESACH
- Sunday 7 CLOSED – EASTER
- Monday 8 CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 9 A PIANO TRIO – Bridget Hurst, Myrtle Bruce-Mitford & Timothy Barratt
- Wednesday 10 CLOSED – PESACH
- Thursday 11 CLOSED – PESACH
- Sunday 14 A PARTY AFTERNOON – Dorothy Sayers (Piano & Accordion)
- Monday 15 THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO
- Tuesday 16 SONGS FOR SPRING – Christopher Butterworth (Baritone) with Piano Accompaniment
- Wednesday 17 SPRINGTIME WITH VIENNESE MUSIC – Claude May (Baritone) with Own Accompaniment
- Thursday 18 APRIL WITH LAURA – MARCUS & PAUL with Piano Accompaniment

- Sunday 21 DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Monday 22 GYPSIES & BIRDS – Lecia Robertson (Soprano) accompanied by Clair Hiles (Piano)
- Tuesday 23 MUSIC TO SOOTHE THE SOUL – Guyathrie Peiris (Mezzo) accompanied by William Patrick (Piano)
- Wednesday 24 TRINITY TRIO – Amanda Palmer (Soprano), Devon Harrison (Bass) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski (Piano)
- Thursday 25 MUSIC FOR SPRING – Rona Israel (Soprano) accompanied by Marek Dabrowski (Piano)
- Sunday 28 DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Monday 29 THE JOYS OF SPRING – Pamela Kolirin accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano)
- Tuesday 30 DUO KINNOR ENTERTAIN WITH A POT POURRI OF MUSIC -Madeleine Whitelaw (Piano) & David Richmond (Violin)
- MAY**
- Wednesday 1 MAYPOLE WITH IAN & CAROL – Ian Bradford (Tenor) accompanied by Carol Algranati (Piano)
- Thursday 4 2 SONGS FOR EVERYONE – Shirley Gurevitz accompanied by Sylvia Cohen (Piano)
- Sunday 5 DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Monday 6 CLOSED – BANK HOLIDAY

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday

Power. Mrs. Irma Power, 20 Marston Close, Fairfax Road, London NW6 4EU, will celebrate her 90th Birthday on May 6th 1996.

Deaths

Baum. Hans Baum, born Oberhausen, April 1902, died London 3rd February 1996. Fondly remembered by his many friends, and relatives abroad.

Levick. Henry Levick (Hans Lewinnek) of 27 Newborough Grove, Birmingham B28 0UX, died peacefully 1st February after a brief illness. Greatly loved and missed by his wife and son.

Rowan. Mrs. Hedy Rowan, née Rosenfelder, Nördlingen, Bavaria. Died in London on January 13th at the age of 88. She came to London in 1934. In recent years she helped with the delivery of meals-on-wheels and with transporting AJR members to the Day Centre. She will be much missed by her cousins and friends.

In Memoriam

Weiss. Karl Weiss, died March 1982, and Tommy Weiss, who left us suddenly March 1956, not quite 11 years old. "Es ist bestimmt in Gottes' Rat, dass man vom Liebsten das man hat, muss scheiden, ja scheiden." Lisl.

Consecration

Lawrence. Gertude (Trudy) Lawrence. Memorial service and stone consecration will take place at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery, on Sunday 21st April at 1.30pm.

CLASSIFIED

Personal

AJR Group, Marbella, Spain. Retired couple living in Marbella, long-time members of the AJR, would like to meet

families with similar background and interests for social contact etc. Also interested in forming a local group of AJR members. Please write to Box No. 1284, AJR.

Miscellaneous

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

The Diaghilev exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery (until 14 April) is very exciting and should not be missed. An excellent, but rather bulky, catalogue *Diaghilev, Creator of the Ballets Russes*, has been issued (price £17.50).

The Frederick Leighton exhibition continues at the Royal Academy, until 21 April. Leighton (1830-1896) made a sensational debut in London in 1855, became a member of the Royal Academy and its President in 1878, a position he occupied for the rest of his life.

The David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery continues until 7 July, after which it moves to the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh.

Avis Newman, one of Britain's most highly regarded contemporary artists, is showing her work at the Camden Arts Centre (until 5 May).

Paul Feiler is having an exhibition at the Tate Gallery, *St Ives* (until 21 April). Since 1953 he has had many one-man exhibitions both at home and abroad. Born in Frankfurt on Main in 1918 he came to England in 1933. He attended the Slade School and, after internment in Canada, taught at Radlett, Eastbourne and Bristol. In 1975 he retired from teaching and purchased a disused chapel in Cornwall which has been his home ever since.

The Festival of Britain was held on the South Bank in 1951 and the Royal Festival Hall has now mounted an exhibition *Symbols for 1952* (until 21 April). The original sculptures for the Festival, including works by Eduardo Paolozzi, Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, Reg Butler, Jacob Epstein and Lynn Chadwick, as well as the Skylon, have been traced and brought together again. The original plans for the Royal Festival Hall are also included, as well as the current plans to restore the building to its Festival of Britain glory.

Manchester City Art Galleries are showing *Whitefriars Glass, the Art of James Powell & Sons* (until 30 June). James Powell & Sons, were the most innovative and creative glassmaking factory in Britain in their time.

Also at the Manchester Art Galleries (until 21 April) is an exhibition of paintings by Jack B Yeats (1871-1957), brother of the poet W B Yeats and considered to be the foremost Irish painter of the twentieth century.

The National Gallery is showing (until 19 May) *Masterpieces from the Doria Pamphilj Gallery, Rome*, one of the finest private collections of old master paintings in the world. Included are works by Velasquez, Caravaggio, Raphael, Titian and many others. An illustrated book with reproductions of the most important pictures in the collection is available at the exhibition (price £7.95).



Cézanne, *Portrait by the artist*, 1879-82

And, lastly, the magnificent and enormous Cézanne exhibition at the Tate Gallery (until 28 April). It is a block-busting, grandiose affair and is attracting great crowds. Those who prefer to admire Cézanne more quietly and more cheaply, can see many of his works at the National Gallery (admission free) and at the Courtauld Collection, Somerset House (admission £3) □

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**The Brochure Chairman, AJR,
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London NW3 6AL.**

SB's Column

A Tale of two cities. To coincide with the erection of a Kristallnacht Memorial, Bamberg is staging exhibitions chronicling the achievements of Franconian Jews. The memorial window features a photograph of the Bamberg Synagogue at the time of construction in 1910, and is strikingly presented, surrounded by heavy copper and steel plates. In Regensburg, building work near the cathedral uncovered parts of the medieval Jewish quarter which once consisted of some 30 houses destroyed in 1519. Archaeologists date the origin of the synagogue back to the 11th or 12th century.

Star of silent films, Lya de Putti, Hungarian-born sex symbol, was the subject of a German TV retrospective which called her the 'trendsetter of the vamp type.' Some not-so-young film buffs may remember her in *Variété* and *Das indische Grabmal*; the advent of the 'Talkies' in 1928 set an end to Lya de Putti's short career as her voice proved unsuitable for the new techniques. She did not survive long, dying in 1931 after swallowing a chicken bone.

Birthday. Hildegard Knef has turned 70. Today no longer in the limelight, she is remembered as one of the first postwar German actresses to achieve fame within and outside her country, and to assist in the rebirth of German cinema. Her autobiographical novel *Der geschenkte Gaul*, published in the Sixties, gave a vivid picture of life in Europe during and after the war.

Obituaries. German classical actress Maria Wimmer has died at the age of 84. Trained by Fritz Kortner she was a member of the Kammerspiele, Munich, for long periods. Dresden-born Ruth Berghaus who died, aged 68, was a theatrical producer and choreographer whose work triggered lively disputes.

Married to the late Paul Dessau, who composed the music to some of Brecht's plays, she became artistic director of Theater am Schiffbauerdamm, Berlin. An ardent Communist Party member, she produced opera in an avant-garde manner, which often alienated critics and audiences alike. Her only British production was a controversial *Don Giovanni* for Welsh Opera in 1984 □

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SEARCH NOTICES

Karl Katz wishes to make contact with anyone who was with him at Wallingford Farm Training Colony, Wallingford, Oxon., in 1939-40. Among them were Hans Kutscher, Krumholtz & Freisinger. Would like to make contact with any of them. Please write to Karl Katz, 3 Back Lane, Bexley, Kent DA5 1BE, or Telephone 01322 554 442.

Liese Lotte Kuzmova, previously Klein (née Frohlich) and **Miriam Jelinkova** (née Klein) last heard of in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Being sought by relative Howard Cohen, 25 Chasewood Park, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex, England. Tel: 0181 864 6888.

Ruth M. Jaeger, last heard of in Wales 1945. Being sought by Howard Cohen, 25 Chasewood Park, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex, England. Tel: 0181 864 6888.

Fritz Landauer. Munich architect and designer, lived and worked in England, mainly London, from 1933 till his death in 1968. An exhibition of his work is planned in Germany, as well as a publication describing his life and achievements. Would anyone who knew or remembers Landauer or his work please communicate with Mrs. Agnes M. Schilling, Graf-von-Seysse-Str. 16, D-86199 Augsburg, Germany. Phone 0049-821-92006, Fax 0049-821-993709.

Elisabeth Janstein. Information, photos, letters, material is being sought about the Austrian journalist and writer Elisabeth Janstein (Igla 1893 to 1944 Winchcombe). Contact: Dr. Ursula Seiber, Österreichische Exilbibliothek, Seidengasse 13, A-1070 Wien. Tel. +43/1/526 20 44-20. Fax. +43/1/526 20 44-30.

Renata Rosenheck, believed to be living in London. In 1942-43 aged seven in Lyon with mother; father interned in Gurs concentration camp. Renata taken to Switzerland but mother deported. Information on current whereabouts of Renata being sought to return family memento. Please write to Aimée Stauffer, 3 rue de la Mairie, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland.

Ida and Louise Cook. Under-cover opera lovers, on repeated trips to Germany smuggled out valuables belonging to Jewish families to serve as immigration guarantees. Biographer is

seeking people recalling their war work and continued connections with those they rescued. Please contact Dr. Rebecca A. Pope, English Department, Georgetown University, Washington DC 30057-1048. Tel. 202-687-7435.

Hedwig London (Miss), born 15 Feb. 1899, Heydekrug, Germany. England 1939, naturalised 1951. Worked for Col. & Mrs. Gibbs in Gloucestershire until 1982. Believed to have family in Israel/South Africa. Information sought on Miss London's early years in this country. Contact Lesley Faulkner, Cirencester Social Services, 33 Querns Lane, Cirencester, Glos.

Edith Foy, née Wilhelm. If Edith Foy or any friend or relation of hers knows her present address, Eric Linfield (close friend in the 1950s) of 6 Camerton Close, Saltford, Bristol BS18 3BT, would like to contact her.

AJR/Self-Aid Concert

Opera and Operetta

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sunday 19th May at 2.45

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Barber of Seville: Largo al factotum, Dunque io son

Marriage of Figaro: Non piu andrai

Così fan tutte: Soave si al vento

Carmen: La fleur que tu m'avais jetée, Seguidilla

Don Carlos: Son io mio Carlo

Rigoletto: Questa o quella, Quartetto

Gianni Schicchi: O mio babbino caro

Pearlfishers: Au fond du temple saint

Lakme: Viens Mallika - Sous le dôme épais

La Bohème: Che gelida manina, Mi chiamano Mimi, O soave fanciulla

Fledermaus: O weh ist mir, Chacun a son goût, 'Eins zwei drei'

Tales of Hoffman: Kleinzack, Scintille diamant, Barcarolle

Czardasfürstin: Die Mädchen

Merry Widow: Maxims, Love unspoken, Vilja Lied

Das Land des Lächelns: Dein ist mein ganzes Herz

Paganini: Gern hab' ich die Frau'n geküsst

Demographic disaster in the Diaspora

Jews are disappearing from the area of Europe which was the heartland of Jewry for five centuries". Bernard Wasserstein, the historian, of Brandeis University, presented the thesis of his recently published book *Vanishing Diaspora* (Hamish Hamilton, £20) in stark terms to the Institute of Jewish Affairs (now Institute for Jewish Policy Research).

He expounded on three specific areas. Most significantly, emigration had reduced European Jewry from 4 million after the war to below 2 million, and with a rate of emigration from the former Soviet Union of 100,000 per annum (some 60,000 to Israel) the process continued. Secondly, with Jewish deaths exceeding Jewish births, the rate of decrease was higher than in any other comparable European group. Thirdly, the 'melting' of Jews into the general population was reflected in a 50% rate of outmarriage.

Orthodox Jewry did not welcome conversion, while Liberal and Reform conversions were of little demographic significance. Yiddish and Ladino were no longer languages spoken by Jews. What remained was a sub-culture within the host cultures to which Jews made their contributions as individuals.

Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Magonet argued that the positive role of Reform and Liberal Judaism had been omitted from Prof. Wasserstein's analysis. The nature of Jewish identity rested on a complex of factors - "an ever-developing community of faith responding to the communities in which they live". He asked rhetorically whether "Jewish culture was the culture of the last country we got thrown out of?"

Rabbi Magonet also referred to the seemingly ever-increasing number of Israelis in Europe. With the State of Israel as a source of Jewish identity, he believed that a Hebrew-speaking culture could emerge - if it had not done so already. The community's objective should be neither survival nor continuity; rather to establish a Jewish purpose.

Michael May, Director of the European Council of Jewish Communities, emphasised the "vitality of Jewish life in Europe today", and accused Wasserstein of "clinging to the culture of Eastern Europe". With the prosperity of European communities, Jewry could be said to be

changing rather than vanishing.

Dr. Jonathan Webber, of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, observed that ethnic identity was based on many factors, including the non-rational, and that Jewish practice offered wide scope for inconsistency.

Other points made were that being Jewish had become voluntary in the last 50 years, that the ultra-Orthodox should not be underestimated, that the vitality of Britain's Jewish community should be recognised and that the whole Vanishing Diaspora debate was insignificant compared with the losses suffered in the Holocaust. In his reply Prof. Wasserstein warned that we should not deceive ourselves; what Diaspora Jewry had to do was to manage an orderly and dignified decline.

□Ronald Channing

East ending

Bloom's kosher restaurant in Whitechapel, centre of Jewish life and cuisine in London's East End for 75 years, has closed. Mourned by all who still retain the lingering taste of its salt beef sandwiches, latkes and other cholesterol-packed delicacies brought to these shores by Jewish immigrants from Russia and Poland, as well as by those who specially enjoyed the begrudging service brought to a veritable artform by the waiters.

Policy research

The Institute of Jewish Affairs has changed its name to the Institute for Jewish Policy Research in an endeavour to place the organisation's future emphasis on in-depth research upon which conclusions and recommendations are to be made.

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Cooking with Gretel Beer



Guglhupf

Forever popular and, of course, there are numerous variations on that theme. My own preference is for a Guglhupf made with yeast, and this particular version is sometimes known as 'French' Guglhupf in Vienna. It is very easy to make, but use fresh rather than dried yeast (available from most good bakers and also from some health food stores).

9oz (250g) strong plain flour
 ½oz (15g) fresh yeast
 2 tablespoons caster sugar
 ½ cup tepid milk
 4oz (110g) butter
 3 eggs
 ½ cup raisins
 grated lemon rind
 butter and flour for the mould
 abt. 2oz (55g) slivered almonds
 icing sugar sieved with vanilla sugar

Preheat oven to Gas Mark 7, 425°F, 220°C. Sift the flour into a warmed bowl. Cream yeast with a teaspoon of the sugar, add the tepid milk. Make a well in the centre of the flour and pour in the yeast mixture. Sprinkle a little of the flour over the top, cover bowl with a cloth and set in a warm place to prove.

Butter a Guglhupf mould, sprinkle with slivered almonds and dust with flour (or ground almonds). Set butter in a warm place. When the yeast mixture begins to bubble, mix yeast into remainder of the flour, add remaining sugar and lightly beaten eggs. Beat mixture well with a wooden spoon or use the dough hook of an electric mixer, until the dough leaves sides of bowl clean. Stir in the raisins and grated lemon rind.

Arrange mixture in the prepared Guglhupf mould which should be about two-thirds full. Cover mould with a cloth and set in a warm place to rise. When the mixture has risen to within an inch of the top of the mould, put the cake into preheated oven. After five minutes turn down the heat to Gas Mark 5, 375°F, 190°C and later to Gas Mark 4½, 360°F, 185°C without opening the oven door. Bake for about 45 minutes in all – if necessary cover cake with buttered greaseproof paper towards the end of baking time, in case it browns too quickly. Carefully remove cake from mould and set on a rack. Dust with icing sugar sieved with vanilla sugar whilst still warm □

The discreet charm of the *schmooseoisie*

From shopping malls to roller blades, Hamburger chains to political correctness, what the US does today the UK will do tomorrow. Therefore stand by the countrywide dissemination of the word *schmooseoisie*. This newly minted term deriving from the Yiddish verb *schmooze*, to butter up, has somehow been absorbed into (American) English to mean to talk or chatter.

Schmooseoisie, pace *The Times* (9 Jan) was coined by an American Professor of English writing in the *Boston Globe* in 1992. It describes a 'rapidly expanding class which makes its living by talk, on radio or television.'

As frequently happens with classes the *schmooseoisie* has various strata. An upper stratum, the *schmooseiocracy*, include

the likes of Teresa Gorman and John Redwood in Britain. Ranking even above the *schmooseiocrats* are the chat monarchs: *schmooze* queen Oprah Winfrey in the USA, and Melvyn Bragg and Angus Have-I-Got-Schmooze-For-You Dayton over here.

These interesting new coinages listed in *The Times* have encouraged me to devise several new – and rhyming – combinations in which *schmooze* features. I leave readers to judge their usefulness:

'True Blues' *schmooze* for 1922 Committee sessions, news *schmooze* for Current Affairs, *schmooze* news for gossip columns, cruise *schmooze* for shipboard gossip, *schmooze* cruise for a Swan-Hellenic lecture trip, *schmooze* crews for talkshow panellists, crews' *schmooze* for astronauts' chitchat, short fuse *schmooze* for road rage counselling, Blues *schmooze* for a *Musical Express* column, and *schmooze* Blues for BBC phone-in cutbacks.

On a more elevated level I would substitute the straight-forwardly Anglo-Saxon usage Heads-I-win-tails-you-lose *schmooze* for the Greek loanword *hubris*, Don't's-and-Do's *schmooze* for (similarly Greek-derived) Ethics, and Lautrec-Toulouse *schmooze* for the Frenchified 'chatter in the *Salon de Refusés*.'

Lastly I would dignify Dr Jonathan Miller and rabbis Lionel Blue and Hugo Gryn with the honorific *schmooze* Jews – and proclaim Vanessa Feltz as our *schmooze* muse in residence.

□ RG

Survivors of the Shoah

Visual History Foundation

Steven Spielberg is donating the entire proceeds from the film *Schindler's List* to this historical documentation. Between now and the end of 1997 world wide interviews with survivors will be conducted.

The video interviews will take approximately two hours and the interviewee will receive a copy of it as a memorial keepsake for family and friends. Five of the Holocaust memorial institutions (such as the Washington Holocaust Museum and Yad Vashem) will eventually be able to call up the computer-processed and catalogued interviews by computer 'online'.

A previously given interview or an already existing biography should present no obstacle to additionally presenting one's reminiscences in this manner. As a general rule there is a preliminary discussion with the interviewer. The interview proper is conducted at a second meeting. Documents will be recorded and photographs will be taken and the family is invited to appear at the end of the interview.

Should you be interested, please write to Dr Albert Lichtblau, Institut für Geschichte, Universität Salzburg, Rudolfskai 42, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria (Tel: 0043-662-8044-4743; Fax: 0043-662-8044-413; E-Mail: albert.lichtblau@sbg.ac.at) for further information. You can also telephone freefone to the following numbers in the USA and in Germany respectively:

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History foundation, (P.O. Box 3168, Los Angeles, CA 001-213-90078-3168); USA 001-800-661-2092 or Jessica Mehler (Frankfurt) 0049-069-724400 □

'Re-migrants'

The term *Remigranten* describes the (relatively few) refugees who returned to postwar Germany while the great mass stayed on in Britain, America or Israel. Interestingly enough, the phenomenon of a few returnees swimming against the tide had also occurred earlier on, when Jews were essentially 'economic refugees.'

Thus during the Depression the Warsaw-resident Polanski family had gone to Paris, where their son Roman was born in 1933. Finding France an unpropitious environment, they returned to Poland, with unbelievably maladroit timing, just before the Nazis brought the war, and with it the Holocaust, to that country.

Little Roman, though, survived against all the odds because even at seven he knew how to creep through sewers and sleep rough in alleyways and ruins.

Postwar, the indestructible street urchin evolved into a successful film director – whose work is, however, hardly ever free of a viciousness that clearly harks back to his formative years.

Bernard Kops was one of many children of Dutch-born East Enders. In the thirties the family suffered such poverty that the father mooted a plan for taking them back to Amsterdam. The scheme came to nothing, however, when it turned out that they couldn't even raise money for the fare. Before long they were to become aware of a terrible paradox: the abject poverty they had meant to escape had, by marooning them in this country, saved their very lives.

A decade or so before Kops senior's arrival, Louis Gertler had fetched up in the East End from Galicia. Here his wife gave birth to their fifth child, Mark, but a few years on bleak economic circumstances made it advisable to return to Austrian Poland. They embarked on the homeward journey, but several poverty-stricken years later they came to the conclusion that England was after all preferable to *der hejm*.

Back in Spitalfields, British-born Mark heard his first words of English on entering primary school. By the time he left school he had shown such aptitude for art that his father arranged for him to work in a stained glass factory and attend Polytechnic classes in the evening. However, the 10-hour working day followed by evening study undermined Mark Gertler's health. Fortunately at this jun-

ture the painter William Rothenstein came to the rescue. Rothenstein, son of a wealthy German-Jewish Bradford wool merchant, smoothed Gertler's entry into the Slade School of art and procured a grant for him. Soon Mark blossomed both as an artist and as a personality. Through fellow Slade student Dora Carrington he met Lady Otteline Morrell, whose Garsington Manor served as a wartime refuge and 'play area' of the Bloomsbury Group of artists and intellectuals. It was at Garsington that the poor boy from the East End met luminaries like Bertrand Russell, Maynard Keynes and – the similarly proletarian – D H Lawrence, (who promptly put him into his novel *Women in Love*).

These encounters took place while guns were booming on the Western front. It was in reaction against the war that Gertler painted *Merry-go-round*, his best-known work (now at the Tate).

During the postwar years his early promise began to fade. Marriage brought a measure of contentment – but he eventually felt that it stymied his creativity. There were also financial and health worries. Worn out, he took his own life in June 1939.

□ RG

Long life

Members of the AJR are, we are extremely pleased to report, living to exceptionally great ages. A recent survey conducted by the AJR revealed that 80% of members were aged 70 years and over, many celebrating birthdays well into their 90s!

Two thirds of AJR members were born in Germany, a quarter in Austria, and the rest gave Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and England as their countries of origin.

To no-one's surprise, it was confirmed that three quarters of the AJR's members live in North West London – an inheritance of their placement by the Jewish settlement and relief agencies before and during World War II. Long may they continue to add continental conversation, cuisine and *Kultur* to the cosmopolitan character that remains in today's Hampstead, Highgate, St. John's Wood, Golders Green, Hendon and Finchley.

□ RDC

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One Man's War

Part 8

Relocation

After some days or weeks the Germans moved us to a railway station and made us board a train, about forty men to a truck. (All of a sudden everybody was an expert on the exact wording of the Geneva Red Cross Convention. I don't know where the knowledge came from.) We remonstrated with the Germans that the convention permitted no more than about 26 - 30 prisoners per rail truck. The Germans settled the matter by saying that all those who entered the trucks voluntarily would end up in a proper POW camp in Germany with three meals a day. Our jailers never adhered to the minimum amount of calories as outlined by the Red Cross. Otherwise, the authority - Wehrmacht Heer - under whose jurisdiction we were held acted correctly. But there were some transgressions. The Geneva Convention was our Bible. It was mentioned daily. You raised your left hand with an open palm with the words 'The convention says....' And the German replied 'I know, I know - but....' If there would not have been a Geneva Convention with its Red Cross parcels I would not have been alive to write these words.

The train journey from Greece took us through Yugoslavia where our train, consisting of perhaps as many as 30 cattle trucks, was shunted into a siding at Bel-

grade for many days.

Our captors realised that if they were not to arrive with corpses at the end of the journey, they had to be somewhat lenient towards us, as long as it did not encourage escapes. They allowed the trucks' sliding doors to be left open in a fixed position about a foot wide, facilitating limited contact with the outside world.

We found that a German guard near our gap was actually from Vienna and Palmai was immediately ordered to sit at the opening to start a conversation. The Viennese are a peculiar lot: when one meets another one far from home they start reminiscing about their home town. Where did you live, what school did you go to, where did you work? And they always knew it well - that street and the nearest tram stop and that bistro that sold lovely wine, and so forth. The prisoner sitting close to the gap of the truck had to be a clever fellow and a bit of a diplomat. A clot could not have achieved anything, but Palmai was excellent. Bartering a bar of toilet soap he sent his Viennese friend to see if he could get us something to eat for it. The following evening the guards allowed some civilians to approach the train with food and they came every evening.

Though Yugoslavia was overrun the Jews of Belgrade still lived normal lives. Hearing about the hundreds of Jewish POWs at the railway station, they brought us food, preferably after dark. How they heard about us I don't know - possibly from Palmai's compatriot.

Our journey ended in Austria near the small town of Wolfsberg. However, after a few days we were split into Arbeits-Commandos and I was back on a train with about 25 others. This time it was in a normal railway carriage, albeit with locked doors. After a few hours travel and stopping or passing many stations, I became rather depressed. Opposite me sat a little Sephardi Jew who had never seen the world outside Jerusalem. He told me to report to sick parade and that I was fully entitled to see a doctor. I insisted that I was all right, to which he retorted; "Why are you crying then?" Without my noticing, some tears must have run down my face. I had memories of having passed through the area with my father, mother and sister in our Chevrolet en route for a holiday in Velden on the Woertersee, not so long ago. I said to the Jerusalemite, "Well, you see, I have been here before." What could I tell him?

We left the train in Lienz and marched to our new camp which was lovely; neat, light, spotlessly clean cabins with washbasins and showers, three-tier bunk-beds, but, of course, barbed wire fences. The biggest surprise was in the evening, when the Austrian woman who cooked a marvellous soup, shouted: "Anyone for second helpings?" Unbelievable. Normally, even if there was some food there was never enough and the last got nothing. Our daily chore consisted of laying the hardcore stones on a minor road which led to the Grossglockner pass.

(to be continued)

□ H P Weiner

50 YEARS AGO

A PROPHETIC VOICE

Again the 1st April has come around. That day in 1933, when SA men had prevented customers from entering Jewish shops, and a few houses and businesses were demolished. It became the tragedy of Europe that the 1st April was not taken seriously, even in 1933.

Germany, at that time, was still a member of the League of Nations; Hindenburg was Reichspräsident who less than a year before had guaranteed the civic rights of German Jewry. World reaction to the boycott did not meet the fundamental issues.

In Great Britain public opinion was more impressed by the personal tragedies of scientists, doctors and writers than by the war on civilisation which, in fact, Germany had declared that day. At a protest meeting in Liverpool, Eleanor Rathbone had said that the persecution of Jews would have taught us to see in the "outbreak of temperament" of the German people a serious menace to the world.

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