

AJR Information

Volume LI No. 6
June 1996

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss...

AGM details

Sunday 9 June
see p2

Election of
Committee of
Management
see page p13

Shared guilt

Hopefully, Goldhagen's book won't divert attention from Tom Bower's updated *Blind Eye to Murder* (Little, Brown £20). Bower reveals that only 30,000 out of 150,000 known mass murderers stood trial, mainly in Eastern Europe. The guilt for this is shared by the US – protectors of Klaus Barbie – Britain, which was lukewarm about war crimes trials, and Bonn. In Bonn the banker Hermann Abs managed to pull strings for Flick, while President Lübke, an ex-concentration camp designer, could decorate Heinrich Butefisch, the ex-IG Farben executive involved in the 'Auschwitz project' □

Willing instruments of genocide

Explaining the inexplicable

When it emerged in 1946 that the Shoah cost not hundreds of thousands, but millions of lives the mind reeled under the weight of unfathomable figures. Now, reading that the perpetrators of that crime numbered not just thousands of SS but hundreds of thousands of German policemen, soldiers and others we experience renewed horror.

The revelation in Daniel Goldhagen's book *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (see review p.4) that 'ordinary' Germans massacred defenceless Jews with enthusiasm silenced even the most articulate Shoah survivor. Elie Wiesel confessed himself unable to probe the springs of that antisemitic bloodlust. But since the question cannot be left dangling in the air we shall attempt an (admittedly sketchy) answer in the subsequent paragraphs.

A national mindset is not simply the product of a common gene pool; if it were Dutch and Afrikaners, who share the same genetic endowment, would show similar attitudes – which they manifestly don't.

In the way species of animals have their lives governed by the climate, groups of humans are shaped by the cultural climate – *which they, however, largely create themselves*. (By culture we don't simply mean art but the entire web of traditional beliefs, customs and values that go to make up a national consciousness).

The historical experience of the Germans throughout centuries has been of submission to authority – of being subjects, rather than citizens.

While the role of English kings diminished steadily from Henry VIII to Farmer George, German princes enjoyed hardly less power by 1830 than three centuries earlier, when Luther's Reformation had specifically exalted *die Obrigkeit*.

All the deities in the German pantheon – Luther, Frederick the Great, Bismarck, the Kaiser – were authoritarians and, largely, warmongers. Anti-humanism was likewise central to the thinking of the culture heroes Nietzsche and Wagner, while even Goethe and Schiller made minor contributions to the prevailing ethos. *Geheimrat* Goethe stated that he

preferred injustice to disorder; Schiller, the 'poet of freedom', let his fear of mob rule blind him to the libertarian impulse behind the French Revolution.

Ruhe ist die erste Bürgerpflicht translates roughly as 'the subject's first duty is to conform'. When the Catholic-Protestant dispute shook the country the princes found a simple solution: every Bavarian had to be Catholic, and every Prussian Lutheran.

Later, when politics replaced religion as a divisive force the powers-that-be ensured conformity by other devices. Critics of government policy, far from being granted constitutional opposition status – as in Britain – were denigrated as subversives, with Bismarck demonising the Social Democrats as *vaterlandslose Gesellen* (unpatriotic rogues).

To the uniformity of outlook which an unconscionably long tradition of authoritarian rule tried to engender in the Germans, Hitler added the homogeneity of race, i.e. Judeophobia. Racial antisemitism, in the main a German invention, proved infinitely more lethal than other strains of the same virus bred elsewhere in (mainly Eastern) Europe.

After the Nazi accession the interplay of Jew hatred and traditional *Kadavergehorsam* (zombie obedience) produced a popular readiness to commit, or at least condone, massacres which the supposed keepers of the nation's conscience – church leaders, academics and cultural luminaries (Gerhart Hauptmann, Richard Strauss) – did scandalously little to oppose.

The Germans of the 1930s were not only inheritors of a regressive political tradition, but of a deformed culture.

However, the total collapse of 1945, also known as the Year Zero, created a vacuum which allowed Western influence to shape the postwar climate of the Bundesrepublik. So let us conclude this analysis of the German sickness documented in Goldhagen's book (see p.4) on a note of cautious optimism. Around 1700, Swedish armies were rampaging everywhere from Prague to Moscow; today Sweden is one of the most pacific countries of Europe. This shows that national character is not immutable and offers a modicum of hope for the future □

Profile

Doyenne of the footlights

Agnes Bernelle was born exposed to – as they say – the smell of greasepaint and the roar of the crowd: her father, Rudolf Bernauer, had been one of the great innovative theatre directors in pre-Nazi Berlin.

Coming to England at 13, she attended boarding school till the outbreak of war, when she briefly became a governess before appearing in refugee cabarets in NW London. In 1944/45 she made a significant contribution to psychological warfare on the air waves as Vicky, the singer-cum-disc jockey of the Allied-run *Soldatensender West*. (Vicky has with some justice been described as the Anglo-American answer to Tokyo Rose).

Postwar she became a repertory actress, a stage of her career climaxed by playing

the lead in *Salome* at St Martin's Theatre in 1954.

The sixties found her in Ireland where she married (twice) and brought up three children (one of whom is handicapped and still lives with her).

Meanwhile, she also revisited Berlin. This emotional encounter made Agnes conceive of a new role for herself – that of interpreter of German culture to Anglo/Irish audiences. She translated Peter Hacks' Goethe play into English, and toured in cabaret, singing bilingual versions of Brecht, Ringelnatz, Klabund etc. in London, Ireland and the USA.

In addition, she helped found the Projects Arts Centre, Dublin, for which she directed plays, recorded three LPs and made a number of TV appearances.

Grandmotherhood notwithstanding, age neither withers nor custom stales Agnes Bernelle's infinite variety.

I caught her during a recent brief ap-



Agnes Bernelle

pearance at a North London cabaret en route to a longer stint at Santa Monica, California. The show, as they say, must go on.

□ RG

A shell echoing prayers

Eighteen Princelet Street, now a museum to East London Jewry, is the last surviving small synagogue in Spitalfields. It is tucked between two Georgian houses, a tall narrow building where ghosts look down from the shadowy women's gallery; the *bimah* with its empty Ark cupboard makes a poignant background and wax drips on visitors' coats from battered brass candelabra hung under the dark skylight.

It was built in 1818 by Samuel Worrell during the period when the population was spreading east from the City. Samuel's first tenants were Huguenots called Ogier, related by marriage to the Courtaulds, but successively they left when the silk trade declined – followed by a Professor of Music, a pickle manufacturer, a woodcarver and a lady who ran an industrial school.

In 1869 it was leased by the Loyal Friends Friendly Society founded by immigrant Polish Jews. These societies, or *chevras*, helped members to pay for medical expenses and funerals. They started the Princelet Street Synagogue for the growing population of East European immigrants who had been worshipping in cramped halls and even in houses. The garden was excavated to provide space

for meat and milk kitchens and a meeting hall below the ground floor level sanctuary, with its slender columns supporting the women's gallery, its apse and stained glass window and the panels inscribed with the names of benefactors: Lord Rothschild, Samuel Montagu.

In 1894 Rabbi Shmuel Kalman Melnick came from Poland and officiated at Princelet Street for a generation. He was a great preacher and much loved rabbi and his son Samuel's book *Giant among Giants* (Pentland Press £10.75.) is a tribute to him.

Things did not always go smoothly. When the Jewish Socialist Society opened premises next door their behaviour upset the congregation, especially when they offered free meals on Yom Kippur, and a fight ensued. Cheap weddings were a feature at this synagogue, offered at 10s 6d instead of the usual three guineas. Up to nine weddings were sometimes fitted into one day, and feelings could run high, but they helped the poor and also popularised the venue. However, by the end of the First World War Princelet Street had long lost its dominance, being superceded by Spitalfields Great Synagogue on the corner of Brick Lane. Rabbi Melnick left in 1920, having served for a quarter of a century.

The synagogue itself closed its doors in 1980. It still lives on in local memory.

□ Jill Bamber

AJR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at 15 Cleve Road,
West Hampstead, London NW6 3RL
on SUNDAY 9 JUNE 1996 at 3pm

AGENDA

Annual Report 1995

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Proposed change to Rules:

Rule 5.

Line 6 after "law" insert "and statute"
Line 6 after "Trust Funds" insert "and in addition the Trustees may acquire land by way of an inheritance of the Society from an estate or by a purchase on behalf of the Society and erect or alter offices or other buildings on such land and let such land and buildings or any part thereof as they shall think fit"

Election of Committee of Management

Followed by a talk given by George Clare entitled: 'Adolf's Grandchildren, Balliol and We'. A look at present-day attitudes to Germany and Austria.

Enquiries: AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate,
1a Frognal, London NW3 6AL
Tel: 0171-431 6161

For list of candidates to Committee of Management and biographical notes, see page 13

1940: PEACE AT ANY PRICE?

(A shortened version of Professor Overy's lecture on 24 February co-sponsored by the AJR and the Yad Vashem Committee)

Should Britain have made peace with Germany in 1940? is the question at the heart of so-called revisionist history. Revisionists argue that, with France beaten, Britain had no way of defeating Germany singlehanded. To fight on only damaged Britain's position as a world power and undermined her economy; in the end she had to yield her leading world role to America while the Soviet Union imposed a dictatorship as bad as Hitler's on half Europe. Revisionists assume that peace with Hitler would have produced none of these consequences and that Britain would still be a great power.

They see Churchill as the villain of the piece. In 1940 quite a few statesmen, for instance Lloyd George, doubted the wisdom of defying Hitler. Equally today many historians blame Churchill for Britain's 'decline', for unthinking reliance on America and for preferring an alliance with Stalin to a sensible compromise with Hitler. They have tarnished Churchill's finest hour by over a decade of mud-slinging so that now the view of Churchill as a warmongering liability rather than the man of destiny has become half-accepted.

It is high time to put the prospect of peace in 1940 under the microscope. What did Hitler offer? On July 19th in a speech in the German Reichstag he told his audience of Nazi deputies that he could see no reason why the war should continue if Britain would only see sense. That was the limit. There was no hint of terms. Britain was in effect being asked to surrender. In the same speech Hitler warned that British intransigence would mean the utter destruction of the British Empire. This was perhaps as moderate as the Führer could manage. It hardly suggests a reasonable ground for negotiation.

The offer was curtly rejected, not by Churchill himself, but by the Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, three days later. There were pacifists and fascist fellow-travellers who disagreed. There were certainly some in Parliament who thought Britain's situation so bad that some way had to be found to get out of the war with honour intact. R.A. Butler was the most prominent. Peace was rejected in 1940 because the British recognised,

surely rightly, that it would mean the collapse of all their ambitions in 1939 – to prevent German domination of Europe, and to destroy the threat to the democratic way of life.

Were they right? Who could doubt it. Hitler honoured none of his agreements. The one the British had made, at Munich, was torn up six months later when Czechoslovakia was occupied.

However magnanimous Hitler might have felt, flushed with victory in the summer of 1940, there was not a shred of evidence open to the British to suggest that he was a man capable of keeping a bargain, or acting with predictability or restraint. At the very time he made the 'offer' to Britain he was already exploring with his generals the early plans for conquering his ally of the year before, Stalin's Soviet Union. The group of leading Nazis – Goering, Ribbentrop, Himmler, Goebbels – were no better bet. They wanted to flaunt Germany's new power and could never have tolerated an independent, heavily armed Britain. If Churchill had arrived, cap-in-hand, at the Tempelhof airfield in Berlin, German terms would almost certainly have been as much of a shock as Allied terms were to the Germans in 1919.

If the British needed reminding in 1940 of the kind of enemy they faced in Hitler it was there in the 'peace offer' speech itself. Hitler blamed the war on the 'international Jewish poison'. While he courted Britain, he was planning his grotesque scheme to send all the Jews of Europe to rot on the island of Madagascar, which French defeat had brought in his grasp. Peace with Britain would have made it possible to send the Jews to a vast tropical ghetto where it was hoped they would die of disease and malnutrition. Peace with Hitler was possible in 1940, but it was not remotely desirable. Hitler was not the 'George Washington' of Germany, as Lloyd George called him, but a racist visionary with critically unstable delusions of grandeur.

Even had *Realpolitik* prevailed in 1940, peace with Hitler could scarcely have averted the relative decline of Britain as a great power. The survival of the Empire was hardly in Hitler's gift, for it rested on the strength of nationalism in the Empire itself and on the reaction of Italy and Japan, over which Hitler had no real control. Nor would peace have averted the Soviet triumph – this was a consequence of the Nazi-Soviet contest, not of British belligerency. And to imagine that a Ger-

man-dominated Europe and Asia would not have brought America into the world order, sooner or later, is a delusion. As Churchill saw more clearly than anyone, America was the free world's best bet. Churchill, after all, was the realist in 1940 □

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Reviews

A nation of murderers?

Daniel Goldhagen, *HITLER'S WILLING EXECUTIONERS*, Little, Brown & Co., £20

Don't let's be beastly to the Germans', crooned Noel Coward, and historians have largely followed this lead, abandoning the simple view of the Germans as a nation of Jew-haters. Now along comes Goldhagen and, upsetting the entire apperception of conventional wisdom, claims that the Holocaust was the result of vitriolic antisemitism, deeply ingrained and ubiquitous throughout German political culture and society.

In remorseless detail, Goldhagen shows that it was ordinary Germans, not just the Nazi leadership, the SS, the racist psychopaths in the camps, and the anonymous *Schreibtischtöter* in the government bureaucracy, who both supported and implemented the genocide. He demonstrates in case after case, massacre after massacre, how perfectly ordinary Germans could be brought, with apparent ease, to perpetrate deeds of unimaginable atrocity.

Goldhagen is right to reject the myth that the mass of ordinary Germans had little or nothing to do with the Holocaust. But do his arguments not go too far? 'By the end of the nineteenth century', he writes, 'the view that Jews posed extreme danger to Germany and the consequential belief that the Jews had to be eliminated from Germany were extremely widespread in German society'. This is surely a gross exaggeration.

Again, if Germany was already in 1933 deeply infected with 'pervasive, eliminationist antisemitism', then why did systematic physical persecution of Jews only begin in 1938? And why did the Nazis wait nearly two years of the war before beginning the 'Final solution' in 1941, when they had had two million Jews under their control in Poland since 1939? Goldhagen's answers to this are unconvincing: the Nazis left most Polish Jews alive because they could not yet reach Soviet Jewry – a quite illogical argument; and the mass killing of Jews in Poland might have damaged the pact with the Soviet Union – as if Stalin would have let humane consideration for the Jews influence his foreign policy!

Goldhagen sidesteps the argument that antisemitism was historically weaker in

Germany than in many other European countries, asserting that 'whatever the extent and intensity of antisemitism was among, say, the Poles or the French, their antisemitism is not important for explaining the Germans' genocide of the Jews'. Maybe not, but it certainly is important when one comes to consider the baffling question why the Holocaust erupted in Germany, a highly civilised country, not in societies where primitive antisemitism was endemic: the question of evil in our century.

□ Anthony Grenville

Sequel to the birth of a nation

Herman Wouk, *THE GLORY*, Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99

Anybody who read, and was thrilled by, Wouk's *The Hope* (reviewed in our August 1994 issue) will want to follow it up with this saga of the Jews' final answer to Hitler's failed final solution. In scope, at least, it not immodestly lays claim to comparison with Tolstoy's *War and Peace*.

In *Glory* we meet again the wonderful characters who wrought the miracle of the old-new state, now defending it in battles which occasionally overshadow those of the Second World War. But for readers averse to too much derring-do there is love and hate, courtship and divorce, *amours* and marriage, just like elsewhere in the world, albeit in a harsh climate and underscored by Jewish wit and Jewish sorrow.

The pace of this (it must be said) *historical* novel is fast but not furious; it just whirls along and makes one feel as though it all happened yesterday, though it starts at the Six-Day War and ends with the Egypt-Israel accord and the fortieth Independence Day (1988).

The reader will renew acquaintance with the tall and scraggy Yossi Nitzen, known as *Don Kishote* because in '48 he went into battle on a mule straight from a camp and after a crossing in a rust bucket. Now he is first a colonel and then a brigadier-general, trusted by both Dayan and Arik Sharon. He is mired in a shaky marriage to the glamorous Yael, she of the model figure and the business brain, but his heart still belongs to the decidedly unglamorous, ultra-orthodox, mathematical genius Shayna. A major

strand within the 'civilian' portion of the novel is "will Yossi and Shayna tie the marriage knot?"

Likewise, the never-ending passion of General Zev Barak (scheming on Israel's behalf with the Pentagon and the CIA) for the all-American Emily Cunningham, who reciprocates despite having a high-flying husband and twin daughters. Zev's passion for the 'Wasp' lady does not preclude sacrificial loyalty to Sephardi Nakhama – "I am a shiksa and my education is very limited" – the mother of his adored children.

Ah yes, the children! As the story paces along, they become the life-blood of the state: they prove to be world beaters, they destroy terror nests, they overcome insane odds, they win unwinnable wars, they free the captives of the Entebbe hijack, they gain ten years' grace for the region by destroying Saddam Hussein's nuclear reactor, they fall in love, they mess up their emotional lives and some rectify their mistakes. And while they do all this they help to bring home and absorb Jews from all the corners of the world. For good measure we also meet characters not a thousand miles removed from Robert Maxwell, and situations of desperate but not serious *balagan* (chaos); in other words the Israelis are a people like any other – as well as a light to the world.

But whether you are thrilled by war or rejoice in peace, whether you meet the bohemians or the proud warriors, the dedicated patriots or the appalling crooks, I would wager that you won't be bored as you gallop along the 679 pages of this epic.

□ John Rossall

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ALL LEGAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

Don't shoot the messenger

The General Secretary of the Austrian Nationalfonds, Mrs Hannah Lessing-Askapa, came to the UK on 6 May 1996 to meet those organisations involved with Austrian refugees, to speak on the BBC, give press conferences and to address a meeting of about 200 Jewish refugees from Austria, which was organised by the Anglo Austrian Association.

Although she herself is a charming, helpful and dedicated person, an observant Jew and the daughter of survivors, her message was unpalatable. Because of budgeting constraints – AS600 million in 1996 – payments of the promised AS70,000 to entitled persons will, in 1996, only be made to people born before 1920. Payments will be made according to age, starting with the oldest.

People born between 1920-1930 should receive payment in 1997, while those born after 1930 will have to wait till 1998. Priority will be granted to people who are seriously ill and/or in financial difficulties.

It should be noted that people are entitled to payment if they were born, even outside Austria, of Austrian parents before 9 May 1945, in a concentration camp, ghetto, in hiding or in similar circumstances.

As at 7 May 1996 the Nationalfonds was paying people born up to 1912. In all, 2842 payments have been made, of which 260 in the UK.

The delay has nothing to do with administration but is purely due to budgeting constraints. The Austrian parliament is unwilling to put up all of the £100 million needed in one year.

In Austria and the USA these payments are tax free, and an approach will be made to the UK government to confirm that a similar tax treatment will prevail in the UK.

Not everyone entitled to an Austrian pension is entitled to payment from the Nationalfonds which is limited to citizens or long term residents, who left Austria in a time period starting in March 1938, or a short while before.

It is hoped that, as from 15 May 1996, the entitlement will be capable of passing to heirs on death.

□ Ernest David

AJR

1 HAMPSTEAD GATE
1A FROGNAL, LONDON NW3
Tel: 0171-431 6161

Vienna remembers its Jews

On the initiative of Simon Wiesenthal, the city of Vienna has commissioned a memorial to Jewish victims of Nazism. The memorial, designed by Rachel Whiteread, a British artist, is due to be unveiled on 10 November 1996, in the Judenplatz.

If a sufficient number of members are interested, the AJR will organise a group tour to attend this ceremony, departing for Vienna on Friday 8 November and returning 11 November.

We are investigating the possibility of obtaining a subsidy for the visit. If not, the total cost would be in the region of £320 per person sharing a twin room (plus single room supplement of £40) including transport, accommodation and breakfast.

Anyone who may be interested in joining the group, please write to Ernest David, Director, AJR, so that we can arrive at an indication of the number of participants □

Survivors' documentary shown across Europe

A powerful film documentary, *Survivors of the Holocaust*, which combines archival footage with survivors' testimonies, was recently broadcast throughout Europe on the CNN International network. The hour-long film documents the devastating effect of Nazism on European Jewry, the liberation of the concentration camps and the lives of survivors fifty years after World War II.

The film was made with the active support of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, founded by Steven Spielberg who became committed to recording the testimonies of Holocaust survivors following his work on the Oscar-winning film *Schindler's List*.

The first-hand accounts used in the film were selected from the material collected by the Shoah Visual History Foundation which has already recorded more than 12,000 eyewitness accounts. The Foundation is endeavouring to co-operate with other longer-established organisations engaged in compiling Holocaust survivor documentation.

□ RDC

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AJR's 1995 Concert Performers

Schidlof Quartet

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Letters to the Editor

DUELLING FRATERNITIES

Sir - Mr Lustig's letter (April issue) shows that he has little knowledge of German university life. When he says 'prewar' one thinks, of course, of WW2, but these fraternities were mostly formed prior to WW1 when conditions were quite different. The first Jewish fraternity was formed in Breslau in 1886 followed by others in Heidelberg, Berlin and Munich. These four formed the Kartell Convent (K.C.) in 1896. As there was no fraternity in Freiburg in Mr Lustig senior's time (1891-1895) he had no opportunity to decide for or against the K.C.

Mr Lustig's brother, who studied in Berlin in 1930-33, was my contemporary. By declining to join the Berlin fraternity he, like thousands of other Jewish students, turned his back on the problem of antisemitism at the universities and particularly within the other fraternities.

The only way to combat the Jew-baiters was to meet them on their own ground. By wearing colours K.C. fraternity members were easily recognised as Jewish students and had to be prepared to challenge - either by duelling or by fist fight.

Of course, having lived here for around 60 years, we all now consider duelling silly, but are still proud of having stood up to antisemitism.

Sumpter Close
London NW3

G Leon

Sir - My late father would have responded simply "we trained hard and fought to defend the honour of our fellow Jewish students against the defamatory antisemitic comments and insults of the pre-Nazi right wing students".

I am sure that other members of the Jewish student fraternity K.C. would have found these comments totally admirable.

Antrim Grove
London NW3

Peter Hallgarten

YELLOW STAR

Sir - For the cover of a book about the history of my family I would like to show a collage of my father's World War I Iron

Cross First Class, my stepfather's Defence and War Medals 1939 - 45 (Pioneer Corps, Ministry of Economic Warfare) and my grandmother's (German) Yellow Star of David. This last I do not have.

Could one of your readers lend me one? If there is concern over security, I could arrange for the item to be sent direct to the University of Leeds where the photograph would be taken, and returned from there. Acknowledgement would of course be made.

10 Tredgold Crescent
Bramhope
Leeds LS16 9BR

Dr H G Muller

AUTHOR AUTHOR

Sir - My mother occasionally quoted a poem of which the first line is 'Das Glück ist eine leichte Dirne'. It goes on to state that she kisses you fleetingly on the 'Stirne' and, then, 'flatters fort' (I think). 'Frau Unglück', however, settles down at the foot of your bed and begins to knit.

All my life I have believed this to be a Heine poem, but could not find it in Heine's complete works. Nobody I have spoken to has heard of it. Can anybody help me?

6 Prior Place
Farrer, Canberra, ACT, 2607
Australia

Bern Brent

Sir - Do any readers know the missing words in the first line of the following stanza, which concludes my favourite poem by Arno Holz: _____ Mutter, Dein Spruch, vor dem mir stets geграust: Dem Elend dünkt ein Stückchen Butter Erhabner als der ganze Faust.

63 Carringham Road
London NW11 7BS

Albert Meyer

LONG LIFE

Sir - "RDC" is to be congratulated on a lively summary (p15, April issue) of what could have been boring statistics about the age composition of our membership. He ends with his wish that the 75% who live in NW London may long continue "to add continental conversation, cuisine

and Kultur to the cosmopolitan character [of the region]".

Now that the other 25% are at long last being recognised and helped by the AJR, is it too much to hope that they too may continue to make their long-standing contribution for years to come?

Priory Park
Blackheath
London SE3

Ken Ambrose

LETTER TO THE AUSTRIAN NATIONALFONDS

Dear Mag. H Lessing-Askapa - In July 1991 Chancellor Vranitzky courageously stated it was time to tell the historic truth about what *really* happened during the Nazi years... To the great credit of the Austrian Republic it was decided to make a token payment to surviving victims...

It is, however, most disappointing to be told it will take a whole year to process the applications of those aged 76 or older, i.e. 4,000 out of the 20,000 persons eligible. On that assumption you'll be dealing with approximately 80 a week or 16 a day.

Is it really possible that in the 'Computer Age' the Austrian State cannot process more than a few applications a day? At the present rate some victims will be waiting a further 5 years!

Does Dr Vranitsky know of these delays?...

It would be a great pity if the esteem in which the Austrian Republic is held for their noble act would be destroyed by the feeling that the further delays will ensure that many more of the victims of Nazi oppression will not live long enough to receive compensation.

Radlett
Herts.

Bruno Muller

STAMP EXHIBITION

Sir - It may interest your readers that the Wiener Library has in its reception hall a stamp exhibition, partly from its Colebeck Holocaust stamp collection, and partly of some general interest, donated to the Library by the late Sally Kesten of the Judacia Stamp magazine.

Sneath Avenue
NW11 9AJ

R Bergman

BOUQUET

Sir - Your monthly publication is sheer undiluted joy.

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Rabbi Felix Carlebach

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – JUNE 1996

- Until 9 Yitzhak Rabin,
Commemorative Exhibition.
Jewish Museum, NW1
Sun-Thurs 10am-4pm, £3
- Sun 2 **Opposite Sides of a Shared
History:** Samson Munn &
Dirk Kuhl. Second
Generation Trust. Royal
Geographical Society SW7,
6pm, £7 (£5 concessions) talk
only. Tel: 0171 624 5542 for
reservations
- Tue 4 **Martha Tausz:** Cuba, her
latest adventure. Talk with
slides. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 4 **P. Yogi Mayer:** Hitler's
Games, personal recollections.
Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £3
incl. refreshments.
- Wed 5 **Henry Moore Foundation:**
guided tour. JACS, leaving
Belsize Syn. 12.30. up to
£16.50 incl. smoked salmon
tea.
- Sun 9 **AJR Annual General Meeting,**
15 Cleve Road NW6, 3pm
with George Clare
- Mon 10 **Stella Rosenak MA:** The
Carlebach Dynasty (video in
German). Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 11 **Cindy Goldberg:** Life in the
South African Embassy.
JACS, 2pm
- Tue 11 **Lord Weidenfeld:** Growing
up in Pre-Anschluss Vienna.
University of Sussex, 5pm
- Wed 12 **Schidlof Quartet:** Wigmore
Hall, 7.30pm, Tickets £6 to
£14. Box Office 0171 935
2141
- Mon 17 **Charmian Brimson MA:** The
Gestapo & German
emigration in Britain.
Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 18 **Sarah Kyte:** Norwood Child
Care. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 18 **Judge Aron Owen:** Anglo-
Jewish Legal Cases. Jewish
Museum, Finchley. 8pm, £2
- Mon 24 **Harry Leyrer MA:** History of
Yugoslavia & its destruction.
Club '43, 8pm
- Tue 25 **Rolf Weinberg:** A German
Jew in the Free French
Forces. JACS, 2pm
- Sun 30 **Holocaust Museum for
Britain:** Conference at
Birkbeck 1 Jul College,
details Wiener Library

JULY

- Mon 1 **John Elton MA(Oxon):** Liszt
& the Faust Legend. Club
'43, 8pm
- Tue 2 **Doris Samuels** entertains with
piano and song. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 2 **Newgate Prison to Botany
Bay,** a talk by Cyril
Silvertown. Jewish Museum,
Finchley, 8pm, £2
- Mon 8 **Club '43 End of Season
Party:** Hand Freund
entertains. 8pm
- Sun 14 **Voyage of the St. Louis:** AJR/
Wiener Library, Birkbeck
College, WC1, 4pm, £5

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Club 1943, meets at Belsize Square
Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360
JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue,
NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949
Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street,
London W1. 0171 636 7247
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
**University of Sussex Centre for
German-Jewish Studies.** Diana Franklin
0181 455 4785 or 01273 678 495

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Entrance £3

Osmond House Tea Party
14 July at 3pm
Entrance £3

**Balint House Cabaret
by candle light**
Belsize Square Synagogue
4 August

Heinrich Stahl House
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AJR Day Centre**

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The AJR at Work

Laura Howe retires

Volunteers' Co-ordinator of the AJR since 1987, Laura Howe, has retired. During her years in office she recruited and interviewed prospective volunteers, then provided training which enabled them to be matched up with clients' needs. Integral to her responsibilities were the sorting out of the many problems with which volunteers are often faced, and referring these to AJR colleagues in the Social Services



Laura Howe

Department where appropriate. The majority of volunteers are members of the AJR who, sharing a common cultural background, can easily empathise with clients. Fewer of today's very welcome volunteers have direct experience of what most AJR members have been through and so require some extra training. The high average age of members also calls for the provision of more practical help.

Many home visitors form close relationships with their clients over the years; the 'listening ear' is appreciated even more by refugees than other elderly people. Laura never ceased to be "amazed at the dedication of volunteers to the clients they visited". We wish her good health and happiness in her retirement.

□ RDC

Birmingham symphony

George Jonas, former Chairman of the Management Committee of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, told members of Midlands AJR the story of the orchestra's climb from 'cinderella' status to international acclaim.

In 1920 Neville Chamberlain obtained the support of the city council, and a grant of £1250, to start a part-time municipal orchestra. Members were drawn in part from the city's police band, and on one occasion the orchestra's clarinetist had to be summoned in from point duty outside the hall!

Both Edward Elgar and Adrian Boult were unsuccessful in winning a purpose-built concert hall for the orchestra prior to the war. The appointment of Rudolph Schwarz, a Holocaust survivor, as conductor in 1952 marked a significant turning point in the orchestra's fortunes.

George Jonas joined Birmingham Symphony's management committee in 1965 when he was a city councillor. A Kindertransportee, he had spent his formative years in Manchester and acquired a long-held ambition to raise Birmingham's orchestra to the status of the Hallé. He was elected chairman in 1974 and in the course of his 18 years in office, under conductors Louis Frémaux, Erich Schmid and Simon Rattle, the orchestra rose to achieve national and international status, and its ambition of a fine, modern concert hall.

□ Sonja Shindler

Birthday bonanza

Gary Leon, retired commodity dealer, AJR volunteer and *AJR Information* profilee (February 1996 issue), recently celebrated his 85th birthday. To mark the occasion he asked his family and many friends to make a donation to the AJR rather than buy him birthday presents. Thanks to his thoughtfulness and their generosity, the AJR received £700 in donations in support of its work. Gary's recent retirement from voluntary work for the AJR means we shall miss his cheery presence in the office □

MAX KOCHMANN JP

Having turned seventy-five, Max Kochmann – under the 75-year rule – is stepping down as Chairman of the AJR, an office he has held since 1994. Prior to that date, he had for many years served as Treasurer and Vice-Chairman of our Association. He remains a Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust.

In addition to playing a key role in AJR, Max Kochmann holds a whole variety of communal offices: Hon. Treasurer of Belsize Square Synagogue and of the Otto Schiff Housing Association, Past President of Leo Baeck B'nai B'rith (London) Lodge and Chairman of the Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd., Chairman of Belsize Square Synagogue *Chevre Kadisha* and Chairman of the Support Group of Sussex University's Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

In addition, he served as a local Justice of the Peace, is only the second Life President of the British Adhesive and Sealant Association, and is also Chairman of Basildon and District Enterprise Board □

MEALS ON WHEELS & TAKE AWAY

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

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

Wednesday 5 June
Thursday 13 June
Monday 17 June
Tuesday 25 June
and every Thursday from
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**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a
Frogna, London NW3 6AL**

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

Message from the Director

On the Sunday before Yom Hashoah I visited Beth Shalom, the Holocaust Memorial Centre near Nottingham, to attend a lecture by Dr John Klier of the Hebrew Department of University College London, and in the afternoon representatives of the Holocaust Museum in Washington described the work of that museum.

I was immensely impressed by my day at the Centre which was created, and is run, by Stephen Smith and his brother Dr James Smith, and is supported by their parents.

They have made it their goal to ensure that the horrors of the Shoah and the lessons to be learned from it are made known to present and future generations. Stephen Smith summarizes his vision of Beth Shalom in two Hebrew words – Tikkun Olam – to mend the world. He says "this accepts that we start from where we are, not to create something perfect, but to work towards the betterment, the healing and the restructuring of that which is far from perfect".

The Memorial Centre itself consists of an exhibition showing the rise of Nazism and its results for European Jewry. It features photographs, videos, models and written text, and is laid out in a number of small rooms, which makes the experience sombre and striking. The buildings include a lecture hall, library and seminar rooms, while the garden is a haven of peace with a newly planted memorial rose garden.

What makes this enterprise so important and moving, is that it is run by non-Jews, and that its purpose is not just that of a museum recording the past. It is specifically a teaching foundation, teaching young people and also teachers, so that its message is spread exponentially.

Visits have been arranged by the Manchester and Birmingham AJR Groups. *Kol Hakavod* to Stephen Smith and his family, for their enterprise, imagination and dedication!

□ Ernest David

Legacies

Among the testators leaving gifts to the AJR and the AJR Charitable Trust during 1995 was Gertrude Schlesinger. Her generous bequest will add to those of other benefactors in assuring continued services to members of the AJR, and is very much appreciated by the Trustees □

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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Afternoon entertainment –

JUNE 1996

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Monday | 3 | MUSIC FOR FOUR HANDS & A SONG – Sheila Games & Daphne Lewis |
| Tuesday | 4 | LOVE'S OLD SWEET SONG – John Cunningham (Baritone) with Piano accompaniment |
| Wednesday | 5 | THE JOYS OF MUSIC – Sarah Sweeting (Soprano) accompanied by Geoffrey Whitworth (Piano) |
| Thursday | 6 | THE JACK DAVIDOFF TRIO – (Cello – Violin – Piano) |
| Sunday | 9 | C L O S E D – AGM |
| Monday | 10 | KISSES & NEAR MISSES – Carmen Lasock (Soprano) accompanied by Philip Mountford (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 11 | TWO VOICES & A PIANO – Eddy Simmons & Helen Blake |
| Wednesday | 12 | A SERENADE FOR SUMMER – Antonia Kendall (Mezzo) accompanied by Anne Collard (Piano) |
| Thursday | 13 | THE MUSIC MAKERS – Elizabeth Winton & Ray Parfrey (Piano) |
| Sunday | 16 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 17 | THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO |
| Tuesday | 18 | MID-SUMMER MAGIC – Clarissa Fell |

(Soprano) accompanied by Andrew Pink (Piano)

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Wednesday | 19 | SUMMER MUSIC & SONG – Sue Kennett (Soprano) accompanied by Gordon Weaver (Piano) |
| Thursday | 20 | POPULAR SONGS & ARIAS – Michaela Davies (Soprano) accompanied by Christopher Rouse (Piano) |
| Sunday | 23 | MELODY HOUR – David Jedwab & Avril Kay accompanied by Mable Witztum (Piano) |
| Monday | 24 | TWO VOICES & A PIANO – Eddy Simmons & Helen Blake |
| Tuesday | 25 | SUMMER CABARET – Francoise Geller – Kara Wilson & Gordon Griffin accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 26 | SCHUBERT & FRIENDS – Madge Duncan-Sutherland (Mezzo) accompanied by Stephen Baron (Piano) |
| Thursday | 27 | ACT I – SCENE II – Sharon Burnett (Soprano) & Juwon Ogungbe (Baritone) accompanied by Margaret Eaves (Piano) |
| Sunday | 30 | DAY CENTRE OPEN – NO ENTERTAINMENT |

JULY

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Monday | 1 | JERUSALEM 3000 – CELEBRATION SONGS – Noa Lachman (Soprano) accompanied by William Hancock (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 2 | WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT – Talk by Glenda Jackson MP |
| Wednesday | 3 | THE GEOFFREY STRUM & HELEN BLAKE DUO |

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Friedland. Charlotte Friedland died 11th April in San Francisco aged 97, deeply mourned by her son Rolph (Ralph Freeman), his wife, grand & great-grandchildren.

Woolf. Rita Woolf, born in Hamburg and most recently of Balint House, Hampstead, passed away on 28 March 1996, aged 83. Wife of the late John Eddy Woolf, she will be sadly missed by her sister, son, daughter, grandchildren and friends.

Poisson. Joern Poisson, born in Frankfurt 28th April 1917, died in Epsom General Hospital 14th April 1996. Deeply mourned by his wife Elisabeth, brother Ernest and sons René & David and their families.

Henderson. Dorothea Henderson (born Vienna 1921) passed away peacefully on Erev Pesach. Beloved and devoted wife of Frank, beloved mother of George, Ruth (Finestone) and Judith (Abbey) will be sadly missed by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family and friends.

Kent. Ernest Kent passed away 26th April 1996 at 91 years of age. Deeply mourned and sadly missed by his devoted wife Dora, his loving daughter Lilian and all the members of his family.

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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

Uncomparable treasures are once again on view from amongst the Queens' Drawings, namely drawings by Leonardo da Vinci which have not been on public view for the last twenty-five years.

The Barbican Art Gallery is showing **Eve Arnold: In Retrospect**. Over 200 photographs are being shown including some of her work for *Life Magazine* and the *Sunday Times* Colour Supplement (admission £4.50, concessions £2.50).

Renato Guttuso (1912-1987) was one of modern Italy's greatest figurative painters. His first British retrospective is at the *Whitechapel Art Gallery* (May/June 1996).

The Royal Academy's 228th Summer Exhibition is being held from 9 June to 28 August. This is the world's largest open art exhibition and over 1100 paintings, sculptures, drawings and models will be on show. The first comprehensive exhibition in Britain of the work of **Gustave Caillebotte (1848-1894)** continues in the *Sackler Galleries* of the Royal Academy (until 23 June).



Jane Morris, posed by Rossetti, 1865

To mark the centenary of the death of **William Morris**, the *Victoria and Albert Museum* is mounting the most comprehensive exhibition of his work, mostly drawn from the Museum's own collections (until 1 September). Ticket prices are

£5.50 adult, £3.25 concessionary rate and £12.00 family rate.

Spink's annual spring water colour exhibition will run from 28 May to 21 June.

The *Hayward Gallery* is showing (6 June - 19 August) **Claes Oldenburg: an Anthology**. Oldenburg is one of America's wittiest and most popular artists and about 150 sculptures, maquettes, drawings, notebook sketches and film will be on show.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of 71, of **Peter Baer**. Born in Berlin to wealthy Jewish parents, he was sent to boarding school in Spain but then emigrated to England. After the war he cut himself adrift from his original background and enrolled in the School of Arts and Crafts. Becoming interested in etching, he worked for several years for the *Curwen Studios*, helping to translate the ideas of artists such as *Hepworth*, *Piper* and *Moore* into proofs acceptable to these artists' ideas. In 1970 he took up teaching at the *Hammersmith School of Art* and returned to painting, holding regular exhibitions, many at the *Ben Uri Art Gallery*.

At *Eastbourne's Towner Art Gallery* I was delighted not only to see the excellent permanent collection, but also a showing of works by our old friend **Hans Feibusch**, now in his 96th year.

There will be an exhibition of the work of **Jankel Adler** at *John Denham's Gallery*, 5 Mill Lane, NW3. The exhibition (9-23 June) will be opened by the Director of the Polish Cultural Institute □

SBs Column

Bavarian Television commemorated the songwriter **Friedrich Holländer**, in his centenary year. Holländer was at home in many cities: New York, Paris, Vienna and Los Angeles, but Munich, where he settled as a re-migrant in the fifties and where he died in 1976, was his favourite. A master of popular melody, he composed the score of a dozen musical films during 1930/31. His masterly touch met the requirements of the moment, peaking with *'Ich bin von Kopf bis Fuss auf Liebe eingestellt'* from the *Blue Angel* (which made *Marlene Dietrich* an international star). UFA was about to offer Holländer a firm contract when the events of 1933 intervened. In Hollywood he wrote music to more than 100 films. His topical novel *Those torn from earth* subsequently appeared in

German under the title *'Menschliches Treibgut'*.

Berlin Dancers. Featured as 'Dussy Girls' of the twenties, twin sisters *Charlotte* and *Margarete Rudolf* earned rave reviews in Berlin's 'Scala' and 'Wintergarten'. They introduced the step dance in Germany. German Television recently interviewed the 92-year-old twins.

60 years ago continental filmgoers enjoyed a veritable bonanza: three films with *Shirley Temple*, *René Claire's The Ghost goes West*, *Chaplin's Modern Times*, *Desire* with *Marlene Dietrich*, and *Opernring*, a comedy starring *Theo Ling*, *Friedl Czepa* and *Fritz Imhoff*.

Birthdays. *Marianne Hoppe*, the widow of *Gustaf Gründgens*, and versatile German actress, equally at home in classic and contemporary roles (e.g. *Thomas Bernhard's Heldenplatz*) is 85. Hungarian-born *Martha Eggerth*, *Wunderkind* of the thirties, soprano and actress-wife of tenor *Jan Kiepura* with whom she emigrated to America, has had her 80th birthday □

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AJR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9 JUNE 1996

Election of Committee of Management

Biographical notes on candidates

ELEANOR ANGEL

The daughter of the previous Chairman, Theo Marx, she has long followed in her father's footsteps with an active interest in Jewish and refugee social welfare. Hon. Secretary of the AJR since 1994, she has worked at our Day Centre and served on the Executive Committee since 1989. She is married with 3 teenage children, but still finds time to be Treasurer of the Lewis W Hammerson Memorial Home, a charitable home for the elderly in The Bishop's Avenue. Works full time with husband at well known theatrical costumiers.

MADELEINE BROOK

Born in Vienna, she emigrated to Switzerland in 1938 where she continued school, after which she worked for refugee children in Zurich and Geneva. After 4 years in the USA she came to England in 1951, joined the AJR and helped with the sale of advertisements and tickets for the annual AJR concerts. Until 1995 she organised the provisioning and running of our Day Centre shop, and is currently concert brochure chairman.

PETER DANNENBERG

Peter Dannenberg was born in 1946 of refugee parents. His father came from Cologne and his mother from Essen. He trained as a stockbroker with Max Morel Ltd. and eventually, after training periods in Switzerland and New York, and working for leading stockbrokers in the UK, returned to Max Morel where he became Managing Director in 1989. His interests include music, theatre and bridge.

COLIN DUNSTON

Solicitor, aged 38. Parents both refugees from Austria 1938/39. Specialist on wills and probate matters on which he has advised the AJR. Involved with the alteration of the Rules of the AJR. Former Committee Member of the Association of Children of Jewish Refugees. One of the ACJR Members who have, in the past, visited Osmond House on a regular basis.

JOHN H. DUNSTON

Age 43. Headmaster of Sibford School.

Parents both refugees from Austria 1938/39. Member of AJR for many years and of AJR Executive since late 1980's. Member of Working Group which established the Paul Balint Day Centre. Former member of AJR Information Editorial Committee. First Chairman of ACJR 1986-88. Past member of Heinrich Stahl House Committee.

MANFRED DURST

Born in Munich 1924. Kindertransport January 1939. Apprenticed jeweller 1940-45. Started in business 1946. President of British Jewellery & Giftware Federation 1980. Chairman of British Jewellery Association 1988-1990. Chairman of Leo Baeck House Committee since 1970. Member of Management Committee OSHA (formerly CBF) since 1970. Member of Committee of Management AJR since 1991. Liveryman of Goldsmiths Co., and Freeman of City of London since 1977.

JUDY FIELD

Came to this country as a young child from Berlin. Married, two sons, 7 grandchildren. Since the inception of Paul Balint AJR Day Centre she has been working two days a week as a voluntary helper. Member of Balint House Committee, The Bishop's Avenue, for the last two years. Voluntary work with visually impaired people for the last 20 years.

ANDREW KAUFMAN

Was born on 21 April 1946 of refugee parents who are AJR members. Andrew qualified as a solicitor in 1971, having obtained his law degree at St John's College, Oxford and is a partner in Fladgate Fielder's Corporate Department, where he is head of the firm's Anglo-German unit, serving the interests of both German-speaking clients doing business in the UK and UK clients in Germany. He specialises in international commerce, corporate and employment law and is fluent in both German and French. He is also admitted to practice in Hong Kong. He is presently Vice-Chairman of the AJR and a trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust. His wife Susie is in charge of the catering at the Day Centre.

JO KESSLER

Jo Kessler JP came to England from Vienna in 1938, and later graduated from the LSE with an economics degree with sociology as a special subject. Married,

with 4 sons, she has been working for many years as an adviser at the Citizens Advice Bureau. As a magistrate she became Chairman of the Family Court. She was responsible for setting up two Abbeyfield Residential Homes in Cricklewood and Edgware and is involved with many social work projects at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue.

SOFIE LANDAU

Sofie Landau, born in Stuttgart in 1923. Came to England 1937. Studied for Social Science Diploma. 1953-1980 with Silhouette, finishing as Export Manager. Since retirement in 1990 volunteer at Day Centre, and visits AJR members. Member of U3A looking after their library part-time. Organiser of local neighbourhood watch.

EDWARD LEVY

Edward Levy was born in Cologne. Came to Britain in 1939 - under the 'Kindertransport' scheme. After graduating he spent over 40 years in the electrical/electronics manufacturing industry, responsible for companies in Britain, U.S.A and the Far East. Is involved in the mental health field until recently as Chairman of a Mental Health charity, and with Amnesty International. He has been a member of the AJR for many years, a member of the Executive Committee for 3 years and is a Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust.

DAVID ROTHENBERG

Born 1940, son of Helmut and the late Annema Rothenberg. Educated at Oxford. Chartered Accountant and Senior Tax Partner at Blick Rothenberg. Hon. Treasurer of the AJR since 1994. Trustee of the AJR Charitable Trust. A long-standing member of the Board and Executive of Belsize Square Synagogue and a member of the AJR Executive since 1988. He is a member of the Friends of the Jerusalem College of Technology and is a representative of Belsize Square Synagogue on the Board of Deputies of British Jews □

Otto Schiff Housing Association

This issue of *AJR Information* contains a brochure on Otto Schiff residential homes and services, which the AJR is pleased to support

Election of Committee of Management 1996/97

AGM 9 JUNE 1996

The following members of the Committee are retiring by rotation and are being proposed for re-election:

Mr A.C.Kaufman	Chairman
Mr W.D.Rothenberg	Vice-Chairman & Treasurer
Mrs M.Brook	Trustee
Mr J.H.Dunston	Trustee

The following remain members of the Committee without need for re-election in 1996:

Mrs E.S.Angel	Secretary
Mr M.Durst	Trustee
Mr C.W.Dunston	Mrs J.Field
Mrs S. Landau	Mr H.E.Levy

The following have been proposed for election to the Committee:

Mr P. Dannenberg
Mrs J. Kessler

Wallenberg Memorial

A memorial is to be erected in London to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved many thousand Jewish lives in the Hungarian capital, Budapest, during the dark days of World War II.

In July 1944, when Raoul Wallenberg was posted to Budapest as the official representative of the War Refugee Board and as First Secretary of the Swedish Legation, Hungary was occupied by the Germans in alliance with the vicious fascist 'Arrow Cross'. An opportunity was seen to save the lives of practically the last surviving remnants of Jewry in Nazi occupied Europe.

The 230,000 Jews of Budapest faced the imminent prospect of deportation and extermination at Auschwitz - a fate already suffered by 437,000 other Hungarian Jews. Wallenberg immediately began issuing certificates and *Schutzpässe* (protective passports), even ordering the reopening of cattle trucks to save the deportees they carried, and established safe houses under the Swedish flag. In winter he gave food, water and clothing to those being force-marched to the Austrian border. His protest and threat of retribution to the German commanders prevented the destruction of the ghetto and its 70,000 inhabitants.

Despite saving more than 100,000 souls, Raoul Wallenberg was taken into captivity by the advancing Soviet army and never seen again, though it is reliably reported that he was executed in 1947.

As a tribute to the memory of such an heroic man, an imposing monument is to be erected at Great Cumberland Place, London, close by the Marble Arch Synagogue and the Swedish Embassy.

The Wallenberg Appeal is being made to defray the expenses of erecting and maintaining the memorial. Members who want to celebrate the life of Raoul Wallenberg and be associated with the memorial may wish to contribute. Please make donations payable to 'Wallenberg Appeal' (Reg. charity no. 327640) and forward to Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Chairman, Wallenberg Appeal, Holocaust Educational Trust, BCM Box 7892. London WC1N 3XX □

Voyage of the St Louis

In May 1939, the German luxury liner St. Louis sailed from Hamburg with 936 Jewish refugees on board, en route to Cuba. Upon arrival the passengers' visas were revoked and the ship was ordered to leave harbour. Entrance was denied by the US and Canadian authorities and finally the St. Louis was forced to return to Europe. Holland, France, Belgium and Britain eventually took in some of the refugees, but many passengers did not survive the Holocaust.

A special showing of the film 'The Voyage of the St. Louis' is being presented by the AJR, in association with the Wiener Library, on Sunday 14 July at 4pm. Tickets should be purchased direct from the Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH. For enquiries please telephone 0171 636 7247.

There will be an opportunity for informal discussion of the film following the performance. Tea will be served □

Real Estate in Romania

Claims for compensation for property by Romanian citizens have to be submitted before 29 July 1996.

For information or legal assistance, please contact by mail or fax: United Restitution Organisation, 18 Gruzenberg Street, 65811 Tel Aviv, Israel. Tel: 972-3-517 5204 Fax: 972-3-517 0655 □

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Cooking with Gretel Beer



Sauerkraut

My Tyrolean cousin swears that this is the only way to cook Sauerkraut – certainly in the Tyrol. You may find that it differs

considerably from the accepted way of cooking it, but it certainly makes a splendid accompaniment to sausages – and Tyrolean dumplings, of course.

2¼ lb (1 kg) Sauerkraut
1 soup ladleful water
2 soup ladleful clear beef broth
1 bayleaf
3 juniper berries
salt
1 medium-sized onion
2 dessert apples, peeled cored and quartered

Put the Sauerkraut into a large pan, add the water, bayleaf, juniper berries, salt, quartered apples and the onion, peeled but left whole. Simmer gently for half an hour, then add the clear beef broth and simmer for another half an hour – if necessary adding a little more beef broth □

In the land of the maple leaf

In January I braved Arctic conditions and visited my family in Calgary, in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. It was an unforgettable experience. Temperatures can drop to as low as -32° and never rise above -18°, (which felt quite balmy). The snow does not get a chance to thaw out, but freezes solid. Then new snow falls and settles on the ice and makes walking a very dangerous undertaking. Yet you see joggers and even cyclists – one can't imagine how they manage. Meanwhile life goes on, motorists drive on the ice, very slowly and carefully, to work or to evening entertainments. Cars are plugged into electric blocks over night and start without trouble in the morning. Only funerals have to wait for the thaw! All indoor spaces are overheated and one is constantly busy dressing and undressing. Children hate this, but it has to be done.

During my stay I spent two days in Vancouver, one hour's flight over the Rockies. There you are in a different world. It was pleasantly warm, at night around 0°, in the daytime sunny and mild. Out on a long walk I could admire green grass and spring flowers making their appearance. The following night I was back in the Arctic and a week later Vancouver was covered in thick snow! This is so rare that, like Londoners, they can't cope when it happens and everything comes to a stop. So I was very

lucky to have visited Vancouver when I did.

We drove to a shopping mall one frosty morning and I walked two minutes to the letterbox, during which time icicles formed on my glasses; it took a while to thaw them out so that I could use them. The climate produces some strange phenomena. Sometimes the snow flakes freeze while falling and by the time they reach the ground they have become crystals. It is a most beautiful sight; they sparkle on the snow-covered ground like lots of little diamonds. Clouds, too, freeze in the sky and look like balls in rainbow colours. Though I never stopped marveling at these beautiful sights, I decided to visit Canada in the summer from now on.

Normally after a few days of extreme cold the Chinook comes along, a warm wind which brings temperatures from minus 20° to plus 10° within a few hours. People sit outside in the sunshine on the snow, enjoying their lunch and having to wear sunglasses and a hat! (However, this did not happen while I was there, just unmitigated freeze-up.)

One of our evening outings was to a charity concert in a huge modern synagogue (Conservative), ostentatious and over-decorated. Apparently the congregation is split down the middle, at loggerheads with the rabbi and totally in debt. No rabbi serves a second term there.

This makes me more than ever grateful for our lovely Northwood and Pinner Liberal 'family' headed by the excellent Andrew and Sharon Goldstein for many years.

□ Marianne Herz

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Obituary

Eva Jones

Eva Jones, who has died aged 83, was a richly talented woman who led a life rich in adventure. A Berlin lawyer's daughter, she met her future husband at a dancing class as a sixteen-year-old. In 1933 she followed him to Paris, where she appeared in the anti-Nazi cabaret *Die Laterne*. She also trained as a singer with a teacher who, recognising talent, gave her free tuition.

The outbreak of war deprived Eva not only of her operatic debut, but also of freedom. Interned as an enemy alien at the Camp de Gurs, she managed to escape through the barbed wire. After enforced residence at the foot of the Pyrenees she and her husband made a strenuous escape into Spain in late 1942. There followed further incarceration, release (through the intercession of the British Embassy) and arrival in the UK where she was later joined by her husband.

In London the couple had a daughter, after which Eva started writing poetry and, subsequently, fiction. Her published works comprise a volume of verse and five novels (one of which, *Thirteen*, was the *Sunday Times* Book of the Year in 1976). Despite deteriorating health in the eighties, she encouraged her – now retired – husband to work for a PhD. When she became seriously ill towards the end of the decade he nursed her devotedly till her death □

Restitution East Berlin/ East Germany

Does any kind and socially minded person have knowledge of property confiscated by the Nazis and now returned to the original owners or 'Verkehrswert' paid, although this property had been merged by the DDR with other, adjacent plots? This whole now forming a new identity, I have been refused restitution of my inherited plot and only offered 'Einheitswert' of 1935 because of this fusion.

I am an ageing German Jewish refugee and would be most grateful to hear from any parties who have had their property returned, despite the fact that this had been merged with other plots or buildings.

Please write to Box No. 1287, or phone Germany, +241 707135, or Fax Germany +241707236; cost of communication will gladly be refunded □

SEARCH NOTICES

Oscar Emil Morgenstern (Emilio Morgan) born 1870, Dresden, Germany, emigrated to Chile about 1900. Profession: tailor. Married Elena Arancibia Aracena. Had son Alberto Enrique, b. 1901, and daughter Maria Elena, b. 1907 who married a Mr Sacher. Returned to Dresden about 1930. Anyone with knowledge of them or their descendants please contact Blanca Maier, Huerfanos 645, Santiago, Chile. Fax: 0056 2 638 25 88.

Marya Pulver (Pulvermacher), née Schachter, from Vienna. Married in England about 1932, lived in Golders Green around 1943. Any information of her whereabouts would be appreciated by Robert Motz, 7 Penton Road, Staines TW18 2JX. Tel: 01784 453 605.

Max Steinbock, who studied at boarding school in Berlin in 1938, aged 13-15 at the time, is being sought by his half-sister in Israel. Max travelled to London by Kindertransport where it is believed he was fostered by a Lord, together with another boy. Contact with Max was lost after the outbreak of war. Would anyone knowing anything of him or his whereabouts please contact Malka Lusthaus, 51/9 Jabotinsky Street, Tel Aviv, Israel. Tel. (3)5461430. I would be eternally grateful.

Dr Karl Theodor Bluth, born 1892, was a member of PEN-in-exile, and died in London 1964. His executor is being sought. In the first instance please contact Illa Walter, 89B Fitzjohn's Avenue, London NW3 6NX. Tel: 0171 435 8892.

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One Man's War

Part 10

Recuperation

While I was still in the hospital compound, 33-year-old Sergeant Elkin died of cancer. We were given permission to order a wreath from outside, there was a funeral party with a farmer's horse-drawn cart serving as hearse, we recited *kaddish* and the Germans fired a volley of blanks over his grave.

It became known in the hospital, which also treated sick non-British prisoners, that there was hardly a language that I could not speak. I was often called in by doctors to speak French (some lessons at school), as well as Polish and Serbo-Croat (Czech is a related Slavonic language). I could speak and swear in Arabic a little bit (six months detention in HM Prison in Sarafand) and, of course, Hebrew. Once they called me to an Indian, luckily it turned out that his English was much better than my Gujarati.

One day I was summoned to an operating theatre where an elderly Yugoslav peasant was lying naked on a table, in agony. He had been unable to urinate for some time and the surgeons needed his co-operation. I told him to make his mind a blank and to relax all his tensed up muscles. The doctors tried to insert a catheter, but without success. The sight made me feel faint, I heard a voice saying "Give him a glass of water".

Next I found myself lying flat on a stretcher looking at the ceiling. One orderly was asking which block the patient was to be carried to and the other retorted: "That's not a patient, that's the bloody interpreter".

Then, one day, I was back in a compound of only Palestinian Jews and met old friends again.

Under the Geneva Convention all nationalities have to be housed separately. The Germans tried to convince the Irish that they didn't really belong with the English. They also told members of the Indian Army about a compatriot of theirs called Subhas Chandra Bose who was fighting the British Empire from Berlin. In addition an Arab sergeant was believed to be a German spy, but the rumour was never substantiated.

According to another rumour Winston Churchill had informed Hitler through neutral diplomatic channels that if he failed to adhere to the Geneva Conven-

tion regarding the 1,400 Jewish prisoners captured in Greece, Britain would reciprocate to the detriment of German soldiers captured in Norway.

We were all starving, but in high spirits. Our daily fare consisted of hot, black water which had never been near a coffee bean in the morning; for lunch, there was a thin soup, and in the evening, depending on availability, four to eight men shared a loaf of bread (which must have been baked with the help of potato flour and sawdust). Added to that was a teaspoon of margarine (made from coal) and a bit of jam, sweetened with saccharin (also made from coal).

There were, however, hope and rumours. 'We shall all be home by Christmas'. 'Red Cross parcels have arrived, with one per person, or having to be shared among ten prisoners'. 'Some parcels had actually arrived at Stalag 8b before we did'.

You could not avoid being told over and over again by inmates who had been captured in France, or even Norway, what goodies these parcels consisted of. Discipline and morale were at the highest level. Superiors were being saluted - especially if the Germans were watching - in a manner that would not have disgraced Sandhurst.

Then, one morning at roll call, we noticed a much greater number of German guards than usual. Absolutely everybody had to get out of the block, no malingering was left behind. After dismissal, nobody was allowed back and we were all interrogated in a different block, unable to see those that had already been questioned.

When my turn came, I found myself standing in front of a table at which an Oberleutnant and an interpreter were sitting. This fellow spoke to me in English with an unmistakable New York accent; we had already heard that some first-generation Americans had volunteered to fight for their old Fatherland and Hitler. (I believe the United States were still neutral at the time). The conversation was in English and when he asked me where I was born and I replied "Trautenu", he asked the Oberleutnant (who was writing at that moment) in German if he heard what I said. But he had heard, looked at me in a friendly manner and said, "Your father was an excellent pool player, do you know how he is?" I didn't know who this officer was until some weeks later when I had something to do in the administration block of the camp. I

passed a hut with the sign, *Gerichtsoffizier Oberleutnant Dr Yelen* on the door. The moment I read this name I knew the identity of the officer. He had been a wellknown lawyer in our town. He was now a law officer in the German army.

I was now getting used to life in a large barrack room. It was monotonous, but there were also lots of things going on.

(to be continued)

□ H P Weiner

Making a Will?

Please remember the AJR

Though we cannot take our worldly possessions with us, we can see that whatever is left behind goes where it will be appreciated, do some good and is needed.

Many former refugees have found their association with the AJR a rewarding one. This is an opportunity to support the AJR Charitable Trust.

Your solicitor will be able to help, or you can consult with our welfare rights adviser

Mrs Agi Alexander on 0171 431 6161 or the social workers at the Day Centre.

If you have already made a Will it is quite easy to add a Codicil.

Whatever you are able to leave to the AJR, it will be well received, carefully applied and remembered with gratitude.

50 YEARS AGO

REPORT ON PALESTINE

The Report of the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry on Palestine is to be studied carefully by all who are concerned with finding a solution to the age-old problem of the Jews.

"As many as 500,000 Jews may wish, or be impelled, to emigrate from Europe", but "that such information as they receive about countries other than Palestine, gives no hope of substantial assistance in finding homes." It was this recognition that inspired the most important recommendations of the Report, i.e. "that 100,000 certificates be authorised immediately for the admission into Palestine of Jews who have been victims of Nazi persecution."

President Truman did not hesitate to give a favourable reception to the Report, but Mr Attlee's statement in the House of Commons came as a shock - especially to the Jews in the camps □

AJR Information, June 1946