

AJR Information

Volume LII No. 5
May 1997

£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

Life of light & shade

Richard Grunberger
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Spirit of delight

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Annual Report

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Unlimited bigotry

As could be inferred from our item on the *Crimes of the Wehrmacht* exhibition in the March issue, sections of Bavaria's governing Christian Social Union need to be dragged kicking and screaming into the democratic postwar world.

Now the CSU's Wolfgang Zeitlmann has called for limits to be placed on Jewish immigration from Russia. Consider: present-day Germany's estimated 60,000 Jewish inhabitants amount to a tenth(!) of the pre-1933 total. It reminds one of the Augsburg-born poet Bertolt Brecht's post-1945 warning "The bitch is still on heat" □

Reflections on the General Election

All eyes on Westminster

By fortunate coincidence this issue 'hits the streets' on the day of the General Election. This means that we can make certain comments of a political nature without laying ourselves open to the charge of trying (in a miniscule way) to influence the election result.

Let us start with a riposte to the one or two readers who have criticised *AJR Information* for exceeding its remit as the journal of a refugees' welfare organisation and meddling in politics. We consider everything that affects the lives of our readers – which certainly includes the choice of government – a legitimate topic for comment and debate. With most of us having been UK residents for close on sixty years we can surely divest ourselves of the *refugee* mentality (for all that the term remains enshrined in the Association's official name). We are, or have been, involved in various aspects of British life to a degree that would make our distancing from the political process a very lopsided gesture. This doesn't give the journal the licence to peddle party-political nostrums, but it makes it almost a civic duty to air the great issues of the day – such as Europe – in our columns.

Even if we must eschew party politics we need not be mealy-mouthed about naming names of certain individuals who use the *cachet* of membership of Parliament to affront our deepest sensibilities. One such is Cyril Townsend, MP. He is proud to have been among the minority of the Commons who voted against the War Crimes Bill. Not only that – in Townsend's view the passage of the measure into law resulted from pressure exerted by an overly powerful, and well-funded, American-Israeli lobby.

Similarly odious anti-Israel sentiments verging on the downright antisemitic have been expressed by Tony Marlowe (Con) and George Galloway (Lab). A better known – and more ambiguous – figure is the once-and-future MP Alan Clark, military historian, indiscreet diarist and former Minister. Clark used his not inconsiderable celebrity status to propagate a revisionist view of British history – i.e. that Churchill should have made peace with Hitler after the fall of France instead of dragging on a ruinously

costly war for another four years.

Even in a facetious mood Clark comes across as a tricky customer. He has named his two Rottweiler bitches after Leni Riefenstahl, Hitler's favourite film director, and Hannah Reich, the intrepid woman pilot who flew Goering out of encircled Berlin. Attaching the name of a person to a pet dog could normally be seen as derogatory to the person, but it doesn't necessarily signify any belittling intent here because Alan Clark is known to esteem animals above humans.

In addition, he espouses totally amoral isolationism in foreign affairs. When in Bosnia massacres troubled consciences in the West, he persistently urged non-involvement on the grounds that no vital British interests were at stake.

Ça va sans dire that he's also strongly anti-European. However, the Editor doesn't want to reopen a barely sealed can of worms by linking anti-Europeanism to xenophobia. And, apropos of xenophobia, let us, as we walk to our polling stations today, give profound thanks for one fact: for all the sound and fury stirred up by the above mentioned political small fry, none of the heavy-weight contenders in the election battle bears any resemblance to Le Pen, Haider or General Lebed □

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

SUNDAY 8th JUNE 1997 at 3pm

AGENDA:-

Annual Report 1996

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of Committee of Management

Guest speaker: Stephen Smith, Director of

Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre

"FORGOTTEN PLACES: THE HOLOCAUST

- ITS MEMORY AND ITS MEANING"

All questions for the Chair should be submitted to the

Director at: 1 a Frognal, London NW3 6AL by 1 June 1997

Damned - not published

A symposium on 'The Perils of Publishing' (Jewish Book Week) did little to raise the hopes of putative authors in the audience. Frank Cass of Valentine Mitchell said Jewish publishing in the UK generally was uneconomic, in contrast to the situation in France and the USA. There were, however, some chinks of light: hitherto concealed archives were being opened and yielding new material; also histories and survivors' accounts of the Holocaust were being bought by non-Jewish schools and students.

Connie Webber, of the (non-commercial) Littman Library, said they only considered work of high scholastic standard for publication and asked authors to have a clear idea what they required from a publisher, including whether or not they valued a specifically 'Jewish' one.

Literary publisher Peter Halban recalled that he had returned from living in Israel in 1989 to establish his own company. In his opinion biography remained extremely popular.

Chaim Bermant admitted that of the 30 books he had written, only four had proved 'best sellers'. He advised would-be authors not to let "good grammar get in the way of good writing". In the USA, he said, they did not all read, but they all needed books!

Prof. David Cesarani felt that academic works needed to be "well-written, readable and interesting" so as to compete in the market place. Fortunately, since the 1980s, a large general market for scholarly works had emerged. The offer of good advances with more aggressive marketing was an example Jewish publishers should follow.

□ Ronald Channing

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Profile

A life of light and shade

Though just turned ninety, Eric Walters has astonishing powers of recall. He vividly remembers his factory-owner grandfather who headed the Jewish community of a small Moravian town. During the Great War this grandfather found shelter for several hundred out of the many thousand Galician Jews fleeing the advance of the Russian army.

Already martially-inclined at nine, Eric took charge of the children of the newcomers and drilled them in marching and counter-marching along lines he had seen soldiers of the local garrison perform. As the grandson of the boys' benefactor he met with unquestioning obedience when issuing orders like 'Habt acht!' and 'Kehrt Euch!' - but his 'Kniel nieder zum Gebet!' (Kneel down to pray) prompted instant mutiny in the side-locked ranks.

The grandfather had also instituted a *cheder* for these youngsters which Eric loved to attend. However, when his parents in Vienna heard about it they forbade any further attendance (which Eric Walters regrets to this day). Not that the parents were irreligious, but as members of a Reform congregation they had no time for Orthodoxy.

Eric's father ran a factory producing ribbons and cord. On matriculating Eric went to a trade school prior to joining the family firm. He recalls his father as a hard taskmaster, whom he gradually won over by making inventions (such as an easy method for inserting wicks into cigarette lighters). The firm, and Eric's career within it, prospered till the Anschluss of March 1938. A month later a Gestapo man knocked at the door and told Eric to come with him. When Eric asked what luggage he should take along the other joked 'Pack a toothbrush'. This was the start of a journey to the inferno of Dachau concentration camp, whence he was transferred to Buchenwald - an even worse hell - in October.

In March 1939 he arrived in the UK and obtained employment at a bakery in Manchester. He baked at night, slept mornings and devoted his afternoons to writing down every detail of his incarceration in the camps. When war broke out he got a job with a firm producing cords for parachutes, but presently volun-

teered for the British Army.

Today he looks back on his five years in HM Forces - where he was speedily promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Pioneer Corps, and subsequently took part in the Battle of Caen - as the happiest time of his life.



Eric Walters, a self portrait.

Postwar he briefly returned to Vienna to reclaim his murdered parents' factory and house. Repossession of the premises was relatively easy. However, reclaiming the looted machinery involved litigation as well as exposure to blood-curdling insults. (One profiteer from the aryanisation of Jewish property called him a *Gaskammern Deserteur*).

Back in postwar Britain Eric started off as a blouse salesman but soon switched over to the manufacture of blouses and skirts. He married a fellow refugee who, however, suffered from ill-health and could not help him in running the business. His firm, nonetheless, expanded, and at its peak acted as supplier to both British Airways and the Girl Guides' Association. Today Eric is - astonishingly - still in harness, though the scale of the firm's operations has somewhat diminished. Social life - such as it is - revolves around B'nai Brith and the AJR; drawing is a favourite leisure time activity.

□ RG

Spirit of delight

Can anyone name a soprano who made her stage debut at the age of ten? After a 74-year career of public singing can still captivate audiences? Was an operetta star at the age of 15? Was a favourite of the operetta composers Lehar and Kalman? Sang the rôle of *The Merry Widow* more than 2000 times? Made 42 films in six countries and four languages?

Her name? Marta Eggerth, one-time star of operettas and films, widow and former stage-and-screen partner of tenor Jan Kiepura. Better known in Europe, she became familiar to prewar British cinema-goers through the English versions of four of her continental films: the Schubert-inspired *Unfinished Symphony*, the comedy *Where is this lady?*, with score by Lehar, *The Divine Spark* (based on the life of Bellini) and the first of her Kiepura films, *My heart is calling*. Marta was born in Budapest in 1912, the daughter of the Jewish coloratura soprano Tilly Herzog. Nature and heredity conspired to create in her a precocious talent. At ten she made her professional stage debut at the Magyar Színház Theatre, Budapest, in the important child's part in the French musical *Mannequin*.

In 1923 the eleven-year-old prodigy appeared as soloist with the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra. She also played a child part in a musical by Paul Abraham, who wrote a special coloratura aria for her. Marta, already a perfectionist, further nurtured her art by taking lessons from Erszi Gervay, a fine opera singer. At 17 she was chosen by the composer Emmerich Kalman to create the leading rôle in *Das Veilchen von Montmartre*, which did much to make her the darling of Budapest, Vienna, Hamburg and Berlin. Among other composers who wrote works especially for her were Lehar, Oscar Straus, Kreisler and Robert Stolz. Her film career began in Berlin in 1931; by 1937 she had starred in 25 films. Even without her exquisite singing she might have been predestined to cinematic fame. Slim, petite, dark-eyed, there was nothing synthetic about her good looks. With her gift of being natural and relaxed before the camera, she made screen versions of famous operettas: Kalman's *Csardasfürstin* and Lehar's *Der Zarewitsch* among them. Famous tenors who appeared in her films included Marcel Wittrisch and the legendary Leo Slezak.



Two opera kings and one queen: left to right, Franz Lehar, Marta Eggerth and Emmerich Kalman.

She and Kiepura first came together in the German film *Mein Herz ruft nach dir* (music by Robert Stolz) in 1934. Their relationship got off to a curiously uncertain start, but it soon became apparent that they were in love – and matters were precipitated by Jan's declaration that Marta alone was worthy to interpret Puccini, reinforced by a magnificent presentation copy of the score of *La Bohème*. They married in Katowice in 1936: their partnership continued right up to Jan's death in 1966. Not for nothing did the media dub them *Das Liebespaar*.

But clouds loomed. Jan's and Marta's German film careers came to an end in 1936 because of their Jewish antecedents. A transfer to Vienna, where in 1937 they made *Zauber der Bohème*, was swiftly overtaken by the onward march of Nazi aggression. They emigrated across the Atlantic, took US citizenship and gave a lot of time and effort to raising money for Poland. For Marta Eggerth a new experience was in store. In Chicago and other cities in North and South America she appeared with her husband in opera – as Mimi and Manon. Her acting and singing in these rôles had immense charm, for her fresh, delicately-textured voice lent unforced pathos to her impersonations. In their scenes together, Jan thoughtfully moderated his more robust tones to accommodate hers. In the States Marta began to rebuild her interrupted film career with two enthusiastically acclaimed performances in Judy Garland films. Meanwhile, Jan had become a leading light of New York's Metropolitan Opera. But they did not relish pursuing their careers separately. This problem was solved in 1943, when they were engaged together for a Broadway run of Lehar's *The Merry Widow*. The omens were propitious. At the podium was none other than Robert Stolz, who had conducted the operetta's première in Vienna in 1905.

The show broke all records by running from 1943 to 1946. After the Broadway run they performed the work in Chicago: not only in English but also in German and Polish. Some time later they sang it in French in Paris, then in Italian in Trieste. All in all they performed the work together over 2000 times.

After the war they sang in a variety of operettas in America and Europe, with enormous success. Among them were Kalman's *Csardasfürstin*, and Lehar's *Paganini* and *Der Zarewitsch*. These activities won for the remarkable couple a new generation of young fans. They also filmed Lehar's *Land of Smiles* in German and French. Their remarkable artistic partnership was brought to an end only when Jan was struck down by a fatal heart attack in 1966. He was only 64.

The blow left Marta stunned and desolate. For a considerable time she simply hadn't the heart to sing. More than 30 years later she is still devoted to the memory of her 'beloved Jan': but her lively intelligence, her creative spirit and her native artistry ultimately prevailed and in due course she re-appeared on the American stage. She has given many successful concerts in Europe, often televised. Even now, on the verge of 85, she remains immensely active. In New York, she regularly gives master-classes, eager to encourage young talent. In 1991 she sang at the Richard Tauber centenary concert in Carnegie Hall – and was accorded a standing ovation. Not long afterwards she received an invitation to appear at the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Theater an der Wien. In 1994 the Austrian Minister of Culture conferred upon her his country's Cross of Honour First Class for Science and Art.

Whenever I think of Marta's singing, I remember the words Elgar quoted on the score of his second symphony: "Rarely, rarely comest thou, spirit of delight...."

□ Eric Rees

Reviews

Strangest story ever

Jeremy Joseph with Susi Bechhöfer,
ROSA'S CHILD, IB Tauris, London/New York 1997

It's an old cliché that inside every person there is the potential for one book: the story of his (or her) own life. This certainly holds good of Kindertransportees whose lives developed so differently from the way they had started off. But even the drama of those disrupted young lives pales by comparison with Susi Bechhöfer's story. Her biography has a bizarre strangeness which would – if fictionalised – surely make it a 'blockbuster'.

Susi was only three when she and her twin sister came to England from Germany where their (unmarried) mother subsequently perished in the *Shoah*. Over here the girls were adopted by a Baptist minister and his childless wife. Susi became Grace and grew up in an all-encompassing

Christian atmosphere. Life though, was far from idyllic: the sister fell fatally ill with a brain tumour, and Susi became the object of her adopted father's sexual attentions.

She somehow survived these traumas, trained as a nurse, got married and had a son. Years later her dormant curiosity about the past was activated by Bertha Leverton's talk about the work of ROK (Reunion of Kindertransporte) on the BBC's *Womans Hour*. She contacted Bertha, guided by whom she began a painstaking – and painful – journey of exploration into her origins. Ultimately she found out that the twins had been born in Munich as the result of a – doubly-illicit – liaison between a Jewish domestic and a German Wehrmacht soldier. (An additional by-product of this hybrid origin was Susi's discovery of a half-sister in East Germany and Orthodox Jewish cousins in New York).

Rosa's Child is unputdownable. It chronicles what must be the most amazing fate of any among the stories of ten thousand *Kinder* who came over here in 1938/39.

□ RG

Anatevka revisited

Desanka Schwara, *HUMOR UND TOLERANZ – Ostjüdische Anekdoten als historische Quelle* 1996. DM58. Monica Rüthers, *TEWJES TÖCHTER* 1996. DM58. Böhlau Verlag, Cologne, Weimar, Vienna.

When, nearly four decades ago, *Fiddler on the Roof* achieved phenomenal success on stage and screen, it opened Western eyes to the rich reservoir of *shtetl* culture.

This world of East European Jewry has of late been the subject of intense academic research carried out at the University of Basle. The work involved was by no means easy, since much of the essential source material has disappeared. That the well-filled basket of Yiddish jokes and anecdotes can act as a 'surrogate' resource for serious historical research may come as something of a surprise.

However, this book uses, as its sub-title suggests, Jewish humour to draw conclusions as to the behaviour patterns, thought processes and attitudes typical of a time, a place and a people.

Clearly, the ability to cope with a largely hostile environment was an important precondition for existence in a self-contained entity, and humour served as a 'lightning conductor' to achieve the appropriate state of mind.

In a sense, therefore, Jewish humour, of-

ten self-critical and self-mocking, but always self-respecting, is seen as a kind of 'inward investment' for both cultural and physical survival. In this context the book examines the inter-relationship between humour and toleration, the latter being defined as positive acceptance of – not indifference to – 'the other'. The 'other' here includes opposites (for instance, rich and poor) and differences (as between Jews and Christians).

No less intriguing an insight into the pattern of East European Jewish existence in the last century is to be found in Monica Rüthers' study regarding Jewish women. The far-reaching changes then occurring in Imperial Russia affected them most unfavourably. Reduced to even greater poverty, increasing numbers of Jews turned towards emigration, Zionism, intensified preoccupation with religion or, conversely, abandonment of traditional values. A feminine rebellion against established inequalities is convincingly interpreted on the basis of the researched material in the context of childhood, upbringing, education and marriage. The means these women adopted in their quest for release from uncompromising masculine superiority ranged from social work to recourse to psychoanalysis by visits to 'the doctors' in Vienna.

Both titles are thought-provoking texts of equal interest to the specialist and the lay reader.

□ David Maier

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Failure of a mission

Part 2

Priestley just had time to set off the ignition and managed to destroy that incriminating evidence before he was taken prisoner. Ziba landed near the base of the valley, which lead from Tolmezzo north towards the Ploecken pass into Austria. He tried his best to get away from the numerous German and Cossack search parties, which scoured the area during a coincidental anti-partisan drive. He managed to stay free for two nights and one day, but on the second day after his drop, he slipped and slid down a mountainside, ending at the feet of some surprised Cossacks. They wanted to shoot him at once, but he was saved by the approach of a countermanding German SS officer. This interference was against Hitler's 'Commando Order' decreeing that all enemy saboteurs be shot on the spot, after the briefest interrogation. For instance, the two British SOE glider parties, who had set out to destroy the Norwegian Heavy Water plant in November 1942, and who had crash-landed, were shot at once. But Ziba and Priestley were taken first to Tolmezzo, then to Udine and finally to Trieste, where they endured three months' solitary confinement in a Gestapo-run prison.

It is not known how Priestley spent his time, alone in his cold cell. But Ziba stayed alert, and physically and mentally fit. He did regular P.T. in his cell, and prepared a prisoner's encyclopaedia. He scribbled everything he remembered on to the white-washed walls of his prison cell. (For instance the names of the then 48 states of the USA and the names of all the flowers, rivers and Allied generals he could recall.) It kept him busy and sane.

In January 1945, they were handed over to the German army and transferred to a POW camp near Vienna (Stalag 17A) but still kept isolated in a separate cell. The daily threat of execution, which had tormented Priestley in particular, had now lessened; there were now too many witnesses. After a further transfer to Oflag 79, they were liberated by the advancing Americans, just six months after being captured, on the 12th April 1945.

It is likely that Ziba and Priestley avoided execution due to a legal wrangle between the Germans and their Italian allies. Having been captured on what was nominally their territory, the Italians claimed them for themselves; they would

deal with them and probably execute them. But the same Italians also wanted to take out a reinsurance policy with the soon-to-be-victorious Allies, and in any case were not the types to commit unnecessary atrocities.

How did the story end? Nothing is known about the later fate of Huetz. Priestley never recovered his precarious mental equilibrium. After two disastrous marriages, he committed suicide. His son survived him, but he could not be traced. Ziba, on the other hand, contracted a very successful marriage and did equally well in his career as a merchant in the international metal trade. Long before his retirement, he had become Mr Tungsten, adding yet another alias to all his previous ones

□AW Freud.

SEARCH NOTICES

Alfred & Edmund Philipp. Do you remember a shop in Rotenturmstrasse, Vienna, called Freudental und Bachwitz, or a shop in Graben, Vienna, called Teltcher und Philipp? If so you may recall the names of my great uncles Alfred & Edmund Philipp and I would very much like to hear from you. Please contact Peter Simpson (Schweitzer), Nutwood House, Barrow Point Lane, Pinner, Middx. HA5 3DP. Tel: 0181 868 0025 (please reverse charge if out of London).

Heinz Schapira, pupil of the Realgymnasium on the Stubenbastei in Vienna until 1938, is requested to get in touch with his fellow pupil George Weys, 79 Rowlands Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4BX. Tel: 0181 428 2802.

Frankel/Fraenkel Family, originating from the village of Urspringen, Lower Frankonia, Bavaria from 1710. Martin Frankel wishes to trace any member (born in Frankfurt, Munich, Stuttgart, Hoxter or Hannover) or descendant of the family. Please write to

Moshav Tirat Yehuda 30, Israel, 73175. Phone: ++972 3 971 12379. Fax: ++972 3 935 8932.

Viktor Jabkowski/Japkowsky, who lived in Berlin, Germany. Ingrid Numa wishes to trace his descendants. Was last heard of practising as a solicitor in Los Angeles (or San Francisco), had a son believed to be called Michael. Please call 0171 254 1606.

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SWISS GOLD

Sir - During the winter of 1939 German Jews had to hand in all of their gold and silver valuables at an official 'purchasing' depot (*öffentliche Ankaufstelle*). The same happened all over occupied Europe. One was only allowed to keep wedding rings. Rings were removed on arrival at a camp, gold teeth were removed from the murdered. The Germans took these valuables and the Swiss deposited them in German accounts in their melted down form knowing their source either at the time or once the fate of Jews became public knowledge.

It would improve the standing of both countries if the two cooperated once again in coming clean in the matter of how much was plundered for the loot to be returned to the diminishing band of survivors.

Ipswich
Suffolk

Frank Bright

SWISS GUILT?

Sir - I happened to be in Switzerland on March 5th when President Arnold Koller gave a televised address on the subject of the country's history from the 1930s until now.

I was deeply impressed by the sincerity of the speaker and by the way he dealt with his subject; no evasions, no denials, no cant. Talking about collective responsibility he said "Guilt is always a personal matter." I believe this statement strikes a cord with us Jewish survivors of the Nazi years.

The President and most Swiss are sincere in wishing to clear the tarnished image of their country. Their Bergier commission has been given access to all available documents and will publish their findings this year. In the meantime, let us acknowledge the Swiss contribution to the Holocaust Fund and their proposed Foundation for Solidarity, in which they intend to invest seven billion Swiss francs.

Llanidloes
Powys
Wales

HK Meyer

COMPENSATION

Sir - My Jewish mother, who was shot by the Nazis in December 1941, gave my German father money to invest in a business which he ran from 1933 onwards. This was taken over in part by the East German Government and then, on my father's retirement, was totally state run.

Has anyone experience of trying to claim compensation in a similar situation?

Solihull

Eva Lorimer

W. Midlands

WHY WASN'T AUSCHWITZ BOMBED?

Sir - On 21 October 1941 the Jewish Chronicle reported that Jews were being gassed in lorries. In June 1942, the Polish Government in Exile reported that since September 1939 more than 700,000 Polish Jews had been murdered. In October 1942 the Polish representative gave detailed information to the Vatican about the gassing of Jews.

In October 1944 a prison in Amiens was precision bombed and as a result 150 French Resistance fighters managed to escape. In April 1944 the installations of Auschwitz were photographed from the air and much detail was visible; a few days later US planes bombed the industrial complex around Auschwitz, including IG Farben.

Macclesfield
Cheshire

Marianne Walter

STRIPPING THE WHITEWASH FROM THE WEHRMACHT

Sir - The Wehrmacht lost its political independence at the end of 1941 when Hitler removed General Brauchitsch, the Commander-in-Chief, and assumed supreme command himself.

Its present-day successor is the guarantor of Germany's internal stability; as with all other German institutions, a line was drawn under the past some 50 years ago and it is totally undesirable to alienate today's army (recruitment has already fallen as a result of the exhibition) by raking up its Nazi past and driving

young recruits into the arms of the extreme right.

Old Coulsdon
Surrey

G Schmerling

JEW'S IN A (FIELD) GREY AREA

Sir - I was surprised at the venom you expressed against me, among many others, when you likened our Germanness to the collaboration of certain *Mischlinge* who joined Hitler's killing machine. I am afraid that your Jewishness this time overcame your usual great liberality.

Romilly Street
London W1

Peter Zander

FROM DEICIDE TO RECONCILIATION

Sir - I have never understood why the Jews have been held to 'blame' for the crucifixion of Jesus. It was, according to the New Testament, Pontius Pilate, the Roman (pagan) governor, who condemned Christ to death and the Roman soldiers who carried out the sentence.

After all these centuries, and with the approach of the millennium, surely it is time for Christians and Jews to acknowledge the fact that the founder of the Christian religion was a Jew, as an important step towards reconciliation.

Barnwood
Glos

Eugenie Summerfield

STONES PRESERVED

Sir - Visiting Worms Synagogue a few years ago (front page picture, December issue) I was told that when the building was virtually destroyed in 1938 many stones were carted away and stored for safe keeping in the nearby cathedral. When the synagogue was rebuilt after the war these were incorporated in the new building.

Heaton Park Drive
Bradford

Rudi Leavor

GOLAN WINES

Sir - I have already advised Georg Abendstern that all wines from the Golan Heights winery are labelled strictly according to the current EU wine labelling regulations absolutely correctly as 'Produce of Israel', as it is the Israel authorities who are responsible for the export documentation.

14 Antrim Grove
London NW3

Peter Hallgarten

FRANCE'S FLICKERING SCREEN

Sir - May I add the name Sacha Guitry to your interesting synopsis (January issue).

During the occupation he collaborated with the Vichy regime in making films, but not politically. He negotiated with the Germans to get French actors released from POW camps. He helped a number of Jews, including Tristan Bernard and Colette's husband. After the war he was arrested, but eventually cleared of all charges.

Oxted
Surrey

AW Freud

A PAEAN TO POSENER

Sir - May I add another name to Rabbi William Wolff's list of distinguished Provinz Posen families (March issue) namely, that of the Birnbaum family of Tietz whose members included the founders of the department stores Hermann Tietz (Hertie) and Kaufhof, as well as of Gebrüder Tietz, a wholesale haberdashery firm founded in 1813, which transferred its seat to Berlin in the 1860s. One of the scions of the Gebrüder Tietz branch was my uncle Ludwig Tietz, founder of the *Deutsch-Jüdische Jugendgemeinschaft* and the *Reichsausschuss der jüdischen Jugendverbände*, as well as mentor of the first editor of *AJR Information*, Werner Rosenstock.

Church Road
Richmond, Surrey

Richard Tait

CORRECTION

Sir - I am not the co-inventor of the modern screen wiper (January issue p4). That was in existence long before I was born. My company, Tudor Accessories Limited, was the first in the UK to introduce electric windscreen washers.

Highgate
London N6

F S Worms

BOUQUETS

Sir - I would like to join those who express their appreciation of the high standard of *AJR Information* and would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for all the work you do on our behalf.

Chesterfield Gardens Dr Hannelore Braunsberg
London NW3

Sir - "Born and bred in England," said George III, "I glory in the name of Briton." *Mutatis mutandis*, I might say just the same: my parents, like George's, were from Germany. When they died, I kept up my subscription to *AJR Information*. What a good read the magazine is! What an interesting range of correspondents you have.

You assume that you have an intelligent readership and treat it accordingly. Well done!

Waveney Road
Leeds

Stephen Meyer

NOWT BEYOND OUR KEN

Sir - Having known Kenneth Ambrose for over 60 years, I was disappointed by his profile (April issue). Ken has done more than most of us for the *AJR* and his profile does not do him justice. Already when serving with the RAF on the continent, he sent reports about Jewish DP camps to the *AJR* c/o Dr Rosenstock. Over the years he wrote various articles for *AJR Information* and did proof-reading for the paper. His subsequent voluntary activities included acting as secretary to the trustees of the Marchioness disaster.

His (privately printed) *The Suitcase in the Garage* differs from many other family histories in that it has numerous photos going back to the mid 1800s, besides documents from the Nazi period. Copies have been acquired by Sir Martin Gilbert, the Imperial War Museum and Sussex University, where Ken recently gave a talk.

Southwood Lawn Road
London N6

Eva Trent

50 YEARS AGO

KING CHRISTIAN OF DENMARK

The death of King Christian X of Denmark will be mourned among Jewry all over the world. The stand made by him in 1943 on behalf of the Jewish population in Denmark aroused at that time feelings of admiration among all freedom loving citizens. "If the Germans want to introduce the Yellow Star for Jews in Denmark, I and my whole family will wear it as a sign of the highest distinction" - these words of the Danish King will long be remembered in the history of mankind. For over five years King Christian defied the invaders and resisted their attempts to degrade and expel the Jews. His memory will long be treasured.

AJR Information, May 1947

Election of Committee of Management

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Sunday 8 June 1997

*Mr A.C. Kaufman, Chairman
*Mr W.D. Rothenberg, Vice-Chairman & Treasurer
*Mrs E.S. Angel, Secretary
Mr P. Dannenberg, Trustee
Mr C.W. Dunston, Trustee
Mr M. Durst, Trustee
Mrs J. Field
Mrs G.R. Glassman
Mrs J. Kessler
Mrs S. Landau
Mr H.E. Levy


*Committee members retiring by rotation and being proposed for re-election.

Anyone wishing to propose any other member for election as Hon. Officer, Trustee, or Committee member must submit to the Director, *AJR*, such a proposal signed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting and with the signed agreement of the person being proposed
no later than Friday 16 May 1997

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Phone 0171-629 8000	Fax 49 30 881 39 16
Fax 0171-221 9334	Uhlandstrasse 156
4 Old Park Lane	10719 Berlin
London W1Y 3LJ	

AJR

1 Hampstead Gate
1A Frognaal, London NW3

Annual Report 1996

Membership

An updating of the membership records showed that AJR has over 3400 members and that in 1996 the 231 new joiners exceeded the 118 members who died and the 58 who let their membership lapse. This proves that despite our current age profile, there is still scope for attracting new members.

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

The 10th Anniversary Celebration Week was enjoyed by members, visitors and staff. Among the visitors were Glenda Jackson MP for Hampstead, John Marshall MP for Hendon South and the Mayor of Camden. Glenda Jackson returned to give a talk in July and John Marshall organised a tour of the House of Commons with tea on the terrace. The second night Seder was conducted by Rabbi William Wolff. Other events were the two holiday weeks in Bournemouth, a day trip to Westcliff, a Volunteers' tea party and the Chanukah Tea Dance.

Members of the Balint family visited the Day Centre and saw that their generous funding was actively appreciated.

The year saw the introduction of chiropodist and optician services while sales of clothes and underwear continued to be popular.

Although attendances for the year were broadly up to the previous year's levels, members have become increasingly frail. This results in a more intensive work load for Day Centre Manager Sylvia Matus and all her staff and volunteers, who have to give more physical assistance. In 1996 the Day Centre received £17,000 in legacies and donations and an Open Day in summer raised over £1000.

Plans were developed for the launch of an innovative series of Luncheon Club sessions in 1997.

Catering

The high standard of catering at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre continued to impress members. Susie Kaufman with Head Chef Jeff Heywood and their staff once again produced 24,000 kosher meals. Catering was provided not only for members at the Centre and in their homes, but also for a number of special events such as the celebrations of Max Kochmann's 75th birthday and retirement, and to mark Sylvia Matus's and Renée Lee's twenty years service with the AJR.

Volunteers

Debbie Picker joined the AJR in June as Volunteers' Co-ordinator. She has given talks to many organisations, including an audience at the Limmud Conference; has set up stalls at University events; has designed new recruitment leaflets and had reports published in the *Jewish Chronicle*, *Shalom* and *Second Generation Voices*.

33 new volunteers were recruited from June

– December, making a total of 162 of whom 82 help at the Day Centre, 74 visit and befriend isolated and vulnerable members including several outside London, and 6 work in the office. We even have a volunteer who agrees to organise Bar and Bat Mitzvahs for people who never had one, and a Minyan at funerals.

A Volunteers' Newsletter has been launched; an outing was organised for over 20 volunteers to see the play 'Kindertransport'; volunteer support groups have been set up.

We are privileged to have such an enthusiastic band of voluntary helpers as we would not be able to continue to provide essential services without them.

Sheltered Accommodation

Since the AJR considers it to be desirable for the sheltered accommodation at 15 Cleve Road to be covered by a resident caretaker, the opportunity was taken, when one of the eight sheltered flats fell vacant, to extend it into the loft. In this way, more space was created for caretaker Joseph Pereira's family, and a two room flat became available for letting.

Katia Gould continued to handle applications for sheltered accommodation both for the AJR and the Otto Schiff Housing Association.

Social Services

The Social Service team consisting of Agi Alexander, three social workers and an assistant, handled a case load of 228 active clients and a large number of one-off miscellaneous cases.

This means that 7% of total AJR membership are clients of Social Services. Nearly half of them are in the 80-90 year age-band. It is clear that as members get older, a greater number become clients of Social Services.

The introduction of 'Care in the Community' implies a continuing and rising work load for a number of years, since Local Authorities provide fewer services and keep more of the elderly frail in their homes, before paying for residential care. There has been an increase in the number of home visits required, with follow-up to monitor provision of help.

A somewhat unexpected phenomenon has been the rise in cases of younger people requiring assistance in a number of ways. The needs and experiences of AJR members are different from those in the community in general and AJR sets out to meet them.

Liaison with OSHA and other organisations is well established with frequent meetings to discuss cases of common concern.

A telephone and mail service is provided for 'out of town' members, while the regional groups play their part in the social services process.

Pensions

Enquiries on foreign pensions and compensation have not diminished. These have generated an increase in new membership.

People have still been requesting help in making their claim for payments from the Austrian Nationalfonds and from the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund. Regrettably, a negative reply was received to the petition sent to the German Bundestag for changes to the law on pensions and compensation. AJR, with WJR and Jewish Care, made arrangements to work with some German lawyers on pension and health compensation claims. The German government has been quite intransigent in not relaxing the rules for those victims of Nazi persecution who, for various reasons, have missed out on payments.

Self Aid

Self Aid still assists about 70 members and from April 1996 it has been possible to pay grants of up to £20 per week without affecting the level of Income Support. In addition to regular monthly grants, payments were made in respect of a variety of needs such as televisions, synagogue membership, improved heating, holidays etc. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the B'nai B'rith Leo Baeck (London) Trust Fund which continued to make grants for twenty of our clients in 1996.

The Annual Concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, when an audience of nearly six hundred heard extracts from opera and operetta performed by artists from the European Chamber Opera, raised £7,000.

AJR Information

As it has done for the past half century the journal served as a conduit of information on all matters of refugee concern: restitution, compensation, pensions etc.

During the past year we managed to attract first-time contributions from figures of note in the community, such as Rabbi Julia Neuberger and George Clare. Others new to the journal whose participation we welcome are Rabbi William Wolff and the academic Tony Grenville.

Our bulging correspondence column continues to attest to the involvement of the readership. A slightly facetious demonstration of this were fifty replies – some from as far afield as the US and Chile – to a reader's query about a German nursery rhyme. On a more serious level 'Letters to the Editor' vibrated with the clash of opinions on such contentious issues as Jews and Germans, Britain and Europe, and Israel and the Arabs.

AJR outside NW London

A group in Leeds, constituted as the Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association, became affiliated to the AJR. The Manchester and South London groups are both active with regular meetings. For example, Manchester organised a trip to Beth Shalom. The regional groups are of value not only in providing companionship but in identifying problems and providing assistance where necessary.

Staff and Volunteers

A new Sunday session organiser joined the team at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, while at Hampstead Gate we recruited a replacement Volunteers' Co-ordinator and a new Receptionist. In all, AJR employed 25 people, full-time and part-time, and benefited from the services of over 160 volunteers. The Hon. Officers, Management Committee and membership are proud to express their appreciation of the devoted efforts of both staff and volunteers in maintaining the high standards of service to which the membership have become accustomed.

The Management Committee

The Management Committee was saddened by the death of Madeleine Brook, one of its most active members. Her devoted work at all times, particularly for the Annual Concert, and her cheerfulness during her illness will be long remembered.

See page ? column ? for details of nomination for the new Management Committee.

The Year in Retrospect and Plans for the Future

We have during the year continued to strengthen our commitment - that of acting as an extended family to all our members. This involves personal one-to-one relationships. As a relatively small organisation we do not aim to process people's problems in such a way as to close their files as rapidly as possible. We have an ongoing commitment to you, our members and to the wider community of 'Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution and their families' who, surprisingly enough, may not yet have heard of us.

We organised joint activities with the Board of Deputies - the lecture by Prof. Richard Overy on Winston Churchill in 1940, and with the Wiener Library - a presentation of the film on the *Voyage of the St Louis*, in the presence of the film's director and some of the survivors.

We have established close relationships with the Association of Jewish ex-Berliners (AJEB), the Reunion of Kindertransports (RoK), with whom we are participating in the planning of a conference in 1999, and various Second Generation groups.

We have worked in Committees with Jewish Care, World Jewish Relief and Belsize Square Synagogue, and we continued to be involved in the affairs of the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA).

Whether in the field of representation or assistance on pensions and compensation claims, assistance in social and welfare matters, lobbying governments and parliaments, we have to raise our profile in order to be able to serve our members and our community more effectively.

The needs of our membership are continually changing because of age and the external environment. We must continue to adopt our strategies to be responsive to these changing needs. That is our task for the coming years.

Ernest David
Director

Andrew Kaufman
Chairman

Finance Report

AJR: Self-Aid-Report for the year 1996 AJR CHARITABLE TRUST: Continuing stability

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE: Increase in Meals on Wheels

The overall financial position of the AJR and AJR Charitable Trust has stabilised. The continuing high level of legacies, although it is slightly lower than the previous year, continues to reflect the toll of passing years.

AJR

There has been a welcome small increase in the revenue from membership fees and subscriptions and the fall in the level of donations has been more than outweighed by a slight increase in overall legacies. Although the costs of producing AJR Information have increased slightly, this has partly been compensated by the 22% increase in the level of advertising revenue.

Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1996

Income:	1996	1995
Membership/Donations and Legacies	173,563	156,525
Grant from Self Aid	5,000	5,000
	<u>178,563</u>	<u>161,525</u>
Less:		
Overhead Expenses	28,823	26,567
Salary Costs	72,728	65,637
AJR Information Administration/Depreciation	25,184	22,688
	<u>12,691</u>	<u>11,568</u>
	<u>139,426</u>	<u>126,460</u>
Surplus:	<u>39,137</u>	<u>35,065</u>

Summary of Balance Sheet

at 31st December 1996	1996	1995
Fixed Assets (less depreciation)	17,217	22,717
Current Assets	118,391	72,246
Less:		
Current Liabilities	(12,944)	(12,936)
	<u>122,664</u>	<u>82,027</u>
Represented by:		
General Fund	71,863	36,798
Net surplus (deficit) for Year	39,137	35,065
Staff retirement reserve	11,664	10,164
	<u>122,664</u>	<u>82,027</u>

David Rothenberg, Hon. Treasurer
Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

A slight reduction in numbers attending the Day Centre has, to some extent, been compensated by an increase in the number of meals-on-wheels which we have provided to those who are sometimes too frail to attend. The exceptional level of donations received during 1995 has not been repeated. The costs of the Day Centre have increased and the revenue decreased temporarily during rebuilding of the sheltered accommodation provided at the Day Centre. These works are now almost complete and have resulted in the creation of a better caretaker's flat and the provision of

a two-roomed flat where previously only a one roomed flat was available. The benefits of this will be felt by all those attending the Day Centre during 1997.

Summary figure for the year ended 31st December 1996

Income:	1996	1995
Takings - Day Centre and meals on wheels	78,662	78,403
Donations received	9,244	33,341
	<u>87,906</u>	<u>111,744</u>
Less outgoings:		
Premises expenditure (net)	31,375	33,740
Salaries	86,031	74,292
Catering costs	161,268	152,336
Sundry expenses	19,600	15,174
	<u>296,274</u>	<u>275,542</u>
Deficit Funded from Charitable Trust	<u>(210,368)</u>	<u>(163,798)</u>

Self Aid of Refugees

There has been a substantial increase in the level of individual aid grants given. This has arisen because the level at which Social Security Benefits are clawed back has been raised during the year, thus enabling us to increase the help we can give to those members of our community who are the most needy.

AJR Charitable Trust

The AJR Charitable Trust provides the financial support for the welfare work of the AJR. It also bears the entire cost of funding the Day Centre. Over the years it has contributed substantially to the Otto Schiff Housing Association. During 1997 we anticipate making very substantial financial contributions, advancing approximately £850,000 towards rebuilding works.

The level of legacies received was slightly reduced from that in 1995. The continuing high-level has, however, enabled us to provide the financial contributions which the Otto Schiff Housing Association desperately needs but also has enabled us to assist other members of our community. The burden following the Care in the Community Programme continues to increase.

Summary Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 1995

	1996	1995
Income:		
Covenants/donations	33,751	39,989
Investment income (including portfolio gains)	371,315	400,702
Sheltered housing	21,131	21,154
	<u>426,197</u>	<u>461,845</u>
Legacies	<u>579,642</u>	<u>647,651</u>
	<u>1,005,839</u>	<u>1,109,496</u>
Less outgoings:		
Day Centre	210,368	163,798
Self Aid	35,000	28,000
Otto Schiff Housing Association	50,000	33,966
Other organisations	16,034	21,100
Administration/Depreciation	<u>242,934</u>	<u>235,116</u>
	<u>554,336</u>	<u>481,980</u>

The AJR at Work

Telling the grandchildren

Rabbi Dr Albert Friedlander, Minister of Westminster Synagogue, in a well-attended talk to South London AJR, had no doubt that Holocaust survivors had a duty to tell their grandchildren about their experiences. He suggested they should educate succeeding generations to attend commemoration meetings and to erect memorials, such as that recently unveiled in London in honour of Raoul Wallenberg, saviour of many Hungarian Jews. Teaching and studying the Holocaust and visiting places such as the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam were, in his view, also extremely important.

Rabbi Friedland believed that the children of the victims, "our children," and those of the perpetrators, "their children," both suffered from the effects of the Shoah. In the Germans' case it was a feeling of guilt for the actions of their grandparents.

□ Ruth Leggett

'Passing on our Heritage'- Theo Marx and Paul Oppenheimer join Ken Ambrose in a genealogical exploration of our origins and analyses of memories and discoveries about our own family history. Thursday 15th May, 2pm, South London Liberal Synagogue.

Midlands Group programme

A committee of the AJR Midlands Group, comprising Edgar Glaser, Paul Oppenheimer, Henry Aron and Ken and Sonja Shindler, has drawn up a programme of activities with an event planned every three months. On 25th May a number of members have agreed to recall their personal memories of Berlin at a meeting and buffet lunch to be held at Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, Sheepcote Street. Call Corinne Oppenheimer 0121 705 9529 or Sonja Shindler 0121 705 5396 for details and reservations.

Future events include a garden party, a joint meeting with Manchester AJR, and a talk on teaching the Holocaust in Lithuania to be given by Stephen Smith, Director of Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre □



AJR Catering Manager, Susie Kaufman, appreciates a dish prepared by Yakov Azulay, Assistant Chef, in the AJR's modern kitchens.

AJR MEALS ON WHEELS

A wide variety of high quality kosher frozen food is available, ready made and delivered to your door via the AJR meals on wheels service. The food is cooked in our own kitchens in Cleve Road, NW6, by our experienced staff.

If you live in North or North West London and wish to take advantage of this service, phone Susie Kaufman on 0171-328 0208 for details and an assessment interview.

Refugee experiences

AJR volunteer Inge Koppel recently spoke of her experiences as a Kindertransportee to students of University College, London, and members of the Association of Jewish Sixth-formers. A Polish national, Inge left for Britain as a child of 14 on a Kindertransport from Germany. She was joined by her father whose boat arrived on the day war broke out! Inge, who could speak no English at the time, was the only refugee at a school in Winchester.

The university students, who are making a special study of Jewish refugees in Great Britain, were extremely pleased to discuss the subject face-to-face with a

refugee who could answer their questions from her own experience. The sixth-formers were very keen to put their questions too.

Volunteers' Co-ordinator Debbie Picker spoke about the importance of volunteers to the AJR and members of both audiences kindly offered their services to help □

LEO BAECK HOUSE

Annual Open Day & Bazaar

Sunday 15 June
3 - 5pm

Entrance £3 including tea & cakes
Children free

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:

Tuesday	6 May
Wednesday	14 May
Thursday	22 May
Tuesday	27 May
Wednesday	4 June

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

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.**

It occurs to me...

Is democracy the equivalent of an absolute morality? In his book *The Politics of Hope*, the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, argues that liberalism has, in the West, given way to libertarianism and that there is a need to return to Judeo-Christian morality and values to prevent the continuation of society's moral decay.

Journalist Simon Jenkins, writing in *The Times*, maintains that morality derived from religion leads to bigotry and authoritarianism, quoting in his support Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*. Jenkins believes that morality is irrelevant. The problem, he argues, is the degeneracy in Britain of democratic institutions. He states that "democratic institutions must convert moral disputes into political ones and seek to resolve them without bloodshed."

But there's the rub. What is democracy? Didn't Hitler come to power by a democratic process? Britain claims to have had a democratic government for hundreds of years and yet women did not get the vote until 1918. Was the Trade Union block vote, which directed Labour party policies, an example of democracy? At what age are people to be considered mature enough to participate in the democratic process? It may be democratic for the majority to impose its will on the minority, but if this is done without reference to rules or a constitution, is it right?

That is the point. We have been brought up in a tradition of either family or community, which generally believes there are principles of right and wrong, transcending our time and geographic boundaries. Switzerland is a country which practises the democratic conventions most admirably, with referenda at local and cantonal levels on all kinds of topics, but was it or is it a moral country in the light of what we have been hearing recently?

Countless examples can be adduced where democratic institutions produce policies and outcomes that we, with our background, would consider as inconsistent with morality.

Religion has much to answer for in the way of persecution and warfare, and while I believe it possible for a secular community to adhere to principles of morality, the probability is that these principles will be based on the Judeo-Christian tradition. Democracy itself may collapse without a belief in higher values. Society would do well to rediscover these values.

□ Ernest David

PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

Tel. 0171 328 0208

Open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am - 6.30pm,
Monday and Wednesday 9.30am - 3.30pm,
Sunday 2 pm - 6.30pm.

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

Afternoon entertainment -

MAY 1997

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Thursday | 1 | MAY DAY CONCERT
- Fiona Tanner
(Soprano) accompanied
by Geoffrey Whitworth
(Piano) |
| Sunday | 4 | MUSICAL SOIREE -
Arranged by Deborah
Fink (Soprano) with
Piano Accompaniment |
| Monday | 5 | C L O S E D - Bank
Holiday |
| Tuesday | 6 | BITTER JOYS - Edel
O'Brien (Mezzo)
accompanied by Kay
Dennis (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 7 | ACT I - SCENE II -
Sharon Burnett
(Soprano) & Juwon
Ogungbe (Bass)
accompanied by
Margaret Eaves (Piano) |
| Thursday | 8 | ST. VINCENT
SINGERS - Conducted
by Sylvia Eaves -
Accompanied by
Margaret Eaves (Piano) |
| Sunday | 11 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 12 | A CONCERT FOR
ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY
- Ophra Goetz (Piano)
& Miriam Kramer
(Violin) |
| Tuesday | 13 | THE DABROWSKI
QUARTET - Tracie
Penwarden (Soprano) -
Andrew Farris
(Baritone) - Nigel
Cassidy (Tenor)
accompanied by Market
Dabrowski (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 14 | THE ORFORD DUO
- Julie Patridge
(Soprano) with Elspeth
Wilks at the Piano |

- | | | |
|-------------|----|---|
| Thursday | 15 | ITALIAN MUSIC DUO
- Angela Amato
(Violin) accompanied by
Panama Reed (Piano) |
| Sunday | 18 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 19 | MUSIC TO SOOTHE
THE SOUL -
Guyathierie Peiris
(Soprano) accompanied
by William Patrick
(Piano) |
| Tuesday | 20 | SONGS FOR
EVERYONE - Shirley
Gurevitz accompanied
by Sylvia Cohen (Piano) |
| Wednesday | 21 | DAY CENTRE OPEN
- LUNCHEON CLUB |
| Thursday | 22 | THE SWEET SONGS OF
SOPHIE ROGOVSKY -
YIDDISH FOLK SONGS
& AN AMUSING &
EMOTIONAL
ACCOUNT OF JEWISH
LIFE IN RUSSIA
DURING THE
POGROMS - Margaret
Dent accompanied by
Philippa Groman (Piano) |
| Sunday | 25 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 26 | C L O S E D - Bank
Holiday |
| Tuesday | 27 | THE GEOFFREY
STRUM & HELEN
BLAKE DUO |
| Wednesday | 28 | SONGS FOR EARLY
SUMMER - Prize-
Winning Students from
the Royal Academy of
Music - Emma Bell
(Soprano) & Rahel
Wagner (Mezzo)
accompanied by Clara
Taylor (Piano) |
| Thursday | 29 | 3's COMPANY -
SUMMER CABARET
- Françoise Geller -
Kara Wilson & Gordon
Griffin accompanied by
Margaret Eaves (Piano) |
| JUNE | | |
| Sunday | 1 | DAY CENTRE OPEN -
NO ENTERTAINMENT |
| Monday | 2 | SUMMER
GREETINGS - Rona
Israel (Soprano)
accompanied by Ian
Pace (Piano) |
| Tuesday | 3 | SUMMER MUSIC &
SONG - Sue Kennett
(Soprano) accompanied
by Gordon Weaver
(Piano) |

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday

Spiro. The AJR wishes Ludwig Spiro a very happy 85th birthday and many active years to come.

Deaths

Barrington. Ilse Barrington (Stiebel née Bernstein, born Aachen 22.5.1908, died Emsworth, Hants. 21.3.1997. Formerly living in St John's Wood and attending the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, Ilse was a larger-than-life personality. Her daughter Erica and family John, Duncan and Carl, give thanks for a life lived to the full.

Goldschmidt. Margaret Goldschmidt, a former Matron of Heinrich Stahl House and for 27 years a much respected tenant of Eleanor Rathbone House, Highgate, died at Whittington Hospital, aged 92.

Frankenberg. Gertrud Frankenberg, née Simonsohn, formerly of Hamburg. Born August 24th 1903, died March 16th 1997 in New York. Much missed by her sister Emma Simonsohn and her family in Namibia.

In Memoriam

Heyman. Manon Heyman died 26th May 1997. Fondly remembered by her daughter Madeleine and son-in-law Ricardo.

CLASSIFIED

Miscellaneous

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AJR GROUP CONTACTS

S. London: Ken Ambrose
0181 852 0262
Midlands: Edgar Glazer
0121 777 6537
North: Werner Lachs
0161 773 4091

Lily Freeman

invites all her friends to the opening of her exhibition

'HAPPY PAINTINGS'

at Hampstead Museum, Burgh House, New End Square NW3
Tel: 0171 431 0144

on Wednesday 14th May from 6.30-8.30pm

Exhibition continues until 26th May, 12-5pm
Wednesdays to Sundays inclusive

Monday 26th from 3-5pm

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Shirley Lever at the
Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

**Monday 19 May
Thursday 5 June
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Alice Schwab

Art Notes

The Royal Academy is showing *The Berlin of George Grosz* drawings, watercolours and prints 1912-1930 until 8 June 1997. George Grosz (1893-1959) is one of the greatest graphic artists of the 20th century. Although he produced important work after he left Germany for the USA in 1933, he is best known for the biting cartoons, caricatures and social satires that he created in Berlin between the two world wars. This exhibition is exclusively concerned with the drawings, watercolours and prints of that troubled but brilliantly creative epoch.

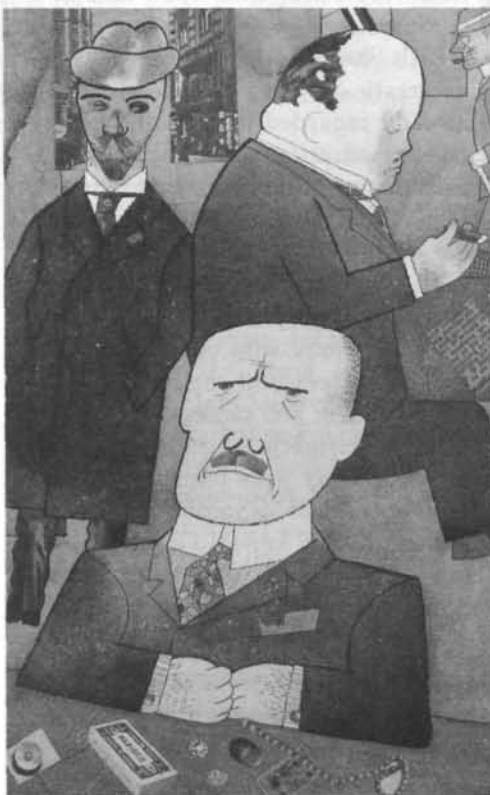
The Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, has an exhibition *Janet Nathan - Constructions 1979-1997* until 8 June showing over 30 constructed wall pieces made in the last 18 years. Janet Nathan's assemblages are made from found and cut wooden shapes which are embellished with paint and often bound together with lakes of translucent resin. These works are full of recurrent themes, motifs and symbolic forms. Nathan manipulates her materials to make statements - with many of the pieces there is a strong, perhaps unconscious sense of spirituality. Her work has been described by art historian and critic Bryan Robertson, as somewhere between painting and sculpture, featuring a rich use of colour, and being "...extraordinarily beautiful and original... existing serenely in their own space and light, beyond any obvious category".

Janet Nathan was born in London in 1938, and studied at St Martin's School of Art. She lives and works in London. Her work has been shown in numerous group exhibitions and solo shows including the Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (1982), The Warwick Arts Trust, London (1988) and Reed's Wharf Gallery, London (1995) and is also held in many collections including the *Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool* and most recently the *Chelsea and Westminster Hospital*. Tour details: Following its London showing, the exhibition will tour to: 14 June - 3 August - *The Metropole Art Centre, Folkestone*; 16 August - 27 September - *Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield*; 6 October - 1 November - *Gardner Art Centre, University of Sussex*. Also at the Barbican Art Gallery

till the 26 May *Modern Art in Britain 1910-1914* (shown with *Lucie Rie and Hans Coper: Potters in Parallel*).

The National Gallery exhibition *Discovering the Italian Baroque: The Denis Mahon Collection* continues at the Sainsbury Wing until 8 May.

At the Goethe Institute Gallery until the 7 June *Lucia Moholy: Bauhaus Photographer*. Lucia Moholy, was the first wife of Hungarian artist Laszlo Moholy-Nagy.



Diamond Profiteers in the Café Kaiserhof, George Grosz, 1920.

During the years they spent together at the Bauhaus in Weimar (1923-28) she became the foremost photographer of Bauhaus products and designs. She was also a first-rate architectural and portrait photographer.

From 1 May *Anneley Juda* is showing *David Hockney's Flowers, Faces and Spaces*. By choosing flowers as the main subject of his new London exhibition, David Hockney, who remains Britain's best-known contemporary artist, is impressively aware that he offers us a challenge.

At the *British Museum* until 20 July you can see *Ancient Faces, Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt*. Mummy portraits bring us face to face with people from classical antiquity with an extraordinary vividness and poignancy. Around one thousand of these moving images, made between the first and third centuries CE, have survived □

SB's Column

Upper Austria. In the course of a Jewish Film week at Linz 15 productions were shown. Several of them focused on the subject of emigration; however, the highlight of the week was a completely new version of the *Diary of Anne Frank*, containing contributions by persons who had contacts with the Frank family at the time. The Steven Spielberg documentary *Survivors of the Holocaust* featured alongside a French movie about deportations and concentration camps.

The small town of Wels will stage two performances of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* at the end of May when the internationally renowned Theo Adam and Bernd Weikl will be singing with the Linz Bruckner orchestra.

London. The Goethe Institute recently presented a series of crime films which mirrored the development of German film techniques during this century. *Testament of Dr Mabuse* (1932) was directed by Fritz Lang, a Sherlock Holmes picture (1937) starred Hans Albers and Heinz Rühmann, and the last of the series (1942) featured the prominent screen actor OE Hasse.

Mörbisch (Burgenland). This year's operetta at the annual lakeside festival on Lake Neusiedl is to be Offenbach's *Vie Parisienne*. With a seating capacity of 4500, Mörbisch has one of the largest open-air stages in Europe.

A book for opera fans is *The Joy of Opera* by British tenor Nigel Douglas (publisher André Deutsch). It contains highlights of operatic performances from all over the world, garnished by amusing anecdotes as well as numerous illustrations. The author, a member of Welsh National Opera, sang for many years with the Vienna Volksoper. A specialist in operetta, he translated works by Kalman and Lehar into English and produced them at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in the mid-Eighties □

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**CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
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Fred Dunston 80

The AJR extends heartiest congratulations to Fred Dunston on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Practically a foundation member, he has devoted himself to AJR concerns for half a century – turning up, come rain or shine, for his weekly stint of voluntary service at Hampstead Gate even nowadays. Fred, described in our 1992 profile as a 'model member', brought up his offspring in the same ethos: both sons serve on the AJR executive □

Austrian pensions

The Metropolitan Police have confirmed that the issuing of 'Certificates for Life' is still part of a police officer's standing instructions. The Alien Registration Office of the Metropolitan Police (Tel: 0171 230 1208) will be able to help with any further enquiries.

Globalisation

The Vienna office administering the *NS Opferfond* has published the following statistics: There are 26,559 Austrian-Jewish applicants scattered across 30 countries. 4737 applications from the USA have already been processed, followed by 1945 from Austria, 1400 from the UK and 1308 from Israel. The oldest applicant is 106, the youngest 52 □

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Herring Roe Soufflé

I'm very partial to herring roes – fried lightly in butter and served on toast with a sprinkling of cayenne – but many years ago the great food writer Ambrose Heath created this special recipe. 'Just for you' he said and I was duly honoured. It is very simple – and truly delicious – and you can bake the mixture in individual ramekins if you prefer.

4oz (110g) fresh soft herring roes
butter/for the dish/and flour

An invitation to the Annual General Meeting

This year's guest speaker, Stephen Smith, Founder and Director of the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire, has made an outstanding contribution to the study and propagation of knowledge of the Holocaust in European history in a very short time span and at a comparatively young age.

Beth Shalom celebrated its first anniversary only last September, yet is already regarded as a model educational institution housing a memorial exhibition, conference hall, library, restaurant and residential accommodation, all set in landscaped gardens in the countryside. Beth Shalom is the work of one inspired man and his immediate family who committed their own resources and their lives to its establishment and success.

A charismatic figure, he has brought many Jews together in common purpose. Stephen Smith's address to the Annual General Meeting of the AJR on Sunday 8th June at 3pm is an opportunity few would wish to miss □

2½oz (70g) butter
1½oz (25g) flour
½ pint (275ml) milk
4oz (110g) grated cheese (Caerphilly, Cheddar)
salt, pepper, ground mace
4 eggs

Preheat oven to 400°F, 200°C, Gas Mark 6. Butter and flour a 2-pint souffle dish. Wash the herring roes, remove black thread and pat dry. Lightly fry the herring roes in about one tablespoon of the butter. Place herring roes at the bottom of the souffle dish.

Melt remaining butter in a thick saucepan, stir in the flour and gradually add the milk. Stir over a low flame until well thickened, then stir in the cheese and the seasonings. Cook very gently until well blended, then remove from heat.

Separate egg yolks and whites. Beat egg yolks into the lightly cooled mixture, one by one. Whisk egg whites until stiff and fold into the cheese mixture. Pile on top of the herring roes and bake until puffed up and golden brown – about 15 minutes □

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS -
MAY 1997**

- Tue 6 Arthur Brill JP: Local Authority & Public Service. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 6 Viktor Klemperer's Diaries: Hans Reiss. Sussex University, 5pm
- Mon 12 Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 49th Independence Day: Wembley Conference Centre, 1.45-10pm, £3 cons.
- Mon 12 Jürgen Diethe, editor & broadcaster: Eastern Europe Seven Years After Communism. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 13 Prof Michael Crawford: No Nation can rise above the Health of its Women. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 13 'Children Must Laugh': 1938 Polish film introduced by Abe Brumberg. Wiener Library, 6.45pm (advanced booking)
- Tue 13 Youth in Nazi Germany: Marianne Elsley. Sussex University, 5pm
- Wed 14 Madeleine Brook Bridge Event: AJR, 15 Cleve Road, NW6, Supper 6.30pm, £14. Bookings: 0171 328 0208
- Sun 18 Dr Bernard Wasserstein: The Vanishing Diaspora. Sternberg Centre, 8pm, £3
- Mon 19 Richard Grunberger, Editor AJR Information: Refugee Authors. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 20 Harry Blacker, artist, cartoonist & raconteur, talks about Jewish Humour. JACS, 2pm

- Tue 20 Enemy Alien in the British Army: Stephen Dale. Sussex University, 5pm
- Tue 27 Sheila Price: Heathrow's Air Traffic Control. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 27 Sir Hans Singer: Memories & Economic Policies. Sussex University, 5pm
- Thur 29 Daimler-Benz & the Third Reich: Dr Neil Gregor, Southampton University. Wiener Library, 6.30, £3
- Thur 29 'The Subversive Bible': Rabbi Jonathan Magonet & interfaith panel discussion on his new book. Sternberg Centre, 8pm

JUNE

- Sun 1 Mischlinge in Nazi Germany: Wiener Library seminar. Birkbeck College, Malet Street, WC1, 2-5pm, £7 (cons)
- Tue 3 Prof Eric Moonman: The National Health Service. JACS, 2pm
- Tue 3 Prof Edward Timms: A Gemini in German Studies. Sussex University, 5pm

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

JACS at Belsize Square Synagogue, NW3 4HX. Tel: 0171 794 3949

Club '43, at Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254 360

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

University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies. Diana Franklin 0181 455 4785 or 01273 678 495

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NEWSROUND

Auschwitz accord

An outline agreement reached between the Polish authorities and representative international Jewish organisations calls for the placing of a 500-metre non-commercial zone around the Auschwitz-Birkenau site, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. Costs would be shared between Poland, European Union governments and private donors. Discussions were prompted by the threat of the development of a shopping mall near the former death camp.

Hungarian compensation

During a visit to Budapest, President Roman Herzog of Germany promised to reach an agreement on compensation for Holocaust survivors. Agreements have similarly been reached with the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Belarus and Poland.

Eastern European pensions

The failure of the German Government to pay pensions to the 20,000 Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe was debated at a conference held in Berlin. Since World War II, Germany has paid some \$60 billion to victims of Nazism.

Stopping SS pensions

Some suspected war criminals living outside of Germany have had their pensions withdrawn. Nazis still living in Germany continue to receive the supplementary 'victims' pensions pending reform of the 1950 law which introduced the payments.

France too?

French banks appropriated 57,000 accounts of deportees who failed to return from Nazi Germany, according to *Le Monde* newspaper. More than 1 billion francs (\$100 million) was acquired from accounts and savings of Jews who died in Auschwitz. 75,000 people were deported from France following the German occupation in 1940.

Swiss lists

Records uncovered in Swiss cantonal archives show that bank accounts containing millions of dollars, at today's values, were closed without the knowledge of the account holders in the postwar era, reports *The Guardian* newspaper. In at least one case, a bank put the contents of an account into its own reserves.

□RDC

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None of us knows what might happen from one minute to the next - a stroke, a heart attack - who can say? It is of the utmost importance for the pendant to be worn continuously around either the neck or wrist and it soon becomes as much a habit as wearing a watch. The emergency helplines not only provide such help as calling an ambulance, but could also summon the police in response to an intruder.

At night it is best to keep the pendant close at hand and always put it on when getting out of bed to go to the bathroom. Don't put it in a bedside drawer, hang it in the bathroom or fail to put it back on after washing. Your life may depend on it.

□ WW

Anyone considering having a helpline alarm system is welcome to contact AJR's Social Service Department for help and advice. Call 0171 431 6161 during office hours and explain your needs.

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