

# AJR Information

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£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss...

**Anna Seghers**  
Anthony Grenville p3

**Does the  
community care?** p8

**The lost children  
of Berlin**  
Rudi Leavor p13

## Infotainment

is the term for films designed to instruct while they entertain. The German film *Comedian Harmonists* (about the deservedly famous *a cappella* group which broke up under Nazi pressure) is stronger on entertainment than instruction. While the Aryan 'harmonists' displayed an appalling lack of solidarity with their Jewish colleagues after 1933, the film focuses primarily on the sexual jealousy between a Gentile and a Jewish ensemble member. It beguiles audiences with a story with a strong love interest – while the group's history was, in fact, one of hate (or, at best, hateful indifference) wrecking the original harmony □

Alarm bells ring over barrack-room scandals

## The spectre haunting the Bundeswehr

**D**uring the last years of the war the question of the shape of postwar Germany – in all senses of the word, including the geographical – increasingly occupied the minds of Allied leaders. Several schemes were mooted, including the Morgenthau Plan which aimed to return the country to a bucolic, pre-industrial state.

This proved totally unrealistic, and it was agreed that Germany should be reconstituted as a modern and sovereign country – but without its own armed forces. Soon enough the Cold War caused the disarmament stipulation to be dropped, and the Bundesrepublik was encouraged to set up its own 'citizens' army', the Bundeswehr.

From their inception both the new German state and the new German army were handicapped, in varying degree, by the lack of a democratic legacy. For the state the lack was not total since Bonn could look back to the – admittedly shortlived and unsuccessful – Weimar Republic, but the army had no source of democratic inspiration whatever. Even in Weimar days the army had formed 'a state within the state', and the 1944 Officers' Plot had been in the main organised by men who had previously supported Hitler.

This meant that the new 'army of citizens in uniform' had to start in a vacuum. Every institution – unless it is the product of a revolution – needs an ethos anchored in tradition. The new Bundeswehr could, of course, build on the technical knowhow perfected by its predecessor, the Wehrmacht – but in terms of ethos it stared into the black hole of Germany's past.

Now it is a fact of life that men who choose a military career tend to have a rightwing disposition, and that exposure to a command structure upheld with strict discipline only reinforces this basic attitude.

To counteract this virtually built-in rightwing bias the training programme for Bundeswehr recruits should have been under the most rigorous democratic scrutiny. This manifestly did not happen, and the absence of effective supervision allowed military officialdom to indulge in such sickening 'pranks' as

inviting the previously convicted neo-Nazi Manfred Röder to lecture at the German equivalent of Sandhurst. In some sections of the Bundeswehr the vacuum left by missing traditions was filled by (officially connived at) celebrations of Wehrmacht victories, such as the paratroop landings in Crete on 20 May 1941.

The Balkan wars of the 1990s which, for the first time, led to the stationing of Bundeswehr units on non-German soil, aggravated the situation still further. Proximity to killing fields can inflame the bloodlust of sadistically inclined individuals. The years of the Bosnian imbroglio, accordingly, witnessed an increase of attacks on foreigners in Germany perpetrated by Bundeswehr soldiers.

These various scandals have now reached 'critical mass'. Defence Minister Volker Rühle, a would-be successor to Chancellor Kohl, has attracted so much criticism that his future elevation can be confidently ruled out; even Rühle's survival in his present post seems problematical.

Germany's democratic partners must exert all possible pressure on the Bonn government so that it acts to excise the cancer of neo-Nazism from the Bundeswehr. (At the same time *AJR Information* expresses its appreciation of the vigilance with which our 'colleagues' in the German media have highlighted the scandalous goings-on in what was piously conceived under fifty years ago as an 'army of citizens in uniform') □



William I, King of Prussia, accompanied by Bismarck and Moltke, prepares for battle, 1866.

## Profile

## A man for all seasons

Vienna-born Walter Kammerling grew up in a none-too-prosperous middle-class family. There were two elder sisters. In the late twenties his father manufactured chocolates. Afterwards he worked mainly as a salesman; in the mid-thirties he ran a commercial information bureau. Money was always in short supply.

Walter's school, a secondary school in the predominantly Jewish second district, had a majority of Jewish pupils. After the Nazi takeover the school was designated to have only Jewish pupils from all secondary schools in Vienna. Within the first few weeks of the Anschluss he had to scrub the pavements and witnessed the joy these sights gave the jeering crowds watching the spectacle. (He spoke about these experiences in the third instalment of the TV series *The Nazis, A Warning From History* on BBC2).

After some nine months filled with fear and hope, he was fortunate to be on one of the first 'Kindertransporte' that left Vienna one month after the November pogrom. As Walter's two sisters were 17 and 18 in November 1938 the older one, Erika, was able to obtain a domestic per-

mit to work in Britain, but the younger one, Ruthi, was unfortunately too young for a domestic permit and too old to be on a Kindertransport. She had to stay behind in Vienna with her parents. In 1942



Walter Kammerling

they were sent to Theresienstadt and in September 1944 father, and a man Ruthi had married in the camp, were despatched to Auschwitz. Ruthi and mother followed on the penultimate transport to Auschwitz in October 1944.

Safe in the UK, Walter had meanwhile gone on to a training farm in County Down organised and part-financed by the Belfast Jewish community. After three years' stay in Northern Ireland he came

to London, where he worked as a lathe operator and lived in the war workers' hostel set up by the left-wing emigré organisation Young Austria. He volunteered for the army in 1943, married Herta, a fellow Young Austrian, on his embarkation leave, and saw action in NW Europe.

Inspired by – as he now sees it – misguided left-wing idealism, he had himself demobbed in Vienna. There he started a family, found employment in engineering and made up for his interrupted education by evening study; Herta meanwhile worked in a nursery.

Deeply disillusioned both with the Austrians and communism, they returned to Britain in 1957 and settled in Bournemouth, where Herta's parents lived. There Walter worked as chief engineer for a firm manufacturing air bearings for dental drills and grinding spindles. He also worked in marine engineering, and is a patent holder for equipment for rolling mill automation.

In retirement Walter is as busy as ever. He and Herta are deeply involved in the local Reform community. He teaches both children and adults, and is President of the synagogue. Extra-murally he has taken part in Yiddish musicals, qualified for a degree from the Open University, and is currently studying music under its auspices. Walter truly is, in Robert Bolt's phrase, a man for all seasons.

□ RG

## What's in a political name?

The announcement of the Scottish Tories' contemplated name change will have disconcerted the heritage-minded. 'Tory' has a venerable pedigree, stretching back all the way to the 1700s, when Queen Anne reigned and Jonathan Swift wrote *Gulliver's Travels*.

This rebaptism North of the border could well be a further sign of creeping Europeanisation: on the continent the names of political groupings have always had a far shorter life span than over here. No French party did more to shape the Third Republic than the Radicals – who 'annulled' the Dreyfus verdict, separated Church and State, and (in the person of Clemenceau) won the 1914-18 war – yet

today they are largely forgotten.

Germany, for obvious reasons, also boasts many party labels of recent coinage. The dominant Christian Democrats, or CDU, only exist since 1946. The party arose from the debris of the Catholic Zentrum – a name discredited by association with Hitler's 'stirrup-holder' von Papen, and no longer appropriate when Catholics and Protestants staked out a common middle ground in the postwar political landscape.

In Austria the Zentrum's erstwhile sister party, the Christlichsoziale, relaunched themselves as Volkspartei (People's Party) after the war. Although their last pre-Anschluss leaders, Dollfuss and Schuschnigg, had been Nazi victims (to varying degree) the old name carried discordant echoes of authoritarianism and antisemitic bias.

The third German-speaking state, the DDR, meanwhile, witnessed another significant political name change: the

Communists, hoisted into power by the Russians, hid their identity behind the fig-leaf of the Socialist Unity Party (SED). In neighbouring 'People's Poland', likewise, the ruling Communists masqueraded as the United Workers Party.

Semantic sleight-of-hand was also resorted to by the British Communists, who were simultaneously dropping off the edge of the political map. First the *Daily Worker* became the *Morning Star* – next the CP restyled itself Party of the Democratic Left. Nothing helped.

All in all, one has to hand it to the Blairites. By inserting the monosyllable New in front of Labour they reached parts of the body politic left untouched by any number of hyphenated combinations, whether they be Conservative-Unionists, One-Nation Tories, Social-Democrats or even Lib-Dems.

Envy-tinged congratulations, Tony – or should it be Peter (Mandelson)?

□ Richard Grunberger

## Anna Seghers

The life and work of Anna Seghers, one of this century's great German prose writers, were deeply marked by its historical and ideological conflicts. Born into a well-to-do Mainz Jewish family in 1900 as Netty Reiling, she studied at Heidelberg, receiving her doctorate for a dissertation on Jews and Jewry in the work of Rembrandt. In 1925 she married the Hungarian Communist and sociologist Laszlo Radvanyi, and adopted the pseudonym Seghers – from a seventeenth-century Dutch artist – to demonstrate her rejection of her Jewish bourgeois background for the Communist cause.

In 1928 the story *Aufstand der Fischer von St Barbara* won her the prestigious Kleist Prize. Speculation about the real identity of the mysterious Seghers, a portrait of whom in the *Neue Bücherschau* showed an aggressive looking male sporting a virile beard, prompted the author to adopt the first name Anna. The story's unforgettable portrayal of the doomed revolt of the exploited fishermen established her reputation, and also her characteristic style, laconic but lyrical, lapidary in its clarity but profoundly sensitive in its ability to register human emotion. She joined the Communist Party in 1928. Under instructions from Moscow, it was then directing its fire against the moderate Social Democrats, the 'social Fascists', not against the Nazis, whom it regarded merely as another agent of big business, and whose accession to power could scarcely be worse than the 'dictatorship of capitalism' already existent under the Weimar Republic. Seghers was never wholly at ease with the left-radical policy of Social Fascism.

In 1933 she was briefly arrested, then fled to Paris. Once the failed line of 'Social Fascism' was replaced by that of the Popular Front, an attempt to create an alliance of anti-Fascist forces, she achieved prominence, addressing the International Writers' Congresses for the Defence of Culture in Paris and Madrid, the high points of cultural politics in the Popular Front phase. Seghers became the leading Communist voice of this front of humanity against Nazi tyranny. Her visit to Austria in the wake of the suppression of the workers' uprising there in February 1934, produced the finely crafted story *Der letzte Weg des Koloman Wallisch*, in memory of an executed workers' leader, where humane values, not ideological rigour or

left-wing dogma, are the moving force.

In 1938 she began the classic anti-Fascist novel *Das siebte Kreuz*, the most powerful literary tribute to those inside Germany, irrespective of party-political allegiance, who opposed Hitler. The story of Georg Heisler, the sole survivor of seven inmates who escape from the concentration camp of Westhofen is a celebration of the courage and integrity of those who risk all to help him – a rainbow coalition of embattled decency and humanity. Heisler's successful flight leaves one of the cruciform trees prepared by the camp commandant for the martyrdom of the escapees empty of its human burden, a symbol of the invincibility of the human spirit and a portent of



The famous writer Anna Seghers was born in Mainz in 1900 and died in East Berlin in 1983. This photograph dates from around 1942 when *Das siebte Kreuz*, the greatest of all anti-Fascist novels, appeared.

its ultimate triumph over Nazi barbarity.

Some chapters of the novel were published in a Moscow journal, but the Hitler-Stalin pact halted that. In 1940 Seghers fled to Marseilles when the Germans entered Paris, but a copy of the novel reached the USA, where it was published in 1942 in English; it rapidly became a best-seller and was even made into a film, starring Spencer Tracy. Meanwhile its author underwent the bureaucratic nightmare of obtaining a visa to leave unoccupied France, memorably recreated in her novel *Transit*, eventually reaching safety in Mexico City with her husband and two children in 1941. There she was a leading figure in the political-cultural ventures supported by the thriving Communist group, includ-

ing the publishing house El Libro Libre, where the first German edition of *Das siebte Kreuz* appeared in 1942. Her deep sympathy with the simple folk of Mexico is evident in such stories as *Crisanta* and *Das wirkliche Blau*.

In 1943 news of the death of her mother, Hedwig Reiling, in the camp of Piaski, near Majdanek, inspired Seghers to write her only part-autobiographical work, the heart-wrenching story *Der Ausflug der toten Mädchen*. This culminates in the realisation by the narrator Netty, in exile in Mexico, that her former classmates are dead, and that her mother has shared the fate of all the Jewish characters in the story, whose memorial that work now becomes. This story, like *Post ins gelobte Land*, shows that news of the Holocaust had reawakened Anna Seghers' Jewish consciousness, which had hitherto been finely subordinated to her Communist faith – none of the Westhofen escapees is Jewish, for example, nor is there any mention of Jewish inmates in the prewar camp.

After the war Seghers settled in East Berlin, becoming one of the principal adornments of Ulbricht's drab dictatorship, notably as president of its Writers' Union. She was awarded National Prizes for Art and Literature, Orders of Karl Marx and the like galore, but her literary production declined grievously in quality, though her stories from former colonies, like the *Karibische Geschichten*, and her fantasies and fairy-tales display her old skill. She was gravely compromised morally by her unwavering loyalty to the regime, even at its worst, as when she dismissed the workers' uprising of June 1953 as the work of a gang of troublemakers.

She remained silent when Paul Merker, formerly leader of the German Communists in Mexico, was purged from the Politburo and imprisoned for his philo-Semitic stance. Worse still, she acquiesced in the imprisonment of Walter Janka, a close colleague from Mexico, on a charge she knew to be trumped up. Admittedly, she was the target of disgraceful attacks from the West, as when the publication in West Germany of *Das siebte Kreuz* in 1962 inspired an open letter in *Die Welt* to the publishers, Luchterhand, accusing her of banning books, gagging free speech and approving the murderous Berlin Wall, in active complicity with the Stasi. It was not until 1977 that she, the most famous daughter of Mainz, was granted the freedom of the city. She died in 1983. □ Anthony Grenville

## Reviews

## Preparing the annihilation of Britain's Jewry?

Tom Freeman-Keel, *FROM AUSCHWITZ TO ALDERNEY AND BEYOND*, Seek Publishing, 1996, £15.95.

The Channel Islands lie within twenty-five miles of France's Cherbourg peninsular. On 15th June 1940 the British Government evacuated all military personnel, which led to a panic flight of 30,000 Islanders. The Germans bombed and strafed the islands on 28th June, killing 40 people, and by 2nd July had completed their occupation.

The Islanders undoubtedly suffered considerable hardship during the occupation. Able-bodied men were deported to prisoner-of-war camps in France and Germany and the few remaining Jews were persecuted, then deported to internment camps. Eventually, all those not of 'true' Jersey or Guernsey origins were also deported, but for many a reasonably peaceful form of co-existence was possible.

It became common knowledge that the most appalling atrocities had been committed on Alderney, yet files in the Public Records Office are still embargoed until the year 2045, despite considerable pressure to reveal the extent of collaboration by the Island's officials and some residents. They should also reveal the extent to which slave labour was used to build fortifications and a considerable system of underground tunnels whose purposes have also never been fully understood.

Tom Freeman-Keel, who served in India and Burma during World War II and has lived and worked in the Channel Islands, presents convincing circumstantial evidence for a planned 'British Holocaust' on the islands of 450,000 Jews, together with 2,820 of Britain's anti-Nazis, beginning with Churchill.

The misleadingly-named 'underground hospitals' hewn out of the islands' rocks, Freeman-Keel sees as being prepared for conversion into gas chambers and crematoria! The excavation of the tunnels was begun in January 1942, at about the time the process of gassing large numbers of people was being adopted by the Germans. Plans and sizes of such chambers

and crematoria on Guernsey are similar to those for Auschwitz. Alderney would have become a concentration camp housing British prisoners pending the completion of gas chambers in Jersey and Guernsey.

Rhetorically, Freeman-Keel asks, "Were the Channel Islands being used as a testing ground of the behaviour of British subjects under Nazi domination? Would the British have collaborated and gone along with the extermination of the Jews, following defeat or capitulation?"

□ Ronald Channing

## Everyday story of refugee folk

Lisbeth Fischer Leicht, *THE UNSUNG YEARS*, Minerva Press, 1997

It is said that everybody has a story in him (or her). This may be something of an exaggeration – but in the case of us refugees it probably holds true. None of our stories lacks the dramatic ingredients of upheaval, nailbiting tension and heartache. Yet all have a notionally happy ending since the teller must have survived for the story to be written.

But for all that there is a certain sameness about refugee biographies: they tend to be shaped like a play in three acts. The first act recounts the narrator's happy early life. The second depicts the incremental growth of Nazi horror and the third tells of a new life in England.

Having read a number of such accounts over the years I must confess to a jaded palate. *The Unsung Years* is a perfectly acceptable example of the genre, but I kept asking myself 'so what's new?' Lisbeth Fischer grew up in a closely-knit, music-loving family, experienced the Anschluss as a schoolgirl, left on a Dutch Kindertransport, but had the good fortune of rejoining her mother and brother in the UK.

Here she attended boarding school before starting work on a provincial local paper. The book ends in 1945 on a bitter-sweet note: while Lisbeth, her mother and ex-serviceman brother have survived, countless relatives on the Continent have not.

This is an attractively produced book, its story line embellished with family documents, photographs and heart-wrenching Red Cross messages.

□ RG

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## AJR accepts responsibility for WJR clients

The AJR has reached an agreement with World Jewish Relief accepting responsibility for the welfare of some 80 needy former victims of Nazi persecution currently receiving assistance from WJR's Jewish Refugee Committee. They originate from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Hungary.

World Jewish Relief - formerly the Central British Fund which helped German-Jewish refugees settle in Britain - has announced that it intends to concentrate its resources on assisting Jews in

## Limited progress at gold conference

The London Conference on ownership claims to the residual 5.5 tonnes of gold stolen by the Nazis during World War II and still held by the Tripartite Gold Commission, ended with the formation of a new Holocaust survivors' fund. British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook pledged £1 million, the US £2.3 million (with a further £12 million over three years) and Austria £5.2 million; Argentina, Croatia, Greece, Luxembourg and Poland also agreed to contribute. France reportedly prefers making its share of some 2.2 tonnes over to France's Jewish community in compensation.

The Tripartite Commission has written to all claimant countries requesting guidelines on how they wish their share distributed. Conference chairman Lord Mackay of Clashfern set the end of this month (February) as the submission deadline.

Most of the 42 participating countries agreed to open their archives in an attempt to reveal the origin and former ownership of stolen gold. However, France felt unable to comply and Britain thought it inappropriate to reveal TGC archives until the fund was wound up later this year. Strong criticism of the Vatican's policy of maintaining 100 years' secrecy was voiced by Prof. Bauer of Yad Vashem and Lord Janner of the Holocaust Educational Trust, only partially alleviated

need outside of the UK. As a consequence, it wishes to relinquish its traditional role of helping former refugees resident in Britain, and has approached the AJR with a view to finding a practical and satisfactory solution.

As part of the agreement, a fixed sum will be paid annually to the AJR for three years to cover most of the existing subsistence payments, after which the annual sum will be reassessed. Wherever there is a need, the AJR intend increasing this up to the maximum allowed for income support purposes.

The transfer of each member's records to the AJR will be made over the coming months, and the AJR is to recruit an additional social worker to help cope with the resulting increase in workload.

□ Andrew Kaufman, Chairman, AJR

by Lord Janner's subsequent invitation to the Vatican.

Much of the conference was taken up with arguments between Jewish organisations and the Swiss about the size of Switzerland's debt and the nature of that country's obligations.

Stuart Eizenstadt, US Commerce Under-Secretary, announced that the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington would host a second conference later this year to discuss other assets looted by Nazi Germany, including works of art, bonds, insurance policies and property.

□ Ronald Channing

## Legacy of silence

Dan Bar-On, Professor of Psychology at Israel's Ben-Gurion University, has pioneered research into the psychological and moral after-effects of the Holocaust on the children of the perpetrators. He subsequently brought together descendants of both survivors and perpetrators in a number of intensive encounters, one of which was featured in the BBC programme *Timewatch*. Prof. Bar-On's latest book, *Fear and Hope*, traces three generations of Holocaust survivors' families.

Prof. Dan Bar-On is giving a lecture entitled 'From Legacy of Silence to Fear and Hope' on Sunday 15th February at 5pm, sponsored by the AJR, Wiener Library and the Second Generation Trust. Call 0171 636 7247 for details □

## NEWTONS

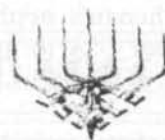
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## Letters to the Editor

### ON THE CUSP

Sir - Having recently watched the *BBC* series on the Nazis and heard the rather obnoxious comments by Mr Alan Clark, I would like to congratulate you on your December editorial.

Limpsfield Common  
Surrey

Peter Frankel

### HATE CREATES HATE

Sir - On one of my first days at school I was picked up out of the gutter by my teacher, as I had fought another boy who called me a Jew. I thought then that one could change the soul emotion, anti-semitism, by force or through the law. I have learned since.

Don't we all have our prejudices and stereotypes? Let me remind you of a classical instance: During WW2 the murderer of Walther Rathenau saved the lives of as many Jews as he could, as a Guard Commandant of a border patrol at the French-Spanish border, because of the letter of forgiveness and compassion Rathenau's mother had sent to his mother. At this man's trial in postwar Hamburg Rathenau's nephew returned voluntarily from USA to appear as witness for the defence to describe the details then.

Hate creates hate, only love will melt the ice of hate.

North End Way  
London NW3

Ernst Mitchell

### MAUERBACH AUCTION

Sir - There seems to be no early settlement whilst Hofrat Paul Grosz of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien, and the Claims Committee are locked in bitter dispute as to how funds should best be distributed. In an open letter to *AJR*, Hofrat Paul Grosz claims that funds have been sent to Israel. However, to date no money has been received.

The Israelitische Kultusgemeinde is pressing for the limited number of Jewish-born Austrian residents to receive 25% of the funds - a high percentage for the comparatively few living there. They also want to keep 25% of the funds in reserve. You may well ask, what reserve?

While all this delay occurs, more of our elderly and needy are dying!

We need an independent body as overseer to bring this protracted disagreement to a speedy conclusion

Gideon Eckhaus

President, Ex-Austrian-Israeli Claimants

### A SMALL TOWN IN GERMANY

Sir - I wonder, whether, for once, you would like to include something agreeable about Germany.

I am the daughter of the former rabbi of Offenbach. Nine years ago the municipality invited me to commemorate the 50th anniversary of my father's death. At that time the community numbered about 400 Jews, all from the East. Offenbach gave them quite a nice building for prayers and communal activities.

Now the community is nearly 1,000 strong and they seem to have settled. So the town has built them a new, modern and beautiful synagogue. I was invited to the inauguration, attended by many VIPs, Jews and non-Jews. It was a very remarkable, moving occasion.

If you would like any more details, don't hesitate to telephone me, early in the morning for preference. Tel: 0171 431 4585.

Finchley Road  
London NW3

Gaby Jacobi

### CZECH STONEWALLING

Sir - Unlike refugees from Germany and Austria who, with proof, had property returned, only a minute percentage of Czech refugees have received any property back.

I, like many others, have irrefutable proof of ownership of houses and business premises yet, despite attempts through the Czech courts, have met with nothing except prevarication and stonewalling.

I feel that it is now time to form a pressure group of similar refugees from the former CSR to influence HM Government to negotiate with the Czech Government on our behalf. It should be made clear to the Czechs that there will be no share-out of Nazi gold, nor will negotiation for en-

try into the EU be considered, until justice has been done on the reparation issue.

I would be happy to co-ordinate such a pressure group should any *AJR* members like to contact me.

Ruddington  
Nottingham

Robert J Norton

### BARTERING FOR JEWS

Sir - You report (December 1997) Prof. Bauer as having said in a recent lecture: 'The intervention of the Vatican, and bribery of the Slovakian Government, combined to save just 24,000 souls'. One takes these to have been Jewish.

Measured against the millions we have lost this is not much, yet it suggests that Pius XII must be credited with more good will to the Jews than is acknowledged at times.

Earley  
Reading

Arnold A Rosenstrauch

### A LITTLE LEARNING IS A DANGEROUS THING

Sir - I have long been dismayed by the editor's application of the word 'pace' - and there is hardly an issue of *AJR Information* in which he does not use the word somewhere or other. In the context in which he places the word it is really never far in meaning from 'for instance', i.e. 'e.g.', perhaps rising to 'as especially demonstrated in', whereas its real meaning, derived from the word 'pax' = peace, is surely: leaving aside, letting whatever it is rest in peace, almost 'in spite of', and therefore the direct opposite of the writer's intention.

I had not intended to raise this minor blemish in the author's otherwise usually well-written, intelligent and often witty contributions to your paper, but in the January issue Fedor Schon repeats Grunberger's mistake.

Gillingham  
Dorset

(Mrs) Anna EC Harvey

### UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

Sir - Your last mini-editorial refers to the 'brain-dead' contestant on *University Challenge*, who came up with 'Churchill' when asked for a politician who had been Conservative, Labour and Fascist in turn. Well, I was as shocked as you were when I read this in the paper. But then I watched the programme itself, which had been recorded, and the poor contestant has been maligned. In fact he/she

interrupted with 'Churchill' before the questioner had uttered the word 'Fascist'.

Congratulations on *AJR Information*, which is always stimulating, and I nearly always agree with you.

Cholmeley Crescent Professor E H Sondheimer  
London N6

### STREUSAND

Sir - Streusand (in German) was the only means to dry manuscripts from the days of Moses Maimonides to Wolfgang von Goethe. Only when one day an apprentice in the workshop of a writing-paper manufacturer carelessly failed to add some glue to the paper pulp, was it discovered that the 'reject' provided a better means of blotting wet ink.

Harrow Rudolf Jaray  
Middx

### UNACCOMPANIED 'CELLO SUITE

Sir - My father was in Dachau only briefly after Kristallnacht, but lived safely in England for the rest of his life.

Jenny Swann's poem (December issue) deeply touched on my father's helplessness as he stood next to men who died - while on *Appell* - falling in snow, their blood oozing... and, how quickly he learned to look straight ahead. He never got over losing his humanity.

Hove Rose Cannan  
East Sussex

### JEWISH SURNAMES

Sir - In the January issue, Mr Fedor Schon takes you to task for being 'flippant' on this subject. I wonder if he himself is not being a mite too solemn about it.

When, at that moment in history, a forefather of mine, a rabbi, had to make his choice, he is said to have reasoned: *Du bist Staub, und sollst zu Staub werden.* (You are dust and shall return to dust).

He sounds like a modest man to me, but I like to think that there was a twinkle in his eye as he found Scriptural authority for his new civic identity.

Bromley Vernon Humphries  
Kent formerly Werner Staub, Breslau

### IT OCCURS TO ME

Sir - Ernest David (December issue) seeks an intellectual debate on European Union, but his scepticism is based on gut reaction.

If Mr David can recognise the implications of his association of 'ours' with 'our adopted country', he may have less cause for concern. Experience should have demonstrated that there is much in common between individuals of different nations, free from preconceptions about so-called national character.

Let us not forget Franklin Roosevelt's phrase "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself".

Chalfont St Giles Alan S Kaye  
Buckinghamshire

### 'POLITICAL' SCULPTRESS

Sir - Herewith three corrections to your profile of me in the January issue.

1. *Lord Beaverbrook* and *Lord Halifax* were not busts but statuettes. 2. The Bank of Scotland took the *Balance of Power* and *Yasir Arafat* (statuette) out of the window, whilst my Idi Amin was exhibited in the Royal Exchange. 3. The statuette of Yasir Arafat was later exhibited in the Ben Uri Gallery and also in Alexandra Palace.

Muswell Hill Renée Mendel

### TWO PRINCESSES

Sir - In Ancient Greece Antigone was said to have defied royal authority by claiming primacy for respect and love for individual persons over politics and administrative traditions. She scattered earth over her brother's corpse nakedly exposed by royal decree. The people remained silent and remote and she was condemned to die.

A modern princess has claimed the same primacy of individual love, shown by transitory yet unforgettable contact with those banished into loneliness by sickness or deformity. After her death by accident, an entire people decided to let flowers rather than vocal protest pay tribute to her attitude.

If this be hysteria, let us be grateful for its humanity and beauty and for its contrast to that other hysteria of hatred that has affected and does not cease to affect the lives of most of us.

London SE21 ML Meyer

### REFUGEE DOCTORS

Sir - In 1938 the Government allowed 50 Austrian doctors to come to the UK to take shortened medical courses, of two years so that they could qualify to practise here. My father was one of them and he was a student at St Thomas'

Medical School.

I would be interested to find out where the others went to study and what happened to them later. Can any readers help, please?

Hatch End Paul Samet  
Pinner

### BOUQUETS

Sir - I read *AJR Information* from beginning to end most carefully, and am always thrilled by the intelligent interpretation you are giving events and opinions.

London SW3 FW Lucas

Sir - You have surpassed yourself with the latest issue of the journal. Your assessment of the TV feature *The Nazis* in the last December issue was brilliant, and January's *On the Cusp* is even more so. I don't know of any other publication in this country - and we subscribe to quite a few - which has such intelligent, erudite and worthwhile articles on the most important subjects. Of course we keep the magazines to read again from time to time. Would it not be possible to organise the production of *binders* so as to preserve all that wisdom and humour for the generations to come?

Rochdale Irmgard Treuherz  
Lancs

## AJR SPECIAL

### AJR SEDER NIGHT

#### SECOND NIGHT SEDER SERVICE

Saturday 11th April  
Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
15 Cleve Road, NW6

Please phone: 0171 328 0208  
for reservations

£18 per person  
Limited space available  
for standard wheelchairs

5.45 for 6.15pm prompt start

# The AJR at Work

## DOES THE COMMUNITY CARE?

Drawing on many years' social work experience with Dorset Council and Jewish Care, Marcia Goodman, AJR's Head of Social Services, described Community Care legislation and its effects on the elderly to a group of AJR volunteer workers invited by AJR Volunteer Organiser, Debbie Picker.

The Care in the Community Act, which came into force on 1st April 1993, swept away and superseded much incompatible social welfare and benefits legislation (with the exception of childcare) enacted in the post-war period. The huge and rising budget for residential care was a major motivating factor.

Under the new Act, responsibility for care was placed firmly in the hands of local authorities, whose specialised departments were obliged to assess a client's overall needs and arrive at a 'care package' aimed primarily at maintaining clients in their own homes. There was entitlement to a six-monthly review, and the client's safety was accorded top priority.

In practice, different local authorities allocated differing, but generally inadequate, resource levels from their already cash-strapped budgets. Even the maximum three-visits-a-day from a home help could not often be honoured, and a much-needed night service hardly existed. However, religious and cultural needs became fully recognised and kosher meals-on-wheels funded.

The early discharge of patients from hospitals into inadequate care and housing has become a contentious issue; the constant battles between social workers are "an ongoing nightmare", said Marcia. In theory, no-one is discharged from hospital without a care package having been created - but pressure on hospital social workers ensures that these evaluations are rarely completed. Many patients should proceed directly into residential care, but burdensome bureaucratic procedures and lack of funding militate against it.

Welfare organisations in the Jewish community (of which Jewish Care is the largest), despite substantial budgets, still fail in large measure to meet the requirements of increasing numbers of elderly and retired members of the Jewish community.

Many AJR members find themselves alone in old age with no family or friends to speak up for them and obtain their due. For them, the help and guidance of

the AJR's social work team, backed up by conscientious and understanding volunteer workers, is providing an invaluable lifeline.

In Marcia Goodman's view, in principle community care could not be regarded as a failure, but in practice provision was "very starved of resources". There was an insufficient number of social workers, hospital social workers in particular.

The AJR, with its long experience and understanding of the special needs of former refugees, may well be able to ameliorate unfavourable social and health conditions, or obtain help and support, using its nous and sheer persistence for the benefit of members.

□ Ronald Channing

## AJR MIDLANDS GROUP

### Musical tea party

Mrs Patrick, one of the Midland Group's regular supporters and a talented professional accordionist, at short notice provided lively entertainment at a Group tea party in place of an indisposed speaker. Mrs Patrick played tunes from each of the countries of origin of the members present, giving everyone great pleasure and contributing to a happy and enjoyable afternoon.

The Group's next meeting is on Sunday 29th March when Ann Shearer will be talking on 'Caring for Carers' and Jacqueline Herron is offering advice on 'Staying Young'. Further meetings are planned for June and October.

□ Sonja Shindler

## AJR PINNER GROUP

### Chanukah celebration

Twenty five members of the newly formed Pinner Group enjoyed a lively Chanukah party with the lighting of the candles, traditional songs and fare - potato latkes, doughnuts and apple sauce!

A slide show of stunning photographs

taken in Israel by outstanding local photographer Les Spitz was appreciated by everyone.

All meetings of Pinner Group are held at the Henry Jackson Youth Centre, Pinner Synagogue, 1 Cecil Park, Pinner, and a full monthly programme for 1998 is planned. On 5th February, Willy Ungar will speak about 'The Dunera Boys', and on 5th March Sally Fiber recalls 'Growing Up in London's West End'. Call Sheryl for more information on 0181 866 0185.

□ Debbie Picker

## Second Successful Season

Enjoy

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- \* Enlivening discussion
- \* Meeting new friends

### AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

on Wednesday 18th February 1998  
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Guest speaker: **Joy Puritz**  
**'The Life of Elizabeth Schumann'**

Reservations (£7)  
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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	4 February
Thursday	12 February
Monday	16 February
Tuesday	24 February
Wednesday	4 March

and every Thursday from  
10am to 12 noon at:

**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognaal,  
London NW3 6AL**

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

## It occurs to me . . .

Over the past few months the Swiss have suffered much criticism for their role during and since World War II.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Swiss position, I am concerned that criticism of, and attacks on, Switzerland are indirectly deflecting criticism from the real perpetrators of the crimes. Of course the German and Austrian Nazis of 1933-45 have been condemned and we are frequently reminded of their misdeeds, but to some extent we seem to have lost sight of the fact that the Herrenvolk were not only murderers but also common or garden thieves.

While it is true that both post-war Germany and Austria have paid sums in compensation and restitution, which in total sound large only because the victims of Nazi persecution were so many, it is also true that there are still many cases where no, or inadequate, compensation has been paid either for bodily harm or theft of property.

The German state became economically strong after the war not only because of American aid but also because many of its major industries had unjustly enriched themselves at the expense of Jewish and other slave labourers, who have never received any compensation or pensions in respect of their work.

In the same way, the German taxpayer has been unjustly enriched, for example, by the state's refusal to pay pensions to people born in Germany but whose fathers did not have German nationality; to pay compensation for ill health caused by persecution, where the symptoms did not manifest themselves until after the 1960s and where therefore no claim had been made in good time; to pay compensation for property stolen before or during the war, where claims were not made before the expiry of an inadequately promulgated deadline. Austria too, despite its Nationalfonds, still has many cases of uncompensated victims of its own Nazi past.

If the bulk of justifiable compensation, pensions or restitutions has already been paid out, what are the present day successors to the Nazi régimes afraid of? It cannot cost them much to do justice to people who have not yet received justice. If they are so afraid that floodgates may be opened, would this not indicate that, in fact, many people have not yet received a just and fair settlement of their claims?

□ Ernest David

## • • • Viewpoint • • •

### Born Free

For most of our lifetimes, entry to Britain's museums, art galleries and libraries was free, gratis and for nothing. Vague folk memories of Victorian philanthropists creating institutions in pursuit of the cultural, educational and spiritual improvement of the skilled working classes from which they sprang, run comfortably beside notions of major collections being owned by 'the people', i.e. 'us'.

Entry to our national collections should be free. I and my generation believe this to a man.

In the days prior to mass communications media, these institutions were unrivalled sources of wonder for generations of schoolchildren and their parents, not to mention the reliable shelter and warmth they provided on rainy days.

The ever-increasing costs of maintaining – let alone acquiring – the nation's treasures are escalating to the extent that the cultural palaces which house them are under threat of closure.

Foreign travel has hardened us to the notion that entry to view the world's

treasures costs money, often quite a significant amount of money (though its real value is artfully concealed by funny-money denominations and theatrical banknotes).

The last time museum and gallery charges were introduced (by Ted Heath's government, I recall) people stayed away in droves and the policy rapidly withered. Insidiously, entrance charges have crept back and the climate's a'changing.

It seems the British Museum's trustees have voted to maintain free entry for the present. Good chaps. Perhaps they noted that the number of visitors to London's Science Museum fell by 51 per cent following the introduction of charges; paradoxically, similar impositions at the Imperial War Museum brought an increase of 12% in the number of visitors! You just can't improve on the attractions of good old traditional blood and guts warfare can you? Is it any wonder that the Government has shelved the issue for another six months?

□ Ronald Channing

## PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

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Afternoon entertainment programme –

### FEBRUARY/MARCH 1998

Sun	1	Melanie Mehta, soprano, and Jean Brown, piano	Mon	16	Adam Kolozynski & Thomas Creham entertain
Mon	2	Antonia Kendall, soprano & Geoffrey Whitworth, Piano	Tue	16	Madeleine Whitelaw & her students
Tue	3	Amanda Palmer, opera	Wed	18	Hisayo Shimizu, piano & Oliver Gledhill, cello
Wed	4	Carol-Ann Grainger, soprano & Stephen Dickinson, piano	Thur	19	Luncheon Club
Thur	5	Anna Morris, violin & Julietta Demetriades, piano	Thur	19	Nikki van der Zyl & Daphne Lewis, piano
Sun	8	Jean Aird, soprano, Lesley Finn, mezzo & Terry Hawes, piano	Sun	22	The Hendon String Orchestra – Conducted by Roy Budden
Mon	9	Katinka Seiner & Peter Gellhorn, piano with Lazslo Easton, violin	Mon	23	Geoffrey Strum & Helen Blake
Tue	10	John Cunningham, baritone with piano	Tue	24	Fiona Tanner, soprano & Geoffrey Whitworth, piano
Wed	11	Aids for the elderly, Keep Able Ltd	Wed	25	Sharon Ellis, soprano & Elizabeth Elliott, harp
Thur	12	Ruth Leber, piano and her class of children entertain	Thur	26	Ann Kenton-Barker with Basil Taylor, baritone, Marion Hartman, piano
Sun	15	Angela & Nicholas Arratoon, Diana & Elizabeth Legroux,	Sun	1	Julie Leyland, soprano & Andrew Wells, piano
			Mon	2	Aids for the elderly, Keep Able Ltd

**FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Deaths**

**Spiro.** Members and staff of AJR extend their deepest condolences to Ludwig Spiro, Stephen, Anthony and their families on the loss of their dear wife and mother, Anna.

**Sharland.** Albert Sharland passed away after a long illness. Will be sadly missed by his son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Zundel.** Dr Walter E Zundel, born in Vienna 12.9.13, died 8th December 1997 after much suffering. Terribly missed by his wife Jenny, daughter Veronica, son-in-law Ed and grandson John Stephen.

**In Memoriam**

**Bein.** Herbert Bein. On 12th July 1997 I lost the best husband and friend. He would have been 86 on 14th January. My life without him will never again be the same. Rest in peace my dearest. Ada.

**CLASSIFIED**

**Personal**

**Rothenberg.** Many thanks to all my friends at the AJR for the large number of messages and other expressions of concern and goodwill following my recent operation. Helmut Rothenberg.

**Miscellaneous**

**Stiefelknecht** (or similar appliance) wanted to help me put on my shoes. Rickenback 0171 435 0231.

**Manicure & Pedicure** in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 0181 343 0976.

**Societies**

**Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners.** Melody Hour, 8th February at 2.15pm, £3.50. Tel: 0181 452 9681.

**AJR GROUP CONTACTS**

S. London: Ken Ambrose  
0181 852 0262  
Midlands: Edgar Glazer  
0121 777 6537  
North: Werner Lachs  
0161 773 4091  
Leeds HSFA: Heinz Skyte  
0113 268 5739

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**EAST MIDLANDS**  
**AJR GROUP**

Do you live in  
Nottingham, Leicester,  
Derby, Loughborough or  
surrounding areas?

**PLEASE CONTACT**  
**MR. R. NORTON**  
01159-212-494

**SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO?**

An art teacher is needed to guide the Thursday morning Art Class at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
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## Art Notes

The major retrospective exhibition of the work of **Pierre Bonnard** (1867-1947) which opens at the Tate Gallery on February 12, confirms him as one of the great modern masters. Included are more than 100 paintings and gouaches on loan from museums, galleries and private collections throughout the world. There are landscapes, still lifes and interiors, as well as intimate nudes and intense self portraits, covering Bonnard's career from the 1890s to the 1940s. His ravishing, sensuous paintings, in which forms often dissolve into shimmering images, are sheer magic. Not to be missed.

The Whitechapel Art Gallery is providing the first opportunity in Britain to see a comprehensive selection of work by one of Germany's most prominent contemporary artists, **Thomas Schütte**. The exhibition shows architectural models, figures – both monumental and miniature



*The Arnolfini Marriage, Jan van Eyck, c.1422, at the National Gallery.*

– photographs and watercolours, drawing on the traditions of caricature and the grotesque. Until March 15.

**Recognising Van Eyck**, at the National Gallery until March 15, brings together rare paintings by Jan Van Eyck, the renowned 15th-century Flemish painter, and looks at their relationship. Among the Gallery's three paintings by Van Eyck is his much-loved double portrait, *The Arnolfini Marriage*, notable for realistic portraiture and sharp detail. All in all, van Eyck emerges as a consummate master of natural forms, light and colour.

**Beautiful World**, at the Goethe-Institut until February 28, features the work of three young women photographers from Berlin who share a marked preoccupation with landscapes or city vistas. The Ben Uri Art Society's popular Picture Fair takes place from February 22 to March 1. Each purchaser of a ticket in aid of the Society is guaranteed a picture from the many works donated by artists, galleries and collectors. Details: 0171 482 1234.

Finally, the **National Print Exhibition 1998**, at the Mall Galleries, February 11-22, offers a wide range of original prints by both established artists and newcomers. □ **Barry Fealdman**

## SB's Column

**Musical records – record musicals.** Top figures, highest financial rewards and establishing records seem to dominate the artistic world of to-day; no wonder London theatres are vying with each other in demonstrating their successes and chalking up numbers of performances. Towards the end of 1997 *Miss Saigon* at Drury Lane pulled ahead of *My Fair Lady* (2281 performances) when it reached the figure of 2300, whilst *Cats* at the New London entered its 17th year; *Les Misérables* at the Palace completed 12 years, and *Oliver* became the London Palladium's longest running show.

**Hungary.** During the interwar years Hungarian (mainly Jewish) authors like Franz Herczeg, Ladislaus Fodor and Bus-Fekete were prolific in their output of entertaining comedies. Franz (Ferenc) Molnar (1878-1952) headed the list with a succession of plays, of which the first, *The Devil*, was staged at Vienna's *Josefstadt* in 1928 with Hans Jaray and the up-and-

coming Paula Wessely. Others were *The Swan* (later filmed with Grace Kelly) *Spiel im Schloss* (aka *The play's the thing*) and *The Guardsman*. Above all, Molnar's *Liliom* inspired the Rogers/Hammerstein musical *Carousel*, which became a most 'enchanted evening' for two generations.

**Opera in London.** There is compensation for opera lovers who are missing the currently closed Covent Garden: at the London Coliseum ENO will present three old favourites during February, March and April: *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *La Bobème* and a revival of Donizetti's masterpiece *Elixir of Love*.

**Arnold Wesker** first attracted attention when his plays *Chicken Soup with Barley* and *The Kitchen* were performed in London in 1959. A kitchen was his world when this son of East European immigrants became a chef in a London restaurant and found himself in a totally unknown atmosphere. *Chicken Soup with Barley* was followed by *Roots* and *Next Year in Jerusalem*, forming a trilogy. Wesker, much-performed author in the fifties and sixties, recently had a successful revival with his play *Chips with Everything* □

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY 1998

- Ongoing: **Jewish Books & Children's Toys from the Past:** Jewish Museum, Camden Town (until 1 March). £3 & concs.
- Sat 31 **Jan: The Golem:** Special AJR performance & discussion, Polyglot Theatre Company, Ludgate Circus, EC4, 7.30pm, £6. Box office 0171 936 3456.
- Sun 1 **Jewish Life in Berlin after Auschwitz:** Ronald Golz, Belsize Square Synagogue, £3, 3pm
- Mon 2 **Dr Irene Frowen:** Rilke und Kleist (in German). Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 3 **Grant Shaps on 'Being a Parliamentary Candidate':** JACS, 2pm
- Tue 3 **'Good Morning, Mr Hitler':** Luke Holland, introduces film and discussion. Sussex University, 5pm
- Thur 5 **'Legacy', a play by Shauna Kanter, followed by a discussion:** Second Generation Network, Cockpit Theatre, London NW8, 7.30pm, £10 (Concs £7). Box office 0171 402 5081
- Mon 9 **Gaby R Glassman:** Impact of Parents' Holocaust Experiences on their Children. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 10 **Historic Hampstead:** JACS, 2pm
- Tue 10 **Wissenschaft des Judentums; Zunz's Heritage in Potsdam:** Christina Gayz & Ralph Mestrom. Sussex University, 5pm
- Thur 12 **Lunchtime Recital:** Louisa Beard, soprano, & David Dreebin, piano, perform Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy & Mozart. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £2
- Sun 15 **Prof Dan Bar-On: From Legacy of Silence to Fear and Hope,** the after-effects of the Holocaust on the 2nd & 3rd generation. Sponsored by Wiener Library and AJR. School of Oriental & African Studies, 10 Thornhaugh Street, WC1. £5, 5pm  
Advance booking tel: 0171 636 7247
- Mon 16 **John Elton MA:** Image in the Hebrew Scriptures (with slides). Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 17 **Destination Everywhere:** Gladys Godley recounts her flying experiences. JACS, 2pm

- Tue 17 **A Holocaust Survivor's Eyewitness Account:** Trude Levi, Sussex University, 5pm
- Fri 20 **Film of the Holocaust:** Spiro Institute Seminar, 10.30am-3.30pm, £8. Alex Gordon 0171 431 0345
- Mon 23 **Israel Panel Discussion with Belsize Square Synagogue:** Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 24 **An afternoon of music:** JACS, 2pm
- Tue 24 **Rassenkunde. The Indoctrination of Children in Nazi ideology.** Paula Hill, Sussex University, 5pm
- Thur 26 **Lunchtime Recital:** Debbie Bridge, soprano, & Tim Nail, piano, perform Schumann, Wolf, Strauss and Samuel Barber. Sternberg Centre, 1.15pm, £2
- March:**
- Sun 1 **Righteous Gentiles - Christians & the Rescue of Jews During the Holocaust:** Wiener Library Conference, full day, at Birkbeck College. £12 incl light lunch. Registration 0171 636 7247
- Mon 2 **Dr Hanna Delf von Wolzogen, Berlin:** a lecture on Margarete Sussman 1872-1966 (in German). Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 3 **Renée Myers says 'Laughter is the Best Medicine'.** JACS, 2pm
- Tue 3 **Ritual, Abjection, and Identity in Joseph Roth's 'Hiob':** Some Unorthodox Deliberations. Anne Fuchs (University College Dublin). Sussex University, 5pm
- Sun 8 **Tour to Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre:** Depart 9.30am, return 7pm. Advance booking, £23.50 incl. vegetarian lunch, Spiro Institute 0171 431 0345

### ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

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

**University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies.** Diana Franklin 0181 381 4721 or 01273 678 771

**Wiener Library,** 4 Devonshire Street, London W1. 0171 636 7247

**Jewish Museum, Camden Town,** 129/131 Albert Street, NW1 7NB. Tel: 0171 284 1997, and at Sternberg Centre

**Sternberg Centre for Judaism/Jewish Museum, Finchley,** 80 East End Road, N3 2SY. Tel: 0181 346 2288

**Spiro Institute,** Kidderpore Avenue, London NW3 7SZ. Tel: 0171 431 0345

### SEARCH NOTICES

**Hans Jacoby and his sister Helga** left Bendorf-Sayn near Koblenz for the USA in 1941 with their parents Dr Fritz and Ella (née Dasch) Jacoby, now deceased. Dr Jacoby was Medical Director of the Jacoby'sch Heil-und Pflageanstalt für Nerven-und Gemütskranke. Their last known address in USA was 205 West End Avenue, New York. A teacher in Bendorf, who has documented the town's former Jewish community and named a street in memory of the Jacoby family, is anxious to trace Hans, believed to be a UK resident, and Helga in the USA. Please write to David Freund, 16 de Montfort Road, Lewes, E. Sussex BN7 1SP. Tel: 01273 47 3223.

**'Der Manufakturist',** a Hannover trade paper which advertised staff vacancies, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1926/7. Gertrude (Trude) Hein, daughter of the owner/editor Victor Hein, (d. 1926) wishes to hear from anyone who knew the paper. Please contact Miss GF Hein, 23 Rayne House, 31 Sudbrooke Road, London SW12 8TP.

**Hanau am Main Jewish Cemetery.** Anyone with information or who worked on clearing burnt buildings and the cemetery's restoration during 1939, please contact Gerhard Levi, 29 Western Road, London N2 9JB. Tel: 0181 883 9218.

**Hans Stern,** author of letters to Erich Stern, written in Frankfurt am Main between 1936-39, or his heirs, please contact Ms Orly Selinger, School of Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University 69978, Israel (Tel: 00972-3-6407405. Fax: 00972-3-6422141) who is seeking permission to use extracts for a research project on children's letters and diaries in Germany 1931-41.

**Dental surgeon Dr Noim and technician Julius Drabkin** are being sought by a fellow survivor of Riga's Kaiserwald concentration camp who worked in the Kommando Zahnstation with Latvian Jews. Any information would be appreciated by Ernst Mitchell, now aged 88, at Old Court House, North End Way, London NW3 7ER.

**Anna Katzer (née Regensburger)** born 22nd March 1921 in Oettingen (Bavaria), came to UK 5th July 1939, last known address 23 Kemplay Rd, London NW3. Her parents Julius and Mira Regensburger were deported and died in Piaski camp. Contact requested by distant relative Dan Barlev, PO Box 1199, Jerusalem 91010, Israel. Tel: 00972-2-679-8184 □

## The making of *The Lost Children of Berlin*

(BBC2, 29 December 1997)

A message left on the answer machine of the chairman of the synagogue in 1995 led to my contacting Liz McIntyre in London. She wanted to make a film about Berlin with a human interest. She wrote a brief scenario, but there clearly wasn't enough substance. Then came a hint of a reunion of former pupils of my Jewish school in Berlin mooted for mid-1996, and this at once put a new perspective on the matter.

A list of participants came to hand and, knowing some of their interesting stories, I had another meeting with Liz, and the resulting second scenario took flight. Her company, Atlantic Eye, sought funding from Channel 4, but this was turned down. Nothing daunted, she went ahead, contacted in Berlin a colleague of hers and a friend of mine, an Auschwitz survivor whom she had interviewed. She now sought funding from BBC 2 and the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles, and luckily both gave their assent.

The reunion took place in May 1996. We were filmed at the various functions and the crew took the opportunity to interview other participants, most of whom had personally suffered either incarceration in concentration camps, lived underground, or had some other horrifying stories to tell. The film became a series of experiences by survivors of the Holocaust. This was what the Shoah Foundation really wanted.

For a long time I heard nothing and then a massive (American!) envelope arrived inviting me to come to the Shoah Foundation in Los Angeles for six days, all expenses paid. On arrival, a spacious limousine took us to the hotel near Universal Studios in North Hollywood.

When we saw the film it had turned out differently to what I, and probably the makers, had envisaged. They had found in the survivors in Berlin, as the group came to be known, ready-made material for a documentary. A link was not needed.

Following the screening, each of the eight of us ex-pupils of the Grosse Hamburgerstrasse School was filmed. Then we were taken around the Shoah Foundation which is housed in 'trailers' (long semi-portable offices), part of Uni-



Steven Spielberg, left, producer of 'Schindler's List' and creator of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, greets former Berlin schoolboy Rudi Leavor at the premiere of 'The Lost Children of Berlin' at Universal Studios in Hollywood.

versal Studios in which Steven Spielberg's films were made. We were shown the various departments staffed by dedicated experts on the Holocaust. The departments were: in-coming mail; translation; cataloguing – in which highlights from a person's interview, eg arrival at concentration camp, food, conditions at night, sanitary conditions, attitude of guards, Kapos, etc., are computerised; quality assurance – in which interviewers are checked whether they are patient enough, or whether an interviewee is senile; copying of original tapes on to three others; outgoing mail; etc.

Interviews are sent to five repositories: Yad Vashem, Jerusalem; Holocaust Museum, Washington; Simon Wiesenthal Centre, Los Angeles; Archive, Yale University; and Holocaust Museum, New York.

In the evening we were taken to Universal Studios where Steven Spielberg had invited some wealthy local people to see the premiere of the film. We joined a

### Cantor's jubilee

Cantor Marshall Stone, an American who chose England as his adopted country and is well known among London's refugee community, this month celebrates 25 years of *chazanut*. He will be participating in ceremonies marking the event at his *alma mater*, Hebrew Union College in New York.

□ RDC

cocktail party followed by a photocall of us eight, joined at the last moment by Steven who came along wearing a baseball cap, mercifully the right way round, who sat in the middle (where else?). Then we were ushered into the luxurious Alfred Hitchcock Theatre seating about 400 people where the film was given its official premiere. Afterwards we were lined up in front of the stage, Liz McIntyre made a short speech and

we were given a standing ovation.

At the end we sat numb with pain. In one scene a woman said "*Shema Yisrael...*" but could not finish the sentence and said instead "Where was God at the time of the camps?" I felt constrained to repeat something which the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn had said when he was asked where was God. He said that God was there crying, but He could not do anything about it.

□ Rudi Leavor

## 50 YEARS AGO

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

A Memorial Tablet in honour of "those of non-British origin who joined the British Empire Forces and laid down their lives in the war 1939-1945" was recently unveiled in London.

The ceremony was opened by Brigadier the Marquess of Reading, who in a moving address said, "The public in general has not yet begun to realise how substantial was the contribution of those of non-British origin to the Armed Forces during the late war. Between 6,000 and 7,000 men from Germany and Austria actually served. This was a high percentage, especially since the majority of the refugees were women and old persons."

"The men were still 'enemy aliens', but were recruited as full members of the Forces of a country at war with what was still technically theirs."

"There were few Arms and Corps in which non-British men did not serve with distinction. It was a most creditable chapter in the history of all those concerned" □

AJR Information, February 1948

German-speaking Jews sometimes did the anti-semites' work for them by coining derisive jokes or sayings about themselves. The latter included the dictum 'A Jud gehört ins Kaffeehaus und nicht am Fussballplatz'. That the opposite was true is demonstrated by this contribution from Fred Rosner.

## Two Jewish football fanatics

It is a well known fact that little Austria owed its status as a major player in the world of football during the 1930s to one man and one man alone: Hugo Meisl. He was not only the creator of the legendary *Wunderteam*, but as initiator of the Mitropa Cup competition became known as Europe's soccer diplomat *par excellence*. Inevitably he was also involved in the launching of the football world championship.

At his funeral in 1937, Vienna's Chief Rabbi, Dr Taglicht, praised Hugo Meisl's invaluable contribution towards the promotion of international friendship.

Several weeks ago a relatively obscure German football club, the Freiburger FC, celebrated its centenary. Their first player/manager and founder president had been

Gustav Rudolf Manning, a British Jew, son of a London businessman. As a medical student at Freiburg University, young Gustav was gripped by football fever, which never abated. Still active as captain of Strassburg FC, while working at the Strassburg University Clinic, he became co-founder and secretary of the German Football Association in 1900.

After marriage to an American, the football-mad doctor moved to the United States where he founded the New York-based American Amateur Football Association, and in 1913 became first president of the United States Football Association.

When in 1950 the International Football Association (FIFA) deliberated whether to readmit Germany, it was above all Manning's recommendation which persuaded the FIFA committee to do so. Thus, Germany might never have had the opportunity of winning the 1954 world championship. Be that as it may, there appears to have been a certain similarity between these two Jewish football fanatics: the well-remembered Hugo Meisl and the almost forgotten Gustav Rudolf Manning.

□ Fred Rosner

## Cooking with Gretel Beer



## Potato Goulash

If there is a more heartwarming dish I have yet to find it – this is 'comfort food' *par excellence*! You can vary the dish at will – add some spiced sausages or – if you are not using sausages – swirl in some sour cream just before serving.

Most recipes call for the potatoes to be diced: I prefer them cut into thick slices. Perfectionists say that you must use waxy potatoes: I use floury ones on occasion which thicken the gravy as the dish cooks.

2lbs (900g) potatoes  
 ½lb (225g) finely sliced onions  
 2oz (50g) olive oil  
 1 tablespoon paprika  
 1 tablespoon wine vinegar  
 salt and pepper  
 1 teaspoon finely chopped marjoram  
 1 crushed garlic clove  
 1 teaspoon caraway seeds  
 8 fl oz (225ml) clear stock  
 ½ green pepper, thinly sliced  
 1 tablespoon tomato purée  
 sliced sausages or  
 2 tablespoons sour cream

Peel the potatoes and cut them into thickish slices. Soften the onions gently in the oil over low heat. When the onions are soft and slightly transparent, turn up the heat, stir until they are nicely browned, then stir in the paprika. Let it froth up, then add a dash of wine vinegar. Add the potatoes, salt, pepper, tomato puree, marjoram, caraway seeds and garlic. Cover with stock, stir and add the sliced green pepper. Cover and simmer over low heat until the potatoes are soft and just beginning to fall apart.

Add sliced sausages and heat gently – or swirl in the sour cream just before serving □

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## Obituaries

## Anita Kaufmann

Anita Kaufmann has died short of her eightieth birthday; she had for many years been an AJR volunteer, who first delivered meals-on-wheels and then ferried members to and from the Day Centre.

Born into a middle-class Viennese family – her father ran a textile business – she had attended a hotel school before the Anschluss. In the UK she worked as a cleaner and later in a radio factory and a printing works.

Marriage to a fellow refugee, who happened to be a son of the well-known Jewish *genre* painter Isidor Kaufmann, gave Anita the financial security that enabled her to be of service to others.

In addition to her work for the AJR she was a stalwart of the Out and About Club for the Disabled run by St John's Wood Liberal Synagogue and over a period of twenty-five years manned a telephone help-line for the Samaritans.

All who knew Anita felt enriched by her effervescent presence. She leaves a son and three granddaughters.

□ RG

## Anna Spiro

Anna Spiro, the wife of Ludwig Spiro, for many years treasurer of the AJR, was the daughter of Ludwig and Selma Friedmann of Augsburg where she enjoyed a happy childhood. The Nazi takeover prevented her from studying art at university, and she had to prepare for her future life in more practical ways. She trained as a dressmaker and took a course at a domestic science college. At that time Anna got to know an engineering student at Munich university, Ludwig Spiro, who came to Augsburg on vacation training. They emigrated simultaneously and married in London in December 1938. After initial refusals they were fortunate in obtaining working permits, Anna for dressmaking and Ludwig as an engineering draughtsman. Even so the first few years of marriage were not easy. In 1940 both were interned, and early in 1943 they heard through the Red Cross that Anna's parents had taken their own

lives on receiving notice of deportation 'to the East'.

Meanwhile their two sons were born, and Ludwig's professional career made great progress. The couple gave time to social and charitable work, much of it concerned with helping refugees. Anna joined the B'nai B'rith, in particular helping at its day centre in Whitechapel. For many years she was active, and attained a senior position, in the Citizens Advice Bureau. More recently she worked at the Wiener Library as a volunteer. She also actively supported her husband during his years as chairman of OSHA, responsible for the administration of the retirement homes for refugees and as chairman of the Heinrich Stahl House committee.

An abiding joy was the growth of their family on all of whose members Anna lavished her love. For them, ten years ago, she wrote 'Years to Remember', a moving account of her life and the background of her family in Germany.

Anna, who endured bouts of ill-health with inimitable good humour, will long be remembered by all who knew her. She represented the very best among refugees, conscious of her heritage and successful in applying it to the benefit of all around her.

□ Theo Marx

## NEW YEAR HONOURS

Paul Hamlyn – Life Peer  
 Prof. Eric Hobsbawm – CH  
 Annely Juda – CBE  
 Joe Finkelstone – OBE

## Salute to Wallenberg

After King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden's visit to the Wallenberg Monument in Great Cumberland Place in mid-November, Sir Sigmund Sternberg was informed that he is to be created a Commander of the Royal Swedish Order of the Polar Star – a rare award – in recognition of his personal services to Sweden □

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## NEWSROUND

**War crimes court**

An international court to try perpetrators of war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, has received the support of the United Kingdom at the UN. A conference will convene in Rome later this year to sign a treaty establishing a permanent court which has been sought ever since the Nuremberg War Trials.

**Survivors sue**

Two women Holocaust survivors, now living in New York, are suing nine French banks for the return of funds held in bank accounts seized by the Vichy Government. It may open the way for others among the 75,000 deportees, or their heirs, to make similar claims.

**No-go zones**

A Parliamentary report into the condition of Germany's 7.3 million foreigners, revealed 25 towns and cities in the former East Germany as having 'liberated zones' established by neo-Nazis in which foreigners were barred from places of entertainment, restaurants and certain streets. Foreign residents and visitors were advised not to go out after dark.

**Bomb proof**

An Iranian witness has accused Iranian diplomats at the Buenos Aires Embassy of organising the bombing of the Jewish community centre in 1994 which killed 89 people. Thirty-three local policemen are suspected of having been hired to help carry out the attack.

**Dutch auction**

Jewellery and other valuables deposited with the Nazi-controlled Lippmann-Rosenthal Bank of Amsterdam by Holocaust victims, were auctioned secretly to civil servants at knock-down prices in 1968 and 1969, according to *De Groene Amsterdamer* magazine. The discovery was revealed in bank records dating back to the period; the Finance Minister has ordered an investigation.

**Brazil, Nazi haven**

A list of suspected Nazi criminals, discovered in Brazilian immigration archives, names 208 people who were given sanctuary during and after WWII. Those listed are now being investigated.

□ RDC

**A walk on the Wilde side**

Freud not only enriched the German vocabulary with such terms as *Über-Ich* (superego), *Feblleistung* (Freudian slip) and *Zwangsvorstellung* (compulsion neurosis); he also provided wonderful copy for the coffee-house wits of Vienna. Take their definition of *Zwangsvorstellung*: a husband who enjoys nothing better than to play cards has to sit through *Rigoletto* at his wife's insistence.

I found myself in a similar situation when friends took me to see *Wilde*. It is a beautifully photographed, but cloyingly sentimental film; the stages of the hero's inexorable decline are intercut with snatches of the tale of *The Nasty Giant* (which Wilde made up for the delectation of his two cherubic children). The background music, and the 'bravely smiling through tears' performance of the cruelly neglected Mrs Wilde provide additional lashings of schmaltz.

Given that this is the third celluloid version of Wilde's life in thirty-odd years, the treatment vouchsafed neither new insights not any startling surprise – except the unpleasant one of the exposure of acres of male flesh.

To relieve my boredom I fell back on the old private game of 'What's the Jewish angle?' Unsurprisingly there was one – there usually is – but it was more a matter of the singer than the song. The high schmaltz content of the film can presumably be ascribed to its Jewish director, Brian Gilbert.

As to the fact that Stephen Fry, the star, is *balachically* Jewish, I wouldn't boast about it: his performance as Wilde hardly matched up to Peter Finch's a generation ago.

However, there was a Jewish – more precisely anti-Jewish – angle to the after-film life of Wilde's 'lover boy' Lord Alfred Douglas. Twenty years later, in 1918, Douglas alleged that Churchill had been corrupted by a Jewish financier, and went to jail for criminal libel. Undeterred, he wrote a poem while in prison calling Sir Ernest Cassel the 'leprous spawn of scattered Israel'.

And that, I thought, had exhausted the Jewish angle on the Wilde phenomenon. Then the garbled lyric of a song – 'Anything *goys* can do, Jews can do better' – came to mind; straight away the names of the Jewish gay literati Marcel Proust and

Egon Friedell flashed on to my mental screen.

Proust is, of course, *déjà vu*: he's been captured on film in *Swann's Way*. However, Egon Friedell's life – and death – still cry out for cinematic treatment.

Friedell, who had Germanised his name from Friedmann, possessed a ready wit not unlike Wilde's. When an antisemitic Viennese journalist sought to trip him up by asking why he bore the name Friedell, whereas his brother was called Friedmann, he riposted 'I don't know what made him adopt that *nom-de-plume!*'

In addition to wit Friedell displayed many talents: he was an actor, playwright and cultural historian. However, as a Jew and homosexual he felt doubly threatened by the Nazis. A few days after the Anschluss he panicked on seeing two SA men enter his building and threw himself out of a top storey window. As he jumped, he shouted a warning to people on the pavement to get out of the way.

I think he would provide a fascinating *sujet* for film makers scouting around for gay heroes. Should Steven Spielberg, David Putnam or Arthur Brauner want to commission the script for a Friedell biopic, they can always reach me at this address.

□ Richard Grunberger

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