

AJR *Information*

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£3 (to non-members)

Don't miss . . .

German-Jewish demography

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Brecht and the Jews

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A rabbi spurned?

Gloria Tessler p16

Rebranding Fascism

While the Fascism of the

interwar years strutted in jackboots, its contemporary incarnation wears Gucci shoes. In Austria Jörg Haider dresses *sportif* and studiously avoids expressing anti-semitic sentiments.

In Italy Gian-Carlo Fini purges rowdies from the neo-Fascist ranks. In France Bruno Megret, Le Pen's designated successor, sounds like the product of *Les Grandes Ecoles* he is. It is a moot point which variant of Fascist incitement – Le Pen's spittle-flecked oratory or Megret's PR-conscious elocution – is the more dangerous □

Outstanding events of the last 150 years whose anniversaries loom up

Year of commemorations

The year 1998 provides a feast for the anniversary-minded. 'Counting down' through past decades we literally stumble over notable dates.

In 1968 the failed Czech attempt at 'Socialism with a human face' proved the Soviet block incapable of internal reform and predestined to collapse under the weight of its own inertia.

Twenty years earlier 1948 had been a true watershed year. It saw the birth of the first Jewish state in nearly two millennia – an event that turned Jews *en masse* from passive objects into active subjects of history. In the global arena the Berlin Crisis showed both Russia and the West unwilling to back down yet reluctant to trigger World War III.

A decade earlier 1938 had been *the* crucial year of the century, when Europe's slide into catastrophe could have been halted. Instead, Hitler was allowed to triumph in Vienna and at Munich. The Tenth of November presented a spectacle of state-sponsored bloodshed and arson in former centres of culture which Europe had not witnessed since the 1572 St Bartholomew Massacre in Paris.

(Kristallnacht resulted directly from the Anschluss because the newly-incorporated Austrians' enthusiasm for pogroms put wind into the sails of the most lethal Nazi Jew-baiters around Goebbels).

Austria had also been crucial to the events of 1918. The Habsburgs' defeat in the Great War – for the outbreak of which they shared responsibility with the German Kaiser – led to the fragmentation of their erstwhile Empire; its unstable succession states – rump-Austria, Hungary, Romania, Yugoslavia and Poland – provided breeding grounds for

antisemitism and dictatorship. Yet the nationalism which caused the Habsburg state to collapse was not necessarily a destructive force, as inter-war Czechoslovakia – a veritable role model to its benighted neighbours – proved beyond peradventure.

Nationalism and democracy – the key issues of modern history – first emerged with dynamic force in 1848, year of Revolutions. 1848 demonstrated how much the inter-relationship between nationalism and democracy differed between Western and Central/Eastern Europe. France, the Low Countries and England were not beset by unresolved problems of national identity that threatened to thwart democratic progress. In contrast, German unity was not, alas, established by the '48 Frankfurt Parliament, but by Prussian arms and princely fiat in 1871.

In March 1848 Austria seemed shaken to the core – with barricades going up in Vienna, Budapest and Prague – yet through a concatenation of circumstances neither nationalist nor democratic ambitions were subsequently fulfilled.

Even so Central Europe was a freer, less hide-bound place in the second half of the century than it had been in pre-March days. Not the least beneficiaries of this change were the Jews; in fact 1848 was a milestone on the way to their full emancipation. But history records that Jews had not merely benefited from the March events. Some had died at the barricades, others – e.g. Adolph Fischhof in Vienna and Daniele Manin in Venice – had been local revolutionary leaders. And one, Karl Marx, impetuously staked a claim to global revolutionary leadership by publishing *The Communist Manifesto* □

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

will be held at 15 Cleve Road, NW6
on SUNDAY 21st JUNE 1998 at 3pm

AGENDA:

Annual Report for 1997
Hon. Treasurer's Report, Discussion
Election of Committee of Management

Guest Speaker: Her Honour, Judge Dawn Freedman – 'A View from the Bench'

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

Profile

Low-key success story

Felix Hutterer's family history was closely bound up – for good as well as ill – with the Vienna-based industrial firm of Brüder Guttmann. His widowed mother worked in the office; his uncle was the firm's chief accountant. On the day of the Anschluss the brothers fled abroad. The following morning Felix's uncle was arrested as a substitute and imprisoned on the 'charge' that he had discriminated against Nazis among the firm's work-force.

After ten months in the hell of Buchenwald the uncle managed to come to England – where Felix had preceded him on a Kindertransport. Felix's mother, too, could have saved herself by emigrating, but elected to stay with her elderly parents.

After arrival in the UK, thirteen-year-old Felix attended school in Yorkshire, the fees for which were paid by the Gutmans' agent in Paris. Following the Fall of France the payments dried up, and although the school offered to keep Felix

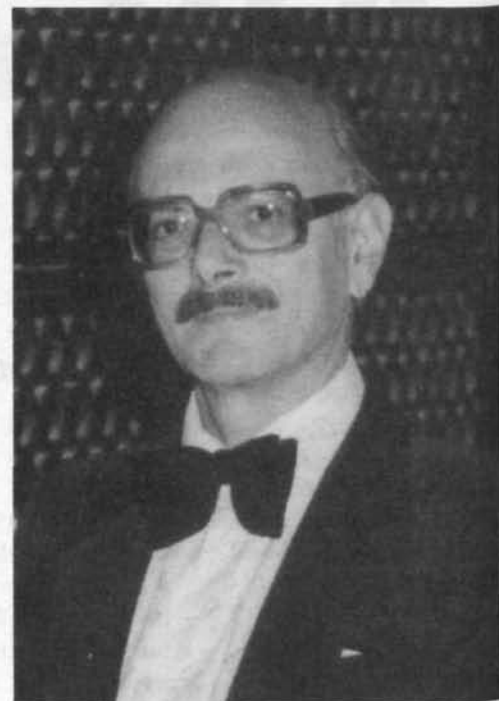
on free-of-charge, he declined. Instead, he moved to a refugee hostel in Bradford and began to look for employment.

His first job was at a textile mill owned by a pillar of the local Jewish community (and benefactor of the hostel) – but Felix found the work uncongenial. After another false start he eventually found employment in a radio repair shop where he became a fairly skilled worker.

Then Felix moved to London to stay with his uncle and cousins. Here he did similar, but war effort-related, work. After the war he acquired evening class qualifications and in the mid-fifties he married a fellow refugee, a cousin of the violinist Norbert Brainin of Amadeus Quartet fame.

In 1960 he acquired shares in a moribund company producing medical equipment. By dint of hard work he resuscitated the enterprise and expanded it.

These days Felix combines part-time work with frequent trips to see relatives and friends abroad. Apropos of friends: a handful of former inmates of the Bradford refugee hostel (plus wives) still meet regularly, fifty-odd years after the disbandment of their wartime home. The remarkable cohesion of this surrogate family is a



Felix Hutterer

heartwarming facet of the UK refugee story. The Old Bradfordians – already the subject of a documentary on Yorkshire TV – will feature in a forthcoming 'group profile' in our journal. □ RG

Oslo discord

Extracts from the lecture by Professor Galia Golan of the Hebrew University to Jewish Policy Research on Israel's 50th Anniversary.

The Oslo Accords are now dead, though none of the interested parties is prepared to admit it. Nothing of significance is occurring: there is no peace process and little or no negotiation; only limited dialogue with the United States.

Since the 1967 War there has been a shift towards 'doveishness', Israel's public having had enough of bloodshed and the loss of young lives in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the occupation of the territories. Over 60 percent were prepared to accept a return of the territories and the dismantling of settlements. They did not see the status quo of perpetual occupation as a realistic option.

The pragmatic solutions provided by the Oslo Accords were approved by two thirds of the population (and received similar support amongst the Palestinians). They brought Israel an almost overnight dividend of a boom economy, doubled the number of countries with which Israel enjoyed diplomatic relations and

led to a peace treaty with Jordan, peace talks with Syria and much improved relations with Egypt.

The terrorist campaigns of Hamas and Islamic Jihad sought to destroy the peace process and increased doubt among Israelis; settlers and the Orthodox in particular campaigned against the Accords, some even accusing Prime Minister Rabin of treason. Yet 200,000 people attended the peace rally in Tel Aviv under the slogan 'No to Violence and Yes to Peace'.

In the general elections of May 1996 the electorate was divided approximately into thirds: those for peace, the waverers, and the rejectionists who brought the Netanyahu Government to power. Netanyahu did not present himself as rejecting the peace process, but sought a 'secure peace', pledging to continue pursuit of the Oslo accords. This commitment he has not fulfilled.

With the Netanyahu Government, 'revisionist Zionism' returned to power in co-operation with the religious parties. Its credo is to 'stand firm', hold on to all the land and wait for the Arabs to accept the status quo. This is substantially at variance with the majority view of the Israel public. There is evidence that support for those opposed to territorial compromise

is declining, while those desiring a compromise solution has reached 79 per cent.

While the territories remain under Israel's control, settlements are being expanded, new ones built, and by-pass roads cross and split the contiguity of Palestinian land, creating a downward spiral in Israeli-Arab relations. Partial withdrawal from Hebron has been achieved, but there have been no further redeployments, which the Government justifies by citing Palestinian violation of the Accords, though both sides make accusations.

Economic recession, rising unemployment, falling tourism and the death of Israeli soldiers in Lebanon serve to undermine confidence in the future. A debunking of myths by revisionist historians is part of a new process among Israelis, which call into question whether Israel will remain a pluralist democracy or change into a theocracy.

Israel must return to the path of peace and find a resolution to the conflict. Two peoples in one land must recognise each other and translate the Oslo Accords into a viable solution. It is a question of mutual self interest. The vast majority of Israel's people wish to go ahead on the basis of compromise. □ RDC

German-Jewish demography

Blaming the Holocaust on its victims, the clownish Russian *pogromnik* Vladimir Zhirinovskiy recently delivered himself of the following piece of wisdom: 'When the number of Jews grows too much in a country war breaks out. That happened in Germany'.

(Just for the record: in 1933 Jews formed one percent of the inhabitants of Germany, compared to ten percent in Poland, seven percent in Lithuania and five percent in Hungary).

Paradoxically it is the combination of Zhirinovskiy's lethal rhetoric with economic circumstances that is altering the demography of contemporary German Jewry. Forty years ago the few survivors in the country constituted pathetic *Liquidations-gemeinden*, but these moribund entities were subsequently restored to flickering life by the influx of Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe.

Even so, the size of the entire German community was only around thirty thousand (five percent of the pre-war total) by the end of the Cold War ten years ago. The collapse of the Soviet Empire engendered a sizable immigration of Russian Jews into Germany. By March of this year the *Bundesverwaltungsamt* (Federal Administrative Office) had registered 87,000 newcomers from the former Soviet Union. This migration is pushing the potential size of German Jewry into six digits, but is also straining the resources of the local communities to breaking point. In smaller ones, like Duisburg/Mühlheim an original membership of 150 had to 'absorb' a thousand newcomers.

Even the four-digit communities such as Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich and Düsseldorf can hardly cope with the problem of integrating the 'Russians'. Eighty percent of the newcomers are (at least initially) recipients of welfare assistance, and thus unable to pay membership subscriptions. A bigger problem is many Russians' lack of religious commitment, or even acquaintance with synagogue ritual. But the biggest problem of all is the habituation of the newcomers to the Russian language (and the Russian way of doing things). The effort of switching over to another language and culture is simply too much for many: they consequently get locked into a state of isolation made quite bearable by the inflow of more and more Russian speakers.

Conversely, the indigenous German speakers resent the fact that local communal journals are bi-lingual, and that in some places, like Rostock and Potsdam, Russian has virtually become the *lingua franca* of the community. They argue that, as East European DPs they, too, had to grapple with difficulties of language and of acclimatisation in an alien atmosphere.

The situation is far from healthy. It may well be that the resources of German Jewry won't suffice to solve the 'integration problems' of the Russians – and that some sort of government assistance will be required. □ Richard Grunberger

Vital bits of paper

Jewish Refugees needed documents of all sorts before being allowed to leave 'Greater Germany'. Passports, visas, 'Heimatschein', tax payment certificates, all that sort of thing. As one never knew what might be needed later on, birth certificates of parents, grandparents and so on, either originals or certified copies, formed part of one's luggage. During the Blitz, whenever we went to the air-raid shelter we took two suitcases, one with clothes for emergencies and one with our totally irreplaceable documents.

Recently a friend showed me something I had never seen before: a certificate issued in Vienna three weeks after the Anschluss, stating that his father, a dental surgeon, was not to be molested or hindered in his medical duties at any time by having to scrub streets. The instruction, my friend tells me, was honoured.

Aryans had a similar need for documents, though for different reasons. I have seen the complete family history booklet of a German, showing all family details since 1750, with evidence of all ancestors' certificates of baptism and marriage, plus dates and names of witnesses. Without such a family history it would have been very difficult to obtain a responsible job or be allowed to attend university. My informant received a DPhil degree at Breslau in 1941. His degree was signed by the Dean of the Faculty, and countersigned, under the German eagle with swastika, by the party representative at the university, who happened to be the head porter. Did this show the regard in which the faculty held the Nazis or the contempt the Nazis had for the university?

□ Prof Paul Samet

Election of Committee of Management 1998/99 AGM 21 JUNE 1998

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

Mr C.W. Dunston	Trustee
Mr M. Durst	Trustee
Mrs J. Field	
Mr H. Levy	

The following remain members of the Committee without need for re-election in 1998:

Mr A.C. Kaufman	Chairman
Mr W.D. Rothenberg	Vice-Chairman & Treasurer
Mrs E.S. Angel	Secretary
Mr P. Dannenberg	Trustee
Mrs D. Franklin	
Mrs G.R. Glassman	
Mrs S. Landau	

(Mrs J. Kessler is not standing for election)

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Reviews

Vilna partisan – in his own footsteps

Joseph Harmatz, *FROM THE WINGS, 1940-1960*, Book Guild, 1998, £15.

Joseph Harmatz is a Holocaust survivor whose tough, purposeful and determined character was forged in the struggle against Germany's genocidal invasion of Lithuania. In 1994, accompanied by his younger son Ronny, he rediscovered the sites and events of their family's fate.

He was born in Rokiskis in 1925, the second of three brothers in a bourgeois Jewish family where Joseph enjoyed an idyllic childhood which was shattered by the German invasion in June 1941. The Harmatz family were fortunate to have already left for Vilna, the Soviets having nationalised their trading business. With the occupation Joseph was in double jeopardy – as a member of the Communist Youth Movement and a Jew – so he went underground. In Vilna's ghetto in 1942 Harmatz joined the FPO partisans and became a policeman. On the day of the ghetto's liquidation the following year, Harmatz' partisan group escaped through the sewers into the Rudnitski forests where they set about destroying trains, telegraph poles, railway tracks and bridges. They participated in the Red Army's liberation of Vilna in the summer of 1944 and, paradoxically, he was drafted to help rebuild those damaged roads, railways, bridges and factories in support of the Soviet Union's continuing war effort.

Harmatz left clandestinely in January 1945 and, backed by the Palestine Jewish Brigade billeted in North Italy, he volunteered to take vengeance on German Holocaust perpetrators, leading the hit squad in Nuremberg. Although their plan to poison the city's water supply was abandoned, a second plan to contaminate bread supplies at a camp holding thousands of SS personnel partially succeeded.

Arriving in Palestine in 1946, he was interned by the British, but reunited with his mother who had survived the camps. After release he did manual work, then won a position in the Palestine Electric Corporation. In Israel's 1948 War of Independence, his unit suffered heavy losses in fighting off the Syrians in Galilee.

After marrying Gina in 1951, he joined the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department and in 1956 was posted to their Geneva office where he chartered the ships carrying immigrants to Israel from Poland, Hungary, Morocco and Egypt following the Suez War. Back in Israel he took up a post with the World ORT Union and began another chapter in his life.

Harmatz' return to his roots after half a century and this remarkable memoir of survival confirm him as a man of exceptional courage, tenacity and strength, yet reveal little of his innermost thoughts, his emotions or his dreams. Though the book bears irrefutable witness to the depths of human depravity, it demonstrates how a decent person can rise above evil to be a force for good. Joseph Harmatz the man remains something of an enigma.

□ Ronald Channing

Joseph Harmatz will be talking about his experiences at a symposium on 'Revenge or Justice?' presented by the Spiro Institute on Sunday 14th June, 8pm, at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4. Booking enquiries: 0171 431 0345.

A nowhere place

Dan Jacobson, *HESHEL'S KINGDOM*, Hamish Hamilton, 1997, £15.99.

Dan Jacobson grew up in the former diamond boomtown of Kimberley. As a member of the tiny Jewish community Dan felt different from the white Christian *Herrenvolk*, but personally encountered little antisemitism. During the war, news of German atrocities filtered through via newspapers and later, films, but his family never talked about what had happened to their relatives who had stayed behind in Lithuania. Until his mother's death Dan had little curiosity about her home country, regarding it only as a "nowhere", a place of deprivation. Then, on discovering his grandfather's spectacles, he felt the urge to go there and see it for himself.

It was this grandfather who by dying prematurely saved his family. Having explored the possibility of emigration to the United States, he had decided to remain in the shtetl. Later his widow took herself and her nine children to South Africa where the author was born.

Jacobson had no clear idea of what he expected to find, and indeed, found very little: a Jewish museum, a solitary Jewess, the site of one of the killing fields. No

sign of the graves of his family, no memories of his relatives, only an "empty" land, flat and almost featureless.

Hesbel's Kingdom contains no vivid descriptions of the erstwhile community as in *Konin*. The interest of the book lies in the author's reflections on his own attitudes, and his evocations of people and places. For the most part he writes as a detached observer, but one image strikes home: visiting the museum he realises that it must have been the murderers themselves who took the photographs of mass executions on display. Such refined sadism touches a nerve.

□ Martha Blend

Emotionally illiterate

Bernhard Schlink, *THE READER*, tr. by Carol Brown Janeway, Phoenix House, 1997, £12.99.

This is a love story, a crime novel and a Holocaust-tinged tragedy seen entirely from the German point of view. Its author is a law professor who has previously written detective stories; *The Reader*, has propelled him on to the German best-seller list.

The locale of the novel is somewhere in SW Germany and the time is from the 60s onward.

Fifteen-year-old Michael Berg, a grammar school boy, son of a university lecturer, is taken sick in the street one day. A kind woman, nearly 30 years his senior, helps him to get home. He has a bout of hepatitis, and on recovering, his mother makes him call on his rescuer to thank her. Michael and the kind stranger become lovers. They are an extremely ill-matched couple, for apart from the age gap, she is from a different class – a tram conductor with no formal education. She thinks that Michael is seventeen, and he proudly does not correct her. But apart from love-making, he also continually reads to her from his wide literary interests.

Then the inevitable happens: the affair falls apart and she vanishes. In time Michael becomes a law student and under the tutelage of a returned refugee law professor he becomes involved in mentally wrestling with Germany's awful past. One day he is sent as an observer to a long-delayed war crimes trial and there, among the accused, is his former lover, erstwhile SS woman, Hanna Schmitz.

They look at, but do not acknowledge,

each other. Unhappy Michael must learn that his ardent lover was a brutal guard in a satellite camp of Auschwitz. There she caused young and weak girls to be given into her 'care'. Unbelievably, she made them read to her and, when the time came, selected them for gassing. On the death march towards Germany she added another load of guilt upon herself by keeping the women prisoners locked in a church on fire after an air-raid. Only one woman and her daughter survive. They are the main witnesses against Hanna and her fellow accused. The last-named blame everything on Hanna, who accepts this stoically.

Here the novel runs into a problem. Michael has got to know, and the reader has to suspend doubts about this, that defendant Schmitz is illiterate (hence her passion for being read to). This failing spoils her hope of a proper defence. One is asked to believe that she prefers extra loads of guilt to an admission of her "stupidity". This gets her, and her alone, a life sentence.

She serves eighteen years, and during them the budding law professor Michael absolves his own guilt by sending her ever more recondite readings on tape. Towards the end it becomes clear that Hanna has learned to read and write.

I will keep the truly awesome finale secret, though the perceptive reader will probably guess it. Suffice it to say, there is atonement – but one may doubt that it is enough.

□ John Rossall

New beginning

For their new production at Hampstead's New End Theatre of *Across the Bridge* – the story of two survivors meeting at Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire – the play's authors and cast, Anna Cropper and Dalia Friedland, have expanded the dialogue and developed their narrative into an exceptionally moving and accurate depiction of two women's struggle for survival in April 1945 on a death march in Germany.

The prologue to the play takes the form of the projection of illustrations made by Ella Liebermann-Shiber who drew these exceptionally powerful testaments immediately after her release from captivity at the age of 17, as witness to the horrors she had been forced to experience.

With the success of this production (co-

presented by Beth Shalom and the Spiro Institute) on their hands, the authors and producers are receiving offers to stage it elsewhere in the UK and also in the United States; a TV pilot video is also being made. Neither the cast nor the production company take any profit from the play's presentation, consequently they are reliant on and welcome the help of benefactors at all levels to enable *Across the Bridge* to reach the wider audiences which will benefit from this unique production and its vitally important message.

□ RDC

New End Theatre's current production *The Great Gatsby* runs to 7th June after which Fenella Fielding stars in the premiere of *A Dangerous Woman* until 5th July. Box office: 0171 794 0022.

Roots of antisemitism

On *Yom Ha'Shoab*, the day of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust, Stephen Smith, director of the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre, gave the annual Raoul Wallenberg address to the B'nai B'rith Lodge which bears the name of the Swedish saviour of many thousand Hungarian Jews.

Taking as his theme 'Antisemitism in the Modern World after the Holocaust', Stephen Smith stressed the impossibility of remembering the deaths of six million people, yet the duty remained to remember them as individuals, as did the responsibility to warn against the recurrence of genocide.

"Europe has built into its Christian culture the roots of antisemitism," said Smith, "and Christianity still underpins the European ethic". Without it the Nazis could not have carried through their genocidal policies.

In his view, antisemitism still remained politically correct in our society. Antisemites stretched from the most active, such as members of Combat 18; those who chose silence, whose antisemitism was passive; those who were apathetic, but potentially active if their own interests were threatened; critics of Israel as a subterfuge for antisemitism; the churches' 'antisemitism of contempt'; to those whose 'stiff-upper-lip antisemitism' was expressed only outside of earshot of Jewish company.

Stephen Smith suggested that each of us had to tackle our own prejudices if we were to fight antisemitism in the future.

□ RDC

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Letters to the Editor

THE FALLACY OF NATIONALISM

Sir – One of the great difficulties in modern times is the fact that people still think of nationalism as patriotism. Nationalism implies that one particular group of people is better than another and that a nation is a unit based on religion, language or ethnic history. This is no longer tenable. Nations need to be based on secular laws, so that all people living in a country can coexist peacefully, whilst following their own religion, or philosophy.

In the late 20th century, great movements have taken place after two world wars which make the idea of the nation, as it was at the beginning of the century, unrealistic.

Two rights do not make one right, which we can clearly see not only in the Middle East, in Ireland or even Rwanda. Patriotism is fine, nationalism is not.

Brighton Road
South Croydon
Ulrich Pick

CRI DU COEUR

Sir – If Inge Trott was born of a Jewish mother then she is certainly Jewish, even though she practices the customs of another religion.

What I think does not matter, but what I know does. A son or daughter of a woman who had an invalid Reform conversion is unable to marry a Jew in Israel. Also in Great Britain such sons/daughters are unable to marry in any Orthodox synagogue. And the majority in this country are Orthodox.

I am aware that the Reform movement claim to be in the majority, but that is due to their custom of counting a husband and wife as two persons, whereas in Orthodox synagogues only the husband is counted.

Northdene Gardens
London N15
Henry Schragenheim

NAUSTALGIA

Sir – I cannot remember where in Vienna the Cafe Vindobona was but Alfred Lane's memory (April 1998) is no better than mine. The Cafe Vindobona cannot

have been at the location he states since the Walfischgasse and the Ring do not intersect but are parallel streets.

Whinfell Court
Sheffield
Otto Fleming

HALF BRICKBAT, HALF BOUQUET

Sir – I am not surprised that the title *Zeider* (page 4, April issue) 'stumped one of your multi-lingual proof-readers'. There is no 'R' in the word. It should be spelled *Zaida*, Yiddish for grandfather, and derived from the Polish word *Dziadek*.

May I at the same time take issue with the opinion expressed in the letter headed 'Hubris' on page 6. Surely your readers should be allowed to express their gratitude and appreciation.

London NW2
T Deutsch

THE SHOPLIFTER

Sir – Thank you for printing this lovely story by Mr Vernon Pearce (March issue) which I enjoyed reading. It does take me back to my school days in Duesseldorf; we also had a real proper Nazi as a school master, and I was instrumental in seeing to it that his teaching licence was withdrawn in 1946.

Linden Lea
London N2
FH Edwards

THE CRITIC CRITICISED

Sir – I have to express my annoyance at R Grunberger's assertion in his review of *The Unsung Years* (February issue) that all German/Jewish autobiographies are similarly structured and "shaped like a play in three acts: happy childhood, incremental growth of Nazi horror, and new life in England".

Who can say that subsequent refugees had a happy early life, though it is true that most grown-ups see their childhood through rose-coloured spectacles. Let me quote one example: Edith Bruck's *Wer Dich so liebt* (Frankfurt 1961) tells of a poverty-stricken childhood in which her biggest wish was to buy her mother of ten children a denture.

"Incremental growth of Nazi horror" just as much as "notionally happy ending" are two more examples of extreme over-simplification. Children in countries overrun by the Nazis felt consternation, rather than 'incremental growth...' of such change, the more as most grown-ups told them that it was all exaggerated.

The worst, I cannot but say, cruel distortion of reality is to equate survival with "happiness". Survival of the Shoah certainly does *not* mean living happily ever after. Did not Primo Levi commit suicide long after surviving Auschwitz? Has the reviewer never heard of *Spätschäden* which involve constant depression?

Reading
Berks
Dr F Wilder-Okladek

STADE

Sir – I was recently invited by my later mother's home town of Stade (which is successfully twinned with Givat Schmu'el in Israel).

I came away with the impression that younger Germans too feel that they are victims in that they were robbed of the colour and the contribution the Jewish community could have made. Up to now I felt great bitterness towards the Germans, but now I can see how they themselves feel as a generation who came after the ones that perpetrated these crimes against humanity.

Norwood Green
Middx
John Curtis

THE SEARCH GOES ON

Sir – Thank you for passing on my letter about Mrs Eve Meyerhof, b.circa 1914, to World Jewish Relief.

I just wanted to let you know that, as a result, I received a very helpful letter from Mrs Montague of the Jewish Refugee Committee who, whilst allowing for the difficulty of finding Eve Meyerhof among the records – because people like Eve who came to England as girls were generally registered under their maiden name, which in Eve's case we have not got – has managed to discover that she *probably* bore the name of Oppenheim.

As you can imagine, I was most interested to receive this information and do thank you again for your part in directing my letter to more than competent hands!

Preston
Lancashire
Deborah Cherry

Letter from the Chairman ...

Dear Fellow Members,

As Chairman of the AJR, I believe that all members should know the full facts about the termination of Ernest David's contract as Director and the appointment of his successor.

Ernest's original contract was due to expire on his reaching his 65th birthday in April 1997, which is the normal retirement age for AJR employees. During discussions with me in January 1997, Ernest intimated that his preference would be to remain as Director for another 2-3 years; it was agreed between the Honorary Officers of the AJR and Ernest that his contract would continue, subject to a notice period of six months on either side.

It became clear over the subsequent months that the AJR had to take many fundamental decisions in relation to its future strategy, in particular in connection with its relationship with the Otto Schiff Housing Association, the Second Generation, the Day Centre, Self Aid, the Social Services Department and the utilisation of the financial resources of the AJR over the next ten years or so, all issues which will have a fundamental effect on the members of the AJR over the coming years.

The Officers of the AJR knew that Ernest was proposing to remain in his position as Director, at his own wish, for only two or three years at the most. Whenever he left they would have to recruit his successor. It was felt that it would be very much in the interests of the membership if that successor would be appointed at a time, sooner rather than later, when he or she could contribute to the formulation of the new policies.

The decision to terminate Ernest's employment was taken by the Honorary

Officers with the unanimous approval of the Trustees of the Charitable Trust and it was confirmed by ten out of twelve members of the Executive Committee of the AJR.

Given this background, I hope that you can now better comprehend the decision taken. As some of you may know, Ernest is disappointed that his employment has been terminated earlier than he would have wished. I would like to stress that the Honorary Officers of the AJR do not wish to criticise Ernest's performance over the past four years where he has contributed greatly to the stable position in which the AJR now finds itself, and we are saddened that his leaving should be the occasion of controversy which is neither in the interest of the AJR nor of Ernest himself.

On a more positive note, I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed a successor. You will read about Michael Radbil elsewhere in *AJR Information*, but as a son of refugees and with a combination of administrative experience and immersion in service to the Jewish community from birth, I am confident that Michael will prove to be the right person to take the AJR forward.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that in life, on occasions, painful and difficult decisions have to be made in the interests of the future of an organisation, as here. This decision was taken by a group of individuals dedicated over many years to the interests of the members in order to ensure the continued provision of the services desperately needed by so many of our members.

I would urge you not to be deflected from this path. Let us concentrate our energies on serving the membership.

□ Andrew Kaufman
Chairman AJR

'Goodwill Fund'

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims wishes to alert anyone who failed to register claims for the restitution of Jewish property in the former East Germany by 31st December 1992 (the German Government's deadline) that they may make an application to the Claims Conference Goodwill Fund up to 31st December 1998.

The Goodwill Fund, which is adminis-

tered by the Frankfurt office of the Claims Conference, shares net proceeds from the recovery of properties which the Claims Conference obtained as the legal successor to unclaimed Jewish property.

Applicants are advised to write to the Claims Conference Successor Organisation, Goodwill Fund, Sophienstrasse 26, Frankfurt am Main, Germany 60487. Please include the property's address, the name of the original owners and your relationship to them □

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AJR News

AJR's new Chief Executive

Michael Radbil joins the AJR as its Chief Executive, bringing with him twenty years' experience of administrative and personnel management combined with a dedication to voluntary work and care for the elderly



Michael Radbil

within the Jewish community – following in the traditions of his parents, both of whom were refugees from Germany.

In the 1980s he spent a most satisfying four years as administrator of a cottage hospital, then supervised the sales and distribution of the famous Michelin guides in the British Isles. In his nine years with a London investment bank he was promoted to group personnel and

administration manager, and in the last two years fulfilled a similar role managing the European head office of a US-based management consultancy.

Michael's family put down its roots in the Wembley Jewish community of the 1960s where he was brought up in an environment sensitive to the care of the elderly. His mother, who founded and continues to run the Wembley Care Society – which provides an excellent day centre, luncheon club and kosher-meals-on wheels service – still relies on Michael for his organisational skills. He also followed in the footsteps of his late father Joachim, a Kindertransportee from Danzig, as chairman of Wembley United Synagogue's donations and bequests committee, and is much involved in the publication of its lively newsletter.

An early proponent of a more enlightened approach to mental health problems, Michael led two groups for the Jewish mentally handicapped for five years, each of which held regular weekly meetings. For a similar period he held the considerable responsibility of headmaster of Hampstead Synagogue's Hebrew classes.

Michael's mother Fridel, who came from Frankfurt-am-Main, was the first matron of Otto Schiff House in Hampstead where, as a consequence, Michael lived the first six years of his life, surviving a large number of adopted grandparents! – and later went to University College School.

Michael confesses to being excited at his appointment with the AJR and is looking forward to the challenges it presents.

□ RDC



AJR chef Ya'acov Azulay celebrating Israel's 50th Anniversary at the Day Centre.

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Thankyou letter ...

An enjoyable Seder

I would like to thank the Day Centre's devoted team for the most enjoyable Seder evening we spent with you all. Everything was first class and the Rabbi seemed at his best.

I do realise the hard work and preparation that goes into arranging such an event and I for one appreciate it greatly.

Stefi Cohn

Paul Balint
AJR Day Centre

OPEN DAY

Sunday 12th July at 2pm

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including tea & refreshments

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:

Thursday	4 June
Monday	8 June
Tuesday	16 June
Wednesday	24 June
Thursday	2 July

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10am to 12 noon at:

**AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Frognal,
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No appointment is necessary, but please bring along all relevant documents, such as Benefit Books, letters, bills, etc.

... Viewpoint ...

Tunnel vision

When I was a child, the vast conurbation of London was acknowledged to be the largest city in the world with a population of from eight to ten million, depending on whether the good burghers of Middlesex and Surrey were included with those in the old LCC area.

London could not have functioned without the nineteenth-century development of well-engineered services: water supply, sewage and waste disposal, the importation of coal, the piping of coal gas and transmission of electricity.

Into this horse-drawn world the train brought a transport revolution. Lines extended from the capital's great termini to all parts of the kingdom, a natural habitat for the smoke-belching monsters so beloved of generations of train spotters and children's authors. These lines were co-opted to carry manual workers, clerks and city gents (all carefully segregated by class) on the relatively short hauls to their places of employment in the central areas. Thus was the commuter born.

To this system was added, between the wars, the most modern and efficient urban transport network in the world, the Underground Railway. New stations, many architectural gems like Arnos Grove and Southgate on the Piccadilly Line, were built in virgin territory and London's outer suburbs sprang up, giving birth to the ubiquitous three-bedroom semi. The 'Tube' railway's electric trains tunnelled their influence everywhere except where the sandy soils south of the River Thames held sway.

After World War II, in preference to trams, trolley and diesel-powered buses, the Tube became the transport of delight for commuters of all classes, but in its carriages social taboos were rigorously observed. Fraternisation, conversation or eye contact of any kind were strictly *verboden*, the need for newspapers behind which to pretend concealment, essential.

Belated arrival of new rolling stock to replace the prewar carriages (now

in the Covent Garden museum) temporarily alleviated the crush brought by travel in the peak morning and evening 'rush hours'. The system gradually became tatty and dirty, and passengers could no longer be assured of a civilized environment. Thatcherism ensured that as little as possible was spent on preserving this anachronistic public utility.

John Prescott's plan to inject more than £7 billion private capital over the next 15 years into London Underground may be the light at the end of the tunnel. If not, the current 10% annual increase in the two-and-a-half million passenger journeys being made every working day will add misery to overcrowding, discomfort and delay, at a cost per mile already higher than any comparable system in the world. A revitalised underground, however, would solve the capital's congestion problems and put London back on the map as a world class city in which all of its unrivalled amenities could be accessed and enjoyed.

□ Ronald Channing

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Afternoon entertainment programme -

JUNE/JULY 1998

Mon 1	CLOSED - SHAVUOT	Tue 16	Geoffrey Strum & Helen Blake
Tue 2	Gina Fergione, soprano & Angus Cunningham, piano	Wed 17	DAY CENTRE OPEN - LUNCHEON CLUB
Wed 3	Dorothy Sayers, accordion & piano	Thur 18	Anna Margolis, soprano & Richard Black, piano
Thur 4	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton, violin & piano	Sun 21	DAY CENTRE CLOSED - AGM
Sun 7	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT	Mon 22	Louise Merrett, soprano & Margaret Marinkovic, piano
Mon 8	Robert Brody & Daphne Lewis, piano	Tue 23	Ilya Ushakov, violin & Yaron Shavit, piano
Tue 9	Amanda Palmer, opera	Wed 24	Melanie Reid, soprano with piano accompaniment
Wed 10	Natalia Box, violin & Geoffrey Whitworth, piano	Thur 25	Stefani Pleasance, soprano & Angus Cunningham, piano
Thur 11	Karen Grace, soprano & Joan Oates, piano	Sun 28	DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
Sun 14	Bernard Wilcox, tenor, Julia Beneti, soprano & Elizabeth Ellwood, piano	Mon 29	Jack & Rita David sing
Mon 15	Anna Morris, violin & Julietta Demetriades, piano	Tue 30	Ann Sheffield, cello, David Richmond, violin & Madeleine Whitelaw piano
		Wed 1	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton, violin

Homesharing

'Homeshare', a registered charity that has been running successfully for three years, aims to assist elderly people whose overwhelming wish is to remain in the familiar surroundings of their own homes.

Homesharing is based on the principle of exchange: an elderly person offers a room in his or her home and the use of kitchen and bathroom facilities in exchange for a younger person sleeping in the home at night and giving ten hours of help per week. Typically, the young person continues to work or studies during the day and helps with shopping, cooking and other household tasks, as well as providing companionship and security.

Firm friendships often develop, with the younger person becoming a trusted and reliable substitute relative. Great and ongoing care is taken to select and match people with compatible interests and lifestyles.

If you would like to know more, please contact Wendi Wilson of AJR's Social Services Department

□ RDC

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Landau. Hilde Dorothea Landau (nee Salamon) passed away on 22 April 1998 in Belfast City Hospital. Born 1909 in Berlin. Retired research bacteriologist and widow of Alexander ('Olo') Landau, civic architect. Loved and missed.

Meyer. Ruth Meyer born Zwickau 1927. Kindertransport 1939, Stootley Rough School, died 5 April in her 71st year. Fondly remembered by her family and friends.

Cooper. Alfred Cooper (né Cohen) from Hamburg, who passed away 9.3.98, came to England in 1939 by Kindertransport, was interned in Australia, then enlisted in the British Army. He will be sadly missed by his wife Ruth, son Peter, daughter Yvonne and family.

Reid. Lea Luise Reid, born Berlin 18.8.1903, died peacefully 10.5.1998. Beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Will be sadly missed by Marion and Peter, John and Jackie, Lauren and Adrian, Adam, Karen, Jacob and Jonathan.

CLASSIFIED Miscellaneous

Heine. Heine's Werke, complete set of 6 volumes, Morocco Leather, gilt edged, perfect, absolutely mint condition, beautifully and liberally illustrated. Published c. 1900 by Sigmund Bensing, Vienna. £95 o.n.o. Radlett (01923) 856903.

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Personal

Richard Hacker QC, son of AJR members Lilli and Sam Hacker, and husband of Sarah who is an AJR volunteer, is congratulated on his appointment as Queen's Counsel.

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Shirley Lever at the **Paul Balint AJR Day Centre**
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Art Notes

The Power of the Poster at the Victoria and Albert Museum until July 26 is a hugely entertaining exhibition featuring over 300 posters from Toulouse-Lautrec to Saatchi & Saatchi. Included are some of the best-known and visually arresting images by major artists and designers of the past hundred years, illustrating the impact of the poster on daily life throughout the world. The exhibition highlights the strengths that make the poster such a powerful influence on entertainment, art, propaganda, politics, social issues and commerce.

The Israeli landscape is the subject of an exhibition at the Sternberg Centre until June 28 by **Hadassah Berry** and **Judith Yellin Ginat**, both of whom live and work in Jerusalem. Hadassah Berry shows mixed media works on paper that contrast the landscape of ancient Israel with the development of modern towns and settlements, while Judith Yellin Ginat's watercolours, collages and etchings are inspired by Jerusalem, the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea, the Gulf of Eilat and Sinai.

The Tate Gallery offers an opportunity to view a selection of new works by **Lucian Freud**, most of which have not previously been publicly exhibited, having passed into private collections. Among the twenty paintings and five works on paper are portraits of the artist's daughters and Freud's recent self portrait etching, the only print to date in which he has depicted himself. (June 3-July 26).

Peter Doig's vivid paintings at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (June 12 - August 16) explore subject matter ranging from night scenes to snowscapes, often capturing a heightened sense of atmosphere. At the same gallery, **Aubrey Williams** working in a style that moves between figuration and abstraction, combines in his paintings the experiences of Pre-Columbian culture and Modernism.

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 1998, the annual extravaganza that brings together paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints and models by both professional and amateur artists, runs from June 2 to August 16.

□ **Barry Fealdman**



SB's Column

Festival of European Culture – a preview. From June 21st nine Central European countries (including Croatia and Slovenia) will jointly present a showcase of contemporary art and culture featuring their traditions as well as recent achievements. The venues include the London Barbican Concert Hall, the Bloomsbury Theatre and various UK exhibition halls. Representatives from the countries concerned will be discussing their future role in the now unrestricted field of cultural activity.

Austria's postwar cultural life enriched. Of the many individuals engaged in the arts who left Austria 60 years ago, only few returned after the war. They included composer/conductor Robert Stolz who had emigrated because – in his own words – all his friends had gone; writers Ernst Lothar, Friedrich Torberg and Heinrich Schnitzler; Burgtheater *doyenne* Else Wohlgenuth and her colleague Karl Eidlitz; and Marcel Prawy, close friend of Leonard Bernstein, who introduced the American musical to the Vienna Volksoper and made it a lasting institution. Hans Weigel returned from Switzerland, and Stella Kadmon (of 'Lieber Augustin' fame) from Israel.

Salzburg. Within the Böhlau Verlag's series on Austria's nine provinces the volume on Salzburg concentrates on culture and its effects on tourism. Central to

the subject is the famous trio of Max Reinhardt, Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Alfred Roller who in 1920 inaugurated the Salzburg Festival which has successfully endured to the present day.

Birthday. 'Burg' actress Susi Nicoletti has turned 80 but not retired. A member of the ensemble since the forties she married the late Ernst Haeussermann (himself a returnee from the States and director from 1958-1968) □

50 YEARS AGO

THE GOEBBELS DIARIES

One of the revelations in Goebbels' Diaries is the admission that there was opposition in Germany to the anti-Jewish policy as late as 1943. This opposition has on some occasions obviously taken turbulent forms which coerced Goebbels to make the following admissions:

"We are now definitely pushing the Jews out of Berlin. They were suddenly rounded up last Saturday and are to be carted off to the East as quickly as possible. Unfortunately our better circles, especially the intellectuals, once again have failed to understand our policy about the Jews and in some cases have even taken their part. As a result our plans were disclosed prematurely and a lot of Jews slipped through our hands."

AJR Information, June 1948

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

Brecht and the Jews

This year sees the centenary of the birth of Germany's most famous twentieth-century playwright. Bertolt Brecht was born into a middle-class family in Augsburg, but rebelled against the conventions of bourgeois life. His early plays like *Baal* and *Drums in the Night*, for which he was awarded the Kleist Prize in 1922, display an anarchical energy and brutal cynicism that deliberately affronted middle-class society. The spectacular success of *The Threepenny Opera* (1928), a reworking of John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, with Kurt Weill's haunting, jazz influenced songs, made Brecht an immortal part of the myth of Berlin in the Golden Twenties.

By that time Brecht was undergoing the conversion to Marxism that would decisively affect his life and work, leading him to a new conception of the theatre, which he called the 'Epic Theatre'. By introducing what he called 'alienation effects' (*Verfremdungseffekte*) into his plays, Brecht intended to disrupt the closed form of the conventional drama and to distance the spectators from the events and characters on stage, thus allowing them to reflect rationally on the play's action.

Forced to flee in 1933, Brecht took refuge in a succession of European countries, changing his land of residence, as he put it in one of his poems, more often than his shoes. Finally, he left Finland in 1941, travelled across the USSR and reached safety in California – which he loathed. Hauled before Senator McCarthy's House Committee on un-American Activities as a suspected Communist, Brecht left post-war America and settled in East Berlin, where he founded the Berliner Ensemble. Cunning to the last, however, he kept an Austrian passport, a Swiss bank account and a West German publisher, Suhrkamp. In exile, Brecht moderated the strictness of his Epic Theatre and produced his best known masterpieces: *Galileo*, *The Good Person of Sezuán*, *Mother Courage and her Children* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. He died in 1956.

Brecht was no antisemite: there is not a hint of anti-Jewish feeling in his works; his wife, the famous actress Helene Weigel, was Jewish, as were all the main composers he worked with, Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler and Paul Dessau. One of the most telling indictments of the impact

of Nazi anti-Semitism on everyday life comes in his play *The Private Life of the Master Race* (1935-38), in the famous scene 'Die jüdische Frau', where a Jewish wife has to come to terms with her betrayal by her friends and her husband.

Yet Brecht's analysis of Nazi racial policy and the persecution of the Jews is deeply flawed. Like many doctrinaire Marxists, he believed that the only social conflict of importance was the class war, and that National Socialism was simply an extreme form of the dictatorship of the capitalist class in its unceasing battle to suppress the working class. Hitler was, for Brecht, an agent of capitalism, never



Bertolt Brecht

an autonomous political force in his own right, and his racial doctrines were therefore a secondary phenomenon, part of a phoney ideological smoke-screen set up to secure the *Führer* access to the levers of power. Once in power, he could promote capitalist economic interests unhindered by trade unions and the political parties of the working-class left. Class, not race, was the key to understanding Nazi policies.

So convinced was Brecht that racial policy, far from being absolutely fundamental to Nazi politics, was merely a weapon in the suppression of the working class, that in his Hitler play *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, antisemitism is not mentioned – and this in a work written as late as 1941, when it had become chillingly clear that the war against the Jews was one of Hitler's top priorities. The words 'Jude' and 'jüdisch' never appear in the play, nor does the persecu-

tion of the Jews, for the simple reason that there are no Jews and Aryans, only the workers and the capitalist profiteers who bankroll the gangster Ui (Hitler) into power. Interestingly, Brecht had a few years earlier written a prose fragment called *The History of Giacomo Ui*, which tells of a racist demagogue in medieval Padua who turns the locals against the city's Greek minority, but in 1941, with the 'Final Solution' imminent, Brecht found it ideologically expedient simply to omit racial policy from his Ui drama.

Even more striking is the misreading of the situation in *The Round-Heads and the Pointed-Heads*, written earlier in the 1930s: the Viceroy of an imaginary Latin American state (President Hindenburg), representing right-wing and capitalist interests, hands over power to the racist demagogue Angelo Iberin, who preaches to the Round-Heads (Aryans) that salvation lies in destroying the Pointed-Heads (Jews).

Iberin duly succeeds in splitting the working class and averting a proletarian revolution, whereupon the Viceroy reappears and takes power back from Iberin, consigning him and his nonsensical racial theories to obscurity. The notion of Hitler as the agent for saving the capitalists' bacon in an economic crisis could hardly be more clearly expressed. To underline the victory of class over race, the play ends with the rich Round-Heads and the rich Pointed-Heads feasting together, while the poor of both clans are executed together.

To write a play like this in 1934 was perhaps understandable, though its final scene is now, in the light of the Holocaust, deeply offensive. What makes it more so is that Brecht was otherwise meticulous in removing ideologically unacceptable elements from his dramas. Thus, when he discovered that Charles Lindbergh had pro-Nazi sympathies, he removed his name from his play about the first solo flight across the Atlantic. He also painstakingly revised his early play *Drums in the Night* in the 1950s for the East German edition of his plays, in an attempt to make its presentation of the Spartacist Uprising of January 1919 more acceptable to the Communist regime. But he made no such effort to revise *The Round-Heads and the Pointed-Heads*, where amendment was urgently called for. Where Marxist ideology was concerned, Brecht was, in the last analysis, even prepared to fudge the historical reality of the Holocaust.

□ Anthony Grenville

AJR-sponsored Resource Centre at Beth Shalom

Many thousands of people have visited Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre since September 1995. Students have been powerfully moved by our exhibition and challenged by the implications of the Holocaust; those who have visited know we are determined to give the next generation the opportunity to learn from the experiences of people who suffered Nazi persecution.

Yet to do this properly, the need to create an effective Resource Centre to support our educational activity and to make a wider range of materials available quickly became clear. A generous grant from the Association of Jewish Refugees has been extremely beneficial in this respect, allowing us to purchase a colour copier and proceed with developing a computerised index system.

This exciting resource facility prevents important material from being lost in vast filing cabinets, making it readily ac-



James Smith at Beth Shalom's website.

cessible to visitors, students and schoolchildren alike. A cross referencing index allows a researcher to type in a key word, for example Kristallnacht or deportation, and then find everything in the Centre relevant to their search. The colour copying of photographs and documents allows users to view and handle high resolution materials, without damaging fragile originals; nearly 1000 photographs have already been colour-copied and are in the process of being catalogued.

Importantly this archive includes not only material relating to the Final Solu-

tion itself, but also an increasing number of photographs, newspapers, books and published documents from '20s and '30s Germany which are crucial to aid our understanding of the steps which culminated in catastrophe for the Jewish communities of Europe.

Many powerful and moving testimonies from survivors and refugees have been published in recent years, and more are being written which, due to the constraints of time and money, often remain unpublished. As many of these as possible must be recorded before being lost to posterity; more than 50 of these unpublished testimonies are already on file in Beth Shalom's Resource Centre.

The AJR grant has also helped finance the maintenance of Beth Shalom's new website, which both provides information about the activities of our organisation and includes a developing list of other Holocaust related sites, organisations and individuals. Institutions wishing to be registered can visit the site and fill in their details online. Our library index is also on the web, enabling prospective visitors to check this in advance.

Internet users will find us at: <http://www.bethshalom.com>

□ Dr James Smith, Director, Beth Shalom

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - JUNE 1998

- Ongoing: Surviving the Holocaust with the Russian Jewish Partisans:** Story of Jack Kagan, Jewish Museum, Finchley (until September) Sun-Thurs, £2
- Britain, Zionism & British Jews:** Jewish Museum, Camden Town (until 21 June) Sun-Thurs, 10am-4pm, £3
- Tue 2 **The Holocaust in History, Memory & Education:** Stephen Smith, Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre. Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Thur 4 **Lunchtime Recital:** Timothy Peake, piano. Sternberg Centre, £2, 1.15pm
- Thur 4 **Memoirs of a Fascist Childhood:** Trevor Grundy. Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £2
- Mon 8 **Iran's Unknown 20th Century History:** Harry Leyrer MA. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 9 **Post-Unification East German Literature:** Astrid Köhler, QM & Westfield College. Sussex University, 5.15pm

- Thur 11 **Growing Up in Jewish Post-War Germany:** Elena Lappin, former editor, Jewish Quarterly. Wiener Library, 6.30, £2
- Sun 14 **Revenge or Justice?:** Symposium with Joseph Harmatz, Hyam Maccoby, Rabbi Dr Louis Jacobs & film. Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4, 8pm, £5. Bookings: Spiro Institute, 0171 431 0345.
- Mon 15 **Samuel Beckett & Ireland:** Roy W Clements BA. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 16 **Modern Hebrew Literature -18 International Conference:** Institute of Jewish Studies, University College London. Admission Free. Tel: 0171 380 7171
- Tue 16 **Holocaust Exhibition 2,000:** Terry Charman, Imperial War Museum. Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Thur 18 **Lunchtime Recital:** Anya Szreter-Kelly, soprano, Roderick Leece, piano. Sternberg Centre, £2, 1.15pm
- Thur 18 **First & Second Generations, a shared memory?:** Marion Hamm. Wiener Library, 6.30pm, £2

- Sun 21 **Can We Learn to Get Along?:** Trevor Phillips, broadcaster & journalist. Wiener Library, Hugo Gryn Lecture, 1998. Brunei Gallery, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, London University, 6pm, £5
- Sun 21 **Memorial Candle:** film by Kirsten Warner focusing on 2nd and 3rd generation issues. Second Generation Network, 2 Egerton Gardens, NW4, 8pm, £5
- Mon 22 **Holocaust Education in USA:** Stephen Feinberg, Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington. Wiener Library, 6.30, £2
- Mon 22 **Second Australian visit:** Herbert Malinow MA FRGS. Club 43, 8pm
- Tue 23 **The Kaiser's Germany:** John Röhl's autobiographical reminiscences. Sussex University, 5.15pm
- Thur 25 **Rosa's Child, a search for a lost mother & a vanished past:** Susi Bechhöfer. Wiener Library, 6.30, £2
- Mon 29 **Brecht evening:** Ernst Flesch MA and Hans Seelig MA (in English & German). Club 43, 8pm

Cooking with Gretel Beer



Apricot Pudding

The perfect finish to a light salad meal – and nothing could be simpler.

1 lb (450g) apricots
 4½ fl oz (125ml) white wine
 2 tablespoons sugar
 4 eggs
 3 oz (80g) icing sugar
 2 oz (60g) ground walnuts or hazelnuts
 1 scant oz (25g) fine breadcrumbs
 1½ oz (40g) melted butter
 butter and breadcrumbs (or ground hazelnuts) for the dish

Butter a large gratin dish and dust with fine breadcrumbs or ground hazelnuts.

Stone the apricots and poach them in the wine with the two tablespoons sugar until just tender – do not overcook. (Two or three crushed apricot stones – the brown skin comes off quite easily – poached with the apricots greatly improve the flavour).

Separate egg yolks and whites. Whisk the whites until stiff, then whisk in half the icing sugar until well blended. Whisk in the egg yolks one by one and then whisk in the remaining sugar. Fold in ground walnuts or hazelnuts and the breadcrumbs. Finally fold in the melted – but not hot – butter. Put half the mixture into a buttered gratin dish, cover with the drained apricots and pile the remaining mixture on top. Bake at Gas Mark 5 (375°F, 190°C) and for the first ten minutes of the baking time leave the oven door the smallest bit open – just do not close it properly. After ten minutes close the oven door firmly and bake the pudding until it is golden brown on top. It tastes equally good hot or cold, but I prefer it when it is just warm, with a fine sprinkling of vanilla sugar on top □

SEARCH NOTICES

Austrian-Jewish memoirs. The *Institut für Geschichte der Juden in Österreich* seeks unpublished autobiographies written by former Austrian Jews, i.e. former inhabitants of the Hapsburg Monarchy and the Republic of Austria. Such memoirs (often recorded for the author's children and grandchildren) are of great value to historians, recording the fate of an individual and as source material. Please contact Institut für Geschichte, Dr Albert Lichtblau, Rudolfskai 42, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria.

Ruwin (b. Latvia) and Otilie Itziksohn of Leipzig. Knowledge of them and their friends is anxiously sought by their son Benno in Israel who, only two years old, went to the Jewish School for the Deaf in Berlin, transferred to England in July 1939. Please contact Benno Icgison, POB 5052, Kiriath Sharet, Holon 58151, Israel. Fax: 03-550 2413.

Jews from Trabon (or nearby Chum) in the Czech Republic, their relatives and friends, are being sought by Northwood and Pinner Synagogue researcher attempting to protect the town's Jewish cemetery from sale. Please call Mrs Price: 0181 950 8205.

Renée & Herta Chomed, Geneva 1951, are being sought by their friend Rosemarie (now Fox). Please contact at 142 Chemin de l'Anse, Rigaud, Québec, JOP IPO, Canada. Tel: 514 451 0892.

Ernst Neustadter, almost certainly from Bielefeld, arrived England just prior WWII. Married Beate Lux 1956, daughter of Dr Bruno and Mrs Helen (Shaps) Lux; lived at 121 Maida Vale London W9. Son Jeremy born 1961. Family being sought by David Lewin, 156 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8JJ. Tel: 0181 446 0404.

All-male Kindertransport group being planned to share experiences in relaxed and confidential setting. Please pass on this information and/or call Ruth Barnett: 0171 431 0837.

Doctorate student at Sussex University wishes to interview female

German-Jewish refugees from Cologne and Berlin – Kindertransport/ Jawne Gymnasium, etc. Interest in their German and/or English education. Monica Lowenberg, 32 Grosvenor Crescent, Kingsbury, London NW9 9DA. Tel: 0181 204 8934.

Maria (Mariechen) Loebinger, née Heller, Auschwitz survivor (where her husband Guenther perished), came to London 1948 and died April 1997. Cousin Alice Young (née Muskat), her son Ralph, his wife Sophia and children Howard and Rosalind Aubrey lived in Wembley in the 1960s. Would any of these, their Muskat, Pomeranz or Brumberg relatives in the USA, or their heirs, contact Mrs J Richmond, OSHA, Osmond House, The Bishops Avenue, London N2 0BG.

Jewish Lawyers in Leipzig 1871-1945. PhD student seeks information on lawyers who emigrated to UK between 1933 and 1939: Dr Wilhelm Harmelin, Max Heilpern, Dr Arthur Kaufmann, Dr Ludwig Lehrfreund, Dr Hans Löwenheim, Herbert Strauss, Dr Paul Zander, Elisabeth Fein, Karl Herling, Dr Jakob Braude, Dr Walter Franke. Anyone in contact with above-named families or those of other Jewish lawyers from Leipzig, please contact Steffen Held, Simon-Dubnow-Institut für jüdische Geschichte und Kultur eV, Universität Leipzig, Augustusplatz 9, D-04109 Leipzig, Germany. Tel: 0341-973235-0.

Lisa Kraus who lived in Vienna III, is being sought by her childhood friend Liesl Fehl. Would anyone who knew or was related to her please contact Elise Harvey, 23 Plantation Avenue, Alwoodley, Leeds 17 8TB. Tel: 0113 268 0502.

Rastenburg-Ostpreussen (now Ketrzyn, Poland). Former resident is researching history of the town's Jewish community and seeking former residents/their families. Mr G Dantowitz lived in Ilford area; Mrs Powisteitski and two sons went to Hong Kong. Please contact FL Krawolitski, Löhestrasse 32, 91054 Erlangen, Germany. Tel: 09131-54199 □

AUSTRIAN and GERMAN PENSIONS

PROPERTY RESTITUTION CLAIMS, EAST GERMANY- BERLIN

On instructions our office will assist to deal with your applications and pursue the matter with the authorities.

For further information and appointment please contact:

ICS CLAIMS, 146-154 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 4JD

Tel: 0171-328 7251 (Ext. 107) · Fax: 0171-624 5002

Obituaries

Rudi Jones

Berlin-born Rudi Jones, who has died aged 85, epitomised survival in every sense – spiritual, intellectual and physical. Prevented from entering Berlin University when Hitler came to power, Rudi left for Paris where he graduated in political science at the prestigious Ecole des Sciences Politiques, alongside such contemporaries as the future French president, François Mitterrand.

By then Rudi had already met his future bride – the aspiring singer Eva Solon, a feisty daughter of the intellectual bourgeoisie. Eva followed Rudi to Paris where she became a torch singer, delivering iconoclastic political *chansons* at the anti-Nazi cabaret, *La Terne*, under the noses of Nazi Embassy officials.

The couple married in 1935. Rudi did investigative work for the World Jewish Congress, and at the outbreak of war he volunteered for the British Expeditionary Force. In 1940 he and Eva made a dramatic escape across the Pyrenees to Spain, where they were interned. Eva lost the baby she was carrying, a tragedy deepened by the eradication of Rudi's entire family in Nazi Germany. Their daughter Annette, born in Britain in 1948, later adopted the singing career Eva had been forced to abandon.

In London Rudi became a journalist, editing the trade paper *Solid Fuel*, broadcasting for the BBC World Service, and writing for *Die Zeitung*. However, as his bent was clearly towards the academic world, he and his wife took up remarkable new careers. Eva became a successful novelist, writing in her adopted English, with Rudi as her mentor. She, on the other hand, was his muse, guiding him back into the academic world. At 67 he took an MA in International History at the London School of Economics and eight years later a PhD on Franco's Spain.

Ravaged by his wife's death, Rudi picked up his lecturing career and devoted himself to the publication of Eva's last two novels. His contribution to Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation of eight hours of video archive material, which details his daring escape during the war, brought him some sense of regeneration and remains a poignant epitaph to an heroic and indomitable spirit. □ Gloria Tessler

Ruth Gawthorpe Rath

A princess in Jewry

This past winter saw the very sad and untimely passing, after a long illness bravely borne, of Ruth (Joyce) Rath.

Ruth was the perfect example of a true convert. She became interested in Judaism after being matron of the Heinrich Stahl home in The Bishop's Avenue.

As a loyal daughter of Israel she was concerned that the kashrut facilities in the home were not up to the standard taught by the London Beth Din in the course of her conversion. She worked with great enthusiasm and tirelessly to give the residents a kosher, warm, truly Jewish atmosphere, and was loved and admired by them all.

She endeared herself to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Jewish community by her efforts and regular synagogue attendance, and indeed by all who came into contact with her.

In 1988 she married Karl Rath and, together with him, set up a perfect Jewish home in Hendon. They had nine and a half years of married bliss and companionship until she succumbed to cancer this winter.

She is sadly missed by her husband, adopted family and many friends.

□ Frances Winegarten

Peter Diamand

Berlin-born Peter Diamand exemplified the beneficial influence of German Jewish refugees on the cultural life of their host countries. After studying law and journalism he found employment as private secretary to the pianist Artur Schnabel and went to Italy with him, thereby acquiring a taste for the arts and experience of the nuts and bolts of artistic life.

In 1939 he moved to Holland. After the Nazi invasion he helped to organise Jewish musical life till he was taken to Westerbork concentration camp, from which he managed to escape. In hiding, he helped devise plans for the Holland Festival of Music and Art, which came into being in 1948, with him as director for the following 17 years.

In 1965 he accepted the directorship of the Edinburgh Festival. The length of his tenure – 13 years, until he reached retirement age at 65 – testifies to his success.

He gave the Festival its truly international character and made it the outstanding event it is today, attracting both visitors and highly acclaimed artists from all over the world.

Yet he was very different from his predecessors who had included the legendary Rudolf Bing and Lord Harewood. Small in stature, of scholarly appearance, quiet and mild-mannered, he did not seem at all equipped to stand up to the parsimonious, and somewhat overpowering, Edinburgh city fathers. When he appeared with them on TV, the combination looked almost hilariously incongruous. They did practically all the talking – he hardly got a word in edgewise. But appearances were deceptive: Peter Diamand knew precisely what he wanted and possessed an iron determination coupled with a gift for diplomacy. So, by and large, David managed to prevail over Goliath – or, rather, the Goliaths – except in one instance: he could not persuade them to grant the funds for a new, badly needed opera house. Lack of the latter did not however prevent him from putting on memorable opera performances in the old building. It was during this time that he was appointed an hon. CBE, and he received honours in no fewer than five other countries.

After leaving the Festival and an interlude as administrator of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, he spent a season with La Scala, Milan and subsequently became assistant to Daniel Barenboim both during and after the latter's Paris tenure. At the same time he was appointed artistic adviser to the Orchestre de Paris, a post he held until his death. A performance by the Orchestra of the Verdi Requiem under Giulini, which he had helped to plan, was dedicated to his memory.

As a person he was reserved, yet an excellent companion with a wonderful sense of humour and an inexhaustible fund of anecdotes. It is a pity that he steadfastly refused to write his memoirs. However, he did make numerous highly successful broadcasts for French radio about artists he had known, playing recordings of their work, interspersed with stories about them. Though the BBC has so far not been interested in acquiring them, it is to be hoped that they will still be made available to British music-lovers. Peter Diamand was an outstanding personality whose memory needs to be preserved.

□ C F Flesch

NEWSROUND

Camp commander for trial

Former commander of Croatia's Jasenovac concentration camp from 1942 to 1944 under pro-Nazi Croat dictator Ante Pavelic, 76-year-old Dinko Sakic, is being extradited from Argentina to stand trial in Croatia. Half a million Jews, Serbs and Gypsies were murdered at the camp.

Confiscated assets listed

The names of 25,000 owners of wartime assets, confiscated under the 1939 Trading with the Enemy Act, have been published by the UK Government. A further 5,000 are to be added, while British banks plan to add to the 1,000 dormant accounts already identified.

Bank settles account

Credit Suisse Bank has agreed to settle the claim of Holocaust survivor Estelle Sapir for restitution of accounts held by her Polish banker father who died in 1943. The settlement, in New York, may act as a precedent for 40,000 similar cases pending.

Preservation order

Tzipora Frank, whose family owned part of the land upon which Auschwitz extermination camp stood, plans to retain the title deeds in order to preserve the site from development.

Trans-European

Eurovision song contest winner Dana International confirmed the wide appeal of Israel's pop music scene, while representing the country's trans-sexual community. Orthodox rabbis are already drawing battle lines to prevent next year's contest taking place in Jerusalem.

Bann called

Social Democrat Gerhard Glogowski has called for the right-wing German People's Union, which gained a 15% share of the votes in Saxony-Anhalt, to be banned. Germany's Interior Minister Manfred Kanther reported that right-wing activities are now at their highest levels since WWII with most recruits from the East.

Extremist website offline

Muslim internet website Al Muhajiroun, part of the extremist organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir, has been closed for targeting Jewish groups and institutions with anti-Holocaust and anti-Israel propaganda.

□ RDC

A rabbi spurned?

It is not a feminist issue, insisted a council member at West London Synagogue, where uproar over the appointment of American *super-rabbi* Mark Winer, at an annual salary of £100,000, almost upstaged Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations. Yet for Jacqueline Tabick, the woman left out in the cold, it can hardly seem like anything else. Jackie is one of the British Reform movement's first and longest serving women rabbis, with 21 years at West London behind her. But she is almost certainly a victim of circumstance. One of those circumstances is the role and personality of her late mentor, the warm and humanitarian Rabbi Hugo Gryn. Jackie's eulogy at his funeral service, in front of a packed and multi-ecclesiastic audience, was a brilliant and moving tribute to the man in whose light – rather than shadow – she had stood loyally for so long.

Had a straw poll been taken then and there, Jackie would have inherited the mantle of the man whose mission she knew better than anyone. But Hugo's funeral and memorial service also brought out of the woodwork all those pernicious old Anglo-Jewish shibboleths about who and what exactly is a Jew. Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks re-opened that rusty can of worms with his singeing, secret attack on the man as a Torah destroyer until it was leaked to the national press. The unspoken response within Reform Judaism was – who can follow an act like Hugo's? Who can take on the Chief Rabbi? Should there be a single British Chief Rabbi at all, if he cannot live with the 20 percent of the Anglo-Jewish community which comprises the Progressives?

The rest, so they say, is history. Jonathan Sacks may be Chief Rabbi, but in an unspoken way the flagship synagogue for British Jewry is the towering neo-classical, domed edifice in Seymour Place which claims a membership of 3,000. Of 1,885 voters for Hugo's successor, 77 percent went for the so-called 'hotshot' Rabbi Winer, the Harvard and Yale educated ex-Texan footballer. So seriously did West London take its election, in fact, that it was conducted through the Electoral Reform Society to avoid any accusations of vote rigging.

Winer is certainly a world player. He helped broker Israel-Vatican relations, was involved with the Foreign Ministry of

Ethiopia over the release of 'Falashas' in 1991 in 'Operation Solomon', and had a hand in the removal of the Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz. Furthermore, he is said to be a charismatic preacher. Cometh the hour, it is said, cometh the man. Or woman? *Hath not a Jew eyes?* Cannot a woman lead?

No skin off Winer's nose. He is certainly a most impressive personality, but it is easier to empathise with Jackie Tabick, clearly so upset that she has taken a sabbatical. She may not have been thought the right person for the job by the glitzy West London Synagogue, which is noted for its celebrity membership, but Jackie is definitely appreciated as an "outstanding parochial rabbi for any normal synagogue in this country", according to one view. An observer explained that the synagogue wanted someone of much wider experience.

This is galling for a woman whose loyalty to her post now invited mincing criticism of her so-called limited experience in the Jewish world. And while her job as assistant rabbi is considered by insiders to be better paid than most, defeat is hard to stomach. But West London sees itself as a fast mover in the world of Jewish affairs. Interfaith awareness and global approaches are its buzz-words. Behind this sophistry lies a deeper issue. Anglo-Jewry is in disarray once more, reflecting Israel's unease with her own identity. The Orthodox-Progressive tensions, carefully controlled by Lord Jakobovits' ministry as Chief Rabbi, have been torn assunder by Chief Rabbi Sacks in a desperate attempt to appease the religious right. As always, such confusion spreads, and when prominent Jews like Labour MP Gerald Kaufman choose to attack the pomposity of the Board of Deputies, it is symptomatic of a deeper, inner identity problem.

So, back to the Tabick-Winer controversy. It seems that West London Synagogue is preparing to 'take on' the Chief Rabbi and the great Anglo-Jewish debate. But is this a war we are talking about, or an exercise in religious unity? Surely the faith and dedication of a trusted woman rabbi, who did not seek greater glory outside the parish but remained quietly with her flock implementing the work of a great and humble man, would have done more for the ethics of the faith than all the sabre-rattling and power-broking of the world's hotshots.

□ Gloria Tessler