

## Don't miss . . .

**Fathers and sons**  
Richard Grunberger p3

**Studies of exile**  
Edgar Feuchtwanger p4

**Remembering victims of the Shoah**  
Chief Rabbi  
Dr Jonathan Sacks p14

## Projection

**A** Jew's sins can be ritually transferred to an expendable fowl. Even now, more paranoid 'tribes' project their own shortcomings on to outgroups.

The 1930s catchphrase 'It's all the fault of Jews' – with the jokey addendum 'and the cyclists' – has lately been updated to 'It's all the fault of the Jews and gays'.

In the Russian presidential elections the Liberal candidate Yavlinsky was dubbed 'a creature of the Jews and homosexuals'. Louis Farrakhan targets the same two groups. Robert Mugabe sees the Blair cabinet as dominated by an 'epicene' – in place of Old Labour's 'militant' – tendency; his Jews are, of course, the Whites □

## Uncivil civil warriors

**A** country is more than a mere agglomeration of people speaking the same language and occupying the same space; its inhabitants are also bound together by a set of shared values. When agreement on what constitutes those core values breaks down a society begins to drift towards civil war.

This happened in Stuart England where the King's assertion of divine right clashed with the aspirations of parliament. In France serial revolutions (1789, 1830, 1848) didn't settle related issues; it was only with de Gaulle's triumph over Pétain that the long-smouldering civil war touched off by the Dreyfus Trial finally came to an end. In Lincoln's day Americans fought a bloody civil war over slavery. A century later the issue of Vietnam provoked a (largely) bloodless civil war within the USA, in the course of which one side dissented so violently from shared values that it took to burning the national flag.

However radicalised those flag burners were, it would not have occurred to them to vandalise Washington's Arlington cemetery, the country's memorial to its war dead. That type of gut-wrenching desecration was left to our homegrown anarchists, who on May Day defaced the Cenotaph and the statue of Churchill on Parliament Square. (Fortunately the bronze of the statue proved as resistant to aerosol spray damage as Churchill's reputation did to the mudslinging of the revisionists Charmley and Alan Clark.) What the anarcho-yobs in their delusion-fuelled frenzy chose to overlook was that if it hadn't been for Churchill each of them would have been born with the Nazi jackboot on their necks.

Modern Britain is, alas, not the only society whose extremists feel a spiritually justified need for desecrating national symbols. If London outdoes Washington in the ignominy heaped on its war dead, Jerusalem presents an

even bleaker picture. This was a Mea She'arim street scene at 10am on last month's *Yom Hasboab*: 'All the traffic stopped dead. Most pedestrians around me also stood still in the sunshine in mute, sad silence. But it was brief, incomplete and interrupted. Dozens of ultra-Orthodox men carried on with their business as usual... One strode through the halted traffic planting anti-Zionist leaflets on wind-screens. Another ran up to a car flying a Star of David from the roof, ripped it off, flung it to the ground and stamped on it'. (*The Independent*, 3 May 2000).

Thus did the *baredim* observe Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day. They disrupted the heartrending moment when the entire nation comes to a halt to focus its thoughts on the indescribable sufferings of all Israel's next-of-kin; not content with which one also defiled the symbol of the state which protects them and guarantees their rights.

What distinguishes those uncivil warriors from the mad mullahs of Teheran is not their mindset, but the fact that they have little access to the levers of state power. Besides which *baredim* 'only' want to impose their way of life on co-religionists, whereas Islamic fundamentalism dreams of spreading the 'true faith' by force across the entire globe □



Survivors light memorial candles to the six million victims of the Shoah during commemoration ceremonies held in central London. (See page 16)

## Profile

## Diminutive action-woman

**M**argot Barnard, née Kober, was born in 1919 in the Rhineland town of Beuel. Her action-packed life can be said to be in inverse proportion to her size – she is 4'11"! Margot was a founder member of the Bonn left-wing Zionist Youth Movement Hashomer Hatzair. Faced with her parents' disapproval of her Zionist activities, she ran away from home at the age of 14 to live with an uncle in Hamburg. Her parents eventually supported her application for *Jugend Aliyah* and, at just three days notice, she emigrated to Palestine in 1936, knowing she would never see her parents again. They were deported in 1942 and did not survive.

Margot arrived in Palestine on the notorious *Patria* and started her new life working in the fields of Kibbutz Beth Sera, later moving to Haifa in a vain attempt to obtain immigration certificates for her parents. In 1941 she moved to Jerusalem where she met her husband to be, Ted, a British soldier with his own



Margot Barnard

BBC Radio Palestine comedy programme. Despite having pacifist convictions, in 1942 she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and was stationed in the Egyptian desert.

Margot and Ted arrived in England as war ended May 1945. After the birth of their first son they quit military life for a while to entertain theatre audiences, but he signed on once again and the family was posted to Gibraltar, Nigeria and – in 1955 – to northern Germany. In preparation, Margot first returned alone to visit

her only surviving relative – an aunt married to a Christian – and to “see what it was like.” On entering the local supermarket in Beuel, she was recognised instantly, but met the defensive attitude familiar to visiting and returning Jews. Living in Germany with her British family in the late 1950s, Margot became convinced that Nazis had not disappeared overnight.

After her husband's untimely death in 1964, Margot began making contact with German youngsters, travelling to Germany to talk to them about the Holocaust and from 1983 her visits were put on an official footing. Now Margot visits Bonn at least three times a year to speak to schools, universities and inter-faith organisations. Her work also takes her to Israel and to France.

Passionate about the importance of what she is doing, Margot, an AJR member, feels that those with a life story like hers must look forward and use those experiences for the benefit of future generations. “It is important to tell the young people of Germany that they are not to blame for the Holocaust, but that they must be on their guard to prevent it recurring”, she asserts.

□ Marion Koebner

## Holocaust Exhibition opening at Imperial War Museum

**B**ritain's first permanent Holocaust Museum opens this month in a specially created wing of the Imperial War Museum. Video-taped testimony of Holocaust survivors in each section of the exhibition, as well as black and white newsreel footage, brings to life the exhibits and explanatory commentaries which chart the rise of National Socialism and the fate of Jews (and other victims) in Hitler's Germany.

The social and economic exclusion of Germany's Jews from 1933 onwards, the Nazi propaganda machine, the difficulties of emigration/immigration in the late 1930s (the Evian conference, Kindertransport), outbreak of war, ghettoisation, deportations and the camps all form individual sections in a carefully constructed story. Some space is devoted to aspects of resistance (escape, fighting with the partisans) and rescue (hiding Jews, diplomats using their powers to assist Jews



Gina Tessler, who lived in Prague, recalling how she obtained refuge in Britain.

wanting to leave Nazi-occupied countries). Liberation and the subsequent war crimes tribunals end the sequence.

The exhibition will be a magnet for schools; interactive screens referring to the different sections of the exhibition are available at the end of the 'Holocaust journey' for those who wish to deepen their knowledge of the events between 1933-1945. As well as being a strong educational tool, the exhibition also serves as a tribute and memorial to the millions of victims of National Socialism.

□ Marion Koebner

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the  
**ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH  
REFUGEES**

will be held on

**SUNDAY 25 June 2000**

3 pm at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

#### Agenda:-

Annual Report 1999

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Election of Committee of Management\*

#### Guest speaker:

**Dr Elisabeth Maxwell**

\* No person other than a committee member retiring by rotation shall be elected or re-elected a committee member at any general meeting unless:-

- he or she is recommended by the Committee of Management, or
- not less than twenty one clear days before the date appointed for the meeting, notice executed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting has been given to the Association of the intention to propose that person for election or re-election together with notice executed by that person of his or her willingness to be elected or re-elected.

#### Management Committee Election

Nomination received: Katherine Klinger

## Fathers and sons

Few people, I imagine, remember the novel *Strike the Father Dead* by John Wain, sometime Professor of Poetry at Oxford. It characteristically appeared in the 1960s, the decade of youthful rebellion, but the history of generational conflict stretches back into the mists of time. The Bible relates the story of Absalom's revolt against his father, King David, while the tale of the murder of Laius, King of Thebes, by his son Oedipus is one of the most powerfully abiding Greek myths.

In fact father *v* son conflict was an occupational hazard of royalty everywhere. In Russia Peter the Great had his suspect rebel son tortured to death. In Prussia the future Frederick the Great was made to watch the execution of his best friend on his father's orders to cure him of youthful rebelliousness. In England the Prince Regent conspired with the Whig opposition against George III and his Tory ministers. In Austria Crown Prince Rudolf penned attacks on Franz Joseph's government's conservative policies in the Liberal (Jewish-owned) *Neues Wiener Tagblatt*. He compounded this rare positive act of rebellion by a whole series of negative ones: gambling, drug taking, sexual excess and, finally, suicide.

Though Diaspora Jewry, for obvious reasons, had no royal dynasty of its own, it produced diverse quasi-aristocracies – religious, financial, cultural etc – which were no strangers to Oedipal conflict. One such was the Mendelssohn 'clan', whose founder Moses, the foremost bridgebuilder between Judaism and Western civilisation, had sons all of whom converted to Christianity. Then there were the Rathenaus who belonged to the economic elite of Wilhelminian Germany. While father Emil focused his energies on building up the country's electrical industry, his son (and successor) Walter found additional time for authorship of politico-philosophical works. Less than enamoured of his son's extra-mural activities, Emil famously quipped 'My son's books are easier to write than to read.'

Concurrently in Austria the public-spirited physician Viktor Adler founded the Social Democratic Party, which scored a signal victory for peaceful democratic change by achieving universal suffrage in 1907. His son Friedrich assassinated Chancellor Count Stürgkh in 1916, received a life sentence, but was amnestied

at the end of the war (and later became Secretary of the Second, or Socialist, International).

Postwar Austria was a small country, which young men with ambition left for Germany. One such was Arnolt Bronnen (alias Arnold Bronner). The author of a play significantly entitled *Vatermord* (Patricide), Bronnen was the son of a Jewish father and a gentile mother. Under the Nazi regime he made his mother sign an affidavit attesting that he was the offspring of her adulterous liaison with an Aryan.

At about the same time the German-Jewish Communist Horst Brasch escaped to England where he founded the FDJ or Free German Youth, which under his charismatic leadership recruited 600 members. Postwar he settled with his family in East Germany, whence his playwright son Thomas some decades later defected to the West, (a defection which must have struck the father as *Vaterlandsmord*, to coin a phrase).

Something similar, but with diametrically opposite consequences, occurred in the case of Sichrovsky *père* and *fils*. Harry Sichrovsky, a Jewish refugee, joined *Young Austria*, a parallel organisation to the FDJ, served with the British army in the Far East, and returned with his wife to postwar Vienna. At school their son Peter noticed that whereas all his classmates had grandparents, uncles and aunts, he had none. He blamed his parents for having reared him in Vienna, and started his writing career as a trenchant critic of the Nazi legacy in Germany and Austria. Then, some time in the mid-nineties, he underwent a mindboggling conversion and became Haider's chief Euro-MP at Brussels. Heaven only knows how the Jewish ex-Communists Harry and Lotte Sichrovsky feel about their son who has degraded himself into serving as a Goebbels-style mouthpiece for the Hitler admirer Jörg Haider!

□ Richard Grunberger

### Foley honoured

A road in his home town of Burnham-on-Sea in Somerset now bears the name of Frank Foley who saved 10,000 Jews by issuing passports from the British Embassy in Berlin in the late 1930s. The ecumenical ceremony was attended by Lord Janner whose nomination led to the diplomat's recognition by Yad Vashem.

## NEWTONS

Leading Hampstead Solicitors

22 Fitzjohn's Avenue,  
London NW3 5NB

- ★ All English legal work undertaken and German, Swiss & Austrian claims
- ★ German spoken
- ★ Home visits arranged

Tel: 020 7435 5351

Fax: 020 7435 8881

## PARTNER

in long established English Solicitors (bi-lingual German) would be happy to assist clients with English, German and Austrian problems. Contact

**Henry Ebner**

Myers Ebner & Deane  
103 Shepherds Bush Road  
London W6 7LP  
Telephone 020 7602 4631

**ALL LEGAL WORK  
UNDERTAKEN**

## 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: 020 7328 7251 (Ext. 107)

Fax: 020 7624 5002

## Reviews

## Studies of exile

Ian Wallace (ed) *GERMAN-SPEAKING EXILES IN GREAT BRITAIN*, Rodopi, Amsterdam – Atlanta, GA, 1999, £27.00.

The exodus from German-speaking Central Europe brought about by the rise of Hitler was arguably the most significant transfer of culture and learning in Europe since the fall of the Byzantine Empire. Exile studies have therefore become an important branch of academic endeavour, not least in the countries from whence the exodus came and where the extent of the bloodletting that occurred made its full impact on public awareness only in the last two decades. In relation to its size Great Britain ranks second to none as a recipient country and the German-speaking exiles in this country provide a fruitful focus for the work of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies which was set up at the Institute of Germanic Studies in the University of London in 1995. This is the first of their Yearbooks and a second and third volume are already in preparation.

Several contributions in the present volume are devoted to the work and personalities of well-known journalists and writers. Among the older generation there is Otto Lehmann-Russbüldt, here represented in an essay by Charmian Brinson and NA Furness. Lehmann-Russbüldt was already sixty when he managed miraculously to escape from Germany, having been included in the wave of arrests that followed the Reichstag fire on 27 February 1933. Prominent in the German peace movement in the First World War, he was during the Weimar period secretary of the *Liga für Menschenrechte*. He figured on the first list of prominent personalities deprived of citizenship by the Nazis on 23 August 1933. He tried valiantly to continue his activities in exile, encouraged by well-known British campaigners for international understanding such as Noel-Buxton, Wickham Steed and Lord Robert (not David, as the index would have it) Cecil. The ideological diversity of the politically active exiles is illustrated by Jonathan Ross in the contribution on Werner Ilberg, who remained a committed member of the KPD. Then there is Sebastian Haffner, probably the best remembered

of the political journalists among the exiles, who first made his name in Britain and then became influential in Germany. The essay on him in this volume, by Jörg Thunecke, argues that some of his writings, *Germany: Jekyll and Hyde* and *Anmerkungen zu Hitler* in particular, imply a refutation of Goldhagen's thesis of German 'eliminationist' antisemitism. An essay by Axel Goodbody deals with two literary exiles, Erich Fried and Michael Hamburger, and has much to say about the problem of language and bilingualism, a recurrent theme in this volume.

Hamburger once wrote that linguistically he felt himself to be in a no-man's land, but both he and Fried, in different ways, came to see a positive side to being positioned between two linguistic cultures. For Hamburger it became a central feature of his work.

Another group of contributions deals with some of the more institutional aspects of exile, the Warburg Institute, the BBC, in whose German Service many exiles found a way of fighting the Nazis to great effect, the *Thomas Mann Newsletter*, an excellent source of information on the German literary exile scene, and last but not least, *AJR Information*. As Anthony Grenville shows, this journal is not only an invaluable source for understanding the concerns of the refugee community, but, with editors of the intellectual standing of Freedman, Rosenstock and Grunberger, became, as a regular monthly from 1946, much more than an information bulletin. In the present volume literature and language hold pride of place, while other aspects, Jewishness for example, figure less prominently, but the breadth and significance of exile studies are well established.

□ Edgar Feuchtwanger

## Dark side of the moon

Simeon Vilensky (ed) *TILL MYTALE IS TOLD Women's Memoirs of the Gulag*, Virago, 1999.

Why, in March of this year, did over half the Russian voters in the presidential election choose Vladimir Putin, a former KGB spy? Why did another 29% vote for the Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov?

Discontent with capitalism, or the caricature of capitalism now existing in Russia, is doubtless one reason. But an-

other must surely be that Russians have not yet faced the facts about their past. There has been no equivalent of the Nuremberg trials. When the Russian edition of this book was permitted by Gorbachev to appear in 1989, it shocked and amazed its readers. The Russian version included a contribution by Yevgenia Ginzburg, omitted from the English edition because her great book *Into the Whirlwind* has been available here since 1967. Six other authors have also been omitted because parts of their memoirs have already appeared in the West.

But not in Russia. In 1963 an attempt to publish an anthology of this kind led to its editor, Nikolai Kozlov, being treated in a mental home for his 'manic struggle for justice'.

The crimes of Stalin were on such a colossal scale, and lasted so long, that it might seem impossible for anyone alive in the Soviet Union at the time to be ignorant of them. Yet this book shows that, where there is no free press and gossip may get you shot, people do not know what is happening in the next street.

A beautiful young economist, Olga Adamova-Sliozberg, accepted her husband's assurances that 'people don't get sent to camps for nothing'. Shortly afterwards he got arrested for nothing. Then it was her turn. Yet she still believed that the investigators would see they were both innocent and let them go. It was only the beginning of the great terror, in 1936.

Vera Shulz, an actress, was not picked up until 1938, when the mass arrests had been indiscriminate for over a year. Yet she, too, imagined that the authorities would soon realise they had made a mistake in her case.

So the people caught up in the terror did not know the scale of it, and historians, with documents before them, are still arguing about the numbers. They will never be exactly known. Did anybody count the victims of the typhus epidemic, described in this book by Nadezhda Surovtseva? Did anyone count the babies born in the camps, who died of hunger or cold? "In giving birth to my only child," writes the Ukrainian Hava Volovich, "I committed the worst crime there is."

A handful of these women did know why they landed in prison. In 1936 Christina Znamenskaya's arrest warrant was signed by her uncle, Genrikh

Cont.

Yagoda, then head of the NKVD. Her first husband, from whom she had parted ten years earlier, was a Trotskyist. Her second husband, though he loved her, said of the arrest: "They had to do it. They consider it a necessary measure." Then he was arrested.

When Yagoda himself was arrested in 1937, his relations were exiled to Astrakhan, and then shot, for being his relations.

The same logic accounted for the arrest of Nadezhda and Yulia Kanel. Stalin's wife shot herself in 1932. Three doctors refused to sign a certificate that she had died of appendicitis. Two of these doctors were afterwards accused of having murdered Maxim Gorky. The third, Alexandra Kanel, died in 1936. Naturally, her daughters were arrested in 1939.

Even those who thought they had grasped this logic had surprises to come. In 1952 the economist Olga Adamovna Sliozberg, exiled to Karaganda, was the only Jew in the office of a clothing factory there. When Stalin had the Jewish doctors arrested, one of the secretaries alleged that a parcel from America, addressed to someone called Rabinovich, had been opened before her very eyes. It contained cotton wool and thousands of typhus-bearing lice. A seamstress then told a meeting that in her childhood Jews had killed a Christian baby and used its blood to make matzos. That speech, at least, was greeted with embarrassed silence. But clearly a pogrom was coming – averted only by Stalin's death. The recent news from Russia raises the question of how dead he really is.

□ Alison Macleod

## Brighton Holocaust memorial dedicated

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks dedicated a memorial in Brighton's Meadow View cemetery to the victims of the Holocaust, in the presence of MPs Ivor Caplin and David Lepper, local Rabbanim, the German Ambassador, Brighton and Hove's Mayor, together with many members of the local congregation and a number of survivors. The memorial, designed by Gerald Zebrak, represents a flame on which is inscribed the Hebrew word *Zachor* (Remember). □ RDC

## Never-ending debate

The tortuous process of choosing an appropriate Holocaust memorial for Germany's capital city was discussed by art historian Professor Curt Germundson in an illustrated lecture given at the Wiener Library.

While the concept of public monuments as confident national statements was not new, in his view the building of a monument by a perpetrator nation in memory of its victims certainly was. Five years after Leah Rosch had called for the construction of a Holocaust memorial in Germany, a site near the Brandenburg Gate was allocated for the purpose in 1993. An international commission, appointed the following year to select a suitable design, organised a competition which produced 528 entries, most of which "generated a sense of hopelessness and helplessness in conveying the Holocaust," said Prof Germundson. One major criticism emanated from the distinguished Professor James Young when he suggested that the memorial "could end up doing the thinking for the viewer." Another major critic, the Jewish writer Henryk Broder, believed that such a monument should concentrate on the perpetrators, not the victims.

Chancellor Kohl's call for a further selection process resulted in a second competition held in 1997, the rules of which specified the requirement of a link between the memorial and the city of Berlin. The jury – this time chaired by Professor Young – chose a design which was approved by Chancellor Kohl (although not by Gerhard Schröder whilst in opposition) and which has since undergone some revision. The involvement of the German public seemed limited to observing the debate between the politicians, architects, artists and historians from the sidelines.

Despite the selection of an agreed design, commencement of the memorial's construction seems no nearer. With doubt arising over the ownership of the site, the earliest projected completion date is 2004, and yet the whole project could still be overturned by a government with different priorities.

The twenty-first century ushered in new debates: Should the memorial commemorate other Holocaust victims? Could Libeskind's Berlin Jewish Museum serve as the memorial instead? Would Professor Young be vindicated in his view that the debate itself was an appropriate memorial?

□ Marion Koebner

## Re-issue of '30s records

Between 1934 and 1937 Berlin's *Jüdischer Kulturbund* produced records under its own record labels, one of which – with some 80 titles – was *Lukraphon*. Today these recordings, though exceedingly rare, are of considerable historical significance.

After painstaking research into the recording companies and the artists involved, Dr Rainer Lotz is about to publish an illustrated book accompanied by remastered recordings on CD.

Despite an intensive world-wide search, Dr Lotz has been unable to find some of the original 78 rpm shellac discs, in particular those by the following artists: Sid Kay's Fellows, directed by Sigmund (Shabtai) Petruschka with vocals by Ferris Gondosch (Gondic) and Dora Gerson; violinist Andreas Weissgerber, accompanied by Kurt Sanderling at the piano; singer Hanna Kipnis, accompanied by H. Fenster at the piano; Oberkantor Salomon Kupfer (Leipzig, later Manchester); Oberkantor Josef Borin (Strasbourg) and Peter Upcher (singer of Yiddish songs).



*Lukraphon's record label with the Star of David.*

To complete the collection, Dr Lotz would welcome contact from anyone who has any of the missing discs. He is also seeking biographical information on Peter Upcher, a British silent movie actor who died in London in 1964, and on Oberkantor Alberto Pincas from Sofia.

Contact details: Dr Rainer E. Lotz, Jean Paul Str. 6, 53173 Bonn, Germany. Tel: 0049 228-36514. E mail: birgit-lotz-verlag@gmx.de

□ RDC



## Letters to the Editor

### WHAT'S THE TEMPERATURE?

Sir – The reason why  $-273^{\circ}$  is absolute zero temperature (March issue) is that temperature is the result of molecules in a substance moving at speed and colliding. The lower the temperature the slower the molecules move and at  $-273^{\circ}$  they stop moving altogether. As you cannot have negative movement the temperature cannot get any lower.

Bradford

RO Leavor

### THE ARK OF COLOGNE

Sir – Dr Klibanski, head of the Jawne Gymnasium, tried to bring children from every class of his school to England to which end he made many trips to the UK to rally support and raise funds. In fact three groups of Jawne children came to England, as a sort of Klibanski Kindertransport in 1939. Tragically he and his family all died in the Holocaust.

Two wonderful people, Dieter and his wife Irene Corbach, spent many years researching the fate of the Jewish population in Cologne during the Nazi years. They published a book charting the life of Dr Klibanski and his leadership of the Jawne School.

The book was launched in Cologne in 1992, as part of a commemorative Exhibition of photographs at the Town Hall. During their research the Corbachs found the script and music of a playlet that had been performed by the children of the Jawne, only shortly before the closure of the school.

To commemorate this very special school, the play *Der Bunte Weg* (the Multicoloured Path) was performed by local children in 1992.

Sad to say, Dieter Corbach died in 1996, but his wife Irene is continuing his research work with the same commitment.

Irene has sent me the script and music of *Der Bunte Weg*, an interesting and charming play, much of it written in verse. What it needs is for someone to look at the play with a view to translating it into English.

It would be a great commemoration to have a performance in this country,

which took in the Jawne children. It would also be a wish come true for Irene Corbach.

Would anyone interested please contact me on 020 8452 3072.

London NW2

Rachelle Ellis

### SKINHEAD IN SCHOLAR'S ROBES

Sir – We must consider the wider aspects of history. While to us Jews the murder of six million is paramount it must be borne in mind that Hitler was directly implicated in the murder of far, far, larger numbers; how anybody, let alone a 'historian' can make apologies for this is beyond human reason.

London NW9

F Gordon

### FOR THE RECORD

Sir – I would like to comment on the excellent and moving TV documentary about the Kindertransport, shown at Pesach, which stated that the youngest child was five years old. For the sake of historical accuracy, I would like to record that I left Frankfurt in the company of my seven-year-old brother, at the age of two years and ten months. My brother told me later that every time the train stopped, I cried *Mutti, Mutti!*

I still have the immigration permit, which states *leave to land granted subject to the holder not entering into employment!*

London N3

H Lazarus

### WAY BEYOND HIS KEN

Sir – Your observations on Ken Livingstone's remarks are not the first of their kind to appear but insensitivity is a subjective allegation; the question of logic is not apparently relevant and I have yet to see a simple assertion that he is wrong in fact.

Chalfont St Giles  
Bucks.

Alan S. Kaye

Sir – Frank Bright's letter in your May 2000 issue in which he equates Ken

Livingstone with Haider is an affront to the reader's intelligence. Would he really have us believe that Jörg Haider is nothing more sinister than an Austrian counterpart of our 'Red Ken'? Far from demonising Livingstone such a comparison is a whitewash of Haider.

London NW11

Jacob Brauner

### CHICKEN SOUP

Sir – Whenever Matthew Engel is in Dublin – perhaps to report on one of mighty Ireland's cricket 'internationals' against some second division county like Middlesex – he should check out the place Israeli Ambassadors to this country flock to for their chicken soup: Chompy's in the Powerscourt Centre. Could this be the first of the regular chicken soup gastronomic global reports commissioned by the AJR from Mr Engel?

Dublin

Andrew Sheppard

### CULTURAL BIAS?

Sir – I have a feeling that the art and culture scene has tipped in favour of the Austrian scene and that the German scene is receiving short shrift. Could you not find someone in our fraternity who could watch the German portfolio for us?

London N2

Elizabeth Ney

### REBRANDING – ENOUGH ALREADY!

Sir – This journal has been published for many years as 'AJR Information'. It is the content of the journal which counts. Let us not waste any more time with such unimportant matters as a name. To me, and I am sure many others of my generation, it is a monthly journal which is always well received.

Wembley Park  
Middlesex

Mrs Karla Emanuel

### BOUQUET

Sir – How lucky AJR members are to be able to read Richard Grunberger's most interesting articles every month. They are full of knowledge, experience and wisdom, enabling him to write in fascinating detail about so many different events.

As usual I am looking forward to the next issue of *AJR Information*.

Alwoodley  
Leeds

Ernst Kohut

## Filter out the singer from the song

The State of Israel is about to lift its age old boycott of Richard Wagner with a public performance of the *Siegfried Idyll*. In a conditioned reflex Ephraim Zuroff, the self-appointed 'conscience of the Holocaust', has denounced the move as insensitive thereby stirring the embers of a conflict one would have hoped was over and done with.

It is, alas, a fact that many composers – among them Chopin, Liszt, Stravinsky, Rachmaninov, Delius and Pfitzner – disliked Jews either out of bigotry or professional envy. However, none was as extreme an antisemite as Wagner who, had he been alive in the 1940s, might conceivably have approved of Auschwitz. (In 1870 when the Prussians were trying to starve besieged Paris into submission, he had urged Bismarck to expedite matters by bombarding the city with artillery.)

Wagner's special brand of nastiness perforce extended into personal relations; he characteristically repaid wealthy Otto Wesendonck's loan of a house in its own grounds, to enable him to compose at leisure, by having an affair with his benefactor's wife.

But none of these character defects detracts in any way from his greatness as a mouldbreaking composer. Jews were among the first to recognise Wagner's genius and two especially, the conductor Hermann Levi and the opera director Angelo Neumann, spread his fame far and wide. It is no exaggeration to speak of a longlasting Jewish love *affaire* with Wagner – from Otto Weininger's father who annually took his family to the Bayreuth Festival, to the *Times* columnist Bernard Levin.

For what it's worth I – and I strongly suspect that I, too, owe my forename to the Jewish Wagner cult – have long thought that the Israeli boycott, though understandable, was ill-conceived. Wagner was first and foremost a composer, secondly a librettist and only thirdly a polemicist. Above all, music cannot conceivably transmit racist ideas.

Granted that the crabbed and pedantic Beckmesser in *Meistersinger* may be a parody of the music critic Hanslick, a half-Jew – but to magnify this figure into an antisemitic caricature is sheer hyperbole! Nor is the attribution of Jewish characteristics to the treacherous dwarf Alberich in *Der Ring des Nibelungen* par-

ticularly convincing.

Now let us switch from Wagner to the sixteenth century Bavarian painter Altdorfer (for the retention of one of whose pictures in the UK the National Gallery raised two million pounds in the eighties). Having seen the painting, I read up about him and discovered the following: Albrecht Altdorfer was master of the Regensburg painters' guild, town architect and member of the town council. In the 1520s the council issued a decree expelling the Jews from Regensburg, and a mob ransacked the synagogue. Prominent among the looters who took valuable objects from the desecrated prayer house was the respected guild master Albrecht Altdorfer.

What conclusion was I to draw from this discovery? Would Ephraim Zuroff advise Jews to avert their gaze from any painting by the *pogromnik* Altdorfer they encounter in a gallery? And what is to be done about Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with its text implying Jewish deicide?

Ultimately it is the Israeli public who would suffer as the result of a continued ban on Wagner ('suffer' probably overstates the case; what the Jewish state badly needs is an accord with Beirut, rather than Bayreuth.) Even so, living in a musical environment from which Wagner's compositions have been excluded must resemble visiting an art gallery where a particular colour has been airbrushed out of every painting on the walls. □ RG

## Munich's Jewish Museum

Re-opened in December 1999 after a move to new and larger premises, Munich's Jewish Museum is now situated close to the Munich Jewish Community's offices in Reichenbachstrasse. Jewish memorabilia form part of the permanent exhibition as does the screening of scenes from the past and reproduction vocal scores of compositions by Emanuel Kirschner, first cantor of the Munich synagogue.

The Museum also stages special exhibitions, the most recent being a depiction of Jewish life in Munich from the erection of the first synagogue in 1824 to the demolition of the main synagogue in 1938, the arson of the Ohel-Jakob synagogue during the November 1938 pogrom and the deportation of the remaining Jews to the extermination camps. The Museum is open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 2pm to 6pm. □ Anthony Goldsmith

We are honoured to welcome

### STEPHEN SMITH, MBE

Director, Beth Shalom, Nottingham

who will address members and friends of  
Belsize Square Synagogue

on

**Sunday 10 September 2000  
at 8.00pm**

Stephen Smith is an inspiring speaker and tonight he will talk to us about why he and his family were motivated to create Beth Shalom

Tickets:

£2.50 Members of Belsize Square • £4.00  
Non Members

This promises to be an extraordinary evening and one that on all accounts should not be missed!!

For further information, please contact  
Henny Levin on 020 7794 3949



## BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE

51 Belsize Square, NW3 4HX

We offer a traditional style  
of religious service with  
Cantor, Choir and organ

Further details can be obtained  
from the synagogue secretary  
**Telephone 020 7794 3949**

**Minister:** Rabbi Rodney J Mariner  
**Cantor:** Rev Lawrence H Fine

Regular Services:

Friday evenings at 6.45pm

Saturday mornings at 10am

Religion School: Sundays at 10am to 1pm

Nursery School: 9.15am to 12.15pm

Belsize Under 3's: 9.30am to 11.30am

Space donated by Pafra Limited

### BELSIZE SQUARE SYNAGOGUE 51 Belsize Square, London N.W.3

Our communal hall is available for  
cultural and social functions.

**Tel: 020 7794 3949**

# AJR Reports

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### Brighton and Hove

The *Sussex Jewish News* food columnist, Michael Robson, illustrated his talk on Ashkenazi and Sephardi cookery by bringing along three different types of cakes he had baked and which were enjoyed by all. He mentioned that he was in the middle of converting to Judaism which led to a lively discussion.

The meeting was overshadowed by the sad news of the sudden death of Fausta Sheldon's husband. □ Frank Goldberg

The next meeting of Sarid will be on Monday 19 June at 10.45 am when George Vulkan will speak on 'A visit to China.'

### Leeds

Thirty five members gathered to hear Bernice Shooman talking about her work with the Shoah Visual History Foundation: "Next to giving birth... the most important work I have ever done," she said. In addition to seeing a video illustrating the work of the Foundation, we heard how during the filming of *Schindler's List* Steven Spielberg was approached by some thirty to forty Holocaust survivors wanting to tell their story. Those in Britain who applied as interviewers to the Foundation – Bernice Shooman among them – had to attend a three-day training course. Some 50,000 testimonies in 32 languages were gathered worldwide. In Britain, the original list of 80 interviewees grew to 900. Many survivors had never spoken about their experiences, even to their families..

Detailed cataloguing by subject and by individual names was now in progress so that the material could be made available for teaching and research in special archives and libraries. □ Thea Skyte

The next Leeds HFSA event will be a joint meeting with the Leeds branch of the Jewish Historical Society on 5 June. On 11 June there will be a private showing of the film 'Comedy Harmonists'.

### Manchester

Harry Blake led a group of more than 50 people on a visit to Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre for a first return visit since May 1996

when the Centre had been open for just seven months.

As anticipated, Centre Director Stephen Smith's address made compulsive listening. The Memorial Gardens, with many roses planted in memory of lost families and friends, proved a most moving experience. The visit was enhanced by a wholesome and tasty vegetarian lunch. □ HB

The next Manchester meeting will be on 2 July. For further details contact Werner Lachs (0161 773 6537.)

### Pinner

The History of the Jews of England' was the subject of Ann Ebner's talk about five waves of Jewish immigration to this country, starting with that following William the Conqueror and ending with the Jewish refugees from Hitler. Ann expanded brilliantly on the function and conditions of the Jews throughout including their dependence on the kings and the Protector in the face of public hostility. The subsequent lively discussion dealt largely with group members' own experiences and their interaction with those who came before them.

Special mention should be made of the tea and scrumptious spread provided by some of the lady members. □ Paul Scholl

The next Pinner meeting will be on 1 June at 2pm when pianist Annette Saville will travel 'Round the World in 30 Minutes'. On 6 July Dr Stewart Drage will speak on the prophylactic, holistic and biodegradable qualities of 'Chicken Soup and All That'.

### Bournemouth

The next meeting will be on Monday 12 June at 2.30pm. Susi and Cliff Ellis will talk on 'What can be learnt from the 'Stars' and how it affects you.' Contact Robert Grant (Tel: 01202 765040) for venue details □

### Birmingham

There will be a garden party at the home of Mr Leon Jessel MBE JP on Sunday 2 July, 12.30 for 1pm. Anyone wishing to attend should contact E. Glaser (Tel. 0121 777 6537) for a written form to be returned by 15 June.

### Surrey

The next meeting will be an informal get together at the home of Ernest and Louise Simon in Merstham on Tuesday 6 June at 10.30am. Please telephone 01737 643900 if you wish to attend.

Accept our invitation to a

## Kaffee Klatsch

with musical entertainment,  
tea, coffee and pastries

on Sunday 2 July 2000  
from 2.30-5pm

at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
15 Cleve Road, NW6

Entrance by ticket only £6  
Please book with Sylvia, Renée & Susie  
Tel: 020 7328 0208

## Third Great Season

### AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

on Wednesday 17 May 2000  
at 15 Cleve Road, NW6 3RL  
11.45 for 12.15pm

Guest speaker:

Ian Keable

'Cabaret Magician'

Reservations £7.50 for everyone!  
from Sylvia, Renée and Susie  
Tel: 020 7328 0208

### 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	7	June
Thursday	15	June
Tuesday	20	June
Wednesday	28	June
Thursday	6	July

and every Thursday from  
10am to 12 noon at:

AJR, 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal,  
London NW3 6AL

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

## Dormant bank accounts

A list of bank accounts opened in Britain by Holocaust victims to safeguard their money and which have lain dormant since the Second World War has been published by the British Bankers' Association. The list, which can be obtained by post or on the Internet, has been published in an attempt to trace the identity of descendants and relatives entitled to the benefit of the accounts who may not be aware of their existence. Many of the accounts are said to have been opened by people resident in Nazi-occupied countries.

The list, which contains surnames and initials only, adds to the information already available about accounts frozen under the 1939 Trading with the Enemy legislation.

Further information can be obtained by telephoning 020 7216 8849 or accessing [www.restoreuk.org.uk](http://www.restoreuk.org.uk)

□ MK

## Life certificates

**For Austrian pensioners.** A life certificate (*Lebensbestätigung*) will be recognised by the Austrian pension authorities only if signed and stamped by the Austrian Embassy (London), an Austrian Consulate (Birmingham, Edinburgh and Newcastle-upon-Tyne), a police station, a DSS office, a municipal authority (councillor) or notary public. Signature by solicitors, banks, doctors or clergy is not acceptable.

A housebound pensioner may obtain a letter signed and stamped by a medical practitioner stating s/he is alive on that date. The letter, together with the life certificate (unsigned) should be sent to the Embassy in London for authentication and forwarding to the pension authority.

**For German pensioners.** A life certificate (*Lebensbescheinigung*) may be signed and authenticated only at the German Embassy, a police station or by a notary. Signature by solicitors, banks, doctors or clergy is not acceptable.

A housebound pensioner may take the same action as described above for Austrian housebound pensioners.

□ AJR Social Services Department

## ... Viewpoint ...

### Secular belief

For a thousand years, institutionalised religion was found at the heart of the governance of society. This year Britain celebrated the second great millennial anniversary with pomp and pageantry offering little more than passing reference to the Christian myth on which it was predicated. The established church was cursorily consulted and their high priest's participation proved incongruous and embarrassing.

The God-fearing communities of the nineteenth century insisted on the building of magnificent gothic edifices within every new suburb, echoing the function and mores of the village church. In the latter half of the twentieth century church attendance plummeted. There has been not so much a crisis as an abandonment of belief in the supernatural and a concomitant retreat from faith as a reliable source of explanation for the natural order in the face of scientific analysis and discovery.

Social mobility was a relatively rare commodity before two world wars brought the emancipation of women and the development of an educated meritocracy that has little use for religious institutions which underpinned the ruling classes' power. It seeks fulfilment in a much-extended lifespan, paying small re-

gard to the dubious promise of a second chance after enduring rigours of poverty, labour, disease and social inferiority, to be followed by an early demise.

Among a pantheon of retreating creeds and ideologies, how are Jews and Judaism faring? Four generations after the orthodox Russo-Polish immigrants' arrival, cohabitation is favoured at the expense of marriage, procreation postponed in deference to career advancement, and outmarriage acceptable to a significant number. From its high point of some half a million, Britain's Jewish population has fallen to 280,000, and the decline continues.

Among the younger generations of Jews a university or professional education is common, business success marked, and women with careers the rule. Happily, socialising with co-religionists is popular as is living in areas preferred by other Jews, quite possibly attracted into synagogue membership by familiar rituals, melodies and Hebrew classes. But in the main most are rational secularists, who respect Jewish traditions and moral values inculcated by their parents, but have no use for an omniscient patriarch manipulating their lives in accord with some vast eternal plan. □ Ronald Channing

## PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6

Mon. & Weds. 9.30am-3.30pm. Tues. & Thurs. 9.30am-5.30pm. Suns. 2pm-6.30pm

### JUNE/JULY 2000

Afternoon entertainment programme -

- Thur 1 Helen Blake, voice & piano
- Sun 4 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Mon 5 KARD & GAMES KLUB
- Tue 6 Julie Sterling, soprano, & Michael Kujore, bass, with Sylvia & Margaret Eaves
- Wed 7 Robert Brody accompanied by Daphne Lewis, piano
- Thur 8 Nikki van der Zyl accompanied by Sheila Games, piano
- Sun 11 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Mon 12 KARD & GAMES KLUB
- Tue 13 Armand d'Anjour, cello, accompanied by Daphne Lewis, piano
- Wed 14 Guyathrie Peiris accompanied by William Patrick, piano
- Thur 15 Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton accompanied by Peter Gellhorn, piano

- Sun 18 DAY CENTRE OPEN - NO ENTERTAINMENT
- Mon 19 KARD & GAMES KLUB
- Tue 20 Jenny Kossew entertains on accordion
- Wed 21 LUNCHEON CLUB
- Thur 22 Ann Kenton-Barker & Basil Taylor accompanied by Margaret Gibbs, piano
- Sun 25 DAY CENTRE CLOSED - AGM
- Mon 26 KARD & GAMES KLUB
- Tue 27 Tricia Dibb, soprano, & Mike Frances, baritone, accompanied by Michael Heaton
- Wed 28 Primrose Powell with piano accompaniment
- Thur 29 Jill Goldman, Ellen Lanksford & Gordon Mabbett, keyboard
- Sun 2 KAFFEE KLATSCH - Live music with Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton - BY TICKET ONLY
- Mon 3 KARD & GAMES KLUB
- Tue 4 Hanna Yaffe entertains
- Wed 5 THE KENTERTAINERS

## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Birthday

**Flesch.** The AJR wishes Carl Flesch a very happy 90th birthday.

### Deaths

**Beer.** Lilo Beer my dearest friend of 60 years passed away on the 24 April, one day after her 85 birthday. May she rest in peace. Always in our minds, always in our hearts. Steffi and Kitty Feher.

**Freund.** Elisabeth Charlotte (Lisl) born Vienna, 20 February 1923, died London, 5 April 2000.

**Lane.** Gerry Lane, beloved husband of Ellen and devoted father of Steven passed away on 23 April. Sadly missed by all his family and friends.

**Loewenthal.** Ilse Loewenthal, almost 98 years old, died peacefully, in London on 2 May.

**Pretzfelder.** Paul Pretzfelder born Burgkuldorf, Germany, 2 October 1906, died in London on 29 February 2000 in hospital following a fall at his home, aged 93. Widower of Margot. Dear friend of the Striesow family and remembered with affection by all his many friends and family in both the UK and the USA.

### Consecration

The tombstone in memory of Herbert Felix Fisher will be consecrated at Bushey Cemetery on Sunday 18 June at 11am.

### CLASSIFIED

**Violinist and cellist** wanted to play classical piano trios. Please reply to Mrs T Fey, 97 Colindeep Lane, London NW9 6DJ.

**European singles** male/female, 38/48 years for socialising, outings, holidays etc. Box No. 1258.

**Proud Parents** of son aged 40 yrs, 6'2" tall, dark and handsome, successful professionally but at expense of social life, seek girl 25-30 with AJR background. Photo please. Box No. 1259.

**For Sale.** Smart stylish ladies clothes, as new size 16 - very reasonable prices. Tel: 020 7486 5421.

**LINK Psychotherapy Centre** are giving a special showing at the New End theatre of *What my eyes have seen*, a play based on the story of Magda Eggen's survival. Wednesday 7 June 2000 at 9.30pm with Magda Eggen present for a discussion afterwards. Further details ring Wendy David 020 8906 9204.

**LINK Psychotherapy Centre** have arranged a meeting for inter-

generational dialogue on Sunday 18 June 2000 at 73 Fortune Green Road, NW6, for former Kindertransportees and their offspring. Further details from Ruth Barnett 020 7431 0836.

### Miscellaneous Services

**Manicure & Pedicure** in the comfort of your own home. Telephone 020 8343 0976.

### Day Centre

**Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.** New clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans etc. Thursday 22 June 9.45-11.45am.

### SHELTERED FLAT AVAILABLE

at Cleve Road,  
West Hampstead,

above the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre  
Large bright bedsitting room, fully equipped kitchen, bathroom/WC, lift.  
Rent £365 per month inc. c.h./h.w.

Apply to Carol Rossen,  
AJR Head Office,  
1 Hampstead Gate,  
la Frognal, NW3 6AL

### SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household electrical work.  
**PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518**

### Optician

**Dr Howard Solomons BSc FBCO**

### Dental Surgeon

**Dr H Alan Shields**

&

### Chiropodist

**Trevor Goldman SRC**

by appointment at  
**The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre**  
15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6

Please make appointments with  
**Sylvia Matus, Tel: 020 7328 0208**

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES

**FAMILY EVENTS**  
First 15 words free of charge,  
£2.00 per 5 words thereafter.  
**CLASSIFIED, SEARCH NOTICES** - £2.00 per five words.  
**BOX NUMBERS** - £3.00 extra.  
**DISPLAY ADVERTS**  
per single column inch  
65 mm (3 column page) £12.00  
48mm (4 column page) £10.00  
**COPYDATE** 5 weeks prior to publication

### TORRINGTON HOMES

Mrs Pringsheim, S.R.N.  
MATRON

For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent

(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

- ◆ Single and Double Rooms.
- ◆ H/C Basins and CH in all rooms.
- ◆ Gardens, TV and reading rooms.
- ◆ Nurse on duty 24 hours.
- ◆ Long and short term, including trial period if required.

From £300 per week  
020 8445 1171 Office hours  
020 8455 1335 other times  
NORTH FINCHLEY

### BELSIZE SQUARE APARTMENTS

24 BELSIZE SQUARE, NW3  
Tel: 020 7794 4307 or  
020 7435 2557

MODERN SELF-CATERING HOLIDAY ROOMS, RESIDENT HOUSEKEEPER  
MODERATE TERMS  
NEAR SWISS COTTAGE STATION

### Residential Home

**Clara Nehab House**

(Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd.)  
13-19 Leaside Crescent NW11

All rooms with Shower W.C. and H/C Basins en-suite  
Spacious Garden - Lounge & Dining Room - Lift  
Near Shops and Public Transport  
24 Hour Care - Physiotherapy  
Long & short Term - Respite Care - Trial Periods

Enquiries: Josephine Woolf  
Otto Schiff Housing Association  
The Bishops Avenue N2 0BG  
Phone: 020 8209 0022

### ALTERATIONS

OF ANY KIND TO  
LADIES' FASHIONS

I also design and make children's clothes  
West Hampstead area  
020 7328 6571

### AJR GROUP CONTACTS

Leeds HSFA:	Trude Silman 0113 225 1628
West Midlands: (Birmingham)	Edgar Glaser 0121 777 6537
North: (Manchester)	Werner Lachs 0161 773 4091
East Midlands (Nottingham)	Bob Norton 01159 212 494
Pinner: (HA Postal District)	Vera Gellman 020 8866 4833
S. London:	Ken Ambrose 020 8852 0262
Surrey:	Ernest Simon 01737 643 900
Brighton & Hove (Sussex Region)	Fausta Shelton 01273 688 226
Wessex: (Bournemouth)	Ralph Dale 01202 762 270

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS JUNE 2000

- Thurs 8 **The Jewish Heritage of Mayfair.** Walk led by Alex Rosenzweig. 11am. Telephone Spiro Institute 020 7431 0345.
- Sun 11 **Kol Simcha - Contemporary Klezmer.** Opening event of 10<sup>th</sup> London International Jewish Music Festival. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Ave., London EC1. 7.30 pm. Tickets: 020 7863 8000.  
**Another country? Austria Past & Present.** Brunei Gallery, Thornhaugh St., London WC1. 2pm. Tickets: 020 7636 7247 Wiener Library.
- Mon 12 **Reflection, Light & Identity in some 19<sup>th</sup> Century English Novels:** Gwen Williams, M.Phil., Middlesex University. Club 43. 7.30pm.
- Sun 18 **Zemel Choir and Bochmann Quartet:** *Music of our Time.* St. John's, Smith Sq., London SW1. 7.30pm. Tickets: Jewish Music Festival.
- Sun 25 **Anthology of Jewish poetry and music** from biblical times to the present. Bloomsbury Theatre. 7.30pm. Tickets: Jewish Music Festival.
- Mon 26 **The Munich Soviet Republic (Räterepublik) of 1919:** Eugen Leviné. Club 43. 7.30pm.  
**Lucie Skeaping and the Burning Bush:** Music of the old Jewish World. Barbican Centre, 7.30pm. Tickets: 020 7638 8891.
- Tues 27 **Celluloid Memories of Stalingrad.** Professor Robert Moeller. 6.30pm German Historical Inst, Bloomsbury Sq W1. Tickets from Wiener Library.
- Thur 29 **Hebrew song & prayer:** Bevis Marks Synagogue. Tickets: Jewish Music Festival.
- Until 1 July **Dreyfus** in a new translation by Jack Rosenthal. Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn NW6. Tickets: 020 7328 1000.
- Sun 9 July **Jewish Culture Day** at the Dome. 11am - 6pm  
**Hugo Gryn tribute concert** at West London Synagogue. 6.30pm. Tickets: 020 8452 1093.
- Until 3 Sep **Judaica 2000:** exhibition of contemporary British ceremonial art. Jewish Museum (Camden Town) Suns - Thurs 10am-4pm.

**JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
020 7960 4242

# Art Notes

Opening the **Judaica 2000** exhibition of paintings, textiles, pewters, ceramics and stained glass at the Jewish Museum, sculptor Joseph Caro noted the enormous love that went into the works and praised their craftsmanship and inventiveness. The Jewish proscription on depicting the human face, for fear of capturing some element of the divine, has never deterred Jewish artists, but simply inspired greater creativity. **Ya'acov Boussidan's** Hag-gadah, *Beresbit – In the Beginning* – is a mystical work in shades of blue indicating planetary movements showing the word *Beresbit* with an enhanced capital *Bet*. The only colour is the red of the final letter, *Tet*.

The Jewish Museum has a *ketubah* dating back to 1678 from Verona with vignettes of King David with his harp suggesting the name of the bridegroom, David Montalcino. Thus it became traditional for the formal, written Hebrew marriage contract to be decorated, unusually with floral motifs, family coats of arms or Jewish or biblical stories down one side. **Angela Baum's** free style, informal *ketubah* evokes the natural Israeli colours. To the biblical simplicity of her refreshing style she added the Shakespearean sonnet, "Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediment, Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds." A fitting tribute both to her late husband, Dr David Baum, and to the synchronicity of Shakespeare with the psalms.

**Vetta Alexis's** more graphic *ketubah* is a complete contrast with its sentimental tree, with roots, flowers and two love-birds encircling the Hebrew script in two tablets on either side. **Tamara Zlotogoura's** very traditional and ornately embroidered matza cover showing the *seder* plate is in a rich, cardinal red with gold fringes. Vine leaves and grapes form part of the design. Other artists go for a more symbolic approach. **Yair Meshoulam's** primary coloured *succab* panel depicts Jacob's Ladder reaching to a dark cloud from which a sickle moon can be seen as an eye illuminating the sleeping figure below. **Ruth Taylor Jacobson** has created an impressionistic stained glass synagogue panel celebrating *Simchat To-*



*Tree of Life, by Ruth Taylor Jacobson*

*rab* based on the tree of life. Her golden crown, symbolising the Giving of the Law, depicts the lion of Judah and a pair of hands, fingers nearly touching, which is a recurring Jacobson theme.

Similar colours of purple and ochres appear in **Ruth Kersley Greisman's** stained glass panels, this one for the Synagogue ark. Other unusual exhibits include **Desmond Ryan's** olivewood *etrog* box, and a painted silk charity box by **Carol Smollan**. Trude Owen's intricate *Torah* mantle or Jill Traub's painstakingly embroidered blue velvet *Torah* mantle, are also noteworthy, as is **Veronica Shaw's** very modern *Torah* crown in gilt and silver. **Mark Negin's** *megilla* resembles a gilded sunburst.

Some of the works' contemporary imagery can be attributed to the influence of the **Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design**. Founded in Jerusalem in 1906 by Boris Schatz, the school was named after Bezalel ben Uri, craftsman of the desert. Tabernacle Turkish weaving skills and Damascus metal hammering accompanied other earthy modes of expression, such as work in wood, ivory and ceramics. But with the rise of Nazism in the 1930's, the school came under the influence of Bauhaus Judaica whose silver and brass works forged a new tradition, augmented by Eastern European folk themes. Israeli-born artists have rounded off the Bezalel's original concept, nudging the *shtetl's* bitter-sweet sentimentality with the more direct earth-bound flavour of modern Israel.

The *Judaica 2000* exhibition is showing at the Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1 until 3 September 2000.

□ Gloria Tessler

## SB's Column

**Fifty years ago** when television was in its infancy and had not yet become everyday entertainment, British musicians and actors were joined by many continental immigrants who subsequently became well-established: in the field of music, Karl Rankl was musical director of the Royal Opera House and Rudolf Schwarz took charge of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra whilst Vilem Tausky conducted in Manchester and later at London's Sadler's Wells Opera. In London's West End, where Anton Walbrook and Vic Oliver had achieved star rating, Arnold Marlé, Peter Illing, Milo Sperber and Martin Miller played character parts.

**Prague and Brno.** The Czech Opera House has a spring programme whose range dwarfs the repertoire of many other continental opera houses, stretching from *Freischütz* and *Nabucco* to Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable* and the *Carmina Burana* ballet. Balletic works by Herold, Adam and Prokofiev also have pride of place at the Janacek Opera, Brno.

**Evergreens.** The melodies of pop composer Paul Lincke can still be heard on the German airwaves, and are being played by many a spa orchestra throughout the country. The man who wrote *Frau Luna* and *Glühwürmchen* has recently been the subject of special TV programmes.

**Birthday.** Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, one of the most prominent baritones of the century, had his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Starting from his home town Berlin, he sang at Munich, Bayreuth, Vienna and Salzburg, visiting Covent Garden from 1965 onwards. A lieder singer of masterful maturity, he impresses by pure diction and his stage presence in the numerous Wagner and Mozart parts he made his own □

### Annely Juda Fine Art

23 Dering Street (off New Bond Street)  
Tel: 020 7629 7578 Fax: 020 7491 2139

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING  
AND SCULPTURE

## KINDERTRANSPORT NEWS

**D**iane Samuels, playwright and author of the widely acclaimed play *Kindertransport*, has kindly accepted an invitation, most appropriately, to be our first guest speaker at KT-AJR's second monthly 'Luncheon and Get-together' to be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June at the AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6, at 12 noon.

Diane Samuels' play recounts the story of a former *Kind* who repressed memories of her origins. Her experiences as a child are re-enacted on stage in a retrospective recreation resulting in a moving drama. The play has been performed and broadcast in many parts of the world earning a place as a defining classic telling the story of the *Kind*, though some have questioned aspects of its authenticity.

Our first get-together proved a great success with the centre full to capacity with *Kind*. After a warm welcome from the centre's manager, Sylvia Matus, members enjoyed an excellent luncheon amongst good company. KT-AJR host David Jedwab invited everyone to feel 'at home' and make full use of the day centre in the months ahead, both in specially arranged events as well as the centre's regular daily programme.

Please note that the usual charge of £4.50 will now be made for the excellent three-course lunch. Confirm your booking for the Diane Samuels event on 19<sup>th</sup> June on 020 7328 0208.  RDC

## Science Notebook

### Refugee scientists

**O**nce Hitler became German Chancellor in 1933, German Jewish scientists began to lose their jobs and looked for alternative posts abroad. They were greatly helped by the fact that scientific research is a very international activity. In any given field of research there has always been an "invisible college" of scientists with similar interests who meet at scientific conferences in different countries, visit each other's laboratories, correspond and avidly read each other's publications in scientific journals. As a result, many German (and later Austrian) scientists received offers of help from universities and research institutes in other countries which were eager to recruit people with established reputations. Many went to the United States while others came to Britain, France (!), Sweden and Russia. This considerably enriched the science base in those countries (and impoverished that in Nazi-controlled lands) as shown by the many Nobel Prizes and other honours subsequently won by these refugee scientists.

Two good examples are Hans Adolf Krebs (born in Hildesheim in 1900) and Fritz Albert Lipmann (born 1899 in Königsberg). Both obtained doctorates in medicine from German universities in the 1920s. In 1932 Krebs discovered the urea cycle in mammals and so, when he was forced to leave Germany in 1933, he was readily accepted at Cambridge University and later moved to Sheffield University.

Here he discovered the citric acid cycle (later called the Krebs cycle) whereby carbohydrates (sugars, starches) and other food constituents are oxidised in respiring animal tissues to produce energy. Krebs subsequently held the Chair of Biochemistry at Oxford, was knighted in 1958 and died in 1981.

Lipmann, who had gone on to do research at the Carlsberg foundation in Copenhagen, wisely decided to leave Europe in 1939 and accepted an offer from the Cornell Medical School in New York. Then he moved to the prestigious Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and later to the Rockefeller Institute in New York; he died in 1986. While in Boston he identified a crucial component of the Krebs cycle which he called coenzyme A, an important factor in body metabolism. These discoveries by Lipmann and Krebs clearly complemented each other and together explained the complex biochemical pathways by which food is broken down to give us energy. In 1953 the two men fittingly shared the Nobel Prize for Physiology.

Hitler's hatred of Jews extended to all their work, past or present. A case in point is the Wassermann test for detecting syphilis, developed in Berlin in 1906 by the Jewish immunologist August von Wassermann (1866-1925). Syphilis at the time could be fatal. Hitler refused to let the German army use this test by a Jewish scientist and demanded an Aryan test. But none could be found, so the Führer had to choose between permitting the test or forbidding his soldiers to have sex – the Wassermann test won!

Prof. Michael Spiro

## ARE YOU ON A LOW INCOME AND IN NEED OF HOMECARE HELP?

AJR might be able to offer financial assistance.

Members who might not otherwise be able to afford homecare please contact:

**Estelle Brookner, Secretary  
AJR, Social Services  
Department  
Phone No: 020 7431 6161**

## Companions of London

Incorporating  
Hampstead Home Care

A long established company providing care in your home

- ★ Assistance with personal care
- ★ General household duties
- ★ Respite care
- ★ Medical appointment service

**'OUR CARE IS YOUR CARE'**  
020 7483 0212/0213



## SPRING GROVE

214 Finchley Road  
London NW3

**London's Most Luxurious  
RETIREMENT HOME**

- ★ Entertainment – Activities
- ★ Stress Free Living
- ★ 24 Hour Staffing ★ Excellent Cuisine
- ★ Full En-Suite Facilities

**Call for more information  
or a personal tour  
020 8446 2117  
or 020 7794 4455**

Simon P. Rhodes M.Ch.S.  
**STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST**  
Surgeries at:  
**67 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (opp M&S)  
Telephone 020 7624 1576**  
**3 Queens Close (off Green Lane)  
Edgware, Middx HA8 7PU  
Telephone 020 8905 3264**  
Visiting chiropody service available

## The refugees' story

As the nineteenth century gave way to the twentieth, Yiddish-speaking men and women and their extended families fled the pogroms and poverty of the Pale of Settlement. The assassination of a benevolent Czar in 1881 and the brutal Kishinev pogrom of 1903 demarcated a period in which 200,000 penniless Jewish immigrants came to take their chances on the mean streets of London's poorest quarter close by the docks – the East End. They practised an alien Jewish orthodoxy and few had a word of English to offer.

At that time Britain maintained an open-door policy, but the lack of immigration controls came under attack from the right wing press and wider agitation against 'aliens'. Jewish immigrants found themselves despised for their poverty, derided for 'flooding the market with cheap labour', at the same time being condemned for their supposed concealed wealth.

### Immigration control

This opposition culminated in the 1905 Aliens Act aimed specifically at arresting the settlement of Russian Jews. Would-be immigrants thereafter required a permit issued by an immigration officer who needed to be convinced that the applicant would not prove to be a burden on the state. (Criminality and poverty provided grounds for deportation.) It was fortunate that the Jewish refugees were expected to work to support themselves and allowed to settle among existing communities of their fellow countrymen. For many of their children it was the first and only opportunity to gain even an elementary education, as well as to learn and adopt English as their native tongue, prior to going out to work at the age of fourteen.

In her recent work on the attempts by Jewish victims of Nazi persecution to seek asylum in Britain, *Whitehall and the Jews 1933-1948*, Dr Louise London went so far as to suggest that "of the estimated 600,000 family and individual cases dealt with by the main Jewish organisations in Britain during this time only about 80,000 were admitted." She concluded that "escape to Britain was an exception for a lucky few; exclusion was the fate of the majority." Readers of *AJR Information* need no reminding that prior to World War II refugees were admitted to this country on the understanding that they had private means or entered into essen-

tial occupations or that their stay was temporary.

### Xenophobia

As the twentieth now makes way for the twenty-first century, the current controversy on asylum seekers, again fomented by the right-wing press and evoking political opportunism, the old clichés of xenophobia have been re-awakened. Under the terms of the 1951 Geneva Convention refugees must be respected and offered shelter. However, in the last six years three immigration Acts have reduced applicants' chances of acceptance: 1993 tightened the appeal process, 1996 restricted benefits, and the Act of 1999, which has just come into force, contains new powers to disperse asylum-seekers around the country, fine carriers bringing in people without valid travel documents, and end entitlement to benefits while providing purchase vouchers of limited value. Britain's immigration procedures are among Europe's most rigorous.

Paradoxically, in recent years immigration into the UK appears not to have represented any significant problem; just 58,350 applicants were permitted to settle in the UK in the ten years up to 1998. It is hardly surprising that the plight of people fleeing the recent conflicts and persecution in Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Sri Lanka, China, Afghanistan and Somalia, has since led to a significant rise in the number of applications for asylum. The Home Office's tardy response and under-resourcing built up an inexcusable backlog of cases of 100,000 applicants waiting for adjudication, each for an average period of 13 months and many for very much longer.

### Enforced idleness

The terminology chosen by tabloid newspapers – phrases like 'scroungers', 'bogus refugees' and 'economic migrants' as a condemnatory term – succeeds in confusing asylum with immigration. Even if asylum applicants fail to meet the strict criteria, that does not make them 'bogus' or explain their having uprooted themselves from home and culture. Debarment from remunerative employment prevents potentially productive and often highly qualified workers from contributing to the economy. It keeps them idle, impoverished and reliant on meagre support from vouchers and grants, no doubt under the questionable belief that this acts as a deterrent to others.

Prof Saskia Sassen of the University of Chicago has concluded that "most people are quite reluctant to leave their home villages or towns... the vast mass of people in a poor country are not likely to consider emigration". Exceptionally, while economic migrants are prepared to attempt new lives in new societies, history supports the view that they bring innovatory skills and invigorate their adopted communities. In today's technologically based world, economies are competing internationally for those with the best brains and the highest qualifications. Their relative youth reinforces the numbers on whom the older and retired are reliant for maintaining communal wealth and pension payments

### Falling acceptance rate

This March saw a significant increase in the number of asylum cases being 'cleared' to 11,340; at the same time only 19% had their applications to stay approved as refugees or were granted 'exceptional leave' to remain temporarily, in contrast to the 56% of applicants being permitted to stay last year.

Britain clearly cannot accept all-comers as new residents, but could well benefit from a coherent and consistent immigration policy. While all arrivals should receive humane and sympathetic treatment as fellow human beings, those who abuse the privilege of entry or 'disappear' to be exploited within a black economy, cannot balk at deportation. Asylum seekers and their families, being motivated to seek refuge from tyrannical regimes, at the very least should expect to be treated with respect and consideration, and their applications dealt with fairly, speedily and sympathetically.

□ Ronald Channing

The author participated in a debate on asylum and the treatment of refugees broadcast in the *BBC World Service*.

 JACKMAN SILVERMAN

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

26 Conduit Street, London W1R 9TA  
Telephone: 020 7409 0771 Fax: 020 7493 8017

## Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks remembers the victims of the Shoah

There is a phenomenon, we could almost call it a law of history, that as the years pass and time moves on, so events in the past slowly lose their impact upon us. Wounds heal, memory fades and each passing year puts a distance between then and now. Not so with the Shoah. Though it happened 55 to 60 years ago, its impact grows with each passing year. This year alone we have seen the David Irving trial, efforts to achieve the return of looted works of art and compensation for slave labour. We saw the Stockholm Conference in which heads of state from all across Europe committed themselves to an ongoing programme of Holocaust education, the announcement by our Prime Minister of a National Holocaust Remembrance Day and the opening shortly in London of the National Holocaust Museum. It is as if when we come to the Shoah the normal laws of perspective have been reversed; the further away we stand from it, the bigger it seems until it has become, quite rightly, not only for us but for others as well, one of the defining moments of human history. The moment when hatred turned to murder; when murder turned to genocide and when all the great gifts that G-d has given mankind – of science, technology, organisation – were turned to evil and humanity reached its lowest point, the point it must never approach again.

Now we know how right we were to remember, against all the siren voices that said forget, because hatred does not die. Religious conflict, ethnic rivalry, racism, xenophobia, never disappear – we still today see their traces across the world: in Austria, in the Balkans, in Chechnya. In many different ways, in many different countries and even here in this, one of the world's most tolerant nations, we have recently heard a level of rhetoric against asylum seekers which we, as Jews, may not endorse knowing how asylum so often meant the difference between life and death and knowing how much those who came here gave back in return for the freedom and refuge that was given them.

Memory is our strongest defence of humanity and let us therefore pay tribute to the survivors. Those who more than any other had every reason to want to forget had courage and foresight almost beyond belief to say, "No, we must remember and the world must remember because

what happened once must never happen again." And it can happen again unless we teach our children in every generation the road we must avoid, the road that has small beginnings but which ends in Auschwitz and Maidanek and Bergen-Belsen and Treblinka – the black hole at the heart of human history.

And so we remember, we ask you Almighty G-d to remember the one third of our people, the two thirds of the Jews of Europe – including one and a half million innocent children – murdered, shot, gassed and burned for no other reason than that they were Jews. We remember all of them. We remember the Jews from as far north as Norway, from as far south as Greece, from France in the west to Russia in the east. People who were no threat to anyone. Communities that in some cases had lived peacefully with their neighbours for close to a thousand years and yet who found they were still regarded as strangers, outcasts deprived of human rights including the right to life.

Today we remember the ordinary Jewish men and women who went to their deaths with "I believe" on their lips. We remember individuals, impossible to name them, but I remember Janusz Korczak who because he was a Jew created an orphanage for Jewish children and again, because he was a Jew, created an orphanage for non-Jewish children and who when he was offered the chance to escape refused to be parted from those children and walked with them hand in hand into the fires of Treblinka. We remember them all, every one of them – religious, not religious, righteous, not yet righteous, because if death did not divide them nor will we. Lord of the Universe this was your people and every one of them died because they were children of your Covenant and so we say to you Almighty G-d hold them close in the embrace of eternal life because they died because they carried your name.

We remember the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto who, although surrounded and weakened by starvation and disease, held out for longer than the entire nation of France, a people of courage beyond words, and we remember also those righteous non-Jews who sheltered and saved Jewish lives showing that even at times of madness it is possible to stay sane and human and humane. We come

before you not in bitterness but in simple grief, not for the sake of the past only but for the still unwritten future of mankind, and not for our sake only but for the sake of humanity, so that no people should suffer what your people suffered.

And so we will never forget the three commands: thou shalt not be a perpetrator, thou shalt not be a victim and thou shalt not be a bystander. Father of Mercy give us the strength to live for what our ancestors died for as Jews, sanctify your name and prepare to fight for a world of justice and compassion and peace, and may those who died live on in us and our children as they live on with Almighty G-d in heaven and may their memories be a blessing □

*Chief Rabbi Sacks delivered this address at the Yom Hashoah and Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Commemoration in London organised by the Board of Deputies of British Jews.*

### Slave labour claims

With the conclusion of slave labour claims negotiations, proof of eligibility arises. The archive at the Memorial Concentration Camp at Flossenbürg has a list of names of approximately 80% of prisoners who were held in the camp or in any of its 100 sub camps. To obtain a certificate confirming this, compensation claimants who were held there are invited to apply to: Memorial Concentration Camp Flossenbürg, Gedächtnisallee 5-7, 92696 Flossenbürg, Germany. Tel: 0049 9603/921980; Fax 0049 9603/921990; E-mail: infozentrum@flossenbuerg.de □

### 50 YEARS AGO

#### ADMISSION OF REFUGEES

"The United Kingdom has already made a very large contribution to the solution of the refugee problem. In addition to refugees from Germany and Austria admitted during the late thirties, to the number of 80,000, over 200,000 aliens have during and since the war been admitted, and we are bound to have regard to this in judging what further contribution we can make."

It had been decided, the Home Secretary went on, to admit up to 2,000 D.P.s and refugees, now in the care of the IRO in Germany and Austria, for whom accommodation and maintenance can be provided by relatives, friends, private persons or voluntary organisations who are prepared to take continuing responsibility for them.

□ [From a Parliamentary reply]  
AJR Information June 1950

## Obituary

## Barry Fealdman

**B**arry Fealdman, who has died aged 86, dedicated his life to the development of Jewish art and artists. As curator of the Ben Uri Art Society for 26 years, he forged a strong link in the chain between Israeli and German Jewish refugee artists at a very influential moment in Jewish cultural history. Fealdman was this journal's art critic until his retirement last year due to ill health.

It was as the Ben Uri's curator, initially in its first home in Portman Street, where he lived literally above the shop, and later at its top floor gallery in London's Dean Street, that he made his mark. Perhaps encouraged by his own gift for caricature, which emerged during his time as a 'Desert Rat' with the Royal Signals, Barry Fealdman was a driving force for the encouragement of Jewish artists. He enhanced the Ben Uri's singular reputation with works by Jewish artists, nourishing their gifts and consolidating the gallery's permanent collection with works by Jacob Pins, Abraham Ofek and Bomberg, of whom he became a personal friend. Other artists he brought to the Anglo Jewish cognoscenti were Gertler, Kossoff and the young Frank Auerbach, who is currently exhibited at Tate Modern. He also initiated the gallery's annual picture fair. As a cartoonist himself, Fealdman established a life-long friendship with the late Harry Blacker.

Apart from his searching eye for art and a warm heart for its creators, Barry Fealdman was hardly a robust or eccentric figure in a world which often seems more a chimera of the cocktail party set

than a place of intellectual growth. Barry was a private person more concerned with enquiring after your health than with personal grandiosity.

Yet he was a familiar figure on the art circuit with his astute yet slightly bashful air and quiet, self-deprecating manner. A keen Zionist from youth, Barry studied at Liverpool's Hebrew Institute and became a youth leader with the Federation of Zionist Youth. In common with his contemporaries at the time he prepared for kibbutz life at Habonim's David Eder farm in Sussex where he met Anne Roytman, who was to become his wife. Although they planned to settle in then Palestine, tragedy struck with the deaths of both his brother and sister and they returned to look after his father. Fealdman's Zionist interests however, were sustained by his contributions to the *Zionist Review*.

When, in the early 1960's, he supervised the gallery's move to Dean Street where it remained until 1977, Fealdman broadened its artistic remit to include cultural programmes often in conjunction with the Israel Embassy. Its successive cultural attachés at the time were the noted Israeli writers, Moshe Shamir and Aharon Megged, with whom the Ben Uri launched a dynamic series of lectures, literary and musical events, often hosted by the actor-director, Robert Rietti. In 1976, he succeeded Peter Stone as *Jewish Chronicle* art critic.

His friend and colleague, Alice Schwab, describes him as a man with an eye for art and an ability to cultivate artists. He particularly encouraged Jewish artists. "He had a personal touch," she says. "The artists always knew they had a friend in him. He was a very humane, understanding person and a great asset to the Ben Uri." □ Gloria Tessler

## SEARCH NOTICES

**Roselore Lewald** (also known as Lore Winton). Born 16/7/32 Aschaffenburg, arrived London on Kindertransport 1939. A photo album of her life and family up to 1939 has been discovered. Please contact the Jewish Museum, East Finchley, 020 8349 1143 where the album is currently on loan.

**101 Squadron RAF** Special Operators with the Squadron flying out of Ludford Magna between 1943 - 1945. Researcher wishes to hear from members or their

families or squadron historians. M. Sugarman, 16 Brenthouse Road, London E9 6QG; Tel. 020 8986 4868 (after 7 p.m.)

**Alfred Arnstt** (formerly Arnsdorf). Arrived in Australia September 1940 on the *Dunera* with twin brother Max and younger brother Steve. Returned as a British Army volunteer to Liverpool via Panama Canal on British troop transport. Would like to hear from anyone who knew him. 9 Lord Howe St., Dover Heights, NSW 2030, Australia.

## Garden Party

In aid of the Amenities Funds of

**BALINT HOUSE, LEO BAECK  
HOUSE AND OSMOND HOUSE**

on Sunday 23 July 2000

3pm-5pm

at 63-67 The Bishop's Avenue, N2

Raffle, Stalls and Tea

Entrance £5 (Children free) including tea  
Please join us for this special afternoon.

ANNUAL AJR VISIT TO

**BETH SHALOM  
HOLOCAUST**

**MEMORIAL CENTRE**

Laxton, Nottinghamshire

Sunday 18 June 2000

£18 per person including coach fare &  
vegetarian buffet lunch

(£8 for those using own transport)

Coach leaves Finchley Road Underground  
Station, behind Waitrose, 8.30am prompt  
and Stanmore Station, 8.45am prompt

Booking essential.

Telephone 020 7431 6161

**GERMAN and  
ENGLISH BOOKS  
BOUGHT**

Antiquarian, secondhand and  
modern books of quality  
always wanted.

We're long-standing advertisers  
here and leading buyers of books  
from AJR members.

Immediate response to your letter  
or phone call.

We pay good prices and  
come to collect.

Please contact:  
Robert Hornung MA(Oxon)  
2 Mount View, Ealing,  
London W5 1PR  
Telephone 020 8998 0546  
(5pm to 9pm is best)



## NEWSROUND

**Genocide anniversary**

On the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1915 massacre of more than a million Anatolian Armenians by Ottoman Turkey, it was announced that the subject is to be included in a new curriculum in Israeli schools teaching students about 'national genocide'. The anniversary went unmarked in Turkey which denies that the massacre occurred.

**Second best?**

The Bishop of Oxford would prefer to lose Christians to Judaism if the alternative is membership of a New Age religion. While the Chief Rabbi declined to comment, Reform Rabbi Bayfield praised the Bishop's remarks.

**Art exchange**

Another chapter in the aftermath of wartime looting of art opened with the return to Russia of artefacts plundered from the Tsars' Summer Palace in exchange for a hundred priceless paintings stolen from Germany in 1945. In Russia the return of any art to Germany is extremely controversial as many regard it as a measure of compensation for the human and material losses suffered at the hands of Nazism.

**Roll call**

It took 30 hours to read out the names of Berlin's 55,696 Jewish Holocaust victims during Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*. On the same day, Israel's President Weizman led the 'March of the Living' between Auschwitz and Birkenau. Poland's President Kwasniewski was amongst the 6,000 marchers.

**Musical tribute**

Marking the anniversary of the liberation of Mauthausen labour camp in Austria, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Vienna Singverein, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on the site of the former concentration camp. Rattle's endorsement of the act as a tribute to those who perished there was not shared by all.

**Looted art panel starts work**

The Spoliation Advisory Panel's only claim to date relates to a painting in the Tate Britain. The panel will meet for the first time on June 8 when it will set out its timetable for dealing with claims.

□ MK

## COMMEMORATING THE SHOAH

**Yom Hashoah commemorations were organised by Jewish communities throughout Britain, including the Board of Deputies in London, Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire and Pinner Synagogue in Middlesex.**

Survivors of the Shoah and refugees from Nazi persecution, together with their children and grandchildren, joined other members of Anglo-Jewry and religious, communal and diplomatic leaders in the annual commemoration ceremony, held in central London, organised by the Yad Vashem Committee of the Board of Deputies, the Polish-Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association and AJEX.

The tone of the gathering was set by Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks who perceived that, rather than diminishing with the passage of time, in recent years interest in the Shoah and concern for its victims had increased. With racism and xenophobia still in evidence, memory of the Holocaust provided a strong defence against any recurrence of extremist behaviour to the detriment of a minority.

Six Holocaust survivors each lit a candle in memory of the victims, and Cantor Stephen Robins with the Shabbaton Choir intoned memorial prayers which evoked memories of European Jewish synagogue communities lost for all time. Others who addressed the gathering were Rabbi Stephen Katz of Hendon Reform Synagogue, Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy of the Spanish and Portuguese community, Israel Ambassador Dror Zeigermann, Dr Leonard Kurzer of the Polish-Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association and Ben Helfgott, Chairman of the Yad Vashem Committee.

Actress Ruth Rosen movingly recited poems by Holocaust survivor Michael Etkind, the children of the Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade and the North-West London Jewish Day School choirs sang in Hebrew and Yiddish, and Eldred Tabachnik QC, President of the Board of Deputies, thanked the participants. The dignified exit of the standard bearers of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women made a fitting conclusion to a solemn assembly.

The annual Yom Hashoah gathering at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire also featured the lighting of six memorial candles by survivors and refugees and the inauguration of Naomi Blake's sculptured Menorah which will be lit at the Centre during the weeks of Yom Hashoah and National Remembrance Day.

Following an address by Beth Shalom's Director, Stephen Smith, who alluded to

the postwar silence which fell on any discussion of the Holocaust for well nigh half a century, Dr Carol Rittner spoke on the subject of a book she has co-edited with Stephen, *The Holocaust and the Christian World*. Founding Director of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and a member of a Catholic order, Dr Rittner recalled that the perpetrators of the Holocaust were in the main baptised Christians. She sought answers to the questions, "how could ordinary human beings participate in a vicious slaughter, if only indirectly, and why did moral and religious education fail to prevent evil?"

At Pinner Synagogue's annual commemoration, memorial candles were lit by grandchildren of Holocaust victims, teenagers gave readings, poems were recited by Lotte Kramer and Jacky Dror, and partisan and Hebrew songs sung by a choir.

The congregation divided to hear survivor testimonies, Bernard Verstandig recounting his boyhood struggles in pre-war Berlin to one of the groups. The event's organising committee was chaired by AJR Management Committee member Gaby Glassman.

□ Ronald Channing



*A sculptured bust of Anne Frank, the posthumous publication of whose diary captured the imagination of generations of young people all over the world, has been unveiled at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre.*