

# AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

## Reacting outrageously to 'days of rage'

In June 1934 the non-Aryan, and therefore prematurely pensioned off, Dresden academic Viktor Klemperer wrote in the diary he meticulously kept during his twelve 'underground years': To me the Zionists who want to go back to the Jewish State of 70 AD [destruction of Jerusalem by Titus] are just as offensive as the Nazis with their nosing after blood, and after ancient 'cultural roots'.

This *cri de coeur* of someone who yearned for the liberal Germany that only existed in his mind, tells us more about the diarist than it does about the nature of Zionism. Klemperer was a Jew only in the sense of the Nuremberg Laws. Rooted in German culture with every fibre of his being, he had an emotional block about acknowledging the total collapse of that culture which left him in limbo. At the very same time the Zionists he maligned rendered an invaluable service to millions of lethally endangered European Jews. They did so by conjuring up the vision of a return to the ancient homeland as an aspiration worth striving for. Tragically unable to fulfil that aspiration, the Zionist pioneers still created a mini-State inside British-mandated Palestine which saved over half a million Jews from the fate that would otherwise have overtaken them.

### A 'golden door'

After the creation of the fully-fledged Jewish State, its population increased tenfold within fifty years - a



The 'Haviva Reik' carrying 462 Jewish refugees to Palestine.

proportionately greater increment than ever recorded in any other country. This increase resulted from a huge inflow of, firstly, Holocaust survivors and Balkan Jews, secondly Sephardim from Arab countries and thirdly Russian Jews. The intensity of their urge to settle in the Jewish State is demonstrated by the fact that during the same half century Israel was involved in half a dozen major or minor wars. No other 'golden door' through which immigrants wanted to pass in all history was so bespattered with blood.

Varying the lyrics of the 1920s hit song *Forty million Frenchmen can't be wrong*, we say that over four million asylum seekers who opted for a virtual war zone cannot have been wrong. This fact alone validates the Jewish State's right to exist. Of course, the Palestinians also have a right to statehood - a right Israelis have long been most reluctant to concede. Latterly, though, there has been a shift in entrenched attitudes with two Israeli Prime Ministers aiming for peace - to

which goal one sacrificed his life, and the other his career.

### Cynical manipulation

The current Palestinian Authority-approved *Intifada* manipulates world opinion with newsreel footage of stone-throwing children targeted by Israeli sharpshooters. This cynical strategy pays handsome dividends - *pace* Tom Paulin's

scurrilous *Killed in Crossfire* (*Observer* 18 February). The poem, which uses Klemperer's above-mentioned diary entry as its epigraph, states: We're fed this inert/ this lying phrase/ like comfort food/ as another little Palestinian boy/ in trainers jeans and a white tee-shirt/ is gunned down by the Zionist SS/ whose initials we should/ - but we don't - dumb goys -/ clock in that weasel word *crossfire*.

The mind-boggling enormity of the phrase 'Zionist SS' must make every reader with relatives serving in the Israel Defence Forces - a true citizens' army - howl with silent, impotent rage. As for the poet's conceit that Israelis, and by inference Jews everywhere, look upon Gentiles as 'dumb goys' it is so redolent of Julius Streicher's style that it ought by rights to lay Tom Paulin open to prosecution under the Race Relations legislation. We wonder, too, if the editor of *The Observer* would deem it politically correct, or morally tenable, to publish a piece which puts the phrase 'dumb honkies' into the mouth, or mind, of a Black activist.

## Battleground Britain

In the century that we have just quit, in which the readers of *AJR Journal* will have experienced their most active years, it became axiomatic in Britain that things would inevitably continue to improve. That food and housing, goods and services, training and education, health and welfare, leisure activities and travel, would be ours in abundance, and that our longevity would be extended ad infinitum. Strangely enough, most of these prophecies indeed became self-fulfilling. But if we add our own day-to-day experience to those reported in the press, the good life remains a myth.

A climate moving to extremes with whole communities either flooded out or cut off by the worst snowdrifts since the bitterly remembered 1947; railways continually disrupted following loss of life at Hatfield and Selby; motorways inevitably beset by hours-long delays; London's underground system inviting passengers into crammed carriages at extortionate charges; passage to and through towns by car increasingly for those with expense accounts or the super rich; another virulent disease forcing our farmers into ruin.

A health service demanding the onset of diseases to be planned months or years in advance; accounts which cannot be accessed because the bank's computer has crashed; deliveries never arriving at the appointed hour; and the gasman cometh, but at charges that would shame Bill Gates; surly bus drivers tossing and bruising their often elderly and poor passengers; shopping almost impossible without a car.

The pressures brought by everyday living continually diminish opportunities to enjoy the company of our families and friends, to sit together at mealtimes, relax with a good book, to develop creative pastimes and join communal activities. Time is a commodity we appear to have lost.

RDC

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## Israel at the Crossroads

Martha Blend

The current situation in Israel was the subject of a lecture at the London Jewish Cultural centre by Robert Wistrich, Professor of Modern European and Jewish History at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. Israel had the right to an undivided Jerusalem, he maintained, because the city had been the focus of Jewish spiritual life for thousands of years before Islam was thought of; further, Jerusalem is only the third holy place for the Arabs after Mecca and Medina; Arabs pray towards Mecca; and whilst there is no mention of Jerusalem in the Koran, it is mentioned 700 times in the Bible. There had, he asserted, been a good deal of Arab spin about the importance to them of the Al Akhsa mosque which fuelled Arafat's claim for total control of the Temple Mount. Moreover, Israel had always allowed the Moslems custody of the site out of respect for other religions, a respect which was not reciprocated. Before the capture of East Jerusalem in 1967, and while it was under Jordanian control, no Jews were allowed to enter the Old City, their graves on the Mount of Olives were desecrated and their synagogues destroyed. West Jerusalem was isolated, surrounded by barbed wire and subject to attack from Jordanian snipers.

### David and Goliath

Prof Wistrich believed that Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount - approved by Arab authorities - had nothing to do with the *Intifada*. As to the failed peace initiative,

Barak had had no mandate for the concessions squeezed out of him by a corrupt and intransigent Arab leader. Far from using excessive force, the Israelis had often used massive restraint. Despite this, the international press, espousing the Arab cause, saw the conflict in David and Goliath terms with the Israelis billed as Goliath. The result of this opprobrium was that Israeli morale plummeted. The people were no longer confident of the justice of their cause; the Israeli press was endlessly self-critical while the Arab press poured out a daily poison stream of hatred. The unreasonable demand for the right to return of three million Arabs, which would create a dangerous imbalance in the region, and the refusal of the oil-rich Arab states to alleviate the miserable conditions of the camps in Gaza suggested that not peace but the destruction of the State of Israel was still the true aim.

It is difficult to accept Prof Wistrich's claim of restraint while we see the shooting of Arab children on TV. Whatever the provocation, there must be better methods of crowd control. As for the hostility of the world's press, is it any wonder when so little effort is put in by the Israelis to counter the one-sided views of such Arab spokespersons as Hanan Ashrabi and Edward Said. It may now be possible to make a more realistic assessment of Arab intentions, but it would be a sad day for humanity if all attempts at rational negotiation were to be abandoned.

## New date for AGM - Sunday 17 June 2001

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

will be held on **SUNDAY 17 June 2001** 3 pm at 15 Cleve Road, London NW6

Guest speaker: Lord Dubs

'From Kindertransport to the House of Lords'

#### Agenda: -

Annual Report 2000, Hon. Treasurer's Report,  
Discussion, Election of committee of Management\*

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

(a) he or she is recommended by the Committee of Management, or

(b) 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.

# Vive la différence?

Richard Grunberger

Thirteen years ago, when I was appointed editor, something quite unique in the history of our Association occurred: an 'Austrian' became one of the AJR's movers and shakers. Looking at other institutions generated within the refugee community - whether it be Belsize Square Synagogue, the Wiener Library or the 1943 Club - one becomes aware of a similar preponderance of German over Austrian workers for the cause. In fact, preponderance is too measured a term - it might be more appropriate to speak of a German monopoly.

Even when allowance is made for the fact that the arrival of German refugees in this country began five years before the Anschluss, and that they eventually totalled forty thousand compared to half that number of Austrians, the discrepancy is hard to understand. What makes it even more incomprehensible is that during the war - and especially before the formation of the AJR - the latter constituted the far more cohesive body of the two. There were three Austrian Centre club-cum-restaurants in London (and smaller replicas in Glasgow and Manchester) as well as a number of distinct political groupings. Though the Social Democrats and Communists fought each other tooth and nail, the Communist-inspired Free Austrian Movement (FAM) managed to fill the 3000 - seater Porchester Hall in 1943.

Other examples of a high degree of organisation among (admittedly left-leaning) Austrian refugees was the weekly appearance of the journal *Zeitspiegel*, the continuous performances of the exile theatre *Laterndl*, and, above all, the existence

of the 1300-strong youth organisation 'Young Austria'. Young Austria's German counterpart, the 'Free German Youth', only managed to recruit half that number from among a constituency that was twice as large. The German counterpart to the Free Austrian Movement - the *Freie Deutsche Kulturbund* - likewise had far less popular appeal among the refugee community. There are cogent explanations for both phenomena. Teenage refugees from Germany would, in the main, have attended Jewish schools for several years before emigrating and would therefore have imbibed a different ethos from their Austrian contemporaries. As far as adults were concerned FAM activists were able to

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**"Looking at other institutions generated within the refugee community... one becomes aware of a preponderance of German over Austrian workers for the cause."**

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mobilise a nostalgia-filled sense of Austrian patriotism among their constituents - whereas bitter experience had taught the average German-Jewish refugee that German patriotism was anathema to him.

This may explain why Germans and Austrians showed different behaviour patterns in wartime Britain, but doesn't throw any light on their divergent conduct during the postwar years. I wonder if any readers have views on this.

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and appointment  
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146-154 Kilburn High Road  
London NW6 4JD

Tel: 020 7328 7251 (Ext. 107)  
Fax: 020 7624 5002

*The AJR wishes its members a happy Pesach*

## Law 'n order

Just when did our perceptions of a law-abiding citizenry and a general acceptance of the right to enjoy freedom of ownership become threatened? Was there a golden age when children could play safely in the street and walk to and from school unmolested, adults could travel on trains late at night without fear of muggings or molestation, and front doors could be left open in the sure knowledge that neighbours would protect the property should any rash outsider be tempted to help themselves to its contents?

Can we deduce that crime continues to increase while society's attempts to reduce it are increasingly ineffectual? Evidence generally indicates to the contrary. Last year burglaries were down by 21%, car thefts reduced by 15%, and even crimes of violence fell by 4%. However, street robberies rose by 14% and since 1980 conviction rates for recorded crime fell from 18% to a paltry 9%.

Although Britain's prison population, disconcertingly, is the highest in Europe, there are plans afoot to build 2,500 extra places at a cost of £700 million. No lesser personages than the Chief Inspector, and the Director General of prisons, together with the Lord Chief Justice, apparently hold that 20,000 women, boys, elderly, mentally ill and petty cases should not be incarcerated at all.

If a hard core of 100,000 criminals causes 50% of offences, then more police are required to combat their activities. Court procedures could be simplified and speeded up, and sentences should prioritise effective rehabilitation. Let us also consider decriminalising the use of cannabis, but catch the pushers of dangerous drugs and target police intelligence and resources at the robbers. Does anyone have anything better to propose?

## Role reversal Marion Koebner

In the perverse world of 1930s Nazi Germany, Jewish women played an important part in trying to conserve 'normality' within the family. The six-year period up to the outbreak of war - during which Nazi repression often took an unpredictable course and gave mixed signals to the German Jews - challenged the traditional role of Jewish women as the domestic pivot of the family. Prof Marion Kaplan, 1996 Fraenkel Prizewinner, painted a picture for her Wiener Library audience in which the gap between Germans and German Jews deepened as exclusionary and isolationist measures took effect. Whilst the April 1933 laws reduced male employment in the professions, in the case of teachers in Prussia, 1% of Jewish teachers dismissed were male and 4.5% female. The "rampant joblessness" among Jews in 1933 particularly affected women shopworkers.

Prof Kaplan had had recourse to Jewish newspapers and memoirs in her research. In newspapers, cookery columns and advice on running the

home reflected the financial hardship imposed by the reduction in available employment. Tips for women on how to avoid stress and pleas to husbands not to criticise if the cooking fell short of what they had been accustomed to were further clues to the pressures on Jewish families.

As the decade progressed, many Jewish women who had never worked now had to do so. Increasingly they took on the role of breadwinner when work was no longer available for their menfolk and - in the matter of whether or not to emigrate - they also became the decision-makers as men were increasingly detained in concentration camps or had emigrated to find work. More women stayed behind for a number of reasons given by Prof Kaplan, including that there were more jobs for women (such as nursing home staff), they were less at physical risk and that many remained behind to care for elderly parents. In 1933, women represented 52% of the Jewish population; by 1939, the figure had risen to 58%.

## Jawne exhibition at Haberdashers



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

*Jon Corrall, Senior Master at Haberdashers Aske's School, in front of the Jawne School exhibition.*

The well-researched and extremely detailed exhibition recalling the history and fate of the Jawne School in Cologne, and that of its outstanding headmaster Dr Erich Klibansky (see *January 2001* issue), was displayed at Haberdashers Aske's School in Hertfordshire as the school's

contribution to Britain's first Holocaust Memorial Day.

Presented by Senior Master Jon Corrall, who had organised the translation into English of the late Dieter Corbach's detailed narrative, the exhibition was opened by Headmaster Jeremy Goulding, and drew an opening night attendance of over 180 people who included Henry Grunwald of the Board of Deputies and Audrey Atwell, Mayoress of Hertsmere.

Dr Feo Kahn and Prof Raphael Loewe, both former Jawne teachers, and former pupil Fritz Bauchwitz, spoke to parents, pupils and friends assembled at the school. Co-organiser of the original exhibition, Dieter Corbach's widow Irene, witnessed the enthusiastic response to her work.

# Remembering Eleanor Rathbone

Susan Cohen

The sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the AJR is a fitting time to reflect on the work of Miss Eleanor Florence Rathbone, the British MP who devoted much of her political career to helping rescue refugees fleeing Nazi and Fascist Europe. Born in London in 1872, Eleanor Rathbone was the daughter of William Rathbone VI, a prosperous Liverpool merchant and Liberal MP who instilled in her a profound sense of social responsibility and moral duty. After leaving Somerville College, Oxford, in 1896, she decided to devote her life to social service, and proceeded to involve herself in a wide range of welfare, economic and feminist issues. The casual dock labour system in Liverpool, the financial plight of widows and soldiers' wives, rent subsidies, enfranchisement for women, the introduction of a family allowance and concerns over cultural practices in India and Africa were amongst the causes she championed.

## Prophetic words

In 1929 she was returned as the Independent MP for the Combined Universities - one of only fourteen women members in the House - and entered Parliament with a formidable reputation in the world of feminism and social economics. But the focus of Eleanor Rathbone's activities shifted dramatically with Hitler's accession to power in 1933, and she was one of the first politicians to denounce the German Chancellor in the House of Commons. Her words in Parliament on 13 April 1933 were prophetic, for she warned of "the re-emergence of an evil spirit [in Germany] which bodes very ill for the peace and freedom of the world."

Victor Gollancz wrote in his obituary of her in *AJR Information* in February 1946 that "no one who did not have the privilege of working daily with Eleanor Rathbone can have any conception of



PHOTO: WIENER LIBRARY

what she did for refugees in general, and for Jewish refugees in particular." The plight of the Jews, whom she saw as "the greatest sufferers, and the most oppressed" preoccupied her until her death. She fought her battle on two fronts: the first was to try and prevent war, which, despite her close involvement with the League of Nations Union, was doomed to failure. The second was to organise rescue operations, which involved her in a broad range of activities intended to maintain the momentum of her campaign.

## Relentless campaigner

She asked relentless questions in the House, badgered fellow politicians and drafted memoranda. She had vast numbers of specially published pamphlets distributed to inform ordinary people of the human tragedy unfolding in Europe, wrote letters to the press, attended meetings and made visits to prisons and internment camps. When the British government interned all enemy aliens in May 1940, fearing 'fifth column' infiltration, it was the Parliamentary Committee on Refugees, of which she was the honorary secretary, that responded to the situation, pressuring government to expedite the early release of anti-Nazis. She was involved to a greater or lesser degree with many other refugee

committees, including the Advisory Committee of the Czech Refugee Trust and the Central Committee for Refugees, and was on the Advisory Council attached to the Refugee Department of the Foreign Office. Eleanor Rathbone was also responsible for setting up the National Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror in 1943.

Norman Bentwich recalled how Eleanor "befriended hundreds of Jews and helped them find refuge in England." Amongst these were male internees with whom she made personal contact on her visits to Huyton camp, Liverpool, and women whom she met on the Isle of Man. The passage of time has made the task of locating the refugees, or individuals with whom Rathbone had contact, very difficult. Nor is it easy to identify those who had case files opened at the Central British Fund in Bloomsbury House, and who were assisted, directly or indirectly, by Eleanor Rathbone. Those who do remember her speak of a compassionate and dedicated woman who, for no cultural or religious reason, felt a responsibility for the fate of the Jews of Europe. Such humanitarianism is a rare commodity, and many refugees have reason to be grateful to her and the handful of other Christian activists who cared, and who dared to fight relentlessly for their salvation.

*The author is currently writing a PhD thesis on Eleanor Rathbone's life and work, with special reference to her work for refugees. She would like to hear from anyone who has any recollections of, or had contact with Miss Rathbone, or whose case, or that of a relative, was taken up by her and who had a case file opened by the CBF at Bloomsbury House. Contact details: Mrs Susan Cohen 'Gothic Cottage' Clifford Road, Barnet, Herts. EN5 5NY*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right  
to shorten correspondence  
submitted for publication

### EXCLUSIVITY OF DEATH

Sir - What is the point of 'proving' that the Shoah was unique amongst the various mass killings mankind has undergone? At best it is a pointless exercise whereas at worst, it is a pedantic playing with words which could be dangerous. Mass murder occurred before the Shoah and has not ceased subsequent to that genocide. Rather than compare and evaluate the various mass murders listed in your article (*March 2001*), is it not incumbent upon us to fight racism and prejudice wherever and whenever it occurs?

Martin Hasseck  
London NW4

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Sir - Britain is far too late in marking Holocaust Memorial Day - which includes the Imperial War Museum. The many prominent Jewish leaders neglected to initiate a Holocaust Memorial Day; the Jewish community is also to blame. Maybe Tony Blair deserves more credit than he is given.

Anita Lewy  
Las Vegas, USA

### PALESTINE'S INTENT

Sir - Before the Six Day War, Israel's borders were unsafe, so separate roads were made for the Palestinians. In reality, all the Palestinians want is the whole of Israel as it was before 1948.

Clare Parker  
London NW3

### FOOD STANDARDS

Sir - I was ashamed at the AJR giving space in the loaded profile to such an ungreen reactionary as Sir John Krebs (*Science Notebook February 2001*), lending unearned credibility to his weak cover-ups over BSE and GMOs. Prof Spiro seems unaware of Prof Krebs' cosmetic role in endorsing the stranglehold the giant supermarkets wield over government and therefore nation. I consider the man morally flawed and more in cahoots with his paymasters than cognisant of his duty to the consumer and the noble calling of science.

Mrs SJ Ellis  
Wimbourne Minster, Dorset

[Ed - The above was extracted from a lengthy letter which also quoted extensively from the Food Magazine, the publication of an independent body called the Food Commission]

[Prof Spiro responds: I am sorry Mrs Ellis was so upset by my profile of a highly regarded and successful second generation scientist whose function, according to the remit of the FSA, is to provide advice and information to the public and government on food safety, nutrition and diet and to protect consumers by ensuring effective enforcement, monitoring and labelling.]

### INTO THE ARMS OF STRANGERS

Sir - The question is not: should we be grateful that we were allowed to live - but would we have offered our home to an unknown child?

Lenore Davies  
Guildford, Surrey

Sir - Although it is true that the distribution of children from the Kindertransport was not the happiest (*KT News March 2001*), but for the foresight of the organisers, the fate of these children would have been disastrous. The majority of us found Jewish organisations to help us; we should remember that all this help was voluntary and must have placed a heavy financial burden on the Jewish Community in those very hard times.

Paul Bass  
Sutton, Surrey

### VIENNESE DEPORTEES' FILES

Sir - Mr Francis Deutsch (*February 2001 letters*) wonders whether it is worth jumping through all the hoops. I visited the National Archives in Vienna last November. Everyone was extremely helpful and I was able to do my own photocopying on the premises at minimal cost. I discovered deeply moving material, meticulously kept, date-stamped and annotated by the Nazi regime, sufficient evidence for the claims we have all been urged to submit. The archive employs someone full-time to

copy documents requested by applicants.

Like me, others may find totally new background information and in some instances perhaps achieve some form of closure - or at least help in formulating their claim.

Anne Kelemen  
New York, USA

### LIMMUD WORKSHOP

Sir - May we point out that in Emma Klein's report on the Second Generation Workshop at the Limmud Conference (*February 2001*), the reference to the poet Leah Thorn should have been to Babette Lichtenstein, a Dutch-born cellist, now living in this country. Leah Thorn, born in Britain of a Kindertransportee, was also present at the workshop and read some of her poems.

David Clark, David Bernheim  
Second Generation Network

[Our apologies for the error - Ed.]

### RESTORATION OF DOCTORATES

Sir - I have recently learned that it was common practice, during the Nazi era, for German universities to revoke doctorates awarded to Jews. Some universities, for example Frankfurt and Munich, have formally restored doctorates but I am still waiting to hear from Leipzig about the restoration of my mother's doctorate from there.

This may be of interest to AJR members whose parents' or grandparents' doctorates from a German university were revoked and who wish to establish whether their doctorates have been restored.

Herbert Hart  
Llangybi, Monmouthshire

### THANK YOU

Sir - I started reading AJR Information in 1941 when it was an information circular and have read it continuously since then. I am now 92 years old. I have enjoyed reading the articles over the years and wish you every success for the future.

K Pagel  
Newbury Park, Essex

Sir - Thank you for the on-the-dot arrival of AJR Journal which makes such interesting reading. It was, and is, helpful in my 11-year-long effort to get restitution. My father owned two shops in Leipzig - where I was born and grew up - which were "aryanised" in 1939.

Helga Ehlert (née Dresner)  
10179 Berlin

## Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

### Swiss banks

A Claims Resolution Tribunal (CRT) has been appointed to implement a claims procedure for assets deposited in Swiss banks before WWII. The Tribunal has allocated up to \$800 million (£540m) for awards to claimants. While other aspects of the Holocaust Assets Victims Litigation, such as looted assets and the failure of Swiss authorities to help Jewish refugees, continue to be investigated, the deadline for filing a claim with the CRT for a dormant account is **5 August 2001**. Relaxed standards of proof will apply when assessing a claim. Claimants are advised to answer questions to the best of their ability.

A list of the 21,000 names of Holocaust victims who opened bank accounts in Switzerland is available on the Claims Resolution Tribunal website: [www.crt-ii.org](http://www.crt-ii.org) or at [www.dormantaccounts.ch](http://www.dormantaccounts.ch)

### General Settlement Fund

The US and Austrian governments have announced a comprehensive compensation package for property 'aryanised' in Austria. Endowed with a total of \$360 million (£245m), the General Settlement Fund will provide ex gratia payments of \$7,000 (£4,000) to Holocaust victims persecuted in Austria during WWII as compensation for the looting of household goods and personal possessions as well as for the loss of tenancy rights.

The Austrian government has also set aside \$112 million (£76m), over the next ten years, to widen the provision of social benefits to victims not previously compensated. Anyone who received a payment from the Nationalfonds (approximately £3,000) will automatically be entitled to a payment from the General Settlement Fund and, with priority to the eldest victims, will be contacted in due course.

### Further help

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), 1 Hampstead Gate, 1a Froggnal, London NW3 6AL. For assistance with the completion of application forms please telephone 020 7431 6161 for an appointment.

## Arts and Events Diary April

**Mon 2 Howard Isenberg talks about Toscanini.** Club 43, 7.45pm, Belsize Sq Synagogue. 01442 254 360

**Tues 3 Dr Anthony Grenville: Relations between Anglo-Jewry & Jewish Refugees from Central Europe 1933-1960.** 6.30pm. Wiener Library. £2 (free to Friends).

**Until 7 Woman in the Moon by Julia Pascal.** 8 pm. Arcola Theatre, London E8. 020 7503 1646.

**Until 22 The Jewish East End Then & Now.** Jewish Museum, Finchley.

**Sun 22 Film: "All my Loved Ones",** story of a Czech Jewish family who send their only son to England on the transport organised by Nicholas Winton. Vera Gissing introduces the film and joins Nicholas Winton and Muriel Emanuel for a panel discussion. LJCC. 7 pm. £5 020 7431 0435

**Mon 23 Marion Hamm: Cultures of memory: dealing with the recent past in Germany.** Club 43, 7.45pm, Belsize Sq Synagogue. 01442 254 360

**Tues 24 Lecture on Czech Jewish Artists by Julia Weiner.** LJCC. 10.30-12.00. £7

**Wed 25 Film: 'The Journey of a Butterfly',** documentary about Theresienstadt; Introduced by Dr Frank Reiss, foreign adviser to the Havel Foundation. LJCC. 7pm. £5 020 7431 0345

**Sun 29 One Day Seminar on Czech Jewry.** Lecturers include Patrick Bade, Timothy McFarland, Professor Gabriel Josipovici, Professor Wilma Iggers. LJCC. 10am - 5pm. £30 to include lunch. 020 7431 0345

**Mon 30 Steffen Pross introduces his book *In London treffen wir uns wieder.*** (In German). Club 43, 7.45pm, Belsize Sq Synagogue. 01442 254360

**23 - 27 The Holocaust, Genocide & the Moving Image:** Film & TV representations since 1933. Imperial War Museum. 020 7416 5320

**22 Apr - 20 May Czech Festival,** including an exhibition of paintings and drawings, documentary about Theresienstadt, one day seminar on Czech Jewry and more. Enquiries from LJCC. 020 7431 0345

**2 Apr - 4 May The vision of Fay Pomerance Paintings & ballet designs.** Etz Chayim Gallery, Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue. 01923 822592

**5 Apr - 27 August - Legacies of Silence: The Visual Arts & the Holocaust.** The contribution of artist-witnesses and survivors to post-war culture and the arts. Imperial War Museum. 020 7416 5320

## AJR 60th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

### 'AJR Information'

## The Journal as a Resource for Research

A symposium on Thursday 7 June 2001 at 2pm

Organised by University of Sussex German-Jewish Studies Department,  
Institute of Germanic Studies (University of London) and  
Association of Jewish Refugees

Guest contributors

Sir Claus Moser • Prof John Grenville (Birmingham)  
Prof Edward Timms (Sussex) • Dr Anthony Grenville (Historical  
Researcher) • Richard Grunberger (Editor-in-Chief)

To be held at the IGS 29 Russell Square, London WC1

The AJR invites participants to a reception following the symposium.

Registration fee of £15 (payable to the University of London IGS) by 25 May to  
Administrative Secretary, IGS, 29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP

# ARTS & REVIEWS

## Art Notes

Gloria Tessler

How to convey a whole city through one art gallery? **Tate Modern's** Century City takes a chance on nine at a key moment of their history. The city, as novelist Italo Calvi would see it, is a metaphysical place of the revealed and the hidden. The Tate tries to grasp this concept through the art of suggestion. Moscow 1916-30, emblazoned by Lenin posters, demonstrates how art and propaganda flourished out of the base metals of heavy industry and collectivist inspiration. From Vienna 1908-1918, we see that Jews, who represented 10 per cent of the population, dominated the arts. The influence of Freud is potent in the agonised paintings of **Egon Schiele** and **Kokoschka**. Paris 1905-15 is caught between cubism and the figurative - another time of change and self-examination. There's the romanticism of the Ballet Russe and the strong textures of artists like **Chagall** and **Picasso**. As for London - forget it. It was virtually invisible.



Oskar Kokoschka (1886-1980): Adolf Loos. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin-Preussischer Kulturbesitz Nationalgalerie

In a major loan exhibition from the **Rijksmuseum** in Amsterdam, the **British Museum**, one of the greatest collectors of **Rembrandt's** prints, is presenting 90 of his 300 etchings until

April 8. Here is a blueprint of some of the major works and an intimate study of his creative process. Old Testament themes, such as Abraham's Sacrifice, show the tenderness of the angel towards Abraham, whose torment is visible under the seraph's embracing wing. Isaac himself is both tensed against, and yielding to, the father who is potentially both protector and killer - a passionate rendering of one of the Bible's most excruciating episodes. In these biblical subjects, both the scenery and the characters betray a North European robustness. The seductive Potiphar's wife in the shape of a portly 17th century Dutch matron is hardly the popular idea of the biblical vamp.

**The Society of Designer Craftsmen's 10th winter exhibition** at London's **Mall Galleries** showed the work of some talented new licentiate members. Last year's Japanese themes have inspired a simplicity in design whose best exponents are in jewellery typified by **John Weiss'** subtly embossed silver paper knives and pendants.

Selected new licentiate, **Erica Roch's** very Cinderella theatrical costumes are a ragbag of velvet and nails, glass and wire wool. The pain and pleasure principle is intensified by the way she sews real rose thorns into the costume!

Faces peering out of boxes or obelisks, cutlery that conveys humanity - these are **David Breuer-Weil's** subjects at his **Roundhouse** exhibition. It screams Holocaust at you. He treats colour as monochrome: the paint is crudely applied and his brash figures trail onto the canvas as though they are leaking. This liquidity, this sense of dissolution recalls **Francis Bacon** minus the intense anguish that derives from Bacon's painterly finesse. In an erudite speech for one of the exhibition sponsors, Jewish Policy Research's lawyer - art critic Anthony Julius - suggested that it is too early for Holocaust art. If so this would invalidate all the work of writers Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel, two of the Holocaust's most gifted witnesses.

## RG's INTERFACE

**Inter-faith exchange.** Kabbalah-browsing pop idol Madonna and her film director husband Guy Ritchie, who peopled *Snatch* with yarmulka-capped diamond traders, took ecumenism one essential step further. They partook of a traditional Friday-night dinner *chez* Ali G (aka Sacha Baron Cohen), the Hampstead Garden Suburb-bred rapper.

**Empathy.** The up-and-coming Austrian novelist Norbert Gstrein's *Die englischen Jahre*, focuses on the life of a fictitious refugee. Gstrein, a devotee of the 'internal emigrant' Thomas Bernhard, studied in the USA, and currently lives in Zürich.

**Birthday.** Armin Mueller-Stahl, probably the best known German actor of today, has turned seventy. Born in Tilsit, to a father who was subsequently shot as a Wehrmacht deserter, and a mother who had to flee from the advancing Russians, he started his career with Brecht's Berliner Ensemble. Later he appeared in Fassbinder films, played the second lead in Istvan Szabo's classic *Colonel Redl*, and achieved international stardom in *Shine* and *Music Box*.

**Obituaries.** The poet and translator HC Artmann died in Vienna, aged 79. He achieved fame as a writer in Viennese dialect who bridged the gap between the highbrow and the popular. A volume of poetry entitled *med ana schwoazzn dintn* (1958) was followed by *im schatten der burenwurst* (1971), and dialect translations of Molière, Marivaux and others. Artmann received the prestigious Büchner Prize shortly before his death.

Austrian film actress Liane Haid died in Berne, aged 105. She starred in the 1922 silent classic *Lucrezia Borgia* (opposite Wilhelm Dieterle), worked for Reinhold Schünzel, and was Willy Forst's favourite leading lady.

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING  
AND SCULPTURE

## Music Review

Erik Levi

Amongst the most enticing tributes to the great pianist Alfred Brendel, who celebrates his 70th birthday this year, a two-disc set devoted to four of Schubert's late Piano Sonatas (Philips 456 573-2) is surely the highlight. Throughout his career, Brendel has demonstrated a particularly strong affinity for this composer, nurturing every phrase and unexpected modulation with great affection and a seemingly infinite range of colours. The major advantage of the present set is that the performances were recorded at a series of public concerts in London, Aldeburgh, Frankfurt and Amsterdam, and despite sometimes less than ideal sound quality, project a level of magic and rapt intensity that could rarely be achieved in the recording studio.

Almost a hundred years after Schubert, a prodigious talent burst onto the Viennese musical scene to be immediately proclaimed a genius by such luminaries as Mahler and Richard Strauss. His name was Erich Wolfgang Korngold, best-known perhaps for his opera *Die tote Stadt*, and for later saving both himself and his family from Nazi persecution by accepting an invitation to write film scores for Hollywood. In recent years Korngold's output has enjoyed a much deserved re-evaluation, and a new recording of his early piano pieces (Märchenbilder, 4 Waltzes and Don Quixote) sensitively performed by Alexander Frey (Koch International Classics 3-7427-2 H1) confirms that even at the age of 12 he was amongst the most sophisticated and clearly defined musical personalities of the pre-First World War era.

Another highly individual composer of this period was Nikolai Roslavets (1881-1944) a Russian Jewish musician who rose to prominence in the pre-Stalin era but was later tragically victimised as a symbol of degeneracy and anti-Soviet formalism. Yet Roslavets' Piano Trios 2-4, brilliantly performed by the Trio Fontenay (Teldec 8573-82017-2), are quite remarkable discoveries, strongly romantic in expression and daring in harmony. Without doubt these works deserve a permanent place in the chamber music repertory.

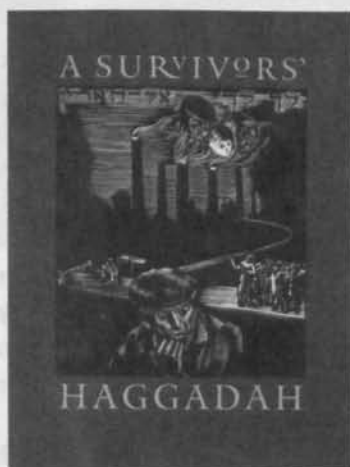
## Reviews

### Erev Pesach in Munich

#### A SURVIVORS' HAGGADAH.

(ed) Saul Touster.

Jewish Publication Society,  
Philadelphia, 2000.



This is the time of year when Jewish thoughts turn towards the festival of Pesach, to Seder Night and children asking questions and family and friends turning over the pages of well-loved, well-used *haggadot* in which we read that ancient story, told many times before and yet again. But not quite in the way it is presented in *A Survivors' Haggadah*, whose origin dates back to 1946, when 200 displaced persons, men and women who had been slaves, not to Pharaoh in Egypt but 'to Hitler in Germany', gathered in the Deutsches Theater Restaurant in Munich for their first Seder after their liberation.

The Haggadah they used was created by two Holocaust survivors and published by the US Third Army, part of the Allied forces of occupation of postwar Germany. It has now been reproduced in a facsimile edition with an English translation. The book interweaves passages of the traditional Pesach liturgy with two stories: that of the Hebrew people's release from Pharaoh's enslavement on the one hand, and the survival of the few from Hitler's Final Solution on the other. In his learned and meticulously well-researched Introduction to the present edition of the original work, Saul Touster describes in fascinating detail the manner in which the piece was put together by its talented makers: Dov Sheinson, writer and teacher of modern Hebrew from Lithuania, and Miklos Adler, the established artist from Hungary. This Haggadah is

presented in such a way that designs and illustrations, which include seven of Adler's superb and deeply moving woodcuts, are placed on the left-hand pages, while the accompanying translations and commentary are featured on the right-hand pages, thus establishing a dramatic "interplay of images - of life and death", the hallmark of this book.

Thus the sketch of Nazi extermination methods is displayed alongside an illustration of the traditional Seder Plate and the well-known enumeration of its fruitful contents. *Ma nishtanah* is followed by a reconstructed version of the authorised answers - some in Yiddish to comply with the injunction that they be given in the vernacular so that even the one who is too young to ask may understand - and accompanied by a woodcut entitled 'We dug trenches in an unending circle'. No less haunting is the reference to the bitter herb quoted alongside gas chamber imagery. Time and again the words of praise expressing joy and thanks for the deliverance from "hard bondage" are overshadowed by unrelieved grief. Indeed, the revised litany of *Dayenu* becomes a "veritable anti-Hallel" grudge against The One who gave his people centuries of insult, injury and persecution, which only Zionist self-action could bring to a realistic end. And finally, "Pour out Thy wrath upon the peoples..." speaks for itself.

The title is a masterpiece of liturgical literature and graphic art. Like *Schindler's List* and *Shoah* it serves as a powerful reminder of that chapter in our history whose wounds time has not yet healed. And possibly, just possibly, it contains an answer to the controversial question as to the whereabouts of God at Auschwitz.

David Maier

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## Love and loss

THE SAME SEA, Amos Oz,  
Chatto & Windus, 2001.

In Hebrew, Amos Oz told me, there is no word for fiction. His novels are found in bookstores and libraries in Israel under *siporet* - storytelling. "Fiction to me means a lie," he explained. "I don't want to be a writer of lies. And then I'm not a writer of documentaries. So somewhere between fact and fiction there is the realm of storytelling which is where I belong."

Oz's new novel, *The Same Sea*, the work for which he wishes to be remembered, is suspended between different states of being and creativity. "Between prose and poetry, between fiction and confession, between telling stories and making music," he says. The boundaries of the book also defy time and space: "It is between Israel and Bulgaria and the Far East, between the living and the dead."

Nadia Danon has died of ovarian cancer, leaving her husband Albert, "in Amirim Street, alone." But, as becomes apparent in the series of poems, poems in prose and short prose passages which carry the novel forward, Nadia is omnipresent, both in her home in Bat Yam, filled with the "finely embroidered tablemats" on which she had continued to work until shortly before her death, and with the couple's son, Rico, on his journey of self-discovery in the Far East. Even in the flat of a friend where Albert is babysitting, Nadia overshadows the living owner, Bettine.

The presence of the dead is one constant theme in this novel of love and loss. As Rico observes: "Man that is born of woman bears his parents on his shoulders. No, not on his shoulders... Within him, wherever he walks he bears his forebears .." This is very much the destiny of the 'fictional narrator', evidently the author himself, who is one of the cast of characters. He will eventually come to terms with the trauma of his mother's suicide which has haunted him since he was twelve. The resolution in the glorious section entitled 'Madrigal' is both moving and uplifting.

Life and vibrancy, as integral to the novel as sickness and death, are embodied above all in Dita, Rico's girlfriend. The complex relationship between this very modern aspiring screenwriter and the 'mild accountant' Albert, with whom she moves in, is finely nuanced and adds a sense of *je ne sais quoi* to the story.

Oz describes *The Same Sea* as "an orgy of a book" and "the most religious book I have written" at the same time. "It is religious in the sense of being close to metaphysical poetry with the mountains, the sea, the desert, and the mystical communion between all the characters who, if I dare say so, penetrate one another all the time in every possible way as if they ache to merge, to become one."

Written in language ranging from the lyrical and biblical to the demotic, with an admirable translation by Nicholas de Lange, this book calls to be read and reread. One aspect which stirred me was the way the characters gain in depth and compassion as the story proceeds. It is surely no coincidence that it is the callow yuppie playboy, Giggy Ben-Gal, who hears the powerfully multi-layered final words: "Arise now and go, light and calm, get up and go in search of what you have lost".

Emma Klein

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# PROFILE

Richard Grunberger

## Marcel Reich-Ranicki



to the railway sidings, they contrived a near-miraculous escape and went underground. A fortuitous chain of circumstances brought them to the semi-derelict, isolated house of Bolek, an unemployed printer. Here, freezing and half-starved, they lived in constant fear of discovery. Even so, Bolek and his wife saved their lives - in exchange for which they manufactured thousands of black market cigarettes, and Marcel regaled them, Scheherazade fashion, with the plots of all the classics he knew.

In late 1944, liberated by the Russians, they volunteered for a Polish division of the Red Army in which Marcel - having also joined the Polish Communist Party - became an Intelligence officer. After the war he worked for the Polish KGB in London, where he shadowed rightwing émigrés, and in Berlin. Back in Warsaw he was purged from the Party as a dissident cosmopolitan Jew, and Tosia suffered a nervous breakdown. Thereafter things improved. Marcel, now 'polonised' as Reich-Ranicki, found work as a reviewer and translator and started establishing contacts that enabled him in 1958 to escape semi-legally to West Germany. At this point his remarkable rise to the position of German *Kulturpapst* commenced. At its height he wrote the

autobiographical *Mein Leben* (Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, 1999).

In it he paints damning portraits - though not from personal acquaintance - of the two German literary giants of the last century: Gerhard Hauptmann and Thomas Mann. In 1937 the author was appalled to see Hauptmann share the 'royal' box at the Schauspielhaus with Goering; like his murderous neighbour, the quondam humanist playwright responded to the theatregoers' applause with a Heil Hitler salute. Alas, Thomas Mann, Hauptmann's opposite not only in politics - the two men vied for the role of Goethe's successor in the Weimar Republic - likewise emerges from Reich-Ranicki's account as a deeply flawed human being. Two of his sons, it appears, committed suicide; the third, the famous historian Golo Mann, told R-R that he positively yearned for his father's death.

In the final chapters of the work the focus switches from literature to politics. Here the author 'brings to book' figures in German public life who still refuse fully to acknowledge the tragedy their country visited upon the world. One such is Prof Ernst Nolte who ignited the infamous *Historikerstreit* of the 1980s; another is the playwright Martin Walser who in 1999 demanded an end to the taboo on criticising the Jews. A third is Joachim Fest, the newspaper publisher to whom R-R was indebted for advancing his career. Fest is also an esteemed historical scholar, who shocked many when he espoused Nolte's cause in the 'historians' feud'. When Fest's biography of Hitler appeared the publisher invited R-R and Tosia to the launch party; to their horror they found that the guest of honour at this event was Albert Speer, and they were obliged to shake the monster's hand.

How, the reader asks oneself, can R-R bear to continue living in a country stained by the presence of murderers and of apologists for murder? He himself provides the answer. What made it possible for him to stay in Germany, he writes, was the sight of Chancellor Willy Brandt falling to his knees on the site of the destroyed Warsaw ghetto.

Marcel Reich was born in 1920 into a bourgeois family of mixed Polish-German background. He grew up in Poland, but attended a German primary school. Aged ten, he moved to Berlin where his mother had relatives. His teacher's last words to him were: 'Du fährst in das Land der Kultur' ('You are going to the land of culture'). And so it turned out - at first. Marcel prospered at the Fichte Gymnasium where he continued - astonishingly unmolested by Nazi teachers or classmates - till 1938. Outside of school, of course, the outlook grew ever darker. In search of company he joined the Jewish Scouts among whom he met some kindred intellectual spirits. At one of their meetings they discussed Kurt Tucholsky's Jewish selfhate-filled suicide note which had been trumpeted in *Das schwarze Korps*. All participants were deeply depressed. But the mood didn't last. Marcel received countervailing positive impulses from literature - he was devouring the classics - and from play-going.

This bizarre twilight existence, in which a precocious teenager tried to hold reality at arm's length by immersing himself in culture, came to an abrupt end in October 1938 when, together with thousands of Polish Jews resident in the country, he was expelled from Germany. Even so, with part of his family already living in Warsaw, Marcel was spared the agonies of the deportees trapped in the no-man's-land along the border. For him the real trauma set in after the coming of war, when occupying German troops daily inflicted sadistic outrages on defenceless Jews. Yet even amid the horrors of the Warsaw ghetto Marcel had a life-enhancing experience; he fell in love with poetry-loving Tosia.

Working as a translator at the office of the *Judenälteste* Marcel was charged with notifying part of the ghetto population to pack their belongings in preparation for 'resettlement'. He and Tosia, now newlyweds, had to stand by helplessly while all their close relatives went to the *Umschlagsplatz* en route to Treblinka. When it was their own turn to be marched - with thousands more -

# INSIDE the AJR

## Brighton

Having avoided returning to Breslau (now Wroclaw) for many years, Frank Goldberg reported that he had now made three visits to the city of his birth which he was forced to leave aged 11. Now in Poland, Breslau produced many famous Jews including Sir Ludwig Guttman, co-founder of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and Ferdinand Lasalle, originator of the German Labour movement. The latter is buried in the largest of the Jewish cemeteries in Wroclaw. Frank laced his narrative of return visits with personal anecdotes which found an echo with many in his audience.

*Myrna Glass*

Next meeting: 23 April - Record Quiz presented by Walter Woyda.



*Sister Margaret Shepherd*

## Pinner

Sister Margaret Shepherd, Director of the Council of Christians and Jews, a tireless worker for peaceful coexistence through education, spoke about the traumatic circumstances in which the CCJ came into being in 1942, to promote understanding between the two faiths against the background of a chequered relationship lasting 2,000 years. Having participated in the first UK Holocaust Memorial Day this year, she shared her feelings and concerns about the unrest in Israel and urged that we reach out for peace. Her talk stimulated animated discussion long after tea.

*Walter Weg*

Next meetings: 5 April - Jack Davidoff & Jules Rubin in Harmony. 3 May - Members tell their own choice of story.



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

*Suzanne Bardgett, Director of the highly acclaimed Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, speaking to AJR members during an organised group visit.*

## Surrey

An informal meeting, over tea/coffee and cakes, in the home of Enid and Robert Miller did not disappoint the number of members who came, some from far away.

Robert Miller talked about Prof Kahle from Bonn whose wife befriended Jews after the Nazis came to power. He was forced out of his university and spent the war years in England, returning to Germany - where the authorities treated him shabbily - after the war. The ensuing discussion about postwar attitudes of Germans to anti-Nazis and Jews was, as always, inconclusive but interesting.

*Hanno Fry*

## Manchester

It was standing room only for a talk by local Judge Martin Allweis entitled 'Human Rights - the European Vision'. The speaker livened up what might have been a dry subject with humorous asides and anecdotes. He disposed of many of the popular misgivings about the new rules and showed how the media's negative reporting of the new legislation fails to give space to the balancing safeguards that exist. Former refugees from the Nazi era have every reason to welcome the new laws.

*Werner Lachs*

## Leeds

Lilian Black, Director of Business Development for Calderdale Colleges Corporation, spoke about her recent visit to China. Her preconceptions of paddyfields and coolies were dispelled when she saw the high rise buildings, modern roads, a thirst for education

and advances in scientific achievement. Overpopulation meant that couples are restricted to one child per family. Religious minorities are tolerated provided there is no preaching. Corruption still results in public execution. The food is delicious; vegetables, fruit and fish are eaten in quantity as well as anything that moves including locusts, dogs and cats! A visit to China is a must for the adventurous tourist, she said.

*Rudi Leavot*

Next meeting: 29 April - Ronald Channing (AJR Head of Community Relations) speaks on 'AJR: 60 years on.'

## South London

Next meeting: 17 May - speaker to be confirmed.

## West Midlands

Next meeting: 22 April - Informal meeting at the home of Henry Rednall.

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## KINDERTRANSPORT NEWS

David Jedwab

The popularity of the recently introduced monthly *KinderLunches* at AJR's Day Centre (at 12 for 12:30pm) enable us to invite all Kinder, the dates being advertised below in this column.

At the first *KinderLunches* members were invited to tell their life stories after arrival in England. Fred Durst recounted how he succeeded in establishing the country's largest jewellery manufacturer and helped to reorganise its hallmarking system. Sigi Faith related his metamorphosis from 'Kind to British Public School Pupil', recalling his struggles with the English language and the finer points of cricket with wit and humour. Herman Hirschberger described the trials and tribulations of life in a hostel, coming to terms with being away from his family as well as reconciling his religious upbringing with practical reality, experiences mirroring those of many other Kinder.

At the *KT/AJR Luncheon Club* on 21 February, Marion Fixler dealt with the finer points (no pun intended) of Chinese and Japanese acupuncture, an oriental practice dating back over 5,000 years. More than 30% of the attendees were Kinder, but we would like to see this reach at least 50%!

AJR AGM - 17 June. Please attend this important event as it is your chance to influence the organisation to which you now belong and in whose progress we are increasingly involved.

### Dates for your diary

*KinderLunch*, Monday 2 April, speaker Peter Masters, author of *Striking Back*, a Jewish Commando's war against the Nazis.

*Joint KT-AJR Luncheon Club*, Wednesday 18 April, speaker Irene Lawford Hinrichsen.

*KinderLunch*, Monday 21 May. Bertha Leverton, speaking about her tour in Germany where she addressed hundreds of young students and featured on radio and TV.

To participate please register your name (on a first come, first served basis) with the AJR Day Centre, 15 Cleve Road, West Hampstead, NW6. Tel: 020 7328 0208

## AJR SEDER NIGHT

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Wednesday 11 April  
Thursday 19 April  
Tuesday 24 April  
Wednesday 2 May

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Mon & Wed 9.30am-3.30pm, Tues & Thurs 9.30am-5.30pm, Sun 2pm-6.30pm

APRIL	Afternoon entertainment:
Sun 1	DAY CENTRE OPEN NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon 2	Kard & Games Klub
Tue 3	Helen Blake voice & piano
Wed 4	Stephen Baron, piano and Paul Balmer, violin
Thur 5	Stella Robinson & Antonia Kendall, accompanied by Susie Lawrie, piano
Sun 8	CLOSED PESACH
Mon 9	CLOSED PESACH
Tue 10	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton, violin with piano accompaniment
Wed 11	John Taylor, baritone & Elizabeth Traill, soprano, accompanied by Charlotte Ellis, piano
Thur 12	Jenny Kosew at Pesach
Sun 15	CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY & PESACH
Mon 16	CLOSED EASTER MONDAY
Tue 17	Jo Parton, soprano, accompanied by Lewis Lev, piano
Wed 18	Luncheon Club
Thur 19	Jack Davidoff entertains
Sun 22	DAY CENTRE OPEN NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon 23	Kard & Games Klub
Tue 24	Julie Sterling, soprano, accompanied by Margaret Eaves, piano, led by Sylvia Eaves
Wed 25	Hounslow Community Opera
Thur 26	Mike Marandi Vocal entertainer
Sun 29	DAY CENTRE OPEN NO ENTERTAINMENT
Mon 30	Kard & Games Klub

## Announcements

### Diamond Wedding

Ernst and Rita Frankel will celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 5 April 2001.

### Deaths

**Apsley.** Henry Apsley (Heinz Appel) passed away on 23 January aged 89. He is sadly missed by his brother Kurt Appel (USA) relatives and friends.

**Benda.** Adolf (Dolfi) Benda born Vienna 1906, died peacefully London 22.02.01. Dear husband of Trude for 65 years. Father of Monica (Lee) and Peter, grandfather of Claudia, Nick, Francis, Andrew, Daniel and Jack, great-grandfather of Primo.

### In Memoriam

**Weiss.** Karl Weiss, died March 1982, and Tommy Weiss, who left us suddenly March 1956, not quite 11 years old. *"Es ist bestimmt in Gottes Rat, dass man vom Liebsten das man hat muss scheiden, ja scheiden."*

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**Association of Jewish Ex-Berliners and Ex-Breslauers.** Please contact Peter Sinclair 020 8882 1638 for information.

### Day Centre

**Pamela Bloch at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.** Clothes sale, separates etc. **Wednesday 11 April** 9.30am-11.45am.

**Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre.** New clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans, etc. **Thursday 26 April** 9.45-11.45am.

### AJR VISIT TO THE GILBERT COLLECTION

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I first met Ilse when I was 25. My mother had died in Berlin - of an acute heart infection - when I was 10. Although Ilse was my father's second wife (I thoroughly approved - my father asked me!), she became, in all respects but her DNA, the much-loved grandmother, great-grandmother and mother-in-law of my family, and my friend-in-chief. If, in my eyes, Ilse were to have had no other merit except that of having made my father

## Ilse Wolff 1908-2001

Prof Heinz Wolff

superbly happy, this would have been enough. However she was a very special person. Having had a distinguished career with the Wiener Library, and having survived a serious illness, she suddenly found herself in the position of an entrepreneurial publisher, having on the sudden death of my father become owner of Oswald Wolff (Publishers) Ltd. She ran the company for a further ten years.

Ilse was a 'good' person in every respect. She maintained a network of close friends spanning a vast private universe. Her greatest torture was the thought that she might inadvertently have hurt someone's feelings and she would not rest until the rent, often imaginary, had been mended. I have never heard anyone speak ill of Ilse; and she had a compassionate heart, as her contributions to countless charities testify.

## Science Notebook Prof Michael Spiro

### Spring Cleaning

The days are getting longer, the sunshine is brighter, goodness, look at all that accumulated dust and dirt! A frenzy of cleaning follows. The ritual purification of the kitchen in preparation for Pesach forms part of the same pattern. How fortunate we are nowadays to have available a multitude of cleaning aids: not just soap as in previous ages but synthetic liquid and powder detergents designed for a variety of hard surfaces and fabrics (not to mention personal care products like shampoos and toothpastes).

How do they work? Dirt and grease stick to surfaces but don't dissolve in water. Detergents overcome this problem by having a foot in each camp. Detergent molecules consist of two parts: a long chain of (usually) carbon atoms with an affinity for oil and grease but no affinity for water (hydrophobic), and at the top of the chain a different group of atoms which do have an affinity for water (hydrophilic). The hydrophobic chains are attracted to the greasy dirt on the surface while the hydrophilic heads stick out into the surrounding wash water.

When the whole system is mechanically agitated (in a washing machine or a dishwasher or by manually rubbing/scrubbing), the greasy dirt can now be dislodged from the surface. The particles of

dirt pulled off into the water are stabilised by detergent sticking to them so they don't agglomerate or redeposit on the surface. The cleaned surface itself is also protected by other detergents sitting on it. All you have to do then is run off the dirty wash water and rinse any detergent from the cleaned material.

Soap and detergent solutions tend to foam because at the air/water interface the hydrophobic detergent chains can escape from the water by sticking up into the air. This stabilises any air bubbles. Foaming used to be a considerable environmental problem when wash effluents were discharged into sewage ponds and rivers, so modern detergents have been redesigned by industrial chemists to foam less and, where possible, to be biodegradable.

Your packet or bottle of detergent also contains so-called builders. These produce the mildly alkaline conditions which favour detergent action, and remove metal ions like calcium from hard water to avoid scum. Fabric cleaners usually include oxidising agents to bleach coloured stains. Certain formulations contain added enzymes to help break down protein stains such as egg or blood, but these should be used with care as some people become sensitised to them.

## Search Notices

**Arthur Kraft** born 17 March 1880 in Berlin. Lived at 30 Netherhall Gdns, London NW3 in 1951. With information about him please telephone 020 8908 0582 or contact A Enderlein, R-Breitscheid Strasse 208, 14482 Potsdam, Germany. Tel: 0049 331 7105 97. Email: Endschu@t-online.de

**Auschwitz survivors** with any experience of the camp hospitals, illness, or camp doctors, particularly if themselves medically qualified. Medical Student researching the history of medicine would appreciate contact. Louise Morganstein: Tel: 0121 471 4661.

**Hans Nothmann**, born Chemnitz 1926, last heard of in Oxford area in early 1940s, please contact Peter Kirsch, Tel: 01462 683306.

**Hanna Katz**, lived with her parents in Freiburg-Guenterstal and emigrated to England. Anyone with information about her please contact Ingeborg Conradi (née Wegner), Siegelsbachstr.14, D79117 Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany.

**Descendants of Eugenie (Jenny) Grüner** (born Susice 1856, lived in Palestine, died London 1943) **Hermine Friedmann (Frye)** (born Pilsen 1871, lived in Nuremberg, London and Ohio) and **Frieda Friedmann** (born Pilsen 1873, lived in London and Ohio) sought by descendants of their brother Emil Fürth (born Susice 1860, died 1943 in Nice). Niece Charlotte arrived in London ca. 1939, married (second husband) Herbert Baumann, died 1991. Charlotte's daughter Liesl married Goetsch and had two children Marianne and Leonard. Please contact Richard Millward, 31 Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary, Cambs. PE13 4SY. Tel: 01945 410600.

## From jackboots to Armanis

Ronald Channing

"In Western Europe there is nowhere where right-wing organisations have a chance of obtaining power," was the reassuring view of Graeme Atkinson, co-ordinator of an international anti-fascist network and European editor of *Searchlight* magazine. He was addressing a seminar on 'The Far Right in Europe' organised by the London Jewish Cultural Centre. While parties of the far Right had gained representation in government - as had Austria's Freedom Party - this was not the same as taking full executive responsibility. However, his was not an invitation to complacency about contemporary organisations of fascist groups whose ideology paralleled that of the Nazis.

### Increasing influence

Over the past 15 to 20 years Atkinson observed that fascist groups had gained in influence, pedalling the prejudices of racism, homophobia and antisemitism, and racist violence and intimidation had become a daily occurrence across Europe. Marauding bands of skinheads were seen as a youth culture with a capacity for violence and lawlessness, and the extreme Right had attached itself to these youth sub-cultures through sales of CD records, jackets, T-shirts and other merchandise, at the same time propagating the politics of violence. The income generated thereby provided funds for further militant activities, including the purchase of weapons.

Inevitable failure at the ballot box by parties of the extreme Right, invited violence and terror as attractive alternatives. "Most of their activity is for violence and against the law", said Atkinson. In the main the adherents of the far Right were "no-hopers and absolute losers", but they could carry out acts of terror as did the London bomber who for 21 days held London's

minority communities in fear and killed indiscriminately. Non-Europeans were prime targets for violence and even murder. Fascist groups in Germany alone killed 138 people during 1999 and 2000, reported Atkinson. Problems of social disorder, such as the desecration of graves and places of worship, which should be dealt with by the police forces, were all too often ignored by the authorities.

### New style fascism

Today's fascist elite had abandoned the jackboots and Nazi uniform, preferring to present themselves to the media in Armani suits. Paradoxically, this 'respectable' side of fascism did not favour violent activities; leaders like Jean Marie Le Pen saw them as counter-productive. Undoubtedly organisations such as Combat 18 and the British Fascist Party needed monitoring and *Searchlight* magazine was second to none in uncovering their hatred and violence in order to immunise people against the venom these organisations injected.

Graeme Atkinson also believed it "important to understand the implications of the debate on asylum and immigration as it could lead to an upsurge in activity by fascists and other right-wing organisations". The words 'immigrant' and 'immigration' had acquired a pejorative connotation and this had been introduced into the debate on asylum seekers, not least in sections of the media bent on stoking up passions. It afforded an unwarranted degree of respectability to fringe organisations. Similar campaigns had already brought political breakthroughs in Italy, France, Austria and Belgium. "Their ideology is fundamentally genocidal," Atkinson concluded, and no-one should assume there could never be a repetition of the Shoah.

## Newsround

### IBM 'helped the Nazis'

Holocaust survivors have issued proceedings against IBM in the New York courts alleging the company's complicity in the Holocaust by the actions of one of its subsidiaries. The allegations are based on information in the book *IBM and the Holocaust* by Edwin Black serialised in *The Sunday Times*.

### No safe haven

The Government may withdraw British citizenship from suspected Nazi war criminals living in Britain. The issue is being urgently reviewed by the Home Secretary.

### Lithuanian extradition moves

Lithuania is to apply for the extradition of Anton Gecas, a Lithuanian living in Scotland, to face war crimes charges after the provision of fresh evidence by the US Justice Department. Gecas denies allegations that, as platoon commander in Lithuania and Belarus, he killed thousands of Jews.

### Protective coat

All 2,700 concrete steles forming the Berlin Holocaust Memorial will be covered in an anti-graffiti coating and the information centre will have protective anti-sabotage glazing. At the request of the architect, Peter Eisenman, there is to be no barbed wire or watchtowers.

### Resistance honour

A bust of Sophie Scholl, executed by the Nazis in 1943 for distributing leaflets to fellow students, has been placed in the hallowed company of Goethe, Kant and Frederick the Great in the 'temple of Valhalla' near Regensburg. She is the first anti-Nazi female resistance member to be honoured.

### Nazism poll

More than a third of Germany's 14 to 25 year olds interviewed recently believe Nazism had its "good points." The highest proportion of those responding positively to questions about Nazism lived in East Germany.

### Oscar nomination

Deborah Oppenheimer's documentary film telling the stories of Kindertransportees, *Into the Arms of Strangers*, has been nominated for an Oscar in the Documentaries category.