

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

Of ballots and bullets

Although predictions are always hazardous one can safely say that 2003 will be the sort of year alluded to in the Chinese phrase 'interesting times'. Three issues - two of them interrelated - dwarf all others and cast long, dark shadows over the coming year.

The freestanding issue, so to speak, relates to domestic affairs. It is the face-off between HM Government and the resurgent trade unions. Should Prime Minister Tony Blair seem to be following in the footsteps of his last Labour predecessor, Jim Callaghan, the perception alone will have gone a long way towards making the country ungovernable.

The prospect is particularly daunting today because during the 1979 Winter of Discontent a well-supported Conservative aspirant to the premiership stood ready to move into No 10 Downing Street. Today it seems that a Labour government is losing support without the benefit thereof accruing to the Tory opposition. In other words, a political system that has served the country well for over a century shows signs of malfunctioning.

The Liberal Democrats have evolved into a significant political force too recently to provide a credible alternative opposition. They may well be on the way towards acquiring gravitas - but they are not quite there yet. In addition, they suffer from something akin to an identity crisis. To put it plainly: are they meant to occupy a position on the political spectrum mid-way between Labour and the Tories, or do they intend to outflank Labour from the left?

It is not altogether fanciful to say that if a Martian had dropped in on Lib Dem enclaves during the Iraqi and earlier Afghan crises he might have wondered whether President Bush or Saddam (or Mullah Omar) was the enemy.



Scud missile on launcher

To an eavesdropping Martian interested in the Israel/Palestine conflict, the issue would have appeared much more clear-cut. If he had attended the TUC conference, university debates or televised studio discussions he would have found that the jury was no longer out as to who - Sharon or Arafat - poses a greater threat to peace. In British public perception, it is most definitely the former!

Let us recapitulate: the early Zionist pioneers who settled in Palestine had no intention of forcibly seizing Arab land. Throughout the interwar years the majority of the *Yishuv* subscribed to a non-aggressive ideology, although the Arabs staged pogroms in 1929 and bloody riots in 1936.

In 1948 all neighbouring Arab countries tried to strangle the new-born Jewish state at birth. Four more wars followed at irregular intervals. Unremitting hostility dating back to 1929 had meanwhile a) shifted the Israeli Labour Party into a more militarist posture, and b) elevated the Likud from an opposing minority into a party of government. These developments accounted for the controversial planting of settlements all over the territories captured in the 1967 war. Such a policy breached international law, attracted UN censure and proved ultimately counter-productive.

On the other hand, Israel had been the victim of *serial* aggression. Besides, since the foundation of the UN, two permanent members of its Security Council, Russia and China, have totally incorporated areas seized by force of arms - e.g. the formerly German Kaliningrad enclave on the Baltic, and formerly semi-independent Tibet - into their sovereign territory.

More crucially, Ehud Barak was prepared to take a gamble on peace at Camp David in 2000 by offering a more than halfway return to the *status quo ante* 1967 - a gamble in which Arafat refused to join. The resulting second *intifada* plumbed new depths of inhumanity encapsulated in the term 'suicide bombing'.

Arafat's 'No' undermined Barak. It also hoisted Sharon, whom many Israelis dub 'a bastard - but at least he is *our* bastard!', into power. When Labour ministers walked out on Sharon last October, fresh elections were called. In the impending ballot Israelis will have a choice between a doveish Labour candidate, Amram Mitzna, and Ariel Sharon.

It is highly unlikely that the voters, traumatised by endless bloodshed, will prefer Mitzna, who advocates a unilateral withdrawal from the 'territories', to Sharon but the former may well be a serious contender next time round.

However, hard on the heels of the ballot, bullets may fly in US-led military action against Iraq. This alas may put sorely tried Israel within range of Saddam's weaponry. We can only hope and pray that the Jewish State has anti-rocket rockets and gas-proof shelters in place to mitigate the possible impact of Saddam's last desperate throw. One thing is certain however: a Middle East no longer under his shadow will be a much better place!

New Year Letter from the Editor

Richard Grunberger

The year 2002 has been - to quote Her Majesty the Queen - quite an *annus miserabilis*. This description holds good, as the Pope would say, both *in orbe et urbe* (in the world and the city or *shtetl*). During my 15 years' editorship to date, I have rarely been subjected to as much opprobrium as during 2002.

I have had humorous pieces dubbed 'flatfooted' and my reminiscences declared 'devoid of interest'. In the face of such criticism, I simply mumble: 'There is no accounting for taste.'

What I find harder to take, however, is to be accused of 'creeping McCarthyism' and 'contempt for dissenting views'. To put the record straight: over the last six months alone, *AJR Journal* has published 15 readers' letters attacking my editorial line. I have also had Schopenhauer's dictum '*Nationalstolz* is the lowest form of pride' quoted at me for asserting - at a time of demoralising, almost worldwide, denigration of Israel - that we Jews have quite a lot to be proud of.

Another charge against me is that I castigate Muslim, but not Jewish, fundamentalists. As if bigotry, extorting lavish Israeli subsidies for unproductive *yeshivot*, and making Chief Rabbi Sacks rewrite his book, were as reprehensible as inciting the massive slaughter of innocent civilians from New York to Bali. Muslim fundamentalist riots over staging the Miss World contest in Nigeria cost around 200 lives - four times as many as the punitive Israeli incursion into Jenin.

Lastly, I have been accused of 'unadulterated (anti-Arab) racism'. Wrong: I have numbered both individual Iraqis and Egyptians among my friends. I do, however, view militant Islam as bent on extirpating the Jewish state, and on reversing the beneficent advance of Western civilisation across the globe.

Refugee Voices: AJR oral history collection launched in the north

Anthony Grenville

The AJR has launched a successor project to the Continental Britons exhibition, which closed in November 2002 after a run of five months at the Jewish Museum in London. The exhibition was a remarkable success, attracting an estimated 8,000 visitors.

For many of those who saw the exhibition, its most moving feature was the film made by Dr Bea Lewkowicz, which consisted of beautifully integrated extracts from 20 interviews she had carried out with former refugees. The AJR has now commissioned myself, who with Dr Lewkowicz and Carol Seigel of the Jewish Museum organised the exhibition, to create an archive of similarly filmed interviews with Jewish refugees.

To be called *Refugee Voices: The AJR Visual History Collection*, this ambitious new project will consist of 120 filmed interviews with former refugees, to be carried out over three years, starting in January 2003. Each interview will aim to provide an account of the interviewee's entire life story, from his or her childhood in the German-speaking lands of Central Europe up to the present in Britain. Copies of the videos will be held at the Jewish Museum and at the Wiener Library.

Since most of the existing interviews with Jewish refugees from Hitler in Britain have been carried out in London and the South-East, the AJR has decided to redress the balance by having many of the interviews for this new project conducted with members in other regions of the UK. For this reason, I travelled to the Manchester meeting of the AJR's Northern groups to launch the project there.



Dr Anthony Grenville surveying 'Finchley Roadstrasse' at the Continental Britons exhibition

Anyone wishing to be interviewed should first contact their regional organiser. But prospective interviewees need to bear in mind that 120 interviews (40 per year for three years) is not a large number, considering the likely demand. Apart from a quota set aside for the AJR's Day Centre, interviews with members living in the London area will probably have to be limited to exceptional cases. Preference will also have to be given to those who have not yet been interviewed by other organisations.

The AJR Charitable Trust, which has agreed to finance the project, is to be congratulated on its foresight and generosity. With the inexorable passing of the years, it becomes ever more important to record and document the historical experience of the Jewish refugees from Nazism in Britain; theirs is a community that has suffered much and achieved much, not least in establishing themselves and their families securely in Britain. The *Refugee Voices* project is designed to ensure that a solid body of material about them survives into posterity, for their descendants and for the use of scholars and educationalists.

Dr Grenville is the AJR's historian and researcher.

AJR Journal

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Germany and Austria send out mixed signals

Richard Grunberger

Since 1945 the paths of Austria and Germany - two countries which had merged ecstatically seven years earlier - have diverged quite a lot. The Austrians, building on the wartime fiction manufactured by the Allies that they had been Hitler's first victim, largely managed to shuffle off co-responsibility for Nazi atrocities and pillage. The Germans - for all that they made adroit use of the Cold War to blunt the impact of Allied punishment for their crimes - were more thoroughly denazified.

The perfunctory nature of Austria's postwar makeover became notoriously manifest twice over: first by the proven liar Waldheim's two-term presidency, and latterly by Jörg Haider's meteoric rise to national, not to say Europe-wide, prominence. Happily, the ultra-right demagogue's heyday as spokesman for a quarter of the Austrian electorate is over. The downside of this welcome development is that in cutting his erstwhile coalition partner down to size, Chancellor Schüssel has moved to the right and adopted some of Haider's xenophobic policies.

The decline of Haider's political fortunes has gone hand in hand with initiatives in expiating Austria's wartime sins which deserve to be more widely reported. The recent Kristallnacht anniversary was marked by the unveiling of a memorial to the country's 65,000 *Shoah* victims at the Seitenstetten synagogue. On the same day, Cardinal König conducted a service culminating in a confession of Christian guilt and culpable indifference during the Holocaust. Attention was also drawn to the deep historic roots of Austrian Judeophobia by the unveiling of a plaque in Vienna's third district, where in 1421 200 Jews accused of collaboration with Hussite heretics were burnt in public.

Germany, for all that its *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* (encounter with the past) has always been more thoroughgoing, has over the past 15 years evinced somewhat schizophrenic tendencies. The shameful 'Historians' Quarrel' had barely died down when

Martin Walser demanded a 'statute of limitations' for Auschwitz. This was followed by the regional FDP leader Möllermann's antisemitic outbursts during last year's elections. The German voters punished the FDP, but rewarded Chancellor Schröder, who had seen fit to weaken NATO ties (as well as EU cohesion) in pursuit of electoral advantage. Although Schröder's record on Jewish issues is unimpeachable, his pledge to abstain from action against Iraq even if the UN decrees it, amounts to support for Saddam, the sworn enemy of Israel.

This was, admittedly, offset by the fact that more recently, when the Jewish state, threatened by Saddam's rockets yet again, asked Germany to supply it with Patriot anti-missile missiles, the Chancellor responded positively, calling the strengthening of Israel's security 'our moral and historical duty'.

Meanwhile, in another area of German public life there has been a totally unrelated development giving cause for grave concern. The historian Professor Jörg Friedrich has published a book whose ultimate aim is the relativisation of Germany's wartime guilt. In bringing (and superficially substantiating) the charge that British bombs killed thousands of innocent German civilians, the author pursues the aim of tarnishing not only Bomber Harris but Winston Churchill himself as a war criminal.

From this misrepresentation it would be a relatively short step to asserting that the Allies were not all that different from the Axis powers during the Second World War. This would amount to a stomach-turning rehabilitation of Hitler and erode the still fragile cohesion of the European Union.

One is entitled to ask if Professor Friedrich is a truth-seeking historian or one with a hidden agenda of perverse German patriotism. So while we welcome the - hopefully permanent - demise of Jörg Haider, we must register alarm at the rise to prominence of his German namesake, Jörg Friedrich.

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Focus on refugee testimonies at Manchester get-together

Ronald Channing

Werner Lachs, AJR's Manchester Chairman, welcomed AJR members and supporters from across Northern England, the Midlands and Scotland to the second Northern Region get-together. It proved a day full of information exchange, consultation, expert guidance, discussion and an opportunity to meet fellow former refugees.

AJR's Head of Community Relations, Ronald Channing, reported that many recommendations made at the first get-together at Beth Shalom had already been taken up. From the Central Office for Holocaust Claims, Michael Newman announced that since the opening of the office two years ago, £14 million had been received by successful applicants, many having benefited from its guidance when making claims. Similar advice was made available to 25 members in one-to-one consultations held during the day.

Head of Social Services Marcia Goodman, wanting members to enjoy the full range of AJR's services in all parts of the country, announced the appointment of a Manchester-based social worker. She pointed to the success of the new groups, of which there were now 18 nationwide, and also held advisory consultations. Social worker Ruth Finestone drew attention to AJR's first northern holiday, which is to take place at St Anne's in May, following the success of AJR's Bournemouth holidays.

Leaders from each group reported on recent progress: Werner Lachs, Manchester, Prof Gerry Jason, Liverpool, Rosal Schatsberger, Harrogate, Steve Mendelsson, Sheffield, Hanna Hornung, Edinburgh, Henny Rednall, Birmingham and Trude Silman of Leeds HSFA. Myrna Glass spoke for Nottingham, and Hilary Anson, Walter Knoblauch and Bob Rosner sent messages from Glasgow, Newcastle and Hull. Special luncheon guest Rabbi YY Rubinstein, the north's own media-friendly minister, recalled some rather unusual experiences with wit and wisdom.



AJR's Northern get-together organising team: left to right, Susanne Green, Michael Newman, Marcia Goodman, Ronald Channing, Myrna Glass and Ruth Finestone

PHOTOS:
RONALD CHANNING

A panel of experts focused on the subject of Testimonies: who should be making them and how? In addressing the theme 'How shall we tell our grandchildren?', Dr David Wolgroch, clinical health psychologist at the Holocaust Survivors' Centre in London, took up the key question of motivation. His advice was to find the 'most appropriate' medium as valid testimonies can be made in art, theatre, ceremony and communal work, as well as in the more traditional media of writing or recording.

Eminent local historian Bill Williams reported progress on the AJR-sponsored refugee history project at the University of Manchester. Among subjects currently being researched were women refugees, and the establishment of an orthodox Jewish community after the arrival from Germany of Rabbi David Feldman in 1936. A refugee database was being compiled based on Salford's surviving



Bill Williams, AJR's Refugee Project Director at Manchester University, left, with Werner Lachs, AJR's Manchester Chairman

aliens' register, which had to be signed at the police station. The main sources of information, however, were still obtained from tape-recorded interviews with refugees themselves.

Two years ago Leeds HSFA had initiated a project to record the life histories and experiences of their members, reported Trude Silman, and several interviews had already been deposited in Leeds University's Brotherton Library. What they had learned was to be applied to a second phase to raise the number of testimonies to 80 in co-operation with the university and Professor Griselda Pollock. Their aim was to create a permanent and authoritative archive of refugee settlement in Yorkshire.

AJR historian and researcher Dr Anthony Grenville launched a national project to gather video testimonies of refugees from Central Europe, *Refugee Voices: the AJR Visual History Collection*. This major three-year project had received full backing from the AJR, conscious of the immense value of professionally researched testimonies to future generations.

A vote of thanks was given to Northern Region Co-ordinator Susanne Green and the AJR team for arranging the day and ensuring its success.

A Southern Region get-together is being planned for March 2003.

Cosmopolitan Jews: identity and assimilation

Dr Marion Berghahn, social anthropologist, publisher and originator of the name *Continental Britons*, the title of her book published 20 years ago, spoke on 'Identity and Assimilation' at the Jewish Museum, Camden Town. She based her findings on interviews conducted in the 1970s and 1980s with several hundred German-speaking Jewish refugees living in Britain.

Although Germany's Jews had "intermingled" with those around them for centuries, the emancipation marked a clear turning point, said Dr Berghahn. German culture proved fertile ground for the Jews, whose "intellectual forces" were released and whose upward social mobility became a possibility. A unique integration of German and Jewish cultures developed with common values and perceptions, and subtle ties were "deeply imbedded", according to Dr Berghahn.

Jews born in Germany possessed "a strong consciousness as to who they were," namely Germans entitled also to belong to the Jewish nation and to remain true to their Jewish heritage and relationships with other Jewish communities. Dr Berghahn saw this as the Jews adding "cosmopolitanism" to German society.

The shock of being declared enemies of the state, expelled and murdered abruptly ended an apparently close and easy relationship with their non-Jewish neighbours.

Grateful for having reached the relative security and safety of Britain, complex questions of identity had to be faced and dealt with. If 'home' was where one went to school and whose mother tongue you spoke, these pillars were now lost. A German name and a German accent were only too revealing to the natives. "I feel English," said one, "but a bloody foreigner at the same time." Perhaps the most that could be hoped for was to be accepted as British and to make new friends, colleagues and acquaintances. Yet most refugees selected their friends from other Jews with whom they shared a common background and culture.

CONTINENTAL BRITONS

Ronald Channing



Dr Marion Berghahn
among 'Continental Britons'

PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

As far as the modern state of Germany was concerned, mistrust, dislike, hostility and even an understandable hatred were often allied to a wish never to set foot again on German soil or to speak German. Paradoxically, the quality and design of German products still brought with them a certain admiration, Dr Berghahn observed. Meeting Germans on holiday could reveal how embarrassing it was to be a victim. A return to Germany might well prove a shattering experience, but could reawaken feelings of German identity.

It would appear that the German work ethic still had not dissipated, nor a respect for the high esteem in which reason and knowledge were held. A sense of duty, immaculate houses and gardens, high standards of cleanliness and Central European eating habits suggested that the German-Jewish heritage of Continental Britons had not been entirely lost to future generations.

Churches' muffled voices

Dr Margaret Brearley, special adviser on Holocaust matters to the Church of England, addressed the question of 'Protest and Passivity: The British Churches and National Socialist Persecution of Jews, 1933-1945' at the Jewish Museum.

"Arguably, the British churches neither spoke out nor acted with sufficient power" when faced with the evils of National Socialism, said Dr Brearley, a position that did not go unnoticed by the Nazis. While the Germans sought to persuade Anglicans of their pacific intent, British churches took "relatively little interest or action."

So-called non-Aryan Christians - predominantly Jewish converts and their families - were largely abandoned by their fellow Christians in Germany and subjected to the full force of state persecution. A Christian Council in Britain set out to rescue 250 children, but managed only to take in 33! This relative passivity stood in contrast to the non-sectarian activities of the Quakers, who maintained relief centres in Germany. However, during the war Christians became increasingly outspoken opponents of antisemitism in Britain.



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

Dr Margaret Brearley

Dr Andrew Chandler, Director of Birmingham's George Bell Institute, revealed that Dr James Parkes advised Cosmo Gordon Lang, then Archbishop of Canterbury, not to take part in a 1933 protest meeting organised by the Jewish community in the Queens Hall. Lang was confused and concerned that any such protest would inflame the situation. At a Church Assembly debate in 1935, George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, sought to protest against events in Germany, but others argued that the Church should not become politicised. The Roman Catholic Church remained quiescent, expressing the belief that Jews should protest against the persecution of Catholics! The Catholic press continued to deny the full impact of the Holocaust, even after the war.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

INTERNMENT NOT STUPID

Sir - I must take issue with Aubrey Newman's remark (Reviews, October issue) concerning the 'process by which many of the refugees were stupidly interned on the Isle of Man'. This will give a totally incorrect impression, if read by a future generation. When I was born, I had Austrian nationality; after the Anschluss I became a German citizen with a J in the passport to denote my inferior status. This, together with a birth certificate and a paper issued by the Kultusgemeinde, was the sum total to prove my identity when I arrived in England.

HM Government would have been extremely lax if it had not taken steps to ensure that enemy aliens, i.e. people having German nationality, were prevented from playing any part in the German invasion which in the summer of 1940 was thought imminent. Nobody likes his movements to be restricted, but this was the time of Lord Haw-Haw and Quisling. To prove the point, I came across a businessman in the Huyton Transit Camp who had lived in England since 1920 but had not applied for naturalisation as he did not want to betray his Teutonic origins. He tried to convince me that the war was a Zionist conspiracy, and he looked forward to its end, when he would be released - he would then be able to help get rid of all these 'Zionists', so that there would be a better future for German children.

HE Reiner
London NW7

THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF POLITICS

Sir - Your November editorial expounds the theory that people bear a grudge against those to whom they are obligated. Applied to the

policies of France and Germany, I find it unconvincing. That conclusion is fortified by your unnecessary use of the term (jack)boot in reference to the German chancellor. Germany is a democracy today. If, as is claimed, Schröder's promise not to join the USA in an American war against Iraq enabled him to get elected, then it was well worth it. A Stoiber government would have been a tragedy. I doubt that the Germans don't wish to be involved in such a war because of a grudge against the USA. The method of generalising the national policies of democratic countries over a long period is faulty. Schröder is not Hitler, and Bush is not Roosevelt (nor is Sharon Ben-Gurion). The Germans and the French are not the only ones suspicious of American motives. It would be desirable to dethrone Saddam Hussein, but to do this without proper UN authorisation must be wrong. If we cannot build up the UN there is no hope. After all, before we are Jews we are human beings. Let us hope that the psychopathology of politics will not lead the State of Israel to feel a grudge against the USA.

Eric Sanders
London W12

Sir - I must endorse every word in your editorial. Europe is sick again. Six million murdered Jews are conveniently forgotten and the virus of antisemitism has taken hold on the so-called liberal left as well as on the right. Double standards are applied to Jewry and Israel. And with unsurpassed venom anti-Zionist has become anti-Jewish. *The Guardian* claimed in an editorial that the incursion into Jenin was the equivalent of 11 September. No comment!

Anthony Goldsmith
Wembley, Middx

Sir - It is with relief and deep gratitude that I read your editorial. For years the population of this country has been subjected to largely one-sided, increasingly biased reportage, which has resulted in the perception of Israel as aggressor and the Palestinians as victims. In my mind I hear once more the shout *Juda verrecke* and the silence - or worse - of the rest of the world. Hence my relief, and joy, in reading your editorial, a shaft of bright light in a darkened world.

UBH Baruch
Ealing

Sir - I was most impressed by your article. I hope that your writings reach a wide public. It is a great pity that many of my Jewish contemporaries fall prey to the facile arguments that surround us all. Our left-wing beginnings seem to carry on into our ripe old age. To us, who lost our families in the Holocaust, and see the remainder threatened in Israel, people like Kaufman and Pinter are doubly appalling.

Käthe Strenitz RE
London N3

EDITOR IN CROSSFIRE

Sir - I am not renewing my subscription to the journal because I disapprove of the strident tone of its editorials and of the complete lack of objectivity throughout its pages. Your letter pages show that I am not alone in this. Miss A Kramer puts it very well (November issue) when she describes your attitude to all who disagree with you as "denigrating and vitriolic". I have also grown irritated by the journal becoming more and more of a one-man-show - right down to the effusions about your not very interesting earlier life and the flat-footed 'humorous' bits.

Liesel Houlton
London W3

Sir - Your vitriolic attack on Chancellor Schröder (November issue) and your implied total agreement with the 'Bush line'

prompt me to remind you that the AJR has members of all shades of political opinion. It is quite inappropriate for a publication serving such a wide spectrum to propagate just the editor's own controversial views, ignoring the fact that these may annoy or even offend many readers. If I wanted to read views of this particular 'colour', I would buy the *Daily Mail*! True, I have the option of exercising some self-censorship and avoiding any article with RG's by-line - which would reduce the Journal's 'useable' content by about half. As I feel constrained to continue AJR membership in order to support its essential work of assisting ex-refugees less fortunate than myself, I do not intend to resign, but I do appeal to you to show a little more awareness that the politics of some of your readers may (God forbid!) be slightly to the left of your own.

*F Lustig
Reading*

Sir - I detect a whiff of the witch-hunt directed at Richard Grunberger. While the presence in our midst of the pusillanimous and ill-willed is a cross we have to bear (just like that other Jew who has reached such dubious prominence), I for one will cease to subscribe the day Grunberger goes, to mark my disapproval of, and contempt for, the would-be Pinters, Selfs and Hobsbawms in our midst.

*Victor Ross
Ashford, Kent*

BITTER SWEET ISRAEL

Sir - What a refreshing change to see an article about Israel (November issue) that simply 'tells it as it is' rather than repeating yet again the all too familiar politico-religious arguments which we read most of the time. It is too late for me to change a lifetime habit of reading the *AJR Journal* from cover to cover, but I would find it much more pleasurable if it contained fewer polemical articles,

especially of the Israeli-versus-Arab kind, and gave more space to matters of general Jewish and AJR interest. There is no shortage of subjects. Here are just a few that come to mind instantly: today's refugees, better known as asylum seekers; the European Union; Jews and 'refugees' in other countries, including, but not exclusively, Israel; less truncated versions of AJR group activities; etc, etc. You have rightfully received recognition for creating previously untapped interest in our journal. Is it now time for another 'leap forward'?

*Ken Ambrose
London SE3*

UNEASY LIES THE HEAD

Sir - In his discussion with Max (October issue), Leo is guilty of an historical error: it is not true that Elizabeth I did not know any Jews. She knew at least one, the Portuguese doctor Lopez who became her personal physician and whom she affectionately described as her 'little monkey'. Alas, the affection did not last because the doctor was accused of plotting to poison her, probably unfairly and probably at the instigation of the disgraceful as well as disgraced Essex, and Lopez was eventually tried and executed for treason. There is, I believe, an allusion to this alleged conspiracy in *The Merchant of Venice* but I have not found it.

*Francis Steiner
Deddington, Oxfordshire*

A FAR AWAY COUNTRY

Sir - I wish to mention that I like the *AJR Journal*, but also to point out that Jewish refugees did not come only from Germany or Austria. I came from Czechoslovakia, but that is almost *terra incognita* for the journal.

*Mr O Hornung
Middx*

We reviewed the Czech Holocaust-related film Divided We Fall in our August 2002 issue - Ed.

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Gloria Tessler

We have grown used to the darkness of Holocaust art. An exhibition at the **John Denham Gallery** in West Hampstead features the work of the Expressionist painter **Beatrice Rozenberg**, who presents the theme, unusually, with vigour and light. Don't be shocked - the whole impression is of tourists out on a summer's day. Of course, you have to look deeper to see the complexity of the relationship between cruelty and human passivity, but it is extremely subtle. Nudity and clothing are used to convey the same message against a bright background; both are equally irrelevant to her meaning. The brilliant use of primary colours indicates mood, but one senses that the nudity here invites us to consider an inner nakedness, which has nothing whatever to do with the body's beauty or ugliness. Here perhaps lies the clue to the Holocaust studies, which suggest to me, at least, that victim and persecutor are the same.

Rozenberg's perspective is frequently a vertical one. Her *Nudes with Triangular Discords* takes as a reference point the bright red and yellow obelisks against which the nudes, sitting, standing and recumbent, are shown in a relaxed manner, betraying no emotion, rendered strangely equal to the obelisks themselves.

What is this message? It has to be a deceptive one. The programme notes tell us that Beatrice, who never experienced Nazi Europe herself, painted a meticulously researched series of oils dedicated to the Holocaust which depict the lost European communities. Perhaps the secret is this brightness itself; an optimistic vision of a life and times that have disappeared in the cruellest way possible but whose provenance remains eternally imprinted on the minds of those who remember. They are also a tribute to her husband's late family.



Self Portrait with Black Cat (c. 1935)
by Beatrice Rozenberg

Rozenberg's work changed out of recognition since her painting on the invitation - a traditional oil self-portrait of the artist in a blue dress holding a black cat. The feline expression is shared by both woman and cat, perhaps a feminine metaphor, but the woman's arms and hands are strikingly robust and muscular as she grasps the animal and it is not hard to see why she was awarded the Silver Medal for Portraiture. Brought up in West London, Beatrice studied painting at the Royal Academy Schools until 1939 under the tutelage of Sir Thomas Monnington and Sir Walter Russell.

Later works, including the many watercolours produced on her travels, reflected the freer, more innocent influence of Expressionism. Her marriage in 1949 to Zigmund Rozenberg, with whom she had two sons, led to a close involvement with the Notting Hill Synagogue, which inspired many Jewish works, including one featuring a Jewish boy on Simchat Torah. It also made her acutely aware of the Holocaust and of heroes like Janusz Korczak. Beatrice Rozenberg died in 1995.

A dramatic painting by **Orazio Gentileschi**, *The Finding of Moses*, is on loan to the **National Gallery** from a private collection. It is one of three paintings commissioned by Charles I for his wife, Queen Henrietta Maria, in the early 1630s and will be on display until 2005.

RG's INTERFACE

Homeless writers. Last year's Jewish Hungarian Nobel prize winner for Literature Imre Kertész loves the Hungarian language, but stated in Munich in 1996 that he felt alienated from the country of his birth. The reason for his alienation can be summed up in one word: Auschwitz. He is currently living in Germany, the country responsible for Auschwitz. Interestingly enough, the Bundesrepublik has over the last 30 years offered a haven to such Jewish writers as the Russian Lev Kopelev and the Hungarian Gyula Hay.

Art and Life. When Roman Polanski filmed Wladyslaw Szpilman's biographical account *The Pianist*, which earned him an Oscar - and presumably the right to reside in the USA again - he was to some extent reliving his own childhood experiences in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Smashing taboos. Having been too embarrassed to try their hand at injecting humour into the Holocaust, the Germans have now decided to follow in the footsteps of the Italian actor-director Roberto Benigni of *Life is Beautiful* fame. The TV comedy *Goebbels und Gedulig* hinges on the rather fanciful conceit that the chief Nazi propagandist looked semitic enough for a Jewish concentration camp inmate to impersonate him. By coincidence, both Viennese and Berlin theatres are currently putting on stage versions of the Hollywood film *The Producers*, which featured SS men warbling 'Springtime for Hitler'.

Plagiarism. Soon after the Canadian author Yan Martell was awarded the 2002 Man Booker prize for his shipwreck novel *The Life of Pi*, the Jewish Brazilian writer Moacyr Scliar alleged that the work was a rehash of his own earlier Portuguese-language story *Max and the Cats*. By coincidence, Yan Martell - a non-Jew - has announced that his next novel will be about the Holocaust.

From autobiography to fantasy

**NOTHING MAKES YOU FREE:
WRITINGS BY DESCENDENTS OF
JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS**
Melvin Jules Bukiet (ed.)
Norton, 2002

The Khurbn', the Yiddish word for disaster, is how Melvin Jules Bukiet defines the subtext of this well-chosen selection of writings, rather than using the more frequently used 'Holocaust' or 'Shoah'. And it is the impact of the suffering endured by the writer's parent or ancestor that connects the 30 widely differing texts from around the world and gives meaning to the resounding title. While Bukiet stipulates that candidates for inclusion in the volume had to be born after the Second World War, not all are 'Second Generation': a few are grandchildren of survivors and one is a member of the Fourth Generation. Well-known names include Alain Finkielkraut, Eva Hoffman, Anne Karpf, Peter Singer and Savyon Liebrecht.

Divided into three sections, the texts range from autobiographical recollections to complete fantasy. A few of the latter may seem excessively abstruse but the majority of texts make compelling reading. While Part One focuses on fragments of childhood and Part Two explores the effects of being a descendent of survivors in the lives of youngish adults, a common theme linking both sections is the tension between victimhood and justification of the use of force. Thus, the eminently reasonable father in *Nightfather* shocks his children by not so much regretting that he killed his tormentor as by wishing he had been able to prolong his suffering. And the pacific Amos, the protagonist of *The Right Nose*, surprises the reader, and perhaps himself, by his forceful reaction to his friend's antisemitic remark. The Samson-like compulsion of the protagonist of *Dancing in the Club Holocaust* is of another order, as is its contrasting counterpart, the yuppie lawyer protagonist of *Cattle Car Complex* traumatised on being trapped in a lift.

References to Israel in one or two of the extracts are uncannily relevant to

REVIEWS

the conditions of today. A character in *Writing the Book of Esther* is reminded of his dead sister's obsession with the Holocaust when comparisons are made during the 1982 Lebanon War between the siege of Beirut and the Warsaw ghetto, with the Jews seen as Nazis and the Palestinians as Jews. More disconcerting perhaps is a very different phenomenon, the adulation accorded in European circles to the new state of Israel, as depicted in *Ascent*. Israel is seen as a means of absolving European civilisation 'from confronting its own moral numbness'. The current demonisation of Israel, it would seem, is but a sad corollary of the former unrealistic idealisation.

The eclectic array of extracts in Part Three is perhaps the most powerful, ranging from an unflinchingly honest depiction of breakdown from *The War After* to a relentless examination of the narcissistic *Imaginary Jew*, who harvests the moral advantage of his ancestors' tragic past while remaining the pampered, over-protected child of a Jewish mother. *The Library of Moloch*, a devastating critique of Holocaust voyeurism, provides an appropriate finale.

Emma Klein

Righting an ancient wrong

**A MORAL RECKONING: THE ROLE OF
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE
HOLOCAUST AND ITS UNFULFILLED
DUTY OF REPAIR**

Daniel Goldhagen
Little, Brown £16.99

How is it, Goldhagen asks, that a religion based on the idea of love can generate so much hate towards people of other religions, notably the Jews. In a previous book, he put to rest the notion that it was just a few sadists who shot Jewish women and children, showing that this atrocity was perpetrated by thousands of ordinary German policemen nourished on doctrines which put Jews beyond the pale of human concern.

In this book, Goldhagen provides a detailed account of the role of the Catholic Church, and particularly of the Pope, in the persecution of Jews in the 1930s and 1940s. The Pope's Concordat legitimised Hitler's antisemitic laws by accommodating the Church to the Nazi regime. This was followed by explicit hate-propaganda from bishops in Germany and other countries which took their cue from the Nazi ideology. During the Holocaust, despite appeals from more sympathetic clergy, the Pope remained silent while Jews were being deported under the windows of the Vatican. Goldhagen dismisses the idea that the Pope encouraged monasteries and convents to shelter Jews. Where this was done, it was on the initiative of individual priests and nuns.

Goldhagen traces the negative attitude of the Church towards the Jews to the Gospels themselves in which the Jews are execrated as children of the Devil who bear the blood of Jesus on their hands in perpetuity. This notion was reinforced by centuries of vicious comments by leaders of the Church, leading to the popular demonisation of Jews as poisoners of wells and killers of Christian children. To this in more recent times was added the political notion of Jews as powerful enemies of the state and perverters of morals.

Now that the full evil of the Nazi period is well-known what, Goldhagen asks, has the Catholic Church done to make moral restitution to the Jewish people for the wrong committed against them? True, it has rescinded the idea of perpetual guilt but, for the rest, there have been lame excuses and cover-ups: that the Church had no power to resist Nazi orders - not true, the Danes did so effectively; that many priests sheltered Jews - not true, only a minority did so; worst of all, the shifting of emphasis from the main victims of the Nazis, the Jews, to so-called Christian martyrs such as Edith Stein and Father Maximilian Kolbe.

Goldhagen pays tribute to the work that has been done in Germany, but feels that much more needs to be done to right this ancient wrong. At the heart of the Christian religion are the Gospels and it is difficult to be

optimistic about Christian willingness to modify their message of hate towards Jews. This is a book that is of interest to all Jewish readers and should be required reading for the Christian clergy.

Martha Blend

Refugee with a story to tell

WHEN LIFE BECOMES HISTORY

Geoffrey Perry

Guidon Publishing 2002, £20.00 + £3.00 packing and postage only by telephone (01367 718550), post (Guidon Publishing, Unit 5, Stanford Business Court, Stanford-in-the Vale, Oxon SN7 8LH), and email (orders@guidon-publishing.co.uk)

It's not every author who can claim he shot (in the rear!) and captured Britain's notorious traitor William Joyce, aka Lord Haw-Haw.

Born Horst Pinschewer to

unobservant Jewish parents in Berlin in 1922 and arriving in England at the age of 13, Geoffrey Perry has lived a variety of lives, any one of them potentially meriting a book in itself. Among these are the lives of an internee; a British army officer - he was one of the first to enter Bergen-Belsen concentration camp; the above-mentioned capturer (in Hamburg) of the traitor William Joyce; a publishing magnate; and, following retirement, a volunteer prison visitor and magistrate.

Geoffrey Perry's major contribution to this country is surely his ability to have spotted after the war a gap in the publishing market. He is the begetter of the house magazine, a publication intended for customers and staff alike. He became the UK's largest publisher of sponsored publications (now known as contract publishing), at one stage producing 70 magazines and other publications.

Mindful of his father's tales of the war, which bored him out of his wits, Geoffrey Perry felt that his own experiences were of little interest to anyone but himself. Consequently, this autobiography might well never have been written had not his wife Helen, shortly before she died in 2001, extracted from him a promise to record his story for posterity. It is a good thing she did obtain that promise: this is a work of considerable socio-political and historical interest. Copiously documented - as might have been expected given the author's career - by splendid photographs and illustrations, it is a veritable picture library in itself.

Howard Spier

Rabbi Eisenberg. The author and the course of her life are equally unusual. Born in Manila in 1944, she was the child of two Viennese Jewish refugees who met and married in that city. Like other Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria, they survived the war there, supposedly because the local Japanese misread the 'J' in their German passports for 'Japanisch', which did not altogether prevent ill-treatment. The author's mother lost her unborn child through being kicked down the stairs by a Japanese soldier.

After the war the family stayed on in Manila and Ruth grew up the daughter of the Austrian consul general, a man conscious of his Jewish resentments against his compatriots but devoted to the language, literature and culture of his native land - an attitude of 'naustalgia' not unknown even in our own generation! As a teenager, the writer returned to Austria and in 1963 converted to Catholicism, made a career in industry, and in 1986 became general secretary of Catholic Action. Thus, a descendant of a chief rabbi of Bielitz became the chief executive of the senior Catholic lay organisation in Austria.

The author has, however, never lost her affection and affinity for the tradition of her ancestors and the religion of her birth which she, like the present Pope, regards as Christianity's elder sister. And so this practising Catholic can, to Dr Eisenberg's satisfaction, occasionally be seen at services in Vienna's *Stadttempel*. Since her retirement she has devoted much of her time to Christian-Jewish reconciliation. She has thus joined the company of other distinguished converts who have endeavoured to make the Catholic Church atone for its anti-Judaic policies over the centuries such as Mgr Leopold Ungar, Mgr Johannes Oestereicher, Pope John XXIII's adviser on the subject and largely responsible for his decree *Nostra Aetate*, and the present archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Lustiger, of whom it is said that on Holocaust Memorial Day he joins in the public recitation of the *Kaddish*.

Francis Steiner

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Judeo-Christian

'DAHEIM IN ZWEI RELIGIONEN':
MEIN BEKENNTNIS ZUM JUDENTUM
UND ZUM CHRISTENTUM

Ruth Steiner

Vienna: Dom Verlag, 2000

The unusual character of this little book can be seen at first glance: it contains prefaces by both the venerable Cardinal Koenig and Chief

PROFILE

Richard Grunberger

'The Pope's daughter'



Judith Kerr

Like Caesar's Gaul, refugee lives tend to divide into three parts: the old country, uprooting and war, and the new beginning. This tripartite division underlies Judith Kerr's autobiography in novel form, the first - and best-known - part of which is entitled *When Hitler Stole White Rabbit*.

Judith grew up in bourgeois comfort in interwar Berlin where her father helped shape the intellectual climate. As drama critic of the prestigious *Berliner Tageblatt*, Alfred Kerr acted as supreme arbiter of literary taste, a role that earned him the epithet Kulturpapst (cultural Pope) of Germany. (And just as medieval Roman pontiffs excommunicated the Counter-Popes of Avignon, so Herr Kerr feuded acrimoniously with Vienna's Kulturpapst, Karl Kraus.)

In 1932 the eight-year old Judith witnessed a champagne-lubricated event in the Kerr apartment: Gerhart Hauptmann, the greatest German playwright since Goethe, was drinking Bruderschaft with her father. A year later the playwright was cravenly collaborating with the newly installed Hitler regime, while the drama critic - whose name stood on a Nazi death list - had escaped to Switzerland, where his family soon joined him. From Switzerland the Kerrs moved to France where they subsisted on financial help from relatives. Here Judith and her brother Michael quickly learned the language. The father, however, was unable to obtain work, and the family's hopes focused on Britain.

In 1936 they came to London, where the elderly Alfred Kerr, who never mastered English entirely, found earning a living no easier than in Paris. He did, however, receive the impressive sum of £1,000 from Alexander Korda for a film script about Napoleon's mother which remained on the drawing board. Some of that money was spent on enrolling Michael at Aldenham, a minor public school, where he soon gained scholarships that eventually took him to Cambridge and on to a brilliant career as a judge (see obituary, *AJR Journal*, July 2002).

The rest of the Kerr family,

meanwhile, spent the next few years ensconced in a Bloomsbury boarding house where all the residents were émigrés from Europe. Judith had a chequered education, part of it at a snobby boarding school which she hated.

The advent of war brought several changes. The BBC enlarged its German service and Alfred hoped for permanent employment there - but found his path blocked by a devotee of Karl Kraus who wouldn't let a mere world war get in the way of a literary feud. Michael was interned on the Isle of Man; when his parents read Michael Foot's enthusiastic review of the anti-Nazi film *Mortal Storm* in the *Evening Standard*, they wrote to him pointing out that Britain was currently keeping anti-Nazis like their son behind barbed wire. Michael Foot presumably showed the letter to his editor, Frank Owen, who took the case up with a minister - and a few days later Michael was released. The Bloomsbury boarding house was bombed and the bulk of the residents went en bloc to Putney. Judith left school and trained as a steno-typist. Unable to purchase a typewriter straight out, she received a loan from Bloomsbury House

which she repaid at five shillings a week out of her wages. In the evenings she attended art classes at Regent Street Polytechnic.

Postwar Judith obtained a London County Council scholarship, enabling her to combine full-time study of art with work in a textile design studio. She boosted her income by spells of art teaching at schools - and sold her first paintings. In 1948 the British Control Commission sent Alfred Kerr to Hamburg to report on the state of theatre in the British Zone of Occupation. On entering the auditorium of the Thalia Theatre, he was recognised and given a standing ovation. This emotional experience, coming after 15 years of humiliation and nagging financial worry, was too much for Alfred Kerr and he suffered a fatal stroke at his hotel the following night.

In the early 1950s Judith met her future husband, Tom Kneale, over lunch at the Lime Grove studio of BBC TV. He was a writer of short stories and TV and film scripts who made his name with the *Quatermass* series for television (which spawned several cinematic spin-offs). Later in that decade Judith worked as a bilingual script reader for the BBC. In the late 1950s she became a mother twice over; then, as the children took up less of her time, she started writing - and illustrating - books for their age group. (Her 'Mog' series of children's books has now reached 16.)

The 1970s saw the launch of the above-mentioned trilogy spearheaded by *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* (which, in translated form, gained the German Youth Book Prize). The trilogy has since been re-issued and its second volume - *The Other Way Round* - renamed *Bombs on Aunt Dainty*.

And now for the *embarras de richesse*: Judith's and Tom's son Matthew Kneale is also a writer. His novel *English Passengers* which, incidentally, features the mid-nineteenth century genocide of Tasmania's Aborigines, gained the Whitbread Prize two years ago. What's more, Alfred Kerr's writings have been re-issued in Germany and reached best-seller status!

INSIDE the AJR

Newcastle: speaker's special mission on the Holocaust

Henry Ross, a senior lecturer in social work education at the University of Northumbria who, among other things, runs a course on the Holocaust, gave a fascinating insight into the frequent reaction of students faced, perhaps for the first time, with the facts - one of anger that they had not previously been made fully aware of the history. Henry's course includes a visit to Beth Shalom and he has taken students to Auschwitz and Belsen. Susanne Green, over from Liverpool, reported back on the Northern get-together in Manchester and covered forthcoming events. We are currently trying to arrange an afternoon tea in March with, hopefully, musical entertainment to assist the digestion.

Walter Knoblauch

Essex: first job in Britain

We talked about the jobs we did when we first came to this country. Otto found employment with the *Daily Express*, his duty being to lure reporters out of the pub when the front page needed changing. Sid, using persistence and *chutzpa*, got himself accepted by the Royal Navy, although he wasn't British, and became an interceptor of German coded messages. Trude served six years in the Armed Forces, proudly wearing a khaki uniform: after her demob she became a schoolteacher, perhaps hoping to be able to make use of her military training. Ena, Boris, David and John all had fascinating stories to tell and we spent a most interesting time listening to them.

Julie Franks

Next meeting: Tuesday 14 January

East Midlands getting to know one another

At our second meeting of the year we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon with tea and cakes provided by Ellen

Litman, one of our members. Chatting and sharing past experiences and getting to know each other better in this wide, scattered area seems to appeal to members.

Bob Norton

Next meeting: Wednesday 19 March

Pinner talk on antiques

Speaking to a packed and spellbound audience, Laszlo Eckstein illustrated his talk on 'Antiques for Fun' with slides of fabulous *objets d'art*. Collectibles, however desirable, must, he said, be more than 100 years old to be considered antiques. Besides a Stradivarius, his musical specialities included a statue of Mozart and a Meissen Beethoven pipe-head. Among the Judaica was a *menorah* now in a Prague synagogue. He concluded with an impromptu *Antiques Roadshow*, his wealth of experience being widely sought by members of the audience who had brought their own favourite pieces.

Walter Weg

Next meeting: Thursday 9 January, 2 pm: Jonathan Gorsky, Education Officer for the Council of Christians and Jews, 'Bringing Different Communities Together'

Brighton & Hove Sarid: five minutes per person

Members were given five minutes each to talk about their working lives in this country. A wide range of jobs was revealed, among them that of an anaesthetist, a nurse who had covered almost the entire spectrum of her profession, a hotelier who had started off in the cellar (albeit at the Ritz) and finished owning his own hotel, and one person who had had a kaleidoscope of jobs such as a machinist in the rag trade. There was also a short-term sailor in the Royal Navy who had decided to become a pastry cook, found the heat of the bakery too much for him and joined BT. It was suggested that the many interesting and famous (or perhaps notorious) people members had met during their working lives could form the subject of the next meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 20 January, 10.45 am: Tu B'Shevat Party & Video

South London and the Middle East

On our eighth birthday, which we celebrated with cake and candles, Israeli Embassy spokesman Abbie Ben-Ari gave an excellent account of the situation in the Middle East. He talked about Iraq, Israel's other neighbouring countries, the precautions the Israelis are taking should they become involved in a war, and the importance of the January elections. Despite the present violence, he thinks Israel will eventually live in peace with a Palestinian state.

Anne Poloway

Next meeting: Thursday 16 January, 2 pm. Janet Levin, 'The New Magazine Jewish Renaissance'

Hull's social occasion

We enjoyed a social occasion at the home of one of our number and determined to meet again at another member's house in January. The AJR-sponsored trip to the Continental Britons exhibition in London was reported on by participants, as was a visit to Beth Shalom on 1 September - Survivors' Day - by one member together with his 'Kind' foster brother. Members will organise a group visit next year.

Bob Rosner

North London: jazz without latkes

Some 20 members attended an interesting talk by Alf Keiles on the Jewish influence on jazz and pop music. His illustrations included a historical background to early jazz as a musical expression of black slaves in the United States and the development over the years of such luminaries as Woody Herman, Benny Goodman and Siggie Ellman. A Yiddish rendition by the Barry Singers of *Making Whoopey* brought back the years. To get into the Chanukah spirit, we partook first of all of doughnuts; there were no latkes on health grounds.

Herbert Haberman

Next meeting: Thursday 30 January

West Midlands

Next meeting: Sunday 12 January, 2.30 pm at the Progressive Synagogue. Rabbi L. Tann: 'The Lighter Side of Judaism'

Surrey

Next meeting: 5 January (not 21 January)

Bournemouth break



AJR members enjoying a splendid Bournemouth break

Bournemouth is always a safe choice, even in October: Queen Victoria told Disraeli to go there and breathe in the air. All 40 of us liked a bit of pampering too. The caring side of our organisers was touching - my own mother couldn't have looked after me better. Our 4-day programme was a mix of intellectual pursuits, including a taxing quiz, and more light-hearted activities such as dancing sessions, cabaret and bingo, all during the evenings. We also joined the Wessex Group at the Normandie for a talk on *Rothschilds: The Musical* by founder member Walter Woyda...

Ken Saunders

It was my first time on an AJR-organised holiday and I thoroughly enjoyed it: excellent organisation and a well-situated hotel with good food and pleasant company. Our guardian angels - Carol Rossen, Sylvia Matus and Annie Edwards - made sure everything went smoothly and our thanks are due to them...

Gerta Regensburger

New century AJR

Founder chairman Anne Marx welcomed AJR's Head of Community Relations Ronald Channing as guest speaker. Taking as his theme 'The AJR in the new century', Ronald spoke about the development of AJR groups in all parts of the country, the establishment of a central office for Holocaust claims, and AJR's selective support for educational, research and memorial projects. The recent celebration of AJR's 60th anniversary had encouraged the creation of the well-researched Continental Britons exhibition which had broken all attendance records at London's Jewish Museum. In the evening Ronald participated in a 'Brains Trust' at the B'nai Brith Leo Baeck lodges, most of whose members are of Continental origin.



Ronald Channing and Anne Marx

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Tue	7	Stephen Baron - Piano
Wed	8	Opdahl Trio
Thur	9	Valerie Hewitt - Piano and Voice
Mon	13	Kards & Games Klub
Tue	14	Rita and Jack Davis entertain
Wed	15	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur	16	Paul Coleman entertains
Sun	19	DAY CENTRE OPEN - AJR/FJR - Ralph Blumenau will speak on 'The 1920s'
Mon	20	Kards & Games Klub
Tue	21	Valerie Hewitt - Piano and Voice
Wed	22	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton
Thur	23	Madeleine Whiteson sings
Mon	27	Kards & Games Klub
Tue	28	Amanda Palmer entertains
Wed	29	Mike Marandi entertains
Thur	30	Piano Trio led by Margaret Gruneberg

PLEASE NOTE: FROM JANUARY ONWARDS, THE DAY CENTRE WILL ONLY BE OPEN ONE SUNDAY IN EVERY MONTH - PLEASE SEE PROGRAMME ABOVE.

Deaths

Weindling. Erica Weindling (née Gutmann), dental surgeon; born Vienna 29 July 1921, died at home in Highgate, London, 7 November 2002. Loved by her sons, Michael, Paul and Oliver, and seven grandchildren.

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LUNCH DATES JANUARY TO MARCH 2003
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Monday 3 February

Andrea Lyttleton, 'Graphology'

Monday 3 March

Jerzy Landau, 'Saved By Myself - Lifestory'

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Nursery School: 9.15 am to 12.15 pm

Belsize under 3's: 9.30 am to 11.30 am

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Mon 6 Dr Marian
Countries: The Book
Project of the Resea
German and Austria
Club 43

Tues 7 to Sun 2 Feb
History for Today Exhib
Central Library, High Roa
020 8808 8772

Mon 13 Harry Leyrer
and the History of Money

Tues 14 'Our Parents' In
involvement with the J
and How This Has Affe
get-together, Seco
Network. Wiener Library

Mon 20 Dorothy Valier,
her helper William Kaczyn
Irons'. Club 43

Until 6 April 2003 'E
Babylon: The Story of
Major new exhibition
successful Contin
exhibition. Jewish M
Town

Wed 22 Prof Yfaat Weiss
'Central European Ethnc
the Zionist Quest for Na
Library. 6.30 pm

Fri 24 Holocaust Memo
Jacqueline Cole, piano: B
St Anne's Lutheran Church
London EC2. 1.10 pm.
concert. Tel 020 7606 498

Sun 26 'Kindertransport'
Dr Jonathan Sacks and



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Arts and Events Diary - January

Marian Malet, 'Changing The Book of the Oral History the Research Institute for and Austrian Exile Studies.

Mon 2 February Anne Frank: A Today Exhibition. Wood Green Library, High Road, London N22. Tel 72

Harry Leyrer MA, 'Globalisation of Money'. Club 43

Parents' Involvement or Non- with the Jewish Community is Has Affected Us'. Informal evening, Second Generation Wiener Library. 7-9.30 pm

Joathy Valier, 'The Iron Lady' and William Kaczynski, 'The History of 3

April 2003 'By the Rivers of the Story of the Jews of Iraq'. exhibition following the 1 Continental Britons Jewish Museum, Camden

Yfaat Weiss (Haifa University), 'European Ethno-Nationalism and Quest for Nationhood'. Wiener Library

Aust Memorial Day Concert. Solo, piano: Bach and Ullmann. German Church, Gresham Street, 1.10 pm. Lunchtime free 020 7606 4986

Kindertransport' with Chief Rabbi Sacks and Bertha Leverton.

BBC World Service Holocaust Memorial Day. 9.45 am

Mon 27 (Holocaust Memorial Day) to Yom Hashoah 'Am I My Brother's Keeper?' A new exhibition on Rescue in the Holocaust. Jewish Museum, Sternberg Centre.

Mon 27 Graham Nattrass MA, 'The Germanic Collection of the British Library'. Club 43

Wed 29 to Fri 31 'Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of National Persecution'. Conference at Imperial War Museum, London. www.iwm.org.uk/conference/index.htm

Fri 31 Friday evening service, Westminster Synagogue, Rutland Gardens, London SW7. Service at 6.30 pm, communal meal at 7 pm. Second Generation Network

Mon 3 February The Rev. Uta Blohm (German Lutheran Church, London), 'Religious Traditions and Personal Stories: Woman Working as Priests, Ministers and Rabbis'. Club 43

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Club 43 Belsize Square Synagogue. Meetings 7.45 pm. Contact Hans Seelig tel 01442 254360 Jewish Museum, 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1 tel 020 7284 1997

Jewish Museum, Sternberg Centre, 80 East End Road, London N3 tel 020 8349 1143

Second Generation Network Contact Vera Bernstein tel 020 8866 6506 or v.bernstein@ntlworld.com

Wiener Library 4 Devonshire Street, London W1 tel 020 7636 7247

'Unsung Hero'

Founder President of the Reunion of Kindertransport, Bertha Leverton was presented with the prestigious Unsung Heroes Award by the Celebrities Guild of Great Britain at their annual dinner at London's Royal Garden Hotel. Television personality Esther Rantzen, making the presentation, recalled how Bertha, who came to Britain with her sister as a young child, through hard work and persistence contacted and reunited hundreds of Kinder from all over the world to share their common experiences.

(KT-AJR now meets monthly at the AJR Day Centre in West Hampstead.)

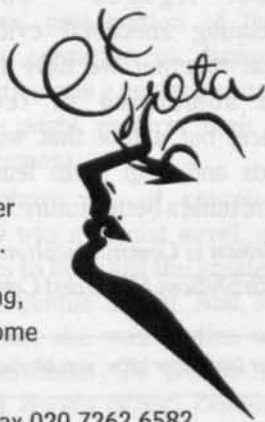
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Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Austrian pensions breakthrough

Following the success of the British banks' guidelines on the removal of charges levied on Holocaust reparations, the Department for Pensions in Austria is introducing a new system to forward payments to refugees and survivors from Austria.

With effect from the New Year, the Pensionsversicherungsanstalt der Angestellten can pay pensions via the Deutsche Bundespost AG to a recipient's bank account, thereby avoiding costly handling charges imposed by Austrian banks.

In November the Austrian pension authority contacted former Austrians advising them of the procedure to set up the direct transfer and requested a confirmation of bank details.

Further information about the alteration in the mode of remittance is available from the Pensionsversicherungsanstalt der Angestellten, Friedrich-Hillegeist-Strasse 1, 1021 Vienna, Postfach 1000, Austria. The telephone number is 0043 1 211 35 0.

Reconciliation Fund extension

An extension to the filing period for claims to the Austrian Slave and Forced Labour Programme has been announced. Applications for compensation must now be received by 27 September 2003.

The scheme provides compensation for labourers who toiled under the Nazi regime in camps on the territory of the present-day Republic of Austria. Applicants to the German Foundation: Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future do not need to apply to the Austrian Reconciliation Fund.

Further information about the Fund is available from the Austrian Reconciliation Fund, P.O. Box 44, A-1011 Vienna. The telephone number is 0043 1 513 60 16 and the fax number is 0043 1 513 60 16 15. Details of how to apply are also available from the Fund's website www.reconciliationfund.at.

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.

Reaching out to the next generation - Beth Shalom Web Centre

David Brown

'I cannot start to sum up my thoughts on the Holocaust', says Shaun Maskney, a 15-year-old student from Derby. 'I found the truth, facts and stories both shocking and horrific, but I think by studying this we are learning how to prevent such dreadful events happening again.'

Shaun is one student among thousands whose lives have been touched by the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre. With AJR support over the last three years, Beth Shalom has been able to take that message of remembrance for the future - and the tools with which to do it - on to the Internet.

Launched two years ago, the Beth Shalom Web Centre involved establishing a suite of web sites under one 'umbrella' address, www.bethshalom.com. Now receiving 5,000-6,000 visitors per week, these sites are successfully extending access to Beth Shalom's facilities and resources for an audience of a size that could never be handled at the Centre itself - and could not, in many cases, make a visit due to the distances involved. Yet while France, Germany, Poland, the USA, Israel, Russia, Australia and Japan are just a few of the countries from which site visitors come, most remain UK-based, and many are involved in full-time education.

'The site is great for Key Stages 3 and 4', says Fred Clayton, an RE teacher at Leicester Grammar School. 'It's well laid-out, so when I refer my students to it it's very clear what they need to do. I also think the use of audio and video clips is excellent.'

'As a teacher, I like the way I can give a research topic to my students and they can quickly find the relevant material on the site - be it the Nuremberg Laws, the Final Solution or whatever,' says Fiona Assersohn, Acting Head of History at

John Smeaton School in Leeds. 'Another aspect of the site that is very appealing from an educational viewpoint is its differentiation; it is both accessible and stimulating for children of all abilities. Many sites don't find that balance.'

Academics and educators in the tertiary sector also value the Web Centre, not only for its specifically educational content but also for its excellent online bookstore and the information it can provide about Beth Shalom's ongoing work. Taking part in a recent international conference addressing the rise of nationalism in Europe, Dr Jennifer Jackson-Preece of the London School of Economics took the opportunity during her keynote presentation to let the audience know how impressed she had been with the Beth Shalom site, describing it as an interesting and useful resource.

Plaudits have come from the industry too. The Web Centre is now featured in the education/training section of Macromedia's showcase for the best UK sites on the net (www.macromedia.co.uk). Entry in the Macromedia showcase is widely viewed by web-design professionals as a mark of outstanding quality. 'This demonstrates just how good a site Beth Shalom has been able to build with AJR support,' says Dr Stephen Smith, who, with his brother James, founded the Holocaust Centre in 1995. 'Much more importantly, though, the user figures - and the overwhelming anecdotal evidence - show that together we have not only created something of technical excellence, but a tool that will reach thousands and help them learn from the past to build a better future.'

David Brown is Communications Officer at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre.

Newsround

Warburg name consigned to history

The name Warburg has been consigned to the corporate dustbin by its present parent, the Zurich-based UBS. SG Warburg, one of the most illustrious names in the City over the last 50 years, was founded in 1945 by Siegmund Warburg and Henry Grunfeld. Siegmund Warburg, from a Hamburg banking family, came to Britain as a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany.

German Jewish community receives new funding

The German government has announced that it will almost triple the Jewish community's annual budget, to about £2 million. The new funding is intended to a great extent to meet the needs of around 60,000 immigrants who have arrived from the former Soviet Union in the last decade.

Free Democrats' ultimatum to party official

Germany's opposition Free Democrats have delivered an ultimatum to Jürgen Möllemann, a former deputy leader, to quit the party or be expelled over an election campaign leaflet which prompted accusations of antisemitism and an investigation into the party's financing. Möllemann's leaflet criticised German Jewish leader Michel Friedman and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

New WJR chief eager to raise organisation's profile

The new Chairman of World Jewish Relief, Nigel Layton, has said he is keen to raise the WJR's profile. Currently the organisation has major initiatives in Belarus, Bulgaria, Ukraine, former Yugoslavia and Argentina.

Tom Paulin re-invited to Harvard

English teachers at Harvard University have re-invited the controversial Irish writer and academic Tom Paulin to speak on campus. A week earlier his appearance was cancelled following statements he made comparing US-born settlers in the West Bank with Nazis and saying they 'should be shot dead'.

Proof of Mahler symphony found

According to the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, a proof copy of the score of Mahler's First Symphony with 'copious revisions' hand-written by the composer, has been discovered at the Jerusalem Academy of Music.

The author of the article 'Return to Berlin', which appeared in our December issue, was Marianne Herz.