

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

A far from negligible one per cent

Contemporary Israel has a Jewish population of five million. In the 1930s 50,000 peace-time refugees from Nazi Germany and Austria (that is, one per cent of today's total) came to Palestine.

They encountered two very disparate groups of Jews already domiciled in the country. The first comprised ultra-orthodox paupers awaiting the arrival of the Messiah. The second were the founding generations of Zionist pioneers from Eastern Europe, who had made the desert bloom and established Tel Aviv in the sand dunes.

However, in the Thirties the incoming *Jeckes* brought a sizable increase in the half-a-million strong *Yishuv*, and their know-how and educational attainments injected new impetus into an economy stagnating in the aftermath of the worldwide Depression.

Even so, surveying the short, but uniquely dramatic, history of the Jewish State from the vantage point of today, the influence of the *Jeckes* appears to have been small.

This is probably due to the fact that, although Zionism - both as an idea and as an organised movement - owes everything to the German-speaking Austro-Hungarians Theodor Herzl and Max Nordau, the actual architects of Israel were Russo-Polish Jews like David Ben-Gurion, Chaim Weizmann and Golda Meir. The Jewish State's equivalent to America's Pilgrim Fathers, likewise, hailed from the Russian Pale of Settlement.

Zionism, though incubated in *Mitteleuropa*, had no real mass following in Germany, Austria or Hungary. The reluctance of German Jews to emigrate to Palestine after the Nazi takeover is illustrated by Chaim Weizmann's failure to recruit renowned German-Jewish scientists of the calibre of the Chemistry Nobel laureates Fritz Haber and Richard

Willstätter for the Hebrew University. (Not that the Humanities Faculty on Mount Scopus didn't receive fruitful stimuli from such new German-speaking scholars as Martin Buber and Gershon Scholem.)

But it was in other spheres, for instance technology and architecture, that the German *olim* made their distinctive contribution. The famous Technion at Haifa was largely shaped by *Jeckes* - and so, to some extent, was the ambience of Haifa itself. In Tel Aviv too there are many listed buildings that bear the hallmarks of Bauhaus architecture.



Teddy Kollek

In the industrial sphere where, 70 years ago, the post-1933 influx resulted in diversification and many new start-ups, German-born *olim* like Stef Wertheimer, founder of the Tefen Industry Park, still play a key role. (Legend has it that at the time of the First Partition Plan, Naharia, Wertheimer's original domicile in Palestine, displayed a banner inscribed '*Nahariah bleibt Deutsch!*')

Less happy was the encounter of émigré German writers with the reality of the embryonic Jewish State, which looked upon Hebrew as an indispensable means of national self-renewal. Lack of familiarity with the language and alienation from a rough-and-ready pioneering society drove

Arnold Zweig (of *Sergeant Grisha* fame) back to Germany soon after the war. The poet Else Lasker-Schüler died poor and neglected in 1945. Not even the committed Zionist (and Kafka promoter) Max Brod managed to transplant himself happily.

Things worked out much better for the Kindertransport generation. Würzburg-born Yehuda Amichai became a celebrated Israeli poet, and novelist Aharon Appelfeld, who had grown up in a German-speaking Romanian household, achieved fame beyond the borders of Israel. (Contrary-wise, several young postwar talents, like the songwriter Gerhart Bronner and the artist/novelists Wolfgang Hildesheimer and Yakov Lind, opted for a return to the Diaspora.)

It is a truism that life in Israel is more intensely saturated with politics than in any other country on earth. Within the Israeli pressure cooker politicians are virtually arbiters of the national destiny - and it is in this crucial sphere that *Jeckes* barely rate a mention. The only names that spring to mind are those of Josef Burg and Teddy Kollek. However, the latter, though a charismatic mayor of Jerusalem, played no role in national politics - and Burg, leader of the National Religious Party, occupied ministerial posts more for reasons of parliamentary arithmetic than political acumen. (Israel could have done with a Machiavellian *Jecke* like Dr Kissinger, but he, alas, emigrated to the land of the founding fathers rather than that of his forefathers.)

All the same, even though none of Israel's men of destiny hailed from the Rhine or Danube, some of its leading commentators on politics and history, for instance the Rhinelander Uri Avineri and the Vienna-born Amos Elon, do. In other words, while the *Jeckes* did not produce great actors on the national stage, they produced great drama critics.

Ogling the student body

Richard Grunberger

A trivial story that unfolded earlier in the year on the other side of the Atlantic probably passed many of our readers by. It concerned two Jewish-American celebrities, the fortyish feminist Naomi Wolf and her one-time university teacher, the septuagenarian Harold Bloom. Wolf revealed that 20 years previously Bloom had met her *à deux* ostensibly to discuss literature, but instead had attempted to grope her, and made her nauseous.

This virtual non-event generated much comment in the British press, and among the dross I found a small nugget of gold. The *JC's* Brian Viner recounted that Albert Einstein had allegedly once enjoyed a tryst in a hotel room with Marilyn Monroe. She had asked him to explain his theory of relativity to her, and he had reportedly replied: 'I never go that far on a first date!'

Einstein and Monroe - perfection of mind and of body - represent one type of contrasts. An equally ill-matched pair were the pro-Nazi philosopher Martin Heidegger and his PhD student in Weimar days, the Jewess Hannah Arendt. When news of their *affaire* leaked out, the university authorities transferred Arendt to the supervision of another philosopher, Karl Jaspers.

After Hitler's accession to power Heidegger became rector of Freiburg University (in which capacity he barred his own teacher, the Jew Edmund Husserl, from the campus). Arendt emigrated to the USA, where, in the course of a glittering academic career, she achieved widespread fame with *The Origins of Totalitarianism* and *Eichmann in Jerusalem*.

On her first postwar visit to Germany she - unbelievably - arranged another tryst with the execrable Heidegger. This duly took place, but their reunion was drained of romance by Frau Heidegger's insistence that she be present in the room with the two superannuated lovers.

South-East's heartwarming get-together



PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

Bettine LeBeau, guest speaker at AJR's South-East get-together

Sixty AJR members braved unseasonable weather to come into a warm and friendly atmosphere, and to greet one another, in Royal Tunbridge Wells at a South-East of England Regional Get-Together. They came from AJR groups in Brighton, Surrey, South London, Westcliff and Kent, and included a number of unaffiliated members who, living too far away to reach an existing group, were delighted to take this opportunity (and often much-appreciated help with transport) to have a good day out and enjoy the company of others from a similar background. The Kent group itself had been formed as a direct result of the get-together held in Brighton in March last year.

Ronald Channing, AJR's head of community relations, welcomed everyone and introduced Marcia Goodman, who gave an updated report on AJR's Social Services, and Michael Newman, who described his work for the Central Office for Holocaust Claims. Both made

themselves available to help with individual problems. Ronald then introduced the star guest, Bettine LeBeau, the film and television actress, radio's Petticoat Line panellist and Britain's 'most glamorous great-grandmother', who kept everyone in stitches with her jokes and wit as part of her talk 'Laugh Yourself to Health'. She also reminded the audience of her own early years as a hidden Jewish child in Belgium, then in a camp in France, before eventually escaping to Switzerland.

Everyone appreciated the extra time set aside for the delicious lunch, prepared and served by the AJR's Carol Hart, Ruth Finestone and Helena Reid (who were able to meet several of their clients), Karen Benardout, Fausta Shelton from Brighton and local volunteer Sandra Blacker, which allowed for plenty of socialising. A wall map, showing places of origin, even brought together two members who lived in the same area of Berlin as children! After lunch, reports on each group's variety of activities were given by Ken Ambrose, Larry Lisner, Hanno Fry, Renée Goddard, Max Dickson and Fausta Shelton. The 'second generation' was also well represented in the hall.

Bettine LeBeau revealed her positive ways of living a fulfilling life when joined on a question-and-answer panel by Ronald, Marcia and Michael, who answered questions on their literary tastes and sense of identity. Members were encouraged to add their own views by the chair, Myrna Glass, Southern Region Groups Co-ordinator, whose thorough organisation of the day ensured its great success.

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'Hero' and 'villain' nations

Richard Grunberger

During the current Olympic games events linked to Greek place names resonant with history - such as Marathon - remind us that Ancient Hellas defended democracy against Persian despotism. Ever since, the ancient Greeks, and especially the Athenians under the leadership of Pericles, have been universally regarded as a heroic nation.

There is, of course, a huge difference between defensive and offensive war. Alexander the Great conquered a large part of the world, and one of his successors' attempts to hellenise Judea by force triggered the revolt of the Maccabees.

Is there such a thing as a 'hero nation' in our own time? The Russians appear to qualify for that accolade in view of their superhuman endurance during the war, but when one looks at their meek acquiescence in Putin's pseudo-democracy doubts creep in.

What about the Brits? We imagine they would have behaved better than the French under occupation. Certainly Mosleyites were far thinner on the ground in this country than anti-Dreyfusards were in France - but can we be absolutely certain?

To avoid conjecture, it might be advisable to look at the actual historical record of near-neighbours of the above-mentioned, that is, the Netherlands and Poland.

The Dutch emerged from the war with their historical reputation as doughty freedom fighters intact. Their queen and government had gone into exile, they had sheltered Anne Frank, and the Germans had punished them for their resistance activities by causing a quarter-million deaths from starvation.

Later, a more nuanced picture emerged. It appears that while every tenth Dutch person was a *resistant*, a roughly similar proportion collaborated actively. However, the sympathy of the silent majority was undoubtedly with the Allies.

As a Slav country, Poland received very harsh treatment at the hands of the Nazis

from the outset. Collaboration was restricted to unscrupulous individuals, while an all-encompassing anti-German mood led to the devastating Warsaw uprising of 1944. Though anti-Nazi, most Poles were far from philosemitic. Postwar, this indifference was glossed over by the Communist rulers and the anti-Soviet opposition alike. Even after the advent of democracy in 1989, the notion that under Nazi occupation the Poles had been impotent witnesses of the Holocaust was perpetuated. It was not until 2001 that the publication of Jan Grosz's study of the Jedwabne massacre, in which Poles had murdered their Jewish neighbours, exploded that particular myth. At that late date the painful process of Poland's *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* (coming to terms with the past) began in earnest.

In the Baltic republics, while laudable efforts in that direction have been made, they have not yet fully percolated to the popular level. The difference between them and Poland is that the latter has historically viewed Germany and Russia as equally hated enemies. The Baltics, on the other hand, subscribe to a myth that the Russians had treated them as colonial overlords and the Germans had freed them. Baltic nationals who had fought in the ranks of the Wehrmacht or SS were looked upon as patriots and their involvement in atrocities was glossed over. (This explains the recent unveiling of the statue of an SS 'hero' in Tallinn and the cool welcome for the crew filming Joshua Sobol's *Ghetto* on location in Vilnius.)

However, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have now joined the enlarged EU. No longer cocooned in their post-Soviet isolation of the last 15 years, they will have to fully confront their own past. The world knows of the great contribution Baltic-Jewish immigrants made to the UK (Isaiah Berlin), the USA (Bernard Berenson) and South Africa (Solly Zuckerman, Joe Slovo) and will want to know more precisely what happened to their co-religionists.

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Jazz under the Nazis

Ronald Channing

How did the legendary gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt survive the Nazi occupation of France when tens of thousands of his compatriots were murdered in Auschwitz? The musicologist and dedicated jazz aficionado Ruth Hazeldine (née Goldstein) recounted to Club '43 the story of Django and his long collaboration with the urbane and long-lived French jazz violinist Stephane Grapelli. She played pre-war recordings illuminating the unique sound and intense rhythms of the three guitars, double bass and violin of the Quintet of the Hot Club of France.

Jazz was brought to Europe by Negro musicians serving with US army bands in World War I. Nazi Party ideology was in direct conflict with the popularity of jazz; playing and listening were banned in Germany in 1935, as were Jewish jazz musicians the following year. The Germans attempted a compromise with 'German swing', but stuck to their ban on Negro and Jewish jazz, though clandestine recordings were made at great personal risk.

Born in Belgium in 1910, Django Reinhardt moved with his family of gypsy



Django Reinhardt

musicians to France after World War I, and learned to play banjo, violin and guitar. With his immense talent he possessed a uniquely recognisable style, despite his loss in 1928 of the use of two fingers on his left hand in a caravan fire.

In London the Quintet were a sensation, but with the outbreak of war Stephane decided to stay. Django chose to return home, although, as a gypsy, he

was in great peril in France.

In Paris Django carried on playing in clubs and bars. A German SA officer, Dietrich Schultz Köhn, a passionate follower of jazz and Berlin jazz clubs, acted as his protector (the testimony of French jazz enthusiasts helped Köhn to avoid post-war retribution and he continued to promote and play jazz). But by 1943 the atmosphere in Paris looked threatening, so Django and his family, having failed to obtain entry into Switzerland, went into hiding and continued composing, using a clarinet as a substitute for the violin. In Paris teenagers calling themselves Les Zazous were less fortunate in defying the Nazis.

At the war's end, Django and Stephane held an emotional reunion in London. Django was still popular in France, but musical styles were changing and he continued his smoking, drinking and easy-going gypsy lifestyle, which probably hastened his tragically untimely death in 1953, loyal to his own people and his unique musical talent to the end.

Club '43 meets weekly at Belsize Square Synagogue - details from Hans Seelig on 01442 254 360.

World Jewish population approaching zero growth

Howard Spier

The worldwide Jewish population is approaching zero growth at 13 million people, according to a new report. The report finds that between 1970 and 2003 the world's overall population increased by more than 70 per cent, whereas the total Jewish population increased by only 2 per cent. At the same time, Jews worldwide are found to be relatively affluent, educated and politically involved.

These findings are included in a report which was presented to the Israeli government by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute and was partly funded by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The Institute is a think tank which is chaired by the former US Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross.

The report, co-ordinated by the well-known demographer Professor Sergio DellaPergola, finds that Jewish population figures in the Diaspora are declining because of low birth rates, a rise in interfaith marriages and an aging population.

The report recommends that Jews take a long-term approach to the future, improving Jewish institutions, leadership and decision-making processes on issues affecting world Jewry. It also says that improving the security and Jewish

uniqueness of Israel should be done in part by encouraging immigration to Israel, spending money from Diaspora Jews on long-term projects aimed at building Jewish identity, and demanding that Israel step up religious pluralism by normalising the status of non-Orthodox movements in the country.

Among key findings of the report are that at the outset of the twenty-first century, 92 per cent of the world's Jewish population live in the top 20 per cent of countries ranked by standard of living, and that, in the last 20 years, enrolment in Jewish day schools in the Diaspora has risen.

Kinder celebrate Bar/Batmitzvahs 65 years on A unique and moving occasion

Ronald Channing

Belated Bar/Batmitzvahs were joyfully celebrated for the first time by 'children' of the Kindertransport some 60 to 65 years after being prevented from marking their Jewish coming-of-age. They were among the 10,000 mainly Jewish children, now men and women in their seventies and early eighties, who had been sent to Britain by their parents at an unimaginable personal sacrifice in the months prior to the Second World War.

The ceremony, at which the Deputy Mayor of Harrow and his lady were welcome guests, was the inspiration of Bertha Leverton, founder of the Kindertransport reunion in this country (now a special interest group of the AJR). As one of the Batmitzvahs, she wanted to right, for some, the dreadful wrongs perpetrated against the beliefs and traditions of the Jewish people. The response from all those wishing to participate was warm and enthusiastic. Generous support was given by Fred Durst, Sigi Faith and many others, and the project was offered an ideal venue by the President, Jack Lewis, and the Wardens of Stanmore Synagogue. The Kinder also very much appreciated the guidance and help of the synagogue's minister, Rabbi Dr Jeffrey Cohen, who officiated and delivered a truly inspiring address.



Barmitzvah 'boys' and Batmitzvah ladies standing together on the bimah at Stanmore Synagogue after the service

Rev Bernd Koschland, himself one of the Kinder, conducted the *Shacharit* morning service and undertook the *Laining*, the Reading of the Law. The Barmitzvahs were called up onto the

bimah and together recited the traditional prayers before and after the reading from the *Torah* of their portion. Rev Leslie Hardman and Rabbi Daniel Roselaar also participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on behalf of all the Barmitzvah boys, Sigi Faith had no doubt that each of them had a special story to tell. He would have celebrated his own Barmitzvah in Hamburg in 1941 but the synagogue had already been burned down and his parents sent him, at just ten years old, to England on the Kindertransport. After his father had spent time incarcerated in Sachsenhausen concentration camp, his parents managed to escape to Shanghai.

At the Church of England public school in the Welsh borders, which had generously offered a refugee a place as a boarder, he was the only Jewish boy, 'so it was not the custom to celebrate Barmitzvahs', Sigi recalled. He had a second and very special reason to be thankful, as his mother Irma, who celebrates her 100th birthday this month, was at the synagogue to share in the joy of her son's belated Barmitzvah.

At the conclusion of the morning service, the Batmitzvah ladies were invited to stand together on the *bimah*, where Mirry Reich, a 'second-generation' Israeli, read in Hebrew a thanksgiving prayer, specially composed for the occasion by Rabbi Cohen, and Marion Marston then spoke the English translation. Among many moving verses were the words 'To our great sorrow, we were not able to celebrate this sacred occasion in its proper time, in our communities, the homes where we were reared, in the company of adored parents and amid the joy of beloved family.' Judy Benton expressed her personal pride on reaching this day, and Bertha Leverton spoke for all the Batmitzvahs when she emphasised the deep significance of the occasion. At the conclusion of the service, celebrants and guests were invited to a Kiddush.

The ceremonies were followed by a



Barmitzvah Kinder during the service at Stanmore Synagogue

Festive Luncheon in the Susman Freedman Hall, graced by the presence of the Mayor of Harrow and her Consort, and by Minister of State Tony McNulty MP. Hermann Hirschberger, chairman of KT-AJR, made presentations to the Barmitzvahs and Lady Jakobovits honoured the company by making presentations to the Batmitzvahs and speaking from the heart. Linda Rosenblatt, Vice Chairman of World Jewish Relief, presented a commemorative certificate to each of the celebrants. Jack Lewis was presented with a specially commissioned artwork for the synagogue hall and Rabbi Cohen with a menorah from Israel in gratitude. After a delicious lunch, Prof Romney-Wegner spoke. The Jack Davidoff Ensemble entertained, playing well-loved melodies, the highlight being Max Bruch's *Kol Nidre*, played with inspiration by cellist Roman Broide. London Weekend Television made a film of the Bar/Batmitzvah ceremony, which will be shown later in the year.

The celebration was organised by Hermann Hirschberger, Bertha Leverton and Ronald Channing of the AJR. Everyone agreed that the day would remain truly memorable for celebrants and their guests alike.

A video recording of the celebration has been made available by courtesy of Alfred Buechler, from whom videotape or DVD recordings may be obtained for £7.50 each including postage, tel: 020 8554 5635. Godfrey Dyan has generously offered to make copies of his colour photographs available for a nominal charge of £2 per print for charity. Please telephone the office for details.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Sir - The recent ruling in the US Supreme Court which allows the continuation of a class action lawsuit against the Austrian government brings into focus once again the shortcomings of the Austrian government's agreement to pay fair and reasonable Holocaust Era compensation and, in particular, the weakness of the General Settlement Fund (GSF).

I, like many others, completed the 32-page GSF questionnaire detailing the types and values of assets owned by my parents in pre-war Austria. Even though I have an Oxford University law degree, I couldn't fully understand this questionnaire!

To gather evidence, I visited the Austrian archives, which were initially not too helpful, but eventually I did find my parents' *Vermögensverzeichnis* (asset declaration), showing exactly what they owned in 1938.

Of particular concern were the insurance policies bought by my parents. Despite accepting the validity of these claims, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) informed me they could be dealt with only by the forthcoming GSF - or perhaps not!

Unhappily, in the February issue of the *AJR* journal I read a letter from Ruth Schwiening that made me feel very foolish. She pointed out that in an English translation the Nationalfonds had omitted the fact that no one would receive any of the \$210m allocated to the GSF unless class actions against Austria and its companies in American courts were dropped. To be fair, the Nationalfonds' Secretary General, Hannah Lessing, did mention this in her talks to Austrian Jews in both

Manchester and London a couple of years ago, and this condition is stated on the Nationalfonds' website. But I wonder how many older people had access to this information. Ms Lessing, like many others, genuinely believed that the Americans would withdraw their claims. So far, they haven't!

The clause of legal peace secured by the Austrian government puts Holocaust survivors in an intolerable position, where not even our so-called representatives can determine how long we must wait for what is our rightful reparation.

And that is before mentioning the significant shortfall of monies in the GSF, and Austria's refusal to address, or disinterest in addressing, the matter in full. Austria intends to make compensation awards for appropriated properties, liquidated businesses and seized assets, as well as for loss of education to all former Austrians or their heirs, for as little as \$210m. This is an insult and should never have been agreed.

So we have to ask: who is responsible for this state of affairs? If, after many visits to Heidemarie Blazej at the Austrian embassy, meetings with the Austrian Ambassador, Dr Alexander Christiani, meetings with Michael Newman of the AJR and Holocaust Educational Trust, phone calls, emails and meetings (in Vienna) with Hannah Lessing and colleagues at the Nationalfonds, phone calls and meetings (in Vienna) with Dr Steiner at the Austrian State Archives, visits to the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde (in Vienna), and letters to ICHEIC, I receive no compensation whatsoever - who is to blame? Oddly, it is not just the Austrians.

Who agreed to what was, in my opinion, a ridiculously early cut-off point for claims in the US (I didn't even have my father's archive material at that time)? Who agreed the vastly inadequate sum paid by Bank Austria? Who agreed the outrageous clause that continues to deny compensation to many thousands of former Austrians because of lack of funds? Regrettably, some of our Jewish communal leaders have much to answer for.

It is of great concern to me that the efforts of some American organisations will deny compensation and justice to survivors worldwide, and I feel that we ex-Austrians in the UK must organise ourselves to campaign for a satisfactory settlement. We cannot let this appalling agreement be the final word. Please contact me with your views.

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FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A KIND

Sir - A month or so ago Hanno Fry and his partner asked me to join them to see the play *Kindertransport*. It was performed by pupils of the Walthamstow Girls Grammar School in Sevenoaks, Kent. It was a wonderful performance: what the pupils lacked in experience, they made up in enthusiasm.

They had never met anyone who had been a Kind, so when I told them that I had been, it aroused a lot of interest. These girls were between 14 and 16 years old. I had many questions to answer. They especially wanted to know how we coped without mums and dads. A very positive and enjoyable evening.

Max G Dickson
Tunbridge Wells

LEGAL QUANDARY

Sir - Dorothea Shefer-Vanson (June issue) raises a series of chicken-and-egg questions but ignores the basic

problem - the biblical promise, which is of no authority, persuasive or otherwise, to those whose faith lies in the Koran. There may have been no formal, overall political entry before 1948 but there must have existed an administrative organisation that produced, directly or indirectly, the deeds of title to land, the owners of which are not disqualified from asserting that a resolution of a group of former nations could and should never have been taken from them.

Alan S Kaye
Bucks

BAD TASTE

Sir - I admire your incredibly wide and detailed knowledge as much as I abhor your opinions, but have bitten my tongue so far. However, your according, in the May issue of *AJR Journal*, of the accolade 'art' to the appalling kitsch produced by Fabergé, commissioned by one monarchy in terminal decline and collected by another, has compelled me to end my silence. The young Mr Ratner formerly marketed a similar, if somewhat less costly, product. He at least had the insight to refer to it as 'absolute crap'.

Peter Jordan
Didsbury, Manchester

SEARCH INQUIRY

Sir - The US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC has completed a project that set out to determine the fate of the 937 passengers on the *St Louis*. This is the ship that sailed from Hamburg to Cuba in May 1939, was refused entry by Cuba and the US, and returned to Europe. The passengers were sent to

DEMONIC DICTATORS

Sir - I read the *AJR Journal* with great interest. Re the June editorial, a correction is called for: there were very few Polish (non-Jewish) Communists either pre- or post-World War I - and even fewer post-World War II. The only prominent ethnic Polish Communist was Feliks Dzierzynski, the original head of the Soviet secret police, the Cheka (later OGPU).

Dr F Morgan
Bristol

CAUGHT NAPPING

Sir - Your article 'Sister paper at 70' (May issue) omitted the crucial fact that *Aufbau* is now defunct.

Hans Schneider
Chesham, Bucks

MORE CONTROVERSY, PLEASE!

Sir - Though my views are the opposite to yours, I think it would be useful to express a different opinion in your journal in order to make it more interesting. Even the *London Jewish News* contains articles which don't agree with its leader. I don't think the expression of different views in the letter columns only is good enough.

Peter Prager
Ilford

four then friendly countries: France, Belgium, Holland and England. We know the names of the passengers who were sent to England, their date of birth and their place of birth. What we would like to do is find out what happened to them during the war and afterwards. Here are the names of the passengers of whom we know least:

Name	Date of birth	Place of birth
Albert Beifuss	9/7/1890	Laasphe
Emma Beifuss	8/19/1890	Frankfort/Main
Arthur Hausdorff	7/23/1878	Kattowitz
Gertrud Hausdorff	9/2/1896	Neudeck
Wolfgang Schonemann	1/26/1833	Dortmund
Lea Sietz	7/21/1897	Elmshorn

If anyone can help us with this effort we would be most appreciative.

Molly Abramowitz, Researcher
US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC

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ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

Psychiatrists warned that as survivors and refugees from Nazi Germany entered their 70s and 80s, memories of past trauma, withheld as they coped with re-adjustment to new patterns of life, would come flooding back. Similarly, the work of many artists from this background was expected to vibrate with dark and portentous images surfacing from the past.

But for veteran Austrian-born artist **Lily Freeman**, whose aptly named latest exhibition **Happy Paintings** was held at **Burgh House, Hampstead**, the tales of the Vienna Woods are still relating their joyful message. Her oils and watercolours resonate with the pleasure the artist clearly takes in the natural colour of the great outdoors, whether it is a remembered village in Austria, a Prague scene or the now more familiar white fake bridge over the lake at Kenwood. Dazzling sunsets, harmonious cloudscapes with gentle colours merging into the ether, these seem to be her romantic preoccupations. But for me, the harder-edged scenes of riverside houses are particularly interesting.

Lily Freeman, whose paintings have been shown here and in Continental Europe, emigrated first to Holland and then to England, spending seven days in a little boat on the English Channel being machine-gunned by German planes. She speaks of - but doesn't paint - her miraculous escape, her immediate internment as an enemy alien, watched over by soldiers with bayonets, and her short time in Holloway Prison. She married a fellow refugee, Fritz Freeman, and they started a business importing salami. Once, after she heard that her parents had been shot into a mass grave in the former Yugoslavia, Lily painted that terrible event from her imagination. Today she admits that her paintings are all optimistic - 'because that is what you wish for.'

While many pundits believe that photography has made realism in art redundant, it was refreshing to see the high standard of super-realistic portraiture this month at the **National Portrait Gallery's BP Portrait Awards** (on until 19 September). Homage to the Old Masters, an occasional hint of a Rembrandt in the subtlety of skin and eyes, does not devalue the originality of **Maeve McCarthy's Self Portrait**, for instance. Others, like **Mary-Jane Ansell's Portrait of Josie**, a little girl with pigtails and upwardly wistful glance, have an almost liquid appearance, as though they were poured onto the canvas. **Jonathan Yeo's Rt Hon Paul Boateng** shows a kindly, indulgent, almost self-indulgent politician with hands clasped in a thoughtful pose. A surprising number of the 54 entries on display at this annual competition, which this year attracted a record 955 entries, are self-portraits, demonstrating perhaps the introspective nature of portraiture. With such a remarkable array of talent and sheer industry, how do the judges pick a winner?



The Miracle Stephen Shankland
© Stephen Shankland

Well, in tune with British social awareness, unsurprisingly the winning portrait has a moving and affirmative theme. The young Scottish artist **Stephen Shankland** won it for *The Miracle*, which portrays his wife Kelly and son Connor, born prematurely last year and not expected to live through the night. The painting is a tribute to the fighting spirit of Kelly and their son, now a robust 17 months old.

RG's INTERFACE

Cinema WDR recently screened the documentary *The Man Who Hunted Goebbels* about Bernhard Weiss, the Jewish deputy police chief of Berlin in Weimar days.

The documentary *Find the Pictures*, focusing on the frescoes the writer-cum-artist Bruno Schulz, a *Shoah* victim, painted on a refectory wall in Nazi-occupied Drohobycz, has been transmitted on Germany's *Arte* channel.

Peter Lorre was born Laszlo Löwenstein a century ago in present-day Slovakia. He achieved overnight fame as the homicidal paedophile in Fritz Lang's screen classic *M*. In Hollywood he appeared in such masterpieces as *The Maltese Falcon* and *Casablanca* before his career petered out.

Sidney Lumet, who started off in the Yiddish theatre and achieved renown as director of *Twelve Angry Men*, has turned 80.

Literature Austria's Molden Verlag has published Gernot Friedel's *Abschieds-Spielereien*, a part-factual, part-imaginary account of the suicidal *Egon Friedell's* last days in post-Anschluss Vienna.

Cologne's Dittrich Verlag is reissuing *Edgar Hilsenrath's* novels, some of which caused offence on first publication by focusing on the moral failings of Jewish victims of the Nazis.

Michael Friedmann, the television presenter and former community leader, has taken charge of the non-fiction section of Berlin's renowned Aufbau Verlag. His mission statement included a rejection of the genre of political books pioneered by Michael Moore.

Michael Hamburger, the Berlin-born British academic, translator and poet, has turned 80.

Sights, sounds and smells of 1920s Berlin

WHAT I SAW: REPORTS FROM BERLIN, 1920-1933

Joseph Roth
Granta, £8.99

This gem of a book is a compilation of articles written by Joseph Roth for a number of German newspapers. The scenes he describes are ordinary enough, but changed by the alchemy of his eye for the telling detail and the originality of his imagery. Many aspects of the city come under his scrutiny, including a new skyscraper, a park in a poor neighbourhood, sleazy bars and a café frequented by the litterati. It is a Berlin trying to recover from the traumas of the Second World War, a Berlin familiar from the pen of Christopher Isherwood, but Roth gives a much broader view of its diversity.

There is an impish vein of fantasy in his essay on 'Schiller Park':

I have long been curious as to what park wardens do in the winter. It's scarcely credible that they should ever leave their parks to share a kitchen with wives and children. Much more likely that they wrap themselves in straw and rags, and passersby take them for rose-trees ... or that they dig in for the winter, and come out in the spring along with the violets and primulas.

One of the most poignant essays is 'The Jewish Quarter', which he observes with detachment but not without sympathy. He describes refugees fleeing from pogroms in the East who have taken lodgings in the Grenadierstrasse:

They come from Ukraine, from Galicia, from Hungary ... The boarding-house smells of dirty laundry, Sauerkraut and masses of people. Bodies all huddled together lie on the floor like luggage on a railway platform. A few old Jews are smoking their pipes ... Squealings and screechings of children in the corners.

He writes of the Jewish condition in general: 'Of all the thousand ways that they [the Jews] have gone ... not one leads to a concrete, earthly goal. No Jewish Homeland, no place of liberty.' Yet, strangely enough, he is vehemently opposed to Zionism. Nor

REVIEWS

is there a hint in the early essays of the horrors to come, save perhaps in the very lack of cohesiveness he finds in the city.

The final essay, dated 1933, is an elegy to the creativity destroyed by Nazism: He gives a long list of Jewish artists and thinkers whose work is banned by the new regime in the triumph of 'the Prussian drill-sergeant' over the Weimar intellectual.

Roth gives the impression that he has no real sense of belonging to the city he describes so vividly. This accounts perhaps for the irony of his writing. Nevertheless, this book, excellently translated by Michael Hofmann, is not to be missed by anyone who wants to be reminded of the sights, sounds and smells of 1920s Berlin.

Martha Blend

Moral clarity abandoned

DEATH IN ROME

Wolfgang Koeppen

Granta 2004, £7.99 (paperback)

'The most devastating novel about the Germans that I have ever read' is translator Michael Hofmann's comment on this powerful and gripping work. And certainly Wolfgang Koeppen's tale of the encounter in Rome during the early 1950s of members of a German family that had prospered under the Third Reich can be perceived as a microcosm of Germany in the first half of the twentieth century.

Like a classical dramatist, Koeppen limits the duration of his storyline. The action spans two days, twice the mandatory 24 hours of the drama but a speck in the timeframe of the average novel. The dramatis personae are also limited and each, even the less prominent, fulfils a vital role, whether in terms of dramatic impact, symbolism or the search for a wider meaning.

Dominating the scene, as in the family's earlier incarnation, is former SS killer, the gluttonous and libidinous Gottlieb Judejahn, presumed dead but actually in hiding in a Middle-Eastern 'desert' where he has been engaged in training the armed forces of an Arab regime. Judejahn arrives in Rome, complete with chauffeur-driven limousine, ostensibly on a weapons procurement mission.

Also in Rome, unbeknown to Judejahn, is his wife, Eva, still in mourning for the demise of the Führer and the Reich. With her is her sister Anna, almost a non-entity, Anna's husband, Friedrich Wilhelm Pfaffrath, and their conformist and ambitious son, Dietrich. A one-time, high-ranking Nazi functionary who has returned to office in the new Germany as a democratically elected burgomaster, Pfaffrath is essentially complacent about his choice of direction but has one momentary crisis of conscience in which he perceives another, worthier, way.

A more complex character is Pfaffrath's rebellious composer son, Siegfried, in Rome to hear his symphony performed. It is Siegfried alone who acknowledges the struggle to exist in a world without meaning. Perhaps for this reason, Koeppen has endowed him with a first-person voice, while the thoughts and actions of all the other personages are reported in the third person. One memorable rejoinder of Siegfried's is 'If God exists, He will also live in dead ends', an assertion which greatly disturbs his cousin, Adolph Judejahn. Estranged from his own father, Adolph has sought refuge in the bosom of the Catholic Church and has attained the rank of deacon, despite constantly straining to maintain his faith.

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CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

Into this explosive mix Koeppen has added the conductor, Kurenberg, who left Germany during the Nazi era with his Jewish wife, Ilse, and the essential catalyst, the beautiful, simple-minded Laura, who works as a cashier in a bar frequented by homosexuals.

Against a backdrop of Roman monuments, with the Trevi fountain ever-present, Koeppen succeeds in creating an atmosphere of suspense and expectancy with a minimum of actual events. A beautifully presented set piece is the performance of Siegfried's symphony.

The dénouement, which is hastened by an ironic echo of the Oedipal myth, seems, at first, shockingly incomplete but can be seen to reflect several key ingredients of Koeppen's message. The Jew dies unacknowledged while the killer's death is blazed abroad. The Church, perceived as inadequate in two of its essential functions - as a dispenser of confession and of charity - is nevertheless clutched desperately as a dispenser of extreme unction. In the face of fear, whether of hell or of this world, moral clarity is abandoned.

Emma Klein

A vow fulfilled

THE VOW: REBUILDING THE FACHLER TRIBE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

Yanky Fachler

Trafford Publishing, 2003,
\$23.99/£13.90, 314 pp.

Eli Fachler last saw his parents as the Kindertransport train taking him to freedom in Britain shunted out of the station in Berlin in May 1939. His father, Dovid, in Poland, sent his last letter to Eli just days before the Nazi invasion of that country. Apart from Eli's younger sister and two branches of the family who survived in hiding or in flight, the entire extended Fachler family in Poland was decimated. This included Eli's parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins.

His wife-to-be, Eva Becker, had another motive for wishing to write

her story. Although all her family, with the single exception of a communist cousin, had escaped the Nazi killing machine, she was concerned that her parents lacked knowledge of their family histories.

In 1944 Eva and Eli married. At this time the full horrors of the Holocaust were not yet public knowledge, but Eli already suspected that he would never see his family again. On the day of their wedding the couple vowed to re-establish the Fachler tribe killed in the Holocaust. Their success by last year has been prodigious: they now have 50 direct descendants, including 7 children, 24 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

The Vow, written by Yanky Fachler with the encouragement of his parents, contains both humour and sadness. It is a fascinating, albeit somewhat indulgent, record, not dissimilar from many stories written by those who have an account to tell their descendants but no wish to have their record published.

Regrettably, *The Vow* is verbose and appallingly edited, beginning with a spelling mistake on the first page of the introduction. If you require such a book, published 'on-demand' in cooperation with the publisher, this is for you.

Martin Hasseck

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Letter from Israel Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

It has become a tradition in Israel to celebrate Independence Day (Yom Ha'Atzmaut) by having a barbecue, either in one's own garden or, if one is not so blessed, by decamping to one of Israel's national parks or beaches. Some prefer to be among crowds of people engaging in a similar pursuit, while others prefer the illusion of seclusion in a small forest clearing. Some people even set up their barbecue equipment on the green verges of roads, which seems a dubious pleasure to me, but *chacun à son goût*, as we say.

Being in the fortunate position of having a small garden of our own, we generally invite a few friends round for the occasion. Everyone contributes something to the meal, and, if the weather is clement, we can even sit outside.

This year we were fortunate for, although it was warm, the sky was overcast. Thus, we could enjoy our repast on our pocket-handkerchief lawn, screened from passing cars by our hedge of jasmin, forsythia, wysteria, roses and honeysuckle.

As is generally the case in Israel, the conversation soon turned to politics. None of our number could be considered rabidly right-wing: opinions ranged from centre-left to extreme-left, and all points in-between.

None of those present would vote for Sharon, but no one saw fit to criticise his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Some of us would have Israel withdraw from the West Bank and all the settlements without further ado, while others sought to obtain some kind of concession in return, as well as remaining in certain selected sites.

But in the end we all agreed that the fact that Israel exists at all is little short of miraculous, and no matter how loudly the dogs of Europe may bark, this caravan will continue on its way.

Over the phone, before we met in his splendidly situated Cockfosters home, Herbert Haberberg happened to mention that he was unhappy with the *Jewish Chronicle* newspaper. Intrigued, I raised the subject immediately we met. Herbert confessed to having a bee in his bonnet. He regards himself as a Zionist through-and-through and, on this subject, as on other matters of Jewish concern, he finds it necessary every so often to write to the press - and he most certainly includes the *Jewish Chronicle*, which he sees as expressing the views of the UK Jewish establishment - in order to 'set the record straight'.

Herbert's Zionist credentials are evident enough. His parents were both religious and strongly pro-Zionist. Zionism, however, was uncommon among German Jews. Of more concern to the Haberberg family was the rift between Jews of German extraction and those of East European background.

Herbert's parents, immigrants from Poland, married in 1922 and Herbert arrived on the scene a couple of years later. His father, formerly a lathe operator in Warsaw, had opened a menswear business in Dortmund. Dortmund, Herbert points out, was a city with strong left-wing credentials, with incidents of antisemitism few and far between.

At the age of six, Herbert was sent to learn modern Hebrew, which he soon began to speak quite well, and to a Talmud Torah. Never far from the back of the family's mind was the idea of emigrating to Palestine, where members of the family already lived, but this idea was pushed to the background in so far as life in Germany remained quite tolerable.

With the Depression and the rise of Hitler, the Haberbergs' business began to slide. Herbert spent the years 1933-35 outside Dortmund - in a Catholic school, which he looks back on as 'torture'. His class teacher was an ardent Nazi. Antisemitism was rife: Herbert remembers being helped many times by his cousin, riding to the rescue on a bike.

Herbert relates with glee an incident which took place right after the war. Having returned to Dortmund, he had a chance encounter with his former

PROFILE

Howard Spier

Herbert Haberberg Setting the record straight



Herbert Haberberg during a recent trip to Holland

teacher. 'Ah, you survived!', exclaimed the teacher, having finally recognised him. 'Those were terrible times!', he added hypocritically. Herbert couldn't restrain himself from giving him a well-aimed kick in the backside. Not hard enough though, he says.

As the economic situation deteriorated, Herbert's father opened a shop outside Dortmund selling hygienic goods. Although the family saw the writing on the wall, they didn't have the fare money to leave Germany. As for possible emigration to Palestine, the doors were now closed. Finally, in October 1938 Polish Jews - who had retained their Polish citizenship - were expelled from Germany. Herbert's family was sent to a Polish border camp in Katowice, where they remained for several months.

Soon after, Herbert and his brother were on their way to England on a Kindertransport. The rest of the family stayed behind in Poland and did not survive.

Following a brief period in a Jewish temporary shelter in east London and then on a farm in Hertfordshire, Herbert

stayed for two years in a hostel. Eventually, having mastered English, he was sent to Leeds, where he found himself working for Burtons, the clothes manufacturers. This time in Herbert's life in England evokes negative memories.

In 1941 Herbert returned to the south, obtaining a job in London making munitions. In 1944 he volunteered for the Jewish Brigade and ended up in Italy and, later, in Brussels. In 1947 the Brigade was disbanded. In fact, it was Herbert himself who disbanded it - by that time, he was its last official member and he had in his possession all the records pertaining to it.

Having served for several months as an interpreter at the war crimes trials, Herbert was demobbed. In 1949 he married Mil.

Herbert's post-war career now took off. He found a job in the shipping department of an import/export company. On learning the business, he joined a metal trading company, with which he stayed for eight years. In 1959 he became a trader, running a department in ores and metals in the City. Later he became a director of the company, trading with China and the Eastern bloc - an activity which, he says, was somewhat frowned on by the business community. Subsequently he became a trader specialising in high-temperature alloys in the aircraft and engineering industry. In 1995, following the collapse of the Soviet bloc, Herbert, running a small company of his own, retired.

Among Herbert's hobbies are woodwork - in which he displays a particular talent - and gardening. He is a member both of AJEX and of the AJR's North London group, regularly sending in to *AJR Journal* pithy reports on its meetings. In addition, he goes several times a week to the local synagogue, 'fulfilling a social function'. And, of course, he writes to the press whenever he feels it necessary. His son is a senior university lecturer in business studies and his daughter a teacher in a primary school. Herbert may have good reason to be a cynic, as he described himself, but this genial man seemed to me content enough.

INSIDE the AJR

Leeds: the plight of those in Germany of Jewish descent

Josephine Dunn's great-grandfather had been a rabbi but her grandfather's marriage was to a Catholic. In consequence, Josephine, like others in her position, was ineligible for the help of organisations concerned with the rescue of Jewish children, while also being regarded as a non-Aryan by the Nazis. It was largely through the efforts of Bishop Bell that refugees in this category were brought to Britain. Josephine also gave a highly lucid account of the difficulties facing young refugees in Britain exposed to sudden immersion in a different culture and the suspicion often attached to foreigners in wartime.

Martin Kapel

Next meeting: Tues 7 Sep. HSFA/AJR Northern Groups meeting

Newcastle: 'avant-garde art in Nazi Germany'

Dr Kurt Schapira gave a most interesting talk on the exhibition 'Entartete Kunst', held in Munich in July 1937. His talk was illustrated with slides of some of the paintings considered by the Nazis to be 'degenerate', since they did not conform to what was acceptable as true German art. Dr Schapira also traced the background to the exhibition and gave an account of the auction of some of the works in Lucerne in June 1939.

Walter Knoblauch

Ilford encouraged to put pen to paper

Despite glorious sunshine, many members turned up to hear Geoffrey Perry tell the story of his involvement in the capture of Lord Haw-Haw. He strongly encouraged everyone to put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) to write their own story, every story being unique. A most fascinating morning.

Meta Roseneil

Next meeting: Wed 4 Aug, 10.30 am. Alf Keiles, 'Jews and Jazz'

Essex: Beth Shalom memorial

We watched an excellent video on Beth Shalom, the centre which is there to remind the world of the untold suffering of the Jews

in Nazi Europe. The centre should not only tell future generations the story of the Holocaust but also show that the Jewish people was blessed with a new future following the defeat of the enemy.

Julie Franks

Next meeting: Tues 10 Aug, 11.00 am. Eli Benson, 'Magen David Adom - Israel's Red Cross'

Sheffield - a poignant story

Meeting at the home of Steve Mendelsson, we listened with rapt attention as Otto Jakubovic told of his recent trip to Prague, together with two other Holocaust survivors and their wives. The story of the three men, including their experiences in Terezin, Auschwitz and 'death marches' and their eventual rescue and post-war arrival in the UK, was moving enough, but what they found in Prague added further poignancy. The 'Winton children' among us (Rudy Wessely and Sue Pearson) were particularly affected by Otto's story.

Otto Fleming

Next meeting: Sun 24 Oct, 3 pm. 'Edible Reminiscences'

Liverpool: 'Hope in a Dark World'

Following an excellent annual lunch, Dr Margaret Brearley spoke on 'Hope in a Dark World'. She maintained that the refugees, Kinder, survivors and displaced persons from the Nazi era were the 'Hope', no matter what status in society they had reached. The contributions from their small number to goodness and decency in the population had been outstanding. They were one of the faces of the Almighty, conquering evil in our world.

G. G. Jayson

Wessex talk on Magen David Adom

Eli Benson showed the film 'Magen David Adom (MDA) in Crisis'. Since the beginning of the *intifada* MDA ambulances have had to attend the scene of numerous suicide attacks and of hundreds of attacks on individuals. Every ambulance has to be fitted with a Geographic Information Satellite System to save seconds and so save lives, the cost of which is entirely sponsored by MDA UK. The need is to obtain support through individual legacies, donations and local community projects.

G. M. Ettinger

Traditional fare in South West Midlands

On a gloriously sunny day, we lunched on

traditional fare in the garden of Siggie and Ruth Charrach's cottage. While enjoying the beautiful views, we discussed our future plans as well as talking about D-Day and admiring Ruth's beautiful embroidery and Siggie's handmade wooden Hanukiah.

Richard Newton

Next meeting: Sun 22 Aug in the Forest of Dean at the home of Richard and Wendy Newton. Details from Ruth Jackson

West Midlands music worth the wait

At last Terry Patrick came to play to us on her accordion and it was well worth the wait. I don't think there was anyone there who didn't join in the singing and she only played one song I didn't know. Not only can she play the music but she also knows all the words, whether Russian, French, English or German. Please, Terry, come again soon!

Henny Rednall

Next meeting: Sun 8 Aug. Visit to Beth Shalom

North London discussion of relationships

The topic 'What influences have our experiences had on our children, grandchildren and other relationships?' generated a host of views and attitudes. It appeared from the discussion that the 'third generation' was given to asking questions and was more receptive to the facts.

Herbert Haberberg

Next meeting: Thurs 26 Aug (3rd birthday party). Annette Saville, 'Memories'

Full house in Surrey

Our by now traditional social was enjoyed by a full house at the home of Ruth Korn. Her hospitality matched the beautiful surroundings of the Water Gardens in Kingston. Thank you, Ruth.

Vernon Saunders

Next meeting: Wednesday 25 August

Cambridge/North London/Pinner visit to Cabinet War Rooms

We braved the recent London Tube strike to be escorted around the Cabinet War Rooms by James Taylor, Head of Research at the Churchill Museum. Mr Taylor gave us fascinating items of personal information about Churchill - such as the fact that he did all he could to avoid using the underground accommodation set aside for him - in addition to explaining the exhibition.

Myrna Glass

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

(for further details, please telephone group contact)

Oxford Tues 3 Aug. Get-together

Pinner Thurs 5 Aug. Annual Garden Party

West Midlands (Birmingham) Sun 8 Aug. Visit to Beth Shalom

East Midlands (Nottingham) Wed 11

Aug. Lunch

South London Thurs 12 Aug.

Nightingale Tea

Brighton & Hove Sarid Mon 16 Aug

Kent Tues 17 Aug

Cambridge Thurs 19 Aug

Norfolk Tues 24 Aug



Members of AJR's Harrogate group at a recent meeting

Embassy puts the case

Michael Rosen, a spokesman for the Israel Embassy in London, discussed the presentation of Israel's case in the British media and the ways in which he communicates the significance of Israel's history as a haven for Jewish persecuted immigrants and its need for security. Despite the indiscriminate attacks on the lives of Israeli civilians, he remained optimistic about an eventual settlement with the Palestinians. Michael was the guest speaker at one of the series of KT-AJR luncheon meetings which are held at the AJR Day Centre, Cleve Road, West Hampstead, usually on the first Monday of the month.

**AJR CELEBRATION TEA 2004**

NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER 2004

3.00 pm

at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1

The Carl Rosa Company will perform excerpts from

The Merry Widow

Booking details in September issue

Visit to Vienna, Spring 2005

The Jewish Welcome Service in Vienna seeks names of refugees born in Vienna who wish to join an all-paid visit to the Austrian capital in spring 2005.

Former residents of Vienna who have not yet been offered the opportunity of such a trip would be eligible.

This international programme has a limited number of places available. For further information, please contact Ruth Finestone at AJR head office as soon as possible.

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

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KT-AJR Kindertransport special interest group

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Tue 3 Ann Kenton Barker

Wed 4 Rev Larry Fine

Thur 5 Sheila Games

Sun 8 CLOSED

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Tue 10 Paul Yakov

Wed 11 Wizo Ladies Choir

Thur 12 Ronnie Goldberg

Sun 15 DAY CENTRE OPEN

Mon 16 Kards & Games Klub

Tue 17 Rosemary Wiseman

Wed 18 Jenny Kossev

Thur 19 Rita & Jack Davis

Sun 22 CLOSED

Mon 23 Kards & Games Klub

Tue 24 Françoise Geller

Wed 25 Michael Heaton

Thur 26 Mike Marandi

Sun 29 CLOSED

Mon 30 CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY

Tue 31 Madeleine Whiteson

Editorials and articles published, and opinions expressed, in *AJR Journal* are not necessarily those of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stone-setting

The memorial to the memory of the late Dr Frank E. Falk will be consecrated at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery on Sunday 5 September at 2.45 pm.

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ADVANCE NOTICE

DAY CENTRE LUNCHEON CLUB CHARGES

Members who do not inform the Day Centre that they cannot attend a previously booked Luncheon Club meeting will be asked to pay the £5 cost. A phone call (to the Day Centre) will allow another member to go.

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Obituary

Alex Rosenzweig

Alex Rosenzweig, who has died at the age of 65, was a banker and a cultural figure on the Anglo-Jewish scene. Born in Vienna, at the age of only six months he arrived in England as a refugee. His family was evacuated to Luton where, having completed his secondary education and worked locally, he joined Rothschild's. Working his way up the ladder, he opened a branch of the bank in Leeds, spent a year in the Paris office, and became director of Rothschild's money market division.

He sat on the Bank of England committee to establish the London International Financial Futures Exchange. Appointed in 1975 to the Rothschild board, he also joined the board of Bank Leumi UK.

In the late 1960s he began to involve himself deeply in Jewish cultural issues. Following a move to London, he studied for many years at the Yakar centre. In 1978 he joined the Jewish Memorial Council as joint honorary treasurer with Edgar Astaire, a position he held until his death. His arrival coincided with a serious crisis in the JMC's finances, which he and Astaire were eventually able to resolve.

Rosenzweig was also a trustee of the Kessler Foundation and a member of B'nai B'rith's Pegasus Lodge. He also became a trustee of the London Museum of Jewish Life (later the Jewish Museum Finchley), where he began guided walks to locations of Jewish interest, and treasurer of the Jewish Historical Society, where he gave talks on personalities such as Disraeli. He was well-known for his skill as a raconteur.

Arts and Events Diary August

To 28 October 'West End - East End: Jewish Life Across London'. Jewish Museum Finchley, Sternberg Centre, London N3 tel 020 8439 1143

Thursdays at 3 pm Coffee House Chess. London Jewish Cultural Centre, Kidderpore Avenue, London NW3 tel 020 7431 0345

Search Notices

Marie Fürth, née Amman, born 21.12.1881 Prague. Resident Lafontainestrasse 23, Halle 1938, possibly until 30.05.1942. Son, Dr.Phil Arthur Fürth, emigrated to England. Any information please to Volkhard Winkelmann, Beyschlagstrasse 23, D-06110 Halle, Germany.

Elsa Levy, born Könen 21.2.1927, is a camp survivor who came to England after the war. Any information, please telephone 00496501 15774.

My mother **Irene Julie Kahn**, who came to England during the last war, resided in NW London, and had an illegitimate son, David, whom she put up for adoption. Any information please to namille1945@aol.com.

U.S. academic seeks information on Jewish refugees who came to Britain as **domestic servants** in the 1930s. Photographs would be an added bonus. I will reimburse all expenses. Information please to Brenne Meyro, 4849 Frankford Road, Apt. 1117 Dallas, TX 75287 tel 001-972-407-0876.

I am doing research for a project and looking for anyone with information and personal recollections on **Gibraltar Camp** in Jamaica 1940-45. Information please to Claudette Roche at mabalub@adelphia.net.

Krystyna Friedwald (née Wajs), born Lwow 8.5.1926, and **Dr Wiktor Friedwald** (poet and writer). The family lived in Warsaw before WWII. In 1940 they were in Lwow. Krystyna was a student in a nursery school before she fled Poland. Apparently with the help of an uncle, Mr Kowalski, who was also Polish ambassador in Belgium or Holland, and with the help of a Jewish organisation from Gdansk, she came to England between 2.4.47 and 30.9.47. She is sought by two cousins in Israel, the daughters of Viktor's brother. Any information please to davidlewin@btinternet.co.

Kurt Sondheim, born Frankfurt/Main 21.8.1926. Came to UK by Kindertransport 3.3.39 as a German national. Joined the British army, where he rose to Staff Sergeant 14448994, being originally encamped at 9PW, Base Camp, Quorn, near Loughborough. Became a naturalised British subject 12.9.47. Any information please to Tamar Duke-Cohan, 93 Parker Avenue, Newton, MA 02461, USA, t.duke.cohan@rn.com.

Central Office for Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Slave labour awards to be paid in full

Four years after the signing into German law of the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future, former Jewish slave labourers will now receive the remaining one third of their compensation awards.

At a meeting at the end of June to divide up the interest that has accrued on the original DM10 billion (£3.3 billion) fund, the Claims Conference secured the necessary \$174m to guarantee Jewish victims another DM5,000 (£1,500), in addition to the DM10,000 (£3,000) awards already disbursed. Altogether, the Claims Conference has approved for payment more than 141,000 applications for slave and forced labour compensation.

The Claims Conference hopes that these second-round payments will reach survivors by the end of August.

Düsseldorf BEG pensions

Holocaust survivors in receipt of a compensation pension (known by the German acronym BEG) from the Düsseldorf authority can now have their life certificates notarised by the Association of Jewish Refugees and the Central Office for Holocaust Claims.

In an exercise to determine the level of demand for this service, anyone receiving a pension from Düsseldorf and who needs their life certificate notarised is kindly asked to contact this office.

This ruling does not apply to any other BEG authorities or to any other type of German pension. Life certificates can otherwise be authorised at a bank or by a doctor, solicitor or notary public.

Further help

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL, by fax to 020 8385 3075, or by email to michael@ajr.org.uk. Assistance can be provided strictly by appointment at the Holocaust Survivors Centre in Hendon, north London. For an appointment, please ring 020 8385 3074.

Kindertransport history 'pack' for schools nationwide

Ronald Channing



Hans Jackson Book Burning and Boycott of Jewish Shops

An education 'pack' on the escape of 10,000 unaccompanied children of the Kindertransport in 1938 and 1939 was launched at Parliament Hill Secondary School, London, in the presence of members of the education press, teachers, pupils of the school who were using the pack, and representatives of the Kinder.

Sponsored by the AJR, the new publication, *The Last Goodbye - the Rescue of Children from Nazi Europe*, which is illustrated with the paintings of Holocaust artist Hans Jackson, was developed and is published by the Jewish Museum London. The pack was funded by KT-AJR and the AJR Charitable Trust. Bertha Leverton pledged her 80th birthday presents to the project, actively supported by the then KT-AJR's chairman, the late David Jedwab.

Ruth Anne Lenga, head of education at the Jewish Museum, outlined the scope and objectives of the publication, and the school's head of history, Jo Davey, said that her pupils had been eager to learn

the Kindertransport story and to discuss its wider implications. KT-AJR Chairman Hermann Hirschberger and Kindertransport reunion founder Bertha Leverton recalled their emotions on being uprooted from their homes in Germany when they were children and their early experiences in Britain.

The publication contains information and details of activities to help young people learn more about the Kindertransport. It is designed to help teachers meet national curriculum requirements and raises opportunities to discuss responsibilities to people in need or seeking shelter. The pack also encourages discussion of the role refugees have played in developing and contributing to British society, and the children's attitudes to collective and personal identity.

Teachers and schools can purchase copies of the publication at £7.50 from The Jewish Museum, 129-131 Albert Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7NB.

Newsround

Memorial legislation dropped in Germany

German legislators have dropped a vote on a law to combine funding for memorials for victims of the Nazis and the Communists. According to a report in the *Jewish Chronicle*, Jewish groups expressed concern over the legislation on the basis that it wrongly drew a moral equivalence between Communist rule and the Holocaust.

Journalist who saved Jews honoured in Berlin

Varian Fry, a US journalist who helped over 1,500 people to escape Nazi-occupied France, has been honoured posthumously on a Berlin bus shelter. The permanent information display, designed by Berlin artist Ronnie Golz, whose parents fled Nazi Germany for England, is located in a street named for Fry in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz. Among those Fry helped were the artist Marc Chagall and the philosopher Hannah Arendt.

Gypsies to sue computer giant

A Swiss court has ruled that IBM must face a lawsuit by Gypsy campaigners who claim that its expertise helped the Nazis to commit mass murder more efficiently. The Gypsies filed the lawsuit in Geneva because IBM had its European headquarters in the city during the war.

Haider's sister to lead Freedom Party

After a disastrous showing in the recent elections to the European Parliament - it lost four of its five seats - the Austrian Freedom Party has nominated a new leader, Ursula Haubner, the sister of the former party leader, Jörg Haider.

Viktor Ullmann Institute founded in Poland

The Viktor Ullmann Foundation Institute has been established in Cieszyn, Poland. Among its patrons are Daniel Barenboim, Alfred Brendel and Pierre Boulez. The purpose of the foundation is to promote the life and works of the musician, who died in Theresienstadt, and his contemporaries.