

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

May Day

After the bleak midwinter and hesitant early spring, May Day at last announces the advent of the best season of the year. No wonder that celebrating the first day of May is a custom of venerable antiquity.

The Romans dedicated the day to Flora, the goddess of flowers. In the French revolutionary calendar May even became *Floréal*, while Wagner, with characteristic hyperbole, dubbed the month *Wonnemond*, or month of bliss.

In medieval England May Day was marked by feasting, sport and games, dancing round the Maypole, and the crowning of the fairest maiden as the May Queen. (In the village where Britten's opera *Albert Herring* is set, the dearth of virtuous maidens compels the residents to choose a May King.)

An English tradition gradually evolved whereby Robin Hood and Maid Marion presided over the day's festivities; by the sixteenth century May Day was Robin Hood's Day, on which plays about the outlaw of Sherwood Forest were customarily performed.

In popular mythology Robin Hood was a fighter for social justice who 'took from the rich to give to the poor'. It was, therefore, quite appropriate that at its foundation conference in Paris in 1889 the Socialist International designated 'his' day, the First of May, as the Day of International Labour.

Accordingly on May Day 1890 tens of thousands of workers in London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna marched in the streets demanding a 48-hour working week, trades union recognition and votes for all.

In Russia the authorities banned May Day demonstrations and rallies, but the 1905 revolution led to a relaxation of the ban. At this time there were thousands of Jewish artisans and workers in Russia's industrial labour force. Many of them joined the Bund, an organisation that

aimed to set up an autonomous Yiddish-speaking enclave in a socialist Russia.

The Bundists were virtually wiped out by Stalin and Hitler, but before that happened some escapees from Russian pogroms and poverty carried left-wing ideas into their countries of immigration, principally the USA and South Africa. This is the provenance of the legendary anarchist Emma Goldman and of the linguistics pioneer-cum-Marxist philosopher Naum Chomsky in America, and of Joe Slovo, leader of the ANC's military wing, in South Africa.



German Jewish socialist Ferdinand Lassalle

Modern May Days are about class - and their respective class origins created salient differences between Jewish socialist leaders hailing from Eastern Europe, and those who, born further west, benefited from Jewish emancipation and upward mobility. The original founder of the German labour movement, Ferdinand Lassalle, just like the leader of Austrian Social Democracy, Viktor Adler, was a bourgeois university graduate; one

became a writer and the other a doctor. Neither moved as far to the left of the political spectrum as the immigrant *Ostjuden* Goldman or Slovo.

But to return to the main story: Hitler, who dominated the continent in the 1930s, had adroitly stolen the left's clothes, calling himself a National *Socialist* and making red the background colour of the swastika flag. He also elevated May Day into a paid holiday under the grandiloquent designation Day of National Labour. On 1 May 1933 millions of German onlookers were treated to the spectacle of industrial tycoons - Krupp, Thyssen, Flick - marching in step with their workers through the thoroughfares of major cities.

The Nazi-drilled multitude watching these unprecedented May Day processions shouted, with tears in their eyes: 'An end to the division between bosses and workers; we're all Germans now!'

Meanwhile in Britain a division was opening up on the left. The leader of the Labour Party, George Lansbury, was a pacifist who, a little earlier, had played host to Mahatma Gandhi, a kindred soul in his advocacy of non-violent resistance. However, the most influential trade unionist was Ernest Bevin, who considered pacifism inappropriate in the age of Hitler and Mussolini, and made Lansbury step down as Labour leader.

The post-Lansbury Labour Party has been pretty robust ever since - though never entirely. Pacifism is part of the socialist mindset, especially on the continent - and, most surprisingly, in countries like Germany and Spain, that were Fascist within living memory.

Given the less than cohesive state of European socialism - no less than that of the enlarged EU itself - May Day 2004 may well prompt mayday calls.

From Karl's prophecy to repatriated eggs

Richard Grunberger

According to Marx, the evolution of capitalism inevitably culminates in monopoly - in other words in a small number of large firms dominating the entire economy. Anthony Sampson's classic study of the oil industry was entitled *The Seven Sisters* because that was the sum total of the US petro-giants.

However, it appears that post-Communist Russia has driven the process towards single-digit ownership of the economy even further. No matter which sector one looks at - whether it is oil, natural gas or aluminium - the same small handful of names comes up: Berezovsky, Gusinsky, Khodorkovsky, Abramovitch, Vekselberg.

The immediate cause of the over-concentration of economic power into ever fewer hands is, of course, Yeltsin's privatisation - but the long-term cause was the Soviets' addiction to huge monolithic structures. By a perverse quirk of history socialist state control has provided a shorter short-cut to 'perfect' monopoly capitalism than private enterprise.

This particular paradox mirrors several others. All the above listed oligarchs are Jewish - yet Soviet Jews felt so discriminated against that a million of them uprooted themselves when *aliyah* became possible.

In the interim, some of the oligarchs have also left amid charges of fraud brought by Putin's agents. They, in turn, allege that Putin targets them because of their support for liberal opposition parties.

Other oligarchs are half-in, half out - with Boris Abramovitch combining the governorship of the sub-Arctic Yakutka Region with ownership of Chelsea FC.

The aluminium tycoon Viktor Vekselberg meanwhile devoted his not inconsiderable fortune to repatriating the Fabergé eggs - those prize specimen of Tsarist-sponsored art - to their country of origin, a move that must have endeared him to every Russian patriot.

It seems that 60 years after Churchill uttered his famous dictum, Russia is still a riddle wrapped up inside an enigma.

Kitchener Camp remembered

Hans Jackson

Six decades ago, following the terror of Kristallnacht, the flames of the burning synagogues brought to light the desperate plight of the Jewish people in Nazi Germany and Austria and the immediate need to find a place of refuge. One such haven was the Kitchener Camp in Kent.

Derelict since the end of World War 1, it was acquired, financed and made habitable by the British Jewish community. During 1939 and up to the outbreak of war, the camp was to be a refuge to approximately 3,500 men fleeing from Nazi persecution.

Through the efforts of the Jewish community, the UK government issued conditional permits and visas to the refugees. At the outbreak of war, the character and purpose of the camp changed completely. A tribunal was set up to clarify the status of the men in the camp as refugees. Within a few months, it became the place where the AMPC (Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corp, later Pioneer Corp) originated, under the command of Lord Reading.

At the same time, part of the Haig Camp was taken over by the BBC on behalf of the War Department in order to establish a service to monitor German short-wave radio transmissions. Within a few days a number of huts were equipped with receivers and recorders and manned by the bilingual camp refugees.

Our group of 150 operators was trained to search, survey, register and record the short-wave bands for transmissions. Working in shifts around



Monitoring short-wave radio transmissions
by Hans Jackson

the clock and with time and practice, we learned to assess the importance of these transmissions and translated the messages. This work gave us a great sense of pride and satisfaction that we were being entrusted with such a sensitive and important contribution to the war effort.

However, in May 1940 with the occupation of Holland and Belgium, the evacuation of Dunkirk and the imminent capitulation of France, the implementation of the Enemy Aliens Act brought our stay in the camp to an abrupt end. The AMPC moved out. The remaining 700 refugees were interned in the Isle of Man. Incredibly, and in spite of our work, our group was included among those to be interned.

Hans Jackson is a Berlin-born graphic illustrator known for his 'prelude to the Holocaust' paintings. Kitchener internees, please contact Hans Jackson via AJR office.

AJR Journal

Richard Grunberger Editor-in-Chief
Ronald Channing Executive Editor
Howard Spier Editorial and Production
AJR Journal, Jubilee House,
Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4RL
Tel: 020 8385 3070 Fax: 020 8385 3080
e-mail: editorial@ajr.org.uk
www.ajr.org.uk

JACKMAN ■
SILVERMAN

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

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

Sister paper at 70

Richard Grunberger

Back in distant 1924 a group of German-Jewish immigrants to America who felt rather isolated set up a club in downtown New York as a venue for meetings and social contacts. The time was not particularly propitious for newcomers to the USA from Central Europe. Congress had just introduced the quotas-by-countries system which gave preference to immigrants from Britain and Scandinavia over applicants born further east and south. The club's founders also encountered lingering anti-German prejudice dating back to American involvement in the Great War.

Nonetheless, the German-Jewish club established itself on secure financial foundations, which enabled it ten years later, when the first wave of political and racial refugees from Nazism reached the US, to create *Aufbau* as its (German-speaking) monthly journal.

Aufbau had a strong team of writers virtually from its inception. Occasional contributors included Thomas Mann, Hannah Arendt, Oskar Maria Graf, Hans Sahl and Franz Werfel, while Albert Einstein and Rabbi Joachim Prinz served on its Advisory Board. The editor who guided it during the quarter-century of its greatest influence was Manfred George, a former Ullstein journalist with biographies of such divergent personalities as Theodor Herzl and Marlene Dietrich to his credit.

One of the highlights of Manfred George's career was the publication in 1941 of the *Aufbau Almanac*, a handbook for immigrants. The *Almanac* purveyed such snippets of information of use to newcomers as the conversion of Fahrenheit thermometer readings into Celsius, the text of *The Star Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America*, and the meaning of such vernacular expressions as the 'Bronx cheer' and 'sawbucks' (\$20 notes).

Since then a lot of water has flowed under Brooklyn Bridge and *Aufbau* has had to accommodate itself to changing circumstances. The most obvious change is that it is now a bi-lingual

German-English publication (in this it differs from the venerable left-leaning *Forward*, which started as a Yiddish paper - with contributions from Isaac Bashevis Singer - and now also appears in English as well as Russian versions).

The 70th anniversary edition, which ran to 56 pages, provided a rich feast for *Aufbau* readers. Besides many articles focusing on the current German-Jewish situation there was also one that amounted to an election year party-political broadcast on behalf of the Democrats. It took the form of an interview with the eminent US historian Fritz Stern of *The Politics of Cultural Despair* fame. Stern, who also happens to be the author of another standard work entitled *The Failure of Illiberalism*, adroitly turned the answer to every question put to him into an indictment of George W. Bush.

However, Stern's perceived bias was counter-balanced by an article on deep-seated German Americophobia from the pen of the redoubtable Henryk Broder. He traced the phenomenon back to its roots in Nazi propaganda, which accused the USA of worshipping Mammon and of producing effeminate men and mannish women.

The issue of Jewish integration into contemporary German society was the subject of an interview with the Federal Minister of the Interior, Otto Schily. He declared himself fully alert to the onerous task of protecting the 100,000-plus strong community against neo-Nazis on the right, and militant pro-Palestinians on the left, of the political spectrum. Where he sounded less sanguine was with regard to reconciling the conflicting claims of Orthodoxy and Reform within the state-subsidised communal structure of schools and other institutions.

We congratulate our older and more substantial cousin on this 70th anniversary; if they can keep going for just another half-century they'll make the wish 'bis hundert und zwanzig!' redundant.

NEWTONS

Leading Hampstead Solicitors
advise on
Property, Wills, Family Trusts
and Charitable Trusts

French and German spoken
Home visits arranged

22 Fitzjohn's Avenue,
London NW3 5NB

Tel: 020 7435 5351
Fax: 020 7435 8881

CONSULTANT

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

Contact Henry Ebner

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

ALL LEGAL WORK
UNDERTAKEN

AUSTRIAN and GERMAN PENSIONS

PROPERTY RESTITUTION CLAIMS EAST GERMANY - BERLIN

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

For further information
and an appointment
please contact:

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

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

AJR ANNUAL REPORT 2003

Main Developments

AGM The Annual General Meeting of the AJR was held outside London for the first time, at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire, which proved an inspiring location. Guest speaker was its founder Director, Dr Stephen Smith MBE. Southern-based members benefited from the availability of a coach from North London and many Northern members participated.

Relocation AJR Head Office moved seamlessly from Froggnal, in Hampstead, to Stanmore, Middlesex, due to careful pre-planning and preparation. Members are welcome to visit their Association's new offices, after telephoning to arrange a suitable time.

Special Projects The year saw the launch of an AJR-funded project at the University of Manchester, researching and writing the history of refugees who settled in the Greater Manchester area. A fourth Holocaust Memorial Day event was organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex, with the support of the AJR.

'Refugee Voices' The AJR Visual History Collection project completed its first year with 44 interviews, divided equally between North and South. In this, AJR's most ambitious research project yet, refugees and survivors reveal their backgrounds, experiences and achievements for the benefit of future generations.

Membership and AJR Groups

At the end of 2003 there were 3,399 AJR members (3,499 in 2002), including 158 new members.

AJR's nationwide presence was extended to 30 groups with the creation of new groups in Cambridge, Ilford, the Weald of Kent, Oxford, SW Midlands and Norfolk (Norwich) in the South and Midlands, and in Liverpool, Sheffield, Hull, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Harrogate and Dundee in the North and Scotland, with smaller, local groups of 'Continental Friends' in Leeds and Bradford.

Regular meetings, mainly featuring invited speakers, were well attended and fostered feelings of friendship and belonging. There were also organised outings, garden, tea and Chanukah parties. Members of the Isle of Wight group hosted visitors from Bournemouth AJR. Lunch-time meetings were becoming increasingly popular.

The AJR Transport Budget, which permitted older and less mobile members to attend group meetings, proved invaluable to members otherwise left isolated in their homes.

Get-togethers

The first Southern Region Get-together was held in Brighton and Hove with 100 participants from Bournemouth, Essex, South London, Surrey, North London, Pinner, and the host town, as well as a number of individuals from areas with no groups. AJR's Northern groups held a successful and innovative Get-together in Leeds attended by 90 people from all over the North of England. Scotland's first Get-together was held in Edinburgh with members from Glasgow, Dundee and Newcastle taking part.

Kindertransport

At Liverpool Street Station a statue was unveiled of a child standing by an outside 'suitcase' displaying items brought by the children of the Kindertransport when they arrived at the station as refugees in 1938 and 1939. Sir Nicholas Winton, saviour of many Czech-Jewish children, unveiled a plaque commemorating the event in the presence of Home Secretary David Blunkett, Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, Kindertransport movement founder Bertha Leverton, the Ambassadors of Israel, Austria, Germany, Poland and Hungary, AJR leaders and an audience of 200 Kinder. World Jewish Relief (formerly the CBF), the initiators of the project, invited guests to a reception.

The Last Goodbye teachers' resource on the Kindertransport was produced in partnership with the Jewish Museum. Convivial monthly luncheon meetings continued to be held at the AJR Day Centre, and a Chanukah Party was held in North London. A memorial service for the late KT-AJR chairman, David Jedwab, was conducted at the Centre by Rev Bernd Koschland.

Social Services and Welfare Benefits Advice

The Social Work team had another active year visiting and offering help, advice and support to many hundreds of members throughout the country. AJR's Northern social worker's availability was increased to cover a wider area.

The department, which administers the Austrian Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance Programme (AHSEAP) on behalf of the Austrian Government and

the Umbrella Group of six Jewish welfare charities, undertakes to visit and assess applicants for subsequent approval at monthly meetings of an Austrian fund advisory committee.

Enquiries from AJR members, who were often faced with a seemingly impenetrable bureaucracy, continued to increase, especially after the introduction of Pension Credits in October. Assistance was given to those claiming an attendance allowance, housing and council tax benefits, and to those with general pension enquiries. Members experiencing difficulties with German and Austrian pensions also received active support.

Homecare Assistance, Emergency Fund and Self Aid

The number of survivors and refugees approved for and receiving Homecare Assistance increased to 137 (from 106 in 2002). The scheme's annual expenditure of £111,654 was partially offset by a grant from the Claims Conference. Dealing with personal care, home cleaning, laundry and gardening becomes an increasing daily anxiety for refugees and survivors, who are often frail and living on a low income and, above all, wish to maintain their independence and remain in their own homes as long as possible. The AJR draws satisfaction from the fact that the support of the Homecare Assistance Scheme continues to make a positive contribution to their living in dignity and comfort.

A total of £33,971 was paid to 127 claimants (£35,981 to 120 in 2002) from the AJR's Emergency Fund. The Fund was supported by the Claims Conference and helped needy individuals with medical and other emergency expenditures. Self Aid grants were made to 198 members during 2003, at a total cost of £237,076 (205 grants at £254,448 in 2002).

The Paul Balint AJR Day Centre

The increasing success of the AJR Luncheon Club was marked by full houses and the need for a waiting list. The KT-AJR (Kindertransport) monthly lunches are also well attended and both lunch and speakers very much enjoyed. The Seder service, led by Rev Laurence Fine, was entertaining and good fun for all participants.

A member's 100th birthday was celebrated with a party, joined by

AJR ANNUAL REPORT 2003

relatives, friends and other members. A pre-Bournemouth holiday coffee morning was much enjoyed, and 31 Northern members on a day trip were warmly received for lunch at the Centre before visiting the Gilbert Collection.

Day-to-day activities at the Centre included a gentle exercise class, a discussion group, cards and games, and celebrations of all the Jewish festivals, as well as the regular attendance of two clothes suppliers. The all-important take-away and meals-on-wheels services are being taken up by an increasing number of members.

Annual Tea, Holidays and Personnel

The AJR returned to the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, for an afternoon tea with operatic entertainment presented by the Garden Party singers. Everyone present enjoyed a splendid afternoon, meeting old friends, listening to wonderful music and partaking in a sumptuous tea.

Two popular holidays in Bournemouth were organised by Carol Rossen and Sylvia Matus, with evening entertainment and day trips to the Wisley Gardens and Eastbourne. AJR's longest serving social worker, Ruth Finestone, teamed up with Northern groups organiser Susanne Green to take members from the North and Scotland for a week's holiday in St Annes for the first time.

A part-time assistant, Karen Benardout, was appointed to help Southern and Midlands Groups Organiser Myrna Glass.

AJR Journal

The *AJR Journal*, three years after its introduction in a new format and with revised content, continued the high standards of journalism and reportage maintained over six decades as Britain's leading publication of the German-speaking Jewish refugee community. At the same time, its pages kept AJR members continually informed of the latest developments and opportunities for benefiting from AJR services and advice on pensions, reparations and compensation, and where to participate in AJR groups, meetings and events.

Website

www.ajr.org.uk

AJR's website averaged more than 4,000 visits a month from 50 countries. It was regularly updated with articles, news and information from the *AJR Journal*, the

Central Office for Holocaust Claims and the Claims Conference, with Search Notices and reports on AJR's regional groups, events and Day Centre programmes.

Volunteers

Volunteer befrienders regularly visited 80 of the AJR's more dependent members, while others took on tasks such as driving to and from, and helping at, the Day Centre, organising lunch clubs, assisting at the office, and recording the *AJR Journal* on tape for partially sighted members.

Support and supervision were provided in forums at which volunteers heard speakers on issues affecting elderly refugees and discussed mutual concerns. They also received a quarterly newsletter. AJR's Volunteer Services Co-ordinator worked closely with other organisations including AJ6, colleges of London University and the B'nai B'rith First Unity Lodge, which invited AJR members living in North London to Sunday tea. A 'Thank You' brunch with entertainment was held at the Day Centre.

Central Office for Holocaust Claims

The Central Office continued to offer free advice and assistance on restitution and compensation claims to victims of Nazi persecution and their heirs in all parts of the country. Completing its third year of operation, the Office has opened files on 2,000 refugees and survivors, responded to 5,000 enquiries, carried out 1,500 face-to-face appointments, and addressed several group meetings. The Office has been actively involved in securing more than £15 million in restitution and compensation payments from a dozen or more indemnification and reparation funds.

A visit to the Red Cross's International Tracing Service at Arolsen, in Germany, opened up archival material providing evidence for reparation claims, and visits to Yad Vashem and a Jewish Communal Services Conference in Jerusalem revealed the research and indexing of information on Holocaust victims and plundered assets, and brought the awareness of these services to international communal organisations.

Meetings with representatives of the Claims Conference in Tel Aviv, Frankfurt and London have helped the UK to secure an increase in grants for social and welfare programmes.

Andrew Kaufman
Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

We had an eventful year in 2003. Particular highlights were our move to Stanmore, our AGM at Beth Shalom and our Annual Celebration Tea.

Our move was achieved with smooth efficiency under the professional management of Carol Rossen and Gordon Greenfield, to whom we all owe a vote of thanks. Our staff are now working in less space but in far better conditions, and I am happy to be able to say that the costs of the move were well below budget, and our new premises represent a significant saving in annual costs.

Our co-operation with other refugee and survivor organisations through the Umbrella Group has again been rewarding. This is recognised as an outstanding national organisation and held up as a model to refugee and survivor groups in other countries outside Israel and the US. Through the Umbrella Group we apply to the Claims Conference for financial help with our social services and our 31 Regional Groups. We have continued to enjoy grants towards our vital Homecare scheme, our Emergency Fund and the organisation of our Regional Groups. Our thanks are due to them for their continuing help.

The AJR is also the administrator in the UK of the Austrian Holocaust Survivors Emergency Assistance Programme (AHSEAP). AHSEAP is funded by the Austrian Government and banks to provide a wide range of support to refugees of Austrian origin, and with these funds we have been able to give assistance to a significant number of such members.

A vital service we have been giving over the last couple of years has been our Claims Office, run in conjunction with the Umbrella Group under the outstanding leadership of Michael Newman. Through his work we have been

TREASURER'S REPORT

able to help hundreds of former Slave Labourers make timely submissions to the German Foundation, as well as helping many other refugees, survivors and their heirs lodge claims to various other bodies throughout the world. He has travelled to Israel, Germany and, recently, to the United States to ensure that every opportunity to make claims is publicised and pursued. Michael is recognised as a leading expert in this field in Europe, and has lectured in France on how to organise such an office. An unexpected and welcome result of meetings throughout the UK to discuss claims has been to identify many refugees whose links to the community had been lost, but who now are active members of the AJR through our Regional Groups.

During the year Otto Schiff Housing Association sold Eleanor Rathbone House, in which we had an interest, and our share of the proceeds included a surplus of £1,235,918. Together with the recovery in the value of our investment portfolio and an exceptional level of legacies during the year this has meant that we have further resources with which we can continue and expand our vital welfare work. Sadly the demands are increasing with the incidence of ill health and frailty amongst our members. In particular, the requirements for Home Help are expanding at a noticeable pace, and we are pleased that with the assistance of the Claims Conference we are able to meet all proper requests. Our thanks are due to Marcia Goodman and her outstanding team for their vital work in this area.

W. D. Rothenberg
Honorary Treasurer

Finance Report

AJR – Income and Expenditure Account Year ended 31st December 2003

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Income: | | |
| Membership/Donations and Legacies | 467,899 | 115,551 |
| Grant from Self Aid | 0 | 5,000 |
| | 467,899 | 120,551 |
| Less: | | |
| Overhead Expenses | | |
| Salary Costs | 88,653 | 84,309 |
| AJR Journal | 48,124 | 45,798 |
| Administration/Depreciation | 46,777 | 43,010 |
| | 183,554 | 173,117 |
| Surplus/(Deficit): | 284,345 | -52,566 |

Summary of Balance Sheet at 31st December 2003

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Fixed Assets (less depreciation) | 334 | 8,922 |
| Current Assets | 368,245 | 69,797 |
| Less: Current Liabilities | 28,564 | 23,049 |
| | 340,015 | 55,670 |

Represented by:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| General Fund | 55,670 | 108,236 |
| Net surplus/(deficit) for year | 284,345 | -52,566 |
| | 340,015 | 55,670 |

David Rothenberg, Hon. Treasurer 01/04/2004

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST PAUL BALINT AJR DAY CENTRE

Summary figure for the year ended 31st December 2003

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Income: | | |
| Takings – Day Centre and meals-on-wheels | 79,380 | 84,668 |
| Donations received | 310 | 352 |
| | 79,690 | 85,020 |
| Less outgoings: | | |
| Salaries | 106,734 | 111,634 |
| Catering costs | 164,810 | 155,233 |
| Sundry expenses | 74,677 | 66,854 |
| | 346,221 | 333,721 |
| Deficit funded from Charitable Trust | -266,531 | -248,701 |

AJR CHARITABLE TRUST – Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts

Year ended 31st December 2003

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Income: | | |
| Covenants/Donations/Claims Conference | 334,037 | 197,458 |
| Investment income | 341,268 | 302,100 |
| Sheltered housing | 38,255 | 39,003 |
| | 713,560 | 538,561 |
| Legacies | 1,586,402 | 933,532 |
| | 2,299,962 | 1,472,093 |
| Less outgoings: | | |
| Day Centre | 266,531 | 248,701 |
| Self Aid, Homecare and Emergency Grants | 533,703 | 355,993 |
| Other organisations | 66,495 | 70,055 |
| Administration/Depreciation | 705,900 | 553,505 |
| | 1,572,629 | 1,228,254 |
| Profit/(Loss) on realised and unrealised investments | 1,777,163 | -1,001,922 |
| Net Movement in Funds | 2,504,496 | -758,083 |

Based on final unaudited figures

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

AJR might be able to offer financial assistance.

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

Estelle Brookner, Secretary
AJR Social Services Dept
Tel: 020 8385 3070

Companions of London

Incorporating
Hampstead Home Care

A long established company
providing care in your home

*Assistance with personal care
General household duties
Respite care
Medical appointment service*

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



SPRING GROVE

214 Finchley Road
London NW3

**London's Most Luxurious
RETIREMENT HOME**

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

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

enquiries@springdene-care-homes.co.uk

Simon R Rhodes M.Ch.S. STATE REGISTERED CHIROPDIST

Surgeries at:
67 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (opp M&S)
Telephone 020 7624 1576

3 Queens Close (off Green Lane)
Edgware, Middx HA87PU
Telephone 020 8905 3264

Visiting chiropody service available

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

REJECTION NOT THE LAST WORD

Sir - The UN Charter contains Chapter 51, which authorises the use of force. The error into which your correspondents Professor Kurzon and Mr Reuben slip is that they accept the rejection by Arab states of the General Assembly 'two-state' resolution as being the end of the matter. It is not. The resolution may not be binding, and certainly it is not enforceable, but it is the source of world authority and all subsequent international efforts can be traced back to it. That some states and the PA continue to reject it is a matter that should be brought before world opinion, or its delegates: the Quartet.

*Francis Deutsch
Saffron Walden*

FLICK

Sir - May I complete RG's Interface (March issue) on Friedrich Flick. His enterprises used slave labourers, of whom 40,000 died of malnutrition, disease and beatings. He resolutely refused to admit responsibility for, or to compensate, the few survivors. The exigencies of the Cold War led the Americans to release him in 1950 after three years in comfort in Landsberg prison.

*Frank Bright
Ipswich*

YAD VASHEM

Sir - In the January issue (p. 16) on this subject, the writer refers to the words of the Prophet Isaiah Chapter 56 Verse 5, that is Yad Vashem, as meaning 'literally "The Hand of God"'. This is a complete misunderstanding of the text. The Prophet Isaiah is comforting the Jewish people - G-d is saying 'Within my house and within my walls they will be given a place and renown.'

This expression has been aptly borrowed by this memorial institute as a place where the names of Holocaust victims are recorded for posterity, i.e. they will be well known = renown. In context, this expression has no direct connection to the Holocaust. The word 'Shem' is not used in the scriptures to indicate the deity as suggested by the writer of this article. This erroneous

interpretation is possibly verging on the blasphemous since the Holocaust is already covered by Leviticus Chapter 26 and Deuteronomy Chapter 28.

*Rabbi A Beck
London NW11*

DESTROYED SYNAGOGUES

Sir - Fifty-eight synagogues were destroyed in Jerusalem in 1948 after the expulsion of the Jews by the Jordanians. A list of them appeared in the Jerusalem Day book in June 2000.

*George Ettinger
Poole*

OUTED AS A NAZI PARTY MEMBER

Sir - The director of my former school in Berlin was made a Nazi Party member without his knowledge. He did all he could for his Jewish pupils, and also strictly forbade any racist utterance by pupils or staff. Only the present non-Jewish staff of the school have 'outed' him, and are concealing his name in self-ordained ignorance. How are readers meant to judge the 'outing' of Walter Jens (Interface, March issue)?

*Max Meyer
London*

DIARY DILEMMAS

Sir - You seem to think (March issue) that the BBC's serialisation of Alan Clark's diaries implies approval of his character, or perhaps that only the virtuous deserve publication. Clark was not the first less than admirable person who wrote an interesting diary. Pepys was often unfaithful to his wife, treated his sister like a servant and drank to excess, but he wrote probably the most notable diary in the English language. Virtue, sadly, does not predict historical interest or literary quality.

Incidentally, Clark only fantasised about urinating from the rooftops on to pedestrians, but Robert Maxwell was reported to have urinated over the edge of the roof of the *Daily Mirror* building while exulting 'Look, I'm pissing on them and they don't even know.'

*Gerald Curzon
Ruislip*

BRICKBAT

Sir - I was under the impression that the Editor was fully occupied and I am therefore surprised that he has taken on a new job as a 'travel adviser', trying to make members who are thinking of going on holiday in Europe depressed and miserable.

*S Hacker
Wembley Park*

BOUQUETS

Sir - I enjoy your editorials and other contributions.

*Dr F Morgan
Bristol*

Sir - Your journal is getting better month by month and I read same from beginning to end. The sagacity of Richard Grunberger amazes me.

*Anthony Goldsmith
Wembley*

CRI DE COEUR

Sir - I fully support Robert Miller's sentiments re the Holocaust commemoration (Letters, March issue). Hitler could not have done a thing but for the wholehearted support of the whole German nation. Call me a racist but, as far as I am concerned, Germany and the Germans ceased to exist on 8 May 1945. They will have to wait just a few more years for all of us survivors to die before completing the whitewash.

*Danek Bardach
Dorset*

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAY

Sir - I see that you have increased the membership of the club of men and women who have celebrated their significant birthday. Hedy and I therefore take the opportunity to convey our very best wishes on this happy occasion and look forward to many more paragraphs, which - whether or not one agrees with their contents - always make interesting reading.

On a lower level, I heard somebody say that, since reading your articles, she has increased her *Wortschatz* enormously, which enables her to win at Scrabble more often!

*HE Reiner
London NW7*

CORRECTIONS

Sir - Iasi is not in the Republic of Moldova (March issue, page 3) or in the Romanian province of Moldova (page 7). It is in the Romanian province of Moldavia.

*Peter Block
London SE24*

ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

I Never Saw Another Butterfly, a book published to celebrate children's drawings and poems from Terezin, lends its name to an exhibition of 24 originals and 35 reproductions of the children's art at the **Jewish Museum**, brought from the Jewish Museum in Prague and supported by the AJR.



Memories of Home Marianna Langová, died in Auschwitz aged 12. Watercolour on paper

It is a pastoral art although the scenes are violent. An art of chugging trains - almost Thomas the Tank - but the journey we know is formidable, and the train has a blank face on a churning track. One figure is discernible: a Jew in a hat. It is an art of hospitals, but the accompanying poem speaks not of cure but of death. And it is an art of fear: a yellow figure, representing Death and wielding a sword, stands on a type of Parthenon, emerging from the shapes of other children, mown into obscurity. The accompanying poem, 'Fear', by 12-year-old **Eva Pickova** from Nymburk, describes a father's terror, of children choking and dying from typhus. Another yellow painting gives the sense of a child at the centre of a sandstorm, throwing out her hands, her eyes and mouth screaming. Behind her is a structure that resembles a sentry-box with a single hole.

The children, frightened and separated from their parents, were largely inspired by a gifted teacher, the Bauhaus-trained Viennese artist **Friedl Dicker-Brandeis**, a Janos Korczak of the creative world. Those who returned to school after the war said they learned more from her than their peers who had spent the war in ordinary classrooms. When she was deported to Auschwitz in 1944, she left behind two suitcases containing over 4,000 children's drawings, now preserved by the Jewish Museum in Prague.

These are children who dream like other children but who walk in the land of the shadow, and flit back to us as shadows. We know that a mere 100 survived from the 15,000 under-15s who passed through Terezin. Each flower in a vase screams out its life force; a woman runs towards the memory of her house with every fibre of her being. Home has the status of an unattainable Paradise; a black shadow or a chimney follows it; rigid trees and a tiny garden envelop it neatly, between three mountain peaks and a sun whose rays are tilted towards it in a desperate plea for life itself.

This art makes of us all voyeurs into the worst anguish of all: the fragile anguish of childhood extinguished.

It took a visit to the Prague Jewish Museum in 1960 for Vera Gissing to confront the full impact of the Second World War. She was standing in a small room in the Museum filled with drawings of the children of Terezin. A child survivor and Kindertransportee, who lost her entire family in the war, she told guests at the opening of the London exhibition that this was the first time it had come home to her. A full programme of events accompanies the exhibition until the end of May.

RG's INTERFACE

Midwives to genius Wagner famously declared Jews spiritually sterile, and therefore incapable of creating great art. His 'creativity libel' has since been refuted by outstanding composers (Mahler, Schönberg), writers (Kafka, Proust), painters (Chagall), etc.

Even so, absolute genius is always in short supply. What can be claimed for the Jews is their early recognition of, and support for, great innovators. Ibsen was powerfully helped by the critic Georg Brandes, and Hauptman by the director Otto Brahm. Thanks to Siegfried Trebitsch's translation, Shaw was more widely performed in Germany than Britain.

Plays Michael Hastings's *Calico* (Duke of York's) focuses on James Joyce, another cultural mould-breaker with Jewish connections. Joyce's best friend in Trieste was Italo Svevo, who served him as the model for Leopold Bloom in *Ulysses*; other Jews close to him were his daughter-in-law and his lawyer in Paris.

In June, Notting Hill's Gate Theatre will stage the *Arab-Israeli Cookbook*, with a mixed cast who intermingle personal biographies with recipes from their national cuisine.

Films Jews appear as protagonists in three current films of widely different genres. *The Statement* brings to the screen Brian Moore's novel about a high-ranking Vichy official involved in the Holocaust whom the Church helped to escape justice after the war. *Suzie Gold* is a frothy comedy about ethnicity along the lines of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, but set in Golders Green. Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* is a box-office hit that taps into moviegoers' taste for sado-masochism and reprises the age-old charge of Jewish deicide.

Genius of the violin This London-based *Fiddler-fest* in April featured four virtuosi, half of them Jewish. One was Ida Haendel, a child prodigy in the interwar years who in 1989 insisted that the jury judging the Carl Flesch competition award first prize to another participant, the then 15-year-old Maxim Vengerov.

A sorry tale

IMPERFECT JUSTICE: LOOTED ASSETS, SLAVE LABOR, AND THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF WORLD WAR II

Stuart E. Eizenstat

New York: Public Affairs, 2004, £22.50

The title of this important book indicates the achievement of its author, who combined a senior post in the United States administration with six years of tireless efforts to bring some restitution to Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

There is, of course, a sense in which there can be no real compensation for the enormity of the crimes committed by the Nazis, abetted by some so-called neutral countries. Nevertheless, Eizenstat's work compelled the countries involved to restore to the Jewish communities property such as synagogues, schools and other buildings which had been confiscated from them. They were also obliged to open frozen bank accounts belonging to the victims of Nazism, to restore some property to its rightful owners, and to pay out a total sum of \$8 billion to those who had suffered as slave labourers.

Eizenstat gives a blow-by-blow account of his protracted, often frustrating negotiations. These involved dealing with politicians, bankers, industrialists, American lawyers and members of various Jewish communities, all of whom had their own agenda and, on occasion, favoured tactics to hold up progress.

The Swiss proved the most intractable. Sheltering behind their apparent neutrality, they felt that Eizenstat's pressure to open bank accounts impugned their integrity. When, however, it was revealed that they 'sent truck-loads of gold looted by the Nazis to Spain and Portugal in

REVIEWS

vehicles bearing the Swiss emblem', the falseness of their claim of neutrality was exposed. Furthermore, Christoph Meili discovered that the bank of which he was an employee was shredding important documents relating to Degussa, a German chemical company which smelted looted Nazi gold with markings disguising their source, and Dagesch, which made Zyklon B, as well as records of real estate seized by the Germans. Armed with this evidence, Eizenstat was able to extract a settlement from the Swiss.

The Germans, by contrast, made no effort to deny their guilt during the Nazi era, but were concerned to define the entitlement of the victims as narrowly as possible. The Austrians, still half-clinging to their myth that Beethoven was an Austrian and Hitler a German, were more defensive. However, a specially appointed negotiator, Maria Schaumeyer, proved helpful in reaching a final settlement for those who had worked as slave labourers for Austrian firms, excluding the victims of Mauthausen, who had already received compensation from the Germans.

This is a sorry tale which has no happy ending. The book is not an easy read because of the lack of selection of its material, but is nonetheless a valuable source book on its subject.

Martha Blend

Untimely revival

SINGER

Peter Flannery

directed by Sean Holmes

Tricycle Theatre, London

This play purports to record the life of Peter Singer, a thinly disguised replica

of the notorious slum landlord Peter Rachman. It covers his spell in Auschwitz, his commercial career in London, and finally his imaginary ideological post-mortem rehabilitation by the Thatcher government.

The first scenes, set in Auschwitz, contain inaccuracies - forerunners of later manipulations of the truth. In one scene, a guard orders Singer to beat a German prisoner and we see him beating the man senseless. However, a Polish Jew could never have been ordered by a guard to beat a German gentile political prisoner - the latter were invariably in high positions and thus not subject to such treatment.

Singer's Jewishness is stressed, in camp as well as in London. It is not Singer the Pole who is exploitative and cruel, but Singer the Jew. We know that thousands of slum landlords were prosecuted in the 1960s-70s and later - some were West Indians, some Irish, some English, some Indians - but if you believe the play, Singer/Rachman was the only one - hence the crime of Rachmanism, a Jewish crime.

The fact is that Rachman was a gangster, like his friends the Kray brothers, but nobody knows or cares if the latter were Catholics or C of E. Although Flannery attributes Singer's crimes to his experiences in Auschwitz, this mechanistic psychologising is proven false by the fact that the vast majority of Jewish camp survivors lived decent lives after liberation and that Rachman was never in a concentration camp but escaped from Poland to Russia, where he spent the war years. Singer's imaginary political rehabilitation as the ideologue of the Thatcher regime is also based on the supposition that Jews are naturally cruel and exploitative.

The most disturbing thing about

this play, first produced some 20 years ago at the National, is that it is revived now, when antisemitism is once again rampant.

Andrew Herskovits

Grob, but warm

SUZIE GOLD

directed by Ric Cantor

on selective release

Anglo-Jewish cinema is a puny, delicate offshoot of the British film industry, which hardly enjoys robust health itself. It blossoms roughly every five years. About a decade ago there was *Leon the Pig Farmer*, more recently *Solomon and Gaynor*, and now we have *Suzie Gold*.

A somewhat anaemic version of the Romeo and Juliet story set in the lush environs of Hampstead Garden Suburb, the film mines the same inter-ethnic seam as *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. Like that box office hit, it is formulaic: whereas the latter reprised the ugly-duckling-into-swan theme, *Suzie Gold* follows the well-worn girl-meets-boy-loses-boy pattern with a happy end in the last reel. (For boy read goy in this instance.)

As befits a film with a female heroine (enacted by Summer Phoenix), the duo mainly responsible for its gestation were of the same gender (as well as ethnicity and, almost, age). One is the daughter of a TV mogul, the other of a jewellery manufacturer.

This should lend an air of authenticity to the events depicted on-screen. Whether it actually does so is a moot point since many of the early scenes verge on the grotesque (not to say antisemitic).

Screen and soundtrack are filled with the mugging and screeching of Suzie's mother and her ilk, permanently on the verge of a nervous breakdown - over recalcitrant sons, inadequate husbands, caterers, beauticians, domestics and other menials.

The countervailing force to this monstrous regiment is Suzie's ludicrously accented *buba* (Miriam Karlin), an eccentric widow, who converses with her long-dead husband but fathoms the secrets of Suzie's heart.

So far, so sentimental - and even somewhat cringe-making. And yet imperceptibly, as events unfolded on screen, I was won over. In the end I came away touched by the warmth of family feeling generated in such set pieces as *buba's* funeral, the Yom Kippur service and the *kazatsky*-enhanced wedding reception.

Richard Grunberger

Letter from Israel

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

It seemed like any other Thursday morning. I was on my way to work slightly later than usual. The traffic was not inordinately heavy, nor were the other drivers unusually obnoxious. Although the rain had stopped, clouds still obscured the sky. Later that day the hotly-disputed prisoner-of-war exchange with the Palestinians would take place and Israel would receive the bodies of its soldiers. Everybody had an opinion on the subject, but most people regarded it as a necessary evil.

Waiting for the traffic lights to change, we stopped not far from that Jerusalem landmark, Angel's Bakery, at the junction with Eagle's Wing Road. The street's poetic name belies its somewhat grimy commercial and semi-industrial nature. Suddenly a scooter with a white box on the pillion emblazoned with a red Star of David sped past us, its siren wailing. Beneath the emblem were the Hebrew letters ZAKA, denoting the group of orthodox volunteers who rush to every disaster spot to remove the bodies and remains of the dead.

'I don't like the look of that', I said to my passenger, and switched on the radio just in time to hear the nine o'clock news. It was worse than I had feared. A suicide bomber had managed to blow himself up in a bus in the very heart of Jerusalem. A symphony of emergency vehicle sirens ensued. We soon heard that the bus was one my passenger used almost daily. The explosion had occurred at a busy junction which I often passed in the course of my week.

At that moment we did not yet know the full extent of the damage or the numbers killed and wounded. But like everyone who lives in Jerusalem, and in fact anywhere in Israel, we were reminded once again of the precariousness of our existence.

WANTED TO BUY German and English Books

Established bookdealer

(AJR member)

always welcomes

invitations to view

and purchase

valuable books

For an immediate response,
please contact:

Robert Hornung
2 Mount View, Ealing,
London W5 IPR

Email: hornungbooks@aol.com
Tel: 020 8998 0546
(5pm to 9pm is best)



Annely Juda Fine Art

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

CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE

On meeting Otto Deutsch, you sense right away that here is a natural entertainer: jolly, ebullient, gritty, earthy, he mimics accents effortlessly, switching from Geordie to an equally brilliant Cockney. 'I'm an extrovert', he announces. He is telling it like it is. No wonder the redoubtable Kindertransport mover Bertha Leverton couldn't recommend him highly enough for a profile.

Otto has made a speciality of giving talks on the coffee houses of pre-war Vienna. No surprise in that: he spent a great deal of his time in such establishments. The family was desperately poor: his father, a confectionery cook, was more often out of work than in. The coffee house was the family's 'front room' - the lounge they didn't have in their own house, a most-welcome form of escapism. Greeted like the best of friends by the waiter, he would sit the whole afternoon glued to his cup of coffee and on-the-house glass of water. To this day he wonders how, with customers like him - and many of them were - the management could afford even to keep the light on.

And yet Otto's childhood was a happy one: it's hard to miss what you've never had.

Kristallnacht changed all that. The family moved into a single, tiny room in the largely Jewish, ghetto-like second district. His father was taken away, never to be seen again. His mother told him he was to go to England on the Kindertransport. 'See you next week!', said his sister Adele, seven years older than he, as they put him on the train.

Otto, unable to resist the funny side of things, recalls a hilarious incident on his journey to England. Speaking not a word of English, he and the cousin he was travelling with needed to pay an urgent call of nature. On the rather dubious basis that if you shout loud enough you'll eventually make yourself understood, they harangued the terribly dignified English lady

PROFILE

Howard Spier

Otto Deutsch 'Life is full of humour'



accompanying them on the urgency of their situation. At last, it seemed that the penny had dropped, so to speak. She exclaimed: 'Ah yes, of course. I understand!' - and brought them a glass of water each. Exactly the opposite of Mother Nature's requirements, Otto grins. I didn't ask how this critical situation was finally resolved.

Otto arrived in England in July 1939, a few days before his eleventh birthday. At Liverpool Street Station, child after child was picked up by guardians. Otto and his cousin remained unchosen. Were they so ugly?, he asks rhetorically. Eventually he found himself in the Newcastle area, living with a devout Christian family, the Fergusons. They were very kind to him. Soon he was learning 'Geordie' and embroiled in local football loyalties.

Otto was 15 when the Fergusons called him into the drawing room.

They told him that his mother and sister had been taken to the East. 'This is when I grew up', Otto says.

Soon after he was in London, staying in accommodation provided by Jewish welfare organisations, of which he has less than positive memories. Declaring that he wished to be a journalist - and not train for whatever lowly job they deemed life had marked him out for - and bursting with chutzpah, as he tells it, he took himself off to the *Daily Express* offices in Fleet Street, informing the stupefied staff there that he was looking for a job. And indeed, they did offer him a job of sorts - as a menial. But soon he was learning the printing trade, enabling him to find employment as a compositor with the *Daily Telegraph*.

In 1961 his life took a new twist. On a trip to Spain, he suddenly grasped the fact that the courier (or tour guide, as we might say now) accompanying his group knew a lot less about Spain than he did about Austria. He saw a niche in the dearth of German-speaking tour guides. So began a long and successful career as a tour guide, becoming en route a founder member of the International Association of Tour Managers.

In 1972 Otto moved to his present home in the Southchurch district of Southend, his first permanent home since Vienna. In retirement, he is involved in a host of local activities. Among other things, he presents a programme of recorded music in the civic centre, he is a member of the Friends of Southend Museums and of a local theatre group, and - last but not least - he chairs the local AJR branch. Recently, at the invitation of the Viennese authorities, he lectured on his experiences in schools and colleges in the Austrian capital. And just a couple of weeks before we met, he had taken a prominent part in a TV series on the Blitz. 'Life is not only tragedy', Otto insists, 'it is also full of humour.'

INSIDE the AJR

Liverpool Continental Friends

In a tasty talk on *The Jewish Kitchen*, prize-winning author Clarissa Hyman described foods Jews had picked up on their travels across the globe. Such delicacies as Bumywelos, Venetian pumpkin risotto, Cuban picadillo and Baghdad beef with okra were mentioned. Every meal led back to a grandmother ...

Gerry Jayson

Next meeting: Wednesday 9 June. Annual lunch. Speaker: Margaret Brearley

Pinner: the Vienna coffee house atmosphere

For a large audience including a strong Austrian contingent, Otto Deutsch vividly evoked the congenial atmosphere of the coffee houses of Vienna. 'Herr Ober' would welcome 'Herr Doktor' or 'der Graf' with old-world courtesy but would also tolerate lesser mortals spending hours over a cup chosen from the numerous varieties of delicious coffee while discussing the ways of the world.

Walter Weg

Next meetings: Thursday 6 May, 2.00 pm. Glenys Groves, of the Royal Opera House, on 'Pop to Opera'; Thursday 3 June, 2.00 pm. Ernest Simon will lead a discussion on 'Current Affairs'

Manchester Continental Friends

A full house heard Dr Peter Liddle, Director of the Second World War Experience Centre, speak on the subject of prejudice. Continental Friends meetings, recently introduced by AJR Northern Co-ordinator Susanne Green, were reported on: successful informal gatherings had been held in the south of our area and it was hoped we would soon have meetings in the north too.

Werner Lachs

Positive thinking in South London

Bettine Le Beau gave a very interesting talk on the subject 'Happiness is an Attitude of Mind'. Always think positive and look for the good in yourself and your friends, she advised.

Anne Poloway

Next meeting: Thursday 20 May. Annette Saville, 'Around the World by Piano'

Cambridge planning meeting

Meeting at a new venue, we used the occasion to determine our 2004 programme, outings to London, and guest speakers. Issues of location, refreshments and communications were clarified too. Anne Bender gave a most interesting account on renewed contacts resulting from the *AJR Journal's* letters pages.

Keith Lawson

Ilford résumé on internment

Ludwig Spiro gave a superb résumé of his time in internment. Despite all odds, a school was started, a university established, and the Amadeus Quartet inaugurated. After escaping the Nazis, many refugees were put behind barbed wire, yet still managed to become people of repute today.

Meta Roseneil

Next meeting: Wednesday 19 May 10.30 am. A video on Beth Shalom

Musical treat in Brighton & Hove Sarid

Walter Woyda gave a fascinating talk on the musical *Milk and Honey*, first performed on Broadway in 1961 and revived in 1994, each time with great success. Unfortunately, due to its political theme it was never produced outside New York.

Next meeting: Joy Markham, 'Spiritual Healing - Does It Work?'. Monday 17 May, 10.45 am

East Midlands (Nottingham) social get-together

Over 20 members attended our spring meeting, hosted by Ellen Litman JP, enjoying a splendid lunch. Members discussed their histories, towns and countries of origin and their lives in England. Present at the meeting were members from Leicestershire, Lincoln, Derby, a village in Notts and Nottingham. Given such a scattered area, the assistance AJR gives with transport is much appreciated.

Bob Norton

Next meeting: Wednesday 11 August

Essex: on becoming British

AJR Journal Editor-in-Chief Richard Grunberger asked: 'Can Immigrants Be British?' In the last century, East European Jews came here from a number of countries and soon became respectable citizens. The Irish came to England for jobs British workers did not want to do. Jewish refugees of the Nazi era eagerly learned English and the English way of life. While these refugees were warmly welcomed by most English people, it took the British Jews some time to overcome their prejudice towards their

foreign brethren.

Julie Franks

Next meeting: Tuesday 11 May. Joint meeting with North London group, including lunch

Leeds HSFA: the rescue of Danish Jewry

Anita Canter spoke of the rescue of Danish Jews, one of the most inspiring stories of the Second World War. Some 80,000 Danes participated in a rescue operation that transferred 7,200 Jews and 700 non-Jewish relatives to Sweden. In addition, the King publicly protested about the planned deportation of Jews, as did ministers of religion.

Martin Kapel

Edinburgh talk on Yiddish

Heather Valencia, of the German department at Stirling University, said Yiddish had apparently been brought to Germany from the South in the Middle Ages and influenced there by Middle High German. In more recent times, Yiddish has flourished in the USA and nowadays is taught at many universities, some of them in Germany.

Dorothea Brander

Pinner in search of tastes past

Some 25 gathered for an exercise in nostalgia: 'The Taste of our Childhood'. We reminisced about chopped liver, goose fat (and 'grammel'), knödel of various sorts, stuffed and jellied carp, goulash, wiener schnitzel, sachertorte, guglhupf, milchrahmstrudel, salzburgnockerl, kaiserschmarrn and homemade ice cream. On the changeover to English food: fish and chips was welcome; tapioca and the local tea and coffee were not.

Paul Samet

Wessex talk by broadcaster

Following a highly interesting talk by BBC World Service broadcaster Stewart Macintosh, after which he joined us for tea at the Normandy Hotel, we discussed Jewish prisoners and read out the names of Jonathan Pollard, Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

G. M. Ettinger

Next meeting: Wednesday 12 May. Eli Benson, 'Magen David Adom'

Leeds HSFA: 'Weimar: Myth or Reality?'

FRG Honorary Consul J. M. Green gave an interesting account of Weimar's cultural associations, followed by a description of conditions in Germany at the end of the First World War, the establishment of the Weimar Republic, and the rise of Nazism resulting in

the foundation of the Buchenwald concentration camp. *Martin Kapel*

Next meeting: Sunday 9 May. Summer

Luncheon and a talk by R. Cohen on 'Experiences of an Inspector'

Sheffield comparison of teaching methods

At the home of Dr Otto and Dorothy Fleming, Dorothy, a Kindertransportee, compared teaching methods experienced in Vienna with those after integration into an English school. After a scrumptious tea she recited poems in German and English, producing many rhymes and poems we remembered from our earlier days. A great afternoon!

Steve Mendelsson

Next meeting: Sunday 27 June. Details to be circulated

Quizzes at South West Midlands meeting

At the home of Ruth Price in Crowle in Worcestershire we celebrated her 80th birthday and Siggie and Ruth Charrach's 60th wedding anniversary. Following an excellent buffet lunch we tried to solve two quizzes, one a Bible puzzle.

Allan and Ruth Jackson

Norfolk get-together

The indefatigable Myrna convened our third get-together, at the Norwich Hebrew Congregation. We had a superb lunch with everybody mucking in and a lively conversation. One of those present reported on her visit to a Quaker meeting in Edinburgh on peace in the Middle East.

Frank Bright

Next meeting: Tuesday 18 May or 15 June, 12 noon, same venue

NEXT MEETINGS

HGS inaugural meeting. Monday 10 May. For details, phone Myrna Glass

North London Tuesday 11 May. Day Outing to Essex Group;

Thursday 20 May (not 27), 10.30 am. Geoffrey Perry, 'When Life Becomes History'

West Midlands Sunday 11 July. Garden Party and Lunch at home of Leon Jessel

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES

SUNDAY 6 JUNE 2004 at 3.00 pm
JFS, The Mall, Kenton, Middlesex

Guest speaker
Lady Jacobovits

Agenda

Annual Report 2003
Hon. Treasurer's Report
Discussion

Election of Committee of Management

All questions for the chair should be submitted by 16 May to the Head of Administration at Jubilee House, Merrion Ave, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL.

Please either complete the form inserted in *AJR Journal* or telephone AJR head office for details.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The following members will be proposed for election or re-election to the Committee at the AGM on Sunday 6 June 2004

Mr A C Kaufman, Chairman*
Mr W D Rothenberg, Vice-Chairman*
& Hon. Treasurer
Mrs E S Angel, Secretary*
Mr P Dannenberg*
Mr C W Dunston, Trustee*
Mrs D Franklin, Trustee
Mrs G R Glassman, Trustee*
Mrs J. Millan
Mr E Reich
Mr A Spiro, Trustee

*Committee members retiring by rotation and being proposed for re-election

Anyone wishing to propose any other member for election as Hon. Officer, Trustee, or Committee member must submit to AJR's Head of Administration such a proposal signed by ten members qualified to vote at the meeting and with the signed agreement of the person being proposed no later than 16 May.

With Appreciation

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the legacies received in 2003 by the AJR and AJR Charitable Trust from the estates of the following:

*V Bach, R Berkovitz,
Theresa Bornstein, Vera Buch,
Hannah Cousens, Lili Feri, H Fishlock,
Leonie Ingham, Lily Koenigs,
Ruth Kunz, Rita Leif, Gladys Lennard,
G Marshall, Otto Meyer, A Mond,
M Novitt, B Oakley, Henry Rentschner,
Kate Schleich, Joachim Schmetterling,
Alfred Schreiber, Bernard Serle,
Emma Simonsohn, Hilda Slater,
Julie Straussler, A Weiss*

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, London, NW6
Tel: 020 7328 0208

AJR LUNCHEON CLUB

Wednesday 19 May 2004
11.45 am for 12.15 pm

Jenny Topper
'On Being a Producer'

Early reservations please!

Lunch now only £5

Please telephone Sylvia or Susie on 020 7328 0208

KT-AJR Kindertransport special interest group

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT CLEVE ROAD

Monday 10 MAY 2004

Otto Deutsch

'The Coffee Houses of Vienna'

Lunch £5

Reservations required Please telephone 020 7328 0208

Monday - Thursday
9.30 am - 3.30 pm,
Sunday 2 pm - 5.30 pm

| | |
|---------|---|
| May | Afternoon Entertainment: |
| Sun 2 | CLOSED |
| Mon 3 | CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY |
| Tue 4 | Sheila Games |
| Wed 5 | Mike Marandi |
| Thur 6 | Margaret Opdahl |
| Sun 9 | CLOSED |
| Mon 10 | KT LUNCH Kards & Games Klub |
| Tue 11 | Joe Kay |
| Wed 12 | Katinka Seiner |
| Thur 13 | Nicola Smedley |
| Sun 16 | DAY CENTRE OPEN |
| Mon 17 | Kards & Games Klub |
| Tue 18 | Ronnie Goldberg |
| Wed 19 | LUNCHEON CLUB Speaker: Mrs Jenny Topper |
| Thur 20 | Margaret Gibbs |
| Sun 23 | CLOSED |
| Mon 24 | Kards & Games Klub |
| Tue 25 | Stephen Baron |
| Wed 26 | CLOSED SHAVUOTH |
| Thur 27 | CLOSED SHAVUOTH |
| Sun 30 | CLOSED |
| Mon 31 | CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY |

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.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Goerke, Werner Ernst, born Breslau 2 August 1918, has died peacefully in St James Hospital, Leeds. He is terribly missed by his wife Brunhilde, cousin John Goerke, Lore Steinitz in London, Gustel Sheinitz in Jerusalem, and Marianne Haselden in Wellington, New Zealand. He was the nephew of Max Goerke, the Breslau ear, nose and throat specialist.

Newton, Henry, born Heinz Neuburger in Nuremberg 24 June 1907, died 2 March 2004. He was a great man, a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law. He is enormously missed and deeply loved by his wife Ilse, his son Anthony, daughter Irene, daughter-in-law Irene, son-in-law Lev and grandchildren Sophie and Alexander.

Classified

'Second and Third Generations'
First Northern gathering for descendants of refugees and survivors in Leeds on Sunday 6 June 2004. For information, contact Barbara Dorrity on 0161 368 5088 or email Barbara@ajr.org.uk

Manicure & Pedicure in the comfort of your own home. Tel: 020 8343 0976.

Day Centre

Pamela Bloch at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. Clothes sale, separates etc. **Wednesday 5 May 9.30 - 11.45 am.**

Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. New Clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans, etc. **Tuesday 25 May 9.45-11.45 am.**

Chiropodist. Trevor Goldman at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre, **Tuesday, 25 May, 10.00-11.30 am.**

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

FAMILY EVENTS

First 15 words free of charge,
£2.00 per 5 words thereafter.

CLASSIFIED, SEARCH NOTICES

£2.00 per 5 words.

BOX NUMBERS - £3.00 extra

DISPLAY ADVERTS

per single column inch 65mm £12.00

COPY DATE - 5 weeks prior to publication

KT BAR/BATMITZVAH CELEBRATION

THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2004

at

Stanmore and Canons Park Synagogue

Speakers

Lady Jacobovits

Professor Judith Romney-Wegner
(on the role of women in Judaism)

Festive luncheon

Music by Jack Davidoff quartet

All members welcome

£12.50 per person

For further information, contact
Bertha Leverton on 020 8952 4280

NORTHERN HOLIDAY

Sunday 4 July - Friday 9 July 2004

The Fernlea Hotel,

11/17 South Promenade,

St Annes-on-Sea, Lancs F18 1LU

Champagne reception, entertainment,
outings, an opportunity to relax
among friends

£280 per person - travel can be arranged

For further information or an

application form, contact

Ruth Finestone on 020 8385 3070

as soon as possible as numbers are limited

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Ultrasound treatment

where appropriate.

Manual Lymphatic drainage.

Therapeutic treatment for the Elderly.

Therapeutic massage.

Pre and post op.

Home visits women only

N3, NW2, NW3, NW6, NW8, NW11

Andrea Langfritz

Chartered Physiotherapist

BUPA and PPP registered

Telephone: 01494 876043

Leo Baeck Housing Association Ltd

Clara Nehab House

Residential Care Home

All single rooms with en suite bath/shower

Short stays/Respite and 24 hour Permanent Care

Large attractive gardens

Ground Floor Lounge and Dining rooms

Lift access to all floors

Easy access to local shops and public transport

Enquiries and further information

please contact: The Manager

Clara Nehab House

13-19 Leaside Crescent

London NW11 0DA

Phone: 020 8455 2286

THE HOME CARE PRACTICE

Helps you remain in your own home

We can offer you a wide range of
Personal Care and Support
long or short term, living in or out
at affordable rates.

Please call Jenny Flavill, our Care
Manager for a no obligation chat on
Tel 020 7328 8408
Fax 020 7624 5002

ACACIA LODGE

Mrs Pringsheim, S.R.N. MATRON
For Elderly, Retired and Convalescent
(Licensed by Borough of Barnet)

- Single and Double Rooms.
- Ensuite facilities, CH in all rooms.
- Gardens, TV and reading rooms.
- Nurse on duty 24 hours.
- Long and short term and respite,
including trial period if required.

From £350 per week
020 8445 1244/020 8446 2820 office hours
020 8455 1335 other times
37-39 Torrington Park, North Finchley,
London N12 9TB

A HOME FROM HOME

If you are lonely, or your family are worried about
you alone, consider moving into our Progressive
Jewish Abbeyfield Home for able bodied pensioners

as a recent resident said

'I never knew it could be so homely'

PEGGY LANG HOUSE

Walm Lane, Willesden

permanent and short-stay
currently we have 'two vacancies'

**COSTS ARE EXTREMELY
REASONABLE**

For information: check our website -
www.JewishAbbeyfield.org.uk - or phone

ANN KIRK 01923 821923

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household
electrical work

PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518

ALTERATIONS

OF ANY KIND TO LADIES' FASHIONS
I also-design and make children's clothes

West Hampstead area
020 7328 6571

Obituaries

Vilem Tausky

Although Vilem Tausky, who has died at the age of 93, conducted over 125 operas, he remained best-known for the BBC's *Friday Night is Music Night*. He was born in Perov, Moravia. His mother was a former singer in Mahler's Vienna Court Opera; his uncles were the operetta composers Leo, Siegfried and Richard Fall.

Having taken up the piano, he often accompanied Dvorak's daughter Magda, a violinist who lived nearby, and, at the Janacek Conservatory in Brno, he came to know the old composer. In 1929 he made his debut as a conductor in Puccini's *Turandot*.

In 1939 he left Prague for Paris; following that city's fall, he came to the UK. Here he composed marches, conducted concerts with the London Philharmonic and Liverpool Philharmonic orchestras, and became the first foreigner in 100 years to conduct the band of the Coldstream Guards.

While he programmed new works and conducted a performance of the opera *Miss Julie*, based on Stringberg's play, he continued to be pigeon-holed as a 'light music man' - a British penchant for categorising music and musicians which he deplored.

His compositions included an oboe concerto, a cello sonata and a concertino for harmonica. In 1981 he was made a CBE. In 1995 he gave a radio broadcast on his recollections of Janacek and Chaliapin.

Peter Gellhorn

Peter Gellhorn, who has died at the age of 91, was a conductor and pianist who made a notable contribution to this country's cultural life. He was born in Breslau, the son of an architect, and educated at the Schiller Realgymnasium in Charlottenburg, at the University of Berlin and at the Berlin Music Academy.

Having arrived in the UK in 1935, he quickly found employment at Toynbee Hall in London, where he built up the music department. In 1941 he obtained work at Sadler's Wells Opera as assistant conductor and (after a period of war service in industry) with the Carl Rosa Opera.

In 1947 Peter Gellner was recruited by Karl Rankl as conductor and head of

music staff at the recently launched Covent Garden Opera Company. In 1954 he became coach and assistant conductor at Glyndebourne, remaining there until 1961, when he succeeded Leslie Woodgate as Director of the BBC Chorus, where he remained until he reached the BBC's mandatory retirement age. Subsequently, among many other things, he worked at the Royal College of Music as visiting opera coach, helped found Opera Barga, Italy, and conducted performances of the Opera Players Ltd.

He was described by friends as unassuming and self-effacing - characteristics not often found in successful conductors.

Arts and Events Diary - May

To 2 May 2004 'Continental Britons: Hans Gál and Egon Wellesz'. Jewish Museum of Vienna

To 20 June 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly ... Children's Art from Theresienstadt'. Jewish Museum Camden Town, in association with The Jewish Museum in Prague

To 28 October 'West End - East End: Jewish Life Across London'. Jewish Museum Finchley

Mon 3 May No lecture (Bank Holiday). **Club 43**

Mon 8 Dr Nicholas Berg (Leipzig), 'West German Historians and the Holocaust: Research and Memory'. Wiener Library. 7.00 pm. Admission free.

Mon 10 Dr Nicholas Worrall, 'The Threepenny Opera: Brecht, Weill, Gay'. Club 43

Mon 17 Prof Leon Yudkin, 'Writing the Holocaust in Fiction'. Club 43

Mon 24 No lecture. **Club 43**

Mon 31 No lecture (Bank Holiday). **Club 43**

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Club 43 Belsize Square Synagogue. Meetings 7.45 pm. Contact Hans Seelig tel 01442 254360

Jewish Museum Camden Town 129-131 Albert Street, London NW1 tel 020 7284 1997

Jewish Museum Finchley Sternberg Centre, London N3 tel 020 8439 1143

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

Central Office for Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

French Commission

Established in 1999, the Commission for the Compensation of Victims of Spoliation (CIVS) investigates claims for material and financial assets despoiled by the Vichy regime and its German occupier during the Second World War.

On receipt of an application, CIVS conducts free archival research to determine the extent of the plundered wealth. There is **no deadline** to apply and CIVS welcomes applications.

As well as apartments, furniture and household possessions, the Commission also pays compensation for dormant French bank accounts from two funds. Bank Fund A has been endowed with \$50 million and makes awards in respect of accounts found in archival research. Fund B, with \$22.5 million, pays standard \$3,000 awards for accounts that were active prior to 1941 but where such evidence cannot be found. The deadline for Fund B claims expired in January 2003.

Together with 150 new applications per month, CIVS has received to date more than 20,000 applications and has made offers on 10,000 cases. The average offer is €25,500 but it can take up to two years to process an application and for an offer to be made.

The Commission can be reached at 1 Rue de la Manutention, 7116 Paris, France. The telephone number is 0033 1 56 52 85 00 and their website can be viewed at www.civs.gouv.fr

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.

Social Work team brings comfort and help

Ronald Channing

Long a key component in the provision of comprehensive services to AJR members, AJR's eight-strong Social Work Team has established norms and procedures to obtain optimum support for each individual client. Referrals are made by members themselves, their families, friends and neighbours, doctors, hospitals and other social service agencies.

The first and essential stage, an assessment, is carried out by a designated social worker on the basis of her specialist knowledge and the geographical area served. The client's needs may be practical, financial, emotional, or just requiring sensible advice. As people rarely live in isolation, the assessment will almost certainly involve liaison with the client's relatives, doctor and other social service agencies.

Following a professional evaluation, carried out with the full co-operation of the clients and/or their next of kin, their recommendations form the basis of an action plan, to be approved by the Head of Social Work, Marcia Goodman, before implementation. It may involve finding alternative accommodation, treatment to regain health, attendance at a day centre, meals on wheels, volunteer visitors, financial assistance, cleaning or caring help, whether or not the person is at risk, advocacy on their behalf and applications for an attendance allowance.

Members of the social work team also visit members throughout the country at least once a year. Many who are isolated from communal life especially welcome the warmth and friendliness offered by the AJR. Not surprisingly, having contacted many isolated members, the team saw that they would benefit from meeting others who shared common experiences and attitudes. Many new AJR groups which hold regular meetings in all parts of the country have been formed.

When the Swiss Banks Authority



Marcia Goodman
Head of AJR's Social Work Team

PHOTO: RONALD CHANNING

provided Holocaust victims with an opportunity for recompense, more than 1,000 applications from those who identified themselves were evaluated by Marcia Goodman and her team. Currently the department is carrying out a similar responsibility, visiting and vetting applicants and helping them complete their forms for the Austrian Government's Emergency Assistance Programme.

On behalf of the AJR, Marcia plays a lead role in the Umbrella Group, a co-operative venture between six charities serving the needs of the refugee and survivor communities. The Central Office for Holocaust Claims, situated in the AJR's Stanmore offices, operates extremely successfully under the guidance, and with the financial support, of the Umbrella Group

Expert advice is also offered to members on German and Austrian pensions and restitution rights, including help with their paperwork and advocacy if necessary. Advice on British welfare benefits and state support is similarly proffered. The appointment of a Northern Region-based social worker intensified the support given to members across the region. The introduction of an annual holiday at St Annes (along the lines of the well-established Bournemouth holidays) has proved an extremely popular and ongoing innovation benefiting Northern members.

Newsround

Cardinal's passing

Cardinal König of Vienna, who far more than any Austrian politician, symbolised the ethos of his country's postwar, democratic renewal, has died. Within the Catholic Church he embodied the spirit of Vatican II, which had absolved the Jews of deicide.

European antisemitism study

According to a published EU report, attacks on Jews have increased in five European countries, including France and the UK. Blame for the rise was placed mainly on young white men, in contrast to a suppressed study last year which reportedly identified Arabs and Muslims as the main perpetrators. Serge Cwajgenbaum of the European Jewish Congress, reports the *Jewish Chronicle*, asked: 'How can we effectively fight antisemitism when we refuse to identify the true perpetrators?'

Art treasure restitution battle

The return of Gustav Klimt's 1907 glittering gold and silver portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, valued today at \$150 million, which hangs in Austria's state gallery in Vienna, is being sought by her 88-year-old niece, California resident Maria Altmann. Adele died in 1925, but her husband Ferdinand was robbed of the painting after the Anschluss in 1938.

Parliamentarians at Auschwitz

MPs from Britain's main political parties visited the Auschwitz extermination camp in Poland. David Heyes, MP, whose constituency includes part of Oldham where BNP leader and Holocaust denier Nick Griffin failed to obtain a council seat last year, said he would use the visit to fight the 'palpable nonsense' of the BNP.

Race hate increase

The Crown Prosecution Service reported 4,200 cases in 2003, an increase of 12% following one of 20% the previous year. The conviction rate of 85% was also up. Director of Public Prosecutions Ken Macdonald expressed the hope that 'Members of all faith communities will have the confidence to report crimes directed against their beliefs.'

Jewish refugees' Senate resolution

In a resolution tabled by US Senator Rick Santorum, the legitimate rights of Jews expelled from Arab countries (some 850,000) during Israel's war of independence should be explicitly referred to and met in any comprehensive Middle East peace agreement.