



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

What shall we tell the children?

Deciding how and when to discuss the Holocaust with children and grandchildren has been a perennial challenge for survivors and refugees. Many found it impossible to speak; for others it was difficult, both emotionally and conceptually, to know how much to tell.



Some of the many books that have been published specifically for children about the Holocaust.

In 2011 the London Jewish Cultural Centre held a series of events marking the 70th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees. A number of talks focused on the relationship between survivors on the one hand, and their children (and grandchildren) on the other. 'What shall we tell the children?' was the subject of a moving lecture by Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg from the New North London Synagogue and there

was also a lively discussion about three generations of survivors.

One important word recurred through these discussions but was never properly explored. Again and again, people spoke about the 'burden' of what they had been through and how difficult it was to think of imposing this on the next generation. What no one asked is why do we speak of such

Continued on page 2

LOOKING BACK & AHEAD

Our annual report on pages 9 – 12 describes a year of looking backwards and forwards, remembering seminal moments from the past and rethinking the way the modern world looks at prejudice.

These were also the themes of last month's very successful conference about the Kindertransport, which is reported in our sister publication, the Kindertransport newsletter, and will be covered in more detail in next month's Journal.

Meanwhile, to mark Yom HaShoah at the start of this month, we bring you an insightful interview with one of the architects behind the proposed UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre, plus an incredibly moving report from one of our key staff members in the north of England, who recently visited Poland with a delegation organised by her local council. Her account helps us to remember together that we are one.

We look forward, as always, to receiving your feedback on these and on the other articles in this month's Journal.

Letter from Israel	3
An architect's perspective	4-5
Letters to the Editor.....	6-7
Art Notes.....	8
Annual Report & Accounts.....	9 – 12
Looking for.....	13
The Endless Night in the Killing Fields	14 – 15
Reviews.....	16
Obituaries	17
Around the AJR.....	18
Adverts.....	19
Events & Exhibitions.....	20

AJR Team

Chief Executive Michael Newman
Finance Director David Kaye

Heads of Department

Community & Volunteer Services Carol Hart
HR & Administration Karen Markham
Educational Grants & Projects Alex Maws

AJR Journal

Editor Jo Briggs
Editorial Assistant Lilian Levy
Contributing Editor David Herman
Secretarial/Advertisements Karin Pereira

What shall we tell the children? (cont.)

knowledge and its transmission as a 'burden'? What is it we fear will happen – to ourselves, to others – if we tell them of such experiences? Why do we assume that even awful things, stories of death and loss and deep depression, cannot be talked about openly, lovingly and explored safely? A number of people in the audience spoke of not telling their children as if it was unthinkable. And others understood. But no one wanted to explore what is so frightening about trying to share such knowledge.

Children and grandchildren want to know what happened to their parents during the Nazi years, whether they became refugees or survived Nazi camps. There is now a whole genre of books by the children (especially by the daughters) of refugees and survivors. Some are memoirs, such as Louise Kehoe's *In This Dark House* (1995), Anne Karpf's *The War After: Living with the Holocaust* (1996), and Lisa Appignanesi's *Losing the Dead* (1999). There is also a new wave of novels about the experience of Jewish refugees when they came to Britain – by David Baddiel, Natasha Solomons and Martin Fletcher, and most famously, Judith Kerr's *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, among many others. The writers (and readers) of such books want to understand what their parents and grandparents went through. So why a 'burden'? Why do such experiences feel like a bomb, to be handled with care, if at all?

Of course, these were terrible experiences – loved ones were murdered or tortured in the most awful ways. People survived in terrible conditions. Being forced from one's home or separated from one's parents and siblings, are – literally – unspeakable events. Not just for individuals, but for a whole culture. For years there was silence in post-war Britain about the experience of Jewish survivors. There were memoirs or articles here or there, but by and large they failed to break into the cultural mainstream until the 1960s and especially the 1970s. This made it even harder for survivors to open up about what they went through. Look at the struggle of now famous authors like Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel to publish their first books and the changes they

had to make so their first books were less 'Jewish'. The story of the publication of Wiesel's *Night* is a fascinating example.

So how can we help people to tackle this 'burden'? One example came from Rabbi Wittenberg in his talk. Through his kind, gentle way of speaking he opened up a space for survivors in the audience to talk about what they had gone through. They felt understood and supported. This allowed them to open up in ways that some had apparently never experienced before. Secondly, by listening, in particular listening out for the *words* people use, for changes in emotion. One survivor started by smiling and saying how lucky he was. Within a few minutes, he had broken down completely, devastated by the emotional impact of what he was describing. It was as if for the very first time he was describing experiences that he had fended off for years. That smile vanished. He broke down. Thirdly, by trying to overcome isolation. Rabbi Wittenberg spoke passionately about Jews living in isolated parts of the country, who became cut off from fellow-Jews and survivors and lived alone with their dark thoughts and nightmares. For so many survivors (and their children), living far from the nearest Jewish community, they felt completely alone. This was before psychotherapists and religious leaders became aware of what refugees and survivors were living through. So, awareness, knowing how widespread and devastating these experiences and memories are, is crucial. And from awareness must come support, through religious and other forms of community.

Awareness, support and listening are important but are they enough? Let me return to this word 'burden'. I once asked a child analyst to explain to me the difference between Kleinian and Freudian psychoanalysis. Take a blind child, she said. A Freudian would try and help support this child and help build up their ego and defences against their experience of blindness, to help them cope. A Kleinian, by contrast, she went on, would begin by exploring the dark side of this experience, the sense of rage and anger and perhaps envy of siblings or friends who are able to see. The child's feeling about their blindness were sometimes more devastating than the

handicap itself.

I don't want to get into these doctrinal wars which tore psychoanalysis apart for decades. But this distinction is suggestive. Knowledge is a 'burden' because it is so terrible, so devastating. It is not just something that is incomprehensible to those who weren't there, but something that could even damage them once it is revealed. Children were so often a haven, something undamaged by the Holocaust. So how could one taint them, burden them, with this knowledge? Hence the rage when arguments broke out, when children became difficult or hostile, and were then discouraged from expressing any negative feelings towards their parents. 'How could you, after what we have been through?' 'The children we lost would never have behaved like this.' 'You have no idea what we went through'. Behind such intense emotions lies fear and devastation, but also anger and fury, that so often cannot find a way out. It is so much easier for us to treat survivors as victims and martyrs. Many children know there is a darker story. Even as I write this, I am aware how hurtful and wounding this must seem. But the children and grandchildren of survivors know this is sometimes the case. One kind of burden, perhaps, is denial, to argue that terrible experiences don't have serious consequences for people's lives.

There are many more aspects to such devastating experiences. But among many ways of helping survivors and their children, one might be to help people from both generations – and now from a third generation – confront the dark side of such feelings. The best fiction and memoirs do this. They acknowledge that survivors often seem a mystery to their children and grandchildren. Or, worse, that people from the second and now third generation experience their childhoods as a minefield, where they don't dare to ask what happened to their parents out of fear. Fear of what? That their parents will scream and shout, or break down and weep, or finding out what happened will be so terrible. As the third generation wants to find out what happened to their grandparents, it is ever more important to discuss these painful questions honestly and with love.

David Herman

LETTER FROM ISRAEL

BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



A GLOBAL SHOWCASE



The Eurovision Song Contest, which has been held annually for over sixty years, with over forty countries

participating, is a huge opportunity for each of those countries to showcase not only its music but itself. Because Israel's entry won last year, with Netta Barzilai singing 'Toy,' Israel is hosting the contest this year. Usually the event is held in the host country's capital, but because of political pressure, both internally and from abroad, it will be held in Tel Aviv rather than Jerusalem.

The last time Israel's entry was victorious was forty years ago, with Gali Atari and the Hakol Over Habibi ensemble singing 'Halleluya.' It was indeed a catchy tune, aided and abetted by the international nature of the title word whose meaning 'Praise the Lord' in Hebrew has become international currency (along with other Hebrew words such as 'Amen,' 'Hosanna,' and many others too numerous to mention).

The competition to be selected as Israel's entry was strong, and the winner was twenty-five year old tenor, Kobi Marimi, who will be giving a rendition of 'Home', a romantic ballad written by Ohad Shragai and Inbar Weitzman. He bears a slight resemblance to the late Freddie Mercury,

and that may have been a factor in his favour. As far as I can tell from my limited experience of (and interest in) such events, Israel's entry is far removed from the syncopated and hyperactive entries of previous years. I have heard the ballad, which can be defined as somewhat low-key (though certainly not off-key) and sentimental. It is a bold choice, and one hopes that the various voting panels are ready for a change in pace and theme.

Naturally, the intention is to make maximum use of the opportunity to boost tourism to Israel in general, and Tel Aviv in particular. This is particularly pertinent in view of the general atmosphere in Europe, where antisemitism and anti-Zionism are on the rise. In fact, the BDS movement did its utmost to organise a boycott of Israel as host of the contest, with fifty 'prominent' UK personalities signing a petition to this effect. This seems to have been successfully thwarted, however, with the competition's organisers condemning that approach as constituting an undesirable mix of politics and music, emphasising that the purpose of the Eurovision contest is to unite peoples, not discriminate between them.

I myself received an online petition seeking to counter the BDS boycott, contending that 'music is our shared language, one that transcends boundaries and brings people together under a common bond.' I undoubtedly subscribe to that view and although I do not as a rule sign petitions I decided to sign that one. Whether it had any effect or not I do not know, but the competition is going ahead, and that's the main thing.



There have even been rumours that Madonna will be appearing at the contest, which would certainly give an additional boost to the power of the event to attract an even bigger audience. At one stage the participation of the Shalva Band of talented youngsters with special needs was mooted, but because of their adherence to orthodox Judaism they are unable to participate in the televised competition, which always takes place on Shabbat. They may appear later in the evening, however.

There were some unhappy rumblings in the media with regard to ticket-touting and unfair distribution of complimentary tickets by the Minister of Culture and Sport, but these rumours were promptly suppressed and denied. There is no denying that the cost of the tickets is very high, but this is considered as being justified by the enormous expense involved in putting on the show, broadcasting it to the rest of the world, and accommodating all the participating artists and their entourages.

All that remains is to wish all the participants and organisers an enjoyable and successful competition, and hope that this event helps to show Israel as the dynamic, advanced and welcoming country that we all know and love.

Cakes reunited

The AJR editorial team was delighted to receive a surprise delivery of 'German' cakes recently from member Peter Briess.

In December we had published a letter from Peter, who came from Czechoslovakia with his parents in 1939, offering to share his mother's recipes with other readers.

Keen baker Heidi Goldberg responded and the exchange resulted in a wonderful tea party to sample cakes made by Heidi to some of Peter's mother's recipes.

Left: Peter Briess brought Gugelhupf and chocolate cake to the AJR office

Right: A page from Else Briess' recipe book



"Tasting these cakes was like a trip down memory lane; Heidi managed to perfectly capture the flavours of the past," reports Peter.

Fortunately there were slices of Gugelhupf

and a glazed chocolate cake (made from one of over 30 different chocolate cake recipes written in Peter's mother's book) left from the tea party for AJR staff to enjoy.

Memorialising the Holocaust: an architect's perspective

In March we invited AJR members to review plans for the proposed UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. Several members expressed interest in the plans so Sophia Engel, who is currently on an internship with AJR, went to interview one of the project's architects, **Asa Bruno** from the firm of Ron Arad Architects



Could you please introduce yourself?

My name is Asa Bruno and I am the director of Architecture at Ron Arad Architects. I am originally from Israel and have lived in London for 26 years and worked with Ron Arad for 19 years.

Do you have a personal connection with this project?

My father and mother came to Israel from Germany and Poland, just before the outbreak of WW2. Their stories and those of other refugees were very influential in my upbringing. Growing up in Israel, stories of the Holocaust are ingrained in our education and culture, but it was only in adulthood that I began engaging with that subject on a more personal level. I have read a lot about the Holocaust and spoken at length with relatives who were directly affected. When the opportunity to work in this project came along I thought it would be a very important thing for me to be involved in.

How big is the project team?

Adjaye Associates are leading the general project and designing the learning centre underground. Ron Arad Architects are designing the memorial. We have a team of five, including Ron Arad, myself and a team of three others. Gustafson, Porter and Bowman are the landscape architects, responsible for integrating the memorial into the Victoria Tower Gardens Park. There is also a wide technical team of consultants covering all aspects of the project from structure and mechanical engineering to conservation, traffic, accessibility and ecology.

What are the major challenges?

We are very respectful of the subject matter and the need to give it the appropriate attention and place in the public realm. At the same time we need to be very sensitive to the location, which is in a park close to the Palace of Westminster in a highly protected area that is very precious to the local community, and we wish to retain as much as possible of the park. So it is quite a challenge to develop it in the most sensitive manner.

Which other memorial and learning centres did you and your colleagues look at?

The Ron Arad team has visited numerous different Holocaust memorials around the world. I personally have been to Berlin, Boston, Yad Vashem and a number of others. We have also had enlightening discussions with Holocaust scholars and been fascinated by other types of memorials, such as the Cenotaph in Whitehall. It's a fairly simple, austere block of stone in the middle of a busy road, yet it captures collective grief and the attention of a whole nation. It doesn't visually symbolise war, i.e. it doesn't look like a tank or something else that people might associate with war or soldiers, rather it's a much more abstract container for those memories.

What is the ideal balance between memorialisation and learning?

This relates to the issue of who this is for. We are aiming for the memorial to be of importance and significance to living survivors of the Holocaust and their relatives, but very importantly for a

generation that has no living memory of the Holocaust. It needs to remain important and powerful for many generations to come, beyond the living memory of people who actually experienced the Holocaust directly or even indirectly. And that is a very vast challenge, because you can't just do that through shock value or by telling stories; you have to reach people via different emotional, visual or audiophonic mechanisms. It's not necessarily about reading a plaque and learning "oh, this is what that means"; the Holocaust is too vast to comprehend in a sentence. It's about creating a visual and physical experience that people won't necessarily understand – because it is too big to understand – but are nevertheless deeply moved by it, and hopefully encouraged to engage with and learn more about.

So you are really focused on the generations to come?

The memorial will honour those who died in the Holocaust but the learning centre will set its sights on the wider, long term, and more universal challenge of standing up to injustices and preventing future genocides.

Who will actually be responsible for filling the learning space and how much input will the architects have?

The process began some months ago, and the exhibition designer and content director have been working very intensively, in partnership with the larger design team. The content director, Yehudit Shendar, has come from Yad Vashem and was also involved in the extraordinary Block 27 installation at Auschwitz. The exhibition designer is Steven Greenberg,



A view of the proposed memorial from inside



A view of the proposed memorial from the park

CREDIT: HAYES-DAVIDSON

who has a lot of experience with sensitive exhibition-making, and has been involved with the powerful Holocaust exhibition in the Imperial War Museum. The two of them bring a wealth of experience and sensitivity to this project and it has been a very positive and strong process so far.

What is this project's connection with the Imperial War Museum?

There is obviously a link but the IWM deals with the Holocaust within the context of war mechanism and deals primarily with that as its focal point, whereas the Memorial and learning centre are more of a vehicle for reflecting on what the Holocaust meant for people in England at the time, how much of it was known, what actions were taken, what actions weren't taken, and the outcome of these actions and inactions. It is also intended as an educational device for addressing difficult issues of social responsibility, tolerance, and active rejection of hatred on a more universal level.

What is your response to criticisms about the location of the proposed memorial?

I know that some local residents are concerned about placing a memorial of this scale and importance in a relatively small park next to the Houses of Parliament. But the site had already been chosen when we were invited to take part in the design competition. The location has been widely endorsed, including by the previous and current Prime Ministers, the Mayor of London, the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and

Local Government, the Chief Rabbi and other heads of faith, plus numerous other stakeholders. When invited to design the Memorial, we didn't really believe there was anywhere more appropriate than this location. Placing a memorial to the worst humanly-caused tragedy in history, next to one of the world's most widely recognised symbols of democracy is a very brave move, and one which as architects we fully support.

Is it likely that the design will be modified in response to the public consultation?

The project has undergone several stages of consultation, before the design began, during the design process and the competition stage, once the competition entries were submitted, and once the winning competition entry was announced. As part of the planning process there have been two public consultations and public exhibitions. We have already begun modifying parts of the design in response to comments and feedback that the team has received.

Will it cost to get into the memorial?

I understand that entrance tickets will be required, but they will be free of charge, and used solely to help monitor the quantity and flow of visitors and ensure that their experience is safe and immersive.

What stage are you currently at with the planning permission?

The designs were submitted to Westminster Council in December 2018.

We expect and hope to receive approval later this summer.

What other high profile projects are you involved with at the moment?

We just completed the first of two phases of a large office development in Tel Aviv, and the second phase is about to commence development. We have also designed a new cancer hospital in the north of Israel which will offer excellent care and research facilities and provide a very inspiring environment for patients, visitors and staff. Its location is demographically very mixed – approximately half of the staff and patients will be Arab-Israelis, half Jewish-Israelis. We hope this will really revolutionise the quality, and the kind of care that the most vulnerable people in local communities can receive.

Do you have any particular message for AJR members?

I am very grateful for the opportunity to share my thoughts with AJR members. Working on this project I cannot see a more noble cause than to be engaged with people who have been refugees themselves or relatives of people who have experienced such suffering or undergone such a major shift in their lives. As we see around us this is not something that just happened in the past, racial prejudice is something that happens and will sadly continue to happen in the future. We must keep our arms open, and look after our refugees and listen to them, and above all try to understand how we can help in everything that is involved in that huge process of migration.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication.

STICK TO THE GUIDEBOOK

Editor writes: David Wirth's article about Vienna (March) continues to provoke responses, in particular from the Austrian Embassy in London who wish to point out that "Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky (1970-1993) was born into a Viennese Jewish family and forced by the Nazi regime in 1938 to emigrate to Sweden. He returned to Austria only in 1951 and he never was a member of the Nazi party NSDAP." These sentiments were echoed by several others, including Paul Secher and an Austrian MP, Reinhold Lopatka, who wrote that "20 relatives of Kreisky died in the Holocaust. Kreisky was not a member of the NAZI party, he was a victim".

All this interest in Bruno Kreisky has prompted the commissioning of a dedicated article about him, to be published in a future issue of the AJR Journal.

In the meantime, the Austrian Embassy also told the AJR that Vienna's monument to Russian soldiers, mentioned in David Wirth's article as a contrast to the memorial to Jewish civilians, was actually designed by the Soviet army before the liberation of Vienna and that its maintenance by the Austrian authorities is one of the stipulations of the 1955 Staatsvertrag. Finally, in 2018, the Austrian Federal Government confirmed that it will cover the cost of constructing a new memorial for the victims of the Shoah. The "Wall of names in commemoration of murdered Jewish children, women and men from Austria" will be built in the Ostarrichi park, in central Vienna, and will list the names of the 66,000 Austrian Jews who were murdered during the Shoah.

THANK YOU AJR

Thanks to a search notice in the AJR Journal last May, my sister Maria and I have recently received a collection of old family letters via Richard Canter, whose wife's grandmother hosted us in Melton Mowbray 80 years ago.

Memories of those days are poignant and

clearly remembered. We were refugees with our brother and, along with so many other children, were given homes by amazingly kind and generous people when the bombing intensified in the London and district areas. Young as we were, we did not fully understand the kindness of our host families but we now look back with amazement and gratitude at the generosity of so many people.
Birgitt Beesley, Ontario, Canada

A SYNAGOGUE FOR REFUGEES (March)

I read with interest your piece on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Belsize Square synagogue (known in my day as the New Liberal Jewish Congregation).

I was raised in the heart of this community, my parents having been members since their arrival in London in 1939; my father served on the board of the congregation in the 1960s.

Rabbi Salzberger officiated at my parents' wedding at his synagogue in Frankfurt in August 1938, just three months before Kristallnacht, when my father (like so many others) was taken to Buchenwald until January 1939.

It was not all a bed of roses for many of my generation, born just after the end of the war (I was born in 1950) when those of my parents' generation who had escaped were attempting to restart their lives, many now without a trace of any family.

The older I get, the more I realise how dark my childhood was. We had no family ('What is a grandparent?' we asked) unlike my mostly English school friends, in whose houses I sought some kind of refuge, some light relief.

One's parents had their own terrible demons with which to deal and so a mention should and must be made of the marvellous and important cantor/chazan/humanitarian/one-time opera singer under Richard Strauss/member of ENSA in the war who sang for George VI

and his family at Windsor: Josef Dollinger. With his extraordinarily intelligent wife Stella, they gave so many of us succour and sensible confidential advice on how to deal with our parents' strangeness, and the unspoken grief with which many of us were afflicted through no fault of our own.

Although the institution might be rightly much admired, it was for some of us second generation youngsters an extremely challenging childhood and difficult adolescent experience.
Peter Hess, London N1

RIGHTEOUS CANECKY

I am pleased to see the Righteous among the Nations award has been given to Ondrej Canecky.

Canecky was a Slovak farmer who risked his life to help two Auschwitz escapees, Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler. He dressed them up as pig farmers, and arranged a meeting with representatives of the Jewish community in Slovakia. Thanks to him, Vrba and Wetzler were able to write their account of Auschwitz /Birkenau that was one of the few authentic testimonies to reach Western authorities, and which ultimately contributed to the rescue of 200,000 Hungarian Jews.
Gerta Vrbova, London

WEDGWOOD TRIBUTE

I was delighted to read Lesley Urbach's tribute to Josiah Wedgwood (April). Without him, I would not be alive today.

In 1938, when my grandparents in Vienna were desperately seeking refuge for their two daughters, my grandfather remembered a business card given to him by an English gentleman. This was Josiah Wedgwood who, when contacted, readily arranged for my mother and aunt, Marianne and Gerda Lampl, to travel on domestic visas and work in his household in Moddershall Oaks until he returned to Parliament, after which he arranged their relocation to friends of his in Glan Conway.

My mother kept in touch with him and his wife, and clearly had the greatest respect and fondness for them both. I owe him an enormous debt of gratitude, as do my children and grandchildren, and wish that his humanity was more widely known and celebrated.

Sue Phillips, Shrewsbury

REFUGEES IN NAME

David Herman's lead article (April) was fascinating and useful in drawing attention to the status issue. However, in the current climate, it is important that the terms "refugee" and "asylum seeker" (best defined as a prospective refugee) are narrowly and precisely used. A refugee is someone who has been found or accepted to have "a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion" and is outside his homeland and cannot or does not want to seek his homelands diplomatic protection. (Geneva Convention 1951, Art 1(2))

I would suggest that the term 'emigrant' covers a multitude of categories (refugees, entrepreneurs, foreign spouses) and is best used for all those who intend or do settle in the new country. It thus distinguishes emigrants from those he calls exiles. For me, an 'exile' is a member of a group which has formally been expelled. Before Wannsee changed Reich policy, Jews were 'encouraged' to emigrate, but were not formally exiled.

Francis Deutsch

MOUTH WATERING

Your review of the bilingual "Jewish Cookbook from Hamburg" (April) sent me into instant pursuit. Within 48 hours Amazon had furnished the book, which proves to be a sheer delight, both as mere reading matter full of delicious memories and as a well proven culinary guide. If only I could find a volunteer at AJR to produce all these delights for me!

Hans Eirew, Manchester

GENOCIDE

Danny Kalman's brother Melvyn described his concerns at the way "... the genocides in Rwanda, Biafra and Cambodia are being connected to the Holocaust."

According to the UN, 'Genocide' is intentional action to destroy people, nation, race, culture, language by deliberate killing. It is a combination of the Greek word 'geno' – race, and Latin word 'caedo'-kill, cut. Other synonyms are massacre, crimes against humanity, extermination.

Dr Elena Rowland, London SE18

REFUGEES IN LEEDS

I read the article on David Makofski (February) and the letter from Ernest Kochmann (March) with interest, as I had previously come across an article in our journal that throws a different light on the chairman of the Leeds Refugee Committee. In the interests of historical balance I draw the earlier article to the attention of our readers.

The article, by C.C. (Căsar) Aronsfeld, appeared in *AJR Information*, as it then was, in February 1952 under the title 'A Refugee in Leeds'. It draws on Aronsfeld's experiences in Leeds in the summer of 1934. Readers can access the article via the AJR's website and reach their own conclusions. Although Aronsfeld does not name Makofski directly, inventing an unflattering nickname for him, it is plain who the 'Viceroy' in Leeds is. Aronsfeld's article prompted an immediate riposte from a refugee who had settled in Leeds and who protested vigorously against Aronsfeld's depiction of the experience of refugees in Leeds in the 1930s. Published as a letter to the editor in March 1952, it mounted a spirited defence of the treatment of the refugees by their British co-religionists in Leeds.

Aronsfeld, who repeated his account of his Leeds experiences almost verbatim in his memoirs, *Wanderer from My Birth* (1997), is not to be dismissed lightly. Amongst other achievements, he acted

as Editor of this journal from 1985 till 1988, during the interim period after the retirement of Werner Rosenstock in 1982 and the appointment of Richard Grunberger in 1988. He was a leading intellectual who researched and wrote about the history of the Jews, in particular the Jews of Germany, the German Jews who settled in Britain before 1914 and the Jewish refugees from Hitler. He was the author of numerous erudite articles in *AJR Information* in its early years. He worked for many years at the Wiener Library, rising to the position of Deputy Director. When he left the Wiener Library in 1966, he joined the Institute of Jewish Affairs, where he edited the important quarterly *Patterns of Prejudice*, 'a journal devoted to the study of causes and manifestations of racial, religious and ethnic discrimination and prejudice with particular reference to antisemitism'.

The most significant aspect of the conflict described by Aronsfeld was arguably its cause. Aronsfeld, then a young refugee working as a factory hand, had written a piece of serious political comment for a newspaper. That infuriated the chairman of the local refugee committee, who felt that Aronsfeld was acting above his station. Aronsfeld had brought his intellectual aspirations from Germany and was determined to put them into practice in Britain, despite his reduced circumstances. Such aspirations sometimes clashed with the expectations of a section of Anglo-Jewry, which tended to regard them as pretensions incompatible with the status of mere refugees. Behind this conflict of values lay the longstanding reservations held by many Jews from eastern Europe – the communities from which much of Anglo-Jewry was descended – about the veneration for German culture and intellectual prowess ('Bildung') that was widespread among the assimilated, educated Jews of the western, German-speaking cities. That was an issue that continued to divide the two communities in Britain, once the refugees from Germany and Austria began to settle here after 1933.

Anthony Grenville, London NW6

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Celebrated for his haunting painting and lithograph *The Scream*, Edvard Munch had many more emotive ways to show the love and angst now depicted in his new exhibition at the British Museum. In fact if you go, I would advise taking a box of tissues with you.



The Sick Child, by Edvard Munch

In this sensitively presented show of 83 artworks, including 50 from Norway's Munch Museum collection, we learn the true anguish the five year old Edvard felt at losing his mother, and a few years later, his favourite sister, 15 year old Sophie, from tuberculosis. These harrowing tragedies marked the man and his work, but although his prints and paintings, created with fervent, linear brushstrokes, are marked with death, loss and pain, so sensitive is this artist that his work seems almost other worldly. "For as long as I can remember," he wrote, "I have suffered from a deep feeling of anxiety which I have tried to express in my paintings."

His 1905 black and white woodcut *Head by Head* betrays the extent of alienation in this portrayal of a woman kissing an unresponsive man. It reveals his obsessive fear of female power, which he finds suffocating.

Working mainly in Krystinia, Paris and Munich, Munch had many love affairs but eschewed marriage, perhaps fearing the ultimate betrayal he experienced in the deaths of his mother and sister.

Few things could be darker than his *Self Portrait with a Bottle of Wine*, painted in 1930, as the world was growing turbulent, and his own crashed down in a nervous breakdown. Based on a 1906 self portrait when he was in Weimar painting Nietzsche, he sits among coffin-like tables, his face frowning, pinched, introverted.

"I want to create art that gives something

to humanity," he proclaimed. He added colour to early intaglio prints to intensify emotion. Lithographs of young girls with flaming red hair recall Sophie, and in a series of three prints, *Towards the Forest*, young lovers approach a forest which gradually grows more ominous, its light beginning to etiolate them, and finally to swamp them. The forest seems a metaphor for danger, for death. The romantic red hair is youthful, love. It is a theme to which he returns, projecting women in various forms of maturity, with the ever-present sense that ageing and death lurk everywhere, sometimes emphasised with *memento mori* in the borders.

A drypoint of two young lovers, *Death and the Woman* 1894, post-dates Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* string quartet but possibly inspired him. Its pose has a gentle, dancer-like rhythm but the sperm and foetus in the border expresses contemporary fear and desire. His own Paris love affair with the young violinist Eva Mudocci is commemorated in his beautiful, wistful lithograph of her.

There are several prints relating to his dying sister. *The Sick Child* proves the artist's almost supernatural ability to show an etiolated image of the one chosen by death; how her features blend with the pillow, as Munch's aunt (who took care of the children after his mother died) sits weeping beside her. They culminate in his painting, which shows the 'nurse' with bowed head, holding the young girl's hand. The tangled cloud of her red hair, the luminous colours, the fervid, vertical

application of paint give her a supernatural glow which makes it almost unbearable to watch. Munch wrote: "Few painters have had the experience to feel the grief of their subject as I have."

Munch developed friendships with Henrik Ibsen, for whose *Peer Gynt* he designed a programme, Gunnar Heiberg and August Strindberg, whom he met in Berlin in 1893. Their friendship soured after the Swedish playwright poked fun at an exhibition of Munch's work in Paris in May, three years later. Proving revenge is a dish best eaten cold, Munch deliberately misspelled his name as *A Stindberg*, on his lithograph of the writer, which translates as "mountain of hot air."

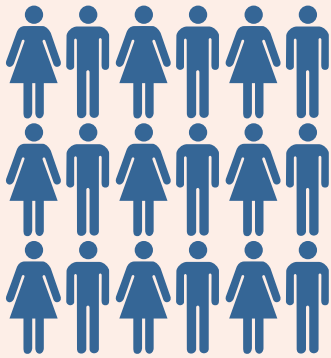
As for the origin of *The Scream*, Munch described walking with friends one day and watching the sky turn blood red. "I stood still, trembling with anxiety and I sensed an infinite scream passing through nature."

The exhibition, which continues until July 21, includes a rare black and white lithograph of *The Scream* which made his name.

Annely Juda Fine Art

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

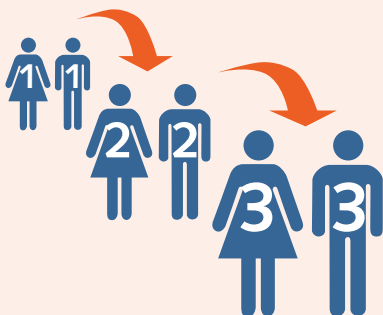
CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE



1,931
AJR
MEMBERS



495
MEMBERS
AGED 90+










669
2ND & 3RD
GENERATION
MEMBERS

50

AJR STAFF

280

AJR
VOLUNTEERS
OF WHOM

-  **75%** FEMALE
-  **20%** UNDER 30s
-  **19%** OVER 80s
-  **45%** HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR 2 YEARS OR LESS
-  **12%** HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR OVER 10 YEARS
-  **20%** 2nd OR 3rd GENERATION
-  **70%** JEWISH

43

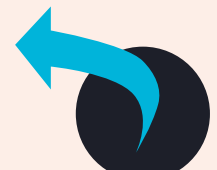
REGIONAL & SPECIALIST
GROUPS

300+

NATIONAL & REGIONAL
EVENTS



£3,784,674
TOTAL INCOME



£5,599,418
TOTAL
EXPENDITURE



£3,889,022
DIRECTLY GRANTED
TO MEMBERS FOR
HOMECARE AND
OTHER SUPPORT
SERVICES



£25,903,968
RESERVES CARRIED
FORWARD

2018 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2018 was a year for looking both backwards and forwards. Backwards because we commemorated the 80th anniversaries of seminal moments that had a profound impact on the refugees who fled to Britain, most notably Kristallnacht and the birth of the Kindertransport. And forwards because we need to not remember not just the past but rethink the way the world responds to prejudice, and the AJR's role within that.

We began the year by focusing on the 80th anniversary of the Anschluss with an event at the Austrian Embassy, when the late Harry Bibring spoke movingly about his experiences in Vienna through to his reflections on the November '38 pogrom.

Later in the year we were honoured to enable some of our members attend a wonderful reception with HRH Prince Charles at St James's Palace, and help organise commemorative events at Westminster Abbey and in the Speaker's State Rooms at the House of Commons. The latter event, when we recreated the 1938 debate that led to the Kindertransport, was particularly poignant. Another memorable event took place at Liverpool Street Station to mark the anniversary of the arrival of the first Kindertransport on 2 December. We lit a candle not only for Chanukah but also for the only light available at such a dark time for Europe.

Many AJR members took part in these and other commemorative events. On behalf of the wider British community, the AJR is grateful to all our members who continue to go out of their way to help educate future generations about their experiences of the Holocaust.

Perhaps as a result of the huge media interest surrounding these events, the AJR continues to find first generation refugees who are 'new' to us and require our support.

We are always interested to hear from them and are also keen to connect with descendants of refugees. Approximately one-third of all AJR members are now drawn from the second and third generations and we anticipate this share increasing as more descendants feel the need to honour their parents' and grandparents' experiences and continue their educational work, while preserving their family connection to the AJR.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

The AJR continues to be the UK's largest funder of Holocaust educational and remembrance programmes. Through our grant making programme, organisations can apply for funding of up to 50% of the total cost of new innovations and initiatives. The AJR is proud to promote impact-oriented projects and works closely with organisations to provide expert consultation in addition to financial support.

In 2018 we supported a diverse range of projects across the UK. The Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association opened the new Holocaust Exhibition and Learning Centre at the University of Huddersfield. We also helped the National Holocaust Centre develop a digital version of its flagship exhibition *The Journey* for Primary School students. Our Chief Executive, Michael Newman, spoke at the launch of the book *Rewriting History: Lying, Denying & Revising the Holocaust* by Hope Not Hate. The Jewish Museum London opened its exhibition *Remembering the Kindertransport: 80 Years On*. The Insiders/Outsiders Festival launched its programme to highlight the cultural contributions of Jewish refugees to Britain. And Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Events developed an educational programme which brought 3,000 students into local synagogues to hear the testimony of a Holocaust survivor.

In June we remembered Anna Essinger, founder and headmistress of Bunce Court School, by placing a blue plaque in her honour at the site of the old school in Kent.

MEMBERS SUPPORT & OUTREACH

The AJR's biggest work stream continues to

be the provision of practical and financial support to our members. As well as funding a substantial increase in Homecare, our teams assisted with the processing of applications for new support grants for members who came on the Kindertransport. To date the Claims Conference has received over 1,000 applications for this new fund and has already started to make the one-time awards of €2,500.

Meanwhile our Outreach team, which engages hundreds of AJR members throughout the country in its regional meetings and events, also had a very busy year. In the south of England Karen Diamond and Ros Hart joined as co-ordinators, as Kathryn Prevezer left and Eva Stellman retired. Karen and Ros have brought a new flavour and many new speakers to the Groups, which increased attendance during 2018.

In the north of England and Scotland Wendy Bott and Agnes Isaacs co-ordinated an enormous number of meetings and events. Highlights included our Annual Scottish Regional, held in Edinburgh, where we welcomed Ruth Davidson MSP as our keynote speaker, and our Northern Regional Meeting in Manchester, was addressed by Lilian Black, Chair of the HSFA.

Another highlight was our five day trip to Norfolk, attended by 35 members, whose packed itinerary included Sandringham House, Norwich Cathedral and the Sainsbury Exhibition. Outings in the south of England included the *Finchley Strasse* Exhibition at the German Embassy, the Chagall Windows at Tudeley Church, Eltham Palace and Westcliff.

We were also delighted to organise our first ever cruise when 19 members travelled out of Southampton for 12 days, visiting Lisbon, Cadiz, Valencia, Cartagena and Gibraltar. Members took part in various excursions and on board activities, including a special tour of Jewish Lisbon.

Several members also enjoyed our regular week at the Lansdowne Hotel in Eastbourne, where they were blessed with fine weather, good food and great company.

2018 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Lunches for AJR's Kindertransport Special Interest Group continued to run every month at Alyth Gardens. Speakers during 2018 included Stephen Pollard, editor of the JC, Mona Golabek, who performed her own pieces from *The Pianist of Willesden Green*, and Lord Livingston of Parkhead.

We are routinely contacted by students about the Kindertransport, and they often attend our lunches. Towards the end of the year we were approached by BBC Radio to help journalist Adrian Goldberg, who was looking into German citizenship, being the son of a refugee. This resulted in a series of interviews on BBC Radio 4 between Adrian and our members.

AJR VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteer's department currently supports some 280 AJR members on a regular basis. Services include befriending, telephone befriending, computer help and dementia befriending. Our *My Story* project continues to grow and celebration events were held in Leeds (October) and London (December) to mark the print of 13 new books. During 2019 we will be offering the opportunity for members in Scotland, Newcastle and the Midlands to create a unique life story book.

Our volunteers also help out at regional group meetings, support us at national events, provide an audio version of the AJR Journal, help at Head Office and sit on advisory committees. We offer a bespoke training programme for our volunteers as well as regular support and supervision. We held thank you events for our fantastic volunteers at the German Embassy in London, The Jewish Museum in Manchester and at the Chanukah tea in Glasgow.

COMMUNICATIONS

AJR continues to increase its public profile. Our website registered 61,863 page views during 2018 and we gained 283 new Twitter followers and 142 new Facebook subscribers. Press coverage

also increased as media outlets – including from Australia, France and Israel – approached us for comment on everything from German passports to the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

Our flagship communications tool, the *AJR Journal*, continues to attract a wide and varied readership and most months its Letters bag is full to bursting. Readers are clearly very much enjoying both its smart new look and the output of its new editorial team.

ORGANISATION AND STAFF

Melanie Jawett joined as PA to the Chief Executive and Finance Director. Rosemary Peters was appointed Claims and Pensions Advisor.

The Social Work team said farewell to Basil Hamzie, who left to work closer to home, and Maxine Weber, who retired after nine years at AJR. Kathryn Williams decided not to return after maternity leave but Marilyn Thomas has stayed on after covering her leave. Elysia Polin joined the social work admin team in May and Dipti Kapadia joined the Accounts team.

After considerable preparation of policies and collating permissions, new data protection legislation went live and AJR has updated many systems and processes, with help from the Privacy Partnership.

Finally, due to reaching the end of contract, Croners were replaced by a smaller organisation Wirehouse Employer Services.

On behalf of all the AJR members and my fellow trustees I would like to thank all staff members of the AJR team, so ably led by Michael Newman, for all their efforts and achievements during the year.

Andrew Kaufman
Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

While the nature and scope of our work continues much as before, there were some notable changes in the scale of our activity and in the economic environment which are picked up in our accounts for 2018.

Members will be aware that the AJR leads an Umbrella Group of charities that deliver the welfare programs of our major funder, the Claims Conference. The efforts of our social work team and those of the Umbrella Group identified unmet care needs of survivors and refugees so that significant increases in funds were made available by the Claims Conference. As a result, some additional 49,000 hours of Homecare were funded. This together with an increase of £258,000 in Self-Aid payments from our own funds resulted in an increase in welfare payments to our members of £835,000, a growth in excess of 30% – this is a measure of what needs to be done.

I wish to pay tribute to our social work and administrative support teams for the contribution they made in enabling this increase to be delivered. Increases in the cost of social service and administration are a reflection of the additional work this has engendered as well as normal inflationary cost increases. To some extent we receive funding from the German Government through the Claims Conference towards our costs in administering their schemes. We also once again extend heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the Claims Conference for their successful negotiation with the German government and for providing a record £2.1m of grant income to the AJR, an increase of £670,000, to fund these services.

In 2017 a build up from earlier year contingent liabilities to support educational and commemorative projects crystallised. This did not recur in 2018 so that our expenditure in this important field was reduced to its previous level.

While legacy income fell back in 2018, it is once again my great privilege to express my gratitude

2018 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

TREASURER'S REPORT (CONT.)

to our former members whose legacies in 2017 supported the organisation and I respectfully repeat my encouragement to our members to remember that legacies provide a vital income source which enables our critical services to be enhanced in the way that we have been able to achieve in recent years.

The charity was not immune to the difficult year faced by financial markets which fell some 14% over the year. During the year the Investment committee took defensive action to liquidate assets and this together with the work of investment managers mitigated the impact of general market forces; our losses were limited to 7.5% of opening asset values.

The overall result therefore consumed £3.7m of resources of which £1.8m was related to operating, activities (including legacies). Nevertheless the charity remains well placed to incur such costs to deliver the activities highlighted here as well as the outreach, special interest, and testimonial projects highlighted in the Chairman's report.

Once again I offer my thanks to the finance team and its Director, David Kaye. They have had to manage yet further complexity in administering the welfare programmes of the Claims Conference, while continuing to provide accounting and management information and financial guidance to assist the Trustees in running the charity. Our robust balance sheet has enabled us to deal with a challenging year and move forward into 2019 from a position of continued financial strength.

David Rothenberg
Treasurer

FINANCE REPORT

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts Year ended 31st December 2018

Income:	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Claims Conference, Six Point & Other Grants	2,165,959		1,548,423	
Subscriptions/Donations	73,177		101,184	
Investment income	696,175		721,241	
Other Income	7,013		5,292	
		2,942,324		2,376,140
Legacies		842,350		1,942,224
Total Income		3,784,674		4,318,364
Less outgoings:				
Self-Aid, Homecare and Emergency Grants	2,605,891		1,770,102	
Social Services and other member services	1,283,131		1,224,065	
AJR Journal	84,012		93,687	
Other organisations	226,283		968,550	
Internal Educational Initiatives	43,765		35,016	
Administration/Depreciation	1,356,336		1,270,640	
		5,599,418		5,362,060
Net operating deficit for the year		-1,814,744		-1,043,696
Surplus/-Deficiency on realised and unrealised investments		-1,927,586		2,246,218
Net movement in funds		-3,742,330		1,202,522

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) Summary Balance Sheet Year ended 31st December 2018

	2018		2017	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets and Investments		19,473,144		26,610,077
Current assets	8,382,026		5,380,077	
Current liabilities	1,951,202		2,343,855	
Net current assets		6,430,824		3,036,222
Net assets		25,903,968		29,646,299
Reserves brought forward		29,646,298		28,443,776
Net movement in funds for the year		-3,742,330		1,202,522
Reserves Carried Forward		25,903,968		29,646,298

LOOKING FOR?

The AJR regularly receives messages from our members and others looking for people or for help in particular subjects. Here are some of the most recent requests – please get in touch directly with the person concerned if you can help.

ARTHUR NEISSER

Prof. Lidia Maggioli is looking for information about Arthur Neisser, musicologist and writer. Born 6 April 1875 in Berlin, he was interned in Italy during WW2, and subsequently killed in Auschwitz in October 1944.
lidiamali47@gmail.com

WILSON BUTCHER

Yisrael Geffen is researching Mr and Mrs C R Wilson of Broad Walk, London N21 who employed his mother (Lilli Markowitz) when she arrived in 1938 and helped make arrangements for her marriage to refugee Benno Gottfried, a worker in Mr Wilson's butcher's shop. The photo below shows Mrs Wilson with Lili on her left.
chgeffen@gmail.com



Mrs Wilson and Lilli



Essinger pupils

ESSINGER'S PUPILS

According to the Wiener Library, the above photograph may show a group of Anna Essinger's pupils from the Landschulheim Herrlingen, on their way to Bunce Court School in Kent. Please contact the Library if you recognise any of the people shown.
info@wienerlibrary.co.uk

HENRY ROXBURGH (FORMERLY HEINZ ROSENBERG)

Dr Joachim Rott is researching the Cologne Company, Rosenberg & Hertz. Heinz Rosenberg (born 1902 in Cologne), one of its owners, immigrated to England in the 1930s, changing his name to Henry Roxburgh. He lived for many years at 23 Collingham Road, London SW5.
jn.rott@web.de

SWISS CHILD TRANSPORT

Lisa Bechner is looking for child transport contemporary witnesses from Switzerland. If anybody has contacts to still living "children" in Switzerland please contact her.
lisa.bechner@berlin.de

MARGERETE WENDER

Natalie Verstandig is interested in receiving information about any living descendants of Margarete Wender (née Moses) who was born in Breslau in the 1880/90s and later moved to England.

During the 1950s Margarete lived in Cholmley Gardens in London.
natalie.verstandig@gmail.com

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S COLLEGE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Esther Weiner stayed at this institution in 1939/40 and currently seeks information about it. During her stay her name was Ellen Esther Renkazischock or Esther Ellen, and her surname was later shortened to Renka.
elweiner@comcast.net

SPANISH JOURNALIST

María Navarro is working on a final project for her Journalism degree, reporting about migration of Jewish people to Israel during or after WW2. Maria hopes to analyse the subject from the perspective and experience of several different people.
m.navi.081@gmail.com

KINDER TRANSPORT WOMEN

Lesley Urbach is trying to make contact with women or their families who came on the Kinder transport and lived at Wyberley Ladies Convalescent Home in Burgess Hill between January 1939 and early 1941. A commemorative information Board is being put up in early June near where the House stood.
lcurbach@aol.com

The Endless Night in the Killing Fields

The AJR's Northern Volunteers and Community Coordinator, Fran Horwich, recently visited Poland as part of a group of people under the auspices of Bury Council. Amongst them were civic leaders, councillors, police, NHS leaders, religious ministers, and so on, collectively representing many different faiths. This is Fran's very moving account of the trip, which makes particularly sombre reading as Jewish people around the world mark Yom HaShoah.

Last night I returned in the inky blackness of the hour before midnight. My journey had begun three days before, in the cold darkness of the hours before dawn. I have been to the killing fields of Poland, and it

is as though I have journeyed through one endless night, without any warmth or light from the sun to ameliorate the experience. It will take time for me to find the right words to express this journey, but in the crucible of time, often the detail evaporates, and what is left is the pure, distilled emotion. I need to put down in the limited words I have, my earliest response.

I thought that I knew a lot about the Holocaust. I have read and studied and listened. To know in your mind, though, is not the same as to know in your bones. When you experience with all your senses, you know that you have known nothing, and never will.

Over three million Polish Jews perished in the Holocaust; over 90% of the Jewish population. One third of Warsaw's residents in 1939, for example, was Jewish. There is no corner of Poland saved from the horror, no acre that did not witness the massacre.

We arrived at Treblinka as the evening drew near. There is nothing left of the original Death Camp, it was destroyed by the

Germans as they retreated in defeat. Our group processed in silence along the route taken by 900,000 Jews on their way to the gas chamber. A huge stone monument stands at the site of the chamber doors. As we turned to look behind us in the gloom, we could see the land strewn with hundreds and hundreds of jagged stones, each a testament to an entire community that perished here. Some bear the name of the town represented, some are too small for that. The stones reach the horizon and seem to go on beyond that. A myriad of Jewish histories, erased in the fifteen months of the camp's existence.

Standing in the early grey of the morning at Majdanek Extermination Camp, I am struck by two things. Firstly, the camp sits on a busy highway, surrounded by a large residential area. It is openly placed; brazenly visible. Secondly, the cold is inescapable. A wind rips through the camp, clawing at any skin exposed to it. I am wrapped in thermal layers, with hat and scarf and gloves; and yet my eyes stream at the perishing cold. I am almost unable to concentrate on my surroundings in the biting wind. This is late March, on the cusp of spring. The temperature is many degrees higher than that of a Polish winter. I cannot imagine how a starved body in thin pyjamas would live, even for one day. The majority of those arriving at Majdanek were murdered immediately in the gas chamber, but those who were saved at the initial Selection, lived out the few weeks of their life expectancy in the direst conditions of cruelty.

On our second night in Poland, we walk to the Buczyna Forest, outside the city of Tarnow. It is known as the Children's Forest. There we gather around an area fenced with a sky blue railing. We learn that, within, are the remains of 800 small Jewish children. The children had been dragged from their screaming parents, brought to the forest, shot in batches and thrown into the pit. Infants who were too small to be able to walk were tied into sacks. When the pit was full of the corpses of the children, grenades were tossed in. It must have



The monument at the site of the doors to Treblinka



The Bury Council group in the Temple Synagogue in Krakow

taken many hours to complete the killing, the screams of the children reverberating around the surrounding town.

The children were murdered here, because the Germans had found that taking them to the extermination camps slowed the process down.

Each of us there had a small piece of paper bearing the details of a child with a name similar to our own. We read aloud their name, their parents' names and the place of their death. Each child murdered under the age of ten years old. I felt a silent howl rise up within my being that encompassed me entirely. I want to sing them a lullaby; I want to rock each child in my arms. Tears mix with the snow and run in rivers down my cheeks. Not because I am a woman, not because I am a mother, not because I am a Jew. Because I am still human.

By the time we reach Auschwitz I feel as though I can no longer feel. I have unconsciously anaesthetised myself, in an attempt to stop the pain. We experience the devastating size of the place; this destruction-line death factory. We see the inhumane living conditions, the piles of children's shoes and hairbrushes and suitcases. We pass by the block where the human experiments took place on twins, on dwarves, on pregnant women.

I look around though, at the people there on guided tours. Schoolchildren and pensioners on a day trip. What are you

learning? What are you taking home from this?

Last night when I arrived home, I was compelled to get into a hot bath and scrub and scrub and scrub.

This morning, waking to a steel grey Manchester dawn, I know the question that will be repeated – What have you learned from this? How do we learn the lessons of history? How do we stop this happening again?

There is only one lesson to learn from the Killing Fields, and that is that man has an infinite capacity for evil, and once the evil is given free reign, it is impossible to turn it back. It takes the slightest touch of the blade to the vein, and the hate rushes out and soaks all in its path.

The lesson we really need to address is how does the process begin? What are the first tentative steps that lead the way to this bitter end? The seeds of Antisemitism are small and almost hard to perceive, but when they are scattered onto fertile land, and nurtured and watered, they grow like weeds unchecked. Those tiny seeds are words like these:

- Will the Jews ever stop moaning about the Holocaust?
- They run the media, you know
- Well, you got your own land out of it didn't you?
- Rothschild. Rothschild. Rothschild

- The numbers don't add up – it was never as many as six million
- There must be a reason why everybody hates them
- The Jews killed Christ
- The Jews were behind the Twin Towers; the Wall Street Crash, the First World War, the Black Death, the rise of Communism, the rise of Fascism, American Foreign Policy, British Foreign Policy, slavery ...
- Israel is an apartheid state
- Zio pigs
- There is no Antisemitism now

And the lesson? Do we have the means to stop it? As Jews stand up now to Antisemitism they are shouted down; told that they are exaggerating, embellishing and lying. We are forbidden from calling out the abuse against us. Perhaps our only hope is that those around us shout the truth with us. Our friends and neighbours; our work colleagues and our civic leaders need to stand beside us in the face of a process attempting to repeat itself – that will always attempt to repeat itself. We must engage with them and take them on the long road with us. By helping each other learn, we can lead the way together. Together we are stronger.

Maybe this is the lesson I have learned.

I will need to ask myself the question again tomorrow.

Fran Horwich

REVIEWS

THE CUT OUT GIRL: A Story of War and Family, Lost and Found

by Bart van Es

Penguin Books

ISBN 978-0-241-97872-6

Winner of the 2018 Costa Book of the Year

Who can ever know how life will turn out? When Lien de Jong was growing up in The Hague nobody could have foreseen her traumatic and complicated life as a hidden child after Germany invaded Holland.

But as she tells the author: "Without families you don't get stories." Hers is told by the grandson of her foster family Bart van Es, Professor of English Literature at Oxford University and a Fellow of St Catherine's College. Born in the Netherlands he always knew his grandparents sheltered Jewish children during the war and wanted to find out more about a girl who had broken contact.

Lien was sent into hiding by her parents who along with most of her relatives she never saw again. But at first she still heard from them with poignant letters on her ninth birthday. These are kept together with an album with handwritten poems and messages, old family photos in happier days and pictures of people who helped her during the war.

She was sent via a go-between to a family in Dordrecht with a loving mother. Here she stayed for several months, being brought up with their children, until policemen at the door meant time to move on. Life becomes more dangerous as bribes are offered and officials become ever-more zealous in tracking down Jews. There follows a quick succession of rooms at different addresses until she is sent to a dyke cottage in a "safer" area, never going out.

On the move after another knock on the door she is taken to the dirtiest place she has ever known. Finally in late 1943 she ends up in another household in Bennekom in the central region. Here

she is more a housemaid than a daughter for people who are hard to please although brave to take in a hideaway and decent in their way.

Following the unsuccessful British Operation Market Garden in September 1944 – which would have meant liberation – the village is evacuated. They set off on foot, with what possessions they can manage, to the fortress town of Ede. But black days follow when she is repeatedly raped by a family relative. After the war she chooses to return to the van Es family where old patterns are resumed but all is not plain sailing especially as time goes on.

Throughout this highly acclaimed book the bilingual author describes his meetings with Lien and visits places which coloured her childhood. It is particularly interesting hearing about hideouts and his work is meticulously researched, exploring archives and museums telling of a sometimes grim chapter in Dutch history. Yet the tireless courage of resistance workers and valiant individuals who saved strangers shines through in this disturbing but fascinating account. After the war he brings us up-to-date describing Lien's full and varied life still with twists and turns. This brilliant book quickly becomes a page turner along the route of lightness and dark and above all survival.

Janet Weston

THE SELF-PORTRAIT FROM SCHIELE TO BECKMANN

Ed: Tobias G. Natter

ISBN 978-3-7913-5859-8

Anyone fortunate enough to be in New York in the near future should make it a priority to visit Ronald Lauder's *Neue Galerie*, where an exhibition entitled **The Self-Portrait from Schiele to Beckmann** is on display until 24 June.

The Gallery specialises in German and Austrian art and has produced a beautiful "coffee table" book to accompany the current exhibition. During the first four decades of the 20th century the self-portrait reached new heights in Austria and Germany. Among artists in the *Neue*

Galerie collection the self-portraiture varies widely: Egon Schiele, perhaps more than any of his contemporaries, created raw – even shocking – self-portraits. Max Beckmann's portraits possess an expressive power that reaches back to the Old Masters. In Felix Nussbaum's harrowing self-portraits we see reflected the misery of his life as a persecuted Jew and his resolve to record faithfully the threat to his life (which ended in a concentration camp).

Some of the most outstanding self-portraits are by women, though very few succeeded in pursuing careers of their own. One of Paula Modersohn-Becker's self-portraits highlighted her pregnancy while Kaethe Kollwitz cast an unsparing eye on her own tragedy-riven face. In this handsome book vibrant reproductions of works by these and other artists are accompanied by essays that explore how many of them were classified as "degenerate" by the Nazi party.

Kathy Cohen

NORTH WEST LONDON LUNCH & TALK



Wednesday 25th June 2019
Alyth Gardens Synagogue
12:30pm

We are delighted to welcome
RABBI JONATHAN WITTENBERG

Highly respected Rabbi
of New North London Synagogue,

President of the Council of Christians & Jews,
Member of the Council of Imams and Rabbis,
and co-founder of Eco-Synagogue, as well as
best-selling author of nine books, a dog lover,
hiker, devoted family man and an all-round
really good guy who is articulate,
funny and endearing.

A delicious deli lunch will be served first.
£8.00 per person. Booking is essential.

Call Ros Hart on 07966 969 951
or email roshart@ajr.org.uk

OBITUARIES

FRANCIS STEINER (Franz)

Born: 2 October 1922 Vienna

Died: 24 February 2019 Oxfordshire

In the last years of his life Franz Steiner lost the ability to move around unaided. Yet his head worked perfectly to the last minute, amazing his audiences with his sheer inexhaustible knowledge and his fine, self-deprecating sense of humour. He could even keep teenagers away from their mobiles.

Franz was born into a well-established family in the heart of Vienna. The family had converted from Judaism to Catholicism and his father was a high court judge with connections throughout the Habsburg empire. Franz and his older brother Willi were educated at a prestigious Catholic school where they learned several languages and instruments and to become loyal Austrian citizens.

However in March 1938 their father was

banned from the bench and the family experienced the other side of the famous Viennese "heart of gold". Franz was sent on a Kindertransport in December 1938 where he was reunited with his brother who had travelled as a refugee earlier in the year. They never saw their parents again.

Franz graduated from Belmont Abbey School in Hereford, but was then interned on the Isle of Man. In 1942 he was finally allowed to join the war effort and never looked back. He became a faithful adherent of everything British. He claimed that he was the first foreigner to join the civil service, he worked in the private sector and then as a stock broker until his retirement in 1987. In his own words: "As the scum floats to the top of a lake, so did I rise with the growth of the firm without being specially gifted for trade. But I was good at languages and there was a need to get into the continent to look for clients – I developed quite a following."

Having been raised as a Catholic with a Jewish heritage Franz became a voice for international co-operation against adversity,



prejudice and hatred. For 50 years he was a reporter for the newswire service of the Austrian Catholic Church and for many years he chaired the Parliamentary and Public Affairs Committee of the Catholic Union of Great Britain. In 2005 the Vatican awarded him the most prestigious lay-honour: the Knighthood of St Gregory.

Meanwhile in 1963 Franz met and married Rosemary Oldham, daughter of an old established dynasty of South Warwickshire farmers. They had two children, Rob and Claire, and lived in Highgate until 1986 when they moved to Deddington, although sadly Rosemary passed away in 1990, before any of their seven grandchildren were born. Franz continued to hold his family together in many ways and remained professionally and intellectually active until the end.

Axel Reiserer & Susan Lisa Toch

PETER HOWARD WAYNE

Born: 8 May 1920 Berlin

Died: 9 February 2019 London

Peter, originally known as Dieter, was born Hans-Dietrich Wolff in Berlin-Wilmersdorf.

Peter's father Kurt served in WW1. On his return he built up a successful photography business. In 1919 Kurt married Lilli Wallerstein who died in London aged 107.

In 1935 Peter was obliged to leave the Goethe Gymnasium, continuing his schooling in Switzerland and finishing his education in a Quaker School in the north of England. After school, Peter was articled to a firm of Chartered Accountants. In 1940 he was interned, first on the Isle of Man and later in Canada. Returning to England he joined the Pioneer Corps. Shortly after D-Day he was posted to France. Pioneering was not Peter's "forte" but his fluent French and organisational skills became more useful assets.

When war ended, Peter was posted to Military Government in Germany as an interpreter at a denazification Court. To his great satisfaction, his duties also included the rehousing of displaced prisoners released from labour camps. He also organised urgently needed food supplies for surviving family and friends.

After demobilisation Peter returned to London, completed his studies and joined a firm of Chartered Accountants, eventually forming his own tax and financial consultancy.

In 1968 Peter married Trudy, a nurse from Germany. They had two children Alex and Nicola. Sadly, Trudy died of Parkinson's in 2013. Fortunately she lived long enough to enjoy the company of her four grandchildren. The loss of Trudy was a great blow for Peter but the loving care of his family allowed him a happy and active life until the end.



Peter was gregarious; he had a great sense of humour, loved telling stories and was generous to a fault. In addition to his wide ranging cultural interests was a love of good food. He enjoyed meeting old comrades and his masonic brothers in Dieppe where "Bouillabaisse" was always on the menu.

Last year, Peter was interviewed by a German television company documenting his life. Another highlight was the award of the Légion d'Honneur, presented by the French Military Attaché at a ceremony in Peter's home.

Walter Wolff

Around the AJR

These are just two of the many recent AJR events around the country.

BRISTOL

On a sunny Monday in March Trevor Bedeman attracted a good crowd for his lunchtime talk. Trevor has made two trips to Belarus to the village his family originated from, where he was made very welcome by members of the Jewish community, who apparently live very modestly and are rewarded with accolades, not cash.
Hazel Rank-Broadley

NORTH LONDON

David Barnett's comprehensive talk on 'Joe Lyons, and the History of Tea Shops and Corner Houses' was very well attended, and followed by delicious refreshments.
Gordon Spencer

MARCH GROUP EVENTS

All AJR members are welcome at any of these events; you do not have to be affiliated to that particular group. Please contact the relevant regional contact for full details.

Ilford	1 May	Rabbi Jeff Berger – Jewish Refugee Experience in Kobe during WWII
Pinner	2 May	Dr David Barnett – Joe Lyons Corner Houses and Tea Shops
Leeds	2 May	Ex Policeman Paul Leach – The funny parts of being a Policeman
Ealing	7 May	Rabbi Celia Surget – The Marathon Running rabbi
Hull	8 May	<i>Paperclips</i> – DVD
KT LUNCH	8 May	Don Newman – Japanese Prisoner of War
Film Club	20 May	<i>A Walk in the Woods</i>
Prestwich	20 May	Social get-together
Bradford	21 May	Salt's Mill, Saltaire
Edgware	21 May	Rabbi Celia Surget – The Marathon Running Rabbi
Kingston	22 May	Rosalynde Lewis – Holocaust Education
Kensington	28 May	Israeli themed lunch at Peter & Ruth Kraus
Book Club	29 May	Book Club
Muswell Hill	30 May	Neil Taylor – History of Maccabi
North London	30 May	Maurice Kanerek – Palestine Police

CONTACTS

Susan Harrod
Events and Outreach Manager
020 8385 3070
susan@ajr.org.uk

Wendy Bott
Northern Outreach Co-ordinator
07908 156 365
wendy@ajr.org.uk

Agnes Isaacs
Northern Outreach Co-ordinator
07908 156 361
agnes@ajr.org.uk

Ros Hart
Southern Outreach Co-ordinator
07966 969 951
roshart@ajr.org.uk

Karen Diamond
Southern Outreach Co-ordinator
07966 631 778
karendiamond@ajr.org.uk

KT-AJR (Kindertransport)
Susan Harrod
020 8385 3070
susan@ajr.org.uk

Child Survivors' Association-AJR
Henri Obstfeld
020 8954 5298
henri@ajr.org.uk

PESACH CALLED

In the run up to Pesach several AJR volunteers came to our London office specifically to telephone over 300 of the most elderly of our members, wishing them a very happy Pesach and asking how they are getting along.

Ros Collin, who co-ordinates our Telephone Befriending ongoing

service, said "This was the first year we have done this and it was clear that most members really welcomed our calls. As a result of the conversations, many of them are now considering taking part in our regional meetings and activities, and we have also been able to put a few of our less physically able members in direct contact with our social work team."

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who took part.



Volunteers Loretta Cohn, Cynthia Zneimer and Thea Valman helped to call over 300 of AJR's eldest members in the run up to Pesach

JOSEPH PEREIRA
 (ex-AJR caretaker over 22 years)
 is now available for DIY repairs
 and general maintenance.
 No job too small,
 very reasonable rates.
 Please telephone 07966 887 485.

PillarCare
 Outstanding live-in and hourly care in
 your home at flexible, affordable rates.



020 7482 2188 pillarcare.co.uk

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS
 Rewires and all household
 electrical work
PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518
Mobile: 0795 614 8566



JACKMAN SILVERMAN
 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

Telephone: 020 7209 5532
 robert@jackmansilverman.co.uk




LUNCH
 on **Wednesday 8 May 2019**
at 12.30pm
 at **Alyth Gardens Synagogue**

We are delighted to welcome professional speaker DON NEWMAN
My story as a Japanese Prisoner of War

£7.00 per person incl. lunch
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Call Susan Harrod on
 020 8385 3070 or email
 susan@ajr.org.uk



WHY NOT CONVERT YOUR OLD CINE FILMS AND PUT THEM ON DVDS FREE OF CHARGE?


Contact Alf Buechler at alf@buechler.org
 or tel 020 8554 5635 or 07488 774 414



SPRING GROVE
 London's Most Luxurious
RETIREMENT HOME
 214 Finchley Road
 London NW3

- Entertainment
- Activities
- Stress Free Living
- 24 House 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



AJR FILM CLUB
 on **MONDAY 20 May 2019**
at 12.30pm
Sha'arei Tsedek North London Reform Synagogue, 120 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone, N20 9EZ
 Lunch of Sandwiches, Bridge Rolls, Danish pastries and tea or coffee will be served first

A WALK IN THE WOODS

In this new comedy adventure celebrated travel writer Bill Bryson, instead of retiring to enjoy his loving and beautiful wife and large and happy family, challenges himself to hike the Appalachian Trail – 2,200 miles of America's most unspoiled, spectacular and rugged countryside from Georgia to Maine. However, the peace and tranquility he is seeking is elusive once he finds the only person willing to join him on the trek – his long lost and former friend Katz, a down-on-his-luck serial philanderer, who, after a lifetime of relying on his charm and wits to keep one step ahead of the law, sees the trip as a way to sneak out of paying some debts and have one last adventure. The trouble is the two have a completely different definition of the word "adventure".

£8.00 per person incl. lunch
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Please either call Ros Hart on
 07966 969951 or email
roshart@ajr.org.uk

www.fishburnbooks.com

Jonathan Fishburn
 buys and sells Jewish and Hebrew books, ephemera and items of Jewish interest.

He is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association.

Contact Jonathan on
 020 8455 9139
 or 07813 803 889
 for more information

AJR CARD AND GAMES CLUB



Monday 17 June 2019 at 1.00pm
 at North Western Reform Synagogue,
 Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune,
 London NW11 7EN



Bridge, card games, backgammon, scrabble. You decide.
£8.00 per person, inc lunch

Booking is essential – when you book please let us know your choice of game.
 Please RSVP to Ros Hart on 07966 969 951 or email roshart@ajr.org.uk

Books Bought

MODERN AND OLD

Eric Levene
 020 8364 3554 / 07855387574
ejlevine@blueyonder.co.uk

Events and Exhibitions

YOM HASHOAH

This year's theme is 'Remember Together – We Are One'. The UK national event takes place in Hyde Park on Sunday 5 May and there are smaller events happening nationwide throughout the week.
www.yomhashoah.org.uk

SPARKO LAUNCH

Join AJR for the launch of an exciting new project set to transform the lives of many of our members via a special TV channel that allows them to connect easily and freely with local activities, services, family and friends.
1.00pm, 13 May
JW3 London
www.jw3.org.uk

Encounters in Art

A series of lectures looking at the experiences of the émigré artists like John Heartfield, Kurt Schwitters, Oscar Kokoschka, Ludwig Meidner and Marie-Louise von Motesiczky who came to Britain after Hitler's accession, examining not only their achievements and influence, but also the challenges they faced on arrival.
Tuesday evenings until 28 May
Courtauld Institute of Art
www.courtauld.ac.uk



"Ben, a bar and a bit of weight"

A showing of the family's documentary about Holocaust survivor and Olympic weightlifter Sir Ben Helfgott will be followed by a Q&A with its director and producer and one of Ben's sons.
7.30pm, Tuesday 21 May
JW3 London
www.jw3.org.uk

Jewish Women Composers

Austrian musicians will perform works and celebrate the musical heritage of brave Jewish female composers, some of whom actually composed their music in the concentration camps.
7.30pm Wednesday 10 July
JW3 London
www.jw3.org.uk

Weimar Cinema season

BFI Southbank is marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Weimar Republic with a two-month season looking at Weimar Cinema from 1919-1933, including must-see classics, rare discoveries, and special events with live musical accompaniment.
May/June
BFI Southbank
www.bfi.org.uk



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LESLIE

This month we wish a very happy 90th birthday to **Leslie Kleinman BEM**.

Born in a small Romanian village into an Orthodox Jewish family, Leslie had three brothers and three sisters. With the exception of one sister, his entire family was murdered in Auschwitz. Leslie himself, although only 14, was selected for railway construction work. He survived two death marches, being liberated on the way to Dachau. He spent several months recuperating, during which time he learnt that his sister, who had been transferred from Auschwitz to Bergen Belsen had died soon after liberation.

Leslie came to the UK as one of 'The Boys'. He married a Canadian lady and they raised their family here, moving briefly to Canada after Leslie retired. After his wife died he returned to the UK and has been very active in Holocaust education ever since, regularly speaking at events and escorting groups to Poland. In 2009 he married Miriam and in December 2017 he was awarded the BEM. He will spend his 90th birthday at a Buckingham Palace garden party, having turned down his invitation in 2018 due to a prior commitment to speak at a school about the Holocaust.

Please join us for an outing to
AUDLEY END HOUSE
Thursday 20 June 2019



Coach pick-ups in
Edgware and Finchley Road

Explore this decadent Jacobean mansion house and meet the staff in the Victorian Service Wing. Enjoy stunning views across the unspoilt Essex countryside and wander the tranquil gardens created by 'Capability' Brown.

For full details and a booking form please contact
Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070
or email susan@ajr.org.uk

Published by The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), a company limited by guarantee.

Registered office: Winston House, 2 Dollis Park, Finchley, London N3 1HF

Registered in England and Wales with charity number: 1149882 and company number: 8220991

Telephone 020 8385 3070 e-mail editorial@ajr.org.uk AssociationofJewishRefugees @TheAJR_

For the latest AJR news, including details of forthcoming events and information about our services, visit www.ajr.org.uk

Printed by FBprinters, Unit 5, St Albans House, St Albans Lane, London NW11 7QB Tel: 020 8458 3220 Email: info@fbprinters.com

The AJR Journal is printed on 100% recycled material and posted out in fully recyclable plastic mailing envelopes.