

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

Arafat = bin Laden?

When speakers at April's Washington National Rally for Israel equated Arafat with bin Laden they were at one and the same time speaking the truth and guilty of hyperbole. Arafat is without doubt a terrorist in the sense that Eichmann was a *Schreibtischmörder* (a desk-bound killer). He released previously jailed members of murder squads from prison at the start of the second *intifada*, and spurred on his own Tanzim militants to engage in a grizzly competition with Hamas and Islamic Jihad as to who could achieve a higher tally of Israeli civilian dead. In addition, he has condemned suicide bombing only with great reluctance.

Where the equation of Arafat with bin Laden breaks down is in the relationship of means to ends. The end desired by bin Laden is a global conflict between Islam and the exploitative, decadent, US-led West. Such an apocalyptic vision clearly marks the man out as a lethal reality-denying psychopath on a par with Hitler (who, while bogged down in the snowy wastes of Russia, blithely declared war on the United States). The means he employed, i.e. the al-Qa'eda network, was certainly capable of spreading indiscriminate slaughter, but it could never mobilise the billion-strong body of the Muslim faithful spread across half the globe for a concerted anti-Western campaign as he envisaged.

Arafat, on the other hand, vaguely symbolises an end no liberal-minded person could, in principle, take exception to: the creation of a Palestinian state. It is said by Amos Oz and others that Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 border and the disbanding of the settlements would cut the ground from under the feet of the Palestinian extremists. If the majority of Arafat's

constituency thought logically this would, indeed, be the case. Alas, it cannot be taken for granted. They might listen to siren voices of extremists who would argue that having driven the Israelis back to the 1967 line, another *jihad* might push them all the way back to the Mediterranean coast, and make possible the re-occupation of Haifa, Jaffa, etc.

In such a situation, an awful lot would depend on the head of the newly created Palestinian state who, all other things being equal, is bound to be Yasir Arafat. At this point, the question of whether means vitiate the end becomes relevant. Benny Morris, a historian hailing from the Israeli left who made his name by exploding the myth of a wholly voluntary Palestinian exodus in 1948, has dubbed Arafat 'the monarch of a kingdom of mendacity'.

The man certainly has a record for double-dealing that would excite the admiration of Machiavelli. He sided with Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War, swung back to a pro-Western stance thereafter, led Clinton and Barak by the nose at Camp David, condoned the public lynching of alleged Palestinian collaborators, says different things to English- and Arabic-speaking audiences, and spent EU subventions on building up a plethora of police forces who spy on each other.

The fact that he was recently pinned down in his bomb-scarred headquarters in Ramallah has endowed him with huge authority in Arab and, above all, Palestinian eyes. Alas, given Arafat's previous track record, it is highly questionable whether he will use this authority for constructive ends.

One of the besetting problems of the Arab-Israeli conflict is that the Jewish

state is a First World country marooned among Third World neighbours. (It is typical of the fallacious thinking of the Palestine Solidarity lobby in this country that they deplore, instead of welcoming, the establishment of an enlightened Western outpost among the feudal, or priest-ridden, autocracies that make up the region.)

None is more feudal than Syria. Though nominally a republic, Syria is currently ruled by Assad the Second, whose father had a fourfold claim to fame. He sheltered the Nazi mega-murderer Alois Brunner, killed 20,000 of his own subjects at Homs, lost the Golan Heights to Israel, and turned previously independent Lebanon into a Syrian colony. When a regional peace conference between Israel and her Arab neighbours is mooted, as happened recently, it needs to be borne in mind that the Israeli representatives will be dealing with men of a totally different mindset. By then Sharon may have been replaced by Peres on the left, or Netanyahu on the right, but the Pasha of Damascus will still be Assad the Second. The problem of the Palestinian state with which Israel will eventually have to share the territory between the Mediterranean and the Jordan is that it will bear the imprint of Arafat, the monarch of mendacity, as surely as Iraq does that of Saddam Hussein.

**Annual General Meeting
Association of Jewish Refugees
Sunday 16 June 2002, 3 pm at
15 Cleve Road, London NW6**

**Guest speaker:
Professor Mark Roseman
'The Wannsee Conference
60 Years On:
Is There Anything New to Say?'**

Appalling Tom Paulin

Richard Grunberger

By profession, he is an Oxford don, a TV critic and a poet. By conviction, he is an Israelophobe on a par with George Galloway MP, nicknamed the 'Member for Baghdad'. Paulin first received wide publicity with a poem comparing to SS killers members of the IDF who shot back at stone-throwing Palestinian youngsters. He next called Sharon a war criminal in the unlikely setting of a BBC arts programme.

Now, interviewed by an Egyptian newspaper, he has called for the murder of American settlers on occupied Palestinian land. The choice of words is significant. Not all settlers by any means come from the US - but Tom Paulin thought it expedient to tap into the existing mood of Americophobia among sections of the British - and the totality of the Arabic-public.

But even this pales into insignificance beside his comment that the State of Israel really ought not to have been established in the first place. That this epoch-making event occurred in the aftermath of the greatest tragedy any people ever suffered, seems to have passed Paulin by - despite the fact that he is currently writing an epic poem on WWII. Nor does he appreciate the fact that the Jewish state received its legitimacy from the highest court on earth, i.e. the United Nations.

The wish to see Israel delegitimised feeds into the bloodthirsty revenge fantasies of Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, who will not rest until they have expunged the Jewish state from the map of the Middle East.

If A J P Taylor was dubbed the first 'telly don', it may not be too far-fetched to describe Tom Paulin as the first corresponding member of Hamas to be found ensconced at High Table under the dreaming spires of Oxford.

'Continental Britons' - a story now told Ronald Channing

"In seeking to develop a wider awareness of the experience of Jewish refugees fleeing from the tyranny of Nazism, the significant contribution which they subsequently made to this country and the continuing relevance of these events to today, the exhibition helps us all to celebrate the values and benefits of diversity whilst also developing a greater sense of community responsibility, common citizenship and shared values. I would like to congratulate the Jewish Museum and the Association of Jewish Refugees."

David Blunkett, Home Secretary

Former Berliner and distinguished academic Lord Moser, in the presence of Jewish Museum Chairman Kenneth Rubens, Director Rickie Berman, AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman and many fellow former refugees, spoke warmly of his gratitude to Britain. He took pride in the many talented refugees from Germany and Austria who contributed to their adopted country's science, history, publishing, architecture, music, art history and academia. He cautioned, however, that of the 50,000 refugees who settled permanently in Britain, possibly 500 to 1,000 reached exceptional eminence; most of the rest were pleased to make more modest contributions and a few never fully readjusted to émigré life. BBC Radio 3's

evening-long broadcast portraying the refugees' lasting mark on Britain's intellectual and artistic life, presented by Daniel Snowman, had provided the exhibition with a remarkable prologue.

Having recently returned from Israel, where he is Chancellor of their Open University, Lord Moser reminded his audience that "Israel is a country of refugees," many of whom often felt close to despair. He expressed the hope that contemplating the past at the exhibition may well help to surmount contemporary problems. In congratulating all those who had created the Continental Britons' exhibition, he particularly commended the comprehensive programme of talks, discussions, concerts and conferences which accompanies it during the ensuing six months, and invited everyone to participate in a veritable German-Jewish cultural festival.

On behalf of the AJR, Andrew Kaufman thanked the Jewish Museum for its expertise and resources, and for providing a fine location in which the exhibition could be presented and with which the AJR could conclude its 60th anniversary celebrations. Although the backdrop to the exhibition was filled with sadness - the loss of homes and businesses, the abandonment of jobs and



Lord Moser, seated in a reconstruction of a Central European sitting room with fellow Berliner, actor Andrew Sachs, at the opening of the Continental Britons exhibition

PHOTO:
RONALD
CHANNING

professions - those who found refuge in Britain had made an immense contribution to Britain's economic, social and cultural life in the second half of the twentieth century.

During the process of research and development, the exhibition gave rise to three additional elements: the outstanding programme of related events which Andrew Kaufman urged everyone to attend; a series of filmed interviews with refugees, directed by Dr Bea Lewkowicz; and a concise, illustrated history of German-speaking Jewish refugees who settled in Britain - especially in the Swiss Cottage-Finchley Road-Hampstead area of north London - written by Dr Anthony Grenville.

This remarkable refugee generation may well become known and admired as 'Continental Britons' from this time on as a result of the many people who will be visiting the exhibition and absorbing its moving history in the coming months.

AJR Journal

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Cross, Crescent and Star of David

At the time of the Crusades, Europe was to all intents and purposes Catholic. The Crusaders thought they had a passport to heaven as they inflicted atrocities on Jews and Muslims alike. The waning of the Age of Faith saw the rise of nation states driven by purely dynastic interests. Catholic France didn't scruple to ally itself even with Mohammedan Turks or German Protestants to advance its interests at the expense of similarly Catholic Spain and Austria.

Protestantism was diverse. Lutheranism reinforced princely power, while Calvinism weakened it. Nonconformist sects drew inspiration from the Old Testament, which benefited the Jews. The Pilgrim Fathers may have created a narrow killjoy civilisation in Massachusetts, but ever after religion and the state were kept separate in America.

Meanwhile, Catholicism was the cement which bound together some nations, like the Poles and the Irish, struggling for sovereignty. Paradoxically, the very same Catholic Church opposed the unification of Italy because it made the Pope a 'prisoner in the Vatican'.

In the Great War the Pope actually favoured the Central Powers because the Allies comprised Protestant Britain, secularised France and Orthodox Russia. In Germany (and Britain), meanwhile, Catholic minorities vied with the Protestant majority in patriotic fervour.

During that war also a great split occurred in the Muslim world. The Sultan of Turkey's claim to spiritual dominion over the whole of Islam ended when the Arabs rebelled and embarked on the tortuous road to independence. At the same time, the intra-Jewish rift between Zionists and anti-Zionists intensified with the issue of the Balfour Declaration. During the subsequent rise of Fascism, Catholic and Protestant church leaders across the continent allowed themselves to be enrolled in a war, not merely against atheistic communism, but also against secular democracy. In some countries, e.g. Slovakia and Croatia, Catholic prelates

actively promoted the Final Solution. The Vatican's record during and immediately after the war, when it assisted Nazi mass murderers to escape justice, left an indelible stain.

Postwar antisemitism in East European countries - Catholic and Orthodox alike - received a boost from the perceived link between Communism and Jews. At the same time, the Muslim world reacted to the creation of Israel with outbursts of frantic Judeophobia. In Palestine itself the nationalist leadership, once exercised by the pro-Nazi Mufti of Jerusalem, passed into secular hands. With the exception of the Saudi Kingdom, all Arab states hitched their enmity to Israel to the engine of secular nationalism.

This changed with the Iranian revolution of 1979, which accelerated the growth of Islamic fundamentalism throughout large swathes of Africa and Asia. Meanwhile in Europe Pope John XXII and the present incumbent embarked on the task of making amends for the huge historical wrong the Church had done to the Jews. However, the Vatican's inability to 'jump over its own shadow' is demonstrated by the attempt to canonize Pius XII (appropriately dubbed 'Hitler's Pope' in a recent biography).

The latest developments in the triangular relationship between Cross, Crescent and Star of David involve fundamentalists both in the Middle East and the West. Though bin Laden's star is waning, the cult of suicidal martyrdom has spread into Palestine, and the clergy-led Hamas may one day pose a Taliban-like challenge to the Arafat regime. In America, meanwhile, fundamentalist Christians who view Israel's possession of the Holy Land as the fulfilment of divine prophecy have become a major force within George W Bush's Republican Party. Even in the latest EU disagreement on policy towards the Middle East conflict, Catholic Spain and France adopted a more hard-line anti-Israel stance, while Protestant Britain and Germany voted against a boycott.

Richard Grunberger

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Arts and Events Diary and Continental Britons Exhibition - June

Until 13 June 'Visas for Life', a major exhibition on diplomats who, like Raoul Wallenberg, intervened to save Jews during the Holocaust. London Jewish Cultural Centre

Wed 5 Michael Hall, 'Ferdinand Rothschild and the Creation of Waddesdon Manor' (including the story of Cedar Lodge, a home for German Jewish refugee children at Waddesdon during the war years). Venue: ORT House, 126 Albert Street, London NW1. 8 pm

Sun 9 Pre-concert Seminar. Refugee composers Vilém Tauský and Peter Gellhorn with contemporaries, colleagues and family members discuss experiences of émigré composers in Britain. Wigmore Hall, Bechstein Room, 2.30-5.30 pm

Sun 9 Recital of recently rediscovered violin and piano music and *Lieder*, some of which will be heard in Britain for the first time. Nurit Pacht violin, Constantin Lipshitz piano, Christian Immler baritone. Wigmore Hall. 7 pm

Mon 10 AGM. Club 43

Tues 11 'Changing Countries: Refugee Voices'. Discussion with Dr Anthony Grenville, Dr Marian Malet and a panel of former refugees. Venue: Jewish Museum. 7 pm. Jewish Museum and London Jewish Cultural Centre

Wed 12 Cherie Booth QC, 'Prospects and Issues for the International Criminal Court: Lessons from Yugoslavia and Rwanda'. Wiener Library. Admission by ticket only

Thur 13 Prof Maxine Seller (Buffalo University), 'Survival Mechanisms, Crisis

Management and Preparation for the Future: Education among German Jewish Refugees in 1940'. Venue: Florence Michaels Hall, St Johns Wood Synagogue, Grove End Road, London NW8. 8 pm. Jewish Historical Society of England

Sun 16 and Sun 30 'Exile, Legacy and Memory', a two-part conference to coincide with Architecture Week. London Jewish Cultural Centre/RIBA

Sun 16 'Meet my Jewish Father'. Panel: Dannie Abse, Elaine Feinstein, Jonathan Freedland, Stephen Frosh, Howard Jacobson. Chaired by Gerald Jacobs (*Jewish Chronicle*). Venue: Highgate Literary Society, 11 South Grove, London N6 8 pm. Spiro Ark

Mon 17 Concert. Ensemble Modern, Frankfurt perform outstanding and neglected wind and chamber works. Wigmore Hall. 7.30 pm

Mon 17 Dr Zhores Medvedev, 'Unknown Stalin'. Club 43

Tues 18 'Refugees - 60 Years On'. Speakers include Nick Hardwick, Director, Refugee Council. Jewish Museum and Refugee Council. 7 pm

Tues 18 Gerald M Godfrey CBE, QC: 'Jews and the Law: The Judges and the Jews', Venue: Lincoln's Inn, Great Hall London WC2 7 pm. Spiro Ark

Sun 23 'No Place Like Home'. Day Conference focusing on experiences of refugees in Britain and worldwide both historically and today. 10 am to 8 pm. Wiener Library

Mon 24 Prof Ernst Sondheimer, 'A Plant Enthusiast in the Eastern Himalaya' (with slides). Club 43

Thur 27 'Continental Britons: Immigration and Settlement of Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe'. Talk by Dr Anthony Grenville. Venue: Jewish Museum

Mon 1 July Miss Gwen Williams (M.Phil, Middlesex University), 'Time and Space in the Victorian Novel'. Club 43

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

London Jewish Cultural Centre tel 020 7431 0345

Wiener Library 4 Devonshire Street London W1. Lectures Secretary tel 020 7636 7247

Wigmore Hall box office 020 7935 2141

Club 43 Belsize Square Synagogue. Hans Seelig 01442 254360

Spiro Ark tel 0208 958 6272

AJR Celebration Tea with light opera from Covent Garden

Following the great success of last year's 60th anniversary tea party at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane, by popular request this year too the AJR is inviting members to enjoy together once again a Celebratory Tea and Concert.

Opera singers from the Royal Opera House, performing under the soubriquet 'The Garden Party', have selected a delightful programme of light opera to meet the discerning tastes of a Central European audience and provide the very best in operatic entertainment. AJR's Celebration Tea with Light Opera is to take place at the splendid London Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, on the afternoon of Sunday 20 October 2002.

Booking forms will go out with next month's *AJR Journal* and an early response is advised as last year's event was completely sold out in no time at all. Enquiries can be made to Carol Rossen or Joan Altman at AJR head office, telephone number 0207 431 6161.

CONTINENTAL BRITONS JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI EUROPE

AJR Members are invited to visit a new exhibition researched, written & sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees in celebration of the AJR's 60th anniversary at

The Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House
129-131 Albert Street, London NW1
5 minutes walk from Camden Town Underground Station

Until 20 October 2002

Monday-Thursday 10 am-4 pm, Sundays 10 am-5 pm
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Entry £3.50, AJR Members £2.50, Children and Students £1.50, Family Ticket £8, Museum Friends free



First northern 'get together'

Ronald Channing

With continuing success in forming new AJR groups in Northern and Central England and Scotland over the past year, came requests for a meeting of members at a central location during the summer. Due to an unexpected cancellation, AJR's good friends at Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire, which is an ideal location, kindly offered us the opportunity to hold a day-long 'Get Together' on Sunday 16 June.

This is a special occasion on which to bring together AJR members from across the Midlands, North of England, Wales and Scotland, most in groups, but also many others who are rather more isolated and meet people from a similar background far less often. Group members being well represented, the opportunity to take part is being extended. If you are a former refugee, Jewish survivor, a spouse or one of their children, and would like to participate, all we ask is that you telephone either

AJR's Northern Region Co-ordinator, Susanne Green, on 0151 291 5734, or Estelle Brookner at Head Office on 0207 431 6161, as soon as possible.

The charge for the day is £12.50, which includes coffee, vegetarian lunch, tea, entrance fee and transport. For those wishing to travel independently, the charge is reduced to £10 per person.

The day's programme, which begins with coffee at 11 am, is a relaxed one with plenty of opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones. Stephen Smith, the highly respected founder-director of Beth Shalom, opens the proceedings at 11.30 am, after which AJR senior staff will present short updates of the Association's services and activities. Individual consultation sessions will be available with Marcia Goodman, Social Services, Michael Newman, Central Office for Holocaust Claims, and Dr David Wolgroch, Holocaust Survivors Centre.

Austrian officials give details of General Settlement Fund

"Austria has a collective responsibility, not a collective guilt", the Austrian Ambassador told Holocaust survivors and refugees at meetings in Manchester and London. His Excellency Alexandra Christiani spoke frankly of the enormous difficulties and challenges, past and present alike, Austria faced, and expressed the hope that the new General Settlement Fund would in some small way provide assistance to Austrian victims of the Nazis.

Hannah Lessing, General Secretary of the Austrian National Fund for Victims of Nazism, which administers the General Settlement Fund, gave an historical overview of Austria's handling of compensation issues, both in the formative years after the war and more recently. She also provided a detailed explanation of the comprehensive compensation package offered by the

Austrian government, banks and businesses. In an emotionally charged atmosphere, Ms Lessing also responded to enquiries ranging from the restitution of assets declared in 1938 at the Viennese Dorotheum to the fundamental questions of how much each applicant is likely to receive and when.

The meetings were attended by a total of over 1,000 people and provided an opportunity for the AJR successfully to disseminate information as well as identify and enrol new members.

Information about the General Settlement Fund and other Austrian reparations and details of how to apply are available from the Central Office for Holocaust Claims on 020 7431 6161 or by visiting the AJR website www.ajr.org.uk

Michael Newman

Central Office For Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Tribute The AJR extends its condolences to the family of Eli Ered (see Obituaries). Eli worked tirelessly to secure pensions and other reparations from the German government for Holocaust survivors and refugees and his strenuous efforts paved the way for the Central Office for Holocaust Claims to provide advice to Holocaust victims.

Further compensation for looting of assets in The Netherlands The Foundation for Individual Securities Claims - established jointly by the Central Jewish Board in the Netherlands and the Israel Platform of Former Dutchmen in Israel together with the Netherlands Bankers' Association, the Amsterdam Stock Exchange Association and the Amsterdam Exchanges N.V. - provides compensation for three losses:

The gap in the post-war restoration of securities rights The missing 10 per cent of compensation paid in 1953 by the Restoration of Securities Rights Guarantee Fund (Waarborgfonds Rechtsherstel).

The Puttkammer commission Half of the commission charged to Jews who surrendered jewellery to Puttkammer during WWII in the hope of avoiding deportation is being refunded by the Foundation. A list of names is available at <http://www.sie-sjoa.nl/en/puttkammer.html>.

Restitution of safe deposit box expenses During WWII banks charged their Jewish clients for having to break open their safe deposit boxes.

Further information about these claim procedures is available by writing to the Central Office for Holocaust Claims or direct to the Foundation for Individual Securities Claims Shoah, Postbus 94200, 1090 GE Amsterdam, The Netherlands or by visiting the Foundation website www.sie-sjoa.nl.

Payments from the Foundation are separate from, and in no way interfere with, allocations from the Maror Foundation.

Further help

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

THE PALESTINE-ISRAEL CONFLICT

Sir - Mr Goldberg (March issue) unfortunately misunderstood the gist of my letter. The USA, France, Great Britain, Canada and Australia were established states with a pre-war 'keep-out' policy. The Palestinians, on the other hand, were not a state, yet managed to keep out potentially large numbers by sheer terrorism, known euphemistically as 'the unrest'. I concentrated deliberately on the Palestinians because they are in the headlines now and, unlike the states mentioned above, have been continuously engaged in killing Jews since the 1929 massacre in Hebron.

Frank Bright
Ipswich

Sir - B Snow of Esher (May issue) does not seem to understand the difference between criticising Israel (which I and those who think as I do have never done) and criticising particular policies of its incumbent government. That we have a *right* to do the latter - in common with countless Israelis, who express themselves more strongly in its press every day - follows from the fact that we are a democracy. That we have a *duty* to do so follows from our conviction that the policies in question are morally (therefore Jewishly) wrong and politically disastrous.

As for the occupied territories, not only has Israel missed many opportunities to exchange these for peace, as Ben-Gurion advised in 1967, but she has relentlessly colonised them, in defiance of the UN and common sense, in violation of the Oslo spirit, and to the fury of the Palestinians, all of which predictably exploded into the present *intifada*. Let B Snow reflect how many lives

would have been saved had Israel's Peace Camp been more strongly supported, and heeded, long ago.

Rabbi John D Rayner
London N12

Sir - Several of your correspondents have said that we who live safely in Britain are in no position to judge Israel. It may have escaped your notice that a number of eminent Israelis - Amos Oz, David Grossmann, Uri Avnery and others - have voiced their reaction to Sharon. There are also under-reported demonstrations by Israelis in front of Sharon's residence and reservists refusing to serve to defend the settlements.

Some 300 British Jews, including Esther Rantzen, Miriam Margolis and Susie Orbach, have signed a petition to urge Israel to end its occupation since 1967 of Palestinian areas and to withdraw from all settlements.

Many Palestinians - suspected terrorists as well as citizens - are killed by Israeli soldiers. Israel will never subdue the will of the Palestinians to free themselves of Israeli occupation. Arafat has finally given up Palestinian threats to drive Israel into the sea and he is prepared to recognise Israel's existence. If my sentiments make me a 'self-hating Jewess', I am content to be in the company of Harold Pinter and Will Self.

Inge Trott
Sutton

HAIL OF BRICKBATS

Sir - After many years of reading the *AJR Journal* I would now reluctantly ask you to stop sending it to me. I find the editorial views and style more and more upsetting and offensive. Susie and Werner Rosenstock were my friends (Susie was a colleague of my father's). I

think they would be appalled if they were to read the journal now.

Delia E Walker
Birmingham

Sir - I read Dr Peter Foot's letter (April issue), with 'its strident hectoring tone', with amazement and sadness. He has a fine way with words, which are insulting to us mere mortals who do enjoy the *AJR Journal* warts-and-all by insinuating that we are of a much inferior intelligence. Criticism and argument are valid tools, but an intelligent and useful discussion also puts forward suggestions as to how to improve what they tear to pieces. Destruction on its own has never served a useful purpose.

Gisela Feldman
Manchester

Sir - Clare Parker writes that Israel historically belongs to the Jews. I find that statement a neurotic absurdity. To whom does 22 Romilly Street, Soho then now belong? Israel is not a minority. It is a nation. It cannot be compared with my Berlin of 1933-45. It has enemies, with whom it is engaged in an undeclared war, and which it has not the wit, nor the wisdom, to end. Israel was created to counteract antisemitism. Instead, its very existence, and its nationalist, militarist, racist and fundamentalist policies have provoked, incited, a huge, terrible antisemitism. Israel is a failure and a disaster.

Peter Zander
22 Romilly Street W1

THE MUKHTAR OF LONDON

Sir - I love your cover article about Ken Livingstone, 'The Mukhtar of London'. Would we be allowed to reprint it on our website?

Carol Gould
jewishcomment@btopenworld.com

Sir - I loved your April editorial 'The Mukhtar of London'.

Andrew Herskowitz

Sir - I disapprove of Mr Livingstone as much as you do. I agree with you about ossified religions (plural!),

including orthodox Judaism, which has given rise to the dream that G-d 'gave this land to us!' (biblical mysticism and a 2,600-year old anachronism).

E H Kenneth

THE FIEF OF BAGHDAD

Sir - W Suschizky appears to think that no action should be taken to prevent Saddam from developing weapons of mass destruction. When Israeli warplanes attacked and destroyed Saddam's nuclear facility, the whole world condemned Israel. But, in the absence of this action, Saddam might have possessed atomic weapons by the time of the Gulf War. If Britain had supported France over the German remilitarisation of the Rhineland, this could well have prevented Hitler from embarking on his career of conquest.

*Henry Schragenheim
London N15*

AUSTRIAN COMPENSATION

Sir - Having recently received the General Settlement Fund Claims Form from Vienna, I am astonished that the Austrian government, after waiting over half a century, has finally decided to pay compensation for material losses sustained after the Anschluss. Most of us were children then and had no knowledge of our father's financial circumstances. Two generations later those of us who have survived are now very elderly and know little more. In spite of this, we are now being asked to complete an exceptionally complicated claims form which consists of 31 pages and demands replies to a great number of searching questions to which very few of us will have ready answers.

*J C Lee
London N10*

Ed. note: See 'Central Office...', April issue, p. 10.

SONG BOOK

Sir - The children's songbook John Adler refers to (February issue) was composed by Hans Ganser, music-master at my school, the Königin

Katharina Stift in Stuttgart, in the mid-thirties. He was the first master at the school to introduce antisemitism.

The Jewish pupils had to leave the classroom when these songs were sung.

*Irene Ward
Sutton, Surrey*

DECENT EMPLOYERS

Sir - In your January issue Rabbi Dabba Smith praised the philosemitic attitude of the German firm of Leitz, makers of the Leica camera. I would like to mention another German firm which similarly looked after its Jewish employees: Linde Eismaschinen, which specialised in cryogenics, in particular the liquefaction of air and its subsequent distillation of oxygen. They employed a number of Jews, in particular a Dr Schuftan, as their representative. When they could retain him no longer, he joined British Oxygen, to their mutual benefit.

*A W Freud
Oxted, Surrey*

BOUQUET

Sir - Your magazine is excellent. Congratulations to your team!

*Mr W Kenton
London N3*

OBJECTIVITY

Sir - In matters controversial My perception is rather fine I always see both points of view The one that's wrong - and mine.

*Werner Abraham
West Midlands*

PENNY PLAIN, PLEASE

Sir - It's time someone asked Richard Grunberger why he doesn't use plain English. He cannot write without putting in several words one has to look up in the dictionary. In the May issue, he used words like 'polytheism' and 'Oedipal rage', which cannot be found in the dictionary. I know that AJR Journal readers have written to him before, but nothing has changed.

*Claire Parker
London NW3*

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ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

Multi-media art can be a really exciting experience if left in the hands of the startling Finnish artist **Eija-Liisa Ahtila**, whose first major exhibition in this country, **Real Characters, Invented Worlds**, runs at **Tate Modern** until the end of July.

Concentrating on the effects of trauma, Ahtila's use of film, photography, installation and video presents the intrusion of physical images into mental space in a way that makes the material seem surreal and the essential more solid. Her mini-film *Consolation Service*, which won an honorary mention at the 1999 Venice Biennale, reflects the emotional state of a young couple who take their marital problems to a therapist. The depressed wife holds the baby as though it were a rag doll while she speaks of the empty space between her and her husband. But when the husband is handed the baby, he is totally absorbed in his pleasure as he cuddles it. The tragedy beneath the surface of their constant arguing has a terrible dénouement when the husband, out walking with a party on thin ice, drowns. Moments earlier, his friends had lugubriously described the process of death by drowning, and then suddenly the ice breaks beneath their feet and they are dragged down.

We are dragged down with them and become part of the death process - the thin ice ceiling above us, the world of rotting flesh and icy water beneath, as the husband's body floats sightlessly towards us. The metaphor implies that none of us is sure-footed. We don't know what we are treading on if we take risks, but if we don't, then life is purposeless. The husband returns three times to haunt the wife in a techno-haze, which zaps him after the two have gracefully acknowledged the other in a bow of mutual respect and

understanding. The intrusion of the reality of the physical world enters as a ghost, so that you come away intensely aware of the fragility of being and the transference of mood.

Sometimes the trauma Ahtila evokes is lower-key, such as her black-and-white photographs showing a baby smiling as it rests precariously on a worktable while its mother is busy with her sewing machine. The mother's stress shows in the muscles of her face; the baby gurgles away, confident no harm can befall it. And here again this artist presents us with the world of illusion. The rest of the story is hidden; the baby will surely fall the moment the mother returns her full attention to her sewing; the traumatised husband will drown if he walks on thin ice.

Lagos-born sculptor **Emmanuel Okoro** has held his first one-man show at the **Sheridan Russell Gallery**. His ethnic images contrast with Ahtila's fleeting photo-philosophy, and yet he too captures both the ethereal and the dynamic within the human form faced with life's fragility. There is a poetic solidity to his sculptures, which demonstrate strength and passion, such as **Searching for Grace** or **Promises**, an almost iconic sculpture of two entrenched female figures who could be arguing or empathising with each other - or even both.



Promises by Emmanuel Okoro.

RG's INTERFACE

Hollywood. The Oscar-winning biopic *A Beautiful Mind* - about the maths genius and Nobel laureate John Nash - aroused pre-award controversy because it omitted the protagonist's virulent antisemitism during his Harvard days. It was said in Nash's defence that he made these offensive statements while in the grip of paranoid schizophrenia.

Babelsberg was the venue of the annual meeting of the German Society for Exile Studies. This year's session, devoted to Radio and Film, enabled participants to sample the work of, among others, Erwin Piscator, Alexander Granach and Martin Miller.

Weimar. The Schiller Museum is staging a photographic exhibition of examples of Bauhaus architecture in Tel Aviv. The Israeli metropolis boasts around 4,000 buildings in the Bauhaus style, more than any other place on earth.

Berlin. The director of the Jewish Museum, Michael Blumenthal (a returnee from the US, where he had a brilliant career), is this year's recipient of the Goethe medal awarded by the Goethe Institute.

Bad Homburg has awarded its Friedrich-Hölderlin-Literaturpreis to the novelist and essayist Robert Menasse, author of *Die Vertreibung aus der Hölle*. Menasse was born in postwar Vienna, where he recently led anti-Haider demonstrations.

Death. The Russian-born, Berlin-resident writer Friedrich Gorenstein has died, aged 70. The son of a victim of Stalin's purges and a tubercular mother, Gorenstein grew up partly in an orphanage. Having taken a correspondence course in screen writing, he scripted Andrei Tarkovsky's famous science fiction film *Solaris* (1972). Some years later he emigrated to the West, where he published works of fiction in German translation, as well as novelistic biographies of Chagall and Scriabin.

Town mice in unexplored country

THE LUCKY ONES

by Charlotte Eilenberg

Hampstead Theatre Club, London

Bad-tempered Bruno Mosenthal rails at his even-tempered wife Anna about anything from a broken radio to the sale of the country cottage they co-own with their in-laws. Yet he is satisfied with the new life that, in 1968, they have made for themselves in north London suburbia as refugees from Nazi Berlin. Brother-in-law Leo Black, who sees himself more as a victim than a refugee survivor, views his situation with less equanimity and is keen to realise the rising property value of their little country retreat, resenting the straitened circumstances forced on his Kindertransportee wife Otilie.

A catalytic figure forces the foursome to face some of the distasteful aspects of their earlier life in Berlin. Thirty years on, in the second act, their children's debate on second-generation neuroses explores a parallel theme.

From the power and flow of the dialogue it is difficult to credit that *The Lucky Ones* - one of the last productions at the Hampstead Theatre Club before an entirely new auditorium opens later this year - is Charlotte Eilenberg's very first play. Her command over the refugee idiom and dramatic development is maintained, but perhaps not entirely throughout the second act, which could beneficially have been curtailed without loss. Whether as the insider child of Jewish refugees she can turn her talent to other *oeuvres* of which she has no personal experience (as has *Kindertransport's* Diana Samuels with *Mata Hari*) remains to be seen.

That distinguishing Continental Britons' accent, nurtured within hail of London's Finchley Road, is maintained by an excellent cast led by

REVIEWS

Margot Leicester as Anna and David Horovitch's Bruno. Anton Lesser's Leo could well have walked off the stage to join the audience at any time and would have been quite at home! If you are unfortunate enough to have missed the production this time, ask the company to perform it in the new theatre soon.

Ronald Channing

Bolt hole for monsters

THE REAL ODESSA FILE

Uki Goni

Granta £20

This book is crammed with detailed information about the Argentinian involvement with the Nazis and the Fascist dictators of Spain and Italy before and during the Second World War. The Argentine Church pursued close links with these nominally Catholic states, ignoring the parts of their ideology which did not fit this image, while under Peron the secular power followed suit.

Here is a sorry tale of open house for Nazis and a closed door for Jews. Goni, himself an Argentinian, states with shame: 'There was probably no country which had taken such extraordinary measures to cancel its entry permits for the Jews as Argentina did on the eve of Hitler's Holocaust.' (Perhaps Goni doesn't know about Canada and Australia, but that's another story!) Some exceptions were made, however, for wealthy Jews: the Argentine ambassador to Paris is reputed to have amassed a fortune from this blood money.

After the allies announced that they intended to punish those guilty of war crimes, the Nazi top brass

realised their vulnerability in the event of a German defeat. Arrangements for their escape were then made by the Vatican and the Catholic Church. In the case of French-speaking Nazis, the prime mover was Cardinal Tisserant. Safe houses were found in Italy, Spain and Switzerland which acted as staging posts for the trip to Argentina. The fugitives were supplied with false papers, disguises (some adopted priestly apparel) and landing permits. Large numbers of German, Austrian and Croatian Nazis also benefited from this scheme.

Goni devotes several chapters to the stories of the more notorious war criminals: Priebeke, Mengele and Eichmann. The first two managed to live out their lives in Argentina undisturbed; the third was not so lucky. Red Cross records "reveal the part played by Vatican institutions and individual prelates" in this unsavoury business, but as yet Goni does not seem to have any evidence of direct involvement by Pope Pius XII. Perhaps when the Vatican becomes less shy of opening its archives more will be discovered. For an exciting tale stay with Forsyth, but for the facts dip into Goni.

Martha Blend

A fistful of angstridden fables

FLIGHTS OF LOVE

Bernhard Schlink

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99

My attention was first drawn to Bernhard Schlink by *The Reader* (*Der Vorleser*), his first novel to be translated from German into English. Briefly, it concerns a teenager who has an affair with an older woman. Years later the young man, now a law student, finds himself watching his ex-lover on trial for having acted as a guard in a concentration camp. The novel was translated into 32

foreign languages, with greater sales than Günther Grass's *The Tin Drum*. *The Reader* deals unflinchingly with the painful topic of the culpability of the individual during the Third Reich.

Flights of Love is a collection of seven emotionally complex tales about love in its many forms. These are stories that ache with the sorrows of Germany's tumultuous twentieth century. An East German wife discovers that her husband informed on her to the Stasi if only to protect her. The haunting *A Little Fling* deals with the legacy of betrayal fostered by the Berlin Wall. In *Girl with a Lizard* the shadow of the Holocaust prevents a man from experiencing love. *The Circumcision* has a quietly devastating final twist. *Sugar Peas* is about a married architect's inability to juggle relationships with the several women who make him feel happy and fulfilled. In *The Other Man* a widower's slowly developing act of revenge against his late wife's secret lover reveals his own failings to him.

All in all, these are emotionally complex tales, masterfully composed. One is reluctant to use the much abused word genius with regard to Bernhard Schlink but there is no doubt that he possesses the rare gift of imparting a casual, unpretentious atmosphere to his writing. He has indeed produced an exquisite book, one which recalls the fiction of Heinrich Böll. And praise too for the excellent translation by John E Woods.

Martin Hasseck

**Minor-key refugee
ONLY A KINDERTRANSPORTEE
Annette Saville**

New Millennium, 325pp. £9.95

This is no Kindertransport success story. Quite the reverse: as the cover blurb makes clear, much of it is a tale of unredeemed woe. It's dedicated to

the Godolphin and Latymer school, which "gave me a little happiness during the troubled years of my youth."

The author was born Annie Bankier in Vienna's 'Matzot District', a nickname reflecting the high proportion of Jews in the area. The family ran a shoe shop. Annie was recognised as a gifted pianist and an above-average pupil at school.

Annie/Annette arrived in Britain in 1938 at the age of 15. Her parents went to Japanese-occupied Shanghai. The family was reunited 22 years later.

It was a trauma from the start. Annette found the people here unfriendly, the food indigestible. More to the point, she found a total lack of understanding, on the part of both Jewish and wider society, of the refugees' emotional needs. She went from job to job, suffering long periods of illness and depression. In her isolation, she converted temporarily to Christianity. Throughout her ordeal, Annette's musical gift sustained her, and does to this day.

This gloom-and-doom autobiography is thankfully covered in a light gloss of humour, though it's not always clear whether the humour's intended. It's the author's sense of absurdity coupled with her lofty ideals which makes it such an intriguing read. In one instance, Annette recalls, "I got an opportunity to play at Adler House. I played two Brahms Intermezzi and Bartók's Rumanian folk dances. I could have strangled the old lady who rustled her crisps packet whilst I was playing the soft passages in the Brahms Intermezzo in E flat minor, but the audience was not very cultured." For passages like this, one can forgive the author almost anything.

Howard Spier



Nicholas Winton was guest of honour at the annual Yom Hashoah event at Pinner Synagogue. He was accompanied by Vera Gissing and Muriel Emanuel, authors of a recent book on his role in the rescue of almost 700 Jewish children from Czechoslovakia in 1938-39

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PROFILE

Ronald Channing

Ludwig Spiro, nonagenarian



Ludwig Spiro, born in Trier in 1912, celebrates his 90th birthday as vigorous as ever. His father, a senior engineer with Prussian Railways, settled in Trier with his family in 1911. Ludwig remembers the house being requisitioned as a mess for French officers during the occupation of the city after World War I.

When Ludwig's father was promoted to Railway President at its Berlin headquarters in 1928, he enrolled his son at Berlin's Grunewald Gymnasium, a school of high renown with a liberal tradition and an enlightened headmaster. Germany was in economic crisis with unemployment reaching six to seven million and the currency devaluing daily. Ludwig set up a school *Winterhilfe* scheme to deliver food parcels to people who were literally starving.

In 1932 he enrolled at Munich University to study mechanical and electrical engineering, but found only four or five Jews in the whole university. "They were dreadful years; you were completely isolated," he recalls, and other students hardly dared to speak to him. Many SA and SS uniforms were seen on the streets and political clashes were common. When Hitler became Chancellor in January 1933 Ludwig's father lost his job and things became progressively worse. In 1935 "life got serious," yet he still worked hard to gain entry to his degree finals.

He obtained six months' practical work experience at the industrial giant MAN in Augsburg through its chairman, his father's old friend Otto Mayer. The only Jew working among 12,000 employees, he still has his *Werkarbeiten* showing his fine engineering drawings. After work, Ludwig cycled to the Jewish tennis club where he met Anna, his wife-to-be.

While Anna and he were meeting his old headmaster's daughter at Munich station to celebrate his 24th birthday, they were picked up by two SS men. En route to Gestapo headquarters, Ludwig bluffed that his father was still an important railway official and railway policemen turned a blind eye as the three escaped through an unlocked door. Despite being advised to go to Austria,

he determined to complete his finals - then go to England. A letter ordering him to report to the Gestapo "could have meant the end," but at his interrogation he feigned immaturity and was thrown out!

In 1936 Ludwig visited London, returning to Munich with a sympathetic Jewish solicitor's letter commending his return to England. He believes that "it was the most important document I ever had." After visiting Hamburg and Berlin, he fended off the Gestapo by arranging for his parents to send his passport to a hotel in Stuttgart. He met Anna in Cologne and they travelled via Stuttgart to London, obtaining entry into England on the basis of the solicitor's letter. It was December 1936 and "everything in London was lit up." He later discovered that they had arrived on the day the Crystal Palace burned down!

Anna and Ludwig were married at Hampstead Town Hall in 1938. Ludwig was employed by heating engineers CB Jackson in Victoria Street, London and, when his parents came to live with them in Kingsbury in April 1939, he became - with help from Anna's sewing - the main breadwinner.

In 1940 Ludwig, his father and Anna were all interned. From Wembley police station to Wellington Barracks, then under canvass at Kempton Park Race Course where he led a sanitary team to avoid the spread of disease, subsequently taken to some "dreadful place" in Lancashire with primitive facilities, and ending up on the Isle of Man in June, where he organised a postal service for the 2,200 internees. Elected camp organiser, he met Eleanor Rathbone and other notables.

Lord Beaverbrooke at the Ministry of Supply wanted engineers and preferred to put the internees back into productive employment. Ludwig organised the list of engineers and left the camp in January 1941, joining Harland Engineering to work in their London research department - the start of a brilliant career as a world authority on steam turbines.

A member of the AJR Executive from the 1950s, as Hon Treasurer he introduced business efficiency methods, set up membership records, reorganised the office and produced financial reports. Above all, he was responsible for the establishment of the AJR Day Centre, finding a site in West Hampstead and building sheltered accommodation. He also served the CBF/OSHA Housing Association for 18 years, two as Chairman. Ludwig was elected President of the AJR on reaching his 75th birthday.

Officially retiring from Harland Engineering as Vice-Chairman at the age of 64, he continued to represent the firm in major contract negotiations in the USA, Canada, India, Japan, Australia and Latin America. Although Anna, with whom he shared a close partnership, passed away four years ago, Ludwig is staunchly independent, justifiably proud of his sons and their families; Stephen is Professor of Medicine at University College and Middlesex Hospital and Anthony followed his father into engineering and serves on today's AJR Management Committee. A gardening enthusiast and lifelong supporter of Arsenal Football Club, Ludwig remains ever grateful to colleagues and friends: "When you are a refugee friends are important."

INSIDE the AJR

New group in Sheffield

At an inaugural meeting in the Kingfield Hall, Susanne Green explained her role as AJR Northern Groups Co-ordinator and described the services AJR can offer. Everyone gave a short account of their background and how they came to be living in Sheffield - a good way for people to get to know each other. It was agreed that social meetings should take place in the future and that other former refugees should be invited to join. A planning group of three was set up. For information on the Sheffield group, please contact Steve on 01142 630666.

Susanne Green

Next meeting: Sunday 14 July 2.30 pm at the home of Steve Mendelsson

Meeting people in Harrogate

Seven people, most of them AJR members, met at a first get-together organised by Susanne Green. Although most live in or near Harrogate, none had met before - or knew of each other's existence. The brief autobiographical introductions were therefore of interest to everybody. New acquaintances were made and these may in time turn into new friends. At the next meeting, it is hoped that members unable to come this time will join us. For more information on the Harrogate group, please contact Inge on 01423 886254.

Inge Little (née Steinweg)

Next meeting: Monday 8 July 2.30 pm at the home of Inge Little

'Any Questions' comes to Pinner

Some 60 members and guests, one of our largest-ever audiences, were entertained by a session of 'Any Questions'. It was chaired by Gerald Hellman, with the panel consisting of Hermann Hirschberger, Henry Kuttner, Ludwig Spiro and George Vulkan. Questions included the Israeli-Arab

conflict, joining the euro, and the support given to older people. An entertaining and informative afternoon.

Paul Samet

Next meeting: Thursday 6 June 2 pm: music, poetry, readings and anecdotes by members

Essex: 'Lectures to the non-Jewish fraternity'

Guest speaker Sybil Greenstein spoke about her work, which is showing groups around the synagogue and explaining the Jewish prayers and customs. The most interesting groups, Sybil said, were the schoolchildren, who asked questions about everything. One young girl observed: 'I never knew the Jews were so normal!' Sybil also showed us her treasure trove: caps for little boys to wear in the synagogue, beautifully embroidered with figures of nursery rhymes, a very small prayer shawl, a Purim dreidle, and - nicest of all - a tiny shofar.

Julie Franks

Next meeting: Tuesday 11 June

West Midlands: 'Journey of rediscovery'

Another well-attended meeting heard a fascinating talk by Susi Bechhöfer, author of *Rosa's Child*, who spoke of her 'journey of rediscovery'. Susi and her twin sister Lotte came to Britain as Kindertransportees at the age of three. The twins were given a new, Christian identity. Only when Susi was 16 did she learn her real name and it was only in the 1980s, when the media were taking an interest in the Kindertransport, that Susi was able to establish that she was one of the Kinder.

Werner E Abraham

Next meeting: Sunday 30 June 12.30 for 13.00 pm, Garden Party at home of Leon Jessel, 36 Buchanan Road, Walsall

Brighton and Hove Sarid debates 'Jewish identity'

A lively discussion was led by Judy Ironside, the Director of the Brighton

Jewish film festival, on the theme of 'Jewish identity'. All members contributed to the discussion and produced the most interesting answers to the subtle questions posed by our skilful facilitator. A most enjoyable morning.

Fausta Shelton

Next meeting: Monday 17 June

South London members visit Bevis Marks Synagogue



Over 30 members, including several from Pinner and North London branches, paid a most enjoyable and interesting visit to Bevis Marks Synagogue. The synagogue recently celebrated its 300th anniversary and, despite its age, it is in the most beautiful condition and well looked after. The half-hour talk we were given provided us with a good insight into its history.

Herbert Wolff

North London: A day in the life of Rabbi Eimer

Colin Eimer, minister at Southgate and District Reform Synagogue, spoke on 'One day in the life of a rabbi'. Besides his regular duties at high holidays and the like, Rabbi Eimer said, he gives lessons both to children and adults, and attends numerous meetings and seminars. Each year he takes a group of children to Amsterdam; they also have long weekends in European cities which once contained large Jewish communities - this year it's Berlin. His duties also include preparing those who wish to convert to Judaism for interview by the Beth Din, teaching at Leo Baeck College, and PR work.

Edith Schablin

Next meeting: Thursday 20 June (not 27 June) 10.30 am: Members' contributions to this country

Great painters 'worlds apart'



John Constable, *The Grove Hampstead (The Admiral's House)* c.1832

Art historian Pamela Wright gave a fascinating illustrated talk on the subject of Constable and Turner to an AJR-KT Luncheon Club meeting.

Mrs Wright compared and contrasted the two giants of landscape painting, who lived at approximately the same time: Constable (1776-1837), who was born in East Bergholt, Suffolk, the son of a prosperous corn merchant, and Turner (1775-1851), who was born in London's Covent Garden, the son of a barber.

Turner and Constable were at the Royal Academy Schools at the same time though they never became friends. Turner, often described as 'the painter of light', produced over 20,000 paintings and drawings in his lifetime and became rich and famous, while Constable sold only 20 paintings in England in his lifetime, the first one not until he was 39 years old.

While Constable never lost his affection for the scenery of the Suffolk-Essex border, Hampstead became the main focus of his later work. He rented a house in the area for a number of years, finally acquiring a more permanent home there in 1827. He familiarised himself with Hampstead Heath by making innumerable studies of the same scenes under different conditions. He became more acutely conscious of weather as a continuous phenomenon, forever altering the appearance of the landscape.

Both great artists were absorbed by the study of the sky but were, as Pamela Wright put it, 'worlds apart'.

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Tue 18	Maire Halliday
Wed 19	LUNCHEON CLUB
Thur 20	Katinka Seiner & Laszlo Easton
Sun 23	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment
Mon 24	Kard & Games Klub
Tue 25	Tricia Dibbs & Michael Heaton
Wed 26	Françoise and Friends
Thur 27	Amanda Palmer entertains
Sun 30	DAY CENTRE OPEN - No Entertainment

Announcements

Birth

Lazarus. Helga and George Lazarus are proud to announce the birth of a granddaughter, Emily, on 3.4.02, a sister to Oliver, son of Robert and Maria Lazarus.

Birthday

Kadisch. Mrs Debora Kadisch. We would like to congratulate our mummy, granny and great-granny on her 95th birthday on 8 June 2002 and wish her many more healthy years. All our love from Margaret, David and Pema, and Samantha.

Deaths

Ettinger. Izidor Ettinger, known as 'Izio' (born in Poland), died peacefully after a long illness on 9 April 2002. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife Lottie, family and friends.

Goldman. Lilo Goldman died peacefully 5 April 02. Sadly missed by her family in Israel, USA, England and France.

Granby. Stephani Granby died 16 April 2002. Sadly missed by her daughter Marianne, son-in-law Peter, granddaughters Janette and Suzanne and their husbands Richard and Michael, and great-grandchildren, family and friends.

Harris. Eva Harris née Blank. Died on 22 January, just after her 82nd birthday. Numerous tributes have been paid to her courage and fortitude in her long illness. Missed by husband Myer, daughter Barbara, son Geoffrey, grandchildren Katya, Daniel and Benjamin.

Heilbrunn. Kurt Heilbrunn, known as Ken Carey, born 17.12.21 in Goslar; died 2.4.02. Much missed by his wife Jean, daughter Michele, and grandsons Jonathan and Daniel.

In Memoriam

Katz. Agnes Katz died two years ago aged 96 from bronco - pneumonia. Deeply mourned by her twin daughters Susan and Josephine, granddaughter Debbie, son-in-law John, and great-granddaughter Olivia. Laid to rest beside her beloved Norbert. We all miss her very much.

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Obituaries

Eli Ered

Eli was born in Dortmund in 1923. He left his *yeshiva* in Frankfurt for England after Kristallnacht. He joined a *yeshiva* in Liverpool, and later joined a kibbutz in St Asaph in Wales. In 1944 he volunteered for the Jewish Brigade and served in Palestine throughout the War of Independence as an Air Force intelligence officer. In 1962 he met and married Lily in Israel. In 1973 they returned to the UK, where he worked for a number of years for the Joint Israel Appeal.

For the last 15 years Eli represented very successfully Holocaust survivors in their fight for pensions from Germany. Through his perseverance and often in the face of opposition from the establishment, he succeeded.

Eli's life was devoted to the cause of social justice and to the Labour Party. He was a man of integrity and strong convictions who did not suffer fools gladly, but a man to rely on in one's hour of need. His love for Israel never diminished. Only recently he was offered an opportunity to visit Israel as a member of Mahal, the volunteers who fought in the War of Independence, but his health did not enable him to go. Eli was a larger-than-life figure who will be sorely missed by his wife Lily, her children and grandchildren; by his brothers and sister and their families; and by his many friends.

Lou Earl

Rabbi Israel Miller

Rabbi Israel Miller, president for the past 20 years of the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, has died in Jerusalem at the age of 83.

Having succeeded Nahum Goldman, the founding president of the Claims Conference, in 1982 and already with a long record of American Jewish communal service, Rabbi Miller spearheaded the organisation's activities in securing numerous compensation and restitution agreements, enabling more than 400,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors in some 60 countries to receive a total of \$2 billion in compensation payments at today's values.

Miller was determined to obtain 'a small measure of justice', if only financial. Even more important, he considered, was the acknowledgement of responsibility on the part of commercial enterprises such as German manufacturers and Swiss banks which had profited from the policies of the Nazi regime.

Rabbi Miller was consulted by a succession of American presidents on subjects ranging from civil rights implementation to Ronald Reagan's summit meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev and a 1986 fact-finding mission to South Africa just a few years before Nelson Mandela's release.

HS

Billy Wilder

Billy Wilder (1906-2002), recipient of seven Oscars, was one of the giants of the cinema. Galician by birth, Viennese by upbringing, he became a scriptwriter in 1930s Berlin. In 1933 he left, via France, for the USA. When he arrived in Hollywood his CV already included scripting *Menschen am Sonntag* and *Emil und die Detektive*, as well as directing Danielle Darrieux in her debut film *Mauvaise Graine*.

In Hollywood, under the aegis of Ernst Lubitsch, he made cinema history by having Greta Garbo laugh on screen in *Ninotchka*. His subsequent output (as scriptwriter, director, or both) encompassed *The Lost Weekend*, *Double Indemnity*, *Ace in the Hole*, *The Apartment* and *Some Like It Hot* - each an undisputed masterpiece.

NB Wilder's mother perished in Auschwitz. In 1945-46 Wilder, a colonel in US psychological warfare 'denazifying' the Oberammergau Passion Play villager who acted Christ, said to the producer: 'Next time use real nails.'

RG

Hilde Adler

Hilde, born in Eschwege, emigrated first to South Africa and then to Britain. I followed the same route and we and our respective husbands became firm friends. On being widowed, our friendship became even closer and I realised how helpful she was to others, even when she herself was in indifferent health.

She was gifted in needlework, bookbinding, photography and gardening. We shared interests and often met in London to attend lectures, visit exhibitions or listen to music.

Her daughters, Kathy and Susan, were wonderfully supportive through Hilde's long and cruel illness. She is also survived by a very caring grandson. It is sad that Hilde had such a protracted, painful end. I miss her very much.

Marianne Herz

Search Notices

Inge Kochman. Born ca. 1921. Father Ferdinand, ex-Berliner. Sought by cousin Harold Becker. Tel 020 8891 4535.

Elizabeth Julia (Lisa) May née Spott. Born 23.02.1922. Came to UK on Kindertransport. Lived for some years in Liverpool, Birmingham, London. Studied fashion design. Information sought by cousin Ruth in California. Please contact Lutz Noack, 7 Ricardo Road, Minchinhampton, Stroud, Glos., GL6 9BY, UK tel (+44) (0)1453 882 159.

Mrs Farago (née Elza Feuermann). 1899-1944, Budapest-Ravensbruck, and her son György Farago, 1921-41, Budapest. Information, contact Andrew Merkler, 7A Sheridan Road, London SW19 3HW. tel/fax 0208 544 1123.

Ludwig Feigenbaum (later Lewis). Fled Austria August 1938, with wife Helga, for England. Eldest of 13 children. Mother Bette married twice. Father's name Eduard. Two sisters in America. Any relatives please contact me, their only daughter, Peggy Victoria Peters. Tel 0208 866 2952 fax 0208 429 3454.

Anny Vane née Zuurdeeg. Born 6.11.1899 Freiburg/Breisgau, Germany. Widow of Dr Willy Edgar von Lieberman. Both died in London, he in 1950s-60s. Information, please call 020 8908 0582.

Mayer family. In 1930s family left Langenlonsheim (Rhineland-Palatine) for England. Some 20 years ago Paul Meyer lived in Cardiff. He had publishing company (?). Another member of family, Erica Kissinger born Mayer, died in Stockholm last year. Information, contact Karl-Wilhelm Hoeffler, Beethovenstr. 6, 55450 Langenlonsheim, Germany.

Join us for a visit to the childhood home of Lady Diana Spencer

Althorpe House on Monday 29 July 2002 with picnic lunch and tour of house.

Leaving Cleve Road at 10 am.

On arrival, a picnic lunch will be supplied, followed by a tour of the house and grounds. Leaving Althorpe at 3.30 pm, returning to Cleve Road at approx. 6 pm. £23 - there will be some walking involved.

Please apply to Carol Rossen or Joan Altman Tel: 020 7431 6161

Holding the demons at bay

Richard Grunberger

Whereas the antisemites of the interwar period peddled raw hatred, their contemporary successors resort to lacerating ridicule. Jörg Haider waxed ironical about the fact that Vienna's Jewish community leader Ariel Musicant - a property developer and therefore automatically suspected of underhand (i.e. dirty) deals - was named after a washing powder.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, on whom Haider models himself, produced the ultimate antisemitic black joke by calling the murder of six million Jews a detail - *bagatelle* - of history. In other ways, too, France is Austria writ large. For fully half a century after the war both countries were in denial. Both concocted myths about themselves as passive victims of German occupation and impotent eyewitnesses to the *Shoah* - whereas both collaborated (albeit to varying degrees). In both cases, Catholicism was the historic seed bed of antisemitism, and Jews were attacked as - among other things - subverters of the Christian faith.

France, starting point of the Crusades and the realm of Louis IX, the most important medieval monarch to be canonised, long considered herself the eldest daughter of the Church. And just as she set an example to the rest of Europe in religion, so she did in statecraft: Louis XIV's absolutism became the model for princes all over the continent. But the country also proved capable of generating another tradition entirely. The 1789 Revolution, with its Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, was a key event in both French and world history. Since then the French body politic has been gripped by a two-century-long tug-of-war between those who want to go back to the day before yesterday, and the would-be modernisers of the Republic.

The most significant showdown between the two camps occurred in 1940. Backed by German bayonets, but also by the approval of many of his fellow countrymen, Marshal Pétain created

the Vichy regime - a throwback to the Middle Ages, with citizens reduced to mere subjects of a Church-supported authoritarian state.

And just as Vichy tried to blot out all the advances of the previous 70 years - from parliamentary democracy to the separation of church and state - so Le Pen is today calling into question the defining main achievements of the last Republican half-century, namely the European Union and a humane immigration policy.

For all the liberal principles underlying it, the latter has, alas, produced a most reprehensible side-effect. France is currently host to a six-million-strong Muslim community which - unlike that of the UK - comprises mainly Arabs. Hotheads among them have not shied away from supporting the Palestinian *intifada* by vicious attacks on Jewish targets. The burning down of synagogues in Marseille and Strasbourg has, apart from demonstrating the authorities' lax law enforcement, boomeranged on these arsonists, because increased public disquiet over criminality plays straight into the Islamophobe Le Pen's hands.

If the Jospin government has rattled the electorate by lax law enforcement, its conduct of foreign affairs has not been particularly distinguished either. Foreign Minister de Villepin is guilty of a grave sin of omission by not tying the EU's lavish subsidies to the Palestinian authority to Arafat's interdiction of the terrorists.

As of now, though, Jospin and the Israelophobe de Villepin are yesterday's men, and Jacques Chirac - the first French President to acknowledge the Vichy state's collusion in the Holocaust - occupies pole position.

Le Pen is held at bay, but the six million who twice voted for him prove that the ghosts of the judicial officials who framed Dreyfus, and of the gendarmes who diligently rounded up Jews for Drancy, have not, as yet, been laid.

Newsround

North London synagogue desecrated

A synagogue in the Finsbury Park area has been vandalised. Jewish community leaders believe the latest upsurge in attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions is linked to events in the Middle East.

Rally for Israel

An estimated 50,000 people took part in a London rally in support of Israel's right to live in peace, free of terrorism. Speakers included Binyamin Netanyahu, Shlomo Ben Ami, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Peter Mandelson MP and Michael Ancram MP.

UK near bottom of Wiesenthal Centre 'league table'

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre has criticised as 'insufficient and unsuccessful' British efforts to bring suspected war criminals to justice. In the centre's 'league table', Britain is listed in the 'minimal success' category, alongside Argentina, Croatia and Costa Rica.

Protest over shopping centre at Auschwitz rejected

A protest by a Jewish group over plans to build a shopping centre in the former tannery at Auschwitz has been rejected by the Polish authorities. The tannery lies outside the camp perimeter and a further 100-metre-wide buffer zone where there are legal constraints on commercial activities.

WJC considers anti-Jewish threat in Europe

Following the shock vote for Jean-Marie Le Pen, the WJC called a meeting of European Jewish leaders to discuss the threat of antisemitism. WJC secretary-general Avi Beker told the *Jewish Chronicle*: 'What happened in France ... was not just Le Pen but also the far left. Extreme groups in France account for 30 per cent of the vote.'

Austria to pay compensation

Austria's nine provinces have agreed to pay 17 million euros (some £12 million) to the Jewish community over the next five years as compensation for communal property confiscated during the Nazi era.

Berlin Senate condemns antisemitism

The Berlin Senate has condemned 'all forms of antisemitism, racism and xenophobia'. A Senate statement differentiated between criticism of Israeli policy and antisemitic attacks.