

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

The Fourth and Fourteenth of July

The present issue appears in July, a month distinguished by two world-historical national days. This involves something of a paradox. July was named for Julius Caesar, model for all subsequent dictators, but the USA's Fourth of July and France's *Quatorze Juillet* denote red-letter days in mankind's progress towards democracy.

Both these seminal events had remote roots in English history. Visiting England in the 1730s, Voltaire witnessed a greater degree of liberty than that which obtained in his native country; likewise, the American colonists' cry 'No taxation without representation' echoed John Hampden's refusal to pay ship-money before the English Civil War a century earlier.

Though eighteenth-century France had stagnated to a degree that ultimately provoked revolution, she still enjoyed hegemonial status in every sphere except power politics. In fashion, etiquette, cuisine and art the entire civilised world took its cue from Paris. As to language, even the Prussian King Frederick the Great - not to mention the entire Russian aristocracy - preferred French to their native tongue.

After Bastille Day 1789 France became an example of a different sort - of liberty and equality - to the rest of Europe. When Napoleon assumed power he curtailed the former, while expanding the latter, by, for instance, promoting the ex-pastry cook Jean Bernadotte to the rank of marshal. The spread of equality also benefited the hitherto discriminated Jews and turned Heine into a lifelong Francophile.

After Napoleon's downfall a reaction set in, and France spent the best part of the nineteenth century oscillating between two poles: the aristocratic-clerical tradition and bourgeois-secularist innovation. The Jews, in the person of Captain Dreyfus, became the unwitting symbol of that clash, which ended around 1900 in the victory of the innovators.

Or so it seemed at the time. However, 40



Alfred Dreyfus

years later the German occupiers levered the superannuated elites of state and church into power, and the old anti-Dreyfusards enjoyed their final bloody triumph.

Since liberation, France has been unambiguously wedded to republican, democratic values, but in foreign affairs its hankering after past greatness has not entirely abated. Gaullism is a throwback to the 'glory days' when France, despite having been the leading Crusader nation, cosied up to Turkey to harm the Catholic Habsburgs. In its anti-Anglo-Saxon stance, Paris has been greatly helped by the fact that the Germans' bad conscience over the Second World War compels them to act as France's junior partner. Even so - and whatever misgivings we might have over the deplorable statistics of anti-Jewish incidents in France - the Gaullist Chirac practically guarantees the country's long-term immunity to the racist demagoguery of Le Pen.

If 14 July sounded a clarion call to Europe's disenfranchised masses, the Fourth of July had a different significance. It was not primarily a call to revolution but an offer of asylum and a fresh start to all those fleeing Europe in search of political - and more often economic - freedom.

A century after the Declaration of Independence the invitation 'Give me your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free' was incised into the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island. At the time, the statement was a godsend to the pogrom-haunted, impoverished Jews from the Russian Pale of Settlement. The country they came to was in many ways the freest in the world. It enjoyed the full panoply of law inherited from England, but lacked a hereditary aristocracy as well as an established church.

Even so, it had only recently emerged from a bitter Civil War that led to the abolition of slavery. Slave descendants formed an underclass with whom poor European newcomers had to compete, but could also feel superior to. They (the Jews, Irish, Poles and Italians) in turn were socially inferior to the Wasps, the White Anglo-Saxon Protestants.

Wasp rule was to have important consequences when after the Great War the US Congress limited immigration via a quota system and the countries of Eastern Europe (where the bulk of world Jewry still lived) received a lower quota than the Western ones.

This throttling of immigration was accompanied by America turning in on itself and abandoning the idealistic vision that inspired President Woodrow Wilson to walk out of the newly constituted League of Nations. The isolationists' grip on the Congress could not even be substantially loosened by President Roosevelt for all that he was the winner of four consecutive elections.

FDR first moved into the White House at the height of the Depression that had seen the world's richest country display symptoms of abject deprivation. The abiding memory of this inspired him as a wartime president to enunciate the Four Freedoms, including Freedom from Want - in other words, an acceptance of the state's responsibility for social provision.

Nonetheless, over half a century later



Colin Powell

the USA still lagged behind Western Europe in the sphere of public health care and environmental protection.

In other respects though the country has made eye-catching progress since the segregationist fifties. Today two members of the highest decision-making body in the land - Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice - are of Afro-American descent. Another once derogated minority, the Jews, have advanced by leaps and bounds.

Above all, the USA has recoiled from the isolationist role she played in the interwar years when she critically weakened the League and helped trigger the worldwide depression. As early as 1945 the US provided house-room for the UN. In 1946 her Marshal Plan placed devastated Europe on the road to recovery. In 1949 she substantially helped found Nato as a hugely effective instrument for the preservation of peace. By the 1950s she had had a major share in re-educating the populations of occupied Germany and Japan in democratic practices.

There were also failures along the way. Since US officials were so eager to enlist Germany in the Cold War against Russia they turned a blind eye to the past crimes of their chosen instruments. The Cold War mindset also infected American attitudes to unsavoury right-wing regimes in Greece and South America. But even in Chile, where this was most obvious, the end result has been the restoration of democracy. Even in this very year, when the USA is bogged down abroad in Iraq and threatened internally by terrorists, elections are going ahead - as happened in 1944. In consequence, the current government may well be replaced. If that happens half the world will rejoice, and the other half will gnash its teeth. That's democracy for you!

Landmark judgement on looted art restitution

Ambivalent implications for GSF claimants

Ronald Channing

The US Supreme Court has delivered a landmark ruling which opens the way for Americans to sue foreign governments when seeking to reclaim looted art and stolen property, or to receive compensation for war crimes dating back to the 1930s. The court handed down a majority verdict in favour of 88-year-old Los Angeles resident Maria Altman, confirming that she is entitled to take the Austrian government to court in the US for the return of a number of valuable art deco paintings by Gustav Klimt (see Newsround, *AJR Journal*, May 2004).

Maria Altman's uncle, Ferdinand Bloch, a wealthy Czech sugar merchant, and his wife, Adele Bloch-Bauer, were friends and patrons of Klimt. His shimmering, gold 1907 portrait of Adele was among six paintings, today valued at \$150 million, which were stolen together with the rest of his fortune by the Nazis within a month of the Anschluss in 1938. Ferdinand fled to Switzerland, where he died virtually penniless in 1945.

Mrs Altman and her husband escaped from Vienna after she was detained and he imprisoned, reaching the US via Liverpool. Adele had died in 1925, which makes the recovery of the painting of her aunt all the more poignant. It hangs today among eight Klimts prominently displayed in the national Austrian Gallery in Vienna, where they are a major tourist attraction.

The Austrian government, which

decided to take the case all the way to the US Supreme Court, defended its position that the paintings were the property of the state, tracing their provenance back to the 1920s. They received the backing of the US administration, whose lawyer told the court that it would be unprecedented to have US judges resolving lawsuits against foreign countries over expropriated property and argued that this would harm America's diplomatic relationships with those countries.

This unanticipated ruling could open the way for Americans to pursue claims for compensation or restitution against foreign countries on a range of alleged injustices over the past 70 years - France for complicity in transportation to concentration camps, Japanese troops for wartime sex slave victims, and so on.

Of course, the judicial ruling has serious implications for Austrian survivors who have submitted compensation claims to the General Settlement Fund (GSF) brokered by the US government in January 2001. Under the terms of this agreement, no payments in respect of lost assets, properties and other personal wealth will be disbursed unless Austria has secured legal peace. So, survivors could find themselves both supporting Mrs Altman and other potential plaintiffs to insist Austria returns alleged stolen properties, whilst also needing an award from the GSF.

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Filling in a blank on the map

Richard Grunberger

The other day my son announced that he intended to take his family to Croatia for the summer holidays. It was obvious that to him, and them, Croatia was just another location offering sun, sea and sand on a par with Minorca and Corsica.

I asked myself: where had I gone wrong? How is it that he doesn't know about the Croat component of his ancestral homeland, Austria-Hungary? Of how in 1848 the Croat general Jellacic reconquered rebellious Budapest for Franz Joseph - an action that saved the Habsburg Empire from falling apart?

In addition to being intrepid soldiers, Croats were also snappy dressers. They invented an elegant item of neckwear known as the *cravat*, deriving from the name of their country.

In Austria, on the other hand, the term *Krawot*, of identical derivation, was synonymous with vagabond - a symptom of the Slavophobia rife in the country.

Under the Double Eagle, Croatia nested quite comfortably between Bosnia and Slovenia - two Habsburg provinces which, for me personally, carry bitter-sweet associations. My great-uncle Jakob served as postmaster of Sarajevo (the Bosnian capital) in the 1900s, and it was to him that I, an enthusiastic teenage philatelist, owed the most valuable stamp in my collection.

I had no such connection to the Slovene capital Ljubljana, formerly Laibach, which, as some readers may remember, figures in the punch-line of a hilarious half-Yiddish joke.

I do, however, have another family association with Croatia. My parents honeymooned on the Adriatic island of Rab and I have a romantic notion that I was conceived there. Close by is another 'monosyllabic' island whose name - in one of the quirks the Slav language is capable of - consists only of consonants: Krk.

It was on Krk that as a seven-year-old I spent my last holiday *en famille*. (The date was 1931 and my father had just lost his job.) On that trip I first learnt how

sparingly the Southern Slavs use vowels: Serbia they call *Srbska* and Croatia *Hrvatska* - an agglomeration of letters that could have come straight off an optician's reading chart.

Hrvatska is the origin of the surname Horwath, whose most famous bearer is the playwright Odon von Horwath of *Tales from the Vienna Woods* fame. In typical Habsburg Empire fashion, he was born in Italian Trieste to a Hungarian father and wrote in Viennese dialect.

The seeds of this multiculturalism fell on stony ground in troubled interwar Yugoslavia. In 1934 a Croat Ustasha Fascist killed the Yugoslav king, and in 1940 a triumphant Hitler created a Croat puppet state. In it the Catholic Ustasha ran Jasenovac concentration camp as a Balkans Auschwitz, in which thousands of Orthodox Serbs and Jews were done to death.

So, maybe, it's just as well that to my son's family Croatia will just make a pleasant change from Corsica. They will encounter a landscape, and seascape, of great natural beauty, touched here and there by the magic of Imperial Rome or Renaissance Venice.

Pula (Pola) has an impressive Roman amphitheatre. The great Adriatic port of Rijeka owed its previous name, Fiume, to the river - *flumen* in Latin - flowing through it.

The delightfully positioned Split was once called Spalato - from the *palazzo* the Emperor Diocletian built there. Further south lies Dubrovnik, a veritable jewel (with an ancient synagogue) damaged in the Balkan wars of the 1990s. It was once called Ragusa, which mutated via some strange syllable shift to 'argosy', Shakespeare's term for merchant ship in *The Merchant of Venice*.

Maybe the best way to view Croatia is through a wide-angled lens. After all, the Croats have been there for many centuries and behaved like savages only in the early decades of the twentieth. It's just our ill-luck to have been alive at the time.

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Emeritus Professor Zygmunt Bauman

Leeds professor honoured

Martin Kapel

The University of Leeds has conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on Emeritus Professor Zygmunt Bauman to mark his distinguished career in sociology.

Professor Bauman was born in Poznan in 1925. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was forced to flee from the advancing Germans and spent the war years in Russia. After the war he returned to Poland and eventually graduated from the University of Warsaw, where he began his academic career.

The destruction of the Jewish communities of Poland did not put an end to the antisemitism long inherent in that country, with the result that Professor Bauman was forced to leave it for the second time in 1968. For a few years he worked at the University of Tel Aviv before taking up a chair at the University of Leeds.

Although Professor Bauman retired in 1990 his research has continued and he is the author of numerous books. He is regarded as one of the most distinguished authorities in his field and, while continuing with his prolific output of written work, he is also greatly in demand as a lecturer throughout the world.

Second and Third Generations meet in Leeds

Barbara Dorrity

Thirty-seven people from as far afield as Glasgow, Middlesborough, Birmingham, Loughborough and Liverpool have met in Leeds for the first-ever Northern gathering of people of the 'second' and 'third' generations, i.e. the children and grandchildren of World War II Jewish refugees from Central Europe.

For most of those present, it was a totally new and enriching experience to meet with others of a similar family background. The warm buzz of conversation by the end of the day conveyed that new links and discoveries had been made.

The group decided that it would meet again - as a whole and perhaps also as smaller local groups. Some participants volunteered to plan and co-ordinate future events. While workshop discussions had aimed to cover topics such as identity, researching family backgrounds and creative ways of moving forward, many felt there had been insufficient time to focus. It was agreed that the next meeting should be more structured and last for a whole day.

The AJR had agreed to support the organisation of the meeting and welcome assistance was provided by AJR Northern Groups Co-ordinator Susanne Green and by Erika Harris and Michael Barrie of the Leeds Holocaust Survivors Friendship Association. The involvement of Second Generation Network members Karen Goodman and David Clark was also greatly appreciated. I would like to thank AJR members for passing my letters about this event on to their descendants.

To obtain further information about the next Northern event for the second and third generations, please contact me on 0161 368 5088 or at barbara@ajr.org.uk.

Barbara Dorrity is AJR's Northern Region Social Worker.

'Day of Remembrance'

Yom HaShoah
commemoration,
Washington
Fred Durst

My wife Marion and I combined a holiday to the United States with a long-held ambition to visit the prestigious United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. As I am a 'senior' former AJR Honorary Officer, we were greeted by Arthur Berger, its Director of Communications. We were extremely appreciative of their hospitality, kindness, and sensitivity to what, for us, always brings back difficult memories.

Of particular interest were the Kindertransport displays. The Americans were prepared to be self-critical, citing the US failure to emulate the UK as a haven for children from Nazi persecution. A government note preventing the docking of the refugee ship *The St Louis* in the Americas was similarly revealing.

Though quite unanticipated, Mr Berger arranged for us to participate in the National Commemoration Day of Remembrance ceremony for the victims of the Holocaust, which took place under the magnificent Rotunda of the US Capitol and in the presence of senior military representatives, leading members of Congress and survivors. Foremost among the latter was Elie Wiesel, the Nobel prize-winning laureate, who delivered a memorable address.

The colours of the 3rd US Infantry were paraded, and HE the Israel Ambassador brought greetings prior to the speech by the Chair of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, Fred Zeidman. Among the notables who lit a memorial candle were Congressmen Joseph Lieberman, Tom Lantos, Steven LaTourette and Susan Collins, and the father of the murdered *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl. Cantor Joseph Malovany delivered the memorial prayer and sang the *Hymn of the Partisans*. A powerful message denouncing antisemitism was received from President Bush. It was altogether an unforgettable experience.

Annual General Meeting 2004

Highlights from the Chairman's report

AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman expressed his gratitude to the JFS School for allowing the use of their state-of-the-art facilities at this year's AGM venue.

The AJR is very proud to be the leading British Jewish organisation representing refugees from and survivors of the Holocaust. The Association's devoted staff seek to bring the concept of 'community' to all their services for our members. I would like to share some of our thoughts to ensure the future continuity of our very special community.

At the end of 2003 AJR's membership stood at 3,400, including over 150 new members. We realise that our ageing community cannot continue forever, but the AJR trustees, who are essentially responsible for the finances, have taken the view that we will be here for the next 15 years at least, and will plan the finances accordingly. As our community ages and its needs change, we need to anticipate these developments to ensure the delivery of appropriate services.

We have already managed change to our head office location, moving from Hampstead to Stanmore. You have seen a modernised magazine over the past few years moving from *Information* to *Journal* without any reduction in the high quality of the writing. You have witnessed the introduction of our new policy on regional groups culminating in what I believe is our 31st group this year, ensuring the AJR's place as a truly national organisation serving the whole refugee community. You have seen the growth of our Homecare Scheme - in 2003 we helped 30 per cent more members. And, finally, many of you will have been assisted by the Central Office for Holocaust Claims, run in conjunction with the Umbrella Group.

We have been able to manage all these changes and deliver the corresponding services. However, more changes are planned. We will continue with the jewel

in the crown, our Day Centre in Cleve Road, for as long as demand exists, but here again, changes are inevitable and could even be organised within the wider Jewish community. We have also witnessed an increase in the number of meals on wheels served, a vital service to ensure our members can stay in their homes as long as possible. We plan further changes - to the *AJR Journal*, to the way we look after our tenants, to the manner in which we monitor our investments, but - rest assured - we will never change our core values.

The AJR's core philosophy is to care for our community. The social work department leads the way in the very personal caring for which the AJR is renowned. Here too changes are taking place - in particular in seeking to extend the AJR's caring role to our members in as many parts of the country as possible.

I will also mention our special projects, regional get-togethers and holidays, our very special Kinder who are playing an increasingly important role within our community, our amazing volunteers and increasing co-operation with other Jewish organisations, such as Jewish Care and the Claims Conference.

None of this would be possible without the necessary finances. The Charitable Trust has benefited greatly from some very generous legacies, which are absolutely essential to allow the AJR to continue with its services and to make the changes which will become necessary. With an annual income of around £600,000 and an annual expenditure by the AJR and the Charitable Trust of approximately £1.7 million (of which around 80 per cent is directly connected to grant aid and our social services), the deficit of over £1 million can be bridged only by continued generosity in terms of donations and legacies.

Andrew Kaufman thanked the Committee of Management for their continued support during the year.



Lady Jakobovits

Guest of honour at AGM

Ronald Channing

Lady Jakobovits recalled her experiences of being a fugitive during the Nazi occupation of France. Amélie Munk and her remaining family left their home in Paris for southern France, where her father, a leading rabbinic thinker and writer, had enlisted in the Foreign Legion! They planned to find a safe haven in Switzerland, but had to keep one step ahead of the Germans just to survive.

Lady Jakobovits remembered with appreciation six non-Jews, each of whom had helped to save her life. Eventually the French resistance managed to lead them to safety in Switzerland, but she also remembered that it proved 'very painful to be a refugee in Switzerland' and that the Allied landings on D-Day, the 60th anniversary of which was now being marked, may well have forestalled the establishment of concentration camps on the Swiss side of the border.

Having accompanied her late husband, Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits, when carrying out many of his communal duties, she became an influential advocate in her own right. She was immensely proud that she was now 'the mother of a large clan'. 'We should all give thanks [to God] for the blessings we have', she said.

Lady Jakobovits referred to the impressive venue at which the Association was holding this year's AGM - the splendid new JFS campus: its 2,000 pupils would be 'the future leaders of our community'. It gave her an opportunity to say thank you to Britain for providing a home for former refugees. A warm vote of thanks was given by AJR Life President Ludwig Spiro.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

PRE-EMPTING SERIOUS DISCUSSION

Sir - When you enter the comforting, right-wing fantasy land of Dorothea Shefer-Vanson (June issue), with its catechism that we never did anything wrong while 'they' never did anything right, it is as well to acknowledge that a number of points she raises are actually correct. But there are one or two points that are carefully omitted from her presentation.

At the time of Oslo, there were approximately 70,000 settlers; 11 years later the figure has grown to some 240,000. Does anyone seriously doubt that that endless encroachment, so satisfying to those who are still addicted to a 'Greater Israel', has had no effect on the Palestinians' acceptance of the leadership of Arafat, with his corruption and total lack of integrity, as a partner for negotiation?

But to chant, as a mantra, that 'We have no partner for peace' can also be a self-fulfilling prophecy. When Sharon met Abu Maazen, the only Palestinian who seemed prepared to confront Arafat, and seriously to negotiate, it was not unreasonable to expect him to be given a few days to get his feet under the table. What he in fact got, thereby destroying his credibility, was an air strike within 24 hours. And who got the release of 400 terrorists? That bonus was reserved for Hezbollah!

As to Oslo, the right's opposition to Oslo is due only in part to its lack of success, for what they are opposed to is not simply an Oslo that failed to deliver, but an Oslo that should never have been tried.

The give-away, however, is the last sentence. This is the classic stance of 'all or nothing', i.e. if you deviate

minutely from the rights programme, you are voting for the destruction of the Jewish State. To pre-empt serious discussion in this way is not only dishonest, but is unhelpful in achieving the ultimate aim, which must surely be a settlement which leaves a secure Israel, which is not encumbered by having to rule over the affairs of the Palestinians.

F Barshak
London NW6

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Sir - I am immensely troubled by the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the matter of the military abuses perpetrated against the Iraqi prisoners. It was apparently aware of them at the time the abuses were being perpetrated, and going public might have saved an immensity of pain and humiliation then, and shame and historical repercussions now.

The ICRC may very well have expressed its concern over the treatment of Iraqi prisoners to the American and British governments. But when it found that those governments did not listen and took no action, was it not up the ICRC to take further action, which was to let us all know what was going on? We could have taken some effective action then. I am unhappily reminded of the ICRC's criminal negligence towards the gross human rights abuses in the Hitler years against the inmates of the concentration camps. Then, too, it remained shamefully *shtum*.

Peter Zander
London W1

TRADES DESCRIPTIONS ACT

Sir - On reading your April editorial, I

was intrigued by Hitler calling himself a National Socialist. My parents and I escaped from Vienna in May 1938, and by August we were in Prague. We were staying in a block of flats where there were seven more refugees plus four children. One of the refugees was a German Christian by the name of Ottokar Schild. In 1932 he had sued Hitler under an act which forbade the advertising of something you did not have for sale, i.e. Socialism.

When Hitler came into power in 1933, Ottokar was immediately arrested and put into one of the forerunners of the concentration camps. He was repeatedly released and re-arrested. On his final release he managed to escape to Prague, where I had the privilege of meeting him and hearing his story.

Ruth Schneider
London N8

AUFBAU

Sir - Your excellent article on *Aufbau* reminded those of us who have lived in the USA how important the paper was (and is) to those of us with a German Jewish refugee background. As the natural readership declined in the late 1970s and 1980s, *Aufbau* received generous gifts from readers who could afford to make them and felt that the continued existence of the paper was important. Just as a few young non-Jewish Germans gave up some time to work on kibbutzim in Israel because they wished to make some reparations for what the previous generation had perpetrated, so a few similarly-minded young journalists gave up a year or two to work at *Aufbau*, which was welcomed at a time of declining readership.

Aufbau journalists sometimes had a far greater reach than just to the shrinking German-speaking Jewish community. For example, Robert Breuer, *Aufbau's* music critic, was highly respected by the press departments of the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic and other major organisations, not because of his reviews in *Aufbau* but because he was also the New York music stringer for the *Frankfurter*

Allgemeine Zeitung, the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and other major papers in the German-speaking world. *Aufbau* punches way above its own weight.

Ernest H Simon
Merstham, Surrey

LIB DEMS

Sir - I am not really a political person, but my sympathies often lie with the Liberal Democrats, and more often than not I vote for them. Therefore it is with sorrow and bewilderment that I have to recognise that many Liberal Democrats are hostile towards Israel and Jews in general. How has this sad state of affairs come about?

Hans Hammerschmidt
Oxford

FREMDARBEITER LAGER 1940-45

Sir - I am trying to establish some philatelic historical documentation and lists about the many such camps in and around Dresden. If you can help, no matter how little, please contact me.

Peter C Rickenback
14 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3 1PF
tel 020 7435 0231

LEIPZIG

Sir - Those of your readers with a Leipzig connection may be interested to learn of a new book written by a Leipziger, Dubrovsky - *Six from Leipzig*, published by Vallentine Mitchell, official price £19.95 paperback. Vallentine Mitchell can be contacted at Suite 314, Premier House, Station Road, Edgware, Middx HA8 7AQ, tel 020 8952 9526.

Henry Kuttner
Edgware

SEBASTIAN FLYTE, MEET ALBERT EINSTEIN

Sir - I was most interested to read the above article as my father, Hermann Jacobsohn, a professor of Indo-European languages, was also at Marburg University. Paul Jacobsthal was well-known to us and especially to my brother, Helmuth Jacobsohn, Professor of Egyptology (Marburg), whom he guided in his studies. My father was dismissed from the university in 1933 and he died shortly

afterwards. I served in the Royal Navy during the war, after a stint in the Pioneer corps.

Allan Jackson
Worcs

BELETED THANKS

Sir - Thanks for the June issue of the Journal (p.16). I now can repay a 60 years' debt and apology to Dr Amy Gottlieb.

I was a DP in Berlin for whom Dr Gottlieb obtained a permit into her own family, but did not tell me to prevent difficulties from arising. At the same time, a surviving sister arranged for me an entry permit for England, where she lived. I never had a chance to thank Dr Gottlieb for her generosity.

Now here is my own story: I'm now 94 years old, living in Hampstead. I joined the Red Cross and after 25 years received the Queen's Medal for voluntary nursing (now abolished). I also worked in prisons with murderers and for 7 years at a Rudolf Steiner Home-School for mentally handicapped youngsters. This, besides 17 years as an employee at Selfridges. I also worked voluntarily at the Samaritan anti-suicide organisation, and for 2 years as a clerk at the Newhaven Harbour Office.

So Dr Gottlieb will excuse me for not accepting her extraordinary, generous offer of 60 years ago. I am happy that, still in this world, I can say: 'Thank you, Dr Gottlieb'.

Ernst Mitchell
London NW3

GETTING THE SOLITARIES TOGETHER

Sir - Thank you for publishing my letter to the AJR. I wonder if there is a way of gathering the 'solitary' refugees together, to see if something interesting might emerge. The first step would be to determine how many of us there are. Please let me know what you think.

Peter Landsberg
Southampton

Nina Hofman

Nina Hofman's letter (June issue) was written from Lugano and not from London as published.

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ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

The destruction in a warehouse fire of much of the **Saatchi** collection, including works by the leading conceptual artists of our time, has shocked the art world, but aroused mixed public reaction. **Tracy Emin**, who suffered personal losses, went on TV to accuse her detractors of sniggering at their fate. The fact that they didn't understand her work did not give them licence to laugh at her misfortune, she retorted.

Those acclaimed artists, writers and composers who were ridiculed in their own day answer this question best themselves. But even the most experienced art critic cannot genuinely evaluate what will speak for a future age, and the difficulty is to tread the fine line between creative receptiveness and intellectual acuity. The author Margaret Atwood describes the battle between those who want art to have some worthy agenda - such as beauty or religious purpose - and those who proclaim the self-sufficiency of art: 'It breaks out anew every time there's a fight over some piece of public funding for an art show that might include pee in a bottle or a dead cow or a picture of a Moors Murderer.'

But then there are universal artists like **Edward Hopper**, whose retrospective at **Tate Modern** continues until September. Through the filter of Hopper's windows and rows of desolate houses, the loneliness of individual figures eating,

thinking, staring into space, comes to life. He called this the 'sweltering, tawdry life' of small-town America, behind which you can sense the broader vision of suburban emptiness. Its landmarks are light and the acute angles of his architecture. Indeed, it is in the context of his architecture that we read his statement of man's place in the universe. To Hopper it is a plangent isolation. People alone, sitting or waiting. Large buildings, inner contemplation.

Hopper's theme is not just isolation but alienation. The more he throws his subjects to the light, the more he exposes the intense privacy of their inner world. In *Automat*, an oil he painted in 1927, showing the effect of unnatural light, a girl in a green fur coat and a yellow cloche hat drinks tea in a cafe; the colours, the gilt on mouldings, expose her intense pensiveness, which makes everything seem to disappear through a black window behind her.

But Hopper's light has another function: it conveys the message of time. A young blonde woman sunbathes on a balcony; the light is on her but beside her is an older woman, quietly taking a back seat. Both are engulfed by the largeness of the building. Time equally seems present in *Excursion into Philosophy*, in which a woman is coiled naked on a bed, while her partner sits beside her with a philosophy book. An ominous, dark blue sky, a bright light turning the top of a mountain field yellow, are seen through the window.

The mystery of light and time has captivated many artists. Each person, each building, each tendril of grass has its own place in Hopper's universe, tender, lonely and alive.



Edward Hopper, *Excursion into Philosophy* 1959. Oil on canvas. Private Collection

RG's INTERFACE

Hitler's Camelot The Führer, whose sexuality remains one of history's unresolved riddles, liked to project the image, alternatively, of brown-shirted war veteran and tail-coated *Salonlöwe* (lounge lizard). For the latter role, he appeared in public alongside such glamorous screen idols as Lilian Harvey, Zara Leander and Olga Tschechowa (none of whom, incidentally, was German). The last-mentioned White Russian Ufa star - and relative of Anton Chekhov - turns out to have worked for Soviet intelligence. Her amazing story is told in Antony Beavor's *The Mystery of Olga Tschechowa*.

Cinema Ghetto, Joshua Sobol's drama, staged at the National Theatre in the 1980s, is currently being filmed in Lithuania. The local population is not proving very co-operative with the German film crew.

Munich Olympics Steven Spielberg intends to make the murder of 11 Israeli athletes by PLO terrorists in 1972 the subject of a film starring Ben Kingsley.

Gebürtig A screen adaptation of the Austrian Holocaust survivor Robert Schindel's novel has been premiered in Vienna to far from enthusiastic reviews.

Dieses Jahr in Czernowitz The German documentary film-maker Volker Koepps, who earned plaudits with his 1998 film *Herr Zwilling und Frau Zuckermann*, has followed this up with a sequel which shows descendants of Bukowina's Jews, including Harvey Keitel, visiting their ancestral homeland.

Exhibition Vienna's Jewish Museum is currently staging the exhibition *Vienna, City of Jews*. It shows the poverty of the orthodox Jews who had fled the *shtetls* of Galicia, the cafés of the Bohemians and meeting places of the intellectual elite, the offices of the municipal authorities during the 'Red Vienna' period, and the salons of the liberal bourgeoisie.

Birthday Amos Oz, the outstanding Israeli novelist and peace advocate, has turned 65.

Music behind barbed wire

**MUSIK HINTER STACHELDRAHT:
TAGEBUCHBLÄTTER AUS DEM
SOMMER 1940**

Hans Gál

*Berne: Peter Lang, 2004,
£29/SFr.69*

The internment memoirs of the distinguished Viennese-born composer Hans Gál are a graphic and often gripping account of his experiences in the summer of 1940, when he was one of many thousands of refugees from Germany and Austria to be interned by the British authorities. Gál was one of the luckier ones, in that he was released after four months, having been detained in a holding camp near Edinburgh, his adopted home town, then in Huyton on Merseyside, and finally in Central Promenade Camp on the Isle of Man. What distinguishes these memoirs is their freshness and directness, due largely to the fact that they were not intended for publication and were thus free of any of the artifice or stage-management that sometimes affects accounts of internment. It was only decades later that his daughter, Eva Fox-Gál, decided to edit her father's internment diary for publication, and it is our good fortune that she did so.

Gál conveys with vivid immediacy the poor conditions and cramped confinement that the internees had to suffer. But what emerges most clearly is their psychological suffering: they were kept in painful uncertainty about their fate, and communication with their families, at first cut off entirely, was meagre and sporadic; the organisation of the camps, if such it can be called, was a mixture of muddle, inefficiency, pedantic enforcement of petty regulations and a crass inability to understand what it meant to the anti-Nazi refugees to be treated as if they were dangerous enemies of Britain. The camp authorities seemed at first quite

REVIEWS

incapable of distinguishing between the (mostly Jewish) refugees and the (mostly pro-Nazi) interned Germans.

Under the circumstances, what the refugees achieved was remarkable. Gál describes the educational programme set up in his camp, while he himself composed a trio and the music for the camp revue *What A Life!* (The trio, known as the Huyton Suite, provided the haunting musical motif that accompanied the film in the Continental Britons exhibition.) Gál even delayed his release from the camp by a day so that he could direct the music for a performance of the revue, for which he won a thunderous ovation. The close friendships that developed among the internees are also movingly depicted. This book is to be recommended, the more so as it comes with a copy of Gál's internment music on CD and an expert essay on the internment of 'enemy aliens' by Professor Richard Dove.

Anthony Grenville

**Garment workers, gamblers
and geniuses****THE UNDARK SKY**

Geoffrey Raisman

Haverhill Press 2003, £9.99

If a whole ethnic group can be identified with a particular industry - as the Welsh have been with coal mining - the quintessential Jewish trade would be tailoring. With one proviso: given the disparate evolution of various Jewish communities, the rag trade was less central to the lives of Jews in Vienna's Second (or Budapest's Seventh) District than in London's East End, or New York's East Side.

In Britain one local Jewry more closely associated with the garment

trade than any other was that of Leeds - as demonstrated by the rise of Montagu Burton, the largest clothing manufacturer in the country.

The Undark Sky graphically evokes life in Leeds as it grew into a powerhouse of the rag trade between the arrival of the first wave of Russian immigrants in the 1870s and the outbreak of the Great War. Conceived in the form of a family chronicle, the book literally swarms with the members of the prolific Lithuanian-descended Raisman clan. The backdrop is epic: liberation from Tsarist oppression followed by wage-slavery in sweatshops, tension between bosses and workers, home life lived in reeking tenement houses.

Religion, said Marx, is the opium of the masses. Leeds's Jewish garment workers remained outwardly observant, while some experienced quasi-religious conversions to Socialism - but the real opium of the tailors, pressers and machiners was gambling. They took wagers on everything, from horse races via card games (in so-called *shpielers*) right down to games of pitch-and-toss in dank back yards.

The curse of gambling runs like a red thread through the Raisman saga. The family were able to overcome all manner of handicaps - but not this one! Even so, some family members rose to dizzy heights. One even became a member of the Viceroy's Council in Delhi and helped to negotiate Indian independence - and the author of this lovingly assembled family chronicle is nothing less than a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Richard Grunberger

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**CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE**

Hybrid of Homer and Hollywood

TROY

directed by Wolfgang Petersen

on general release

*The wrath of Achilles, the direful spring
Of all the Greek woes, o goddess sing.*

It is not often that a film review starts with a rhyme, but for me the combination of Homer and Hollywood proved such a heady mixture that I had to wax poetical.

Admittedly, Achilles does not occupy centre stage in the *Iliad* in the manner of Ulysses in *The Odyssey*, but he is still *the* warrior who moves the action along. Sulking in his tent after a face-off with Agamemnon and preparing to return to Greece, he is catapulted back into the thick of the fray by news of Patroclus's death at the hands of Hector. His killing of Hector is a massive blow to the Trojans' morale, but they nonetheless keep up a dogged resistance until succumbing in the tenth year of the siege to the wooden horse, brainchild of the wily Odysseus.

The film compresses the ten years into a few days, but that is not its worst offence against the Homeric legacy. It not only falsifies the homo-erotic relationship between Achilles and Patroclus into one between a loving uncle and a callow nephew, but has Agamemnon die during the destruction of Troy - thus cutting off an entire branch of classic Greek literature at source. If Agamemnon doesn't make it back to Mycenae his wife Clytemnestra cannot murder him, and her heinous deed cannot in turn be avenged by the matricidal Orestes.

However, having waxed poetical at the start, who am I to object to poetic licence? Let me, therefore, list the very real strengths of this film. Top among them is the scene at dusk when the huge Trojan horse - bathed

in an unearthly light - makes its first appearance. Likewise, aerial shots of the besieged city with its stepped, grid-patterned streets, temples, palaces and ramparts evocative of Marlowe's 'topless towers of Ilium' - made a strong visual impact. Equally eye-catching was the tracking shot that enlarged the audience's field of vision from the close-up of one beached trireme to a bird's-eye view of the entire Greek fleet stretching to the far horizon.

By contrast, the actual battle scenes are curiously uninvolved - except those in which Achilles is the main protagonist. Attacking opponents with the speed of lightning, he employs a technique that owes a lot to kung-fu and a little to ballet. While Brad Pitt has the physique to carry out these near-superhuman feats, his acting carries less conviction. In fact, quite a few of the film's romantic leads - particularly Paris and Helen - seem to have been chosen for their looks rather than their thespian skills. A notable exception is Eric Bana's Hector, a young actor worthy of honourable mention alongside Peter O'Toole's gentle Priam and Brian Cox's villainous Agamemnon.

Richard Grunberger

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Letter from Israel

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

Spring is beautiful anywhere in the world, but in Israel it has a special poignancy. You know that the lush foliage and colourful flowers are going to be short-lived, whether because of the heat of the impending summer or the Hamsin heat-wave that afflicts Israel in its desperately short spring and autumn.

But while it lasts, spring in the Judean Hills is particularly lovely. There are folk who traipse to the north of the country, the Golan Heights - further than one's own back yard, metaphorically speaking - to find the glories of spring in Israel.

My daily drive to work gives me the option of taking the highway or meandering through the Jerusalem Forest. I generally prefer the latter, whatever the season, even though it makes my journey longer. I keep my eyes on the road, of course, but I can still see clumps of wild cyclamen in fashionable shades of pink and mauve peeping from behind rocks. The wild almond trees, though, are the first to blossom, and it is heartening to see their white branches gleaming amidst the bare winter trees. Later on purple spikes of wild lupin can be seen amid the grey-green wild grass, offset by yellow mimosa bushes.

Other trees produce green shoots, but the Judas Tree stands apart, ablaze with red-mauve blossoms. Its Hebrew name, Glory of the Forest, is far more apt than the English one that evokes the crucifixion (Judas is supposed to have hanged himself from its branches).

Broom and gorse also abound beside the road in sunbursts of yellow, alongside scarlet poppies and other flowers whose names I do not know, but which saturate my morning commute with glorious colour.

In a well-worn library-cum-office in a neo-Georgian house atop the Wiener Library off London's Portland Place, I was greeted by Dr Raphael Gross, Director of the Leo Baeck Institute and, from this year, Director of the Department for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex - with which the AJR has firm ties - in succession to Professor Edward Timms.

Born in Switzerland in 1966, Raphael Gross is, at just 37, certainly one of the younger academics maintaining and developing the German-Jewish cultural tradition which flourished in Central Europe before Hitler's Germany. The scion of a family of psychiatrists and psychologists, his father, who came from Bratislava, speaks German, Czech, Hungarian and Hebrew with equal facility. After the Anschluss, and an unsuccessful attempt to obtain affidavits for entry into Britain, he remained in Slovakia until he and his family were deported to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

After the liberation Raphael's father settled on a kibbutz soon after the establishment of the State of Israel, but later went on to study medicine in Zurich, where he met and married Raphael's mother, a jurist of Slovak and south German background who grew up in Switzerland. Raphael is their youngest child, with two brothers and a sister, and German is his native tongue. Though aware of certain differences from his non-Jewish classmates, he spent a happy childhood in a Zionist and left-wing atmosphere at odds with the rather rigid Calvinist and 'bourgeois liberal' values of the host society. Though not a religious person, he remains conscious of his cultural roots.

Raphael studied philosophy, history and European literature at the University of Zurich, studies which were interrupted when he was 18 by 6 months of compulsory service in Switzerland's conscript army. In his third year at university, the less rigid academic structure of continental universities enabled him to spend 6 months studying in Berlin. He also

PROFILE

Ronald Channing

Raphael Gross Representing a new generation



PHOTO: ELISABETH SCHIEDER-BIESCHIN

attended the University of Bielefeld and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In 1989 (not least to improve his English) he continued his studies at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, just at the time of the fall of the Berlin wall, a momentous event about which Raphael confesses to having 'mixed feelings'.

Raphael's PhD thesis was on Carl Schmitt, a German jurist who became an enthusiastic Nazi. Now Raphael is a recognised authority on Schmitt and his thesis, published in German in 2000, is being translated into French, English and Japanese!

As a result of his peripatetic years, Raphael has an exceptionally wide circle of friends and contacts within the international academic community. 'I am a very good networker', he confirmed. 'The intellectual exchange of ideas is very important.'

In 2001 Raphael was appointed Director of the London-based Leo Baeck Institute, a secular Jewish organisation. He succeeds Dr Arnold Paucker, who led the Institute for 43 years and is still very much in evidence. The Institute carries forward the

tradition of 'the science of Judaism' (*Wissenschaft des Judentums*). 'The scientific approach rather than a religious approach to Judaism suited me', says Raphael.

The Leo Baeck Institute (LBI) is a small and very efficient organisation with a prestigious board. It has a large academic output and is rooted internationally in London, New York and Jerusalem and at the new Jewish Museum in Berlin. Although each LBI branch values its independence, they co-operate closely with each other. The *Yearbook*, edited and published in Britain, allows the London LBI to claim its place as 'the academic powerhouse' of the Institute.

German-Jewish history, culture and thought are the core subjects of the Institute's research. At the University of Sussex this culture is being conveyed to students using the combined resources of the LBI, the Wiener Library and the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

Raphael Gross is nurturing the introduction of an MA in Jewish history at Sussex; 2 year-long fellowships are being established as from October 2004. It will be taught at the LBI premises and draw together the resources of Sussex, the Library and the LBI to maintain the German-Jewish tradition, using archives, education and outreach. The prime objective is to attract postgraduate students to the Centre and to the international team of academics it has assembled.

It is difficult, according to Raphael, to establish what and how the LBI/Sussex wishes to teach about the Holocaust. He believes that there is 'much research on the Holocaust that is yet to be done', and it is not just a matter of presentation of the existing body of knowledge. There is a huge international potential for Jewish studies for students from Israel, Germany, the USA and elsewhere. Based in London, the new degrees present 'a wonderful opportunity to try to build something new on this heritage' and it is hard not to see Raphael Gross making a great success of this new enterprise.

INSIDE the AJR

Group formed in Hampstead Garden Suburb

Over 30 people attended the inaugural meeting. Once everyone had introduced themselves and given their names, birthplace and when they had come to this country, there was a discussion on how the group should be organised. It was agreed that to begin with, the new group would meet bi-monthly on the second Monday in the month. Four of those present agreed to join a planning committee and there was much enthusiasm about the next meeting.

Myrna Glass

Next meeting: Monday 12 July. For details, contact Myrna Glass at head office on 020 8385 3070

An interesting afternoon in Hull

We met at the home of Harold Rose. Susanne Green updated us on Northern get-togethers planned for the summer. We discussed Yom HaShoah events across the north and two members described the moving candle-lighting ceremony at Beth Shalom which included a keynote talk by Elisabeth Maxwell. A member born in Germany to British South African passport-holder parents told of her experience in coming to the UK. A very enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

Bob Rosner

Essex meets North London

Twenty-three North London members joined 21 of us for a superb lunch at Southend and Westcliff Hebrew Congregation Synagogue. Members of both groups soon found they had come from the same town or country. The oldest person present, the husband of Ena Burch, was 92; he had come over with Vera Gissing on the 'Nicholas Winton' Kindertransport from Prague. The youngest was Maralyn Lisner, daughter of the late Philip Lisner, released from Theresienstadt on VE Day. A most enjoyable occasion.

Larry Lisner

Next meeting: Tuesday 13 July

Edinburgh afternoon of memorabilia

We enjoyed an afternoon at the home of David Goldberg discussing memorabilia we had brought with us. These were items such as unusual photocopies of coins engraved with the heads of various members of a

family, a *teffilin* bag beautifully embroidered by a loving mother for her son's barmitzvah in 1936, and a hand-painted Torah binder - all treasured memories of life in Europe before their makers had to flee Nazi persecution.

Francoise Robertson

Next meeting: Wednesday 14 July. Get-together, hosted by Edinburgh group, for Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Aberdeen and Dundee groups

Norfolk feast

We watched a moving video on the Beth Shalom Holocaust centre in Nottinghamshire. After that we divided up the great variety of tasty bits which members had brought along and the desert of vitamin-rich strawberries all the way from Sheringham concluded proceedings in a fitting manner.

Frank Bright

Next meeting: Tuesday 24 August, same place, same time

Relaxation and well-being in Brighton & Hove

Two healers, Sylvia Haberfield and Joy Markham, spoke about their therapy and capably answered the many questions asked. They then gave a demonstration of their skills on two volunteers from the group, who found the process extremely soothing and no doubt beneficial. The accompanying music, consisting of bird song, sea waves breaking on the shore and similar sounds, certainly contributed to the feeling of relaxation and well-being.

Next meeting: Monday 19 July

North London: hitting the jackpot

Our extremely well-attended meeting heard a most fascinating talk entitled 'When Life becomes History' by Geoffrey Perry. Gathering firewood in a north German forest, he came across the late and unlamented Lord Haw-Haw aka William Joyce, in whose capture he became instrumental. Remembering army life, it must have been the nearest thing to hitting the jackpot! A most enjoyable meeting.

Herbert Haberberg

Next meeting: Thursday 29 July

South London world musical tour

We had a wonderful time listening to Annette Saville playing the piano. Starting with Viennese and German music - the tunes we sang and danced to when we were young - followed by Yiddish Polish music, on to Russia, America, Australia, New Zealand, Israel and finishing in London. Thank you again, Annette, for giving us such a nice afternoon!

Anne Poloway

Next meeting: Thursday 15 July. James Taylor: 'Churchill's Wit'

Ilford sees video on Beth Shalom

The Story of Beth Shalom was the title of the video we were shown. For those who had not yet visited this oasis in the wilds of Nottinghamshire, it was an eye-opener: to realise that a non-Jewish family had set up this Holocaust Education Memorial Centre was truly remarkable. Every day schoolchildren visit this centre and learn from survivors what they experienced at the hands of Nazism when they were children. These sad tales do far more to bring the Holocaust alive than any history lessons at school.

Meta Roseneil

Next meeting: Wednesday 7 July

Harrogate Continental Friends gathering

Susanne Green reminded us of forthcoming events in Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool as well as the St Annes holiday on 4-9 July. Those who had already booked were looking forward to the occasion and there were still a few vacancies. Sadly, Richard Hyman, one of our members, had died in May. 'Dick the Milk', as he was known far and wide, will be missed not only by his AJR friends but also by countless people in Harrogate and Knaresborough.

Inge Little (née Steinweg, formerly from Dortmund)

Next meeting: Wednesday 25 August

Covent Garden comes to Pinner

Heralded by a timely introduction on the piano by our very own Annette Saville, Glenys Groves traced her meteoric career from her discovery at junior school of her love of singing to her debut US tour with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company at the age of 11. She regaled us with humorous stories of mishaps that made us appreciate the intricate technicalities involved and finally entranced us as she broke into song.

Walter Weg

Next meeting: Thursday 1 July, 2.00 pm. Leon Pilpel of *The Times* on the 'Dreyfus affair'

Leeds HSFA Summer Lunch

Following our annual Summer Lunch we were treated to a witty and informative talk by R. Cohen on his experiences as a school inspector. Mr Cohen, whose work has taken him to schools of all kinds, related a number of incidents ranging from the funny to the poignant. The main theme of his talk was that all pupils, of whatever religious or ethnic background, should be kept in contact with their culture and that schools should contribute towards achieving this aim.

Martin Kapel

Next meeting: Tuesday 7 September.
HSFA/AJR Northern Groups' meeting

Pinner current affairs discussion

Some 35 of us took part in a discussion led by Ernest Simon, one of our own members. Ernest chose topics that affect all of us but avoided international political issues. So we talked about the importance of the forthcoming elections, teen-age abortions, whether Britons complain too much or too

little, whether sick leave should be paid, and obesity in children. The discussion continued throughout the (usual) excellent tea party that finishes our meetings.

Paul Samet

NEXT MEETINGS

Cambridge Thursday 8 July
West Midlands (Birmingham) Sunday 11 July. Garden party
Weald of Kent Tuesday 20 July

AJR DAY OUT

Join us for a trip to Westcliff & Southend Day Centre
Tuesday 3 August 2004 Coach leaving Cleve Road at 10.00 am
£16 per person to include transport, lunch, tea and entertainment
Please contact Carol Rossen 020 8385 3085 or Joan Altman 020 8385 3072

DIARY DATE AJR TEA

Sunday 17 October 2004 at 3.00 pm
at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1
The Carl Rosa Company will perform *The Merry Widow*

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KT-AJR (Kindertransport)
Andrea Goodmaker 020 8385 3070

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
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Sun 4	CLOSED
Mon 5	KT Lunch Kards & Games Klub
Tues 6	Lewis Lev
Wed 7	Sheila Games
Thur 8	Hounslow Community Opera
Sun 11	CLOSED
Mon 12	Kards & Games Klub
Tues 13	Lynda Styan
Wed 14	Joe Kay
Thur 15	Michael Heaton
Sun 18	DAY CENTRE OPEN
Mon 19	Kards & Games Klub
Tues 20	Madeleine Whiteson
Wed 21	Mark Rosen
Thur 22	Katinka Seiner
Sun 25	CLOSED
Mon 26	Kards & Games Klub
Tues 27	CLOSED (Tish B'av)
Wed 28	Nicola Smedley
Thur 29	Margaret Opdahl

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

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday

Belated congratulations to Debbie Kadish on your 97th birthday, Lore.

Stone-setting

The stone-setting for Mrs Hilde Kochmann will take place at Edgwarebury Cemetery on 13 July 2004 at 3.00 pm.

Memorial

In loving memory of Trude Grenville, who passed away ten years ago in July 1994, wife of the late Arthur Grenville, dearly loved and sadly missed by their son Tony.

Classified

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Day Centre

Shirley Lever at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre. New Clothes for sale, dresses, underwear, cardigans, etc. Wednesday 14 July between 10am-11.30am.

Happy Birthday David

The following announcement appeared in the July 1964 issue of AJR Information:

Births

Baddiel. To Sarah (née Fabian) and Colin Baddiel on May 28, at Troy, N.Y., U.S.A., a second son, David Lionel. Both doing well. Second grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. E. Fabian, 42 Hertford Street, Cambridge.

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Search Notices

Port Erin Women's Internment Camp, Isle of Man 1941-45. I am researching this subject and seeking photographs of both camp and internees. Any information, please contact Lionel Campuzano, 458 Crewe Road, Wistaston, Cheshire CW2 6PZ, tel 01270 664175, campuzano@onetel.net.uk.

Berel-Dov and Mindel Summer

I am searching for survivors of this Warsaw family. Information, please contact Ashdar Galia at as_galia@Netvision.net.il.

Jewish refugee camp in Lechfeld, Germany

I am seeking information regarding the location of this camp, where I was born in 1948. I am one of two daughters of Abraham and Chana Furer. My sister was born in Berlin in 1947. Two other sisters were born in Russia, where my parents escaped during the war. I would like to locate records of our existence. Information, please contact Rosa Mezistrano at mezi@prodigy.net.

I am searching for my aunt **Gertrude Pariser**, who was born in Vienna on 27.11.1929 and lived with her grandmother, Susanne Pariser, until 16.09.1938. She is believed to have gone on a Kindertransport to England. Information, please contact Eva Heindl at eva.bournes@chello.at.

Oscar (Oskar) Löwenstein, born 10.5.1868 in Danzig, died probably in 1955. His wife, **Irma Löwenstein (née Samec/Sametz)**, name from first marriage **Hübsch**) was born 8.8.1892. Following death of Oscar Löwenstein she married a third time, now calling herself **Irma Austin-Löwenstein**. In 1959 she lived at 6 Wetherby Gardens, London SW5. From the first marriage she had a son, **William H. Harcourt** (previous name **Wilhelm Hübsch**), born 19.3.1910. In 1958 he lived at 27 Pembridge Square, London W2. Information, please contact Social Affairs Department of Austrian Embassy in London, telephone 020 7235 3731.

Obituaries

Harry Kleeman

Harry Kleeman, who has died at the age of 76, was for over three decades a guiding force in the UK's principal Jewish charity which provides aid to overseas Jewish communities. Established in 1933, in response to the rise of Nazism in Germany, the charity started out as the Central British Fund (CBF) for German Jewry. It was later renamed the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief and, in 1995, simply World Jewish Relief.

Harry Kleeman became treasurer of the CBF in 1968 and served as chairman between 1991 and 1996 and then as mentor. His involvement covered two major crises: the exodus of Ethiopian Jews during the 1980s famine and the breakdown of the Yugoslav federation. Aid, in the form of food parcels, was also sent to Jews in the former Soviet Union. Under its new title, World Jewish Relief, the organisation then started to build up community centres as a base for education, welfare and social life in former communist countries.

Harry Kleeman came from a manufacturing family. His father and uncle, who had left Germany before the First World War, set up a business making plastic house-ware and toys. Kleeman spent all his Westminster School years in wartime evacuation in Herefordshire. He decided to go into the family firm. In 1969 he set up his own company, Kleeman Plastics Group, which he ran until his retirement in 1994.

In 1984 he was appointed CBE. He was business mentor for the Prince's Trust, guiding young people in developing their businesses. For 20 years he was a regular weekly visitor to Pentonville and Wormwood Scrubs prisons, seeing short- and long-term inmates.

Paul Hamburger

Paul Hamburger, the pianist, writer and teacher, has died aged 83. He was born in Vienna; his father was a shoemaker, his mother a bank clerk. As a student at the Vienna Hochschule, he became a pupil of Berta Jahn-Bär.

Following the Anschluss, he arrived in England. At the outbreak of war he was interned on the Isle of Man together with, among others, Norbert Brainin and Sigmund Nissel, who were later to form the Amadeus Quartet. On his release from internment, he entered the Royal College of Music, where he studied with Vaughan Williams and in the piano class of Frank Merrick.

In 1953 Paul Hamburger joined the English Opera Group, three years later joining the music staff at Glyndebourne. In 1962 he was appointed BBC staff accompanist and in 1976 he became a music producer on Radio 3. In 1981 he retired from the BBC, resuming teaching at the Guildhall School and the Royal College of Music. In 1992 he was awarded the Austrian Order of Science and Art.

He was an outstanding teacher with a love of good food and drink. For all his love of his adopted country, he remained quintessentially Viennese in both temperament and accent.

Arts and Events Diary - July

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

To 24 July Morris Kestelman (1905-1998): an exhibition of his paintings. London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC). 10.00 am to 5 pm

Tues 20 60th Anniversary of the Plot to Kill Hitler. Day seminar at the Imperial War Museum, 9.30-4.15 pm. Tel 0207 416 5439

Thursdays at 3 pm Coffee House Chess. LJCC

ORGANISATION CONTACTS

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

London Jewish Cultural Centre, Kidderpore Avenue, London NW3 tel 020 7431 0345

Central Office for Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Erste Bank restitution

Austrian Holocaust survivors have been alerted to another possible compensation scheme by the Holocaust Victims' Information and Support Centre in Vienna: the restitution of accounts held at the Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG, a predecessor of Erste Bank.

The Erste Bank has produced two tables of names of Holocaust victims who invested money in the bank prior to the Anschluss. Table A lists dormant accounts and includes the name and date of birth of the owner as well as the balance which has been updated using an annual interest rate of 4.5%. Where the balance is still modest, Erste Bank has pledged to make awards of a minimum of €200.

Table B records the names and dates of births of persecutees whose real estate was aryanised by Erste Bank as well as the details of people who held mortgages or other loans. A Nazi racial law required Erste Bank to extend loans to Jews, which could then be used only to pay the punitive Jew taxes (*Reichsfluchtsteuer* and *Judenvermögensabgabe*).

The information on Tables A and B is available on the AJR website www.ajr.org.uk.

Applicants, including heirs and beneficiaries, must complete the one-page form and return it to: Erste Bank der oesterreichischen Sparkassen AG, Code '2004-Historikerprojekt', Graben 21, A-1010 Vienna, Austria. Applications must be submitted by **31 December 2004**.

Further help

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

Forgotten Music

Eric Sanders

While in Vienna earlier this year I met Dr Primavera Gruber, a lady of great personality and drive. Primavera Gruber is the director of the Orpheus Trust, an organisation she founded in May 1996 with the aim of restoring the memory of Austrian composers, conductors, musicians and musicologists who were persecuted by the Nazis. 'Austrian' includes the regions which were formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, musically a closely connected cultural community.

To date, the Orpheus Trust has established a data bank with biographical and artistic information on over 4,550 musically creative persons and more than 10,000 works of composers. The records of some 200 oral interviews of contemporaries detailing the biographies of persecuted musicians are kept in the Trust's archives. Quoting a lot of figures does not normally make for an interesting article, but these figures are meaningful: they reflect the enormous dimensions of the Jewish contribution to musical life in Austria as well as the dedication of Primavera Gruber and her team in the face of the usual difficulties of raising funds for their work. She has also joined a special research project by Salzburg University: 'Persecuted Music'.

Since its foundation concert at the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Orpheus Trust has produced or participated in the production of concerts, lectures and talks, workshops and symposia as well as master classes. By means of regular contact and exchange of information in science,

concert enterprise, pedagogy and the media, the Orpheus Trust unceasingly suggests programmes, providing material for artists and promoters. The aim is always the rediscovery and dissemination of the forgotten music.

The Orpheus Trust is a non-profit-making organisation supervised by a board of trustees. Its petition for support is signed by an impressive list of internationally known names containing many ex-refugees in the music world as well as prominent scientists and artists (see website). It receives grants from a small number of bodies. Another source of income are the membership fees of members - over 500 at present - and of associate members.

This is an organisation and a task which is surely well worth assisting. I do not refer to financial assistance (not that that would be refused, I should think), but to assistance in providing information you may have which is wanted by the Trust: information about forgotten music, persecuted musicians and persons closely involved with music so that through the work of Primavera Gruber and the Orpheus Trust they can be rehabilitated to their rightful place in the musical history of Austria.

If you have any information, or wish to know more about the Trust, here is the necessary information: Orpheus Trust, Sigmundsgasse 11/3, A-1070 Vienna, Austria; telephone/fax 00 43 1 5268092; email office@orpheustrust.at; website www.orpheustrust.at.

Newsround

D-Day marked by Jewish veterans

A 26-member party of British Jewish ex-servicemen and their wives took part in the 60th-anniversary D-Day commemorations in Normandy, marking the largest amphibious operation of the Second World War.

Vienna Jewish Museum exhibition opens

The exhibition 'Children-Kinder-Kinderlach' by Roy Mittelman is currently on show at the Jewish Museum in Vienna, closing on 12 September 2004. Mittelman took photographs of Jewish children during a period of over 20 years in Budapest, Tallinn, Buenos Aires, Casablanca and many other locations he visited on behalf of humanitarian organisations.

Jewish wedding in Lincoln

The first Jewish wedding for 700 years has taken place in Lincoln, where one of the most shameful instances of medieval Judeophobia occurred: the community was accused of the blood-libel murder of a young boy. The last recorded Jewish wedding in Lincoln took place in 1275 on the site where Jews' Court now stands.

Paris yeshiva student stabbed

17-year-old Yisrael Yiftah was stabbed in the chest outside the Paris-based Mekor Yisrael Yeshiva by an assailant described as a man of North African origin. Yiftah told police that the man had shouted 'Allahu akbar' (God is great) before attacking him.

Belgium museum moves to ex-Nazi office

Belgium's Jewish Museum, housed for 14 years above Brussels's Beth Israel Synagogue, has moved into a partially renovated former Nazi police station. Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt was present at the inaugural ceremony for the museum's new home.

Belzec memorial inaugurated

A new memorial to victims of the Belzec death camp has been inaugurated, ending decades of neglect at the site where 500,000 Jews perished in the war. Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski hailed the memorial as 'an important step in the process of Polish-Jewish reconciliation'.