

AJR journal

The Association of Jewish Refugees

Jewish refugees from Hitler outside London

Research on the Jewish refugees from Hitler in Britain has, it is often argued, focused almost exclusively on London, and in particular on the well-known areas of settlement in the north-west of the city, like Hampstead, Belsize Park and Swiss Cottage (NW3), West Hampstead (NW6), and Golders Green (NW11). While it is true that refugees settled in these areas in numbers unequalled elsewhere in the country, the wealth of information about the communities that grew up along 'Finchleystraße' has allowed them to overshadow the groups of refugees living outside the capital. Regional studies like Zoe Joseph's *Survivors: Jewish Refugees in Birmingham 1933-1945* (1988), based on oral-history interviews with refugees in that city, are few indeed, or, as is the case with the two short pages that Judith Samuel devotes to the refugees from Hitler in her book *Jews in Bristol* (1997), sadly inadequate.

The appearance of a major scholarly study of the Jewish refugees from Nazism who came to Manchester is therefore greatly to be welcomed, the more so as its author, Bill Williams, is an acknowledged and much admired expert on Manchester Jewry. His book, *Jews and Other Foreigners: Manchester and the Rescue of the Victims of European Fascism, 1933-1940*, published by Manchester University Press in 2011 and supported by the AJR, is in many respects a model for studies of the refugees from Nazism in cities and regions outside London – though at the price of £95 hardback, readers may be forgiven for waiting

for the paperback version. Its 420 pages are, however, devoted to a mere seven years in the history of its subject.

The book is distinguished by the exemplary thoroughness of its research. Williams displays a remarkable knowledge of Manchester Jewry, its communal institutions and organisations, its personalities, places of worship and, not least, internal divisions. Already in the chapter that follows the Introduction, Williams presents to us the first of a series of largely forgotten and unsung individuals who, in the face of general indifference or hostility, stepped forward to assist the new arrivals from Hitler's Germany. One such was Isidore Apfelbaum, 'a relatively obscure local jeweller and communal worker', who as early as 1933 created an improvised agency that rescued some hundreds of German Jews, operating 'from Apfelbaum's house at 17 Wellington Road East, Higher Broughton, and from the offices of his firm at 42 Bull's Head Yard, a dreary alleyway off Market Place, in central Manchester'.

This extract demonstrates Williams's sovereign mastery of his material. Yet he is also capable of setting his rich range of material in the wider context of the issues and controversies surrounding the reception of the Jewish refugees in Manchester in the first years after 1933. Williams is at pains to contrast Apfelbaum's activist willingness to help with the more circumspect policy adopted by Nathan Laski, the leading figure in Manchester Jewry and the target of considerable criticism from Williams. Through Manchester's Jewish

Representative Council, Laski was instrumental in imposing what Williams considers an unduly cautious and restrictive approach to the rescue of the endangered Jews of the Reich. The fear of appearing 'disloyal to Britain' was, Williams argues, the Achilles' heel of men like Laski, who were concerned that a more radical strategy would fan the flames of native anti-Semitism. Such men, 'who had already passed through the anglicising and embourgeoisening processes of communal life into the Jewish middle classes', placed their faith in the essential benevolence of British society, which might not tolerate a more militant response by Jews to the plight of their German co-religionists.

Though the Jewish community of Manchester, then numbering about 40,000, came to play host to some 7-8,000 refugees from Hitler – a substantial number – Williams argues that Laski's strategy of loyally following the British government's policies on refugees from the Reich, and of avoiding any criticism of the appeasement-tinged failings of those policies, meant that the operation to aid the refugees was not conducted with full vigour and single-mindedness. In Williams's view, Laski's unwillingness to adopt a high-profile strategy of rescue independent of the government caused him to shy away from 'giving too open a welcome to those seeking to flee Germany in 1933, who, in large numbers, might have been seen as a threat to the British workforce, and who, in whatever numbers, could be construed ... as a threat to a supposed "British identity"'. This, Williams continues, was 'part of a

tradition of communal leadership deferential to the British state and culturally subservient to what it saw as the British identity'.

Williams works within a broadly chronological framework, beginning with those relatively few organisations that provided assistance to the refugees in the first years after 1933 and moving on to the greater number of agencies of support that came into exist-



The Morris Feinmann Home, Manchester

Jewish refugees from Hitler outside London *continued*

ence in the critical years 1938-39. Within that framework, he provides a detailed and expert account of the main organisations concerned. At first, organised efforts to help the refugees were few in Manchester. Williams notes the initiatives of the Manchester Women's Lodge of the Order B'nai B'rith, from whose ranks came Rae Barash, subsequently one of the leading activists in the Manchester Jewish Refugees Committee (MJRC), the important agency set up in November 1938 to take forward the work of supporting the rapidly increasing number of Jews fleeing the Reich. Otherwise, the responses of institutions like the University of Manchester, which gave positions to some refugee scholars, or the Lancashire Industrial Development Council, which supported refugee industrialists and entrepreneurs, earn scant praise from Williams. Even the Manchester Quakers were, in Williams's words, 'slow off the mark', their objective of bringing about international harmony between Britain and Germany being hard to reconcile with their desire to assist the victims of Nazism.

Only after the intensification of Nazi persecution of the Jews in 1938 did men and women like Norman Jacobs, Morris Feinmann and Margaret Langdon, all members of the MJRC alongside Rae Barash, become fully active, setting up Kershaw House in Alexandra Road South, Whalley Range, the first hostel for refugees to be established by Anglo-Jewry outside London. It was named after Arthur Kershaw, who offered the spacious mansion as a residence for refugees. Its Orthodox counterpart, Cassell-Fox House in Upper Park Road, Higher Broughton, was likewise named after its creators, Eli Fox and Adolf Cassell. The pogrom of 9-10 November 1938 also galvanised the Quakers into setting up hostels for the refugees. Through the Refugee Committee of the Society of Friends in Manchester and District, the Quakers excelled in the support and assistance that they extended to the refugees.

Williams details the efforts by various Jewish organisations to assist the refugees, ranging from those of the Manchester Yeshiva, which concerned itself with the Orthodox, to

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Views expressed in the *AJR Journal* are not necessarily those of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.

SPECIAL EVENT

Judith Kerr

Sunday 29 June 2014, 3 pm
at the London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC)

We are delighted that the celebrated author Judith Kerr will be our guest of honour at a special event we are organising with the London Jewish Cultural Centre.

Judith has become part of the fabric of British life and her books have enthralled and inspired children for many decades.

We especially encourage the families of our members – Second and Third (and possibly even Fourth) generations – to come along. We are thrilled that Judith has agreed to read from her books *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* and *When the Tiger Came to Tea* to younger members of the audience. She will also reflect on her own experiences and take questions from guests.

Please book early to avoid disappointment and join us for what we are sure will be a memorable gathering by purchasing your tickets through the LJCC website www.ljcc.org.uk or by calling AJR Head Office on 020 8385 3070.

those of Bachad, which established a settlement for Zionist agricultural trainees at Thornham Fold Farm in Castleton, outside Manchester. A hostel for refugee boys was set up in Stockport, and one for girls, Harris House, in Southport; as a collective diary of the girls at Harris House has survived, the history of that hostel is better known than most. The Manchester Jewish Home for the Aged provided accommodation for elderly refugees, probably at the instigation of Morris Feinmann, who died on a rescue mission in North Africa in 1944. In his memory, the present home, whose construction was largely funded by former refugees, was named Morris Feinmann Home, a symbolic act of gratitude to Manchester Jewry.

The book's underlying argument is that, for all their good will and intentions, the efforts of those in Manchester involved in the attempts to rescue the Jews of Germany and Austria remained seriously inadequate. By referring to Manchester as 'the liberal city', Williams strongly implies that things were considerably worse in the rest of the country, and for that he holds the British government and its desire to restrict immigration from the Reich primarily responsible. He is critical of those scholars (including myself) who, in his view, seek to obscure the shortcomings of government policies and thereby fall back onto a traditional narrative of British generosity and hospitality towards the refugees from Hitler. Such studies, he claims, concentrate on those refugees who were broadly successful in building new lives in Britain, thereby excluding those condemned by emigration to loneliness, poverty, poor-quality jobs, mental illness and even suicide.

His criticism of Britain leads Williams to

Kindertransport Reunion DVD

We are delighted to announce that a special commemorative DVD with footage of the Kindertransport Reunion at JFS and the reception with His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at St James's Palace is now available for purchase.

Filed and produced by Alan Reich, the DVD will serve as a poignant memorial to the two historic gatherings of Kinder and their families that took place in June 2013 as part of the events the AJR organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

To receive your copy, please send a cheque for £5 made payable to the AJR to: AJR, Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL



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underestimate the part played by the German government in preventing the emigration of Jewish refugees to Britain. In a chapter entitled 'The Saved and the Trapped', echoing Primo Levi's study of Auschwitz, *The Drowned and the Saved*, he makes eloquent use of the story of Ruth Edwards, née Schneier, who reached Manchester on a Kindertransport while her parents, unable to gain entry to Britain, perished in the Holocaust. But the story of another child refugee, Gina Bauer of Harris House, would, had Williams chosen to use it, have led to a different conclusion, since her parents had been granted admission to Britain and were prevented from leaving Germany solely by Hitler's invasion of Poland.

Anthony Grenville

SCHOOLROOM RED

'Please can you spare something for the Red Army?' I asked, holding out my tin.

It was summer 1944. Too young to be an official collector, I had been entrusted, by my 20-year-old brother Harry, with the task of collecting money for Russian soldiers. Not quite 12 but rather grown-up looking, I had been taken for 16 at the Austrian Centre, on the occasion Harry and my sister Ruth had allowed me to go there with them. At this left-wing club, frequented by many of the day's leading Continental intellectuals and musicians, girls in their twenties could be found with faces entirely devoid of make-up, wearing white ankle socks like me. To my great delight I had been asked for a date, by the earnest young man who came to chat to me after a music recital.

'I'm sorry, I'm afraid I can't,' I answered primly and was much gratified to see his astonishment when I told him my age. This incident went down rather well when told in school to my friends and embellished a bit. It was hard, though, to describe the atmosphere of the smoke-filled room at Young Austria – the shabbiness but sophistication of its members. To me these spelled sheer glamour. Erudite young men and women, in serious discussion, used their hands expressively as they chain-smoked, waving cigarettes about and scattering ash.

I fantasised about being 16 and allowed to smoke and go out with boys while I went from house to house with my collection box. I hoped to collect more than my fellow Red Army sympathisers, who were to stand at designated spots with their boxes the following morning. Knocking on the doors of Hampstead Garden Suburb residents on the eve of Red Army Day had been an inspiration. It was yielding larger sums of money than were likely to be given on street corners: my tin was heavy with half-crowns instead of pennies and sixpences.

Mama had raised no objections provided I only went to houses in neighbouring streets and came home before dusk. Several people invited me to come in for refreshment but I was careful to stay outside on the step unless I knew the family. One kindly gentleman gave me a lecture on the flaws in Marxism, before producing a ten-shilling note and pushing it into the slit of my box. 'Now don't you forget what I said, young lady,' he told me sternly and I promised I wouldn't, before escaping jubilantly down his garden path.

I was a schoolroom Red. I enjoyed being different from those of my friends who wanted to go to Hollywood.

'What are you going to do when you grow up?' people coming to our house would ask.

'Go to Russia,' I replied simply. Harry had taken me to the West End to see Russian propaganda films at the Tatler cinema. In these, Comrade Stalin, dressed

in spotless white tunic, appeared, smiling at and being embraced by former peasants, now all Comrades. My cousin Hugo took me for long walks on Hampstead Heath and explained the corruptness of the capitalist system. I was a ready convert. Nineteen-year-old Hugo was tall with curly fair hair and blue eyes and I saw older girls looking at him. I felt enormously flattered to be given so much

It was hard, though, to describe the atmosphere of the smoke-filled room at Young Austria – the shabbiness but sophistication of its members. To me these spelled sheer glamour. Erudite young men and women, in serious discussion, used their hands expressively as they chain-smoked, waving cigarettes about and scattering ash.

of his time and treated like a grown-up.

Hugo and Harry, together with other young members of the Austrian Centre, were preparing to go back to Vienna when the war was well and truly over to rebuild their homeland. Both boys had worked in the fur trade in between studying, in my father's despised but lucrative business. This much-criticised capitalist parent was to provide the funds for the venture, which, if successful, would contribute to the eventual downfall of all capitalist businesses like his. In the meantime, however, it was tolerated and paid for their studies and lifestyles – which were not always as modest as they might have been. Our house, often already bursting at the seams, became, when convenient to my brother and cousin, a meeting, eating and often sleeping place for other revolutionaries. Mama, who was sometimes worried about the overcrowding and lack of sufficient beds, was reassured by the boys: 'Don't worry, Carl can sleep on the floor, he doesn't need a mattress. There's plenty of space in my room.'

We girls, already doubled or tripled up in our bedrooms, never knew who was going to emerge from our brother's room in the morning. Unshaven young men, nicotine-stained fingers holding up borrowed pyjama bottoms, wandered sleepily into the hall in search of bathroom and breakfast. Harry, a keen chess player, occasionally spent the night at the chess club and had been known to give his front-door key to friends, together with directions on how to find our house and his room. As we had strict instructions never to wake our brother, we must sometimes have tiptoed about outside what might well have been an empty room – but might equally have

had a sleeping stranger in it.

During part of the latter war years, our house also became a second home for those of our far-flung second and third cousins who were in the Forces, whenever they were on leave in London. Thus we got to know sunburned and uniformed young men from America and Canada who bore our surname. Unlike us, though, they had never been immigrants but were actually born in the New World. They too brought their friends to the house and sometimes supplemented our rations by bringing wonderful supplies from their PX stores.

Although meals often presented a problem during those years of rationing and shortages, Mama didn't like accepting food. On one occasion, a shy young sergeant, a friend of one of our cousins, left a giant tin of corned beef in our airing cupboard so that he wouldn't have the embarrassment of being thanked for it. This was discovered after his departure and my inventive mother produced nourishing and unusual meals out of it for several days. The kosher home she had kept in Vienna had been abandoned by then: we no longer had separate dishes for milk and meat. Once alien and taboo foods were now bought and consumed in our house in Kingsley Way but no one ever went away hungry. Some went away lovesick instead, after they had met and gone out with my two older sisters – and been informed by our father that one was already engaged and the other too young

I cried buckets after Harry and Hugo left for Vienna. Neither of the boys joined the Communist Party and their enthusiasm for it soon began to wane. Mine lingered for a few months after their departure then I, too, became disenchanted and stopped buying the *Daily Worker*.

But sometimes I look back on my Red schooldays with great nostalgia.

Mary Brainin Hutterer

VISIT TO FROGMORE PAPER MILL

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Thursday 10 July 2014

Although we tend not to give much thought to the paper we use every day, there is a wealth of fascination behind its history, science, industry and usage. At Frogmore Mill their aim is to tell this story in an entertaining way so visitors can see for themselves the contribution paper has made to the world as we know it today.

Our visit will begin with refreshments, a tour of the mill, and the opportunity to make your own paper. This will be followed by a fish and chip lunch in the café by the side of the River Gade and a boat trip.

Coach picks up with an arrival time of 10.30 am and a finish time of approximately 3 pm.

£25.00 pp

For further details, please contact Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or at susan@ajr.org.uk

AJR Annual Report 2013

Highlights

It is difficult to look beyond the reception hosted last June by HRH The Prince of Wales at St James's Palace as the outstanding highlight of 2013. That occasion, part of the commemorations and celebrations we organised for the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport, followed a Reunion of some 600 Kinder and their families the day before at the JFS. At the Reunion, Kinder from around the world heard from, among others, former Foreign Secretary David Miliband, the comedienne Maureen Lipman, and UK Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues Sir Andrew Burns. JFS pupils performed a re-enactment of the historic debate in Parliament in November 1938 which led to the creation of the Kindertransport.

Last year also marked the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht and we welcomed to Belsize Square Synagogue the world-renowned composer and conductor Carl Davis, who, with pupils from Akiva School Choir, performed a song from his new composition *The Last Train to Tomorrow*, which is dedicated to the Kindertransport. Also AJR member Ernst Fraenkel reflected on his experiences on Kristallnacht before fleeing Germany. In Manchester, AJR member Ernest Hirsch provided his testimony of Kristallnacht and guests also heard from historian Professor David Cesarani. Henry Wuga gave an eyewitness account of Kristallnacht at the commemoration at Garnethill Synagogue, Glasgow.

As part of last year's three-day visit to London by members in the provinces, we organised a reception at the Austrian Embassy, with His Excellency Dr Emil Brix, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Anschluss. The London visit also featured outings to Kensington Palace and a tour of Parliament arranged by Luciana Berger MP. At an outing to the theatre to see *The Audience*, guests had the opportunity to meet privately the star of the show, Dame Helen Mirren. The London visit concluded with a lunch addressed by guest speaker Eve Pollard.

It was with great sadness that we closed the AJR Paul Balint Centre at the end of 2012. It had been for over a quarter of a century a unique meeting place accommodating our members with great warmth. Despite our efforts to keep the Centre going, it became difficult and expensive to maintain the service in this way. On a bitter-sweet occasion last December, we organised an 'end-of-an-era' luncheon, which was attended by 100 people, including current and former participants with staff past and present.

Although nothing can replace the AJR Centre, we are delighted to be working with Jewish Care and to be able to offer our members the opportunity to attend the Sobell Centre in Golders Green, an arrangement that has initially been very successful.

Personnel and administration

We completed our first year as an incorporated charitable company, having

integrated the AJR Charitable Trust and The Association of Jewish Refugees Friendly Society at the end of 2012.

In December, we said goodbye to Epi Byrne, Shareefah Nunkoo, Lawrence Zahra and Cassie Parris, who had worked to ensure the smooth running of the AJR Centre.

In October, Myrna Glass retired after 15 years' dedicated service. Myrna will be greatly missed by the many members with whom she came into contact over the years. As well as a farewell tea at Head Office in her honour, I made a presentation to her at the annual concert.

Mira Shah joined the permanent staff in April as Accounts Assistant, while Jim Sutherland, our Social Worker for the North-East, and Sandie Myers, a Social Worker based at Head Office, were given permanent contracts in August.

The Volunteers' Department was boosted by the addition of three staff members. Jonathan Rose joined us as Computer Help Programme Co-ordinator and Lesley Woolfe, who initially joined us on a one-year contract, was retained for a further three years following the initial success of the Dementia Project. We also welcomed Fran Horwich as Volunteers' Co-ordinator for the North in October.

Wendy Bott joined us in January as Yorkshire Groups' Co-ordinator and Rebecca Webb joined us as Administrator to the Social Work Team in August. Having worked alongside Myrna Glass over the summer, Kathryn Prevezer took over as London South and Midlands Groups Co-ordinator on a permanent basis in November.

Membership

At the end of 2013, total membership was 2,615, down from 2,709 at the beginning of the year. During 2013, we enrolled 94 new members and received notice that 117 had passed away and that 63 had moved away or not paid their subscriptions. A further 52 members cancelled their subscriptions.

Total Second Generation membership for 2013 was 471 (453 the previous year), including 37 who joined during the year, one more than last year. At the start of 2014, our database showed 42 members aged 100 or over and a further 619 aged 90 or over.

Annual Lunch and Concert

As in recent years, we spent a wonderful afternoon at the Watford Hilton, with 200 members enjoying a delicious salmon lunch followed by tea and pastries. Entertainment was provided by Glenys Groves, Mark Luther and Jonathan Fisher accompanied by Diana Franklin on the piano.

Financial assistance

We maintained our role as lead agency for the administration of grants and assistance deriving from Claims Conference programmes, which are made to an Umbrella Group of five charities in the UK, including the AJR. Part of a two-

year cycle, the sterling value of grants awarded to the group was, at £2.1m, similar to that of 2012. Additionally, we administered almost £150,000 from Six Point Foundation, again on behalf of the Umbrella Group. Through these funds, the AJR and its members received in excess of £600,000 to provide for care and emergency needs. Across the entire Umbrella Group, the funding was used to deliver £148,000 of care and provide some 1,500 grants to individual members of all the charities.

We paid £530,000 through the AJR's Self-Aid to members with the greatest need, including a special additional payment to commemorate the birth of Prince George. Currently, around 150 of our members receive this assistance and we were able to increase regular payments for 2014 to a level above inflation.

Social and welfare services

As previously, part of the work of the Social Services Department was to identify members who needed assistance from programmes supported by the Claims Conference, principally the Emergency and Austrian Funds and Homecare but also through the AJR's Self-Aid.

As well as assisting those with the greatest need, we received many requests from members who had not previously sought our help.

Although assessments and applications now require a much greater level of detail, as well as the involvement of medical and care professionals and local authorities, we continued to make life-changing interventions and to improve members' welfare. As well as with colleagues within the AJR, the Department worked with community organisations to meet members' needs and we welcomed on board new members of staff who will assist us in delivering these services.

Despite busy work schedules, the Department organised an annual holiday for members in the Lake District, enabling those in more remote parts of the country to meet other members from around the UK.

In July, we arranged for a group of 32 members to enjoy a week in Eastbourne, including entertainment, trips to the theatre, and outings to local places of interest.

Volunteers

The past year saw new appointments, enabling the Department to support more members in various ways. The Computer Help Project trains volunteers to assist our members in using, or becoming more proficient in, the use of computers.

The Memory Loss Befriender Programme works with clients suffering dementia, enabling volunteers to pay visits to members with this ailment.

We also added a co-ordinator who will support volunteers to befriend members in the North of England.

Besides these new projects, the

Volunteers' Department continued to recruit and support volunteers who befriend members, help with the groups, at Head Office and with recording the *AJR Journal* on a CD.

As in previous years, the administration of the Department was greatly assisted by an intern from the German organisation Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, a role fulfilled very ably by Dora Köhler. We are also very grateful to Six Point Foundation for their continued support for our Volunteer projects.

Community relations

The AJR is part of the Executive of the Forum of Yom HaShoah UK, whose aim is to raise the profile of Yom HaShoah within the Jewish community and to organise the annual national service at The Dell in London (this year on 27 April).

The AJR is an active participant in the Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Trust's collaborative group.

We are also planning an inter-generational event to capitalise on the growing number of AJR Second and Third Generation members.

Northern groups

The Manchester and Liverpool groups met approximately every two months to discuss subjects of mutual interest and to hear informative speakers, among others Ros and Jane Merkin on their innovative Kindertransport project *Suitcase 1938*. We also organised a number of outings, including a day in Llandudno and a visit to the theatre to see *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Manchester and Liverpool members attended the Northern Annual Get-together in Leeds. There, 60 members met for a stimulating day of discussion and David Lawson gave a presentation on the Jews of Ostrava.

Liverpool AJR members held an HMD event jointly with the Museum of Liverpool. A tablecloth containing the embroidered names of Liverpool members who had attended meetings over the last ten years was presented to the Museum, which also holds the AJR Liverpool Holocaust Memorial Book in its archives.

In the Yorkshire area, meetings varied from discussions on such themes as 'a person who made a difference to your life' to film screenings and musical appreciation. Members enjoyed guest speakers on subjects such as calligraphy, local Jewish history and the Jewish involvement in freemasonry. Musical entertainment featured, among others, the Barbershop Quartet and the 60-strong Jewish Primary School Choir at Chanukah. Members were also treated to *The Glenn Miller Orchestra* at Leeds Grand Theatre and saw a live screening of *The Nutcracker* at the cinema. Visits included trips to Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre and the Manchester Jewish Museum.

Scotland and Newcastle

Highlights of the year for members in Scotland included an outing of First, Second, Third and Fourth Generations to Glasgow's Kibble Palace, visits to a whisky distillery and a glass-making factory, and lunch at the Winter Garden in Crieff.

Cultural highlights featured outings

to *The Producers*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music* and a taste of the Edinburgh Festival at the Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation Open Day. There was also a behind-the-scenes visit to BBC Scotland HQ. In addition, members enjoyed a lunch and concert at the Royal Overseas League Hotel in Edinburgh.

A visit to the migration and wedding customs exhibitions at Destination Tyneside enthralled Newcastle members, while the Regional Get-together in Edinburgh attracted a large turnout to hear Wiener Library speaker Howard Falksohn as well as Gica Loening performing Klezmer music.

Culinary events included a 'Yom Tov nosh' in Glasgow, a sumptuous meal which ensured members turned out in force. Newcastle members were entertained by Soprano Victoria Atkinson at the Newcastle Chanukah Lunch, while the newly formed Dundee group began to discover their shared roots.

Southern groups

Despite the sad loss of some prominent members, it was another active year, with many groups continuing to flourish. We also saw an influx of the Second Generation. Many groups now provide lunch, which has increased numbers considerably, particularly in the smaller Continental Friends groups. The Book Club continued to grow in popularity and now meets every six weeks, while Café Imperial continues unaffected by age.

Highlights include a trip to a private screening of *Philomena*, a very well attended Chanukah Party at Alyth Gardens, and film, opera and lunch outings, including to London's West End theatres and Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, Sissinghurst Castle, the Institute of Physicians, and The Temple in Hertfordshire.

We also arranged three trips to see the latest interpretation of the play *Kindertransport* as well as organising, at the London Jewish Cultural Centre, a talk by Anthony Penrose on his mother, the American photographer Lee Miller. Members were treated to two West End shows, *Chorus Line* and *From Here to Eternity*, as well as a visit to Sandy's Row Synagogue.

The merging of the Hendon and Temple Fortune groups proved highly popular.

AJR Journal and website

A theme which continued to attract substantial coverage in the Journal was the return of members to the places of their birth in Germany, Austria and elsewhere, in many instances following official invitations from the local authorities in question.

Annual events of considerable significance to the lives of AJR members which continued to be covered were Holocaust Memorial Day, Yom HaShoah and Kristallnacht. Special events featured were those celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport, seminars on historical and cultural issues held jointly with the London Jewish Cultural Centre, and the closure of the AJR's Day Centre and the move to Amélie House.

Consultant Editor Anthony Grenville (key articles on historical themes relevant

to the lives of members), Gloria Tessler (reviews of art exhibitions), and Dorothea Shefer-Vanson ('Letter from Israel') continued to be regular contributors.

The correspondence columns remained, as ever, lively and informative, containing discussions on, among many other issues, Anglo-Jewry's historical reception of the refugees, peace-making in the Middle East, and the political bias of sections of the British media.

Reviews of books, theatre and various exhibitions, as well as search notices, featured as before, while reports on AJR group events, including outings, reflected the increased popularity of these activities.

Kindertransport

Aside from the Reunion, we organised a special Tea in the Houses of Parliament to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic debate, initiated by Philip Noel-Baker, which paved the way for the Kindertransport. In addition to enjoying a traditional English Tea, the group of about 60 Kinder heard from Lord Dubs, a Kind rescued by Sir Nicholas Winton, Baroness Boothroyd, and Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow. Prior to the Tea there was a rededication of the plaque erected in gratitude to Parliament for rescuing the Kinder.

We also helped World Jewish Relief arrange a memorial service at Liverpool Street Station at the beginning of December to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the first Kindertransport, a group of children from an orphanage in Berlin.

We are delighted to be presenting the London premiere of Carl Davies's *The Last Train to Tomorrow* at the Roundhouse in November 2014, when we will also mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Child Survivors Association (CSA)

In addition to regular social meetings in each other's homes, the CSA sent out the bimonthly newsletter, which kept members abreast of events and publications of interest.

A large number of members continued to be actively involved in Holocaust education, with many speaking in schools throughout the UK, at universities and at civic events. During 2013, individual CSA members also took part in events in Ireland, France, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Hong Kong and China. Five members attended the World Federation Annual Conference in Henderson, Nevada, and the Association retained representatives on the board and executive of this organisation as well as on the European Association of Survivors.

The CSA's book *We Remember*, an anthology of the experiences of 30 of its members, has now sold over 2,000 copies and is used as a textbook in many schools throughout the country.

Grants and Holocaust commemoration

We continued the work of the AJR Charitable Trust in supporting the Localities Project developed by the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre and in contributing to the cost of various local HMD events as

continued overleaf ➔

well as the national Yom HaShoah commemoration.

We also supported the Holocaust Education Project being developed by the Holocaust Survivor Friendship Association in Leeds and a project run by the Council of Christians and Jews to sponsor two Fellows for a study course at Yad Vashem. In addition, we enabled young air cadets from Barry in Wales and West Mercia to visit the sites of former Nazi concentration camps in Poland.

In a new venture, we launched a scheme to establish permanent memorials to some of the most prominent Jewish émigrés who fled Nazi oppression as well as to places and buildings with a strong connection to the Jewish refugees. The first plaque, in honour of Sir Hans Krebs, was unveiled at the Department of Biochemistry in Oxford in May; the second, unveiled in October, commemorates the life of Sir Ludwig Guttman; in November, we erected a plaque in memory of the well-known Cosmo restaurant.

Thanks

At this critical point in our members' lives, my fellow Trustees and I take great pride in the thoughtful and thorough manner in which our colleagues deliver AJR services. My sincere thanks go to our wonderful staff, capably led by Chief Executive Michael Newman and Directors Carol Rossen and David Kaye, for their tremendous efforts this past year and for continuing to bring great comfort to our members.

Many thanks also to all of you, who have sent in letters and cards of gratitude throughout the year – we greatly appreciate knowing that our efforts are recognised.

As the saying goes, charity begins at home, so please do tell us if you know of anyone who might benefit from our services. We look forward to welcoming you at our events this year.

Andrew Kaufman
Chairman,

The Association of Jewish Refugees

Treasurer's Report 2013

This was one of the most significant years for the administrative and financial development of our organisation. The charity completed its first year of operating as a company limited by guarantee, merging the activities of the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain and the AJR Charitable Trust. This has enabled us to streamline our operations. The account summaries which accompany this report are presented on that basis; the figures for 2012 have been re-presented in an equivalent format so the comparative is meaningful.

We are very fortunate that our financial position was significantly improved by the sale of the former premises of the AJR Centre at Cleve Road – for which our Chairman, Andrew Kaufman, deserves great credit and thanks – and also by the vesting of legacies. In addition, we have benefited from the very significant estate of a donor who died many years ago, following the death of his widow.

While these events are highly significant they were mainly foreseen and considered part of our existing longer-term plans. These plans will continue to be reviewed and refined by my fellow Trustee Directors and myself with a view to ensuring we remain able to meet the needs of our core membership as they become older and for as long as they are needed in the years ahead.

In 2013 financial markets continued to improve and we benefited from investment gains of over £1m to further help us offset the consumption of resources as part of normal charitable operations. Markets, how-

ever, remain volatile, cash returns are minimal, and a balanced prudent approach to the management of resources will continue.

While the closure of the AJR Centre was inevitable given the declining number of those who regularly attended it was also becoming difficult to justify continuing the service in that format. All our members continue, however, to benefit from a day centre facility as we have made arrangements for them to attend an alternative venue at Jewish Care's Sobell Centre, with appropriate transport and financial help being given for attendance where needed.

Our Self-Aid programme continues to assist members with the greatest need and in 2013 we were delighted to be able once again to make an additional special commemorative gift, this time to mark the birth of Prince George. We also felt able to make significant inflation-beating increases to regular monthly payments and seasonal gifts.

We were again generously funded by the Claims Conference and further supported by Six Point Foundation, who together provided over £1m of grant income, £635k of which was directly distributed to our members mainly for homecare. The balance was used to support the welfare and outreach work we undertake. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their support.

Our social and commemorative activities continue to be funded as before, with the 75th Kindertransport commemoration being a particular highlight, and we maintain our financial support for the National

Finance Report 2013

Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts Year ended 31st December 2013

	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Claims Conference, Six Point & Other Grants	970,740		1,125,588	
Subscriptions/Donations	109,867		110,991	
Investment income	458,353		472,331	
Other Income	28,552		9,676	
		1,567,512		1,718,586
Legacies	6,287,410		1,117,711	
Total Income	7,854,922		2,836,297	
Less outgoings:				
Day Centre	167,109		190,671	
Self Aid, Homecare and Emergency Grants	1,155,099		1,237,055	
Other organisations	155,347		206,116	
Administration/Depreciation	1,676,430		1,459,492	
		3,153,985		3,093,334
Donated by AJR Charitable Trust	4,138,089			
Net incoming/outgoing resources for the year	8,839,026			-257,037
Surplus/-Deficiency on realised and unrealised investments	1,112,149		1,264,922	
Net movement in funds	9,951,175		1,007,885	

Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) Summary Balance Sheet Year ended 31st December 2013

	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Asset and Investments	13,019,213		11,974,728	
Current assets	11,574,457		3,332,209	
Current liabilities	469,416		515,335	
Net Current Assets	11,105,041		2,816,874	
Net Assets	24,124,254		14,791,602	
Reserves brought forward from AJR Charitable Trust and Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain	14,791,602		13,783,717	
Less Freehold property retained by Charitable trust at 31 December 2012	618,523			
Net movement in funds for year	9,951,175		1,007,885	
Reserves Carried Forward	24,124,254		14,791,602	

Holocaust Centre for their pioneering work on Holocaust education.

Once again I extend my thanks to the finance team, who have to deal with the complex and extensive administration of our operations, which ensures all the requirements of the Claims Conference and other funders are met. This work includes serving not only the AJR but also the Umbrella Group of agencies, assisting survivors and refugees, which we lead. This is essential to ensure that these grants continue to be available.

David Rothenberg
Treasurer, The Association of Jewish Refugees



Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication

DO NOT FORGET US

Sir – The review of the online book *It's Not the Fatherland's Fault* in your April issue omits the most important statistic: 12,000 German-Jewish soldiers were killed – as the Germans put it, 'on the field of honour'.

Some years ago, I saw in a booklet about the Jews of Wesel (North Rhine-Westphalia) a photograph of a memorial to six Jewish soldiers of that city that had been affixed to the local synagogue. The memorial had been destroyed together with the synagogue on Kristallnacht and never replaced.

It occurred to me that the memory of these soldiers' sacrifice 'for Kaiser, Vaterland und Heimat' would forever be forgotten unless a new and suitable plaque were to be created and appropriately displayed and I made it my business to do whatever I could about this.

After some years and considerable trouble and aggravation, a large block of black granite containing the names of the fallen incised in gold lettering was placed in the city cemetery. In actual fact, there were seven names. My research discovered one soldier who, for some reason, had been left out. The dedication was by a rabbi from, I think, Düsseldorf.

At a subsequent ceremony, I requested a guard of honour with a trumpeter playing 'Ich hatt' einen Kameraden' (something like the 'Last Post'). Both guard of honour and trumpeter were furnished by soldiers of the new Bundeswehr. I invited the chairman and members of the Royal British Legion District of Germany to attend the ceremony and I myself laid a wreath obtained from the British Legion with a large ribbon and the message 'Vergiss uns nicht' (Do not forget us). I also gave an address concerning the treatment of Jews in the Kaiser's armed services which came as a considerable shock to those present.

The main purpose of this letter is to encourage all Jewish refugees to write to the Bürgermeisters, ministers or other people of influence and standing to see that the German-Jewish heroes of

1914-18 have their names recorded in war memorials and that the ceremonies that take place in August will especially commemorate their sacrifice – *for their ultimate reward was not the medals they were awarded but the deportation of their nearest and dearest to extermination and concentration camps.*

The Jewish veterans organised themselves into the RJF (Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten – Association of Jewish Frontline Soldiers) in 1923 in order to combat the rampant anti-Semitism. All in vain.

If we forget them, so will everyone else. And that would be injustice compounded.

Ernest G. Kolman, Greenford, Middx

A MATTER OF BIAS

Sir – I take exception to the opinions expressed by your correspondent Eric Sanders in your April issue. He is sharply critical of the *Daily Telegraph*, which, although not as pro-Israeli as in the days of Conrad Black and Max Hastings, is incomparably more on our side than the anti-Israeli and anti-American *Guardian*. As for Education Secretary Michael Gove, he is the most pro-Israeli member of the government and a real friend of ours. Mr Sanders should not support our enemies. He should keep his biased opinions to himself.

At the same time, looking at the large adverts placed in the papers by Marks and Spencer, it occurs to me that both Mr Marks and Mr Spencer must be turning in their graves. Emma Thompson and Annie Lennox are both prominent anti-Israeli campaigners. As for Baroness Lawrence, with respect, what is she doing in a fashion advert? Are these 'models' anything to do with the lousy figures that are now the norm for M&S?

Janos Fisher, Bushey Heath, Herts

Sir – Michael Gove is quite the most respectable politician we have. He is attempting to restore some rigour in an educational system that has been allowed

to deteriorate. I am surprised that you published Eric Sanders's invective against him.

Gerda Mayer, Chingford, London

Sir – I thank Eric Sanders for his sane comment on the *Guardian* controversy. Perhaps I can finally settle this tiresome debate with the following information. The *Guardian* has just – and not for the first time – been named 'newspaper of the year' in the Press Awards, one of a host of prizes given to individual *Guardian* writers and its digital service. No doubt to the horror of Peter Phillips, the award was given principally for the paper's reporting on government surveillance! According to the judges, the *Guardian* 'broke a story of global significance that went to the heart of the debate on press freedom The job of a newspaper is to speak truth to power and the past year has seen the *Guardian* do this with will and verve.'

I rest my case. If only German newspapers had shown the same courage and independence during the Nazi era!

Leslie Baruch Brent, London N19

Sir – Michael Gove is 'destructive, ignorant and reactionary', says leftist Eric Sanders. Obviously Mr Sanders does not believe that children should have the same opportunities of education that he and I enjoyed. Pity. He should write to the *Guardian* with his views. I am sure they would gladly print them.

Pity, too, that Anthony Grenville hardly mentions the suffering of Austrian Jews in his otherwise excellent front-page article. They suffered as much as the German Jews and were constantly reminded that Hitler was an Austrian. What's more, they received their so-called compensation about 50 years after the Germans because Austria claimed for years that it had been 'invaded' – as opposed to the reality of its having been a partner. Perhaps Dr Grenville should now write an article about the fate of the Austrian-Jewish refugees in the UK?

Interesting how Marc Schatzberger (March) ignores my question about how he would feel if someone like Edward Snowden had given information about Bletchley Park to the *Guardian* during the Second World War and the *Guardian* had printed it!

Snowden is a traitor and the *Guardian* is complicit in his treachery. I think Marc would agree that had a spy exposed Bletchley Park, that spy could have been executed for treason. Or does Marc think it is permissible to whistle-blow the Americans and British of today simply because their politics are not left-wing enough for him?

Marc defends the *Guardian* and Snowden, saying they have 'moral scruples'. Would a whistle-blower on Bletchley Park have had the same 'moral scruples'?

I have just come out of hospital and

continued overleaf ➔

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
continued from page 7

feel a little weak – but not weak enough to ignore Victor Ross's article 'The Right Climate' in your February issue!

Let me quote him: In New York, he writes, 'I felt twice the man I was in England'; 'English colleagues ... I would call acquaintances rather than friends'; Victor lives in 'an almost exclusively German-Jewish milieu'; at a milestone birthday the guest list consisted of 'not one bona-fide Englishman'. He continues 'I do not feel truly at home among the English', although he admits he was 'lucky to be let in, lucky to be alive, thankful and anxious to show my gratitude'. He concludes by saying that 'he never felt he belonged here and never felt anything other than a guest'.

This is so sad. I feel sorry for myself for feeling low following my operation but, believe me, I feel far more sorry for Victor for having lived such a miserable life in the country that rescued him from the Nazis! I was born in Austria but my home is England and all my best friends are English, whether Jewish or gentile.

Peter Phillips, Loudwater, Herts

RETRIEVING ASPECTS OF CHILDHOOD

Sir – Having spent several years of my life (1939-47) as a German refugee child in Great Britain, I am now trying to retrieve aspects of my childhood.

I wonder whether readers can help me trace copies of *The Migrant: Children's Paper*, later renamed *Children Calling: Children's Paper*, a newsletter issued by the Refugee Children's Evacuation Fund in London from 1942 onwards.

I also wonder whether readers can help me get in touch with any so-called First or Second Generation persons who at one time or another stayed in one or more of the refugee children's homes run by the Czech Refugee Trust Fund during the War in Broadstairs, Kent; Lancing, East Sussex; Hayton, Cumberland; Denbigh, Denbighshire; or Theydon Bois, Essex.

I would also like to get in touch with First or Second Generation persons who during the War lived in Scotland – Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen in particular – and were in one way or another affected by the Free German Youth in Great Britain, the Free German League of Culture in Great Britain, or the Free German Movement in Great Britain.

Perhaps readers even know of someone who, like me, benefited from the Foster Parents' Scheme initiated by the Refugee Children's Evacuation Committee (later renamed Refugee Children's Evacuation Fund) from 1940 onwards.

Dr Arno Graef, Berlin

THE GIFT

Sir – The makers of BBC's *Who Do You*

Think You Are? and ITV's *Long Lost Family* are working on a new series for BBC1 provisionally called *The Gift*.

Exploring the themes of forgiveness and gratitude, the programme will help those looking for someone important to express how they feel. Has someone ever helped you or your family? Have you been touched by the kindness of a stranger? Did they ever know the impact they had? If you would like to be able to find someone who has had a lasting effect on you, please contact thegift@walltowall.co.uk or call 020 3301 8486.

Sonia Sohal, London WC1

'THE ENGLISH WAY'

Sir – I was amused to read Lady Milena's article about knitting 'the English way' in your last issue. I too caused considerable interest and amusement with my 'funny' method of knitting. And how much quicker the Continental method is too!

We were knitting socks for the troops at our school. I got on swimmingly while my friend Beate Frankfurter was at school with me because she used to turn the heel for me. To my shame, I never did learn how to do it and, after she left school, I had to give up knitting socks. I didn't take up knitting again until my grandchildren came along.

Bronia Snow, Esher

JEWISH AGENTS IN THE ABWEHR

Sir – The last two issues of the Journal have referred to the strange story of Jewish agents in Admiral Canaris's Abwehr. I have no special knowledge of this but there is material on the internet and in a television programme I have seen about Canaris – one of the many on aspects of the Second World War constantly being shown and repeated on daytime television – that suggest what happened.

A group of agents selected by the Nazi Party were sent to the USA but most were executed as spies. Hitler was furious. When Canaris pointed out that it wasn't he who had chosen them, Hitler told him to send Jews and criminals instead of Nazis on such missions. This gave Canaris the excuse to send the Jews to Switzerland. But there had apparently been previous occasions when the Abwehr had also sent Jews abroad, for instance to Latin America.

Another programme I saw some time ago told the extraordinary tale of the German Jew who had fought in Russia with the Waffen SS. He had fled the Nazis and settled in Paris, only to be overtaken there by the occupation. With great boldness he had gone to a Wehrmacht office and volunteered his services. They told him they could not recruit people abroad but that he should try the Waffen SS, which did accept suitable volunteers. He was accepted by them after explaining that he had been circumcised for medical reasons. The man spoke anonymously on the programme and said that, in effect, his fellow soldiers

were a great bunch of guys – but if they had known his origins he would have been left hanging from the nearest tree. His testimony left me pretty disturbed!

Peter Roland, Bognor Regis

POLITICAL WARFARE EXECUTIVE

Sir – I am currently researching any German or Austrian Jewish émigrés who were recruited into the British Political Warfare Executive (PWE) in the Second World War.

The PWE was concerned with propaganda to Germany and the occupied countries. This included the production of clandestine radio stations from a secret recording studio near the village of Milton Bryant in Bedfordshire.

I am keen to contact anyone, or their relatives, who may have been employed by the PWE and particularly those who worked at Milton Bryant. Little is known about those who actually worked there and the staff lists that survive in archives mostly just mention the senior British staff.

I have previously published several books on the subject, but more based on the results of their labour than about the people involved.

Readers' help would be most appreciated.

Lee Richards, Peacehaven, East Sussex

NEED FOR A CIVIL LEGAL SYSTEM

Sir – Good to read in the last 'Letter from Israel' that there are people there with a vision of creating a modern democracy by separating the laws of the state and those of religion.

Having a civil court for marriage, women's and human rights does not stop religious people practising what they believe to be right as long as they give the same right to others. In the early days, some kibbutzniks did not get married as they disagreed with some rabbis – over, for instance, not permitting a widower to attend his wife's funeral if his name was Cohn. Not being married eventually meant there would be no pension if a partner was killed, so they gave in and had the religious ceremonies. Some orthodox Jews did not believe in having a state, so some early Zionists had already broken with their traditions by coming to Israel. But now there are many more sects as, of course, there are in most religions. Even more need for a civil legal system!

Bettina Cohn, Bristol

POOR OLD SCHOTTENGYMNASIUM

Sir – I find myself in the unusual position of replying to two separate letters in your columns, viz those by George Vulkan (March) and Hans Eirew (April). Both seem to have it in for the poor old Schottengymnasium – without telling us precisely what it is meant to have done wrong, either since the War or in 1938, before the Nazis closed it down.

As described in earlier correspondence,

continued on page 16 ➔

ART NOTES

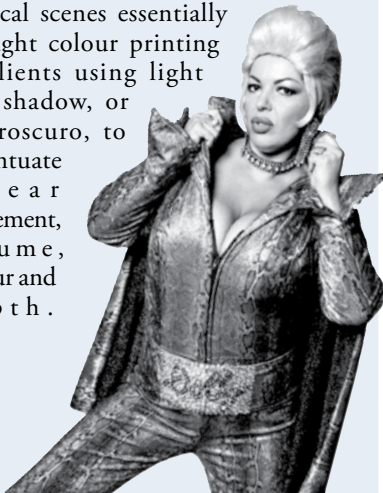
GLORIA TESSLER

Celebrity photographer **David Bailey** is famed for the 1960s personalities he immortalised in black-and-white. The faces of stars like Mick Jagger, Bob Dylan, Catherine Deneuve, David Bowie and – my own youthful idol! – the waif-like Jean Shrimpton with her huge, porous eyes, flow from his white backgrounds as though his lens can't contain them.

In its new exhibition, **Bailey's Stardust**, the **National Portrait Gallery** brings over 300 portraits, from the 1960s-70s, right up to the 21st century and, while his favoured black-and-white images are still the most effective, Bailey literally flowers into colour with his portraits of Zandra Rhodes in red glitter with a pink pageboy hairdo or a bejewelled Molly Parkin, age-defying and yet vulnerable in style and make-up.

Bold or subtle, Bailey pares down his subjects to their very essence. One room is devoted to striking fashion icons and another to his 1974 trip to Papua New Guinea, featuring huge portraits of tribesmen in feathers of the Kukukuku bird. Bailey is immersed in all human life. The show continues until 1 June and is worth a visit.

The 16th-century development of chiaroscuro woodcut techniques brought Renaissance masters like **Parmigianino**, **Raphael** and **Titian** to wider audiences, much as photography has done in our time. The revolutionary principles used by artists to produce well-known biblical scenes essentially brought colour printing to clients using light and shadow, or chiaroscuro, to accentuate **l i n e a r** movement, **v o l u m e**, colour and **d e p t h**.



'Elvis' (Groundhog Dolly) by David Bailey, 19xx © David Bailey

Renaissance Impressions: Chiaroscuro Woodcuts from the Collections of Georg Baselitz and the Albertina, Vienna, at the **Royal Academy** until 8 June this year, features over 150 rare prints of famous paintings, supplementing the black-line block with one or several tone blocks to produce varying grades of colour to generate light and depth. The revolutionary technique was a two-way collaboration between the artist, who drew the design, and the craftsman, who carved it in relief on the woodblock, using soft woods like cherry wood.

The technique was pioneered in Germany, where the artist **Lucas Cranach** went so far as to backdate two of his works to prove he had invented it. Several printmakers competed in their claims of authorship. Other German artists, like **Hans Baldung Grien** and **Hans Wechtlin** from **Albrecht Dürer's** circle, developed the woodcut soon taken up by the Italians and the Dutch.

Within a few years of its invention, **Ugo da Carpi** made his own claim to the medium, portraying works after Raphael. But the Italian differed by cutting his own woodblocks and avoiding the black-key block, to produce a more painterly effect. The expressive quality of the wood enhanced the texture of the woodcut, while the chiaroscuro effect suggested light and shade.

Antonio da Trento and **Niccolo Vicentino**, **Domenico Beccafumi** and **Andrea Andreani** experimented further. Typically of their times, the more violent themes prove the most expressive. Andreani's *Rape of a Sabine Woman*, after **Giambologna**, is among the most beautiful in composition. The leading Dutch exponent **Hendrick Goltzius's** woodcut *Hercules Killing Cacus* is another example of the colour and depth the medium can produce.

KINDERTRANSPORT LUNCH

14 May 2014

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Samantha Lishak

from WJR will be talking to us about their work

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CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

REVIEWS

From Second World War to Cold War

HITLER'S GENERALS IN AMERICA: NAZI POWS AND ALLIED MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

by **Derek R. Mallett**

University Press of Kentucky, 2013, hardback 264 pp., £29.00, obtainable from www.eurospanbookstore.com

This book is of considerable interest, particularly to anybody who wants to know more about military intelligence obtained by the Western Allies from senior German POWs. It complements the picture supplied by books such as Helen Fry's *The M Room* and Sönke Neitzel's *Tapping Hitler's Generals* as it examines the subject from the American point of view.

The author stresses throughout the difference between the British and American approaches. As the USA entered the war only in December 1941 – over two years later than Britain – the Americans had no experience of dealing with captured German senior officers. The British had by then perfected their method of making the generals feel comfortable and secure at Trent Park, and therefore relatively careless in their conversations (which were overheard by the 'secret listeners') and general behaviour. Throughout the war the Americans were happy for the British to lead the intelligence-gathering from German senior officer POWs: there was no need for them to get more seriously involved as all valuable intelligence was passed on to them by the British.

When the war in Europe ended in May 1945 British Intelligence immediately stopped all interrogations of, and secret listening to, German POWs, while the Americans now took the lead and started comprehensive questioning.

Following D-Day the number of captured German generals greatly increased and the British found it necessary to make room for them at Trent Park. The transfer of German senior officer POWs from Britain to America therefore started shortly afterwards, and the first to be shipped to the USA were known 'trouble-makers' like Generals Crüwell and von Arnim. Eventually there were about 60 senior officer POWs in the USA, all listed in Appendix A of the book.

When, late in 1944, eventual victory seemed certain, and some thought had to be given to how to manage the post-war occupation of Germany, the US authorities were anxious to determine which officers held anti-Nazi views and which were 'Nazi die-hards'. Washington decided to send a special officer to the camp where the German generals were held with the 'mission' to find out which

continued on page 10 ➔

of them might be used for 'psychological warfare'. Strangely, it was never spelt out what exactly this term meant but a certain Captain Rapp, a fluent German speaker, was entrusted with this task. He was not given very much time to do this and, although he was unable to interrogate all the generals, he selected five of them to be sent to another camp for 're-education'.

The author criticises the American authorities for sending lower-ranking known Nazi-POWs to the same camp (albeit accommodating them in a separate section) and holding the non-commissioned POWs acting as batmen and cooks for the selected generals there as well. The former therefore had to go daily to the generals' section of the camp and back again at the end of the day, which enabled them to relate to their comrades what they had heard the generals discuss. This arrangement did not contribute to 'security'.

In May 1945 the so-called Hill Project was started, with three objects: to research 'subjects which will aid military security in Europe'; 'research in prosecuting the war against Japan'; and research 'in improving intelligence organisation and techniques ... on which important lessons can be gained from studying German methods in detail'. POWs were selected for doing this research in German sources, which was to be carried out at Camp Ritchie in Maryland. The second of these objects proved redundant as the camp was ready for transferring the selected POWs only after the Japanese had surrendered. A total of 55 German officer POWs were transferred to Camp Ritchie (seven generals among them) and the entire project finished in April 1946. It was known only to British and American Intelligence – the French and Soviets were not told about it.

The author expresses surprise that the US authorities left a totally unsuitable officer in charge of the camp where the generals were held - he considered them just ordinary POWs and totally ignored their rank. Their accommodation and general treatment barely reached the standard required by the Geneva Convention. Most of them had previously been held at Trent Park and were extremely dissatisfied and unco-operative. Even inspectors of the International Red Cross agreed with them.

In my view, the most interesting part of the book deals with the early attempts to learn as much as possible about the Red Army and Soviet methods and organisational details from the senior German POWs who had served at the Russian front. Obviously, the Western Allies' intelligence authorities were getting ready for the 'Cold War' and its potential deterioration into a 'Hot War'. No German officer viewed as able to assist the Americans had reason to

fear he might be prosecuted for having committed atrocities. It is probably not generally known that the Americans enlisted not only former Nazi scientists and engineers to help them (like Wernher von Braun), but also former German generals.

As it was one of the Allies' declared aims to rid post-war Germany of the all-pervading nationalism and militarism which the Nazis had propagated, it is difficult to understand that the Americans were contemplating using former generals for that purpose.

Just one criticism of this book: several times the German word for Frenchmen is given as 'die Französen' instead of 'die Franzosen'. Surely such an error could have been avoided in a book whose author obviously had several German collaborators and which is published by a university press!

Fritz Lustig

Survivor's tale

THE SOAP MYTH

written by Jeff Cohen, directed by Arnold Mittelman

London premiere screening by Digital Theatre at the Jewish Museum, London

American playwright Jeff Cohen's critically acclaimed piece about a survivor memory, historical memory and Holocaust denial had an Off-Broadway run in the spring of 2012. That production was filmed digitally and a London premiere screening of it took place at the Jewish Museum at the end of March.

One of the ugliest, and most emotive, aspects of the concentration camps is the Nazis' supposed use of fat from the victims' bodies to make soap. Here, ageing survivor Milton Saltzman (played by Greg Mullavey) describes a photograph of a coffin which contained soap – the sole remains of a Holocaust victim. Young Jewish investigative journalist Annie Blumberg (Andi Potamkin), keen to get to grips with the facts and figures of the Holocaust, is determined in a series of interviews with historians and a Holocaust denier (portrayed by Dee Pelletier) to remain neutral, thus distressing the passionate Saltzman, who is driven to despair since no one will take his story seriously.

Milton doesn't want sympathy or understanding: he wants endorsement, pure and simple. And he expects more from this young woman, who has surely amassed sufficient data to corroborate his story!

In this play, which appears at first to be more talking heads than drama, Jeff Cohen builds a case from the many questions which perhaps cannot be answered but point to a deeper truth: that it is less important to collate the precise details of how many died in the

Holocaust and how than to accept that the Holocaust occurred simply because there are survivors left to tell the tale.

In a powerful denouement, Annie knows she must pull out all the stops to help the desperate Saltzman, who is like a bubbling cauldron waiting to be released from the misery of his isolation and what appears to be his sole ownership of the Holocaust. Milton's description of his experience in the camp showers is excruciating. But the metaphor is the soap itself – an anguished leitmotif to the action.

Following the screening of the play, Arnold Mittelman, Producing Artistic Director of the National Jewish Theater Foundation, presented the Foundation's awards to Henry Goodman, Sir Ronald Harwood, Sir Antony Sher, who was not present, Martin Sherman, author of Holocaust plays, and Duncan C. Weldon, the West End producer. He also chaired a discussion panel.

Gloria Tessler



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Telephone: 020 8455 2286

A visit to Auschwitz

We approached the entrance to Auschwitz, pausing briefly before the gates. Yes, now I can see how people were tricked into thinking this would be a 'better place'. The brick buildings still stand smartly, 'welcoming' the new arrivals. These were built for the army so their exteriors don't reveal the horrors which were hidden inside. We learnt of how the victims of the Nazis were packed in – many, many more people than these buildings were ever designed for.

I couldn't previously understand how so many people could be bullied, controlled and destroyed in this manner. I learned of the long journeys people were forced to make before they arrived at Auschwitz and began to comprehend how weak with hunger, dehydrated and demoralised they would be. Their main motivation – the promise of a better life, a new home. They marched on, unable to believe that what lay ahead could be worse. Part of their vulnerability was that they didn't believe that other humans would treat them so badly in order to further their own comforts, beliefs and lifestyles.

What choice was there? To die a futile death now, at the end of a long arduous journey, by refusing to co-operate, or to hope things would get better?

We moved through the buildings, each telling of the terrible life for those 'living' at Auschwitz. There are rooms full of shoes, suitcases, hair, pots and pans – all just a tiny fraction of what actually passed through the camp, but

hugely indicative of the lives lost, the despair and the tragedy.

They say a visit to Auschwitz changes you. I wondered how. I believe it has changed me. Every day I used to appreciate my life – but more so now. I used to stop and smell the roses and listen to the birds sing, but now I appreciate the freedom I have in being able to choose all these things. I find it frustrating to hear people making life difficult for each other when a change of tone or attitude could make it so much more congenial. If you haven't been to Auschwitz, do go. Those who lost their lives would want us all to realise what a precious and wonderful gift we have in our lives, our freedom.

My thanks go to the AJR for giving me the opportunity to go on this trip and to the Holocaust Education Trust, which organised the trip and extended invitations to the AJR.

Bernadette Cleal

Accounts and Services Administrator, AJR

Monument to bear names of all Dutch Holocaust victims

A monument is to be erected in the Dutch capital next year naming all Dutch victims of the Nazi occupation.

The 'Holocaust Names Monument', the first of its kind in the Netherlands, will be designed by American-Jewish architect Daniel Libeskind.

The memorial will list the names of all 102,000 Jews, Roma and Sinti who were deported from the Netherlands to Nazi death and concentration camps.

www.fishburnbooks.com

Jonathan Fishburn

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

He is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association.

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

EVENTS AT JW3

Continental Britons Film and Discussion

Thursday 19 June 2014

4-5.30 pm

Dr Bea Lewkowicz

Director of Sephardi Voices and
Co-Director of AJR Refugee Voices Archive

Entry: £8

Based on her film *Continental Britons*, Dr Lewkowicz presents some of the journeys of the German and Austrian refugees who arrived in the UK in the late 1930s.

Among those included in her film are Andrew Sachs, Judith Kerr, Wolfgang Suschitzky and Norbert Brainin.

Music as Memory

Thursday 26 June

4.30-5.30 pm

Dr Malcolm Miller

Research Associate at the Institute of
Musical Research and Associate Lecturer
at the Open University, Goldsmiths College
and City Lit

Entry: £8

Dr Miller traces the careers of notable émigré composers such as Hans Gal, Egon Wellesz, Vilem Tausky, Berthold Goldschmidt and Joseph Horowitz.

Please book tickets through JW3 on
020 7433 8988 or at www.jw3.org.uk

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ARTS AND EVENTS MAY DIARY

Thur 1 Faces in the Void: Czech Survivors of the Holocaust Poetry reading and photographic presentation. Inspired by a Czech scroll used by a synagogue in Cambridge, photographer Marion Davies and poet Jane Liddell-King travelled to its original home, the city of Pardubice, in search of Jewish survivors of the Holocaust and the subsequent Communist regime. A video will also be shown of Alice Herz-Sommer commenting on a poem Jane wrote and dedicated to her. At Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust, Westminster Synagogue, Kent House, Rutland Gardens, London SW7 1BX, 7.30 pm. See www.memorialscrollstrust.org/events/a-face-in-the-void/

9-23 May Exhibition: Children's Story: Children's Drawings from the Terezin Ghetto, 1943-1944 (from Jewish Museum in Prague) Includes 40 copies of children's drawings as well as related text. At Bootham School, York. See www.childrens-war-museum.co.uk

After last year's success ... it's back!

Are you thinking about buying a computer or interested in computer lessons?

This might be the event for you!

This June JFS are once again inviting members for an exciting afternoon at the school. Find out all you wanted to know about the internet and computers. Discover with JFS students how to email, play computer bridge, view pictures, listen to classical music and much much more ...

Date: 30 June

Two sessions available:
9.30 to 12.30 or 1.30 to 3.30

No previous computer experience required.

Limited spaces.

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Jonathan on 020 8385 3070
or at jonathan@ajr.org.uk

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Book Club An Unusual Aspect of Apartheid

Barbara Mutch's *The Housemaid's Daughter* tells the tale of a child growing up in a small town in South Africa who becomes a gifted pianist. The story, running from the 1920s to the present day, shows an aspect of apartheid that is not normally shown in literature today. *Irene Goodman*

Cardiff Members Made Aware of AJR Services

A decision was made to run the group twice yearly, in May and September/October, with a speaker where possible. AJR Social Services Head Sue Kurlander made members aware of services provided by the organisation which they could make use of should they wish to do so. *Kathryn Prevezer*

Glasgow Book Club An Excellent Read

There was no shortage of input from members at our meeting in the home of Marion Camrass. *The Marrying of Chani Kaufman* by Eve Harris proved an excellent read. We were delighted to welcome Rita McNeil to the Book Club. *Agnes Isaacs*

Ealing Story of the Mona Lisa

Myra and Peter Sampson gave a fascinating presentation on the story of the Mona Lisa, telling us, among many other things, that hordes of visitors to the Louvre today spend an average of 15 seconds looking at the painting. *Leslie Sommer*

Café Imperial Football Tickets – Then and Now

Conversation on the Ukrainian situation eventually led – believe it or not! – to football. Bill, a Spurs supporter since 1956, paid £12 for his original season ticket. The late Billy Field paid seven shillings and six pence for his Arsenal ticket after being demobbed. *Esther Rinkoff*

Ilford A Great Raconteur

Chris Moncrieff, formerly from the Press Association, told us numerous anecdotes from his time with Margaret Thatcher that kept us chuckling. A great raconteur with amazing recall of the many situations he found himself in. *Meta RoseNeil*

East Midlands (Nottingham) A Description of the Museum at Beth Shalom

Aneesa Riffat, Museum Curator at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre, explained to us what her work entailed. Also, Esther introduced us to Kathryn Williams, the AJR's

new Social Worker – we wish her well in her new job. *Bob Norton*

Harrogate and York Sharing Music and Experiences of Life

Meeting at the home of Inge Little in Harrogate, we first shared favourite or meaningful pieces of music then old and recent experiences in our own lives. It was a lovely spring-like day and we revelled in the sunshine and warmth of friendship among us. *Edith Jayne*

Pinner The Palace of Knightsbridge

Richard Furnival Jones, Manager of the Wine and Spirits Department at Harrods, traced the history of this prestigious establishment since 1849. With his 40 years' experience, he gave us a most enjoyable insight into the operation of the store. *Walter Weg*

Bristol Making Our Own Entertainment

With Kathryn as co-ordinator, we made our own entertainment, hearing the unique stories of our members. We greeted our highest number of Second-Generation attendees – and a new mother-and-daughter couple to boot! *Hazel Rank Broadley*

HGS Life of Soane

Kenn Taylor from the Sir John Soane Museum told us about the life of Soane, the son of a bricklayer who in 1788 was commissioned as an architect for the Bank of England and Palace of Westminster. An 1833 Act of Parliament established his house as a museum. *Carmen Stevens*

Kindertransport at Manchester Opera House

Manchester

A group including survivors and members of the Second and Third Generations saw the wonderful production of *Kindertransport* at Manchester Opera House directed by Andrew Hall. While the play itself was moving, the audience was most impressed with the after-show discussion, when three Kinder – Gerda Rothberg, Rebecka Scherer and Margot Showman – answered questions from both cast and audience about their own *Kindertransport* experiences. *Hannah Goldstone (Third Generation)*

Didsbury and Cheshire CF

We had the pleasure to meet Emma Degan, in Manchester to play the role of Helga in *Kindertransport* at the Opera House. It was most interesting to talk to her and she was keen to hear stories from members of our group. *Janina Hochland*

Hull CF A Lovely Mix of Music

Sunday lunch at Olive Rosner's was followed by a discussion about the forthcoming AJR London trip plus a lively mix of klezmer music and music from the musicals. *Wendy Bott*

St John's Wood The Psychology of Family Relationships

Prof Tanya Byron led an illuminating discussion on the psychology of family relationships and especially on the effects of new technology on young people and their worried parents and grandparents. *Michael Spiro*

Essex (Westcliff) Action Reconciliation Service for Peace

The AJR's Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP) intern Dora Köhler gave a most interesting talk on her organisation, from the Second World War to the present day. The ARSP places hundreds of young people in charitable institutions around the world. *Esther Rinkoff*

Brighton-Sarid (Sussex) Cigarette Philanthropist

'The Life and Achievement of the Philanthropist Bernard Baron' was researched and told to us by Godfrey Gould. Born in Russia, Bernard Baron emigrated at the age of 17 to the USA, where he invented the cigarette machine. In 1895 he came to the UK and took over the Carreras Factory Co. Baron supported many Jewish and non-Jewish charities. *Ceska Abrahams*

Lady with the Lamp

What a wonderful treat to hear such a fascinating talk about the Lady with the Lamp at the Florence Nightingale Museum in south-east London. Museum Director Natasha McEnroe really got under the skin of this very clever and formidable woman. Then we explored the exhibition and learned a little about the nursing profession now and then. *Janet Weston*

Marlow An Air of Sadness

Meeting at the home of Alan Kaye, we discussed many topics of current interest. There was an air of sadness as one of the stalwarts of the group, Alex Lawrence, had recently passed away. *Arthur Mayer*

An Emotional and Memorable Evening – Glasgow Holocaust Memorial Day event

We had a delightful outing to the Oakgrove Primary School, where some 30 boys and girls greeted us singing the song *Shalom Chaverim* in lovely harmony. They were accompanied by a young man with a cello and a young woman with a clarinet, both from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Individual children read out passages, singing and playing improvised instruments matching the texts. An emotional and memorable morning. Thanks to Angela and Claire. *Halina Moss*

AJR OUTINGS PLANNED FOR 2014

Full details will appear in the Journal 2 calendar months before each outing



Tuesday 6 May to Thursday 8 May
Annual London Trip – 3 days of events open to all

Thursday 15 May
Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple in Neasden – morning visit followed by lunch

Sunday 15 June
Gilbert & Sullivan Opera and cream tea at Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow

Sunday 29 June
Judith Kerr OBE, a German-born British writer and illustrator, will be speaking exclusively to AJR at LJCC. Families welcome: children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren

Thursday 10 July
Frogmore Paper Mill – lunch, guided tour and making your own paper

Thursday 17 July
Montefiore Synagogue in Ramsgate – with lunch beforehand by the seaside

Tuesday 22 July
Viennese tea at The Delaunay in Central London

Make a note in your diary not to miss these exciting events!

MAY GROUP EVENTS

Cambridge	1 May	Sheila Stuart, Former Mayor of Cambridge: 'Life in the Council'
Pinner	1 May	Marilyn Greene: 'The V&A'
Ealing	6 May	Raymond Sturgess: 'Life at the English Criminal Bar'
Ilford	7 May	Elaine Wein, City & Westminster Guide: 'Let's All Go Down The Strand'
Leeds HSFA	11 May	Jerry Pearlman: 'Some Environmental Legal Zealots'
HGS	12 May	Dr Susan Cohen: 'Eleanor Rathbone'
Prestwich/ Whitefield	12 May	Meeting at home of Louise Elliott
Essex (Westcliff)	13 May	Otto Deutsch, Chairman of Essex Group
Marlow	13 May	Social Get-together
Glasgow	14 May	Afternoon Tea at Pollok Park
St John's Wood	14 May	Vivian Weinman, Board of Deputies
York, Harrogate and Hull	14 May	Day Trip to Burnby Hall and Gardens
Edinburgh CF	15 May	Social
Manchester	18 May tbc	Meeting at Maccabi
Brighton-Sarid (Sussex)	19 May	Peter Sampson: 'Jewish Songwriters and Our 15th Anniversary'
Edgware	20 May	Camilla Goddard: 'Bee-keeping and Helping Bees'
Broughton/ Crumpsall	21 May	Meeting at Beenstock
Radlett	21 May	Tim Pike: 'Economy Update from Bank of England'
Welwyn GC	22 May	Social at home of Monica
North West London	27 May	(at Alyth Gardens) Film: 'Alice Herz-Sommer' (please book in advance)
Book Club	28 May	Social and Discussion
Café Imperial	28 May	Social Get-together
Didsbury	28 May	Meeting at Bridge Club
Wembley	28 May	Raymond Sturgess: 'Life at the English Criminal Bar'
Glasgow Book Club	29 May	Social
Liverpool	29 May tbc	Day Trip to St Anne's-on-Sea
North London	29 May	Lucy Daniels, Former Chair, British Dietetic Association: 'Nutrition, Health and Enjoyment – Trying to Get It Right'

North West London Winning the Lottery – If Only!

With our speaker indisposed, we discussed various topics including the announcement in the recent Budget of major developments at Brent Cross and what we would do if we won £2 million on the Lottery – if only!

David Lang

Glasgow A Convivial Get-together

Colin Grant described his life in journalism, most of it spent at the *Sunday Post*, a popular weekly covering all Scotland, and his progress through the editorship of sports then news sections, with many anecdotes on press life. Altogether a convivial get-together.

Halina Moss

West Midlands (Birmingham) Pure Delight

We were enchanted yet again by the Orchestra of the Swan performing Mozart's *Turkish Concerto* with solo violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen. An afternoon of pure delight.

Esther Rinkoff

Radlett Life at the Home Office

Our speaker, Leslie Sommer, who had spent over 40 years as a Home Office civil servant, gave a vivid account of the structure and ethos of this highly complex institution. A window into a world most of us rarely glimpse.

Fritz Starer

Edinburgh 'Are We Too Materialistic?'

We spent considerable time deciding what 'materialistic' actually meant before coming to the conclusion that we, as individuals, weren't. Our meeting, at the Royal Overseas League Hotel, was enjoyed by all and we welcomed Karl Stern, who joined us for the first time.

Agnes Isaacs

Wessex Inside the World of Politics

Chris Moncrieff, former Political Editor of the Press Association, regaled us with amusing stories and provided some inside knowledge of the world of politics.

Kathryn Prevezer

Welwyn Garden City A Jolly Time Plus a Wide-ranging Discussion

We had a jolly time at Monica's, with a wide-ranging discussion. As ever, Hazel provided the delicious cakes and biscuits and informed us of the many interesting outings arranged for us over the next few months.

Lee Beckett

Wembley Diet and Nutrition

Expert dietician Lucy Daniels told us about diet and nutrition. It proved a fascinating and informative afternoon.

Laura Levy

Inside the AJR continued overleaf ➔

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Child Survivors Association-AJR
Henri Obstfeld
020 8954 5298 H.obstfeld@talk21.com

INSIDE THE AJR continued from page 13

Bromley CF A Very Special Afternoon
 We are, as always, appreciative of Liana and Hazel's hospitality and a delicious lunch was provided at our meeting. A very special afternoon in the company of friends where topics as diverse as cultural identity and mothers-in-law were discussed.
Dorothea Lipton

North London A Virtual Walk Down the Strand
 We were about to sing 'Let's All Go Down the Strand' when Kathryn introduced our speaker, Elaine Wein, who took us on a virtual walk down the Strand, illustrating it with some of the many interesting buildings there.
David Lang

AJR TRIP TO ISRAEL

If you are interested in a possible trip to Israel later this year please telephone Carol Rossen or Lorna Moss on 020 8385 3070.

**~ ~ DINNER ~ ~
 TUESDAY 6 MAY 2014**

at 7.00 pm
 at London Jewish Cultural Centre
 with Ian Austin MP
 & Karen Pollock MBE
 of Holocaust Education Trust

As part of the AJR's annual three-day trip to London we will be holding a dinner at LJCC with guest speakers Ian Austin and Karen Pollock.


Ian Austin has been MP for Dudley North since 2005. In 1999 he was appointed a political advisor to Chancellor of the Exchequer (later Prime Minister) Gordon Brown and was well known as one of Gordon Brown's closest advisors.

Karen Pollock is Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) and a member of the Jewish Human Rights Coalition UK. She will talk about the work of HET in educating future generations.

A kosher supervised meal with drinks will be served.

**Cost £25.00 per person.
 All places must be booked in advance.**

**For further details, please contact
 Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or at
 susanharrod@ajr.org.uk**



**OUTING
 TO WESTCLIFF
 TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2014**

Join us for our annual outing to Westcliff.
 We will have the opportunity to socialise with members of the AJR Essex Group, with a buffet lunch at Westcliff Synagogue on arrival. We will then have a tour of Southend, a trip along the pier by train, tea at the Pier Café and, hopefully, the chance to sit and enjoy the weather.
 £24 pp includes refreshments on arrival, buffet lunch, tour of Westcliff, pier train, tea at Pier Café, and return coach journey from London.
**For further details, please contact
 Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070
 or at susan@ajr.org.uk**

**OPERATIC
 AFTERNOON
 AND CREAM TEA
 SUNDAY 15 JUNE 2014**



**Grim's Dyke Hotel, Mansion House,
 Old Redding, Harrow, Middx HA3 6SH**

This is truly an English treat, in keeping with the house and its heritage!
 We begin with a guided tour of the house and grounds, followed by a Full English Cream Tea, with sandwiches, homemade scones and tea fancies. Principal opera singers perform excerpts from their favourite operas.
Time 2.30 arrival, 3 pm start
Place Guests to meet in the Lobby and Library Bar. Tours of the house and grounds will begin at 3 pm. Opera begins at 4:45 pm.
Dress Code Smart
Price £29.00 per person - Includes Opera Performance and Full Cream Tea, preceded by tour of house and grounds
**Transport will be available
 at an additional cost**
**For further details, please contact
 Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070
 or at susan@ajr.org.uk**

SPECIAL EVENT

**The Last Train
 to Tomorrow**
Sunday 9 November 2014, 3 pm
 at The Roundhouse, London NW1

The world-famous composer and conductor Carl Davis will perform the London premiere of his tribute to the Kindertransport, *The Last Train to Tomorrow*, on Sunday 9 November at The Roundhouse, London NW1.
 As the date marks the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the proceedings will include a commemoration of the Reichspogrom of 9-10 November 1938.
 The event will also feature *The Marriage of Figaro Overture* by Mozart and Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* performed by the City of London Sinfonia and the Finchley Children's Music Group, together with an outstanding young violin soloist from the Yehudi Menuhin School.
 As the event will take place on a Sunday afternoon, we particularly encourage members to bring along their children and grandchildren.
Details of how to purchase tickets will be announced in due course, but to register your interest in attending please email enquiries@ajr.org.uk

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AJR ANNUAL LONDON TRIP
Tuesday 6 May – Thursday 8 May 2014

This year's trip will include a visit to Kenwood House; dinner at the London Jewish Cultural Centre with guest speaker Ian Austin MP; a guided tour of the National Theatre and a matinee performance of their latest production *A Taste of Honey*; a relaxing evening and dinner at an award-winning kosher Chinese restaurant; a visit to Camden Arts Centre; and a boat trip down The Thames with lunch. Plus, as always, the opportunity to meet friends old and new.
 Accommodation will be at a London hotel for members based outside London. Members living in London can participate in the daily events.
For further details, please contact Susan Harrod at Head Office on 020 8385 3070 or at susan@ajr.org.uk

AJR OUTING



**Thursday 15 May 2014
 at 11.00 am**

**BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir,
 Neasden, London**
 Europe's first traditional Hindu Temple

Join us for a visit to see this masterpiece of Indian design and workmanship in the heart of London and marvel at the intricate marble and wooden carvings.
 Our visit will last approximately 2 hours and will consist of a short welcome and introductory address, a video presentation, and a guided tour of the Mandir. We will then have lunch at a nearby vegetarian restaurant.
**For further details, please contact
 Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070
 or at susan@ajr.org.uk**

OBITUARIES

Zygfryd Klipstein, born Zywiec 6 March 1922, died Leeds 2 February 2014

Zygfryd Klipstein, an important figure in the last decades of the Bradford Orthodox Jewish community, has passed away at the age of 91.

Zygfryd arrived in Bradford in 1952, quickly rising to the position of Chief Textile Designer at George Garnett and Sons. He learned his profession in southern Poland. The story of how he ended up in Bradford begins at the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the second week of the War, the train in which Zygfryd's family was fleeing east was overtaken by the Wehrmacht. The Jews were separated and imprisoned in the synagogue at Lancut but were later released. Since it was unsafe to remain under German occupation, Zygfryd managed to cross the River San into the Russian sector. Over the next few weeks, the family was reunited in Lvov. However, in June 1940 they were transported into the heart of Siberia as punishment for refusing Russian citizenship.

At one point, Zygfryd fell into an ice-cold Siberian river and had to have his clothes cut off with an ice pick. On another occasion, logs broke loose from a railway truck but jammed just as he was about to be crushed. Somehow, the family survived on forest berries, nettles and a few meagre rations.

When the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact collapsed in 1941, Polish prisoners were eventually released from the Siberian labour

camp. Many, including Zygfryd's family, made their way to warmer climes in Soviet Central Asia. They arrived in Uzbekistan but the population soon swelled uncontrollably as thousands of Russian refugees appeared, bringing disease and famine in their wake. Zygfryd's family rented a windowless room at the back of a mud hut in Samarkand and Zygfryd found work in a textile factory. He suffered many trials, including a stint in prison for continuing to refuse Russian citizenship, sickness from scarlet fever, and two months in a coma after contracting typhus. Eventually, the Poles were allowed to form their own fighting units. Zygfryd's unit passed through Majdanek, two weeks after it had been liberated, and Zygfryd saw many of the Nazi atrocities at first hand.

When the War ended, Zygfryd returned to Bielsko-Biala, where he completed his studies. He met his wife-to-be, Berta Bienenstock, shortly before she left for England on one of the ships arranged by Rabbi Schonfeld. Meanwhile, Zygfryd and his mother travelled through Austria and crossed illegally into Italy, living there as stateless persons for the next four years.

By 1951 Berta had obtained a degree in Mathematics and Chemistry, when Zygfryd



joined her in England on a two-week entry permit. They were married by Rabbi Schonfeld with a *minyán* comprising one friend and nine strangers. Fortunately, when Zygfryd's permit expired, the authorities did not deport him. Some months later, Zygfryd was able to take up the position at Garnett's in Yorkshire and, five years on, he became fully naturalised.

In Bradford, Berta and Zygfryd found the peaceful haven they had longed for. Their sons Richard and Philip were born and Zygfryd became an active member of the Bradford Hebrew Congregation. He served as Head of the Education Committee, Head of the Chevra Kadisha, and President. When the Bradford community dwindled, Zygfryd and Berta moved to Leeds, where Zygfryd joined the Shadwell Lane synagogue choir. Zygfryd's passion for singing had begun years earlier, in the choir of the Grand Synagogue of Bielsko-Biala, built in 1881 and destroyed by the Nazis in 1939. Zygfryd and Berta both joined the Leeds AJR group.

Zygfryd is survived by Berta, sons Richard and Philip, and five grandchildren, who all live in Israel.

Philip Klipstein

Melitta Roter, born Vienna 5 July 1920, died London 31 December 2013

My mother Melitta was born in Vienna in 1920 to Sofie Maiman, who had come to Vienna from Crakow, Poland, and David Maiman from Chortkov, now Russia.

From an early age Melitta showed an aptitude for the arts and, when she was in her teens, was given a contract as a member of the *corps de ballet* in the Vienna State Opera under the then Director and Head of the Ballet School, Margarethe Wallmann. Had they been able to televise the New Year's Day concert in those days, Melitta would no doubt have been one of the dancers in the ballet sequences that now form part of the annual televised concerts from the Musikverein in Vienna. It was televised once again the day after she passed away.

Her contract was terminated abruptly when, as a Jew, she was asked to leave. Following the Anschluss, Melitta left her mother country twice – on the first occasion getting as far as Metz in eastern France before being turned back and, on the second, finally arriving in England in September 1938 and making her way to Manchester, together with her mother, my grandmother, to become a factory worker making military uniforms. She was almost certainly not a very good machinist and she often spoke of the kindness of the girls she worked with, who were on piecework and actually lost money while trying to help her. This wartime effort on behalf of her new home and country no doubt encouraged what was to become a life-long allergy to sewing.

At this time, my grandmother ran a boarding house for refugees and soldiers and it was through this that my father, Eric Roter, having arrived in the UK just days before the outbreak of war in September 1939, found and made contact with my mother, a name he recognised as a former dancing colleague of his sister Rita.

They were married on 6 July 1941 in Manchester and then travelled throughout the country while he was in the Pioneer Corps, subsequently settling in London, where they remained for over 60 years.

My mother tried in vain to obtain a position at the Ballet here in London, but Dame Ninette de Valois, founder of the Sadlers Wells Ballet Company, which later became The Royal Ballet, was at that time keen to have a company of mainly British dancers. So my mother gave up all ideas of the ballet and used yoga as a means of keeping herself fit, exercising once or twice a week until shortly before she passed away.

In the meantime, my father had been able to trace his own mother and sister as far as Riga. Even the help offered by a cousin here, the actress Wanda Rotha, was insufficient to enable them to get out of Vienna in time to avoid the death march.

Being Viennese, dancing in the ballet, speaking German and, right to the very end, still



sounding like she had arrived in England just a few weeks ago, were the things that coloured the whole of my mother's life and left an indelible impression on my life and on those of my own family. One of her greatest skills was making that old-time Viennese potato salad that she made to perfection and over the years we all consumed many hundreds of kilos of it.

Melitta was for several years a member of the AJR. The organisation gave her a great deal of support and she also had much enjoyment from attending various activities in the groups in Edgware and, subsequently, in Whetstone after she came to live with us in Southgate.

Just as a recent article in the *AJR Journal* mentioned, I too have many happy memories of the Dorice, Cosmo Restaurant and Lessiter's Chocolate Shop on the Finchley Road. I wonder whether anyone else remembers Mr Kaye's restaurant at the bottom of some flats in St John's Wood, where many Continental families met for lunch on Sunday?

An illness in May last year meant that my mother came to live with us for some months before suddenly taking a turn for the worse and passing away at the very end of the year.

She is, and will continue to be, greatly missed by her daughter, son-in-law and grandsons.

Rita Hockman



LETTER FROM ISRAEL

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

One week last September

I happen to be one of those annoying people who wake up early in the morning full of vim and vigour and ready to tackle anything. Getting up at around 6 am is no big deal for me and sometimes I wake up even before that and have no option but to get up and start my day.

I have made it part of my morning routine, after having a cup of coffee and scanning the newspaper, to go down into my basement, which contains exercise equipment and a television set. And so I walk for about half an hour on the treadmill (just under two kilometers) and then have a set routine of exercises – some upright, some on a floormat, some with leg weights, others with hand weights – for another half an hour. I acquired the routines over the course of the last 20 or 30 years, first in the late Uri Michael's fitness studio in Jerusalem and subsequently in the fitness centre at my place of employment. Of course, exercising in a group is very different from exercising alone, but by now my routine has become so fixed that I hardly have to think any more and the exercises seem to follow on naturally from one another. I enjoy exercising on my own. I also enjoyed exercising in a group in the past but nowadays, as I no longer go in

to work, I'm less inclined to drive into town to engage in group activities.

In order not to be bored while exercising, I watch the various TV news channels, switching between Sky, BBC, France 24 and Fox News. This way I get an overview of what's going on in the world and feel that I'm not completely cut off from what's happening out there.

But that week last September I found myself getting more and more depressed with what I was seeing and hearing as terrorist attacks featured almost constantly on the television screen. Terror attacks in Afghanistan. One hundred people killed by suicide bombers in a church in Pakistan. About the same number massacred in a shopping mall in Kenya. Ongoing attacks with countless casualties in Iraq. Scenes of devastation, terror and grieving people. Mass shootings by disturbed individuals in the US and the dire situation in Syria, with thousands of people being killed or made destitute daily, have become a matter of routine by now.

What is the world coming to? We Israelis have had more than our fair share of terrorist attacks in the past. Scenes of crowded buses being destroyed by suicide

bombers were almost commonplace here ten years ago, ending only when stringent security measures were put in place and a wall was built to prevent potential terrorists from reaching their target – the civilian population. And, of course, the attack on New York's Twin Towers has led to the introduction of extensive security checks at airports all over the world. In addition, Israel's security forces have foiled innumerable attempts by terrorists to sow murder and mayhem in Israel over the years.

Here in Israel, security personnel check ladies' handbags and the trunks of cars at the entrances to shopping malls, cinemas, theatres and supermarkets. Israel is accused of over-reacting, even paranoia, but these measures seem to be required and, even though really determined terrorists will overcome such obstacles, we are well advised to adopt the motto of the microprocessor giant Intel: 'Only the paranoid survive.' The prime minister of Kenya has said that terrorism is an act of cowardice and England's prime minister claims that those who engage in terror are not acting in the name of religion. Fine phrases that achieve little except, perhaps, to soothe the consciences of those who allow religious extremism to flourish.

I looked out of the window and saw the sun shining and flowers blooming. The week of the Jewish High Holidays brought friends and family together. Peace has returned to my soul, but it looks as if it's time for the whole world to adopt Intel's motto.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *cont. from p.7*

in 1938 the Schottengymnasium was the only school in Austria (and perhaps Greater Germany) to disregard the official instructions about 'non-Aryan' students and it stood by them until the end of the school year, helping us with, among other things, emigration problems. I am delighted to read in Hans Eirew's letter how well the Hietzinger Gymnasium behaved towards its own victimised scholars and that it treated them 'with courtesy until the day we left'. The difference is that we neither left nor were asked to leave.

If I can understand George Vulkan's complaints, it seems that he thinks they were unhelpful in unearthing the history of his school and that they seemed unwelcoming to him as an old boy. He has clearly not grasped that there was never any identity between the two schools – no contact – or even, if I think

back, any awareness – of each other's existence. (I didn't discover anything about the Schottenschule on the other side of the Schottenhof until 2010 after reading Cölestin Rapp's history of the Schottenstift, published in 1959.) As an old boy of the Schottenschule, a public municipal primary school which no longer exists, he would not have been an old boy of a monastic grammar school closed down by the Nazis

but reopened by the Abbey after the War and still flourishing.

As for our 'notoriously snotty' (does he mean snooty?) Schottengymnasium, I don't recognise myself or the school in this description and would be very interested to hear how it manifested itself to him or anyone else now or in 1938. Hans Eirew too may have missed the point about there being no identity between George Vulkan's primary school and our senior grades.

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

Registered office: Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL

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

Telephone 020 8385 3070 Fax 020 8385 3080 e-mail editorial@ajr.org.uk

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

Printed by FBprinters LLP, 26 St Albans Lane, London NW11 7QB Tel: 020 8458 3220 Email: info@fbprinters.com