



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

The Holocaust and the Law



Nuremberg trial

The idea that there might be a legal dimension to the Holocaust, which is usually seen as synonymous with extra-legal violence, mass murder and the flouting of all ethical and juridical norms, appears at first sight to be implausible. Academic studies of the Holocaust often present it as a law-free zone in which the Nazi perpetrators and their accomplices effectively enjoyed carte blanche to persecute, degrade, torment, despoil, imprison, torture and kill their victims on a scale unparalleled in human history. Yet a recent study by a distinguished American professor of law, Michael Bazylar, argues convincingly to the contrary.

In his book, *Holocaust, Genocide, and the Law: A Quest for Justice in a Post-Holocaust World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), Bazylar sets out to show how the corpus of international law and the legal systems of individual nations developed in response to the Holocaust and 'to tell the story of the Holocaust through the prism of law'. He provides a detailed and authoritative analysis of the legal framework within which the Holocaust was

implemented, then moves on to the post-war trials of Nazi criminals in Germany, the Eichmann trial and later trials related to such matters as the restitution of looted assets; he concludes with an analysis of the impact of Holocaust-related legislation on the trials of those accused of genocide in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Bazylar deploys considerable legal expertise to underpin his first, and for readers of *Continued on page 2*

REMEMBERING TOGETHER

Thousands of people around the country actively marked Yom Hashoah last month by attending one of numerous different commemoration events.

The 2017 events aimed to bring together the largest gathering of the Jewish community to remember together the loss of six million and to pay tribute to the survivors and refugees for the remarkable contributions they have made to the Jewish community and wider UK society. Many AJR members took part in different commemorations around the country or attended the national event at Barnet Copthall Stadium.

Our review of the national commemoration ceremony in London appears on page 4.

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The Holocaust and the Law continued...

this Journal arguably most important thesis: that the Nazi persecution of the Jews, leading ultimately to the attempted genocide of the entire Jewish people, was carried out within a framework of law, even though this was in reality a corrupted and perverted form of pseudo-legality in which only the external forms of true legality were preserved.

Starting with the Law for the Re-establishment of the Professional Civil Service of 7 April 1933, which removed Jews from all offices in German government service, Bazylar traces the development of the legal system under which the Holocaust became possible. The genocide of the Jews became a non-crime; when in 1943 SS officer Konrad Morgen was sent by Himmler to investigate tales of massive corruption and financial abuse in the camps in the East, he was able to take action against those guilty of such offences, but was powerless to address the organised mass murder that lay behind the looted booty, because he had no legal grounds to do so.

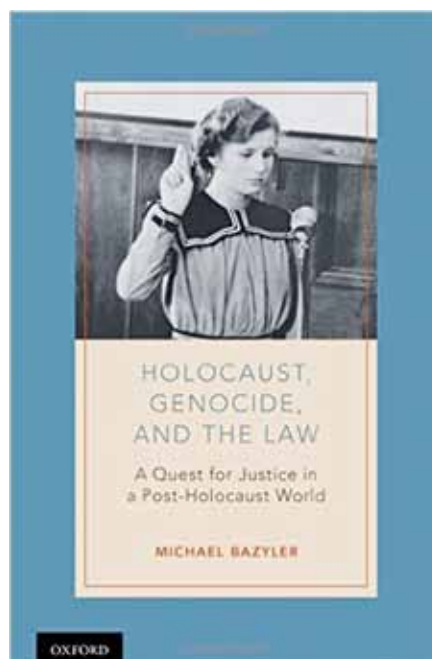
Hence the importance of the Nuremberg Laws of 15 September 1935, which deprived German Jews of their citizenship, thereby stripping them of the legal protection afforded by the state to citizens with full civil rights. The *Führerprinzip*, the principle that political decisions made by Hitler, as the supreme leader of the German people, had the force of law, installed the element of dictatorship at the heart of the German legal system. Unlike the organisers of the genocides in Yugoslavia or Rwanda, or of the Armenian genocide of 1915, the Nazis were distinguished by their efforts to conduct their murderous undertakings within a supposedly legal framework. Given the importance of 'legal' mechanisms in the functioning of the Third Reich, it is little surprise that of the fifteen participants at the infamous Wannsee Conference of 20 January 1942, seven had advanced law degrees.

Judgement at Nuremberg

Bazylar points out that the first response to the Holocaust by the victorious Allies was a legal one. In defiance of those who would have preferred to mete out summary justice to Nazi criminals, by shooting them out of hand, the Americans succeeded in initiating what Bazylar calls

'the greatest criminal trial in modern history, when twenty-two major Nazis were put on trial by the Allies before the International Military Tribunal'. This convened at Nuremberg in November 1945 and ended in October 1946 with the conviction of nineteen of the defendants, twelve of whom received the death penalty. Nuremberg marked the inauguration of a new era in international law, when such offences as war crimes and crimes against humanity could be tried before international and national tribunals.

Nuremberg was the first and crucial stage in the discarding of the antiquated legal principle that international law could not concern itself with actions taken by a state against its own citizens; no longer did national sovereignty override crimes against humanity. At Nuremberg none of the defendants was specifically indicted for genocide, a term coined by the Polish-born Jewish jurist Raphael Lemkin in 1944. Lemkin's grievous disappointment when the word 'genocide' did not appear in the judgment delivered by the judges at Nuremberg was at least partially relieved when the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Genocide Convention, came into force in 1951. This paved the way for the creation of the International Criminal Court in 1998 and for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Today, no individual, not even a head of state, can think himself immune from prosecution under international law.



Michael Bazylar's book

The trials before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg were followed by trials conducted by the four Allied occupying powers in their respective zones. Again, the Americans took the lead, staging twelve further trials before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals, at which 177 defendants from groups associated with the crimes of the Third Reich were arraigned. Among these were the doctors' trial, the trial of German jurists, the trial of senior SS officials, the three industrialists' trials, the trial of senior officers in the *Einsatzgruppen* that murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews in the East, the trial of German diplomats and the trial of senior Wehrmacht officers.

Subsequent Trials in West Germany

But by the time that judgment in the last of these cases was passed in April 1949, the political climate had changed radically, with the onset of the Cold War and the increasing unwillingness of the Western Allies to prosecute German war criminals. Only a small fraction of the guilty had been brought to justice before the Allies handed the process of prosecution over to the new Federal Republic of Germany, which proved predictably reluctant to move against its own citizens, given the number of those citizens implicated in Nazi crimes and given that most of the German judges had themselves held office under the Nazis. This was reflected in the marked changes in the legal stance taken by the German authorities. Refusing to accept the Nuremberg verdicts as a precedent, the German jurists fell back on conventional German penal law when dealing with Nazi criminals; these were charged not with war crimes or crimes against humanity, but as common criminals accused of murder or complicity to murder, charges that were ill suited to the mass atrocities committed by the Nazis.

For nearly ten years, the number of prosecutions in West Germany remained small. But in 1958/59, with the trial of ten former members of the *Einsatzkommando Tilsit* at Ulm, the conviction of Martin Sommer, the 'Hangman of Buchenwald', at Bayreuth and the initiation of proceedings against Georg Heuser, a senior SS officer in Minsk later to be sentenced to life imprisonment in Koblenz, a significant change set in. Crucial here was the establishment in the wake of the Ulm trial of the *Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen zur Aufklärung nationalsozialistischer Gewaltverbrechen* (Central Office of the Land Judicial

Authorities for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes of Violence) in Ludwigsburg. The ZS opened over 120,000 investigations, of which nearly 5,000 led to prosecutions; the sentences passed, however, were often distressingly lenient.

Bazyler discusses in detail only the Ulm trial and the more widely known Auschwitz trial that was held in Frankfurt am Main from 1963-1965. Such academic analysis is complemented by vivid contemporary reports that appeared in *AJR Information*, as for example in August 1958:

“In the course of the trial at Ulm against members of the Tilsit Einsatz Kommando, the Mainz Criminal Police Inspector Artur Genath – a former Gestapo official – was arrested in the court room. He was charged by the State Attorney with giving false testimony under oath and for having threatened witnesses. Two witnesses accused him of beating prisoners and of participating in the mass killing of Jews. After his arrest, Genath committed suicide in his prison cell.”

The Treblinka trial, held in Düsseldorf in 1964-65, was of special interest to readers of *AJR Information*, since one of the two investigating judges in the prosecution of eleven men involved in the extermination of Jews at the camp was Kurt Schwedersky. Schwedersky had been a prisoner of war at Featherstone Park Camp, near Hexham in Northumbria, where Herbert Sulzbach, a Jew from Germany who had risen to the rank of captain in the British Army, was responsible for the re-education of Nazi officers. Sulzbach, a prominent member of the AJR, formed a close relationship with Schwedersky; both men were prominent in the Featherstone Park Association, formed in Düsseldorf in 1960 by former inmates of the camp who elected Sulzbach as their Honorary President. A small chink of light in a grim history of atrocity.

Anthony Grenville

NOTE FROM EDITOR: readers interested in exploring this subject in more detail may welcome the new book by Dan Plesch called 'Human Rights after Hitler: The Lost History of Prosecuting Axis War Crimes', which covers the contents of the until now undisclosed files of the United National War Crimes Commission.

THE GATES OF HELL

This model of the infamous gates to Auschwitz is now on permanent display in Bradford Synagogue, having been originally made by engineering students at Calderdale (Halifax) College for 2016 Holocaust Memorial Day.

The model clearly shows how the third letter B in Arbeit is upside down, ie the small loop which is supposed to be uppermost is below the larger one. According to Synagogue Chairman Rudi Leavor, “The story goes that the Polish prisoners who were forced to construct the gate realised the inscription was a grotesque lie. The only way they could ‘get their own back’ on the Germans was to introduce a mistake by inverting the B.”

Calderdale College is one of numerous British academic institutions that commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. In 2017 students at Derby University made a moving video of



93 year-old Bernard Grunberg speaking of arriving on the second Kindertransport train from Berlin and his gratitude to Britain. A frequent speaker at the Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre in Newark, Bernard says that despite having had ups and downs in life, he has absolutely nothing to complain about compared to the terrible fate of so many millions of Jews, including his own family. His mother, father and sister did not survive the war.

The moving five minute video can be seen on www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/holocaust-survivor-bernard-grunberg-tells-all-in-heartfelt-video/story-30100758-detail/story.html

‘MY VOICE’ PUBLISHES FIRST BOOKS

The award-winning ‘My Voice’ programme – a joint initiative between the AJR and Manchester’s The Fed – has published its first group of books celebrating the lives of individual Holocaust survivors and refugees.

A VIP reception was held in Manchester, with Holocaust survivors, refugees, families and dignitaries coming together to celebrate the first ‘My Voice’ books and honour those whose stories have been printed.

‘My Voice’ encourages survivors and refugees to document their history, both pre- and post-Holocaust, in an individual life story book charting the lives they built for themselves after having escaped or survived Nazi persecution. The entire process is run by volunteers from the community taking on various roles as transcribers, photographers, editors, befrienders and book designers.



94 year old Kindertransport refugee Margit Cohen and her befriending volunteer Steph Roth admire the results of their combined labour.

Both the books’ subjects and the volunteers have all commented that they enjoyed and benefitted from the process which they found to be empowering and with a rewarding end result of the books themselves which are gifted to the subjects and their children.

The ‘My Voice’ Project is now expanding to Greater Manchester, Leeds and London. If you would like to share your story please contact Hila Kaye on hila@ajr.org.uk for the North or Debra Barnes on debra@ajr.org.uk for London.

THOUSANDS MARK YOM HASHOAH



Michael & Sadie Newman, Monique Blake and Alice Fraser solemnly light the sixth candle

AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman and his 10 year old daughter Sadie took part in a very moving candlelighting ceremony at last month's Yom Hashoah national commemoration.

They joined AJR member Alice Fraser, who came here as a refugee on a domestic permit, and Monique Blake of Liberal Judaism to light the last of six candles, each commemorating different experiences in the Holocaust. It was the centrepiece of a superbly constructed event at Barnet Copthall Stadium, which featured the Israeli Ambassador, the Mayor of London and the Chief Rabbi, among many others, and was watched by over 3000 people.

Chaired by Henry Grunwald, the commemoration had four key sections: Defiance, Remembrance, Family and Hope. A special theme running throughout the afternoon was Women's Resistance, highlighting the different and amazing ways that countless women across Europe found to support their own families and help others. We were proud that video testimonies from several of AJR's female members were featured during the programme.

A particularly moving presentation was given by the German actress Laura Pradelska (*Game of Thrones*, *50 Ways to Kill your Lover*) whose maternal and paternal grandmothers both survived the Shoah. Her paternal grandmother Klara was the only member of her family to survive, while her maternal grandmother managed to save one of her sisters and her two young nieces.

The Israeli Ambassador Mark Regev also used the example of his own family to highlight the importance of the State of Israel as a place where Jewish people could at last be free and prosper, when country after country had closed its doors to them (with the exception of Britain's exemplary welcome of our Kindertransportees and 'The Boys', which Regev described as "just a drop in the bucket").

London Mayor Sadiq Khan recalled visiting Auschwitz several years ago, saying "...nothing could have prepared me for the horror of what I saw". He urged members of the Jewish community to review the proposed designs for the new National Holocaust Memorial that is being built at Westminster (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-holocaust-memorial-foundation), which he hopes will help teach future generations to call out racism and injustice.

This sentiment was echoed by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, who explained how millions of children around the world are now learning about the Holocaust and saying 'never again'. One hundred and fifty of these children – from seven different Jewish primary schools – then sang the Yom Hashoah anthem, Never Again, before joining the Male Voice Choirs in Oseh Shalom, the Hatikvah and the National Anthem.

Carol Hart, AJR's Head of Volunteer and Community Services, said she was honoured to be part of such an important event for the Jewish community, and to have helped in choosing this year's theme of women's resistance to showcase the resilience of many women during this time.

Many communities also staged their own Yom Hashoah commemoration events. For example, Pinner Synagogue, when over 350 people – including three ambassadors – came to hear Leslie Kleinman speak very movingly about his experiences.



Claude Vecht-Wolf and Merritt Jagusch man the AJR stand in the exhibition area adjoining the stadium.



Actress Laura Pradelska gave a moving account of her grandmothers' stories during the Shoah.

LETTER FROM ISRAEL BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



FIFTY YEARS



In addition to all the Jewish festivals, Israelis mark several secular 'festivals' each springtime.

The first in the calendar, Yom Hashoah, is observed throughout the country with solemn ceremonies and a siren with two minutes' silence to remind us of what lies in our past.

One week later comes Remembrance Day for our fallen soldiers, when the nation unites in commemorating the many lives lost in obtaining Israel's independence in 1948 and holding onto it in the subsequent attacks launched by our enemies. Some of those enemies have now become peaceful neighbours and it is open to debate whether others will eventually join them. It is something fervently to be hoped for.

The very next day comes Yom

Ha'Atzmaut, in which everyone celebrates the fact that we have our own country. Like many of my compatriots, we invite friends round to our house for the traditional barbecue, raise a toast to our independent existence and enjoy the relaxed ambience of amity and harmony.

A couple of weeks later, in June, we will mark another, newer addition to this series of secular festivals – Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day, this year exactly 50 years after Israeli troops fought off attacks on several fronts, including that of the divided city of Jerusalem. Some people regard the Israeli victory in those battles as a miracle, and with hindsight it certainly does seem extraordinary.

In June of 1967 I was a new immigrant living and working in Jerusalem. I clearly remember the atmosphere of tension preceding the hostilities as diplomats sought to avert the evil decree. I also recollect seeing newspaper accounts of the imbalance in the strength of the respective armies. I was later informed that kind people in England and

elsewhere were preparing to send ships to evacuate Israeli children, in an action akin to the Kindertransports of 1939.

Living through that period was not pleasant. Jerusalem was bombarded and we were forbidden to leave our homes. I was in my ninth month of pregnancy but I was inspired by the stories of the spirit of the Londoners during the Blitz. The radio was our sole source of information, and naturally it didn't tell us poor civilians the whole story.

After a few days, when it was all over, we were able to go outside and even, eventually, to venture forth into the Old City, which had previously seemed as remote as the other side of the moon. The atmosphere was euphoric, and although fifty years have passed it is still a source of wonder to me that our two communities, Arab and Israeli, can live side by side, communicate with one another, undertake commercial transactions with one another and essentially live in peace, if not exactly harmony.



LETTER FROM LONY

An extraordinary series of letters written by Lony Rabl to her grandson Peter Lobbenburg have been set to music which will be premiered at the Hampstead Garden Music Festival on 28 June.

The letters were written from the Netherlands before Lony was deported to Theresienstadt and subsequently perished in Auschwitz. They give a very moving account of a grandmother naturally wanting to bond with her baby grandson, whose parents had fled to the US in December 1938.



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Letters to the Editor

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

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

The article *The Sound of Silence* (April, 2017) by D. Wirth is very moving. For the first time in many years an article in the AJR has made me cry.

I came to England on a Kindertransport in 1939, aged 13, from Vienna.

My father was deported from France to Auschwitz and murdered in 1942.

Elinor Adler

THANKS ARSENAL

I refer to the letter from Mrs Kitty Schafer of Toronto, Canada, relating to us her loyalty to the Arsenal football club after coming to this country in 1946.

It reminded me of a letter of thanks I should have written to the Club many, many years ago. In 1939 I lived with fellow Kindertransportees in a so-called hostel in Kilburn. One fine day a gentleman, who said he was from the Arsenal football club, appeared with three leather footballs for us – all keen footballers – as a gift. Needless to say I have been a supporter ever since.

Ernest G. Kolman

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

Sir – In the April AJR Journal I wrote an article entitled “Regaining Our Stolen Nationality”. It caused quite a stir amongst some family members and by way of a post-script I thought I would add the following comments.

Although I didn't live through this truly horrific period, I have lived close to my father. He, at almost 92, remains traumatised and the effect has certainly not been lost on me.

Hitler wanted to rid Germany of all Jews (Judenrein). All of us living around the world as descendants of the victims of Nazi persecution continue to fulfil that objective of Germany being Judenrein. Applying to have my family's nationality back flies against Hitler's personal objectives.

Now, almost three generations later, most Nazi sympathisers are no longer there, Germany is one of Israel's strongest allies

and my wife and I have met many very helpful, very respectful and very apologetic Germans. Do we continue to show hate and spurn those who weren't even born at that time? That somehow does not befit the Jewish ethos.

Israel has chosen to normalise its relationship with Germany. Working in the lay judiciary for almost 27 years has taught me to try and evaluate things in an impassionate and non- personal way although I appreciate that everyone has their own views.

Gerald Stern

Sir – I read Mr Stern's recent article “Regaining Our Stolen Identity” with interest.

Both my wife and I are eligible to apply for German citizenship. She has applied. I cannot.

Richard Wolfe, London NW1

'MY VOICE' TRIBUTE

Sir – I am one of the first volunteers to participate in AJR's My Voice Project which was piloted in Manchester to record people's histories from their arrival in England.

We were carefully matched with our clients and I was privileged to work very closely with an amazing lady called Margit Cohen who arrived in England from Vienna as a 16 year old girl.

Over 12 months we laughed and cried together and developed a deep bond and mutual respect. Our meetings were recorded and then transcribed verbatim.

Through various research sources I obtained copies of documentation confirming the date of Margit's father's arrest and deportation from Marseille to Auschwitz. I handed these over to Margit in what was a very emotional experience for both of us (Margit's mother is presumed to have died on one of the forced marches).

The result is a hardback landscaped book including photographs of the beautiful artwork that Margit has produced since

becoming a resident in Heathlands. I felt it was important, with Margit's agreement, that her asides were included in the book as these are the very essence of this strong and determined lady. As with the other participants in this project, the cover has a photograph of Margit in her prime along with her usual response to ‘How are you?’ – ‘I'm still here!’

Stephanie Roth, Prestwich

JOURNAL SUGGESTIONS

NOTE FROM EDITOR: *Thanks to everyone who has commented on the new look AJR Journal, we are delighted that it has been met with a largely positive response. We don't have room for all the letters here but we do read and take note of all them, and will be implementing additional changes based on feedback received.*

What a smart new image you have produced for the AJR Journal! Clean modern lines and very smart; no doubt the younger generation will be impressed. However for us oldies why have you reduced font size and why have you used red for some of the type?

If you must introduce background colour like yellow (Letters and Report) why use the red on top?

This makes it unnecessarily difficult to read. And why the big gaps between the paragraphs of letters? We appreciate the many interesting features of the Journal but don't make it more difficult to read! Many thanks.

Peter Briess

I welcome your strategy of opening up the magazine to the next generation, ie those of us born here with a strong sense of heritage.

Please abandon the term second generation. This confused me all these years as my mother and her parents were all refugees but shoved into a first generation category.

Eric Elias

Referring to the letter from Mr Lachmann in your May issue, please do not change

away from the plastic cover. I find this most useful and it can be recycled without any trouble.

Lore Lucas

REFUGEE COMPARISONS

Sir – In his article (April issue) Dr Grenville suggests that some Kindertransport children were badly treated, but concludes that the Chamberlain government was more generous than the present government to child refugees.

However, the comparison between the present day situation and that before WWII is false.

As Dr Grenville points out, today's refugees vastly exceed those before the War. Further, in the late 1930s Britain was really the only choice, as most of Europe was controlled by, or threatened by Germany. Immigration to America was limited, and to Palestine was difficult because of the White Paper restrictions.

The refugees of today have many other opportunities for safety, such as Germany, Sweden and other European countries. There is no need for them to come specifically to Britain, unless to join relatives already here or attracted by better benefits.

Before WWII Jewish refugees needed permission to enter the countries of their choice, and apart from the Kindertransport children, very few refugees were allowed entry to Britain. Today refugees come to Europe without leave or permission.

There is also the question of responsibility. Before WWII the Germans were responsible for causing refugees to flee, whereas today it is Muslims who are forcing other Muslims (as well as some Christians etc) to do so. Why are Muslims not asked to take responsibility for this situation, instead of mainly Europeans? There are over two billion Muslims in the world, and about 50 Muslim dominated countries. Although there are several million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, these are mainly living in camps. Other Muslim countries, including very rich states like Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States are not taking in refugees.

Mendel Storz

DONATH'S CRIME?

Sir – In your May issue you published a 'review' of *Kasztner's crime* by Paul Bogdanor. Written by George Donath,

it came across as a slanderous outburst against Paul Bogdanor, whose meticulous research attempted to find the truth about the most unfortunate chapter of the history of the Holocaust: the actions or inactions of the leaders of the Jewish community in Hungary in the summer of 1944.

The review gives no summary of the book, nor does it acquaint the reader with the true reasons why the majority of Hungarian Jews were exterminated during the last months of the war, when the geopolitical situation was favourable to their rescue.

Indeed the reviewer admits that discussing the subject and trying to find the truth about the leaders of Hungarian Jews is 'reigniting differences of opinion which is the last thing the Jewish but especially Israeli community needs'. It is shameful to be a member of a group of people who prefer lies to truth in face of convenience.

Prof. Gerta Vrbova

Sir – Your reviewer George Donath is entitled to his opinion of my book *Kasztner's Crime* (AJR Journal, May 2017), but he is not entitled to his own facts.

While my book presents extensive evidence that Rezso Kasztner betrayed Hungary's Jews during the Nazi occupation in 1944, nowhere in its pages is there any "diatribe" against Otto Komoly, the head of Hungary's Zionist Federation, as Mr. Donath pretends.

On the contrary, my book portrays Komoly as a Holocaust hero for leading Zionist rescue efforts that saved 5,000-6,000 Jewish children from the Arrow Cross terror in Budapest. As the book relates, Komoly paid with his life for his heroism.

Mr. Donath may be unable to answer a single fact or refute a single item of evidence in *Kasztner's Crime*, but he has no right to take refuge in sheer invention.

Paul Bogdanor, Author of Kasztner's Crime

TOM STOPPARD

Sir – Anthony Grenville's admiration of Tom Stoppard is obvious from his editorial in May's Journal.

But as what does he admire him?

Tom Stoppard of course is known as a playwright, and a lionised one at that.

But should he not be recognised as a philosopher who chooses to expound his views, questions and musings in the form of stage plays, in monologue and dialogue, albeit with occasional wit, insight and humour?

He may be a playwright by definition, but looking at his oeuvre, one cannot regard him as a dramatist, in the essential meaning of the word, as dramatic tension is rarely found in his plays, as in plays of real dramatists such as for instance Terence Rattigan, Oscar Wilde, Harold Pinter, even Samuel Beckett, and even these days, TV soaps.

Emil Landes

BUBBLES

Sir – "Double Double toil and trouble, Peter Phillips is obsessed with a bubble".

Mr Phillips chooses to paraphrase Hamlet in his sceptical response to my family letter on their modern orthodox observance. So I hope he can accept my paraphrasing of Macbeth to respond to his suggestion that we modern orthodox live in a bubble (an analogy he often misuses) where religion trumps following the British way of life.

He asks for a definition of Modern Orthodox which means he does not understand it. He should not make assertions about what he does not understand but here is a clue. An important principle of modern orthodoxy is *dina demalkhuta*, enjoining Jews to follow the law of the lands in which they live.

Every decent person has a socially acceptable moral framework to guide them. Modern Orthodoxy is not a bubble of introspection as labelled by Mr. Phillips. It is a lens through which we see and interact fully with the modern world just as any adherent to a system of morality, faith-based or otherwise, would.

No doubt the editor will call time at some point on this exchange of views. Mr. Phillips and I will no doubt continue to differ. I am however led to believe that we do agree on one thing and are both fans of the same soccer team, which makes it even more surprising that he is forever blowing bubbles.

David Kaye, Pinner

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Thank you both very much for this interesting exchange. Let us now, indeed, call time on it.

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

As 21st Century refugees flee their war-torn homelands for Europe the Ben Uri Gallery and Museum's double exhibition, Refugees: German Contribution to 20th Century British Art recalls the directive of Lord Sieff, its president in 1938, that the gallery should focus on the work of German refugees fleeing Hitler.

In the mid-20th Century successive waves of immigration brought to Britain what *The Guardian* newspaper calls "a much needed injection of raw European modernism." That movement was driven and inspired by the creative fervour of these émigré artists, whose voices had been stifled by the Nazis and whose works were banned as degenerate. The Third Reich had transformed a liberal democracy into a violent pogrom against the cultural élite of Central Europe.

Berlin-born **Eva Frankfurter** lived an assimilated Jewish life, but escaped to London with her family in 1939. She studied at St Martin's School of Art with **Frank Auerbach**, some of whose work is also on show here. Eva's move to London's East End gave her an understanding of immigrant life from other perspectives, while shift work at Lyons Corner House gave her the insight into the life of a waitress.

The exhibition focuses on **Eva Frankfurter's** empathy with West Indian, Irish, Cypriot and Pakistani immigrants. There is a rawness and immediacy in her work, the faces of her dockers and waitresses strained with overwork and tough experience. She conveys it with tenderness and an energy of something grasped in a moment. The alienation of the immigrant worker is redolent in feeling, if not style, of Edward Hopper – typified by his usherette standing in the shadows of a cinema.

What bound these refugees together? A quest for identity stamped out of

them by a brutal fascist regime? We see it here in the blank kaleidoscope of **Elisebeth Tomalin's** *Head*, in **Auerbach's** etching *Jake* and **Hans Schlegler's** lithograph *Hands at Your Service* which evokes Lord Kitchener's World War I "Your Country Needs You" poster. **Hans Koppel's** *Szenen* shows a solitary figure gazing at a lit window in an opposite house and **Harry Weinberger's** *In Winter, Manchester* depicts houses as questioning and forlorn as neglected people. By contrast **Kurt Schwitters'** brazen poster art cynically exposes material values. The Gallery asks us to imagine the huge void in British cultural life if Lucian Freud, Frank Auerbach or Kurt Schwitters and others had stayed in Europe rather than in Great Britain, leaving British culture as insular as it was before the Second World War.

Until June 18, 2017

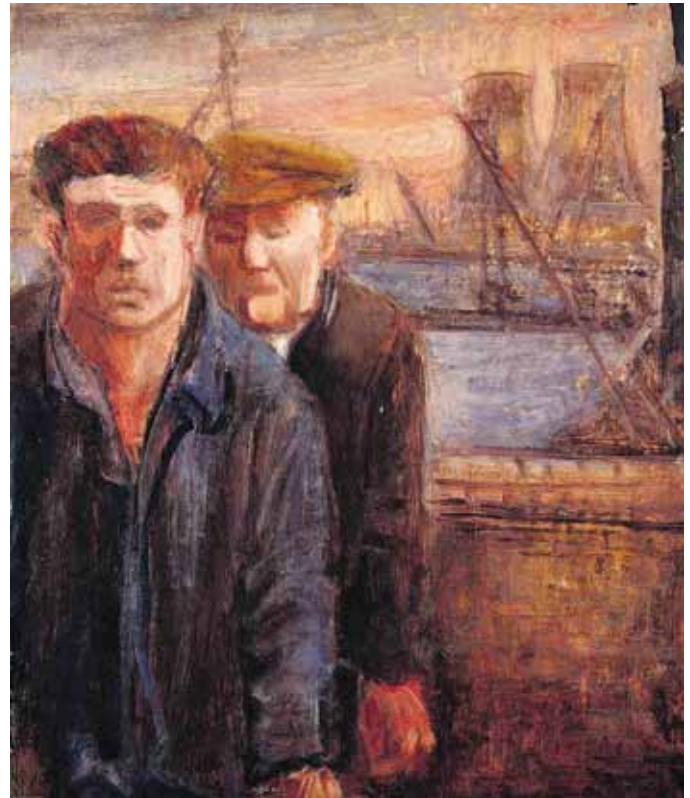
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**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**



Dockers: Father and Son by Eva Frankfurter, 1957

HOWARD HODGKIN

Howard Hodgkin considered himself a portrait painter, but his work is largely abstract impressionist. There are colourful works committed to memorialising a moment, a meeting, many started and kept for a later time when he could recapture the moment that inspired them.

Howard Hodgkin: Absent Friends at the National Portrait Gallery. Until June 18, 2017

WHY NOT TRY AJR'S MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE?

The AJR offers a kosher Meals on Wheels service delivered to your door once a week.

The meals are freshly cooked every week by Kosher to Go. They are then frozen prior to delivery.

The cost is £7.00 for a three-course meal (soup, main course, desert) plus a £1 delivery fee.

Our aim is to bring good food to your door without the worry of shopping or cooking.

For further details, please call AJR Head Office on 020 8385 3070.

AT YOUR SERVICE: Social Workers

Welcome to our new series, providing a window into the work of the AJR. This issue focuses on Christine Brazier, one of 13 social workers employed by the AJR to work directly with our members. She joined the AJR in September 2014, and provides support to around 50 members who live in Manchester, Liverpool and the surrounding area.

After qualifying in Liverpool in 1991, Christine worked for a number of local authorities in the North West, then became a self-employed Social Worker undertaking assessments on behalf of the Independent Living Fund; when its closure was announced she decided to look at vacancies within the charity sector, where an advert from the AJR immediately caught her eye.

"I looked at the AJR website and found myself engrossed," she explains. "I had some knowledge about the Holocaust but it was never widely talked about when I was younger, and wasn't discussed at school. I wanted to know more and thought the job sounded fascinating."

She hasn't been disappointed. Her clients include AJR members who fled to the UK as refugees, many of whom came on their own as young children via the Kindertransport, plus members who somehow managed to survive the various camps. She also provides support to spouses, and second generation members whose Holocaust family history has an ongoing effect on their own lives.

Christine visits her clients on an 'as needed basis'; some require monthly visits whilst others may only be visited once or twice a year, for assistance with life certificates and to review and update assessments.

Christine's work is wide ranging and includes the undertaking of assessments to enable clients to obtain home care and



Christine and Mrs Strong

various funding grants. "A lot of information is required, including background history, health needs and financial details which can become stressful for clients, so you have to be very sensitive," she explains.

Her work also involves providing help to obtain UK benefits such as Attendance Allowance, plus compensatory payments and pensions from Germany, Austria and Poland.

Christine visits members who are socially isolated and provides information regarding local activities and services, makes referrals to the AJR volunteer befriender service and to the SPF Connect computer scheme. "Emotional support and personal empathy is very important," she says.

Some of her clients are orthodox and Christine has very much enjoyed learning more about the Jewish religion and culture. She recently made a private trip to Vienna, inspired by the desire to find out more about many of her clients' origins.

"My previous jobs have sometimes become mundane, but with my AJR clients I feel far more connected and I learn something new every day," she enthuses. "Their testimonies are amazing, and it's a real privilege to help make their lives easier however I can."

If you are interested in meeting an AJR Social Worker please contact Sue Kurlander on 020 8385 3087 or sue@ajr.org.uk

A CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Having spent most of her 86 years helping others, asking for help doesn't come naturally to Sonia Strong. So she prefers to think of her relationship with her AJR social worker Christine as a "caring friendship" rather than a service.

Sonia, who originates from Magdeburg in Germany and grew up in what was then Palestine, describes herself as a "professional volunteer". She has done charity work for years, whether for WIZO, the Holocaust Educational Trust or the AJR itself.

But she is the first to admit she is getting older, especially after an accident two years ago left her with great difficulties walking. So when she met Christine at a Liverpool AJR social group meeting shortly afterwards, she finally conceded she needed help.

Christine assisted Sonia with some Homecare funding, meaning she now has a private carer to assist with cleaning, shopping and health appointments, and can also cover the cost of much needed physiotherapy and taxis.

"Christine is lovely to work with and has been enormously helpful to me," says Sonia who, partly thanks to Christine's encouragement, will shortly receive a SPF Connect computer. "I'm very grateful to the AJR for providing me and other members with this service. Many of us had to make our own way through the world, so it's fantastic to now have some help and guidance on hand."

REVIEWS

SPOTLIGHT ON JEWS' COLLEGE STRUGGLE AND SUCCESS

DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH – *The History of Jews' College and the London School of Jewish Studies* by Derek Taylor

Valentine Mitchell 2017,
www.vmbooks.com pp 340
ISBN 978-1-910383-13-1
Paperback £18.85

When Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple enrolled at the Jews' College in the late 1950s it had been open for more than a hundred years. He has written the preface and provided affectionate personal reminiscences for historian and businessman Derek Taylor's fascinating new book.

Dr Apple, Emeritus Rabbi of The Great Synagogue in Sydney joined during the College's Golden Age when the principal was Isidore Epstein whom the students called "Eppie" behind his back.

Epstein was one of many distinguished leaders and teachers such as Louis Loewe, Kopul Kahana, Hirsch Zimmels, Nahum Rabinovitch, Irving Jacobs, Jonathan Sacks and Rafi Zarum. Their selfless efforts, material sacrifice and intellectual rigour demanded total commitment from their students.

Two longstanding early heads who shaped the future were leading scholar and author Dr Michael Friedländer who was at the helm from 1865-1907. He was followed by Rabbi Adolph Büchler who fought his corner for over 30 years until his death in 1939.

The College was founded in 1855 by Chief Rabbi Nathan Marcus Adler and banker and philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore to improve Jewish education and its role was providing Ministers and teachers. But soon it achieved a very distinguished name in Jewish academia and continued to attract leading scholars from all over the world. Standards rivalled Oxbridge.

Despite many generous benefactors

and tireless fund-raising efforts it was always an interminable struggle for the College to get enough money to keep afloat. It was sometimes particularly difficult to get contributions from synagogues outside London and the public. The book tells the story of those who did the work and fought against the general indifference of a community that sometimes only paid lip service to the College's existence.

As the dreadful news of the Holocaust became widely known the realisation dawned that it would be the only Jewish seminary left active in Europe. The great yeshivas (institutes for studying traditional texts) were no more, so the College became the lighthouse for the renewal of European Jewry. When it moved to its current home in Finchley in 1984 Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits called it: "The rebirth of what, alas, is now the oldest institute of higher Jewish learning anywhere in the world."

The College – which educated three future chief rabbis – sometimes caused controversy, attracting adverse press coverage such as the "Jacobs Affair" over whether Rabbi Louis Jacobs should succeed Isidore Epstein.

Derek Taylor has written a meticulous history on this fascinating story and the reader learns a great deal. The author follows a chronological order and has a particular interest in the principals, describing their strengths (and sometimes weaknesses) and personalities.

The book is illustrated and also carries appendices detailing distinguished alumni, rabbis and forces' chaplains during the Second World War. A chapter is devoted to the history of the College library with its internationally renowned collection of books.

Derek Taylor has diligently researched and doggedly followed all the twists and turns of College history until the end of the 20th century when it re-focused as the London School of Jewish Studies. Emphasis was placed on providing a broader range of adult educational courses and training to the wider Jewish community which today is thriving.

Janet Weston

DER PREIS DER FREIHEIT (The Price of Freedom) by Volker G. Heinz

Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag,
236 pages, Paperback, 9.99 Euros
ISBN 978 3 499 631764

This German book was first published in September 2016 and has not been translated into English yet, although the author intends to find a publisher who might be interested. Its subtitle is (in translation) "A Story about Flight Help, Captivity and the secret business between East and West". Volker Heinz is a solicitor in Germany and a barrister in the U.K., and is still working in both Berlin and London.

He tells his own very interesting story, about 50 years after it happened. He was a law student in Bonn and also a member of a student fraternity, Suevia. When he visited another fraternity-member ("Brother") in Berlin, he happened to notice a photograph of his friend in a journal, and asked him about it. His "corps-brother" reluctantly explained that he was helping people living in East Germany – the DDR – to flee to the West. He had helped to dig the tunnel which had enabled 57 people to get from the DDR to West Germany. Heinz loved adventure and decided to join the flight-helpers. It was no longer practical to dig tunnels – the authorities would soon find them. So after some debate it was decided to hide people wanting to get to West Germany in cars which would not be stopped and possibly examined at checkpoints, i.e. primarily diplomatic cars. They found a Syrian consul who was prepared to help them, but as he had no car, this had to be provided for him. Of course he also had to be paid for his trouble – Heinz was not concerned with any financial arrangements, he was going to help purely on humanitarian grounds and wanted no financial reward.

Needless to say, this activity was quite risky. If the Stasi – the East German police – got to know about it, the flight helpers would face a trial and possibly a long sentence. Therefore Heinz had to promise that he would not tell anybody about it, not even his family or best friend – he had to live two parallel lives, and keep his activities a strict secret.

He describes in great detail how it was all organised. At one time he suspected that he was being followed, but decided a little

later that he was mistaken. After he had helped 66 people to flee from the DDR to the West he was arrested by the Stasi and imprisoned in Hohenschönhausen.

His record of the time behind bars is quite illuminating – he had to fight depression, as he had no idea for how long he would remain in prison (during many hours of interrogation he was never told when a trial would take place), and together with another suspect, who shared his cell, he managed to construct a chess board and figures, with which they entertained themselves until it was all confiscated. After several months he saw a lawyer who indicated that there was some “hope”, which was an expression to which Volker clung and which encouraged him.

Long after these events the documents dealing with them were open to inspection, and he found out what had been going on. After almost a year in captivity he was tried and sentenced to 12 years – a much longer time than he had expected. The two states, West Germany and the DDR, were secretly in touch to arrange the exchange of political prisoners and spies, and eventually, a short time after his trial, Volker Heinz was freed and taken to the border, where his parents were waiting for him.

In 1994 he, his wife and children decided to visit the prison in Hohenschönhausen again, which was then being transformed into a Memorial Site. When he saw the buildings again, he fought with his memories. To quote: “I had expected to be touched by the locality, but did not think that it would go so deep.”

In 2012 he was awarded the “Bundesverdienstkreuz am Band” (Order of Merit of The Federal Republic of Germany) – the only order that can be awarded in Federal Germany.

I found the book easy to read, and a thrilling page-turner as one is curious to see what happens next. For anybody who knows German, I can highly recommend it, as it deals with a little-known subject that should form part of the history of the Cold War.

Fritz Lustig

SUITCASE SURPRISE

An electrician in Amsterdam discovered a 1930s suitcase during repair work. It belonged to the Redlich family, who arrived in Amsterdam from Hamburg in 1938. Sadly they all perished in the Holocaust, although the parents' and younger brother's US visa applications were discovered in the suitcase, along with money and paperwork relating to the eldest son Peter, who had already died at a concentration camp in Austria. The suitcase is now on display at the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam.

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Carol Rossen will be among those
accompanying the trip

Space is limited so book early

For further details,
please telephone Lorna Moss
on 020 8385 3070



10-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL NOVEMBER 2017

The AJR is considering organising a 10-day trip to Israel in early November this year. The cost of the visit is not yet decided.

Carol Rossen will be accompanying the trip.

If you would like to join the trip,
please contact Lorna Moss
on 020 8385 3070 or at
lorna@ajr.org.uk as soon as possible.

A LIFE-AFFIRMING JOURNEY



The Stolperstein stones for the Schweitzer family.

“Jetzt weiss ich, wo meine Grosseltern lebten – Now I know where my Grandparents lived”

Late summer in the Ahr Valley, sunshine bathes the valley in warmth, the grapes hang heavy on the vines ready to be harvested and the first production of light ‘federweisse’ appears at the road side stalls, the same traditions for hundreds of years. Generations of the Schweitzer family would have enjoyed the fresh wine, played in the castle ruins, climbed up to the ‘Devil’s Hole’ and enjoyed the natural environment surrounding them. And now almost 80 years after my late father, his siblings and parents were forced by the Nazis to leave this countryside idyll, we have returned to commemorate them at their last known address.

Stolpersteine (stumbling stones or blocks) is a project that commemorates the victims of National Socialism by installing brass plaques in the pavement in front of their last home address. There are now 66,000 Stolpersteine across Europe, in Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Norway and the Ukraine. Each stone is made by hand and laid by Gunter Demnig, including the ones for our family.

Invited by the Bürgermeister of Altenahr to attend the unveiling of the Stolpersteine stones for my grandparents, aunts, uncle and father, and surrounded by the townspeople and local press, we proudly watched the stones being put in place outside Karl and Rosa’s house, while a local band filled the air with music.

This was just the start of our amazing ‘Who Do You Think You Are’ experience combining the Stolpersteine stones, an initiative of Benedikt Steinhoff, whose grandmother had told stories of the kindness of the Schweitzer family, and Matthias Bertram, a local historian who had recently published a book, “...in einem anderen Lande” about the Jewish families of the Rhineland.

Our journey took us along the valley to the homes and businesses and synagogues of my great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather and further back. We learnt about the history of the family right back to pre-Napoleonic times of the early 18th century as well as discovering the tombstones of many previous generations in the tiny Jewish cemetery.

My father had occasionally told me stories of his childhood and seeing the locations he mentioned, as well as meeting people who remembered my family, was incredible. We were

overcome by the kindness of the mayor and townspeople of Altenahr and Dernau, the current residents of my family’s homes who showed us inside and invited us to enjoy homemade strudel, and above all to Benedikt and Matthias who spent their time uncovering and remembering my history, I cannot thank them enough.

My great-grandfather, Jacob, had been the town butcher in Dernau, just along the valley, and my grandfather Karl learnt his trade and set up a ‘branch’ in Altenahr to expand the business. Benedikt told us that his grandmother had remembered my grandmother Rosa delivering meat packages to the elderly and cooked for the new mothers after their babies were born.

My father and his family were the only Jewish family in the village and when the SS chose a location for their office it was in the same street as the butchers shop. They forbade the residents from receiving food packages from them, so my grandmother continued delivering them under the darkness of night. Life must have been unbelievably difficult, so when the opportunity arose to send the children overseas Karl sold his kitchen garden/allotment (now a hotel carpark) to buy tickets for the Kindertransport for my father and aunt.

I am so pleased to have been able to share my visit with my wife Charlotte and our children and to have been joined in Germany by some first cousins from New York who we had not met before and with whom we immediately felt an amazing bond. I found this experience so life-affirming. The best outcome is that we have completely ruined the Nazi’s aim to destroy the Jews. We have ‘new’ family who we treasure and a new found heritage to value and build upon.

Gunter Demnig’s Stolpersteine project (www.stolpersteine.eu) is ongoing and he works tirelessly across Europe.

If you ever have the opportunity for your family I can only emphasise how constructive and positive we found it.

Charles Swindon, as told to Charlotte Swindon



AJR FILM CLUB

Please join us at our next Film Club.

Our film showing will be at Sha'arei Tsedek North London Reform Synagogue, 120 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone N20 9EZ

on **Monday 12 June 2017**
at **12.30pm**

Lunch of smoked salmon bagels, Danish pastries and tea or coffee will be served first.

BELLE

Belle is a 2013 British period drama film. It stars Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Tom Wilkinson, Miranda Richardson, Penelope Wilton, Sam Reid, Matthew Goode, Emily Watson, Sarah Gadon, Tom Felton and James Norton.

The film is inspired by the 1779 painting of Dido Elizabeth Belle beside her cousin Lady Elizabeth Murray, at Kenwood House, which was commissioned by their great-uncle, William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, then Lord Chief Justice of England. Very little is known about the life of Dido Belle, who was born in the West Indies and was the illegitimate mixed-race daughter of Mansfield's nephew. She is found living in poverty by her father and entrusted to the care of Mansfield and his wife. The fictional film centres on Dido's relationship with an aspiring lawyer; it is set at a time of legal significance, as a court case is heard on what became known as the Zong massacre, when slaves were thrown overboard from a slave ship and the owner filed with his insurance company for the losses. Lord Mansfield rules on this case in England's Court of King's Bench in 1786, in a decision seen to contribute to the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.

£7.00 per person

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

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

AJR COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO HONOUR SIR RUDOLF BING THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL SUNDAY 27th AUGUST 2017



Following on from the dedication of a commemorative plaque at Glyndebourne last summer, AJR hopes to unveil a further special commemorative plaque in honour of Sir Rudolf Bing at the Edinburgh Festival on Sunday 27th August. After his role at Glyndebourne, Sir Rudolf went up to Scotland where he was instrumental in the set up and running of the Edinburgh Festival.

Following the unveiling, AJR members are invited to attend a performance at Usher Hall, to mark Sir Rudolf's contribution. This 70th anniversary celebration concert will be a mixture of music, archive film and filmed interviews, with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra conducted by Martyn Brabbins, and will include two pieces of music played at the first Festival in 1947.

Tickets are priced at £47.00 each. AJR will provide transport from the Glasgow area.

Tickets for the concert are limited; however the unveiling of the plaque is open to the public.

For more info/tickets: susan@ajr.org.uk
Tel: 020 8385 3078

The Golden Years

OLD AGE IS JUST
A RECORD OF
ONE'S WHOLE
LIFE.

Tuesday 27th June 2017
Alyth Garden Synagogue

We are delighted to invite you to an informative day on how to plan for your advancing years.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

**Wills, Estate Planning,
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Harvey Bratt of UJIA

How to Eat Well
Luci Daniels, Dietician

**AJR Social Services:
How we can help you**
Sue Kurlander,
Head of Social Services at AJR

**AJR Volunteering:
Friendship and Befriending**
Carol Hart,
Head of Volunteering at AJR

**Keeping moving – how to keep fit, even if
you are sitting down**
Neil Taylor of Maccabi UK

Lunch included

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



Northern Regional LEEDS Wednesday 5th July 2017

Please join us at our annual Northern Regional Get-together

Our keynote speaker will be:

Gillian Merron

Gillian Merron is the Chief Executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and has served in the post since July 2014. A former British Labour Party Member of Parliament (MP) for Lincoln from 1997 to 2010, when she lost her seat. From 2009 to 2010 she was Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health at the Department of Health.

We will also be having discussion groups on current topics.

Lunch will be provided.

It is an excellent opportunity to meet and socialise with friends old and new.

For full details and an application form,
please contact Wendy Bott on
07908 156365 or at wendy@ajr.org.uk

Outing to Regents Park Open Air Theatre THURSDAY 20th JULY at 2.15pm finishing at 5.00pm

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

A new play by MATTHEW DUNSTER
Adapted from the novel by CHARLES DICKENS

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us.

Sound familiar? How much more do those in power think Europe's poor can take? When will the people take to the streets of the cities and roar enough is enough?

Tickets £22.50 per person

Please note in the event that the performance cannot be completed owing to bad weather, tickets will be exchanged for an alternative performance. If you are unable to make the alternative date arranged by AJR there is no time limit on exchanging your tickets, so long as you keep your original tickets you can attend another performance, even a year later, at a date to suit. However no refunds will be given.

For booking form please call Susan Harrod on
020 8385 3070 or email susan@ajr.org.uk



Unfinished Justice



Monika Flašíková Beňová, MEP; Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament; Gunnar Hökmark, MEP; Gideon Taylor, Chair of operations, WJRO and Nathan Sharansky

Opening a one-day conference in Brussels on Holocaust restitution, co-host MEP Gunnar Hökmark described the recovery of Shoah victims' property as the "restitution of identity, justice, history and the rule of law". Deputy Director of B'nai B'rith International, Eric Fusfield, added, "there can be no statute of limitations on Holocaust restitution".

The Unfinished Justice: Restitution and Remembrance conference on 26 April was jointly organised by the World Jewish Restitution Organisation (WJRO) and the European Shoah Legacy Institute. I was privileged to attend as a representative of the AJR and the UK, having contributed to a major research project entitled, *The Holocaust (Shoah) Immovable Restitution Study*, led by Professor Michael Bazylar.

This study found that some Eastern European states have substantially complied with the 2009 Terezin Declaration regarding the restitution of private immovable property, but many have only partially complied. The Study concluded there is much to do, especially in Poland, which had

the largest pre-war Jewish population in Europe - ninety percent of whom perished in the Holocaust - but is the only European country without a national restitution law.

Speaking movingly about her own family's experience in the Polish hamlet of Ustrzyki Dolne, near the border with the Ukraine, Baroness Deech explained how she was able to recover a typewriter and some cutlery, thanks to the kindness of a neighbour who buried the items.

As well as urging Poland to introduce restitution legislation, Baroness Deech recommended simplifying the process and helping people access records and archives. She also suggested establishing a central fund along the lines of the Austrian General Settlement Fund and called for a European Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues.

Ben Helfgott, who also hails from Poland, noted how "economic discrimination and the seizure of Jewish property were integral parts of the Holocaust" and that "thirty percent of the German war effort was financed through property theft" with an estimated £12 billion stolen from German Jews alone.

The imperative to enable restitution today, to achieve a modicum of justice, was put into stark relief by the conference's special guest Natan Sharansky, former Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, who noted that although

Israel is today home to some 190,000 survivors, 40 pass away each day.

Thanking the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, for opening the conference, WJRO's Gideon Taylor suggested a debate on Holocaust restitution in the European Parliament itself.

Michael Newman

...AND A SLAP IN THE FACE FOR SILESIANS

The AJR is particularly interested in hearing about restitution claims regarding Silesia in the east of Germany (now in Poland).

According to the 1933 census, Silesia's 34,000 Jews represented 6.5% of all of Germany's Jews. The provincial capital Breslau (now Wrocław) was Germany's third largest Jewish population centre after Berlin and Frankfurt am Main and had well-developed communal institutions, including a 350 bed hospital, schools, a seminary and an old people's home.

Of the approximately 50,000 German, Austrian and Czechoslovakian refugees arriving in the UK between 1933 and 1939, some 1,500 came from Silesia.

The postwar transfer of German territory to Poland meant that German Jewish refugees' property there came under Polish Communist control and, like everything else, was quickly nationalised.

In the early 1950s the UK Foreign Office struck a deal. Accepting a lump sum payment, it agreed to withhold support from individuals taking legal action in Poland. Instead, the FO would settle such actions here, through a

SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS



Hilda & Tony Garfield with their SPF Connect computer

During the Six Point Foundation closing ceremony on 15 March it was incredibly encouraging to hear about the success of the SPF Connect project. So far over 200 computers have been installed for individuals across the UK, with ages ranging from 83 to 98, greatly improving their wellbeing and connectivity. One 95 year-old from Birmingham said "I'm delighted with my new learning from this particularly easy computer and I hope that it will increase my

knowledge of Jewish things". Other successes include a client being able to participate in a family simcha in Israel through the video calling feature, and connecting a Jewish Care Home in North London with a group in South Korea who were interested in the stories of residents.

The SPF Connect Project provides hassle-free connection with family, friends and the world. The package for first generation Holocaust survivors

and refugees includes a touch-screen computer, eliminates the need to use a mouse if preferred. Other adaptations include large keyboards and the computer's ability to 'speak' out loud. Alongside the physical machine, free and comprehensive training is offered. Tailored for those who have little to no previous experience, or are finding their existing computer difficult to use, computing becomes easy to learn, simple to use and inclusive of all.

There are many useful features, which enable people to make video calls to people across the world at no cost, send and receive emails, store treasured photos, catch-up on TV programmes, look up information online, read the news and listen to a range of music from Klezmer to Classical. In addition to the initial face-to-face training sessions, a telephone helpline is provided, which operates Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm in case any extra support is required.

If interested, please leave a message on 020 8951 2539 which is a dedicated answering service. Your call will be returned to discuss your requirements and answer any questions.

new agency, the Foreign Compensation Commission. But, with funds limited, claims were refused on seemingly improvised grounds.

To qualify, applicants needed to have been a UK citizen in November 1954 and to have owned property in Poland in 1946, immediately prior to nationalisation. Yet, somehow, very late indeed in the process of evaluating a claim, the FCC felt able to use 1948 naturalisation as its reason for refusal.

The British government had, for years, resisted naturalising German Jewish refugees, with the effect that most only acquired citizenship in 1947/8. So let's assume, for the moment, that having UK citizenship in early 1946 had indeed been the stated qualification. It beggars belief that, within a few short years, the

FO managed to overlook the timing of likely claimants' naturalisation when negotiating to include Silesian property (but not financial assets) within its agreements with Poland and bring a measure into law here?

For both reasons it follows that the FCC's finding that a 1947/8 naturalisation represented a sufficient reason for refusal of compensation was discriminatory in effect. Please let the AJR know of anyone who made such a claim. We'd very much like to gather feedback from these experiences to see whether any further action might be required.

With grateful thanks to Max Klein for bringing the Silesian issue to our attention

THE FREEDOM TRAIL

Camp Simcha is inviting people to follow in the footsteps of history by joining them on the Coastal Freedom Trail – one of the most travelled routes across the Pyrenees used by men, women and children attempting to flee the Nazis during WW2. The 72 kilometre journey over four days will take place between 16 – 21 July, aiming to raise thousands of pounds towards improving the quality of life for Jewish children suffering from serious childhood illness.

More information from sarahj@campsimcha.org.uk or 020 8202 9297.

Around the AJR

BOOK CLUB: DISOBEDIENCE BY NAOMI ALDERMAN

This book gave rise to the longest discussion we have had since we were founded eight years ago. It was an interesting and thought-provoking afternoon.

Gerda Torrance

EALING: UJIA UPDATE

Harvey Bratt gave a most interesting talk on the evolving work of the UJIA, firstly in the field of Jewish education and trips to Israel for young people in the UK and secondly with funding of key training/ education projects in Israel. We ended with a Q&A session and a quiz about Israel.

Leslie Sommer

VOLUNTEER FRIENDSHIP

Approximately ten years ago, Helen Henley was approached by Esther Rinkoff to help at the newly formed Temple Fortune AJR group. Already a volunteer with the Pinner Group she was happy to agree. Joining the newly formed group was another volunteer Gillian Murad.

"We got on straight away and have now formed a great working relationship. The bonus is a lasting friendship, enjoying one another's company and even finding out we are distantly related!

"So Thank You AJR. We are now great friends. We both love volunteering at the meetings and getting to know the members and staff."

*Helen Henley and Gillian Murad,
AJR Temple Fortune*

HULL: ANTIQUES ROADSHOW IN THE CITY OF CULTURE

Following a delicious lunch we saw the recently broadcast 'Antiques Roadshow Holocaust Memorial' and members highlighted their own experiences afterwards. As Hull is the 'City of Culture 2017' members hoped that people will visit the city to see many wonderful things.

Veronika Keczkas

ILFORD: A LIFE OF CRIME

David Barnett spoke about Adam Worth, aka Henry Raymond, a nefarious criminal from Eastern Europe, who robbed banks and stole Gainsborough's painting of the Duchess of Bedford to hold it for ransom. He is buried in Highgate cemetery and thought to be the model for Sherlock Holmes' adversary, Moriarty.

Meta Roseneil

LEEDS CF: MEMORABILIA DISCUSSIONS

Members brought memorabilia or items of interest which led to lively discussions. They included a 1934 pen-and-ink drawing of a scene in Heidelberg by a 19 year-old artist as well as photographs of a member driving a tractor at Kibbutz Beit Ha'Emek, of two well-loved dogs and of the proposed Holocaust Memorial in London.

Barbara Cammerman

MANCHESTER: "THE WOMAN IN GOLD"

After a delicious lunch we saw this film of the true story of an Austrian refugee in America who fought a long battle to reclaim a work of art stolen by the Nazis. A fantastic performance by star Helen Mirren. Many thanks to Ernie Hunter for his technical abilities to ensure a faultless performance.

Werner Lachs

NORTH LONDON: LONDON'S UNDERGROUND STATIONS

Nick Dobson gave an extremely well-researched talk about areas surrounding London's underground stations. Leicester Square was originally a residential district. Many monuments were erected near stations – to Edith Cavell, Agatha Christie, Gilbert and Sullivan, etc. Cleopatra's Needle was almost lost in a storm at sea on its way from Egypt before finally finding its home on the Embankment

Hanne R. Freedman

N. W. LONDON: THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GOLDERS GREEN

Dr. Pam Fox gave a fascinating talk on her book *The Jewish Community of Golders Green – A Social History*. She researched it by conducting over one hundred interviews, reading every back issue of the AJR Journal and many other sources. The former Chairman of the Jewish Historical Society of England, David Jacobs, read extracts.

David Lang

PINNER: MOOD MUSIC

'Chiaroscuro' (Italian for playing with the effects of light and dark in pictures) was extended by our speaker, Alan Cohen, to include modulation in music. For instance, we were presented with combinations of Rembrandt's pictures and Dvorak's music. An enjoyable talk with a difference.

Henri Obstfeld

PICKLES FOR LUNCH

The AJR's Kindertransport special interest group was delighted to welcome Rt Hon Sir Eric Pickles MP, Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, to their monthly lunch on 10 May at the New North London Synagogue.

Sir Eric met with over 45 Kindertransport refugees and spoke about anti-Semitism in the UK and Holocaust denial. He also spoke about the new Holocaust Memorial and Education Centre due to be built in London, and took a variety of questions from group members and Year 6 pupils from Akiva School who joined the meeting.



From left to right, Kindertransport refugee Bernd Koschland, AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman and Sir Eric Pickles.

PRESTWICH: WHAT MAKES YOU SMILE?

The afternoon's theme was 'What makes us smile'. Wendy read humorous stories and we all joined in with our own anecdotes. Everyone left with huge grins on their faces and feeling happy.

Louise Elliott

RADLETT: MEMORABILIA

Members had been asked to bring something which had a particular meaning in their lives. As a result we heard some unusual stories associated with a variety of objects. The memories they evoked made us feel closer to our fellow members.

Fritz Starer

WELWYN GARDEN CITY: AGATHA CHRISTIE – QUEEN OF CRIME

Nick Dobson gave an excellent talk with slides, to a very appreciative audience. As everyone was familiar with Christie's writing a lively discussion followed.

Eva Stellman

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

On Sunday 19 March HSFA held its AGM in Leeds, at the end of a momentous year for the Association, with survivors and 2nd generation continuing to give talks to schools and other organisations. The HSFA had a change of governance and a further Charitable Company was registered.

Barbara Cammerman and Vanessa Glass produced a varied and entertaining programme, and many HSFA members – including Sir Eric Pickles MP – visited the new Holocaust Education & Learning Centre at the University of Huddersfield. The AGM finished with film maker Simon Glass presenting his short documentary, 'Meine Lieben Kinder', of a family visit to the childhood village of the late HSFA member Edith Goldberg.

TRAIN TODAY



Over 500 people enjoyed performances of *The Last Train to Tomorrow* last month.

The play tells the extraordinary story of the Kindertransport through a

sequence of ten songs composed by the internationally acclaimed artist Carl Davis, who conducted the four special performances at Maidenhead Synagogue, all of which were completely sold out.

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Henri Obstfeld
020 8954 5298 h.obstfeld@talk21.com

JUNE GROUP EVENTS

As the exact timings of these events are often subject to last minute changes we do not include them in the AJR Journal and suggest you contact the relevant regional contact for full details.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| Ealing | 6 June | David Barnett – The Story of Joseph Nathan |
| Book Club | 7 June | Discussion and Tea |
| Ilford | 7 June | The Sturgeon Queen |
| Cambridge | 8 June | Leslie Sommer – My interesting career in the Home Office |
| Pinner | 8 June | Diana Barnett – The Portuguese Consul De Sousa Mendes and how he saved so many Jewish people |
| Essex (Westcliff) | 13 June | The Sturgeon Queen |
| York/Harrogate | 14 June | Meal out |
| Muswell Hill | 15 June | Phillipa Bernard – History of the Jews of England |
| Sheffield | 18 June | Meeting with Speaker |
| Brighton | 19 June | Claude Vecht Wolf – AJR Volunteers Department |
| Edgware | 20 June | Dr. Pam Fox, author of "The Jewish Community of Golders Green" – A history of Jewish life in the area. |
| Bradford | 20 June | Social get-together |
| Radlett | 21 June | Harvey Bratt: UJIA Update |
| Hull | 21 June | Trip to Burnby Hall and Gardens |
| Welwyn Garden City | 22 June | Social get-together |
| Nottingham | 22 June | Social at Jurgen and Ruth |
| Leeds CF | 26 June | Social get-together |
| Wembley | 28 June | Social get-together |
| North London | 29 June | Harvey Bratt of UJIA |

LOOKING FOR?

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

Austrian Domestic at Ladywell Vicarage

Irv Adler's mother, Elsa Nichtern, left Vienna and came to England in September 1938, to work as a domestic. She arrived in Dover and registered with the Bow Street Station Metropolitan police on 19 September 1938. She worked for a Mrs Turley at 12 Kemerton Road, Beckenham, Kent. Then in May 1939, she went to work at the Vicarage in Ladywell. Is anyone familiar with this vicarage or a Mrs Turley in Kent?

irv@adlerfv.com

Post war immigration

Henry Tobias is writing a novel about a girl who was sent to England on the Kindertransport. After the war she marries and goes to Austria where she finds her mother alive and now wants to bring her back to England. Can anyone tell him how this process worked and how easy it may have been?

henrytobias2646@gmail.com

Jewish refugee nurses

Jane Brooks is a nurse and WWII historian at the University of Manchester. She is beginning a new project on Jewish women refugees who became nurses and hopes to interview any women who are willing to discuss their experiences. She is also interested in any diaries or memoirs that relatives may have.

Jane.Brooks@manchester.ac.uk

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household electrical work

PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518
Mobile: 0795 614 8566



Vichy France

The author Anne de Courcy would love to hear from any survivors, or their descendants, who lived or hid on the Riviera during the period 1930-1944. The book will be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson.

anne@annedecourcy.com

Munich & Household Management

Micah Karg is researching his paternal grandmother Hannah Lichtenauer, who arrived in the UK via the Kindertransport and eventually settled in New York. Micah is particularly interested to know more about his grandmother's life in Munich before she came to the UK, and the School of Household Management she attended.

micah.karg@gmail.com

Breslau Footballers

I am submitting a photograph (above) taken in the early 1930s of the Bar Kochba Breslau football team. My late father George Streat (formerly Georg Strietzel) is standing second from the left in the back row. I would like to know if someone recognises any of the other 10 footballers and can provide a name.

Professor Michael Streat

michael.streat@btinternet.com

German Interviewees

Eva Thune is looking for members of the Kindertransport or refugees capable and willing to be interviewed and recorded by her in German.

evamaria.thune@unibo.it

If you would like to place a search notice in a future issue of the AJR Journal, please email editorial@ajr.org.uk including the words SEARCH REQUEST in the title of your email.

Books Bought

MODERN AND OLD

Eric Levene

020 8364 3554 / 07855387574

ejlevine@blueyonder.co.uk

I also purchase ephemera

CLASSIFIED JOSEPH PEREIRA

(ex-AJR caretaker over 22 years) is now available for DIY repairs and general maintenance.

No job too small, very reasonable rates.

Please telephone 07966 887 485.



AJR CARD AND GAMES CLUB

Please join us at our new Card and Games Club

Monday 26 June 2017 at 1.00pm

at North Western Reform Synagogue,
Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune, London NW11 7EN

Open to all levels Bridge players – come and join us

We also offer card games, backgammon, scrabble. You decide.

Games are dependent on numbers being sufficient – the more the merrier

A sandwich lunch will be served upon arrival with tea, coffee and Danish pastries.

£7.00 per person

Booking is essential – when you book please let us know your choice of game.

Please either call Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or email susan@ajr.org.uk



OBITUARIES

Lisa Kurzon

Born 11 July 1918 in Berlin, died 19 December 2015 in London



Lisa was the second child of the Hurtig family in Berlin. She had an elder sister, Mali, a younger sister, Paula, and a brother, Herbert. The family initially lived in east Berlin, then in the mid-1920s they moved to Wenkheim in Baden-Württemberg, where her mother died, probably from complications in late pregnancy. The family moved back to the Berlin district of Pankow, where her father remarried. Forced to leave school when Hitler came to power in 1933, Lisa worked for a catering firm in Wilmersdorf.

In 1939, her elder sister was offered work as a housemaid in Willesden but since she was getting married, she passed the offer to Lisa, who arrived in London in July 1939. Needless to say, all her family were sent to Auschwitz in March 1943.

Lisa had already met her husband-to-be, Heinz Kurzon, in Berlin. He had been incarcerated in Sachsenhausen KZ following Kristallnacht, but then acquired a certificate to Palestine via London, through his younger brother, who had been living in Palestine since 1936.

Lisa and Heinz were married in Walm Lane Synagogue in March 1940. After the wedding they worked with a number of other German Jewish refugees at the Chivers Farm near Lakenheath in Suffolk, although Heinz was interned on the Isle of Man for

one year. Their fellow refugees remained friends for many years, even those who moved to the United States and Australia after the war.

Towards the end of the war, Lisa and Heinz with their elder son, Gerald, moved to the East End of London where their younger son, Dennis, was born. In the summer of 1947 they moved to West Kensington, and finally in January 1961 to Golders Green. Lisa renewed friendship with fellow refugees from Berlin and this circle of friends got together on every birthday. Sadly very few of these friends – all over 90 – are still with us today.

In 1956 Lisa opened up “Kurzon’s Delicatessen” in Hendon. Heinz soon joined her in the business, and the delicatessen flourished – despite the advent of supermarkets - until Lisa sold it after Heinz passed away in July 1981.

During the 1990s and early 2000s Lisa was a very active member of the Anglo-Jewish Refugee Association and the AJP Israel Committee, and also assisted many older people (she herself was in her mid-80s). She was also an active member of the B’nai Brith Leo Baeck Lodge in Swiss Cottage, and a frequent visitor to the Holocaust Centre in Hendon.

Lisa regularly visited her younger son in Israel, and also crossed the Atlantic several times to visit old friends from the Chivers Farm, and the few cousins who managed to get out of Germany. She travelled to South Africa, and one of her favourite trips was a boat trip on the Rhine.

After several years of growing dementia, Lisa moved to the Otto Schiff House in Golders Green, where she passed away in December 2015, aged 97. She is survived by her two sons, daughters-in-law, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Gerald and Dennis Kurzon

Lily Freeman

Born 7 February 1920 in Vienna, died 31 July 2016 in London



Golders Green artist Lily Freeman started painting late in life. Her landscapes and flowers in oils and watercolour achieved a sizeable following through being exhibited both in the UK and abroad, including the Ben Uri Gallery, London; Gallery 10, Vienna and the New York Expo in 1984.

Lily was born in Austria and escaped the Nazi terror, twice narrowly missing death. After a two year exodus she arrived in England, only to be imprisoned and interned as an enemy alien. Eventually she was released and survived by taking any work she could find, from cleaning and waitressing to being a sales representative. She met her future husband, also an Austrian refugee, and they had a daughter, Ruth.

After the marriage fell apart, Lily supported Ruth through college where she became passionate about art. Her daughter’s enthusiasm inspired Lily to enrol herself at the Arthur Segal School of Painting in Hampstead, at the age of 46.

Lily consistently painted, exhibited and sold her work almost until her death at the age of 96. But she held on to many of her favourite paintings until after her final exhibition in 2009, when she gave them all to Ruth. Please call 020 8458 5020 if you would like to arrange a viewing.

Ruth Freeman

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY WERE?

On 5 June at JW3 the writer and researcher Mike Levy will delve into World Jewish Relief's fascinating archives and offer his expert advice on exploring your own family story. More information and booking at www.jw3.org.uk

SCREENING FOR SELIG

Selig Court, Jewish Care's Independent Living Scheme primarily accommodating Holocaust survivors and refugees, is holding its very first fundraising event on Monday 12 June. Tickets for *Harold and Lilian: a Hollywood love story* are available from www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

HOLOCAUST NARRATIVES

Award winning production company Minnow Films is working on a landmark documentary for the BBC about the Holocaust and would like to speak to AJR members. Not just those who survived the camps, but also those who made it to Britain as refugees just before, during and immediately after the war.

With the aim to tell these stories as comprehensively as possible, the film will interweave accounts of survivors and refugees with stories of those who didn't survive, drawing on the extraordinary archive of letters, photographs, audio recordings, film and documents recovered after the war. The film will handle survivors' testimony with respect and sensitivity, at a time when it's so important to record these voices for the benefit of future generations.

Minnow Films has won five BAFTAs and is renowned for its delicate and intelligent portrayal of powerful human stories. Their recent documentary 'How to Die: Simon's Choice', exploring the complex issues at the heart of assisted euthanasia, has just been nominated for the BAFTA for best single documentary.

Minnow Films recently met with AJR Chief Executive Michael Newman as a first step towards meeting as many survivors as possible. The filmmakers would love to hear from any survivors or refugees who would consider sharing their experiences, whether they want to be part of the film or not. All conversations will help with research.

Please call Minnow Films on **020 7078 8167** or mail documentary@minnowfilms.co.uk

MACCABI GB community FUN RUN
SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2017 • ALLIANZ PARK

RUN, JOG OR WALK FOR AJR
The Association of Jewish Refugees

THERE'S A RUN FOR EVERYONE

1KM RUN 5KM RUN 10KM RUN
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For more information call 020 8457 2333 register now at **COMMUNITYFUNRUN.ORG**

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