



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

From the LSE to Cosmo's

As we continue to mark the 80th anniversary of the AJR, part three of our series on the impact of Jewish refugees on British culture continues the walk round London. We have now reached the world-famous London School of Economics, home to many leading Jewish refugees.



Berthold Lubetkin's Penguin Pool at London Zoo was regarded as a landmark project, both in terms of architectural design and engineering

At the beginning of her book, *The Other Way Round*, Judith Kerr describes walking through wartime London. It is March 1940. Anna sets off to visit her parents who are staying in a shabby-genteel hotel in Bloomsbury. She realises she has lost the fourpence for her bus fare, so she has to walk all the way. To follow that route eighty years on is a reminder of the achievements of the two generations of European refugees who came to Britain in the middle of the 20th century, both of the scale of the achievement and its enormous range and diversity.

In 1933, the L.S.E.'s director, Sir William Beveridge, was one of the prime movers in the efforts to find academic posts in

Britain for refugees from Nazism and helped set up the Academic Assistance Council. The L.S.E. subsequently became one of the main British centres of the great European migration. Refugee scholars at the L.S.E. included Hayek, Popper and Gellner, the Russian historians, Leonard Schapiro and M.M. Postan, Lord Peter Bauer and Nicholas Kaldor (both as student and lecturer), Franz Neumann and Albert Hirschman, Sir Otto Kahn-Freund and George Grun, Claus Moser and Eugene Grebenik. Here Leo Labedz wore a carnation in his lapel to celebrate the death of Stalin in 1953.

To the east are London's famous Inns
Continued on page 2

BUSY OCTOBER

The last few weeks have been incredibly busy for the AJR, with our first ever International Forum: Connecting Next Generations (see pages 9-11) coinciding with other high profile events, not least the long-awaited reopening of the Imperial War Museum's Holocaust Galleries (see page 12).

The coming weeks will see us commemorating the anniversaries of Kristallnacht and the first Kindertransports, as well as planting several of our '80 Trees for 80 Years' around the country.

Please send your feedback on any articles or AJR activities to editorial@ajr.org.uk

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Please note that the views expressed throughout this publication are not necessarily the views of the AJR.

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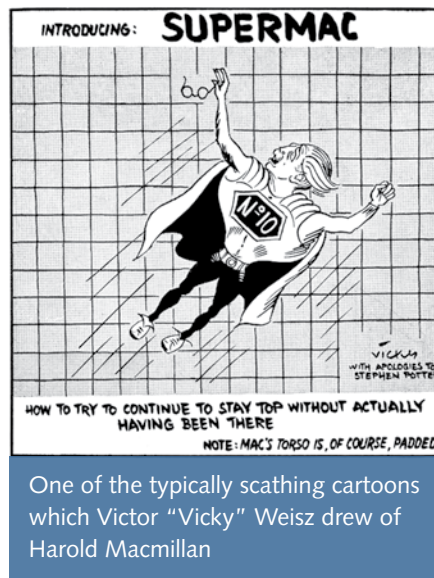
From the LSE to Cosmo's (cont.)

of Court. 132 German legal professors were expelled from their positions in Germany during the first three years of the Nazi regime. Leading lawyers, legal historians and judges who came to Britain included international lawyers like Hersch Lauterpacht and Georg Schwarzenberger, authorities on Roman Law like Hermann Kantorowicz and Walter Ullmann, commercial lawyers like Sir Michael Kerr, brother of Judith Kerr, and Sir Otto Kahn-Freund, arguably Britain's leading authority on labour law during the 1970s.

And then back down to the Strand, past where the Lyons Corner House used to be, where the writer Robert Neumann lunched regularly with Stefan Zweig, and onto Fleet Street, home of the British press: *The Daily Express*, where Sefton Delmer worked for almost thirty years; *The Evening Standard* where "Vicky" was a cartoonist in the mid-1950s; *The Daily Mirror*, once owned by Robert Maxwell, a Czech refugee; *The Financial Times*, where Max Fisher worked for over twenty years, seven of them as editor; *The Sunday Times*, where John Peter, born in Hungary, was their long-time theatre critic; and, above all, *The Observer*, which under David Astor, hired Sebastian Haffner, Isaac Deutscher, Rafael Nadal, the Hungarian photographer Michael Peto, and the librarian, for over twenty years, Willi Guttmann. "Vicky" also worked for *The New Statesman*, where Heinrich Fraenkel ran the chess column.

From Fleet Street along the river to the old site of the Guildhall School of Music, where Max Rostal gave violin teaching at the Guildhall its international status. The Guildhall is now at the Barbican, near Smithfield Market, under which Max Perutz set up a refrigerated laboratory during the war, and tried to produce an ice-fibre compound stronger than steel, so that huge refrigerated ice rafts could be built in the mid-Atlantic, big enough for planes to land and refuel while making transatlantic flights. The story is told in *Shooting the Past*, a famous TV drama by Stephen Poliakoff, the son of a Russian émigré. Poliakoff later told his father's story in another BBC TV drama series, *Summer of Rockets*.

If we had gone left at Oxford Circus, however, we could have gone up Regent Street, past the old offices of the music publishers, Boosey & Hawkes, where three



One of the typically scathing cartoons which Victor "Vicky" Weisz drew of Harold Macmillan

great refugee experts used to work: Alfred Kalmus, Irwin Stein and Ernst Roth. Then to Portland Place, to the BBC's Broadcasting House, whose famous interiors were designed by Serge Chermayeff in 1932. Here Anna Kallin produced many of the Third Programme's greatest broadcasts, including Isaiah Berlin's famous lectures, such as *Freedom and its Betrayal* (1952), *A Marvellous Decade, 1838-1848* (1955) and *Some Sources of Romanticism*, (1965). Here, too, Nikolaus Pevsner recorded his 1955 Reith Lectures, *The Englishness of English Art*. Hugo Gryn took part in *The Moral Maze*, Eric Hobsbawm, Josef Rothblat and Tom Stoppard appeared on *Start the Week*, and Sir Ken Adam and Sir Ben Helfgott were among the castaways who chose their favourite records on *Desert Island Discs*.

In Humphrey Carpenter's history of The Third Programme and Radio 3, he describes how 'a central European mafia' came to dominate BBC's Radio 3 during the 1970s and '80s. Stephen Hearst from Vienna was Controller of Radio 3 during the 1970s; Martin Esslin, born in Budapest but grew up in Vienna, was head of BBC Radio Drama; Hans Keller, from Vienna, ran Chamber Music and was Chief Assistant, Music; and George Fischer, a Hungarian, was Head of Talks and Documentaries. Many refugees worked for the BBC during the war. The publisher, George Weidenfeld, and the art historian, Ernst Gombrich, both worked for the BBC Monitoring Service during the war. So did Franz Borkeu, who wrote one of the most influential early accounts of the Spanish Civil War, and Leonard Schapiro, lawyer and Soviet historian. Arthur Koestler wrote a powerful talk for the BBC's European Service that ended, 'The latest

estimate of the number of Jews executed ... in the systematic carrying out of Himmler's orders, is two and a quarter million. I have nothing else to say.'

Then north a couple of hundred yards to 4 Devonshire Street where the Wiener Library and the Leo Baeck Institute used to be based. The Wiener Library is the oldest archive and documentation centre in the world devoted to the study of the Holocaust and Nazi era. Itself a refugee, it was founded in Amsterdam by Dr. Alfred Wiener, in 1933, and came to London in 1939. The Leo Baeck Institute is named after the German-Jewish rabbi and theologian, who was a rabbi in Berlin for thirty years, spent three years in Theresienstadt and came to London in 1945.

Then north again, to the Royal Academy of Music, near Baker Street, where the pianist, Franz Reizenstein taught during the 1960s and where Norbert Brainin, Peter Schidlof and Siegmund Nissel of the Amadeus Quartet, all studied with Max Rostal (and where Nissel later became professor of Chamber Music).

In a few minutes we are into Regent's Park and then London Zoo, where the architect Berthold Lubetkin built the Gorilla House and the world-famous Penguin Pool in the 1930s. 'In both cases,' wrote Nikolaus Pevsner admiringly, 'architecture comes very close to abstract art.'

North of Regent's Park is St. John's Wood, where the psychoanalyst Melanie Klein, the artist Oskar Kokoschka and the author Stefan Zweig lived. Here Brecht and Hanns Eisler visited Zweig and gave their host a rendition of their new song, *On the Stimulating Impact of Cash*, with a nod to Zweig's luxurious surroundings.

Then up the Finchley Road, 'that émigré street,' wrote Robert Neumann, 'where everyone looked like a second cousin whose name you couldn't quite remember'. To Swiss Cottage where the Dorice Restaurant used to specialise in central European food and where the Amadeus Quartet would come, tired and hungry after concerts, and eat chopped liver and *Zwiebelrostbraten*. Here, too was Cosmo's, a European-style café, where the Nobel Prize-winning writer Elias Canetti was among the regulars.

David Herman

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

The Annual Election Meeting of The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) will take place at 3pm on Thursday 2 December 2021 at AJR, Winston House, 2 Dollis Park, London N3 1HF.

Anyone wishing to stand for election must be nominated by at least ten associate members of the AJR together with a notice signed by the nominee

indicating their willingness to serve as a trustee should they be elected. This must be duly received in writing by Monday 22 November 2021 at the AJR offices.

Michael Karp, who was appointed during the year as an additional trustee, has been nominated to be re-elected as a trustee. Michael is married with two adult daughters and four grandchildren. He is

the son of a Holocaust survivor who fled Poland and joined the British army and a mother who came from Vienna on a Kindertransport. He is a retired partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers and a trustee of the Holocaust Educational Trust and Westminster Academy. He also serves as Treasurer of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research. A full article on Michael will appear in the January edition.

LINKS WITH SOUTH WALES?

The Jewish History Association of South Wales is embarking on a new oral history project and is searching for members of the Jewish community who live, or lived, in South Wales and have stories to share. All interviews will be conducted using Zoom.

For more info please contact Laura Henley Harrison via laura.henley.harrison@jhasw.org.uk



Congratulations to Tomi Komoly who received his BEM from the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire in August

Claims Conference News

Following their latest round of negotiations with the German government, the Claims Conference has secured some notable breakthroughs.

1. First-time region-specific pensions (RSP) have been allotted for 6,500 Holocaust survivors who survived the Leningrad Siege as well as survivors who were in hiding in France and those who survived persecution in Romania, who are not currently receiving Shoah related pensions. Survivors will be entitled to receive a monthly pension of €375 if they satisfy one of the following types of region-specific severe persecution during the Nazi period:
 - i. were at least three months in the Siege of Leningrad; OR
 - ii. lived between April 1,1941 and August 31,1944, at least three months under Axis occupation

within the borders of Romania on April 1,1941; OR

- iii. lived at least three months in France in hiding, including with access to the outside world. For example, those living in southern France, were able to be out during the day and hid at night when deportations took place.

If you believe you are eligible and have not received a form by the end of November, please contact us.

2. New Supplemental payment forms – entitled FORM G - for people who received a BEG payment which rendered them ineligible for the Hardship Fund are being sent out to members directly from the Claims Conference. If you have moved home or not received the form by the end of November please contact us. Completed forms should be sent to the AJR in the first instance, so that we can forward them to the Claims Conference.

3. As the Claims Conference continues to send out application forms – and payments – should you receive any communication you are unsure of, please contact us.

REMINDERS

- Recipients of the Article II pension are advised that the issuing of your annual life certificates has been delayed. Please do not be alarmed as this will not affect your pension payments. When you do receive the certificate please make arrangements to notarise and return the certificate as usual. Should you need any assistance, please get in touch with Rosemary Peters rosemary@ajr.org.uk or Karin Pereira karin@ajr.org.uk or call the office on **020 8385 3070**
- If anyone has received the white/ yellow Shortened Diamond Registration pack, please complete and return it to the office as soon as possible for the attention of Melanie Jawett melanie@ajr.org.uk or Rosemary Peters.

AN ENGINEER'S TALE

We are grateful to Karl Roome for sharing this evocative account of life in a Wembley factory, prompted by our recent feature *Bit of a Business* (August).

Daniel Prenn, the great Jewish tennis player who won the Davis Cup for Germany in 1933, was promptly banned from playing in public and emigrated to England in 1935. He founded a company called Truvox which became a leading manufacturer of quality loudspeakers. But I cannot find a single mention of his other enterprise, Truvox Engineering in Wembley, where I worked from January 1942 till September 1945.

My sister, a nurse in London, had rescued me in December 1941 from Manchester where I had spent a wretched period, and arranged for me to work alongside my brother at Truvox as a machine tool fitter. This extraordinary enterprise was formed by Daniel Prenn for the specific purpose of copying and manufacturing sophisticated German machine tools which had been captured by the Navy on their way to South America.

Because all relevant drawings, parts lists and operating instructions were in German, one third of the workers had to understand German. They were an astonishingly motley group. Two were political refugees from Berlin who had managed to escape together. Others were Sudeten Germans who had been able to enter Britain as Czech nationals. Some German Jewish intellectuals who had had basic engineering training in Government Training Centres - lawyers, writers, musicians - and some young women, also from Training Centres. There were a number of Belgians who had been working in France and evacuated on Belgian and British ships when the Germans cut through to the Channel. They claimed a knowledge of German, but this amounted to just a few phrases and swear words.

About a dozen were Czech Jews who really wanted to join the Free Czech army. Then there were a few young German refugee boys like my brother and myself, some Russians, Poles, French and a few Italian anti-Nazis from the Tyrol. And there were some Maltese lads whose families had been evacuated and were housed in the Empire Swimming

Pool building nearby. All the above were working on assembling copies of the captured German machine tools, but there was another assembly line for a range of milling machines with a complex gearbox system for widely variable operating speeds, then a revolutionary advance in engineering design.

The creator of these was a Russian Jew called Thilo, a mysterious middle-aged man who, according to factory gossip, had been accused in a notorious Soviet spy trial in the 1930s and escaped with his design. The factory produced about ten of these machines per day, some shipped to the Soviet Union with goodwill messages chalked onto them. Once the Soviet ambassador, Mr. Maisky, visited the factory with a formidable female Soviet sharpshooter decorated for having killed more Germans than anyone else, who was on a goodwill tour of Britain and conveyed the thanks of the Soviet nation for our support.

We worked seven days per week from 7 am to 7 pm, and soon another department was formed to produce all sorts of metal stampings on large presses, used in the manufacture of shells, bombs and military components. One day we learned that the Minister of Aircraft Production, Sir Stafford Cripps, was making an inspection visit and the Communist émigré elite organised a one-day strike at short notice, so that the Minister found the factory gate locked when he arrived.

During the V1 and V2 attacks in 1944 work carried on as usual, albeit with frequent interruptions, because the Germans kept aiming at the nearby Park Royal industrial estate. A night shift was introduced and Truvox was asked to produce thousands of tracking devices for equipment dropped by parachute. This was one of those ridiculously simple gadgets in which British engineering then excelled: Sandwiched between two metal plates was a small electric bell as sold by Woolworths for a few shillings, a torchlight battery and a small wooden block with an electric contact attached to

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EXHIBITION GROUNDS, WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX

An advert for one of the ranges of loudspeakers manufactured by the other side of Truvox's business

a spring, held open by a pin with a piece of string tied to it. The other end of the string was fitted to the aircraft and when the equipment was dropped it acted like a ripcord, removed the pin and set off the bell which could ring for 45 minutes or so for the parachutists to find it. We assembled these in vast quantities night after night, dropped each one from the factory roof to make sure it worked. The worst part of these night shifts was Bing Crosby endlessly blaring "Temptation" on the loudspeaker system, the foreman's favourite tune.

Daniel Prenn often walked through the factory, usually with some friendly words or constructive suggestions for us. I suspect his motivation for the Wembley enterprise was pure patriotism and the desire to contribute to the war effort.

LETTER FROM ISRAEL

BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



THE LOWEST PLACE ON EARTH



A birthday and a wedding anniversary impelled us to celebrate the double occasion with a weekend

of pampering and feasting at one of the hotels situated on the shore of the Dead Sea.

Upon checking in at the hotel we were required to show proof that we had been vaccinated, and were reminded that masks were obligatory in all public areas. When we asked what the situation was with regard to children (our dates coincided with a holiday period in Israel) we were assured that they had to have still-valid negative Coronavirus tests. And the staff? All had to be vaccinated, they said.

The climate of the area around the Dead Sea is very hot, both by day and by night, and the hotel's air-conditioning system had to work hard to maintain a pleasant temperature throughout the building. Nevertheless, some intrepid guests ventured out to bathe in the extremely salty water of the Dead Sea while others preferred to benefit from the hotel's very large fresh-water swimming-pool, with its adjacent relaxation area equipped with capacious shade-beds, loungers, and even a kiosk

where soft drinks and ice-cream could be bought. There is also a spa and an indoor salt-water pool, where one can enjoy the benefits of the salt water without having to leave the building.

Apart from the plentiful food that was as varied and sumptuous as anyone could desire, the other attractions provided by the region are the relative peace and quiet. We ventured out in the early morning, when the air was cooler, to explore the paths along the sea-shore that have been provided by the regional authority.

Since our last visit to the region two years ago changes have been made to the surrounding area, with new paths added and a path that used to exist covered over as construction work proceeds alongside it. Thus, the route fronted by flowering bushes and stately trees that I used to take for my solitary morning march along the main road accompanied by occasional traffic no longer exists. But a new path, going in the opposite direction, i.e. south rather than north, has been created, and this goes along the sea-shore. My husband joined me for these early-morning excursions, and was as fascinated as I was to find that at various points along it huge notice-boards have been posted containing interesting information about the region.

One of the notice-boards is headed 'Riverbeds and Flash Floods in the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea Shore,' and the text describes how the difference in height between the Judean Hills

in the east and the Dead Sea valley creates a steep incline which causes the precipitation to be concentrated on the western slopes and prevents the rainfall from reaching the valley further east. In the rainy season the sudden accumulation of water in dry river beds (wadis) can cause flash floods which, while impressive, can be dangerous. Another notice-board, 'The Judean Desert – a Local Rain Shadow Desert,' explains how regions such as the Arabian and Sahara deserts, as well as the Judean Desert, are created and defined. In addition to the texts in Hebrew and English, each notice-board bears a graphic illustration helping to make its point.

A third notice-board is headed simply 'Climate,' and describes the features which characterise the Dead Sea region (high temperature, high evaporation rate, high barometric pressure and low radiation) due to the fact that it is situated below sea level. The notice also states that the region is characterised by high humidity, but to the best of my knowledge the opposite is the case. Be that as it may, the natural resources of the Dead Sea are used in the chemical and mineral industries, as well as providing medical benefits.

It all reminds me of my youth, when I studied for my A-level exams in Geography under the formidable Miss Jones. In those far-off days I was conversant with various aspects of physical geography and could use terms such as 'precipitation,' 'longitude,' 'latitude,' and 'rain shadow,' in their correct contexts. It was a pleasant surprise to come across the new notice-boards which are informative, do not insult the reader's intelligence and are not retracted to trite, crowd-pleasing platitudes.

So we could return from our weekend break relaxed, refreshed and furnished with new knowledge. But however hard we tried to restrain our appetites, the food was too tempting and impossible to resist. Now it's time to work on getting our waistlines back.

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DECADES OF ANGLO AUSTRIAN COOPERATION

I was most interested to read Dame Janet Ritterman's article on the Anglo-Austrian Society and the Anglo-Austrian Music Society (September).

When the Music Society was founded in 1942, there were in fact three refugee founders of whom one was Ferdinand Rauter. The other two were Georg Knepler and Hermann Ullrich. Although this is quite clear from the archive material, Knepler's and Ullrich's contributions tend to get forgotten because of the fact that they both returned to Vienna after the war (and then to Berlin in Knepler's case) whereas Rauter of course remained in Britain. In addition, the omission of Knepler and Ullrich from the Music Society's founding story undoubtedly had political origins, since they both emanated from the Austrian Centre with which the Anglo-Austrian Democratic Society was in a permanent state of disagreement.

May I point out that the Concert of Austrian Music whose poster is depicted in the top right of the article took place after the war rather than in 1943 (the charities listed are 'starving Austrian children and Austrian victims of the concentration camps').

Dr Charmian Brinson, Imperial College, London SW7

ANTHONY EDEN

I refer to Peter Phillips' letter defending Anthony Eden (September). Although Eden has the reputation of being an anti-appeaser, when it came to practical action it can be shown that he was a natural appeaser.

In 1935 he visited Hitler to protest the reintroduction of conscription in Germany, which was against the Versailles Treaty. His lack of forceful argument emboldened Hitler to further challenge Britain and its allies, and to introduce ever harder measures to achieve his ends.

Opening a spirited debate on Danzig before the League of Nations Council in 1936 the then UK Foreign Minister Anthony Eden, described as "intolerable" the treatment of minorities. (Euphemism for Jews).

Blame for this condition, Eden pointed out, rests with the Free City's Nazi-controlled Senate which he said had failed to keep its promise to the League Council to observe its recent recommendations on treatment of minorities. However, in practical terms Eden did nothing to stop the Danzig Government's mistreatment of minorities. It was only words.

In 1937 Carl Burckhardt was appointed High Commissioner to the Free City of Danzig under the mandate of the League of Nations. Amongst other things, his role was to ensure that the Free City was being run in a way that protected the treatment of minorities. It was clear that this did not happen as Jews were treated in the Free City in much the same way as they were in Germany at the same time. As a League of Nations Rapporteur Anthony Eden, together with his colleagues, the French Foreign Minister Yvon Delbos and Secretary General Joseph Avenol, instructed Burckhardt not to be unduly concerned with Danzig's internal affairs. In other words let them treat the Jews as they wish, the League did not want to get involved.
Leslie Michaels, London N3

SUDETENLAND

A. Ray (September) has perhaps forgotten the enthusiasm with which the majority of the Sudeten Germans welcomed the Nazi Germans when they annexed that part of a democratic Czechoslovakia. Lifelong friends of my parents suddenly refused to speak to them and ignored them. At school I was made to stand in front of the class, to whom it was explained I was a non-Aryan undesirable Jew. They were told not to mix with me and I was told to go home and not to come back.

We were forced to leave our houses or apartments with just personal possessions which were then taken by local Germans. Jewish businesses, including my Father's, were confiscated without compensation and handed to Sudeten Germans. At least when they were sent to Germany they were not crammed into cattle trucks and shipped to their deaths like my family or my nine-year old friend Hannah.

What was her Mother's "Nanny" or her friends doing in 1937/38 to help her Jewish friends? Of course we as Jews have every right to judge these people who stood by and did nothing to help our people.

Robert J. Norton, Nottingham

REFUGEES OR SURVIVORS?

Peter Phillips (September) asks whether we are refugees or survivors. Well, as we're still here, we must be survivors. And yet we at the AJR call ourselves 'Jewish refugees' with reason. Whether we came to this country before, during or after the war – we are refugees. This is true whether or not we experienced the war under Nazi occupation; whether in concentration camps, in hiding or elsewhere. It even includes those children who were taken into and/or adopted by non-Jewish families who never had occasion, desire or need to consider their Jewish roots again. Instead, I distinguish between those of us who were fortunate enough eventually to be reunited with our parents, as I was, and those survivors who never saw their parents again.
John Farago, Deal, Kent

THE VAGARIES OF INTERNMENT

I read the article about the Dunera boys with interest. My uncle, David Buchen, who was in the Kitchener Camp, was one of them. I arrived on the Kindertransport in September 1939 at 15. He was born in the same little town as I, Zolynia, Austria-Hungary, an enemy alien, and was sent to Australia, where

Wonderful tea

he sensibly remained. I was born in Zolynia, Poland, a friendly alien, and was not interned. How stupid!

Henry Glanz, London E1

BURCHETTE HOUSE, DORKING

Almost every month the *AJR Journal* jogs my memory of years gone by. Last month it was Burchett House, Dorking, filled with refugees.

My parents, brother, baby Frances and I were given sanctuary in Burchett House by cousins Dr. and Mrs. Jacobsohn. They put a room at our disposal while buzz bombs and rockets were raining down in London.

We joined the Sola family, Hanna, Elsie, Babette and baby Henry. I could go to school and play with the cousins without the ever-constant threat from above. Happily I remain in telephone contact with Babette in Salford since early in lockdown. Her siblings are now in Israel.

I'll always be grateful to the Sola family for this much-needed respite from the havoc taking place in London. Thanks must also go to the AJR for reminding me of my young days and my family's life-saving months in Burchett House.

Meta Roseneil, Buckhurst Hill

EVERY ASPECT OF BRITISH LIFE/ THE CAMPHILL MOVEMENT

Tom Baum's letter (October) reminded me of my 1945 visit to Camphill, where I had the privilege of seeing some of its work for children and adults with special needs. My sister Claire had accepted an invitation from Dr König to bring her teaching experience, and particularly her music degree qualifications, to the community. There she joined a group which included Dr Ferdinand Rauter, who had introduced music therapy

In September the AJR held a wonderful online tea party as part of our 80th anniversary programme. Guests were each sent a box of tea time treats to enjoy as they listened in to some marvellous presentations and sang along to lovely musical entertainment. Here are just a few of the many touching comments sent in after the event.

I'm finding it difficult to find the correct words to represent my gratitude for the simply marvellous 'Tea Party'. It was such fun to join in and sing out loud the words to those fab songs and it took all we old souls back to those happy days of our youth!!! - *Hilda Garfield*

The organisation was seamless - the arrival of the 'afternoon tea' parcel two days before the event, the introduction, the sing-song, the films, the commentaries and closing words were all so meaningful. A great big 'Thank You' to all the organisers. A Tea Party to remember! – *Anne Steiner*

Thank you for a wonderful birthday tea. It was indeed very well organised and most enjoyable. Congratulations, I am very aware of the hard work and effort it must have been to organise such an event. – *Sir Erich Reich*

as part of the treatment offered - an experience which contributed to her later success as head teacher at Primrose Hill Infants School.

As for Claire's and 'Rau's success at Camphill: I can only add that they started their long and happy marriage there. *Freddy Kosten, London N3*



Astrid Kerzner



Anne Steiner

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ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Nicholas Poussin was one of the great painters of the French baroque, but having spent most of his career in Rome, he could equally be considered a major Italian painter. And yet there is something peculiarly French about the sinuous way he portrays movement, and the subtlety of his colours.



The Adoration of the Golden Calf by Nicholas Poussin

The National Gallery has chosen to focus on his stylised movement in its new exhibition **Poussin and the Dance**. These works were created after the artist's study of dancers carved on Roman antiquaries. Poussin made miniature wax models of the dancers he observed in ancient Roman art, and as he moulded them and swivelled them around in his hands, he was able to gauge the physical possibilities of a human being in dance.

Four years in the planning, this is Poussin's first London exhibition in 25 years – the last was a retrospective at the Royal Academy in 1994-5 – and the first to focus on dance in his art. Poussin is well known for his religious or classical paintings; *The Crossing of the Red Sea*, *the Flight into Egypt*, and his utterly stunning *Summer: Ruth and Boaz*, where the tiny gleaner female figure is approached by Boaz against steep mountains of sheaves of corn. He is a painter where everything on his canvas matters: he uses, sky, landscape, trees, human beings, and even their ethereal reflections in the sky, to present truth in nature. It is a very classical quality.

But his devotion to the dancing figure, as the NG shows, takes him into a different direction. Curator Francesca Whitlum-Cooper explains her interest in the artist's entire process and artistic integrity. To emphasise this point, Poussin's drawings here show the crossings out and re-drawings over existing ones to prove the creative struggle at play.

But what is interesting is his impulse to bring the classical world into his own time. The result is a gorgeous nymphs-and-satyrs-type re-imagining of a world of flowing robes,

gesturing hands and moving bodies, all of whom seem to be concealing secrets.

It is hard to see the light-hearted artist in his rather dour, morose and formidable self-portrait, with his long dark hair and firm hand on his cane. Whitlum-Cooper is the first to admit he is hardly the picture of an approachable man. And yet his vivid paintings prove that lightness of being does exist, and influenced generations of artists who followed; Cezanne, in the 19th Century, Matisse and Picasso in the 20th. Poussin was, she said, "the artist's artist. People think of him as a forbidding, intimidating intellectual, but now we can see him in playful mood".

Born in Normandy in 1594, Poussin longed to go to Rome, the seat of the Renaissance, but only arrived after two earlier trips to Florence and Lyons, aged 30, and surrounded by much younger artists. There he studied sculpture and the dancing figures on vases. There are touches of Titian in his work, but his figures are more elegant, classically inspired; they really resemble statues that have come to life.

Most of his inspiration derives from 1st or 2nd century Roman mythological sculpture, but he returns here to Old Testament themes with *The Adoration of the Golden Calf*. This painting, unlike others, has a definite sense of foreboding, which emanates partly from the dark clouds above the illuminated dancers, but more menacingly from the golden beast itself, hardly a calf but a fully grown animal. The symbolism of this spectral creature is clear.

Perhaps not surprisingly for the times, Bacchus, Pan, Dionysus and even two drawings for *The Abduction of the Sabine*

Women, were popular themes for the artist's patron, Cardinal Richelieu, the most important cardinal in France, for whom Poussin's Bacchanalian paintings reflect the cleric's love of drunken revelry. There is also a bronze cast of *The Borghese Dancers* by Henri Perier, after a model by Francios Anguier based on a 2nd century relief from the Villa Borghese loaned by the Louvre,

A Dance to the Music of Time is on rare loan from the Wallace Collection. It shows a circle of graceful dancers, replete with cherubs, scantily robed women – a woman in blue stares straight at us with a knowing grin. The colours and movement of the dance, with its languid, orgiastic sense is reflected in the sky. An augur of heavenly support – or judgement? Only Poussin can tell us. You do wonder what was going through his mind.

Francesca Whitlum-Cooper hopes viewers will feel connected to this painter through all his whirling movements. Some might consider his colours a little too bland. Poussin was promoted within the French Academy as a father of French painting, which tended to debate the question of colour over line. He is regarded as a painter of line rather than a colourist.

Poussin And The Dance. National Gallery until January 2, 2022

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**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**



NEXT GENERATIONS

The Association of Jewish Refugees

TRULY CONNECTED

40 different speakers, 16 different sessions, half conducted face-to-face and all online. These were just some of the logistical challenges posed by AJR's much lauded Connecting Next Generations international forum, held over two days at the start of October.

Kindly sponsored by the Chelsea Foundation and in partnership with the *Jewish News*, the conference provided the opportunity for 200 members of the second, third and even fourth generations to share their experiences and discuss everything from the emotional impact of their parents' experiences to what to do with precious documents and other memorabilia.

An undoubted highlight was the celebrated children's author, Michael Rosen, sharing his outrage that Hitler had "got away with so much" and his determination to help future generations learn from the terrible fate of some of his own ancestors. He described how he had grown up fully aware of his Eastern Europe heritage, with words like *pipick* and *schmaltz* in his everyday vernacular. However, whenever he asked his parents about his wider family he was simply told that they "died in the camps". This puzzled him greatly as a child, as



The conference was a 'hybrid' event which delegates could safely attend either in person or via a special live broadcast

his own experience of camps was of a very happy camping holiday which he found difficult to correlate with danger.

Another very interesting session was 18 year old fourth-generation Dov Forman's account of helping his great-grandmother, Lily Ebert, use social media to trace the American GI who had helped liberate her from Auschwitz. Dov – who wrote about his experience in the October 2020 issue of the *AJR Journal* – has now helped Lily to write her memoirs, *Lily's Promise*, which has become a bestseller since being published in September. Dov and Lily spoke to HET Chief Executive, Karen Pollock, about finding ways to bridge the generation gap in survivor families, and what it feels like to become social media superstars with 1.4 million TikTok followers and over 19 million likes for their videos where Lily answers questions from young people all over the world about her experiences as a Holocaust survivor.

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT!

Here is just some of the feedback sent by participants in the Next Generations International Forum:

"What an amazing two days! All the sessions were so informative, interesting, thought-provoking & also moving at times."

"This was truly a terrific line up of amazing speakers on incredible topics. I am feeling both emotional and inspired."

"I am the daughter of two Holocaust survivors. Apart from one brother on my mother's side, no other members of their entire extended families survived. They were both amazing people who gave my sister and me lots of love, but they were also of course hugely damaged people as a result of their experiences. I am 70 now and the Holocaust has dominated my entire life. So Irit Felsen's presentation really did connect with me very much."

"The programme was both compelling and challenging throughout and the logistical operation was truly impressive!"

"In Hong Kong we are just beginning to work in this area and these two days have given me much food for thought. The Elisha Wiesel - Stephen Smith conversation was a total winner but then

so were all the other sessions too."

"I have been glued to my seat. Being in the company of 2nd Generation feels like "home" the first time in such a distinguished gathering."

"Your Forum moved the causes of Holocaust remembrance and education out of its 'biblical' 70-80 year timeframe and onto the unconstrained 'next generations' timescale."

"Many congratulations on an extremely interesting, varied, and well-thought out conference. I thought it was very interesting and attended the whole thing - every single session! - on Zoom."

"It was really good to attend such a stimulating and interesting day of sessions. I have missed live conferences, and this was a superb one."

The conference sessions are now available to view in your own time via the AJR's YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/c/TheAssociationofJewishRefugees

CHELSEA SETS THE PACE

Football has a unique ability to bring people together which is one of the reasons why we partnered with the Chelsea Foundation to deliver our recent Connecting Next Generations conference and hold one of the days at Stamford Bridge. Here **Simon Taylor, Head of the Chelsea Foundation, explains some of the work they are doing to counter antisemitism and create stronger, safer communities.**

At Chelsea we are proud of our achievements on the pitch but also very proud of work we do away from pitch - creating a club and communities that are welcoming and open to all.

A huge part of this work is our *Say No To Antisemitism* programme, created in response to the disturbing rise in incidents of antisemitism across Europe and the US. Launched on Holocaust Memorial Day 2018, we began by inviting Holocaust survivors to meet our players and fans groups. Footballers can be often distracted but every single member of the squad sat in total silence as they heard the stories. Many were emotional, all were humbled, and it is a day that they nor anyone else that was there will ever forget. 140 Chelsea staff and fans then visited Auschwitz, and players and directors joined the *March of the Living*.

Special training for stewards helped them to understand antisemitism in a footballing context and give them the confidence to challenge and take action when it occurs. Fans found to be using antisemitic language or behaviours are now offered an education programme to understand the impact and consequences of their actions.

We also took our women's team to Israel to play the Israeli national team and bring together Jewish, Arab and Palestinian girls to play football and to learn about each other and their cultures through a series of education workshops.

More recently, the Foundation has supported the new Holocaust Galleries at the Imperial War Museum and the *Hidden Heroes* project at the RAF Museum, dedicated to Jewish service people who served during the war. We regularly deliver anti-discrimination workshops in primary schools and outside the West Stand at Stamford Bridge a large mural depicting three international footballers who were sent to Auschwitz reminds everyone that even elite athletes were subject to the hatred and persecution of the Nazis, a lesson that no-one should ever forget.

TWO INSPIRING DAYS

The acclaimed author Michael Rosen, best-selling authors Lily Ebert and her great grandson Dov Forman, Elisha Wiesel (son of Elie), and the writer and sociologist Anne Karpf were joined by many other speakers for AJR's two-day forum on the subject of connecting the next generations of Holocaust refugees and survivors

Day One was brought to a close with an incredible session by storyteller Lisa Lipkin, live from Martha's Vineyard. Holocaust educator Jaime Ashworth wrote, "Lisa took us on an amazing inner journey through her family's Holocaust legacy. There were a lot of good jokes, but my abiding impression was of the sadness in her eyes, and the catch in her voice as she described encountering her aunt's blue kerchief from Auschwitz in a USHMM warehouse. I wondered if, in the many sessions she has run, that gaze has been truly held and returned. It's a look I see at the back of the eyes of many of the second-generation, and why (I suspect) so many of them are driven to talk, and teach, and try to express that pain that is both theirs and not theirs."

The question of exactly how many generations legitimately count as 'next generations' is one that is puzzling writer, journalist and sociologist Dr Anne Karpf, keynote speaker on the second morning of the conference. Anne has always felt that the impact must get diluted the further one gets down the line, but having just become a grandmother herself to a baby girl who represents the fourth generation, she believes it is essential that this new child grows up fully understanding her heritage. In *The War After*, published 25 years ago, Anne was the first British author to write about growing up with survivor parents. In a moving tribute, AJR member Charlotte Balazs commented on the online chat, "I will never forget reading *The War After* when it came out. At last I understood my life. Thank you Anne Karpf."

The conference also included a number of fascinating panel discussions. For example, representatives of the Holocaust Wiener Library, the Ben Uri Gallery, the National Holocaust Museum and the new IWM Holocaust Galleries all discussed the messages they are trying to convey to future generations and the power of personal testimony and memorabilia. The contribution of members of the second generation whose families had each donated articles to one of these institutions provided an interesting and unusual angle for this discussion. Some members of the audience felt that memorabilia was the private property of the family, while others clearly saw its potential to reach a wider audience.

One of the highlight sessions of Day Two was presented via video link from the United States, as Elisha Wiesel confided how it felt to be the son of the most famous Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel. In conversation with Stephen Smith, UNESCO Chair on Genocide Education and Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation, Elisha admitted to having been more interested as a teenager in playing his electric guitar than learning about his father's past but is now happy to dedicate time to speaking about being second generation. Audience



Anne Karpf



Author Michael Rosen in conversation with AJR's Alex Maws



Elisha Wiesel and UNESCO's Stephen Smith joined the conference from the US via videolink



The AJR conference team



A powerful mural outside Chelsea FC's stadium shows footballers who were sent to Auschwitz

member Talia Barnett said, "Elisha, your humility and overall attitude, including as a father, is fantastic. You are a role model for us all."

POWERFUL IMPRESSIONS

This piece has been written by two non-Jewish German teenagers, Ada Bielski and Noemi Van Hoof, for whom the Next Generations conference formed part of their introduction to Britain's Jewish refugee community and the work of the AJR.

One month ago we, Ada and Noemi, arrived in London from Germany. During the next year we will be working at the AJR as volunteers. We were very lucky that the first event we could participate in was the AJR's Next Generations Conference. Hearing the different speeches was truly inspiring. Neither of us had ever really looked into the experiences of the descendants of the refugees. Their way of looking at the history is of course different and unique. So are the affects it has had on them. Talking about it is important, because so many share a similar yet individual story. The heads that nodded again and again during the two days confirmed how understood many felt.

The stories the next generations have to tell will be even more important, crucial, when the first-hand reports from the Jewish refugees are no longer available. Finding ways to keep the history alive will always be our responsibility and we need people who talk about the horrible things that happened. We are thankful that still so many are willing to put in so much energy and time to do so. A new way of spreading awareness is through modern technology, something the younger generations work with more and more. Making the stories so easily accessible will be very helpful to be able to continue the education.

What impressed us most was how often the speakers directed themselves to the audience, asking them not only to keep the past alive but also to use their voice in current affairs. We should never stop telling the stories, but in order to show that we truly learned something from them we have to also apply our knowledge to the world around us. As 18-year-olds we are both trying to bring this into our lives, by informing ourselves about current politics and using the power we have by voting. We see it as our responsibility not only as Germans, but also as a new generation that can shape the world it will live in. What impressed us though was that so many of the Jewish refugees, of every generation, also felt like they needed to do so and could. Turning those horrible experiences into positive impact definitely is not self-evident. It left us with great respect.

Ada and Noemi are both volunteers with ARSP (Action Reconciliation Service for Peace). Three ARSP representatives who previously volunteered with AJR – Merritt Jagush, Sophia Engel and Ricarda Pasch – joined a panel session during the conference with Dr Susanne Frane, Head of Culture & Education at the Germany Embassy in London to discuss *The Next Generations Confronting the Legacy of Nazism*. Like the other sessions at the conference this is available to watch on AJR's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/c/TheAssociationofJewishRefugees

THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTEFACTS

The Imperial War Museum (IWM)'s new Holocaust galleries have been many years in the making and have involved consultations with both educational experts and Holocaust survivors. The AJR is proud to have funded several aspects of the IWM's project, including filmed interviews with second and third generation survivors, digitisation of new material and the development of a new Holocaust Learning Programme. Our Head of Educational Grants and Projects, Alex Maws, will be writing a full review for our December issue. In the meantime here is an insight into some of the artefacts featured in the new galleries.

Many artefacts have been donated by members of the Generation 2 Generation (G2G), the charity which enables second and third generation of Holocaust survivors to tell their family story.

The maternal family of Lesley Urbach came from northeast Germany. Her mother Eva, then 16, and her aunt Ulli, 13, arrived via Kindertransport in December 1938 while their other two sisters were sent to Argentina. Eva's parents had plans to also escape to South America and had three large trunks packed with everything they needed to start a new life. Sadly they were too late, and they both perished in Auschwitz. One of their three trunks is now part of the IWM Holocaust collection.

G2G presenter Tim Locke was on a panel at AJR's Connecting Next Generations international forum in conversation with Lucy May Maxwell, Curator of the IWM Holocaust Galleries. Tim's artistic grandparents Vera and Hans Neumeyer came from the Bavarian town of Dachau. Hans was a blind music teacher and composer and Vera taught eurythmics and languages. Despite being Lutherans they both died in the concentration camps because of their Jewish ancestry. Their children Ruth and Raimund escaped to England on a Kindertransport.

Tim says: "My Mum Ruth told me the facts but she didn't tell emotions." Now the "tatty knapsack and suitcases that Mum brought over on the Kindertransport" are in the new IWM collection. So too are two recorder duets composed in Easter 1940 by Tim's grandfather Hans and sent from captivity to Ruth in England – the last present he ever sent his daughter.

Most movingly, among the letters in Tim's collection, is a transcript of the last letter written by his grandmother while she was on the train to Auschwitz. Unaware of her fate, she innocently writes: "I am sitting next to the nice Mrs Porsche". The friends were probably murdered a few hours later.

Dr James Bulgin, Head of Content of the Holocaust Galleries, believes that these everyday artefacts provide "channels to a real past". A visitor to the exhibition sees an artefact today and then the same object appears in a photograph in pre-war Germany. James Bulgin explains: "At this moment we close the gap between them and us. This is an electrifying and fertile way of engaging with the reality of people and their experience."

James continues: "Today a museum is not just a place that holds information but it makes the information meaningful. For example, our exhibition gets rid of physically dark spaces. What the Nazis did was in full daylight. There was nothing inevitable about it. It happened because people tenaciously drove it forward. At various times it was much easier not to do it. People pushed it on."

James also believes that the emphasis on the machinery of mass extermination denies the importance of the effort that ordinary people made pushing it on. In his opinion the 'only obeying orders' excuse made by Eichmann at his trial was "the perpetrators' excuse still taken at face value." Research now shows that one million people were

This teddy bear, suitcase and ferry ticket all arrived via Kindertransport with Ruth Neumeyer – the mother of Tim Locke – and are all now on display in the new IWM galleries.



'criminally responsible' for the Holocaust. Dr Bulgin explains: "These people, for example the French railway network, the Dutch police, became anonymous, forgotten. Only the most senior Nazis were held to account."

James Bulgin's own story is remarkable. He attended a Catholic school, growing up with little contact with the Holocaust or antisemitism. After reading English at Royal Holloway he worked in the theatre for ten years. Seeing a play on the Warsaw Ghetto, *Imagine This*, sparked an interest which eventually led to James receiving a Masters with Distinction in Holocaust Studies and a PhD in Holocaust and Related Studies. Looking back he says: "When I first started the project it never occurred to me that antisemitism was still present in popular discourse. Awareness is really critical as it is so bewildering and illogical that antisemitism is still happening."

For James the takeaway from the exhibition is for "people to realise what they are capable of. This is who we are." He wants people to think that prejudice is not always to be vigilant of other people's behaviour but to examine their own.

Judith Hayman

Note from Editor: Judith Hayman is a Generation 2 Generation speaker and will be telling her family story during AJR's Kristallnacht Service on 4 November at 2pm. You can watch it live via <https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83926951195>

KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE 2021
Thursday 4 November 2021 2pm
<https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83926951195>



The Anne Frank of Oradea

Eva Heyman is known as the Anne Frank of Oradea (Nagyvarad). Oradea is a lovely town which is now in Romania but was administered by Hungary from 1940-44.



Eva Heyman

It once had a large Jewish community with two synagogues, one of which has been beautifully restored and is perhaps the greatest tourist attraction in the town. An added incentive to visit it is the patisserie right next door, serving authentic Hungarian cakes and genuine Italian ice cream.

Eva Heyman wrote a diary between February and May, 1944, when she was 13 years old. In spite of realising the fate that awaited her, she writes that she would do anything to survive.

“My little diary: I do not want to die. I would still want to live even if I was the only survivor in our area. I would not mind surviving to the end of the war in a cellar or loft or any hole. I would even let the horrible gendarme,

who stole the flour from us, kiss me. Only not to be killed and to let us live.

“My little diary: people say that we will be sent to the area of Balaton with all the Jews of Hungary and that is where we will be working. I do not believe them. A new word is used now: “deportation” instead of taking us.”

The survival of the diary is thanks to the cook of the family, who smuggled it out from the ghetto.

Her stepfather and mother had a daring escape from Nagyvarad and ended up in Budapest. It is not clear why they left Eva behind and it is also difficult to know what their fate would have been,

had they taken Eva with them. The couple had unbelievable experiences, but survived. The stepfather, Bela Zsolt, wrote a well-known book, entitled *Nine Suitcases*. Eva ended up in Auschwitz where she perished. Her mother had Eva’s diary published in Hungary after liberation and then committed suicide.

In Nagyvarad, the present Oradea, there is a statue of Eva in one of the parks. It depicts a serious young girl, looking older than her 13 years.

Janos Fisher

PLAQUE FOR NUREMBERG INTERPRETER

AJR Trustee Frank Harding recently helped to unveil this plaque at the former home of Hugh Wolfe Frank in Mere, Wiltshire, to help mark the 75th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials.

Wolfe Frank was the senior interpreter at the trials and was labelled The Voice of Doom by the British press for the way he announced the court’s verdicts. His notes about his life were found in the attic of his home, The Malt House, after his death. Paul Hooley MBE researched and edited these notes for a book of the same name, *The Voice of Doom*, published in 2018 by Frontline Books.

A playboy turned resistance worker, Wolfe

Plaque for Wolf Frank



Frank fled Germany for England in 1937 having been branded an ‘enemy of the state – to be shot on sight’. Initially interned as an ‘enemy alien’, he was later released and allowed to join the British army, where he rose to the rank of Captain. Unable to speak English when he arrived in England, by the

time of the trials he was considered to be the finest interpreter in the world.

His biographer Paul Hooley, who was also present at the plaque unveiling, has written a very interesting sequel called *The Undercover Nazi Hunter*.

CONSCIOUS WITHOUT WORDS

The third of our series of articles written by the Wiener Holocaust

Library's senior archivist Howard Falksohn looks at the life of Clément Moreau, a dedicated artist and anti-fascist in exile.

One of the most haunting and powerful images in Clément Moreau's Magnum Opus, *Nacht über Deutschland*, a graphic portrayal of life in a totalitarian state, is the face of the widow who has just discovered that her husband is dead; tortured and murdered by the secret police in Nazi Germany. Creating the impression of light and shadow the artist is able to evoke the pain of grief in the sufferer's countenance: her eyes are large vacant black pools; her mouth fixed in a downward turn. A friend whispers words of support in her ear and places her hand on her shoulder. The image is captioned simply, *Solidarität*.

This is one of a set of 107 captioned linocuts that form a narrative depicting life in the Fascist state also known as *La Comedia Humana*. It is thought that the murder victim is based on Erich Mühsam, the German Jewish anarchist writer and friend of Clément Moreau, who was imprisoned and brutally tortured by the Nazis in 1934 and whose death was made to appear as suicide. The figure in Moreau's work has his hands handcuffed behind him as he swings by a rope around his neck.

The work was first published in instalments in 1937/8 in the *Argentinisches Tageblatt*¹ in Buenos Aires, where the artist had already escaped into exile.

Carl Meffert (1903-1988), later known as Clément Moreau, was born out of wedlock in Koblenz to a Catholic postal worker. He spent WW1 in an orphanage, escaped and joined the Spartacists in 1919 and was then sentenced to six years for 'political crimes' by a special military court.

On his release, after three years, he

1 This was one of the only German language periodicals published in Argentina which was outspokenly anti-Nazi. Their offices were frequently attacked as was the proprietor, Johan Aleman.

trained as a graphic artist and worked mostly in areas consistent with his radical left wing politics: workers' rights, dispossessed youth, the unemployed etc. His chosen medium was linocuts. He produced a number of sets throughout his career each depicting a different theme usually linked to working class struggle and anti-fascism. He became a member of the Association of Revolutionary Graphic Artists, Germany (ARBKD) in 1928, befriending the likes of Käthe Kollwitz, Emil Orlik, Heinrich Vogeler and Erich Mühsam.

In March 1933 he fled from the Nazis to Switzerland, leaving in such a rush that he left behind a large part of his corpus. No stranger to Switzerland, he had already visited in 1930 to stay on a rural artist commune, Fontana Martina, with other German émigré artists aiming to create a humane, socialist culture. He changed his name to Clément Moreau and continued a steady output of linocuts for, amongst other publications, the Swiss trades union magazine.

In Switzerland there was always the threat of arrest or deportation hanging over him. So through a connection of his soon to be (second) wife, Nelly Guggenbühl, they managed to get visas to emigrate to Argentina.

In Argentina his output increased and he quickly made connections with other like-minded émigrés and became acquainted with August Siemsen, with whom he founded *Das Andere Deutschland* (see Wiener Holocaust Library holdings). The original publication of the same name had been published in Weimar Germany and included amongst its contributors Kurt Tucholsky and Erich Kästner and was banned when the Nazis came to power.

Argentina was infamous for its sympathy for the Nazi regime and under Juan Peron provided safe haven for many Nazis fleeing Europe. Less well known is its role as a sanctuary for Jews fleeing Europe and anti-fascists. Buenos Aires became



Solidarität by Clément Moreau

a focal point for the distribution of anti-fascist propaganda in South America despite the hostile regime.

Clément Moreau continued producing drawings and linocuts in the 1930s, many of them concerning the Spanish Civil War and in 1937 produced an illustrated satirical version of *Mein Kampf*. In 1938 he founded an anti-fascist theatre group, *Truppe 38*, and continued publishing anti-fascist works until the German embassy put pressure on the Argentinian government to ban anti-Hitler caricatures.

When Peron came to power in 1943 Moreau moved to the province of Jujuy, ostensibly as a tourist expert but soon became heavily involved in documenting the plight of the indigenous population through numerous drawings and linocuts.

He remained in Argentina, albeit interspersed with periods of internal and external exile, until the 1960s. He then returned to Switzerland where he remained for the rest of his life. He continued to work and established his own foundation. He died in 1988.

Books Bought

MODERN AND OLD

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THE NIGHT THAT WOKE VIENNA

This month marks 83 years since **Kristallnacht** – the night which marked a major escalation of the Nazi campaign against Jews and prompted a new wave of refugees arriving here in Britain. **Martin Mauthner** describes the shockwave it created in Vienna, a place where many Jews had previously enjoyed a false sense of security.

An American of Jewish ancestry, Ilana Fritz Offenberger was spending a year at Salzburg College. During a college trip to Vienna she visited the country's state archives, and found family documents covered with red swastika stamps. They were the official papers that legalised the robbery of the family home in Fasangasse, in the capital's third district. For her, it was a kind of epiphany that drove her to spend years researching the rescue and ultimate destruction of Vienna's Jews.

Professor Offenberger, who teaches history at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, recently published the fruits of her research in a scholarly yet highly accessible work, *The Jews of Nazi Vienna, 1938-1945* (Palgrave Macmillan). Whereas Germany's Jews emigrated over several years, as the Nazis stepped up persecution after 1933, Austria's Jews - and that meant mainly those in Vienna - on the whole watched, but did not react until the abrupt and traumatic *Anschluss* and *Kristallnacht* in 1938.

As Professor Offenberger points out, fewer than two thousand, out of an estimated 191,000 Jews, left in the four years preceding Berlin's take-over. In her view, those who stayed "were not naive, nor were they ignorant or passive, in the face of the looming Nazi threat. Rather, they were filled with hope and a false sense of security."

That attitude changed dramatically, following annexation in March; there was a desperate *saue qui peut*, ignited by eight weeks of terror and humiliation:



The Kahal Adat Israel synagogue, known as the Schiffschul

Jews' homes and businesses were pillaged, individuals were forced to kneel and clean pavements with brushes. The Nazis temporarily restored order in May, after Adolf Eichmann in April reopened the Jewish community's main organisation, the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde (IKG) - it usefully registered births, deaths and marriages. Eichmann reinstated Dr Josef Loewenherz, who had been imprisoned, as head of the IKG, tasking him with helping Eichmann and the Gestapo expel - or rescue - the Jews.

Many Jews aided Loewenherz. They had mostly lost their jobs and wanted to serve their community; it might also bring them higher on the emigration list. That summer thousands applied to leave, while the new rulers started rounding up 'criminals' and deporting them to Dachau.

However the November pogroms, which saw almost 100 synagogues destroyed across Vienna, ushered in a new wave of terror. Working not just with the Nazis but also with organisations abroad, the IKG was able to

enabled another 70,000 Jews to escape, bringing the total to some 136,000.

What of those who stayed, either because they tried but failed to escape, or because they were unwilling even to try? Drawing upon archives and individual memories, Professor Offenberger tells the ghastly story, with a wealth of grim details. At first, after the war had begun, the Nazis said that, for every Jew the IKG helped to emigrate, it would have to cooperate in 'resettling' another in Poland.

Emigration from the enlarged Reich, however, ended in October 1941; from then on, the occupiers forced the IKG to cooperate in deporting some 45,000 Jews, including IKG staff, to the death camps; by 1943 they had dissolved the IKG - mission accomplished. In Professor Offenberger's view, the IKG "had no choice other than to cooperate...they should not be judged by their part in the Nazis' final attempt to destroy their community."

Martin Mauthner

Destruction inside the Stadttempel synagogue



Ruins of the ceremonial hall in the New Jewish Cemetery in Vienna



REVIEWS

BAFFY - THE DIARIES OF BLANCHE DUGDALE 1936-1947

**Edited by Norman Rose
Valentine Mitchell**

On a summer Sunday in 1947 Blanche Dugdale noted in her diary: 'To Church, and in the afternoon to a Protest Meeting about the deportation back to France of the Jews on the *President Warfield*'. That notorious action by the British government backfired. It became the basis of *Exodus* (as the vessel was renamed), a novel and a film that generated worldwide sympathy for the Zionist cause.

In Britain there were few more fervent gentile supporters of the cause than Dugdale, known to her intimates as 'Baffy'. Born in 1880, of aristocratic Scottish lineage, Dugdale was a regular church-goer; she was among those 'Christian Zionists' for whom, over centuries, the return of 'The People of the Book' to the Holy Land was an imperative.

Thirty years earlier her uncle, Arthur Balfour; as foreign secretary, had proclaimed the government's support for a Jewish 'national home' in Palestine. Like Joan of Arc, she now had a mission - to turn Balfour's nebulous aspiration into reality. She shared that goal with Chaim Weizmann; the historian Lewis Namier introduced her to the future first president of Israel in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Dugdale's diaries record how, as the crucial go-between, she helped Weizmann and his associates in their complicated dealings with London, as it tried to unravel the knot into which it had tied itself.

With her *entrée* she lobbied ministers and senior officials, she wrote articles and pamphlets, she made speeches. Travelling between London and Palestine, she - a mother of two - attended or followed closely conferences as well as commissions and committees and congresses. Her diaries register her day-to-day activities, against a backdrop of Arab resistance and the swelling tide of refugees from Hitler.

The original diaries run to around 700,000 words. Excising the non-political, Professor Norman Rose, the eminent British-born Israeli historian and biographer of Weizmann and Churchill, produced an edited, and thoroughly footnoted, version in 1973. The publishers have now re-issued this work. The diaries end in August 1947, with Baffy's health failing her. She died on 15 May 1948, a day after the State of Israel was born.

'Wild with Anxiety': Baffy and the Refugees

15 November 1938 (after Kristallnacht) Anyway, 'appeasement' lies in ruins, and when Chaim [Weizmann] went to see the P.M. this afternoon with the Anglo-Jewish Deputation, Neville [Chamberlain] said as much. Chaim demanded an immediate Children's Aliyah (immigration) of 1,500, and a large number of the trainees in Germany.

15 March 1939 (after Hitler occupied Czechoslovakia). Went to Czecho Refugee Committee....Legations besieged by people seeking asylum, and had shut their doors. Uncertainty about a train loaded with 620 women and children, families of our political refugees, which started from Gdynia yesterday - no news as to whether it had crossed the Polish frontier. The men were wild with anxiety.

25 April 1939, in Palestine ...I must go to the camp in which 170 refugees arrested after landing from a sailing boat are confined....They speak freely - in German course - of the horrors of their eight weeks at sea, in the power of what is practically a pirate crew, for £200 had been taken from each; but twice the devils put back towards Europe, demanding more, taking even the women's rings and ear-rings. They were starved of food and water...

29 January 1940 ...a ship with 730 (illegal) halutzim [immigrants] on board had been arrested...and brought by H.M. Navy to Haifa ... would [they] be allowed to land, or be deported to some distant concentration camp (say Seychelles, Hong Kong, or Singapore). I volunteered to go and see Malcolm [MacDonald, Colonial Secretary] alone, and this was agreed to. I telephoned, and his Private Secretary got

me an interview for tomorrow morning at 11 a.m.

30 January 1940 ...Went to Colonial Office. MacDonald said at once that he intended to let the refugees land...
Martin Mauthner

DEBATING THE ZEITGEIST AND BEING SECOND GENERATION

**Edited by Miriam E David and Merilyn Moos
Valentine Mitchell**

During lockdown a dozen British children of refugees put down reflections about themselves and their place in the community while carrying the torch in the battle against antisemitism after their parents fled Nazism.

These second generation members have explored their backgrounds and the legacy of the brutal world their forbears escaped from - mainly in Germany and Austria - and how it affected their own upbringing. Without this persecution their parents might never have met but the continental values originating in the heritage they left behind were often adopted by offspring, sometimes subconsciously. Many parents still spoke German and the language was absorbed by their children which later helped them with research, although some never spoke it at all. It was the same with Jewish customs and religion, though some had been secular Jews in their homelands.

The shadow of relatives lost in the Holocaust and the grief their parents experienced - particularly post-traumatic stress disorder - is explored together with the awful reality of grandparents who had perished. Coming from relatively similar backgrounds there are several recurring themes, especially chagrin at the unfairness of internment and being classed as "enemy alien", which even included Resistance activists.

Lord Dubs - who came from Czechoslovakia on the Kindertransport - has written the foreword. He explains the book provides "fascinating and unique insights" about how

the second generation members feel about themselves and their role in life. Writers – now in their seventies – also comment on feelings about reclaiming German citizenship and passports after Brexit. Parents had often been involved in restitution and compensation claims. Most children knew about their background but others discovered it only much later, as relatives had varying degrees of acknowledgement and denial. Siblings within the same family sometimes reacted in differing ways.

Miriam E David and Marilyn Moos – who start with their own powerful stories – have done a splendid editing job, including potted biographies of essayists. Most chapters are by women, fiercely independent, bringing up families whilst also maintaining careers but more time in retirement has enabled them to put down their thoughts. It is interesting reading about those who grew up in other parts of the country than London and the attitudes encountered. Writers were brought up with an emphasis on a good education and the differing degrees of religious observance. Even when their parents were almost entirely assimilated in Britain they often continued with “more adventurous food” which marked them out from neighbours, as did foreign accents and in some cases “mad professor hair”!

Contributor Peter Crome explains he feels at home in the UK despite some political misgivings and then echoes my own thoughts. “I feel privileged, both materially and socially, and it has given me an opportunity to thrive. Being the son of a German Jewish refugee has given me an extra dimension to all aspects of my life. As it turns out I would not have wished it any other way.” As always the first generation story is fascinating: Eric Sanders’ piece on thoughts of growing up in Vienna and settling in Britain afterwards with his family is particularly so.
Janet Weston

THE DRESSMAKERS OF AUSCHWITZ
Lucy Adlington
Hodder and Stoughton

The chances of survival at Auschwitz were, of course, minimal. It is well-known

that some survived because they were musicians. Far less recognised is that a few survived because they could sew.

Lucy Adlington is a dress historian with a background in social history. This gives her an insightful perspective into an under-acknowledged aspect of Nazism.

A basic Nazi task was to create the desired social division. For this ‘Appearance was everything’. Folk costume was co-opted to widen the us/ them divide: it was for Aryans only. The message to German Jews was clear: ‘You are not us’.

And in the camps the ‘guards found it easier to mistreat prisoners if they did not look fully human’, so their hair was shorn while their clothing disintegrated. In contrast, for the Nazi elite the sense of belonging was enhanced by wearing an impressive smart uniform.

As both the Nazi party and the military grew, so too did their need for uniforms. The irony here is that the German clothing industry was largely Jewish.

‘Almost half the wholesale textile firms were Jewish...Jewish workers made up huge numbers of those employed in designing, making, moving and selling clothes’ yet they had been expelled from their jobs. So, skills insufficiently available among the so-called Aryan population were present among the Jewish concentration camp prisoners.

This led to the recruitment of twenty-five seamstresses among the Auschwitz prisoners, a select few whose lives were thereby saved and who had, in contrast to all the others, the massive privilege of being indoors and allowed to sit down. They knew, nevertheless, that they were ‘sewing uniforms for the men who were out to kill us all’.

This is predominantly a story about women. The description of the demeaning deprivations they suffered on arrival in Auschwitz is perhaps the most powerful part of the book. On the other side there are the likes of Hedwig Höss, wife of the camp

governor. She established the Upper Tailoring Studio and was blatantly indifferent to the suffering of the many all around her. There’s also, among too many of her tendency, the SS woman who demonstrated ‘how to drown a prisoner in a small puddle’.

What comes through prominently is the solidarity and cooperation among the sewing unit, which continued after the war among the few who survived. This is a very well written, thoroughly researched and intelligent book. It must surely rank as one of the best books on Nazi Germany.
Michael Levin

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OBITUARIES

LILI POHLMANN (née STERN)

Born: 29 March 1930, Lwów

Died: 15 September 2021, London



Lili Pohlman, addressing Parliament

On Lili's 16th birthday she found herself floating along the Thames on the deck of a ship commissioned by Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld as part of his drive to liberate Jewish child-survivors of The Shoah.

She had been charged with looking after younger members of the group who were convinced the ship was about to crash. Lili shared their sense of panic but you'd never have known. Her wartime experiences in Poland over the previous seven years had taught her never to show fear. There is archive footage, filmed in the hostel Rabbi Schonfeld set up for these children – the teenage Lili is in the dining hall, dashing from table to table with copious bowls of soup, serving others.

Lili had inherited her father's adventurous spirit and adored their skiing excursions to Zakopane – where he frequently coaxed her towards the precarious off-piste slopes, urging her to be bold. From very early on Lili learnt the importance of remaining clear-headed in the face of danger.

Caught in the pincer of the dual German-Russian invasion of Poland, Lili's family travelled east from their beloved Krakow to find refuge with her maternal grandparents in Lwów. When the German occupation began in 1941 the idyllic life with her younger brother Uriel, and parents Filip and Cesia was brutally shattered and Lili witnessed the depravity to which humanity could sink. Her grandfather was randomly shot in the street, and her father and brother were taken to Belzec. Lili's childhood was cruelly stolen: finally, only Lili and her mother were left.

Desperate not to lose a second child, Cesia made the courageous decision to reach out to a total stranger for help. She chose wisely: Irmgard Wieth, a German civilian employee, miraculously agreed to offer them shelter, instantly putting her own life at risk. Wieth, who was recognised as Righteous Among the Nations in 1968, was one of several individuals whose courageous actions enabled Lili and her mother to survive. Lili knew only too well the destructiveness of blind hatred, but it was the selflessness of those people who Lili often referred to as "extraordinary, ordinary people" that enabled her to retain faith in the power of love.

Lili carried a deep affection for the country of her birth and her loss

is deeply mourned there. She loved the beautiful boulevards of Planty Park and her pride and joy was the Jewish Cultural Centre she helped to found. A chance meeting in Warsaw in the mid-nineties with the iconic Polish rescuer Irena Sendler sparked the biggest love affair she had with that country. While Lili cheated death in Lwów, 250 miles away Irena was risking her life, in the typhus-riddled streets of the Warsaw Ghetto, to save the lives of hundreds of other Lilis. A passion was ignited in Lili to share the story of this remarkable woman as widely as possible – a mission that defined her life from then on. They spoke on the phone practically every day for the rest of Irena's life and Lili watched with pride as evermore people learned of what her friend had done and the sacrifices she made.

I was introduced to her remarkable mother through Lili's numerous recollections, and I grew to know her beloved Peter through so many affectionate anecdotes. Lili surrounded herself with memories: her most treasured possession was the photo taken in Planty of both her parents and her beloved brother Uriel - the only one that exists of all four together. But she also had numerous pictures of her beloved daughter Karen, her three beautiful grandchildren and her great-grandson Asher.

Few things in life were more important to Lili than imparting her message of hope and tolerance to children and teenagers. Lili left her mark: her story has been preserved in books and on film, and her deeds have been widely honoured - in Poland with The Commander's Cross of Polonia Restituta, and in the UK with an MBE. Recently her story was introduced to a brand new audience by L.B.C.'s James O'Brien, but her greatest legacy lives on in the hearts of all who met her. Her magic touched even those who had the briefest of encounters with her.

Her soul mate, Irena Sendler, was speaking for them both when she said - *"So long as I have an iota of energy in my body, I shall declare that only good is supreme. It must be striven for at all costs, and in the end it must prevail."*

Antony Lishak, CEO of charity *Learning from the Righteous*



Lili with her family in Krakow 1938

Hilda Tichauer on
her 100th birthday

HILDA TICHAUER (née Matzdorf)

Born: 25 August, 1920, Guben, Germany
Died: 31 August, 2021, Harrow, Middx.

My mother was the second daughter of Dr. jur. Martin Matzdorf and Anna Matzdorf.

She was born in Guben where her father had taken up his first position as a judge. In April 1933, after the family had returned to Berlin, all Jewish judges were dismissed. Hilda and her sister Eva (six years older) could not complete their education.

After Kristallnacht, Eva and Hilda obtained domestic work visas and arrived in England in February 1939. In 1940 they were interned on the Isle of Man. They continued writing Red Cross letters with their parents. Tragically, their parents were both killed in Auschwitz in December 1942.

Hilda met Gerard Tichauer on New Year's Eve 1946 in Berlin. They had both joined the US Army to do translation work. Gerard had fled Berlin in 1933. They returned to London in 1948 and were married in August 1949. I was born in June 1958.

Hilda trained in art and, later worked in the art department of Selfridges. Like her mother, she had a great passion for art.

Hilda's mobility was impaired after contracting Guillaine-Barré Syndrome and later having a hip replacement. She remained active and she and Gerard were great participants at the AJR Day Centre. Hilda gave weekly art classes. Sadly Gerard died in 1993.

In April 2013, Hilda and Lydia were invited to the inauguration of a book and the unveiling of a memorial plaque and Stolpersteine at the *Arbeitsgericht* (Labour Courts) in Berlin. Two Stolpersteine were also laid outside the former family home.

On 24 December 2014 Hilda and Lydia celebrated Eva's 100th birthday in Munich. Sadly Eva died in August 2015. We celebrated Hilda's 100th birthday with a garden party last year. Both sisters received the special 100th birthday card from HM the Queen.

During the Covid lockdown, I talked with my mother about family history and we discovered several cousins around the world. My mother was a loyal, kind and generous friend. She enjoyed our outings, especially to art exhibitions and restaurants. She was still cheerful on her 101st birthday. I will cherish wonderful memories of my mother forever.

Lydia Tichauer



VERA LEONIE MORRIS (née HELLER)

Born: 24 February 1925, Berlin
Died: 29 August 2021, London

Vera was the elder of two daughters of a Berlin family, proudly Jewish but not religious. In 1934, after her father lost his job, they migrated to Britain and settled in Finchley, north London.

Vera had been in school in Berlin and when she left her teacher made a sort of ceremony and the class sang "Muss ich denn, aus der Heimat heraus" (Must I leave my native country). Vera didn't realise until many years later how ironic that was.

For Vera the move to Britain was a great and positive adventure which her parents somehow managed to share. At her new school she learned English quickly and her parents, in order to improve their own English, made English the language at home. After finishing school she went to Cambridge and trained as a teacher. Later she qualified as an educational psychologist and worked with children at the Inner London Education Authority.

In 1952 she married Michael and they raised two children, Aviva and Noah, There are 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Many years later she visited Berlin but this had no emotional impact. Meeting Germans of her own generation made her realise that many of them struggle with their country's past and want to take responsibility for the future. Her message was "lest we forget": she always tried to make people aware of the past she experienced and the danger of it happening again.

Vera was a long-standing member of the AJR and worked for many years as a much-appreciated volunteer, visiting housebound members of the organisation; she helped them with anything that needed doing or was simply a friendly, listening ear. She continued this work until she was well into her eighties and was amused that in the end some of her 'clients' were younger than she herself was.

Michael Morris

ZOOMS AHEAD

Details of all meetings and the links to join will appear in the e-newsletter each Monday.

Monday 1 November @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/87320759907
Monday 1 November @2pm	Cindy Berry - Flower Arranging https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/87839667888
Monday 1 November @4pm	Film club discussion: Son of Saul, 1945 https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86546477897
Tuesday 2 November @2pm	Henry Holland-Hibbert – The Munden Estate, near St Albans https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/81752191000
Wednesday 3 November @2pm	Candice Mendes da Costa, Maccabi GB - The 'Yellow Candle Project' https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89891520263
Wednesday 3 November @6pm	In conversation: Daniel Snowman, author of <i>Just Passing Through</i> https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/82286334901
Thursday 4 November @2pm	KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83926951195
Monday 8 November @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85384881248
Tuesday 9 November @2pm	Jonathan Bergwerk - Marc Chagall https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83306834730
Wednesday 10 November @2pm	Herbie Goldberg - The Young Mendelssohn https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85301976050
Monday 15 November @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88683114751
Tuesday 16 November @2pm	Gary Italiaander – Why it takes a year to make a Steinway piano https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/82750463315
Wednesday 17 November @2pm	AJR Book Club Discussion (no speaker) - <i>Swimming Home</i> by Deborah Levy https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89284657262
Monday 22 November @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86755300183
Monday 22 November @2pm	The Right Hon Jim Murphy - Reflections on a Life in Politics https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/82712425035
Tuesday 23 November @2pm	Bob Sinfield, comedy writer – reading from his latest book, <i>Dead & Breakfast</i> https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83232174174
Wednesday 24 November @2pm	Marc Stevens – live from Toronto, Canada, sharing the story of his father, Peter Stevens https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83369893175
Monday 29 November @10.30am	Online Yoga: Get fit where you sit https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86388775142
Tuesday 30 November @2pm	Stephen Horne – Words & expressions and the troubles they can cause https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83831753820

EVENTS

INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE: CHILDHOOD AND THE 1930S REFUGEES

This conference, organised by the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, University of London, will cover trauma, therapy, analysis and education, with speakers including Trevor Avery, Charmian Brinson and Anthony Grenville. It takes place online during the afternoons of 1 & 2 December.

<https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24623>

LOVE, LIES, JUSTICE: A VIENNESE RATLINE

Philippe Sands QC will present this year's Martin Miller and Hannah Norbert-Miller Memorial Lecture on 4 November at 6 pm, online and in person.

<https://modernlanguages.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24975>

BEING SECOND GENERATION

AJR Trustee Gaby Glassman, a psychologist and psychotherapist who has facilitated second generation and intergenerational groups since the 1980s, will lead a workshop for the children of Holocaust survivors and refugees to explore together how their heritage has affected their lives.



It will take place over zoom at 11 am on Sunday 7 November.

<https://www.jw3.org.uk/search?for=second+generation>

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

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

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

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

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

Printed by FBprinters, 82b Woodside Park Road, London N12 8RY Tel: 020 8458 3220 Email: info@fbprinters.com

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