

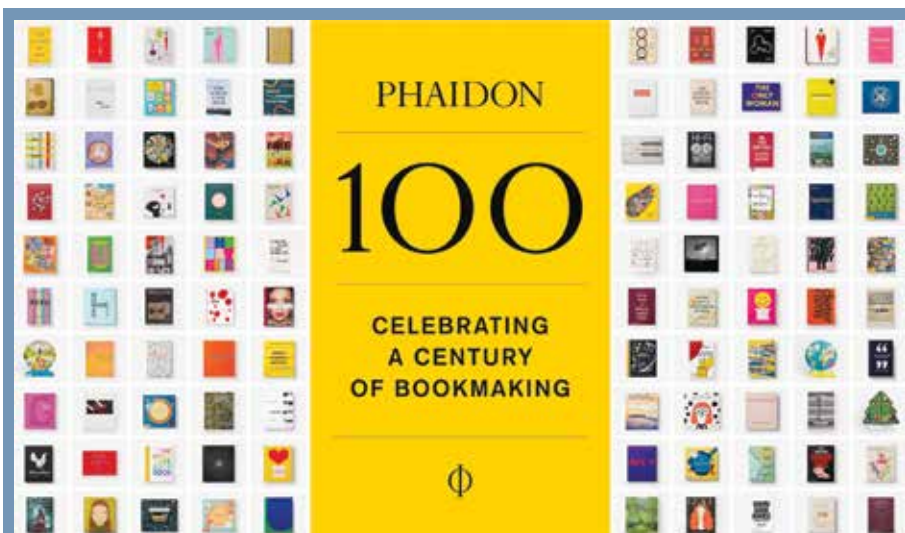


AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

Revolutionising Art publishing

Last Autumn Phaidon, the premier global publisher of the creative arts, celebrated its centenary. It is sad that the two last children of publisher Béla Horovitz (1898-1955), the co-founder in 1923, with Ludwig Goldscheider and Fritz Ungar, of Phaidon Verlag, were not able to celebrate this special occasion. The composer Joseph Horovitz died in 2022 and his sister Elly Miller (née Horovitz) died in 2020.



Phaidon was part of the transformation of British publishing brought about by publishers such as Béla Horovitz and other Jewish refugees

The family were all Jewish refugees from Vienna and in different ways they made an enormous contribution to cultural life in post-war Britain. Phaidon was part of the transformation of British publishing brought about by publishers like Béla Horovitz and numerous refugee writers, designers and illustrators. It was a glorious chapter in the history of Jewish refugees from central Europe who came to Britain.

Béla Horovitz was born in Budapest but grew up in Vienna, during what Stefan

Zweig famously called 'The Golden Age of Security.' *Fin de siècle* Vienna was a time of extraordinary cultural ferment: Schnitzler and Hofmannstahl, the Ringstrasse and the birth of urban modernism, Klimt, Egon Schiele and Kokoschka, Freud and Schönberg. Horovitz's children grew up in a cultured home, on the Parkring, facing the Stadtpark, in the heart of Vienna. The offices had paintings by Klimt on the walls. Their father could quote in Latin and Greek, and both parents were involved in Viennese music and fine
Continued on page 2

A TOP PRIORITY

The AJR's vision – a society free of antisemitism that remembers the Holocaust and those who were murdered, and that honours the Jewish refugees and survivors of Nazi oppression – is widely supported by British Jewry, according to the National Jewish Identity Survey (p4).

It is heartening to know that this vision is being embraced by the young generations, as demonstrated by the moving efforts of 16 year old Ella Kaufman (p13) and 10 year old Natan Denham (p15).

We would be delighted to receive any similar stories from other members, young and old.

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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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Revolutionising Art publishing (cont.)

arts. Joseph Horovitz became a distinguished composer, one sister, Elly, later became an art publisher, the other daughter, Hannah, became a classical music promoter.

Béla Horovitz, Ludwig Goldscheider and Fritz Ungar, all friends from school, co-founded Phaidon Verlag in 1923. Ungar left the company in 1924, founded the Saturn-Verlag in 1926, and unlike the others emigrated to New York in 1938, founding the Frederick Ungar publishing house in 1941. They published some of Austria's leading writers, including Zweig, Robert Neumann, Joseph Roth and Arthur Schnitzler.

The name Phaidon came from Phaedo, a pupil of Socrates. Phaidon's first books were editions of Classical literature and poetry but they moved on to illustrated cultural history, Burkhardt on the Renaissance and Mommsen on Rome, and then to art publishing. Phaidon revolutionised art publishing, introducing the work of famous artists in handsome editions to a wide audience at a low price. The story of Phaidon, from Vienna to London, is superbly told by Anna Nyburg in her beautifully produced book *Emigrés: The Transformation of Arts Publishing in Britain* (2014).

In 1938 the Horovitz family left Vienna two days after the *Anschluss* and escaped to London after an extraordinary journey across Europe. The Horovitz and Goldscheider families initially settled in Hampstead. The Horovitz family rented a house in Lyndhurst Road, next door to the famous photographer Bill Brandt at number 24. 'To me,' Joseph Horovitz later said in an interview for the Royal College of Music, 'England was a fantasy of peace, of safety, of wonderful life, polite people.' He acknowledged that this was an outsider's view of Englishness. In his book, *The Hitler Emigrés*, Daniel Snowman wrote, 'Horovitz is clearly comfortable in both the lyricism and the lush post-romanticism of the Vienna he left and the pastoralism of the England to which he came.'

Horovitz and Goldscheider weren't the only Jewish refugees at Phaidon. Alice Hammond was a German refugee who stayed with the firm as secretary and assistant for several decades. Innozenz Grafe, born in Vienna, worked for them as an editor for many years.

Phaidon's greatest success after the war was *The Story of Art* (1950), by Ernst Gombrich, also from Vienna. Gombrich, who disliked being labelled as a refugee, had written some chapters for a book on art for children while he was still in Vienna. In 1942, while he was working for BBC German service, Bela Horovitz contacted him and commissioned *The Story of Art*. The book became a huge international bestseller. Elly Horovitz played an important part in its genesis. Her father asked her, then aged sixteen, if she would recommend it. She did and the rest is history. The famous English art critic Herbert Read was also given the manuscript to read but apparently rejected it. It became one of the most famous art history books of the 20th century and established Phaidon's reputation for publishing beautifully produced books of the highest scholarly standards, aimed at a popular audience. It has sold over seven million copies and has been constantly in print for more than seventy years.

'The publication,' Nyburg writes, 'seems to embody the essence of the refugee publishing experience: the scholarly origins of the work prepared in Vienna; the contact between author and publisher made through another Viennese publisher, if not in pre-war Vienna; the dedication of the book to young people or the "innocent reader"; and, finally, the project's survival of the long, hard war years to be published in a new, more peaceful Europe – a real symbol of the survival of Viennese values and a "world of art and culture"', referred to in the programme notes of a concert to celebrate Gombrich's sixtieth birthday in 1969, in which Joseph Horovitz pointed out the Viennese origins of the 'composer, dedicatee, and three of the performers' (a reference to the Amadeus Quartet).

Béla Horovitz never returned to Austria. Goldscheider wrote in a letter in 1959, 'In Vienna, whenever I am there, I no longer feel at home. It feels like going home to a mother who looks like her son, but who has changed monstrously, who tried years ago to abort him, to poison him, to throttle him... without succeeding.'

In 1950 Béla's daughter Elly joined Phaidon Press. He died of a heart attack in 1955. After his death, Elly and her husband, Harvey, ran Phaidon together until selling it in 1967. She had learned much about book production from Ludwig Goldscheider and continued his

tradition. Publishing was still very much a man's world in the 1950s and '60s and she played a significant role, editing and designing major books such as Berenson's essays on Italian Renaissance painters, Anthony Blunt's Old Master drawings at Windsor Castle and Kenneth Clark's monograph, *Piero della Francesca*.

In October, celebrating Phaidon's centenary, Deborah Aaronson, the company's vice-president and group publisher, said, 'Simply stated, Phaidon invented the accessible art book. When Phaidon was formed, the founders conceived of a new style of book: a large format, generously illustrated, and affordably priced monograph on a single artist: *Vincent Van Gogh*.' This book was published in 1936 and sold 55,000 copies within two days.

Of course, there is much to celebrate in Phaidon's one hundred year history. But Anna Nyburg is surely right to strike a more complicated note: 'The continuing success of Phaidon was thus achieved not without some personal suffering by those who ran it: resentment, isolation and competition were part of the refugee experience, alongside relief, gratitude and renewal.'

David Herman



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to Liverpool, Chester
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 roshart@ajr.org.uk

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

The AJR office was a hive of activity at the beginning of March when four archivists from the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris decamped to our boardroom for two days to meet with AJR members and other descendants.

A total of 29 people came to have their family story added to the French archive, bringing documents and photographs from before, during and after the Holocaust.

Although this opportunity was open to everyone regardless of where in Europe their family are from, most who signed up for a slot had a *french connection*, and our office in Finchley could almost have been confused with the terraces of the Champs Elysées, with the sweet sound of lively chat *en français!*

Along with a multitude of letters, documents and photographs, other artefacts brought in included a Nazi dagger, war medals, and the equivalent of a Czech travel card from the 1940s. Among the people who came in included two hidden children from



AJR members meeting with French representatives from the Mémorial de la Shoah

France, one of whom had rarely spoken about his past before, and author Michael Rosen who said, “Many thanks for today. It’s incredible the effect of putting together our stories for a complete stranger – especially one who is compiling and sorting them. Thanks for setting that up.”

This event was a great success and something we will look to repeat, perhaps with other archives, in the future. Second generation Stephanie Hurst said, “I was so pleased to meet with you and the team of researchers today. Sending my documents to the Mémorial de la Shoah has always been one of my ambitions for posterity and

now it has been fulfilled.”

Incidentally, the connection between AJR and the Mémorial de la Shoah was made at the World Federation of Holocaust Survivors and Descendants conference which this year will be held at the end of September in Toronto. More info here: [Upcoming Conferences – World Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Descendants](#) [World Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors & Descendants \(holocaustchild.org\)](#) and more information about the museum in Paris here: [Mémorial de la Shoah – Musée et centre de documentation Mémorial de la Shoah \(memorialdelashoah.org\)](#)



AJR member Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines (right) and her sister Eva Paddock, who lives in the US, with President Petr Pavel at the Czech premiere of *One Life* in Prague



The AJR is proud to be the UK’s largest dedicated funder of Holocaust education projects and initiatives. Last month, we started a series of funding partner visits, beginning with Holocaust Centre North which is doing fantastic work, telling the global history of the Holocaust through local stories of survivors and refugees in the North of England.

JEWISH LIFE IN THE UK TODAY

A fascinating new report about Jewish life in the UK today, based on JPR's 2022 National Jewish Identity Survey, found that remembering the Holocaust, combating antisemitism, feeling part of the Jewish people and strong moral and ethical behaviour are the most important aspects of how British Jews see themselves.

There are about 300,000 Jews living in the UK today – a small number compared to the 7 million in Israel and 6 million in the United States – and a tiny minority in Britain, comprising less than half a percent of its population. Yet the UK is home to the fifth largest Jewish population in the world while London houses the 14th largest urban Jewish population globally, second only to Paris in terms of cities outside Israel and the US.

Our community is large enough to have built a vibrant and dynamic Jewish life, with numerous synagogues, Jewish schools, youth movements, cultural centres, festivals and events, but small enough to see many regional communities struggling to maintain their infrastructure, and for individual Jews sometimes to feel vulnerable and isolated in the face of an antisemitic threat that appears to be growing. British Jews continue to grapple with the tension between being out and proud in multicultural Britain and toning down or hiding their Jewishness for fear of standing out or falling victim to hostility. In that regard, they remain insiders/outside – feeling part of modern Britain and acculturated into wider British life, yet also exposed, or not fully seen or understood.

There is also tremendous diversity within our Jewish population. At one end of the spectrum, there is the rapidly growing *haredi*, or strictly Orthodox community, living intensely religious Jewish lives informed by unerring belief in God and extensive study of Jewish religious texts. At the other, there is a large proportion of self-

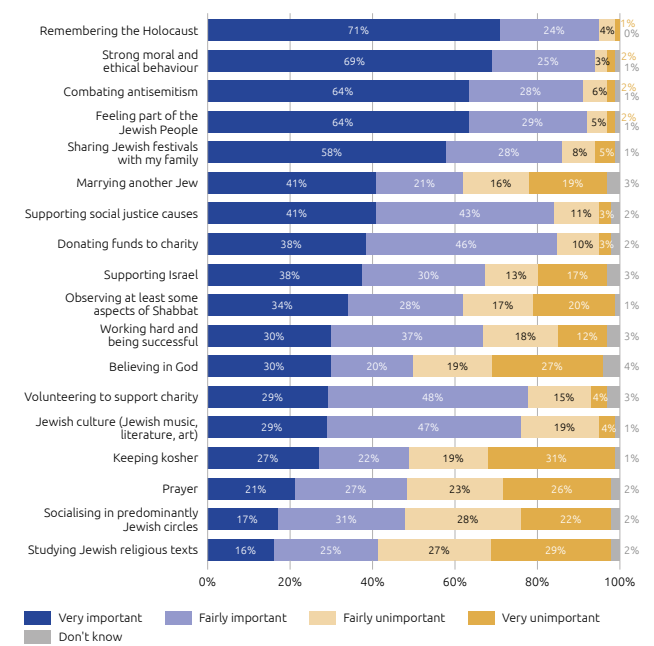
identifying Jews who are completely secular, rarely, if ever, setting foot in a synagogue, but nonetheless finding significant meaning and pride in some of the cultural aspects of Jewish life and history. And in between these poles are numerous shades of Jewishness; Jews seeking to strike their own preferred balance between their Jewish and British identities, their spiritual and rational beliefs, and their commitments to the community and the wider world.

The JPR report was compiled using responses from almost 5,000 participants about multiple issues, including belief in God, engagement in synagogue and wider community life, Jewish practices on Shabbat and festivals, Jewish educational and cultural participation and consumption, and charitable giving and volunteering. It investigates Jewish people's attachments to Israel and their experiences of antisemitism, how accepted they feel by the wider Jewish community, and the strength of both their Jewish and British identities.

As with all of JPR's work, the report is primarily aimed at those working to shape Jewish life positively in the years to come. But it will also offer future historians a valuable reference point to understand who British Jews were at this particular point in time.

It is important to note that the data for this study were collected several months before 7 October 2023, but the report is being published after, at a time when Jews around the world, including here in the UK, are reeling both from the brutality of the assault and from public reaction to it, which has included a

Figure 13. Level of importance attached to various aspects of Jewish identity, ordered by Very important (N=4,891 per item)



Remembering the Holocaust is seen as a very important aspect for British Jews today

significant spike in recorded antisemitic incidents. It is distinctly possible that people's Jewish identities will have shifted somewhat in response, perhaps particularly on variables related to Israel and antisemitism, although it is equally possible that any such changes will be temporary. Time will tell, and this report provides a very important baseline against which to make future assessments.

The ability of Jews to live their Jewish lives freely, without fear of hostility or attack, and to thrive as a community, says a great deal about the state of Britain today. In a free and democratic society, ethnic and religious minorities should be able to express their identities as they wish providing this does not prevent others from doing likewise. Readers can draw their own conclusions as to whether the report paints a positive or negative picture; in truth, it is probably a bit of both.

This article is based on the introduction to the report written by Dr Jonathan Boyd, Executive Director of the JPR. The full report can be read on <https://www.jpr.org.uk/reports/jews-uk-today-key-findings-jpr-national-jewish-identity-survey>

NAOMI ROSENBERG'S LETTER FROM ISRAEL



HEALING THE TRAUMA

This month's letter comes from Naomi Rosenberg, a second generation AJR member, who recently spent time volunteering in Israel.

As the sun sets deep in the Negev, a motley crew of Brits, French, Dutch, Americans and Israelis are sitting around a barbecue after another day well spent in the tomato fields. The owner of the small family farm cracks open a beer and tells us how much it means to him that we are here. "When Oct 7 happened, the Thai workers left. The Palestinians were no longer available. We were on our own." As the delays became more and more pressing, they made the sad decision to pick what they could, abandon what they couldn't, accept a year of hardship and hope for the situation to improve. And then: "It was like magic", he says, a smile spreading across his sun-baked and wind-battered face. "We reached out for volunteers and they started coming. More and more of them. We've been so productive".

The mood is positive, convivial. We enjoy the sunshine, the desert expanse, the satisfying work, and especially the feeling of connection with each other. We vary wildly in age, social status and personality but we are immediately bonded by our love for Israel and our desire to help our fellow Jews, clearly demonstrated by our very presence in this remarkable place. "It's too good

here", complains a fellow Englishman. "It's getting in the way of my cynical nature."

This farm is not one of the neediest, though. Last week I picked citrus fruits at kibbutzim on the Gaza border. For those communities, still reeling from the horrific events that affected them directly, the situation was even more dire. Many of their residents were evacuated, and the gap left by the Palestinian workforce was huge, as for years many thousands of Gazans had made the short daily commute. It seemed the produce would rot on the trees. But by the time I got there – late February – a veritable army of volunteers, mostly retirees from abroad, were descending on the fields each day, clearing them out like a swarm of locusts. "I nearly didn't come because I thought I'd be too slow and creaky", said one man in his 70s. "But I haven't felt pressured at all, I just work at my own pace. I'm having a wonderful day," he added as he took a bite of cake lovingly baked for us by a grateful kibbutznik.

Not all the work is agricultural. In Sderot, I helped to paint a mural in a school, to cheer up evacuated kids on their return. I was frightened at first as the word Sderot had such terrible associations, but once there I felt safe enough as there were bomb shelters everywhere and many of the population were already returning. Other volunteers I met had been cooking food for soldiers and the internally displaced.

Many volunteers are second and third generation Jewish refugees such as myself. Shaken by Oct 7 and the ensuing rise of antisemitism, we talk of our deep need for a Jewish homeland and the comfort we derive from this chance to participate



Naomi picking oranges at Kibbutz Mephalsim

directly, albeit minutely, in the fight for its continuation. Healing from trauma is a communal process. For myself, living in the UK and not being part of a Jewish community, coming here has made it possible for me to experience that.

In between bouts of volunteering, I found time to attend a family wedding. The groom was a grandchild of Holocaust survivors. The tears for Jerusalem seemed particularly poignant, but the bride was beautiful, the dancing joyful and the food delicious. "Don't be tempted to think this isn't the time for a simcha", urged the rabbi. "The more simchas the better, at such a time!"

Meanwhile, in our little desert home, the barbecue is ready and generous servings of raki have appeared before us. As we clink glasses, there's no doubt as to what the toast will be: **Am Yisrael Chai!**

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

There are various organisations, including Lekket (agricultural) www.leket.org/en/support-farmers-israel/, Eran's Angels (food for the needy) <https://eransangels.com/>, Citrus and Salt (cooking for soldiers) www.facebook.com/citrusandsalt/. The Facebook group Swords of Iron is a great way to find volunteer work for a day or more here and there once you are already in the country www.facebook.com/groups/353201190423242.



Volunteers painting a mural at a school in Sderot to help welcome back children who were evacuated

Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication and respectfully points out that the views expressed in the letters published are not necessarily the views of the AJR.

UNsung HEROINES

Your article about Esther Simpson (March) reminded me of another unsung heroine, Martha Steinitz. A confirmed pacifist, originally from Breslau, she became secretary of War Resisters International and a member of the Society of Friends in Berlin. I believe Martha and Esther were friends and colleagues in Leeds before the war.

Martha emigrated to Leeds after WW1 and became a highly respected and much-loved academic, teaching Art History and German at Swarthmore College. She was naturalised in 1933 and brought over her unmarried sisters, the elderly ladies I knew as 'the aunties', to a terraced house in Headingley. Martha was the only sister who worked outside the home, the others kept house; Grete cooked, Klärchen cleaned and Trude was a needlewoman.

Despite having only a tenuous connection to my mother – the Steinitz family had been my great-grandmother's neighbours in Breslau many years previously – Martha enabled my mother Margot Pogorzelski's escape from Nazi Germany by generously paying the required sponsorship money. At £50, which is about £2500 today, this must have been a considerable drain on their household, which Margot remembered as having constant visitors of different nationalities – artists, musicians and writers – all were welcome in that little terraced house.

When Margot arrived in July 1939 the Steinitz sisters' nephew, Werner, had to move out of his room and lodge elsewhere to make space for her. Despite this, he took her under his wing and gave his time to show her Leeds and the lovely Yorkshire countryside.

I have often wondered what became of Werner? And does anyone know more about this remarkable woman and her sisters?

Diana Cook, Suffolk
dmecook@talktalk.net

ART NOTES

Each month as I open *AJR Journal* I am puzzled by Gloria Tessler's *Art Notes*. There

is nothing in them relevant to the Jewish or refugee experience: nothing about Jewish artists. Why not have a page on Football Notes or Music Notes? Cookery Notes would be more pertinent. Gloria Tessler, like her predecessor, the wonderful Alice (Liesel) Schwab, is knowledgeable about the world of Art, but where oh where is the Jewish or refugee interest? When Alice/Liesel wrote the column it focused on artists of Jewish heritage. When there are so many Jews involved in the art world it cannot be difficult to promote and expose works and exhibitions involving Jewish artists.

Do we have an Arts page to demonstrate that we are "gebildet"? Some sort of German-Jewish snobbish manifestation?

The *Art Notes* articles are interesting, but do they have a place in AJR if not referenced to works of specific Jewish interest?
Leslie Michaels (Chair of Ben Uri Art Gallery 1996 to 2000), London N3

NOTE FROM EDITOR: This month's *Art Notes* cover an exhibition which is very relevant to the Jewish refugee experience: the émigré tailors in London's East End. We shall continue to focus on relevant exhibitions going forward.

GRETEL (MARGARETE) HINRICHSEN

Thank you for including the obituary of my mother in your March issue. I just wanted to point out that she died on 29 December 2023, not the date you published.
Jacque Richardson, London N6

I always read the *Journal* with interest. It is very well presented. I suppose I still subconsciously proofread it but only fleetingly as it is so error free. My compliments to whoever does it. However, the latest one has a glaring error. It is clearly incorrect to have the year of birth given in the Hinrichsen obituary as 1926 as it invalidates all the ages given in the text.
Gerta Regensburger, London NW6

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Thank you to everyone who wrote in to point this error out. We apologise again to Gretel

Hinrichsen's family for publishing an incorrect date.

ISRAEL

I am writing to commend the article by Dorothy Sheffer-Vanson about her Arab neighbours (March). In these increasingly polarised times, it is very refreshing to read a nuanced, fair-minded piece without any of the extremist vitriol we have grown accustomed to hearing in Israel, the Arab world, the UK and elsewhere in Europe.
Judith Russell, Edinburgh

I have been asked recently by Jewish friends and non-Jewish friends alike whether the antisemitism in the UK today is similar to that we had in Vienna in 1938. Obviously, I don't know. I was only three years old when we fled. Today I'm 88, and terrified that this question is being asked. Is it as bad? What do your readers think?
Peter Phillips, Loudwater, Bucks.

A QUIET AMERICAN JEW

I am an octogenarian American Jew. I am also a Belgian who, for family reasons, recently moved to England. I could have been a Frenchman or a Prussian or Russian or Italian to paraphrase a famous Gilbert & Sullivan operetta. Whatever the formal nationality of any Jew may be, something terrible occurred on October 7th and we will never be the same again.

Heather Kafetz' thoughtful piece on belated awakening is well-said but does not really explain what it is that makes her feel the way she does. The basic issue is: what is new in the Diaspora's relationship to Judaism in general and Israel in particular? I think the question boils down to what does it mean to be Jewish outside, and perhaps also in, Israel?

In her final paragraph, Heather comes to the realisation that she no longer has the luxury of being a quiet American Jew. Does she have an action plan for herself and for the rest of us?

AJR Journal may be a good sounding

board reflecting the views of readers to the question of what really happened to us on 7 October? We also need to discuss the aftermath that poses very serious issues.

I would be happy to participate in a discussion on all of this and would love to meet Heather or her friend Marion Michaud, or anyone else who may be interested.
Eric Osterweil, London NW8
eosterweil@gmail.com

What in the world made you publish the strange article by Heather Kafetz? I don't know anyone who might be represented by such thoughts. Even though I qualify as a *very aged* reader of the *AJR Journal*, I have to assume the writer is about 120+ years old.
Tom Freudenheim, New York

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

I am very glad that the AJR is broaching this subject of enormous importance, though the article (March) is not entirely up-to-date; the appeal against planning permission for a Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens, Westminster, was allowed in July 2022, on the ground that building on this little park was prohibited by an Act of Parliament in 1900. Since then, the government has sought to overcome this ban by introducing a Bill to set it aside.

Several Holocaust survivors, including Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, and other objectors have explained to the Select Committee on the Bill that the 'Learning Centre' has nothing to teach 80 years after the Holocaust, and adds nothing to the approximately 20 other UK Holocaust learning centres. The planned new one is too big for the Gardens and too small for a proper British Jewish Museum, especially bearing in mind that the old Jewish Museum has closed, leaving nothing similar. Moreover, the designer of the project, Sir David Adjaye, has been removed from most of his projects because of allegations of sexual misconduct made against him. Not only that but the design for Westminster is almost identical to his designs for Niger, Barbados, Ottawa and other locations memorialising different events. The

Westminster one lacks any visual reference to the Holocaust or to anything Jewish or British and would in my view invite selfies at best, vandalism at worst, especially in the current atmosphere.

With the virulent rise in antisemitism since 7 October it is clear that the Learning Centre can do nothing to combat this, or anti-Zionism, or teach anything new about the Holocaust. It seems to be designed to displace guilt over the Holocaust and instead convey, in its four rooms of digital display about various genocides, a non-Jewish political narrative about the protection afforded to minorities by British democracy. Clearly not true. There are better ways to spend the £140m estimated cost.
Baroness Ruth Deech, House of Lords, London SW1

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LOOKING FOR?

WHO ARE THESE CHILDREN?



Susan Holmes would love to trace the descendants of the children featured in this photograph, who are believed to have lived at Löwengasse 13 in Vienna. The photograph was taken by Sascha Hendler, who lived at 111 Steingasse, Vienna.
susanholmes13@yahoo.com

WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY REQUEST

Researchers at The Wiener Holocaust Library would like to hear from you if you know any details about any of the following people:

- Walter Feldmann (d.o.b. 3/11/1928)
 - Stella Feldmann (d.o.b. 16/8/1925)
 - Harry Wolkenfeld (d.o.b. 12/1/1942)
 - Ruth Ellen (d.o.b. April 1924)
 - Salo Weinbaum (d.o.b. 7/7/1926)
 - Liselotte Herz (d.o.b. 27/10/1923)
 - Marion Sulamith Lewin (d.o.b. 6/6/1926)
 - Vera Bruell (d.o.b. 13/3/1939)
- hfolksohn@wienerholocaustlibrary.org

LESLIE BEAR & ANNELIESE BEAR (née GROSS)

Ulrike Michel is looking for descendants of the family of Leslie Bear and Anneliese (née Gross) from Trier. The couple married in Holborn in 1936. They probably had two children, one (Christopher Bear) born in 1938. Ulrike is writing a book about Anneliese's mother, Wally Gross. A stumbling stone will be laid for her in Trier in the autumn.
www.ulrike-michel-kunst.de

IS THE HOLOCAUST EVER OVER?

As the solemn time of Yom Hashoah approaches, the thought came to me that the Holocaust is never over. It is in our eyes. It is in the eyes of young soldiers, teenagers, sent to fight in the Hamas tunnels. It is in the eyes of those whose children were taken. It is in the eyes of those who remember, even when they don't speak.

It's not over, because we Jews, in Israel and all over the world, are still fighting for our essential survival. And it stops us from growing. Fighting feels like we are not just cutting down our enemies, but somehow cutting down our own roots. To the Jewish soul. And with the rise of antisemitism, sometimes falsely called anti-Zionism, we are once again, the scourge of the earth. Once again – but it was always this way; nothing has changed. In our fight we cannot lose.

However justified Israel's response to Hamas terrorism, we will carry the guilt. We are tainted by it, even though Israelis were the victims, not the perpetrators of the terrible events of 7 October 2023. That date grazes our tongue. It is already last year. That year is over, but the Holocaust is not over.

It is never over. References to it fill every sentence whenever we hear those attacks mentioned. We hear them compared to the Nazi atrocities. And then we think of people like Vivian Silver, murdered by Hamas in her kibbutz facing Gaza. A woman who spent her whole life fighting, not with guns, but with gentle diplomacy, fighting restrictions against Palestinians, making friends with them, taking them to hospital, helping them navigate the checkpoints. No peace can come from war, she said.

When I say the Holocaust is not over, you can see it in the failure of every peace process. A failure that has no specific



Rachel Goldberg and Jon Polin, the parents of 23-year-old Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was kidnapped from the Nova Party

blame, unless you can blame fear. Fear that it will happen. Fear that it will not. There is fear between Jewish settlers in the West Bank and their Palestinian neighbours. Fear leads to distrust, leads to unacceptable violence on both sides.

Politicians battle over the prospect of a two-state solution. The International Court of Human Rights battles over whether Israel's fight in Gaza amounts to genocide. That very term is the primal insult to us, coined as it was, in the wake of the six million Jewish dead in the Nazi era. Fear of the other, of what the other thinks as well as does, is in danger of closing our hearts and minds. Are we closed to the other?

More than ever, I find a painful significance in the words of German refugee historian Hannah Arendt, whose short essay, *We Refugees*, describes what it means to lose your home and the familiarity of daily life. "We lost our occupation, which means the confidence that we are of some use in the world. We lost our language, which means the naturalness of reactions, the simplicity of gestures, the unaffected expression of feelings." I am trying to imagine what that really feels like. Whoever you are, wherever you belong in the world.

I had lunch with a close friend the other day. Of course, the subject of the war came up. But what she said distressed me beyond words. I told her how I felt

when I saw the tragedy unfolding. I told her I could not bear the undeniable events in the daily news broadcasts and the palpable suffering of parents and children, Israeli or Palestinian.

She said, on the verge of tears; "I know, and I am sorry, but because of what happened on October 7, I can feel nothing for the Palestinians. I look at them and I just can't feel any sympathy. I'm sorry, but I can't."

My friend kept repeating the words, "I'm sorry." She did not use the apology in the usual, easy throwaway sense. I could see the pain she was in because she felt the actions of Hamas had robbed her of the ability to feel, to understand the pain of the other. I said nothing. I understood her.

With many other Jewish friends I find it equally difficult now to discuss the suffering of the other side, because so many feel like she does. Horror that their own natural feelings of compassion are eroded, not just by the unspeakable horrors visited on the Israelis on October 7, but for the fact that the world itself, let alone the court in the Hague, seems to have forgotten or ignored Hamas' genocidal intentions. Genocide – let's not mince words because that was Hamas's intention – to

Continued on page 9

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Netty Spiegel was 16 when she arrived alone in London on the Kindertransport. She would never see her family again. Spiegel became a West End couturier, designing beaded wedding dresses for fashionable clients from her own couture shop.



Fashion City exhibition at the Museum of London Docklands

Another Jewish retailer sent Welsh crooner Tom Jones and actress Christine Spooner to take a cheetah walking through Carnaby Street in 1966. The Jewish immigrants of the mid-20th century did everything to promote their trade and help turn London into a world fashion centre. If the sewing machine is the symbol of the Jewish rag trade, for many talented designers it would epitomise West End success.

You can see it all at a little publicised exhibition, **Fashion City**, at the **Museum of London, Docklands** which offers a literal walk through the streets where they lived and worked, having escaped the Nazis to transform London's fashion industry. It features extravagant clothes and photographs, but also the faded trunk, the suitcase and handbag with which they first arrived. Movingly it includes the tiny leather case which belonged to five year old Juci Laszlo, who came on the Kindertransport, but also photos of David Bowie and Mick Jagger disporting themselves in elaborate dresses by Mayfair designer, Mr Fish, who embraced pop culture with his conviction that trousers did not look good on men.

Sadly, the show's impact has suffered from its launch in October last year, as Israel's war with Hamas took everyone's attention.

However, according to its lead curator Dr Lucie Whitmore, it represents "an important lens into London's Jewish communities." The show highlights the emergence of the Jewish rag trade in London's East End during the late 19th to mid 20th centuries, as some 200,000 Jewish immigrants fled European persecution, over half finding work in the fashion and textile trades. The crowded workshops of the East End sit beside the pop culture of Carnaby Street.

Visitors are shown needlework made by children trained to sew at Spitalfields' Jewish Free School, who took on paid mending work. It includes images from the Shoreditch College for the Garment Trades which would be embodied in the London College of Fashion in 1966.

The stories do not shy away from describing the financial ruin which was the fate of some, as well as success stories, like the beaded wedding dresses of Netty Spiegel, or the hardship experienced by Bengali seamstress Anwara Begum, who sewed all night while raising four children during the day.

Neither does it avoid poignant references to the past. There is a photo of a Viennese workroom in 1938, with a swastika on the

wall above the machinists, which they were forced to display while under Nazi control.

Physical images include a tailor's workshop – including original window displays, scissors, mannequins and posters from unionised strikes in 1889. An elegant, beautifully made suit from a "Jewish tailor in Hoxton" pays tribute to the many who remained anonymous.

There are lighter moments, as we see how Jewish entrepreneurs helped the West End bloom with the creation of Marks & Spencer, Moss Bros, Wallis and Chelsea Girl – the future River Island.

Fashion City runs at the Museum of London Docklands until 14 April. AJR is organising a group visit to the exhibition for our members on Sunday 7 April. Email nextgens@ajr.org.uk for details.

Annely Juda Fine Art

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**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**

Continued from page 8

eliminate Jews from their homeland. It is not the same as the terrible price paid by Palestinians because of their leaders' avowed intention. And for that reason, many Jewish people here and in Israel, believe that the Palestinians' views on Israel are synonymous with those of Hamas. And no doubt, many are. Perhaps most of them. But does that give us the

right to turn a blind eye to the anguish of the ordinary people, their loss of home, of freedom, all the things that Hannah Arendt pointed out during the Nazi era?

Rachel Goldberg-Polin, whose son Hersh, aged 23, remains a hostage in Hamas' hands, told the United Nations with unbelievable fortitude: "When you only get outraged when one side's babies

are killed. Then your moral compass is broken, and your humanity is broken."

No matter the cost, let's not allow the Holocaust – the deepest trauma known to humanity – to distort our compassion for others, who are human beings just like ourselves.

Gloria Tessler

"I SAID AUF

In February the German Bundestag in Berlin staged a special exhibition about the Kindertransport. Dr Bea Lewkowicz, the Director of AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive, contributed towards the exhibition and co-represented the AJR at its opening event. David Herman, contributing editor to this Journal, has since made a visit. They share their respective impressions.

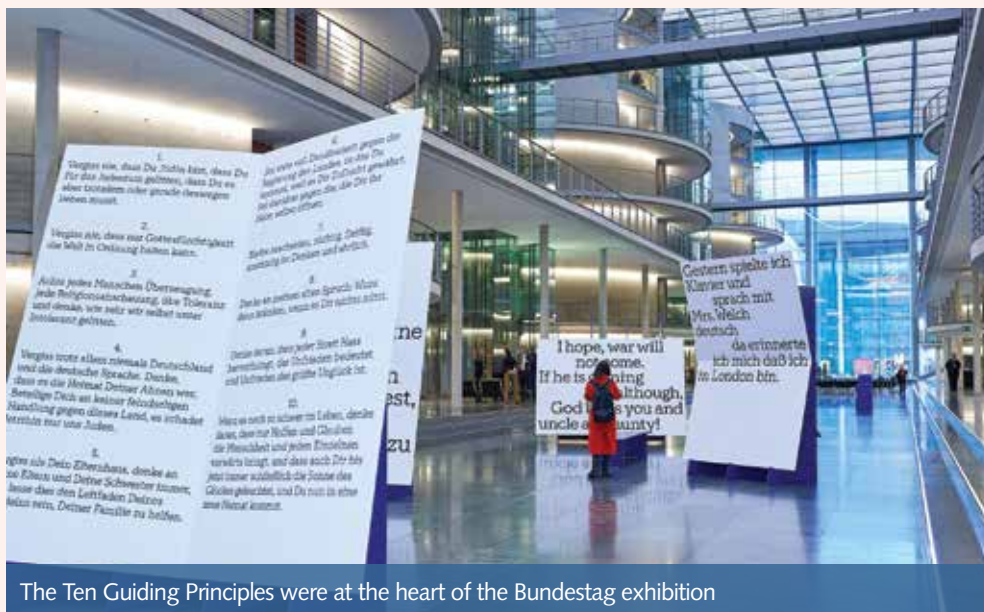
TEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In 2019 Lord Daniel Finkelstein wrote an article about the AJR Refugee Voices Archive for the *Jewish Chronicle*. He described the recorded interviews as 'voices from the past telling truth to the future'.

These words resonated strongly with me when I was fortunate to attend the opening of the new Kindertransport exhibition. Entitled *I said auf Wiedersehen*, the exhibition – which is curated by Ruth Ur and created by the Berthold Leibinger Stiftung and the Freundeskreis Yad Vashem, in association with the Wiener Holocaust Library and the AJR – focuses on the correspondence between the Kinder and their parents.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a 4m high wall in the shape of a booklet, which features 10 guiding principles written in German by Ferdinand Brann, a German-Jewish banker from Berlin who was murdered in Auschwitz. He wrote them in a prayer book which he gave to his daughter Ursula in March 1939, on the occasion of her departure via Kindertransport.

Ursula was the only member of the Brann family to survive the Holocaust. In the very moving interview which she recorded for AJR Refugee Voices in 2007 she describes her journey to, and early experiences of, the UK as well as her love for her father and his role in the working on the Kindertransport scheme, as an employee of the Berlin Jewish community. She is filmed holding and



The Ten Guiding Principles were at the heart of the Bundestag exhibition

reading from his prayer book which she treasured for the rest of her life.

Unfortunately, the prayer book itself went missing after Ursula's own death in 2015, but thanks to our Refugee Voices archive the precious words of her father live on. I was extremely moved to see them displayed in large in the very heart of Berlin, as follows:

1. **Never forget that you are Jewish, that you have suffered for Judaism and that despite this and because of this you need to love it.**
2. **Never forget that only piety can keep the world in order.**
3. **Respect the convictions of everyone and respect everyone's religious belief. Be tolerant and think about how much we have suffered from intolerance.**
4. **Do not ever forget Germany and the German language, despite everything. Remember that it was the homeland of your ancestors. Do not participate in any hostile actions against Germany, as ultimately it will only harm us Jews.**
5. **Never forget your parental home. Always remember your parents and your sister and let the wish to help your family be your guiding principle.**
6. **Be always grateful to the government**

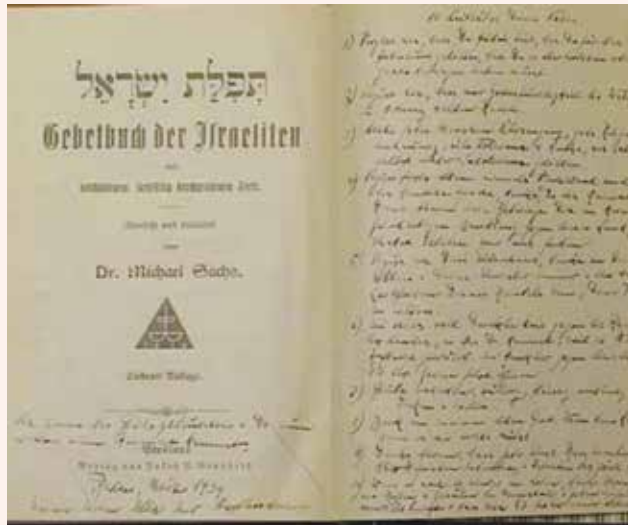
of the country to which you will go, because it provided you with a refuge. Be grateful to everyone who opens his homeland to you.

7. **Be humble, modest, hardworking, honest, and decent in your thoughts.**
8. **Remember my old saying: what is the point of offending somebody if it does not get you anywhere?**
9. **Remember that every confrontation creates hatred, which results in animosity and animosity is the greatest catastrophe.**
10. **No matter how hard life is, remember that only hope and faith can advance mankind and each individual. Remember that the sun of happiness has always shone for you and that you are now going to a new homeland.**

I am heartened to know that these words will be read by the many visitors and school children who will visit this important and timely exhibition during its time in Berlin. I hope that sooner or later the exhibition will make it to Britain so that British audiences will be able to learn more about the story of the ten guiding principles written by Ferdinand Brann.

In the meantime you can watch his

WIEDERSEHEN"



The prayer book given to Ursula Gilbert née Brann by her father the day she left Berlin, in which he wrote her ten rules for how to conduct herself in life



David Herman was struck by the impact of the Bundestag exhibition

daughter Ursula's full interview on <https://www.ajrrefugeevoices.org.uk/RefugeeVoices/ursula-gilbert>

Dr Bea Lewkowicz

"WORRIED AS NO LETTERS FROM YOU"

This deeply moving exhibition consisted of selected letters, postcards, drawings and photographs from five Jewish families to their children who came to Britain on the Kindertransport. The letters powerfully capture the pain of parents who sent their children away to save their lives. There are also kind letters to the families from some of the hosts. Mrs. Welch writes to Mrs. Majer in Vienna on 17 July 1939, 'Your daughter is very charming and we are delighted with her...'

In the superb programme accompanying the exhibition, curator Ruth Ur writes, 'We wanted to give a first-hand sense of what the experience of Kindertransport had been like for the children and parents.' The exhibition is organised around a number of central themes: Departure, New Home, Estrangement, Longing and Uncertainty. The letters convey how hard the parents struggled not to worry their children about the growing crisis Jews faced in Germany.

The correspondence between Ilse Majer's parents and the family who took Ilse in gives an interesting insight into Ilse's new world: her new friendships, the new language ('Her English has already improved... I am sure that when you see her again she will be quite fluent.'). how she is settling in.

Of course, we can guess the terrible fate that awaited them. The parents and sister of Ursula Brann were murdered in Auschwitz, Ilse Majer's parents were deported to a ghetto in Poland and later murdered.

Perhaps the most moving letters are the beautiful cards Max Lichtwitz sent to his son Heinz ('My dear little Henry!'). After the death of his mother in 1937, Heinz grew up with his father and grandmother. Heinz took the name Henry Foner, and within months, almost completely lost his mother tongue. The cards reflect his father's fear that he would never see his son again. Max Lichtwitz was deported to Auschwitz in December 1942 and was murdered there. Henry, now 90, lives in Jerusalem.

The Stein family fled from Karlovy Vary to Prague in 1938 soon before the German occupation of the Sudetenland. Their daughter Gerda came to England in March 1939, aged just eleven. Neither of her parents survived the Holocaust.

Hannah Kuhn escaped on a

Kindertransport from Berlin to England in April 1939, when she was taken in by two Jewish sisters, Millie and Sophie Levy (who her mother wrote to as 'My dear Aunties'). During the war her parents communicated by telegrams via the German Red Cross. In one, Hannah's father wrote of her mother's deportation in December 1942 ('Sorry bad news. Mummy emigrated 14.12.42 by 25. Transport. Please appease [sic] Hannele. Am terrified myself, but hoping confidently reunion with family after the war.'). A few weeks later, he was deported too. Both were killed in Auschwitz.

What is so striking about the exhibits is the constant contrast between the fate of the families left behind in central Europe and the cheery messages and sweet drawings. So much of the letters are prosaic, but they constantly try to reach out across the huge distance that separates them all. Worse still, there are the gaps between what is said and what remains unsaid. The exhibition catalogue takes its title from one telegram from two English women to a child's family in Germany: 'Worried as no letters from you.'

David Herman

The exhibition opened on 31 January and ran until 23 February 2024.

Getting everyone more tech-savvy

Niki Goorney from the AJR's Volunteers department looks at an innovative way that one of our volunteers is helping not just AJR members but many other families in need.

Leo Wiener came over via boat to Tilbury from Czechoslovakia aged seven with his mother and father and has been a member of AJR for over 35 years.

His family, who spoke no English and knew no one, were destitute with only the clothes on their backs, and were helped by the Czech Relief Committee to settle here in Britain. Leo eventually became a pharmacist. As a necessity he learned some rudimentary computer skills, which he promptly discarded upon retirement.

In recent years, while trying to research the lost property and assets that had been stolen from his family in Czechoslovakia by the Nazis, Leo realised his IT skills greatly needed updating. He contacted the AJR's Volunteers Team to ask whether a computer savvy volunteer might be able to help him. He was assigned to Steve Newton, a name many AJR members might recognise from the weekly Tech-Talks that he delivers over Zoom each Wednesday.

Steve has now been visiting the Wieners since March 2018 to assist Leo with his IT skills and research. Leo told us: "I have never known anyone with Steve's knowledge of computers. He's a wonder! He can solve problems in a way no one else can and he gives his service for free, does it as an enterprise and he's a one-man charity! He's a marvel, you won't find another person like him!"

At nearly 92 and using the skills that Steve has shown him over the years, Leo has now created an online family tree with over 1000 names going back to 1800s Europe. Even today, people



Steve Newton (left) assists Leo Wiener with his laptop

are connecting with Leo online from as far away as the US, Mexico, Canada and Australia, after finding out they are related!

When Leo and his wife Susan were recently upgrading their laptops, they asked Steve for advice. He was happy to help them and also told them about his new Project Chromebook initiative, which repurposes unwanted laptops for families in need. Leo and Susan both donated their old laptops to be recycled and would encourage anyone else in the position to do so too.

PROJECT CHROMEBOOK

Project Chromebook is an endeavour of Digiplus Cyber, a Community Interest Company (Registration No. 15437269) which strives to transform digital exclusion into digital inclusion. Project Chromebook takes donated laptops, checks and rejuvenates them, and gives them directly to families who have little or no access to computers. So far Project Chromebook has redistributed almost 50 laptops, completely free of charge, and has an ambitious target of reaching 100 by the end of the year.

The families themselves are selected by Gratitude, a Hertfordshire based charity (Charity number 1175838) which provides food, consumables, training, and resources to local residents in need.

The AJR encourages all our members and friends who have an unwanted laptop to support this worthwhile social enterprise. For more information please email Steve at ProjectChromebook@DigiplusCyber.co.uk



ARE YOU THE CHILD OF A CAMP SURVIVOR?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET OTHERS AND SHARE THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES?

 caryn@ajr.org.uk



Join our new AJ RAMBLERS CLUB



Our first walk will take place on: TUESDAY 7 MAY 2024 at 11am

This is a flat walk of approximately 2.8 miles.

There is no charge to come for a ramble. There will be a couple of comfort stops and an opportunity to have a coffee/sandwich break.

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A GENERATIONAL STORY

ELLA'S STORY

My name is Ella Kaufman and I am a Year 11 student at Mill Hill Public School, which I joined halfway through Year 9 from JFS. Given the rise in antisemitism all over the world and particularly in London, I felt very strongly that the school wasn't doing enough to educate its community about the evils of antisemitism. So I drafted a letter to the new Headmaster, David Benson, suggesting the school do more, and persuaded 75 of my fellow sixth formers to sign the letter.

Mr Benson was extremely supportive and asked me to find a suitable speaker for Holocaust Memorial Week. I then spoke to my grandfather, Andrew Kaufman, who I knew had the right contacts.

ANDREW'S STORY

My eldest grandchild, Ella, turned 'sweet 16' last December (I played her the Neil Sedaka song of that name but she was not too impressed!). Shortly after, she told me of her concerns about her school's attitude to the current wave of antisemitism. She showed me the letter she had drafted to the Headmaster and we agreed that an ideal speaker would be Kurt Marx, a 98 year old former Kind, very well known to the AJR and an old friend of my late father.

Ella, my wife Susie and I visited Kurt at his Edgware home and he immediately agreed to speak at the school.



Ella Kaufman with Kurt Marx, who spoke at her school HMD event

ELLA, ANDREW AND SUSIE'S STORY

On the Thursday following Holocaust Memorial Day, Andrew and Susie collected Kurt from Edgware and drove him to the school, where we were greeted by Ella and the Headmaster and taken to the school's theatre, filled to the rafters with pupils and teachers from both the senior and junior schools, standing room only.

When Kurt told the school about his experiences in Cologne, particularly on Kristallnacht, you could have heard a pin drop. He answered questions for at least half an hour, very perceptive, about hope, faith and antisemitism. It was all a great success and, as Mr Benson later wrote to us, Kurt is an inspirational man, the talk was well received and valued by all. It was the most impactful education possible about the Holocaust,

an afternoon none of us present will ever forget.

Andrew and Susie have now bought Ella membership of the AJR and they trust and pray that the AJR's future will be in safe hands with their 4th generation granddaughter.



AJR ANNUAL SCOTTISH GET-TOGETHER

Wednesday 22 May 2024

Please join us in Glasgow for our annual Scottish event, including discussion groups, keynote speaker, a delicious lunch, and the chance to socialise with friends old and new.

 agnes@ajr.org.uk

G2G CONCERT



Remembering the Past, Creating the Future

On 19 May the Holocaust education charity Generation2Generation (G2G) is holding an inspiring evening of Testimony and Music at Finchley Progressive Synagogue, London N12.

This special event, staged in partnership with the synagogue and Kingston Liberal Synagogue, will raise funds for G2G and the Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa

and will feature live readings of eyewitness Holocaust testimonies interspersed with Jewish music ranging from classical, liturgical, secular and Klezmer. The event will also commemorate the 80th anniversary of the mass deportation of Hungarian Jews and Roma.

For more details contact Lesley Urbach at bookings@generation2generation.org.uk



AJR FUNDING PARTNER

German-Jewish Studies/Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies

In the latest in our series of articles about organisations which receive grants from the AJR we look at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies/Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies.

In 2001 the University of Sussex was the first English university to put on a Holocaust Memorial Day. This first event was held in a small seminar room with just a few local residents and students in attendance. They heard from a Holocaust survivor about her experiences (one of the first times that survivors started speaking in public) and we showed a film (with assistance from my 11 year old son!).

Our Holocaust Memorial Day event has now grown into what a senior Sussex colleague recently told me is “the most important event in the university’s calendar.” It has been praised by the AJR as a flagship event – they urge other establishments to follow our format in which we combine a Holocaust speaker, a Holocaust related film (ideally with the director of the film present to explain the mission for the film) and an academic talk.

Quite early we decided that the message should reach younger students and we invited schools to attend. More schools apply to attend every year and the impact of hearing from a survivor is quite palpable. As the young people listen to the testimony one can hear a pin drop....no phones are touched, and during the break after the talk, the visibly-moved schoolchildren queue up to shake the survivor’s hand and exchange a few words. In these troubling times when some educators fear that Holocaust education has failed, it is of paramount importance that young people are given the opportunity to hear directly what can happen when an evil regime takes hold in a country.

It was standing room only at the Centre’s 2024 HMD event



Isaacsohn and André Families Fellows Research Group workshop 2 on University of Sussex campus



The AJR has supported this event as it has grown over the years and without this support it would not have been possible for us to continue.

With colleagues who are working on the Sussex Digital Holocaust Education Project joining our institute, we have been able to extend the annual programme over a week, inviting teachers and academics to the campus to discuss related topics.

An example of the work undertaken by the Sussex Digital Holocaust Education project, again supported by the AJR, is a project that addresses the question: What did people know about the Holocaust in Britain as it was unfolding? To investigate this question the project explores the Mass Observation Archive, one of the special collections held by the University of Sussex at The Keep. Centred around everyday life, the Mass Observation social research organisation (1937-1950s) and the Mass Observation Project (1981 – ongoing) collect personal writings that capture the thoughts and opinions of those living in Britain. Investigating this material through the lens of the Holocaust, the cross-disciplinary research group are mapping out the traces, absences and connections which enable nuanced understandings of what individuals knew before, during

and after the Holocaust.

The three main threads of the project are (1) Research Fellows (2) Educator-led workshops, and (3) Digital resource.

The research group brings together academics and professionals from a variety of universities and Holocaust organisations across the UK to form the first cohort of Isaacsohn and André Families’ Research Fellows within the institute. The research group investigates the Mass Observation Archive through different disciplinary lenses: history, geography, digital humanities, gender studies, education, anthropology, language and translation, life writing and archival research. The project will yield an edited volume and is proposed as an addition to the Mass Observation Critical Series (Bloomsbury).

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies/Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees of the AJR for their support which has enabled us to undertake these important activities.

Diana Franklin
Centre for German-Jewish Studies/
Weidenfeld Institute Manager

HE MOVED THEM ALL TO TEARS

A letter from a ten-year-old London schoolboy features at the very heart of a new permanent exhibition at Camp Westerbork Memorial Centre in Hooghalen, in the Dutch province Drenthe.

In January 2023 the Centre launched an appeal for 1.5 million buttons to feature in a new exhibit dedicated to all the children who perished in the Shoah. The high profile appeal – spearheaded by the Dutch actor and former Bond villain Jeroen Krabbé who was born in Amsterdam to a Jewish mother who was also in Westerbork – caught the attention of AJR member Karen Denham, née Treep, and her young son Natan.

Karen and Natan sent some buttons to the Centre, together with a handwritten letter from Natan:

“My name is Natan I am 10 years old, I live in England with my parents and go to Clore Tikva School.

My mum’s father, my grandfather (we call him Zaida) was born in kamp Westerbork in Holland, 1943. By some miracle he survived the war but many of his cousins didn’t.

I dedicate these buttons in memory of all my Dutch family like the Lierens and Hilversum great cousins who did not survive and were murdered in the camps purely because they were Jewish.

Their futures, hopes and dreams were taken away from them.

For this reason I’m giving some of my school shirt buttons to symbolise the education they were denied.

My mum added some of her coat buttons to represent keeping the children warm and safe. Lastly we added a few more to represent the connection we have with our past and future.”

Natan’s letter moved the whole team at Westerbork to tears and prompted the Centre’s head of education, Patrick Prinsen, to ask if he could feature the letter in a new permanent exhibition that he was curating.

Natan with his grandfather Reuven (left) and the actor Jeroen Krabbé in front of some of the 1.5million buttons that honour the children killed in the Holocaust



He invited the family to Hooghalen for the exhibition opening last summer.

Karen takes up the story: “My father, Reuven, was born at Westerbork but he never really talked about it in public, only to those closest to him. I think he felt he didn’t have the right, as he was only a baby. But it’s as much his story as it was his mother’s story, just as it’s both mine and Natan’s story. We just each experience this part of our heritage in our own individual ways.”

Reuven was initially very reluctant to have this part of his life laid bare in a public exhibition. He feared that it would be too upsetting for him and that he might receive unwanted attention. The trip turned out to be extremely emotional but also very rewarding.

“The Centre had done some research in advance of our visit and discovered that Dad had a cousin who perished at Auschwitz. By amazing coincidence he was also called Natan and was just 10 years old when he was murdered,” reveals Karen.

Karen, who was born in the UK but raised in Israel, has been a regular visitor to Westerbork but never before had a private tour. She found it incredibly moving to be able to stand in the exact spot where once stood the barracks that Reuven was born in 80 years earlier.

“Everyone at the Centre went out of their way to make this a special experience for us,” she explains. “Even Jeroen Krabbé, the real guest of honour, made a beeline for Natan and took time to talk to him. At the end of our visit the senior curator presented Natan with the most incredible gift: the original edition of the book containing the



Karen & Natan look at some of the information about their family that is now on permanent display

names of 210,000 people who passed through Westerbork and didn’t survive.”

Karen had taken care to prepare young Natan for the visit, couching the facts in a language of hope and a message of ‘never again’. But some of this rhetoric has been affected in the aftermath of 7 October.

“I felt like my grandmother must have felt 80 years ago when she tried to keep her family’s spirits up through the dark days of the war. I couldn’t believe that once again people were in danger purely because they were Jewish. The safety net that I had told Natan about seemed to have disappeared. But I hope that he has also felt empowered by the modern day community’s response, for example marching against antisemitism was never an option for his great-grandparents.”

As Reuven’s only Jewish grandchild Natan feels compelled to share his testimony. Knowing that his own letter is now on permanent display at the very place his grandfather was born goes a long way towards honouring his heritage.

REVIEWS

JERUSALEM ECKE BERLIN

Tom Segev
Siedler Verlag

Tom Segev is a leading Israeli journalist, well known internationally for his biographies of David Ben Gurion and Simon Wiesenthal, and for his sometimes-controversial books about Israel's history – and its problems.

As he approaches his ninth decade, he has published what he calls his memoirs, rather than his autobiography. He has a Jecke background: born Thomas Schwerin in Jerusalem in 1945, his communist parents were attached to the Bauhaus in Dessau, but fled to Palestine in 1935. His mother, widowed in 1948, was not Jewish, and never felt completely at home in her refuge. Segev's sister became a Greens member of the Bundestag. And Segev too, as the book's title suggests, and as he describes so well, remains divided between Jerusalem and Berlin.

His long career brought with it postings around the globe, so that he can recount his meeting renowned figures from Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro to Willy Brandt and Hannah Arendt. Especially touching is the childless Segev's account of the way, following his assignment to Ethiopia to cover the rescue of the country's Jews, he came to adopt a young boy and help him develop into an electronic engineer working on Israeli space projects. What of Israel's existential problem? A pessimistic Segev told the *Financial Times*, after the Hamas massacre last October, that it reminded him of what Ben-Gurion had said in 1919: the conflict can at best be managed, not solved.

In the 1980s, while working as a columnist for *Haaretz*, Segev was posted to Ethiopia to cover Israel's rescue of the country's Jewish community. On the flight returning to Israel with hopeful Ethiopian migrants, he encountered a young boy named Itay who remembered Segev from his assignment. Itay and his mother warmed to Segev, and with their permission, he decided to write about the family's integration into Israeli life. They would become a regular subject of his columns over several years.

When Itay was 14, Segev and Itay journeyed back to Ethiopia to track down the grave of Itay's father. They walked for 18-hours. It was, Segev, remembers "very dramatic, very emotional." When they eventually found the grave, a lifelong bond was forged. "When we came back [to Israel] we knew – we are father and son. It was the most natural thing in the world," Segev says. No papers were signed and no social workers involved. The two, a middle-aged Israeli historian and journalist, and an Ethiopian-born teenager, were family. Itay finished high school, completed his national service and entered the air force. He is now an electronic engineer, married and a father of three children. Segev is now Sabba (Hebrew for grandfather) Tommy.

Martin Mauthner

COLD CREMATORIUM: REPORTING FROM THE LAND OF AUSCHWITZ

József Debreczeni (Translated by Paul Olchváry)

Foreword by Jonathan Freedland
Jonathan Cape

After the war, former prisoner József Debreczeni penned a brilliantly written eye-witness account of concentration camp life which has now been translated from his native Hungarian for the first time. On arrival at Auschwitz in 1944, had József been selected to go "left", his life expectancy would have been around forty-five minutes. As one of the "lucky" ones, being youngish and comparatively fit, he was sent to the "right", beginning twelve horrifying months of incarceration and slave labour in a series of camps.

When taken prisoner the journalist from northern Serbia – then under Hungarian rule – did not know where he was going or what the outcome would be. But the account he writes vividly narrates his feelings at each stage and characterises the people around him, including his neighbours and friends, people who looked after him later as well as those he encounters in a more sinister context. He and fellow prisoners endured hard labour for incredibly long hours in inhumane conditions, including quarrying with appalling living conditions and undeserved harsh punishments. Corruption over meagre rations was rife and hoarding by supervisors was worsened by camp

bartering. Cold was ever-present and clothing inadequate with punishing wooden shoes. Cruel slave drivers were chosen at random, from deportees who were from the bottom rungs of society, with sadistic roll calls.

Eventually he ended up in the *Cold Crematorium*, the so-called hospital of the forced labour camp Dörnhau, where prisoners too weak to work were left to die. But though becoming desperately ill he beat all odds and survived. This part of the book is quite astoundingly clearly narrated with inhumane filthy conditions and extreme starvation as disease and death rips through the camp.

As always his descriptive powers and passion never fail to impress. His quick portrayal of the characters of fellow inmates is powerful and he gives the names of companies employing these workers. He is good on detail and analysis but never loses sight of the bigger picture. "This is a singular people ... that has given the world not only (Nobel Prize winner) Robert Koch but also Ilse Koch, the Witch of Buchenwald, the most perverse woman serial killer of all time." The economic function of the camps so often overlooked is highlighted, as is the extreme chaos in the camp as the Russian liberators arrive.

The subject matter is extremely difficult and harrowing in this objective, reflective, and compassionate book. The last pages about the end of the war are incredibly gripping and his account finished there but one is intrigued to know more about what happened next. Very soon afterwards he wrote down his experiences in one of the harshest and most powerful indictments of Nazism. Although first published in Hungarian in 1950 the story was never published in English due to the political problems but now over 70 years later we can read this important and powerful account.

There is a touching picture of József with his parents and his wife although tragically he was the only one to survive. British journalist Jonathan Freedland's foreword is excellent at signposting the story and putting everything into context.


Janet Weston



The AJR wishes a hearty mazeltov to our member Eva Evans who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Eva came to Britain, with her parents, after her father's release from Sachsenhausen in 1939. In the UK, Eva undertook Fire Service war work and later was awarded an MBE for services to European Studies.



AJR member John Fieldsend receiving his reinstated German citizenship, bestowed by the German Ambassador Miguel Berger



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KINDER EVENTS – for all Kinder and their descendants

The AJR is delighted that a group from KTA – Kindertransport Association, based in the USA – are visiting the UK for a week in May.

To coincide with their visit we will be holding two special events.


WELCOME LUNCH
THURSDAY 9 MAY at 12pm
IN NORTH LONDON

This will be an informal lunch for Kinder from all generations to get together, and will include the screening of a short film, *My knees were jumping – remembering the Kindertransport*, presented and directed by Melissa Hacker, Executive Director of KTA.

FAREWELL RECEPTION
THURSDAY 16 MAY at 6.30pm
IN CENTRAL LONDON


This reception on the final night of our American friends' visit will be an opportunity for Kinder and their descendants (2g, 3g and 4g), to meet and socialise.

 susan@ajr.org.uk



KAFFEE & KUCHEN WITH FREUD

TUESDAY 21 MAY 2024
10:30am
THE FREUD MUSEUM, HAMPSTEAD, LONDON NW3




Enjoy fine Viennese Apfelstrudel and a special behind the scenes tour of Sigmund Freud's home

The Freud Museum's Director, Dr Giuseppe Albano, will share the stories behind Freud's vast collection of 2,500 Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and Chinese antiquities, many of which are on display in the Museum. He will also talk about Freud's journey to London from Vienna in June 1938 and the last year of his life in London NW3.

The Museum's Operations Manager, Daniel Bento, will then guide us around areas of the house which are not normally open to the public, including Sigmund Freud's secret art deco lift. We will also visit the archives, after which you are welcome to continue to browse the museum and gift shop.

£28 for AJR members.

 karendiamond@ajr.org.uk

OBITUARIES

Rosa SCHATZBERGER

Born: 1 August 1925, Vienna
Died: 10 September 2023, York



My Oma, Rosa (Rosl), had a happy childhood in Vienna with parents, Hanni (Johanna) and Willi (Wilhelm) Fried, and her sister Erika, who was seven years younger.

Her grandfather had run an off-licence, and Hanni took over the premises, converting them to a haberdashery which was attacked on Kristallnacht. Four months later the family fled to Prague, where Willi had spent a lot of time through his work. The Nazis marched into the city just two weeks later, and the family were forced into hiding.

Fortunately, a family friend had managed to get to the UK and found domestic work for fellow Jews in danger, organising work permits for them. Rosl's family escaped to England where her parents went to work as a cook and a butler for a vicar in Royston. With the help of relatives, they moved to the Manchester area and, after leaving school at 14 and working a few different jobs, Rosl eventually became a secretary.

It was in Manchester that Rosl met my Opa, Wolfgang Marc Schatzberger, at the Young Austria youth club. They had, in fact, gone to the same primary school in Vienna, and their chance reunion led to a 74-year marriage which spawned two children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Rosl always stayed true to her Austrian and Jewish roots, particularly in the kitchen, where she never failed to put on a 'performance' with grand banquets for family and friends. Food, for my Oma, was not just a source of joy and nostalgia, but also the centre of her community-minded nature. At the same time as bringing up her children, she gained formal qualifications in cookery and started working in adult education. She then trained as a social worker, practising in medical social work, childcare, family care and fostering.

In retirement, she collated her most popular recipes into an Austrian cookery book, 'Oma Goodness!', to raise money for Jessie's Fund, the music therapy charity founded by her daughter in memory of her granddaughter. She was a committed volunteer with organisations such as Meals on Wheels, the Coronary Support Group and MySight York, the latter of which she was still working with not long before her death at the age of 98.

Her family and friends will always remember her sharp sense of humour, her unflinching frankness, and, above all, her undeniably generous and embracing spirit: she is greatly missed.

Jacob George

Hannele (Karola) ZÜRNDORFER

Born: 5 December 1925, Düsseldorf
Died: 1 December 2023, Fife

On 3 May 1939, Hannele (13) and her sister Lotte (10) left Düsseldorf on the last but one Kindertransport. They received letters until the end of 1941 but never saw their parents again.

Hannele, who was known in Britain as Karola, died four days short of her 98th birthday. She wrote her memoir in the early 1980s when she was still in her fifties; soon enough for events to be vividly recalled. She offers her forensic memory as seen through her young eyes via recollection of her loving parents, her middle-class Jewish childhood in Düsseldorf, and her eyewitness account of Kristallnacht: '...there burst into this room a horde of violent monsters, their faces contorted into raving masks of hatred, some red, some pale, all screaming and shouting, eyes rolling, teeth bared, wild hands flailing, jackboots kicking.'

Upon arrival in England the children found refuge at their Aunt Rosel's (their father's sister) who lived with her ailing husband Alan in a small upper flat in Hampstead. Full of hope that it would only be a question of time before their family was reunited, the girls threw themselves into their new life, while coping with the tribulations of evacuation from London to Rickmansworth and, initially, a sadistic host family who at one point considered the children to be German spies.

Hannele's book draws on 60 letters from her father Adolf, who, as a former theatre critic for the *Frankfurter Zeitung* and head of the wider family, puts the rescue of relatives above his and his young wife Else's safety. He wrote as frequently as he could, heartbreakingly trying to communicate guidance to his beloved daughters who did not realise yet they may never see their parents again:

'Our upbringing of you stopped on 3 May. You have learnt at home the difference between right and wrong, between duty and pleasure, even if we were not always as strict about these things as we might have been...' he writes.

Hannele learned English, gained an unexpected benefactor by the name of Lucy Stern, who enabled her to continue her education leading to her work for British Intelligence before the end of the war. Instead of continuing in the civil service, Hannele pursued her dream of journalism, and later became a teacher in Dundee, living happily with her Norfolk-born husband in Newport-on-Tay in Scotland.

Although Hannele's memoir was published in 1983, we know



that such traumatic events continue to be visited upon young lives all over the world where there is ethnic conflict. Most importantly, Hannele wanted us to know that she believed not all Germans of that era to be Nazis. Neighbours and friends did much, at great personal danger, to assist the family while the walls of persecution were closing in.

On 18 October 1941 Adolf and Else were picked up at 05:00 and deported to the concentration camp at Lodz in Poland. A Red Cross letter confirming Adolf's death on 26 April 1942 by heart failure was read to his young daughters by Kathleen, daughter of Dr and Mrs Salmon, who gave them a kind and loving home in Rickmansworth. No record of their mother was ever found.

In later years, Hannele returned to her old school in Düsseldorf to give talks to young people and later, to her delight, it was renamed Hanna-Zürdorfer-Schule. Of such acts, is healing made.

Hannele's book was published by Quartet, the publishing house owned by Palestinian entrepreneur and literary lion Naim Atallah. Hannele believed in respect for all religions and would not have wanted to be party to the further procreation of hate in the Middle East. As a Jew who had escaped the horrors of Nazi Germany, she supported the charity Medical Aid for Palestinians and was strongly opposed to what she saw as the dehumanising treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli State.

Anthony Lipmann

Hannele Zürdorfer's book *Ninth of November* may be found via www.abebooks.co.uk



Anthony Peter JOSEPH
Born: 23 April 1937, Birmingham
Died: 3 February 2024, Birmingham

Dr Anthony Joseph was not himself a refugee. But as an ardent genealogist he was an active member of the AJR and regular correspondent to this Journal.

Born shortly before the outbreak of WW2, our father recalled watching anti-aircraft fire during the Blitz as perhaps his earliest memory; in his infant eyes the nights provided firework displays like no other, though he later acknowledged that his parents probably felt very differently!

Educated as a boarder at Abbotsholme school, Anthony evidently demonstrated intellectual aptitude, coupled with an industrious streak for the unusual. A classmate recalls him convincing the teachers to retrieve a drowned sheep from a nearby river and allow its dissection in the biology labs, while his brother remembers he established a workforce to improve the quality of the school's toilets. With such an interest in anatomy and public health, it was surely no surprise that he went on to read Medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating in 1961, then pursuing General Practice.

A short period of work in London followed, before a foray to Australia where he continued his medical training for several years, specialising in both obstetrics and paediatrics. On his return to Birmingham in 1968, he joined a practice in Smethwick where he remained for over thirty years. At the turn of the century, Anthony took "semi-retirement" which resulted in him actually working more hours than before, to the surprise of very few. On top of general locum work, he branched into helping the homeless population of central London, continuing in this fashion until his formal retirement at the age of 84.

It would be impossible to write about Anthony without mentioning family trees, the research of which captivated him from a very young age, and for which he developed

something of a passion, dare we say obsession. Indeed, a close friend reports he once observed that, "Medicine is my hobby, and Genealogy is my profession". A microfiche reader was a household fixture in much the same way others might have had a microwave, and doubtless Dad got more use and enjoyment from it too. No familial connection was too obscure, no relationship or history too challenging to uncover, and it is not hyperbole to say his international reputation in the field was legendary, with memberships of, or presidential appointments to, groups as far afield as the United States and Australia. When not stalking graveyards for their hidden secrets, Anthony was an ardent supporter and former president of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society, further testament to his mental fortitude and tenacity for analysing data, though even he had his limits, being incapable of understanding any problem concerning a computer.

It would be remiss not to mention him in his capacity as a father (or grandfather!), given the size of his extended family and the care he showed for all his descendants. He took an interest in everyone's pursuits, and shared their achievements with anyone who would listen. Patients frequently remarked that he gave his time freely, and actively listened to their concerns. An incredibly generous man to all around him, his capacity for helping others was equally true at home as at work.

To condense such a lifetime of achievements and capability into a few short words is naturally to omit much of the man he was. Suffice to say, Anthony was irreplaceable and unique, and the positive touch he left on those he met will long be remembered. He is survived by his five children and ten grandchildren, all of whom will miss him deeply.

Harry Joseph

AJR Kindertransport 85th Anniversary

COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

Sunday 12 May 2024
3pm | £20.00

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PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO PESACH THERE ARE NO MEETINGS THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL

IN PERSON EVENTS

DATE	TIME	IN PERSON MEETING	CO-ORDINATOR
Tuesday 2 April	12.30pm	Yorkshire	Michal Mocton
Tuesday 2 April	12.30pm	Bournemouth	Ros Hart
Wednesday 3 April	10.30am	Wanstead	Karen Diamond
Thursday 4 April	2.00pm	Pinner	Karen Diamond
Monday 8 April	2.00pm	Hampstead (focus: Kindertransport Archives)	Ros Hart
Thursday 11 April	2.30pm	Newcastle	Agnes Isaacs
Tuesday 16 April	10.30am	Ealing	Ros Hart
Tuesday 16 April	12.30pm	Norwich	Karen Diamond
Wednesday 17 April	2.00pm	South Herts	Ros Hart
Thursday 18 April	12.30pm	South London	Karen Diamond

CO-ORDINATOR DETAILS

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ZOOMS AHEAD

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

Monday 15 April @ 4.00pm	Dr Angela Shapiro – A whistlestop tour of Hidden Treasures, an online portal to Jewish Archives in the UK https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89270319489	Meeting ID: 892 7031 9489
Tuesday 16 April @ 2pm	Andy Strowman – Down and out in the East End but among the best! https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88432579189	Meeting ID: 884 3257 9189
Wednesday 17 April @ 2pm	AJR Book Discussion (no speaker) – <i>The Other Hand</i> by Chris Cleave https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86172202837	Meeting ID: 861 7220 2837

KEEP FIT WITH AJR

All AJR members & friends are invited to take part in these online exercise and dance classes throughout the coming month.

Every Monday @ 10.30am EXCEPT MONDAY 29 APRIL	Get Fit where you Sit (seated exercise) https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439
Every Tuesday @ 11.00am	Shelley's Exercise class https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88466945622	Meeting ID: 884 6694 5622
Every Wednesday @ 10.15am EXCEPT WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL	Dance Yourself Fit with Jackie Turner https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86302485494	Meeting ID: 8630 248 5494

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