



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

A Twentieth-Century Childhood

This month sees the 80th birthday of a remarkable physicist-turned-writer who was nominated for the European Book Prize for his debut publication and has just completed an extraordinary account of growing up as a Jewish child in Budapest during the Holocaust.



The young Tom Keve with his father in Budapest in 1946, his father's Forced Labour ID, and Tom's own portrait taken for his AJR Refugee Voices interview

In his memoir, *A Twentieth-Century Childhood*, London-based Tom Keve also describes his life during the early Communist years in post-war Hungary, before fleeing with his family to find refuge here in Britain.

Keve was born Ödön Tamás Krausz on 30th May 1944 in a leafy suburb of Budapest. His mother was Rózsa Rosenberger and his father was István Krausz and they had married in the early 1930s in Budapest.

Then came the Nazi occupation. 'I was exactly three weeks old when we were thrown out of our home,' he writes on the opening page. The officials 'simply took away virtually everything we owned,' he writes. His father, then in his early forties, was one of 100,000 Jewish men called up to do forced labour, leaving his wife to cope with a young daughter and a baby boy, Tom. By the end of the war, 40,000 of those sent to forced labour camps had died.

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SPREAD THE WORD

As is customary each May, we bring you our annual report for the previous year (p11-16). You might note that 1st generation Holocaust refugees now constitute just one-third of the AJR's members, making it ever more important for the next generations to tell their stories and preserve their legacy. If you know someone who descends from a Holocaust survivor or refugee and who does not yet know about the important work of the AJR please spread the word.

Elsewhere we have both sombre and inspiring stories sent in from AJR members (see pages 4, 9 and 17 in particular) plus a focus on how AJR actively embraces all our members in our activities, including those living with dementia (p18).

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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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A Twentieth-Century childhood (cont.)

The family moved into the grandparents' apartment and were joined there by an aunt and her family. Three families, ten people in all, were crammed into a two-bedroom apartment. During this time, in just eight weeks, from May to July 1944, 440,000 Hungarian Jews were sent to Auschwitz. 'These unfortunates,' writes Keve, 'were taken, almost exclusively from the countryside. Only at the very end of this period were some Budapest Jews taken.' On arrival at Auschwitz, nine out of every ten were marched straight to the gas chambers. 'The only Jews remaining were in Budapest or Jewish forced labour camps.'

Miraculously, his father managed to escape when the Jews at his forced labour camp were marched away. Back in Budapest, a gentle family friend managed to obtain papers by bribing an official, made out not in the Jewish name of Pista Krausz (Tom's father) but Istvan Keve. By November 1944 the Red Army had reached the suburbs of Budapest. They entered the city on 27 December and a fifty-day siege began until the capital was liberated on 15 January. The last German troops left Hungary at the beginning of April.

Tom's father lost eight relatives during the Holocaust. His mother lost thirteen. According to Yad Vashem 565,000 Hungarian Jews were killed, though figures vary.

How did the family survive? Keve's answers are fascinating. First, luck. 'Not to be in the wrong place at the wrong time,' he writes, 'or when you are unfortunate enough to be at such a place, not to be picked out of a line when your neighbour is taken, or to have whoever is shooting at you miss, whether intentionally or not.' In his interview for AJR's *Refugee Voices*, Tom describes how his mother 'went up to a German SS man and pleaded with him in fluent German, said that they had left babies behind who would die without them. The German released them and the Hungarians did not want to countermand a German soldier's decision.'

Second, courage and determination. 'Not giving up even when all odds are against you,' writes Keve. 'When you have lost all hope, you still carry on.' 'My father showed courage, verging on the foolhardy,' he writes. 'He gambled, he bet his life and he won.' Third, the help of decent gentiles. Some they

knew. Others like the Swiss consul were complete strangers.

Almost 40,000 people were charged with war crimes in post-war Hungary. Amazingly only 300 were executed. And then in 1948 came the Communist takeover and in 1949 the Communists took complete control. Tom's father's factory was nationalised, the family car was confiscated. In 1950 Tom started at junior school. 'I think I was the only Jewish child.'

Then in October 1956 came the October Uprising in Hungary. In November his family prepared to flee. His parents were both in their mid-50s, Tom's sister was 20, he was 12. They left nearly everything of value behind and just took what money they had. Tom took a small backpack, a towel and a toothbrush. They managed to cross the border and then flew to England, with stateless papers, and moved into a semi-detached house in Golders Green. His mother and sister worked in a sweatshop in Soho, his father worked in silk screen printing.

Luck and good timing saved Tom. 'This wonderful country looked after me,' Tom writes. Good timing was crucial. As a schoolboy, he quickly picked up the language unlike his parents who had 'to struggle with the language', a story familiar in so many refugee families. They worked 'long hours and save[d] every penny they were able in order to pay off the debt we started with.'

In those days education was still free. 'Free schooling, free university tuition, a grant to follow a degree,' he writes. 'Another grant to study for a PhD.' Tom studied physics at university, followed by a PhD in crystallography at Imperial College.

'I certainly became more introverted, moody and felt myself to be an outsider.' 'Many years later,' he writes, 'in one of my books, a character describes himself as feeling like an outsider in a room full of gentiles. What about a room full of Jews? He is asked. In a room full of Jews, it is worse, he replies. That's me.'

My only regret about this extraordinary memoir, starting with the Holocaust and ending fleeing as a refugee to England, is that Keve doesn't have space to write about his extraordinary book, *Triad: the physicists, the analysts, the kabbalists* (2000). Forget the unlikely title. It is a brilliant account of the Jewish roots of two revolutions in early 20th



Tom Keve with his parents

century thought: psychoanalysis and the new physics. Many of the great psychoanalysts and physicists had parents or grandparents who were orthodox Jews. At one point, Keve has one of his characters ask: "How come there are so many of you in physics and mathematics?" "*Yiddische Kopf*," comes the answer. This younger generation of central European Jews, many of whom later became refugees, were drawn to fields where they could ask ultimate questions about being: theoretical physics, mathematical logic and psychoanalysis.

As Keve shows, these thinkers were not just Jews. They were the sons and grandsons of rabbis and scholars. Freud's grandfather-in-law was the Rabbi of Hamburg. Breuer (who co-wrote *Studies on Hysteria* with Freud) was the son of a *yeshiva bocher* who had studied with the legendary Rabbi of Pressburg. The first psychoanalytic patient, Anna O., was the grand-daughter of the man who funded the yeshiva at Pressburg. Wolfgang Pauli, the great physicist, was the great-grandson of Wolf Pascheles, an itinerant market trader in prayer books. Sandor Ferenczi, one of the founders of psychoanalysis, was the son of Baruch Fraenkel, a Jewish bookseller from Cracow. Even someone as obviously non-Jewish as the Danish physicist, Niels Bohr, was the grandson of Jenny Raphael, herself descended from one of the oldest families of the Frankfurt ghetto. 'Only fifty years,' writes Keve, 'separated Wolf Pascheles, peddling rabbinic portraits and ladies' prayer-books from Wolfgang Pauli, author of the masterful review in the *Encyklopaedie der Mathematischen Wissenschaften* of Einstein's Theory of Relativity.'

It is one of the most intriguing books of intellectual history I have ever read. I hope *A Twentieth-Century Childhood* will be published soon. It is a compelling account of surviving the Holocaust and escaping central European Communism, two escapes in one extraordinary life. There's much to celebrate as Tom Keve turns eighty.

David Herman

AMERICAN COUSINS

This month sees the arrival of a group of members of the Kindertransport Association of America (KTA), who are visiting the UK on a special 85th anniversary heritage tour. The executive director of the KTA, Melissa Hacker, is excited:

I was seven years old when I first visited London from my home in New York. My mother was a Kindertransport survivor from Vienna and, in addition to the usual sights, we went to Croydon.

When she first arrived in London, my mother was sent from foster family to foster family, eight in total, who could not cope with this weeping, German speaking twelve-year-old. Until she landed with the Checkers family in Croydon, who were kind and welcoming, and our families have remained in contact to this day.

I have returned to London many times, including representing the KTA at previous AJR Kindertransport commemorations. In 2018 I created the Kindertransport

Journey 80th year trip and travelled with four Kinder and 14 KT2s from Vienna and Berlin to London, tracing their childhood flight. I am thrilled to be returning for the Kindertransport 85th year commemorative trip, created with the AJR.



For those of you not yet familiar with the KTA, we were founded by Kindertransport survivors in 1991. We are a nearly all volunteer multi-generation nonprofit based in New York with members worldwide, and our missions are:

- To connect Kindertransport Survivors and their families and descendants,
- To educate about the Kindertransport as an important part of Holocaust history,
- To support and advocate for children at risk, especially refugees and without parents.

On Sunday 12 May 2024 a large representation of the KTA, with ages ranging from 94 years to six months and travelling from 12 different states, will gather in London for five days. We look forward to meeting many AJR members during our visit.

Please see the advert on page 19 for details of when and where you can meet members of the KTA during their visit.



On 24 March millions of people watched AJR 2nd generation members Diana Barzilay and Evie Hill talking on prime time national TV about the experiences of Jewish refugees. In a Swanage-based episode of Antiques Roadshow, featuring their parents' candlesticks, Diana and Evie described how their parents had escaped Nazi oppression and the importance of preserving their history for future generations "so that it's never forgotten". The AJR, which had helped to set up the interview, was recognised in the end credits.

SAD NEWS

The AJR was deeply saddened to learn about the recent passing of three of our most prolific members, shortly before this issue went to press. Hella Pick CBE, George Donath and Margarete Stern will each be deeply missed.

All three have appeared regularly in this Journal. Between them, George and Margarete had over 130 letters to the editor published during the past 40 years, while a thought-provoking article about the public understanding of the Kindertransport written by Hella, herself a former Kind as well as an award-winning journalist, was published just this February.

Full obituaries of all three will be published here in due course.



Join the AJR for a visit to



MONDAY 1 JULY 2024
NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Coach pick-ups in London NW3 and Edgware

 karendiamond@ajr.org.uk



DAY TRIP TO BRIGHTON
TUESDAY 23 JULY 2024



Please join us for fish & chips on Brighton seafront and free time to wander the Lanes, stroll along the pier, or sunbathe on the beach.

Coach pick-ups in Edgware and Finchley Road

 roshart@ajr.org.uk

THE CHARM BRACELET

This is a true story that has been circulating around our family and close friends for decades. However it has never been put “pen to paper”. It needs to be recorded otherwise it will either be forgotten altogether or changed out of recognition.

It all starts in 1936 when my aunt, Marushka Capek, who was my late mother’s older sister, got engaged to their cousin, Joseph (Pepe) Steiner. The Capek family lived in a small village called Usobi some 100 kms. south east of Prague. The Steiner family lived in Vienna.

When they got engaged a piece of china was broken, as was the custom at the time. Pepe gave his future wife, Marushka, and my mother identical gold charm bracelets each with a locket containing a piece of the broken china with the date engraved on the back.

Pepe and Marushka had a baby boy called, Honza (Hans) in 1937. When the war broke out Honza was taken from Vienna to Usobi to be looked after by his (and my) grandparents. They assumed it would be safer there than in Vienna.

My mother came to England in the summer of 1939 as a domestic help. She brought with her the charm bracelet that was given to her. Before the outbreak of war her parents used to write her letters telling her that they were posting parcels to her which contained clothes with jewellery sewn inside. She received three letters and parcels and one final fourth letter before the outbreak of war. She was told in that fourth letter that the next parcel would contain Marushka’s bracelet. War broke out and that last parcel never arrived.

Marushka and Pepe were transported from Vienna to Latvia where they were murdered. The entire Capek family, including Honza, were transported from



The bracelet with the important charm

Usobi to Terezin in 1942. Honza was further transported to Auschwitz on 23 October 1944, which coincidentally is my birthday. He didn’t survive.

Move forward to October 1967. I got engaged. My parents and sister met my fiancée’s parents and her brother and sister for the first time in a restaurant in London. My sister wore the bracelet which had been given to my mother in 1936.

My sister sat next to my fiancée’s sister, Rita. The next morning my sister mentioned to my mother that she was comparing the bracelet she was wearing with the one Rita was wearing. The chains were identical but only one charm was identical on both bracelets.

My mother immediately phoned Rita to ask her to examine the bracelet and in particular to look on the back of the charm to see if there was a date engraved on it. There was. It was the date of the engagement in 1936. The bracelet worn by Rita was the one given to Marushka in 1936. Rita had bought it only the day before the dinner from a small shop in central London.

Where had Marushka’s bracelet been for 30 years? No one knows.

Tom Barth



The young Aninka in traditional Czech costume



Tom’s mother Aninka Capkova, 7, and her older sister Marushka, 9



DAY TRIP TO SOUTHEND
TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2024



Including return coach travel from London, a fish & chips lunch and free time to explore or relax

 karendiamond@ajr.org.uk

DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON'S LETTER FROM ISRAEL



THE WAY WE LIVE



When I asked the person in charge of the trip to Eilat organised by the association of pensioners of my former

place of work whether there would be some security or at least someone with a weapon on the bus he expressed surprise and answered in the negative, insisting that the roads were safe. Still, we went, having decided that we needed a change from our routine, and hoping for the best. In the event our journeys to and from Eilat were uneventful, although a missile fired by the Houthis did get through Israel's defences while we were there. One evening we heard a muffled 'boom' as we were sitting in our hotel room. Luckily no damage was caused, but the consequences could have been dire. How and why our defences neither caught the missile nor set off any alarm in the town is a mystery. But there have been worse failures of Israel's defences in the last few months.

Since the assault on Israel by Hamas terrorists on 7th October we in Israel have learned to live with a sense of vulnerability. Our confidence in the ability of our intelligence and surveillance systems has been severely shaken, and

it seems unrealistic to rely on the current government for any practical resolution to our situation. Awareness of the plight of the hostages still in Hamas' grip is another constant in our daily lives, and until that issue is resolved there can be no peace or confidence in our lives.

It is about ten years since I last visited Eilat, Israel's answer to Bournemouth but with a better climate. In that time the town in the far south of the country has been cleaned up and beautified, with plentiful greenery in the form of trees and bushes as well as many colourful flower-beds and a constant attention to improving the facilities. The beaches are clean and welcoming, the hotels aesthetic and friendly with varying degrees of luxury, and the artistically-paved promenade seems to be undergoing an incessant process of improvement. In addition to its various attractions such as outings on boats, snorkeling and swimming with dolphins there is now an indoor skating rink and trips to interesting sites such as the impressive archaeological site of Timna as well as the ornithological observatory where many different kinds of migrating birds spend time on their way to and from Africa and northern Europe.

And so we try to stay optimistic and carry on as before as much as possible, but with the constant nagging awareness that the

situation is probably going to go from bad to worse before there can be any improvement. The results of an opinion poll carried out by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion and Research among Arab residents of Gaza and the West Bank (can the situation be that bad if it's possible to conduct a statistically reliable opinion poll there?) show that support for Hamas and denial of the atrocities it committed is stronger than ever. The explanation for this provided by Dr. Halil Shkaki, the Director of the Center, is satisfaction that this has brought the Palestinian issue back into the international limelight. The question remains, however, to what extent this will help the Palestinian cause, as the idea of a Palestinian state alongside Israel is now regarded as an existential threat by many Israelis who once saw it as a viable option. After all, Gaza ruled by Hamas was in essence potentially the longed-for Palestinian state.

After the events of 13 April, the Night of the Long Missiles, when Iran fired hundreds of missiles of various kinds at Israel and their successful interception by Israel's air defences, something of Israel's previous spirit of confidence has been restored. But no one in Israel is deluding themselves about what lies ahead, and whatever it is, the consequences may well be grim. That is the uncertain reality with which we have learned to live.

LOOKING FOR?

MARGOT, HELGA & MANFRED BAUM

Organisers would love to hear from any relatives of the Baum family from Ziegenhain-Schwalmstadt, for whom a Stolpersteine ceremony is planned for 8 November.

Parents Ida and Julius Baum, who lived at Mulystrasse 15, were murdered in Auschwitz. Children Margot (b. March 1926), Helga (b. 1928) and Manfred (b. 1932) came via Kindertransport in January 1939 and stayed with their uncle Josef Mayer near Newcastle.

Helga married Jack (Jacob) Gerstle and they had three daughters: Susan, Sandra and Jacqueline. Helga had two sons-in-law: Alan and Ian, and a grandson called Adam. Unfortunately their surnames are unknown.

Manfred married Valerie and they had two children Nigel (deceased) and Carol (Caroline). Carol's surname is unknown.

Margot's family descendants are not known.

Helga and Manfred are buried in Heaton Cemetery, Tyne & Wear.

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TRANSLATION SERVICES

Carolyn Sommer is a translator who specialises in old German script (Suetterlin). Her husband's family fled from Germany in the 1930s. She would like to offer her translation services to any AJR members who may not be able to read German.

www.carolinsommer.com

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.

REFUGEES ON THE HIGH STREET

In your article *Refugees on the High Street* (March) you mention the bookshop Bumpus on Oxford Street. My friend Anneliese and I, aged 17, lived in the hostel for refugee children on Willesden Lane and spent our Saturday mornings either listening to records in the HMV store or browsing among the books in Bumpus, where we discovered a very large collection of German literature in a very small room at the back of the store, guarded by an elderly man. When he discovered our interest in his hoard he proceeded to introduce us to his treasure. We received a first-class education, ranging from the classics to Zweig and Werfel over many Saturday morning sessions.

Marianne Philipps, Salford

Michael Bond based Mr. Gruber on Harvey Unna (born Hans Werner), who was a very interesting man. He managed to lose his German accent and, although he did have a very slight accent, no one would have guessed what that accent was. After arriving in London he made sure that he learnt five new English words a day so he could have the use of as many words in English as he had in German.

Harvey was also agent to Maisie Mosco and to the play *There is a Girl in my Soup*. A very cultured and knowledgeable man, he died in July 2003.

I'm an avid reader of the *AJR Journal*, daughter of refugees (not to England)

Note from Editor: We apologise to the sender of this beautifully handwritten letter for not including your name. We were unable to decipher your signature, so please get in touch if you recognise the letter and would like an acknowledgment.

GAZA, A LESSON OVERLEARNT?

In 1943, during the Second World War, the British government decided that, in order to bring the war with Nazi Germany to a speedy end, Bomber Command

would have to bomb civilian targets in Germany.

As a result, more than half a million German civilians were killed and many German cities, including the one I lived in, were bombed and to a large extent destroyed - at night by the British and during the day by the Americans. Taken in isolation this would probably have been declared a war crime had it ever come to court. The bombing no doubt contributed significantly to Germany's defeat in 1945, although it took another two years to bring Hitler down.

I think that the decision of the Israeli government to bomb Gaza and to continue the bombing of civilians is a parallel. Has Netanyahu overlearnt this lesson from history?

In my opinion a significant difference lies in the fact that Hitler's Germany was undoubtedly a danger not only to the Jewish population of Europe but to the independence of all countries of Europe and beyond, including Germany. Hamas, while a terrorist organisation and therefore dangerous, is, as far as Israel is concerned, also reacting to the expansion of Israel, and thus also receiving support from moderate Arabs. The continued expansion of Israel into the West Bank and the harassment of the Muslim population provides Hamas with an excuse for violence.

Juergen Schwiening, Market Bosworth

ANTISEMITISM

Peter Phillips asks if antisemitism in the UK is similar to Vienna in 1938, the year of my birth. The answer I would like to give is a resounding NO!

Peter Gildener, Truro

If I had been asked the question raised by Peter Phillips, but about Germany, I would have given a similar reply. I don't know being only 18 months old when we fled. However, I do know what my parents told me, what I subsequently read, and what I learned from documentaries of the time. The antisemitism in Germany

was Government-led whereas here in the UK it is led by ordinary, but antisemitic public campaigners who need something to campaign about. Different, but no less dangerous!

Mike Saunders, London

ERETZ ISRAEL BERLIN BRANCH

My mother, Edith Sender, was born in Cologne on 13 August 1924. In July 1933 her parents obtained a passport for themselves and their three children. They left Germany and arrived in Palestine in early 1934 but my mother stayed behind and went to live with her maternal grandfather, Benjamin Honi in Leverkusen-Opladen.

My mother told me that she had travelled to Palestine in 1938 with another family but, at the time, I wasn't curious enough to ask further questions - much to my regret. I have now discovered with the help of the Leverkusen town archives that she left Leverkusen on 3 December 1935 and, with the assistance of Eretz Israel Berlin Branch she obtained a Visa D and travelled on the *SS Tel Aviv* to Haifa, arriving on 12 December. My mother was 11 in 1935 and I assume that Eretz Israel organised her journey and arranged for her to travel with another family. If anyone knows where the archives of Eretz Israel are held I would like to fill in the last piece of the puzzle.

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PASSPORT PROBLEMS

Many AJR members are, because of their family history, now entitled to be regarded as Austrian citizens. I obtained in 2018 a declaration from the Austrian embassy in London that I had been an Austrian from birth, under a law which has since been modified. Subsequent complications arose from the fact that Austria insisted that this declaration, and hence the Austrian passport based upon it, had to be in my (Jewish Viennese) father's birth name, not the family name in which he got his Austrian citizenship back under an earlier law, or his (and my) name at my birth.

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GETTING OUT OF HUYTON

The signed postcard given to Eric Guttman on his release from Huyton

Like thousands of other refugees, my father, Eric Guttman, was interned as an enemy alien in 1940. He was imprisoned in Huyton, just outside Liverpool, an internment camp made up of about 180 new council homes (and a lot of tents), where 12-15 men were kept in crowded single-family houses.

They had no hot water, and they slept on sacks of straw with only their suitcases for furniture. When Eric was released (as a doctor) on August 14, 1940, his housemates signed a get-out-of-jail card, "a reminder of days spent together". The closed card shows a darkened house with a searchlight and tower behind it; opened, it shows three men playing skat inside. It was painted by Richard Bayer, an Austrian artist and political refugee who went on to teach in Bradford (where one of his students was David Hockney); he also designed about 70 postcards satirising life in Huyton for other internees to colour and either send or keep (see *AJR Journal*, October 2021).

I have seen no other card like this, and as far as I know it is the only extant list of the people living in a single house

in Huyton. I can decipher 12 of the 13 signatures: after the first one (unreadable) they are, in order by rows: Dr. Hermann Augapfel, K. Straube, Otto Silbermann, Harry Lohry, Erwin Wolkenstein, Max Werner Heilbrun, Lothar Liebmann, Karl Hajek, Gustav Stern, I. Feilich, Gerhard Wolkenstein, and Wilhelm Guttman. They were all interned in the mass arrests at the end of June 1940 and most of them were released before the end of the year. The house was a mix of ages and occupations. Eric was the oldest at 44, and most were in their 20s, with three teenagers. Four had been doctors or lawyers before coming to England; there were also three students, one clerk, one travelling salesman, one sheet-metal worker, and one mechanic. In England, three were servants (a privileged class for visas) and many of the others were unemployed. Some people stayed in groups: eight came from Vienna, there are two pairs of brothers (my father and his younger brother Wilhelm; Erwin and Gerhard Wolkenstein), and the Wolkensteins lived down the street from Isidor Feilich in Earls Court.

After release, Hermann Augapfel and Eric practised medicine; my uncle had a long career at the *Observer* (see *AJR Information*, September 1983). Some volunteered for the military, three



emigrated to the USA, others remade their lives in England. Eric kept this card with two other cartoons by Richard Bayer and the letters he exchanged with my mother. As for many internees, it was an experience he never wanted to repeat, but neither to forget.

James Zetzel would like to hear from anyone who knows more about these men

James E. G. Zetzel
New York

Continued from page 6

At this point, then, I had a UK passport and an Austrian passport, with different family names. I had no problem with that, and neither clearly did Austria - but the UK does. When I came to try to renew my UK passport, the application was refused on the grounds of the differing family names.

There appeared to be three options at this point. Change my "Austrian" name, change my "British" name, or do without a British passport.

All of these seemed unattractive.

Changing my Austrian name would be expensive, especially as it would involve a journey to, and stay in, London. Also, I would lose a significant part of my heritage. Changing the British name I have carried for more than 70 years would undoubtedly be complex in ways I have not even imagined. Travelling on an Austrian passport might, it seemed, involve difficulties on returning to the UK.

This is where my experience might be of value to any other members in my position. According to the UK passport office, my Austrian passport contains,

not in the printed information but in the electronically-coded "biometric" information along with my fingerprints, the fact that I am also a British citizen. This would, the UK passport office assures me, mean that I would have no difficulty entering the UK on my Austrian passport.

I have asked the Austrian Embassy in London which issued the passport to confirm that this is in fact the case and will let the *AJR Journal* know what transpires. *Richard S. Henderson (or Hecht, depending), Isle of Arran*

MEET THE KINDER

To coincide with the 85th anniversary of the Kindertransport senior AJR representatives have been visiting some of our first generation Kinder members.

ALBERT LESTER

Albert (Albrecht) was born in Buchen, north of the Black Forest. He was 11 when he watched a synagogue burn in Esslingen on Kristallnacht. He has little recollection of his Kindertransport journey except for his mother crying at the station. He was pleased to be leaving Germany, travelling by train to Hamburg and then via the SS *Manhattan* to Southampton.

He was looked after by the Bloomsbury House committee which arranged for him to go to a residential boarding school in Gerrards Cross. He was then sent to a different school, in High Wycombe.

His parents managed to get papers for Rhodesia, through his uncle, where he and his sister joined them after the War. He studied engineering and returned to the UK in the early 1950's. When he was 32 he married a German lady and they had two sons. Albert's engineering career took them to various places before they eventually settled in Forest Hill in south-east London.

Albert joined the AJR around 10 years ago and has given talks both in Germany and the UK about his story. In the photo he is holding a pen knife that he brought with him from Germany, which he always feels gave him strength, and a manicure set given to him by his aunt, who sadly perished in Auschwitz.

ILSE NOTHMAN

Ilse was born in Breslau and came to the UK when she was 11. Her sister, who still lives in Jerusalem, was 13. Neither can remember saying goodbye to their parents.

At Liverpool St they were met by the family nanny. They went straight to Bloomsbury House and from there to Stotley Rough school in Haslemere for refugee children. Her sister insisted on having the top bunk!

Their older brother managed to flee Germany to Palestine. He came to the UK in the 1950s but then moved to the US.



Ilse Nothman



Anne Woolf-Skinner

Their father, who had briefly been interned in Buchenwald, came to the UK in July '39. Their mother, who had already bought a ticket to Shanghai to prove her intention to leave, followed a few weeks later. They all spent Christmas together in Exeter, courtesy of the Rogers family who took in her parents. Her mother became their cook and father a window cleaner, although he was interned on the Isle of Man for about a year.



Albert Lester

After the war her mother became a seamstress, making collars for ladies' coats. Ilse herself did an apprenticeship in corsetry. She eventually opened her own shop in Fairfax Road, Swiss Cottage.

She married Henry, a refugee from Chemnitz (then Karlmarxstadt) whose mother, by coincidence, also worked in corsetry. Ilse and Henry had two sons: Tony, a retired airlines executive, and Rob, a sports radio producer and reporter.

ANNE WOOLF-SKINNER

Anne was born in Berlin and was only two when, together with her 4-year old sister, she came on a Kindertransport in May 1939.

Her mother had died when she was a baby,

so she spent her early years with her father – a TB specialist - and grandmother. Both they and many other family members were murdered in Auschwitz.

Anne and her sister were adopted by a family in Finchley. The family, who already had three children, was very strict. Her sister – who passed away in 2023 - moved out as soon as she could, eventually settling in Israel.

Anne was always interested in music and studied piano and cello at the Guildhall School of Music before becoming a music teacher in schools. She married when she was 36 and has two sons, both of whom live in London, and three grandchildren. Having spent most of her adult life in Surrey she is now looking to move to London.

Anne has met King Charles on several occasions and has also delivered talks about her family history to numerous schools.

A tragic pack of lies

On 3 May 1939 Fred Taylor was the youngest child on the first Kinder transport out of Danzig. He was later told that his entire family had been murdered but it turned out to be a pack of lies.

I was born Fred Paul Loewenthal on 14 September 1931, in Danzig. I had an older sister Gerda, and some younger siblings, including my brother Eital. Our family lived in a one room flat and was very poor.

I have stark memories from my early childhood. When I was about six Eital and I were playing on the canal bank and saw a body floating past. I also remember the Gestapo entering the flat above ours, and shooting our neighbour and her dog, just leaving them on the floor.

I didn't really understand what was happening when Gerda and I were put on the Kindertransport, especially as I became ill with scarlet fever. After a long train journey we sailed from the Hook of Holland to Harwich, then by train to Liverpool Street, then on another long train journey to Preston, Lancashire, where we met our foster families, two branches of the Taylor family.

I later found out that my mother had specifically requested that I be raised as Jewish, but my foster parents refused to allow this. They abused me emotionally and physically throughout my childhood and adolescence. I was also bullied at school because they thought I was German. I got no help from the head teacher or most of the staff although Miss Sharple did try to help (you never forget the good ones!).

I struggled to keep up with the class. Dyslexia was not really recognised in those days; being bad at school meant a good hiding at home.

When the War ended my foster parents

told me that all my family had been killed in the Holocaust. I got a job with Mitchells hotels, working in the bar and the cellar, before being trained as a chef. I was transferred to work at their new station hotel where I met my future wife. I joined the Carnforth fire brigade, where I was paid an annual retainer of £40 and 12 shilling turn out fee, sometimes risking my life for just one pound.

My wife and I married in 1955 and in 1965 we moved to Dorset where I became catering manager at a big caravan park. We stayed there until my dear wife died of cancer in 1997. The following year I moved back to Carnforth, buying a house in Nether Kellet where I still live.

In 2006 I had a most unexpected phone call from a lady in America called Nava. She said she was my niece to which I replied 'poppycock'. But she also made contact with Gerda's daughter, Jeane, and some of the information she mentioned rang true. It turned out she was was my brother's daughter and had been looking for me for 10 years as it was my brother's last wish that she found me.

Then the truth started to come out about all the lies that that the Taylors had told. They had told the AJR to tell my mother – who did not die until 1974 - that I was in the British army and did not want any contact with her. Even when the police came looking for me, they said they did not know where I was. An enquiring Rabbi was also told the same thing many times.


Can you imagine how I felt, knowing that my mother had been alive and told such lies that she took with her to her grave? That she thought her eldest son wanted nothing to do with her? It was heartbreaking and I still break down sometimes, although time is a great healer.

I never searched for my family as there was no reason to disbelieve my foster parents when they said my entire family had been killed by the Nazis. If only I had known that some of them were alive.



Thanks to Nava I now have great joy in the discovery of my 'new-old' family: four sisters, nieces, nephews, great nieces & nephews in Israel; and my lovely great nephew Yarden and my beautiful great niece Shani in the USA.


I have great sadness and bitterness about the cruelty caused by my so-called foster parents. But the tragic reality is that during the War thousands of entire families were wiped out. I thought that Gerda and I were the sole survivors of ours and, despite my sadness at having been deliberately misled, I am so thankful to discover that we were not.




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.



Our keynote speaker will be the eminent lawyer, journalist, business advisor and former Deputy Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, **Philip Emanuel Rodney**, who will talk about **Me and my Meshugas - How being a child of a refugee defined me.**

 agnes@ajr.org.uk

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Three women, from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries are featured in current exhibitions, and the differences between each speak volumes. The National Portrait Gallery pairs an unlikely duo, photographers Francesca Woodman (1958-1981) and Julia Margaret Cameron (1815-1879), while The Royal Academy celebrates Angelica Kauffman (1741-1807), a founding member of The Royal Academy which promoted history painting, of which Kauffman was a protagonist. She was considered one of the most acclaimed artists of the 18th Century.



Cleopatra adorning the tomb of Mark Antony by Angelica Kauffman

For Kauffman self-portraits confirmed the way she would be seen by others over time. And, of course, she never ages. She is a virtual prototype for the selfie: Kardashians take note - why bother with Botox when you have a paintbrush handy? Yet as her reputation grew many women clamoured to be portrayed in the rigid, classical pose she favoured.

But Angelica Kauffman was no Artemisia Gentileschi. Compared with the Baroque painter's harrowing and extremely graphic paintings, Kauffman's art is worthy but pallid. Her colours lack vibrancy, the facial expressions, limpid. The sense of movement and urgency in Gentileschi's work, seem posed and lifeless in the later artist. The figures in *Cleopatra Adorning the Tomb of Mark Antony*, are workmanlike, bereft of emotion, while the kneeling figure of Cleopatra, is indistinct in shape and feeling. It was fashionable then to paint subjects as theatrical or historical personalities, or as a muse. *Lady Hamilton, as the Muse of Comedy* is painted with arms flailing, another feature of Kauffman's work. She was not the proto-feminist of Gentileschi's era, but we can see her as a representative of hers; neither feisty nor controversial, and inclined to depict women as victims, given to mourning rather than activism.

Yet she was drawn to male portraits, notably the celebrated actor David Garrick. But again, the same awkwardness with shape and body delivers a stilted portrait with his head rather sharply drawn towards us, one hand clutching a cane, and the other unsure what to do with itself. Her portrait of the art historian Johann Joachim Winckelmann is more successful, Quill pen poised, he has a soulful and introverted gaze, and the sensitivity of his expression stays with you.

Little of Kauffman's colourful life is revealed by the RA. The Swiss born artist was reputed to have had an affair with Joshua Reynolds, who helped ensure her place as one of only two women among the founding members of the Royal Academy in 1868. She married a so-called Swedish aristocrat who turned out to be a con-man and demanded money with menaces. She remarried on his death, but gossip suggested she had an affair with Jean-Paul Marat in London. This multi-layered life seems totally absent from her art.

The two women photographers at the National Portrait Gallery's *Portraits to Dream In* are linked only by their mutual sense of the ethereal or dreamy. One hundred years separate them, but the

work of the 20th century artist Francesca Woodman is imaginative but often fevered, murky and indistinct. In the last year of her life – she killed herself at 22 – she experimented with diazotype prints from which she created large, truncated classical nudes, using herself and her models as caryatids, or carved female figures representing ancient Greek columns. We can only speculate how she would have developed given time.

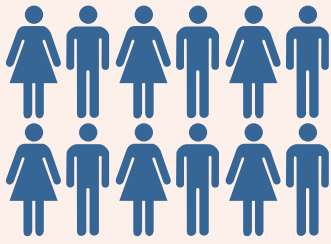
Julia Margaret Cameron's 19th century photographs are much more personal and romantic, featuring a gothic representation of angelic children, a soft girlish profile or two women sitting closely together and sharing some profound secret. Her gentle images present a pure and mystical femininity.

Angelica Kauffman at the RA until 30 June. *Portraits to Dream In* at the NPG until 16 June.

Annely Juda Fine Art

23 Dering Street
(off New Bond Street)
Tel: 020 7629 7578
Fax: 020 7491 2139

**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**



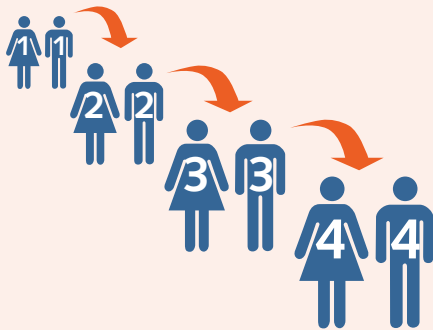
1,860

AJR MEMBERS

OF WHOM

600+

ARE 1ST GENERATION



1,130+

2ND - 4TH GENERATION MEMBERS



300+

NEW REFERRALS TO OUR SOCIAL WORKERS



450 GROUP MEETINGS, EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

30,000 VISITORS ENJOYING AJR REFUGEE VOICES ARCHIVE

7 NATIONAL TV APPEARANCES

30 BBC RADIO SEGMENTS

25+ NATIONAL NEWSPAPER STORIES AND FEATURES

200+

AJR VOLUNTEERS OF WHOM

211 MEMBERS RECEIVING VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

70,503 MINUTES OF FACE-TO-FACE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

3,546 MINUTES OF CALLS FROM OUR TELEPHONE FRIENDS



£8,456,549

TOTAL INCOME



£9,826,377

TOTAL EXPENDITURE



£7,784,208

DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO MEMBERS FOR HOMECARE AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES



£19,114,912

RESERVES CARRIED FORWARD

16

FUNDING PARTNERS

RECEIVING A TOTAL OF

£300,373

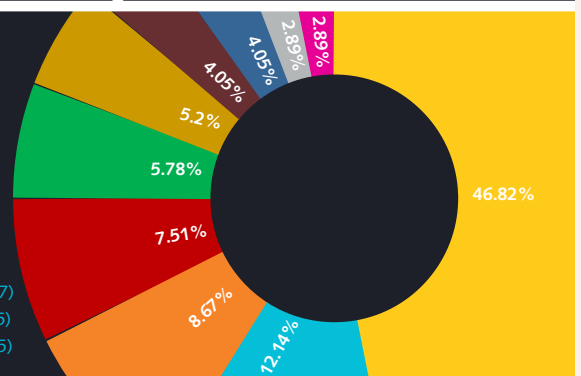
VIA NEW EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

391,000

HOURS OF CARE FUNDED FOR AJR MEMBERS

GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD OF VOLUNTEERS

- LONDON (81)
- MANCHESTER (21)
- GLASGOW (15)
- LEEDS (13)
- STANMORE (10)
- PINNER (9)
- SALFORD (7)
- UNKNOWN (7)
- EDGEWARE (5)
- LIVERPOOL (5)



2023 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Watching the interaction between His Majesty The King and the Kinder as part of our service to commemorate Kristallnacht was profoundly special and moving.

While I am still relatively new to the AJR, King Charles is no stranger and it is a source of great pride that he once again found time to be with us. The event also marked the start of the 85th anniversary of the Kindertransport, which we also commemorated with an event at Liverpool Street station. We are grateful to the Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis for officiating at both gatherings.

While the number of Kinder in attendance were fewer than in previous years, it is truly remarkable that we continue to enrol first generation members. Last year we added 22 Holocaust survivors and refugees to our membership, including one lady aged 103 (now 104!). She is among the thirty-four centenarians on our books.

I was also very proud that we hosted the Holocaust testimony forum at Lancaster House so professionally. As well as burnishing our reputation with government, the two-day gathering featured rich content from an excellent line up of international speakers. While that was a standout moment of the year, nothing could have prepared me for my first experience of the AJR Annual Tea. The occasion was high in emotion as we marked the atrocities of 7 October, but the camaraderie, warmth, good food and unforgettable entertainment exemplified what the AJR is all about. On a personal note, I was again privileged to address guests at an event hosted by Her Excellency Lindsey Skoll at the British embassy in Vienna to mark the start of the 85th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

EVENTS & OUTREACH

Susan Harrod continues to manage the four co-ordinators, Karen Diamond, Ros Hart, Agnes Isaacs, and Michal Mocton, in their mission to make meetings available in all areas of the UK to anyone able to attend as well as offering a regular Zoom programme

of meetings and speakers.

Added to this is our regular Monday morning Yoga Class, our weekly Dance Class, all of which have regular attendees on Zoom. We also run a Book Club every month, which is very popular. We can attract a much higher calibre of speakers via Zoom than in person, whilst also reaching out to a national and international audience.

SOCIAL WORK

Our social work team had a very busy year, ensuring our members access funding for Homecare and other vital health and welfare services to enable them to remain safely at home, as well as applying for benefits, advocating on their behalf with other agencies and being available for emotional support and a cup of tea. We received 334 new referrals this year, 299 of them were 1st Gen.

We were sad to say a fond farewell to Myrna Bernard, who is enjoying a well-deserved retirement; and we wish Madeleine Herman all the best when she goes on maternity leave at the end of May. We enjoyed having a student on placement with us, and look forward to offering future students the opportunity to learn with us.

EDUCATION & HERITAGE

Educational Grants & Projects

The AJR is proud to be the UK's largest dedicated funder of Holocaust education projects and initiatives. During 2023 there were 16 new recipients of our educational grants programme, with the combined total of awarded grants reaching over £300,000. A full list can be found on page 16.

Beyond our financial support for these institutions, we also aim to help them by promoting and participating in their programmes where appropriate and sharing best practice between them. We very much value our relationships with all these organisations and are proud to count them among our funding partners.

Meanwhile the AJR continued to participate actively in the UK delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance

Alliance as we prepared for the UK's year of presidency, and worked closely with international partners such as UNESCO and OSCE/ODIHR to deliver training to educational policy makers about contemporary antisemitism.

AJR Refugees Voices Archive

The reach of our testimony archive grew considerably during 2023 as we enabled researchers, partner institutions, curators, journalists and family members to access our library of video interviews, transcripts, photographs & documents. The archive now receives 2,500 visitors each month.

The team conducted 21 new interviews with 1st generation member, using social media very effectively to promote them. A post about Lia Lesser, who arrived on a Winton train from Prague on 1 July 1939, was viewed more than 101,000 times. A number of our short films, compiled using footage from the archives on various topics, such as the Kindertransport, proved equally popular.

Dr Bea Lewkowicz, the Director of our archive, participated in numerous panel discussions and conferences, and curated programmes of speakers for various events, and was the academic advisor for the recent 'I said Auf Wiedersehen' exhibition in the German Bundestag.

In April 2023 we held a very successful two-day International Forum on Holocaust Testimonies at Lancaster House, bringing together archives and experts in the international field of Holocaust testimonies. Bea is now leading the digital initiative 'Holocaust Testimony UK', a joint project between the AJR, government and other organisations. The new portal and website will be launched in June 2024, as part of the British IHRA chairmanship.

My Story

The My Story book project is now complete with 45 individual books telling the life stories of a variety of AJR members covering all experiences such as Kindertransport, refugee with family, hidden children, and camp survivors. All the books can be ordered in hard copy,

2023 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

while digital copies are available free online. Copies are now in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Library of Israel, Mémorial de la Shoah (Paris), National Holocaust Centre (Laxton), The Wiener Holocaust Library (London) and the Holocaust Centre North (Huddersfield).

Next Generations

The Next Generations now make up the majority of AJR members: the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who join to celebrate and preserve the culture and heritage of our parents and grandparents. AJR Next Generations Manager, Debra Barnes, arranged a calendar of events and activities to engage the second, third and fourth generations and encourage membership growth, such as a six-week course in 'Writing Your Family History', walking tours, theatre and exhibition visits, interactive dinner, family events in Manchester and Huddersfield, and online events for those who live remotely or are unable to attend in person. Identifying a demand for a purely social gathering, we launched the AJR Stammtisch. Debra also built collaborative relationships with overseas groups such as 3GNY and Mémorial de la Shoah, while the first Chanukah 'membership gift voucher' scheme brought in 17 new members.

PR & Communications

2023 saw the AJR significantly boost its profile, capitalising on national events and news-grabbing hooks to propel us into the national news agenda. Highlights included a swell of national media coverage around the 85th Anniversary of the Kindertransport, including His Majesty The King's engagement with the Kinder in the Spring. Our Annual Tea was also covered for the first time on national news, coming as it did just a week after 7 October.

The release of *One Life* allowed us to spotlight the eye witness accounts of AJR's own Kinder members, thereby increasing awareness of our testimony archives. AJR also collaborated with the award-winning *National Trust* podcast and BBC's *The Girls: Holocaust Safehouse*, which helped us reach mass audiences.

By strategically placing expert commentary around the wider news agenda – for example Gary Lineker's Nazi comment or Roger Waters concert – AJR became a top source of relevant commentary for multiple media outlets.

We also increased our share of voice in the Jewish community by generating coverage for everything from 100th birthday celebrations, honours bestowed by The King, a very special AJR membership enrolment for a 104-year-old at The German Embassy, to tributes and obituaries for the sad passing of so many of our first-generation members.

Meanwhile work began on redesigning AJR's website, newsletter and social media presence. Our aim is to build a consistent brand identity with consumer appeal, especially to our 3G & 4G target audiences.

AJR Journal

Our monthly Journal continues to attract plaudits from around the world, with content reflecting anniversaries of notable historical events, developments in Holocaust education and commemoration as well as many of the AJR's own activities. We are now working to increase its reach further through digital and social media.

VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteer and Community department continues to manage over 200 volunteers. These invaluable people provide in person befriending, as well as working in our Telephone Friends project. Other volunteers support our online activities and Outreach meetings or provide IT support to our members.

We also introduced a new volunteer management platform, Volunteer. This has enabled us to communicate quickly and efficiently with our volunteers, as well as gather data on the amount of support they are providing. 71% of volunteers are already using the platform.

We have provided training sessions to volunteers covering Jewish Cultural Awareness; Bereavement and Loss; Confidentiality and GDPR and hand

message for clients, along with our regular volunteer induction training.

As well as the invaluable contribution made by our face-to-face volunteers, we have been expanding our support by providing specialised guidance and signposting. Our Dementia and Memory Loss project coordinators can augment volunteer support with suitable activities, such as our Board Games and Crafts sessions and online poetry and exercise sessions. Our Carer's Support project offers group sessions for targeted groups, such as the children of parents living with dementia, and spouses who have become carers. Caryn Bentley, who runs this project, is also an expert on provision in the wider community, so that our members can be signposted to a full range of services.

We also launched our Next Generations wellbeing project, Facing Forward, which aims to augment the social and educational provision already available for our next generation members, with emotional and wellbeing support.

ORGANISATION AND STAFF

The Social Work team bade farewell to Dean Lloyd-Graham and Myrna Bernard, both of whom retired, and a switch around in case allocation meant no recruitment was required. Melanie Jawett left to work for an organisation nearer to home. Recruitment for a part time PA was underway.

Gemma Blane joined AJR in January 2023 as PR & Comms Manager and has made a huge impact in her first year with AJR.

Three of our colleagues have trained as Mental Health First Aiders.

Now almost two and a half years into my tenure, I have an even clearer picture of the range of people who help to deliver our much-needed services. As well as my fellow trustees, my thanks go to Michael Newman, the senior leadership team and all the staff for their dedicated efforts. We all look forward to seeing you at our events this year.

MIKE KARP OBE
Chairman

2023 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is a great privilege and honour to have been appointed the Treasurer of the AJR. For the last three years Frank Harding has brought his expertise, enthusiasm, and diligence to this role, adding to his many years as a Trustee. On behalf of all the Trustees and the finance team, I am hugely grateful for his stewardship.

By way of introduction, I became a Trustee of the AJR in July 2020 but my association with the AJR goes back many years. I am proud to be the daughter of refugees; my father, Hermann Hirschberger MBE, was chair of the Kindertransport committee for many years and was instrumental in the improvement of pension rights for many of his fellow refugees. Like for so many of you, The AJR has been part of my life for as long as I can remember.

The world continues to be a challenging place. I cannot recall such levels of antisemitism and Jew-hatred in my lifetime. What we saw happen in Israel on 7 October is a chilling reminder of darker days gone by and we all continue

to be concerned about how the conflict can be ended.

The delivery of financial support to our members and the wider Umbrella Group, which we lead, has continued to grow. Welfare payments for care and other emergency services funded from all sources increased by £0.6m (10%) to £6.4m, of which the AJR itself contributed £0.8m in Self-Aid payments to our most vulnerable members. As always, we extend gratitude to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for providing the balance, and for their continued support, and congratulate them on their hugely successful negotiations with the governments of Germany and Austria which provide funds for this life-changing support. Their funding to the entire Umbrella Group increased by £1.3m (11%). Throughout the course of the year, 391,000 hours of care were funded for AJR members and 456,000 hours for survivors and refugees through other Umbrella Group agencies, an increase of 6% from last year.

The Trustees of the AJR remain committed to ensuring that the historical memory of the Holocaust and its impact are preserved through general education as well as in ways that are personal to our members. To this end, more than £300k was allocated to

projects, partnering the AJR with other educational institutions.

We are thankful that legacy income grew in 2023, and we remain grateful to the foresight and generosity of former members whose bequests supported the organisation and enabled us to deliver both our services and our mission. I echo the message of our Chairman and encourage our members to remember that legacies provide a vital income source enabling us to continue and further our charitable work.

Volatility of the global financial markets continued in 2023 and we saw investment losses of £0.5m, itself an improvement as against the £2.3m of losses suffered in 2022. The Trustees continue to take regular steps to ensure the organisation has sufficient liquid resources to maintain our vital services. Our reserves remain strong, thus enabling us to ensure that these services can continue uninterrupted for the foreseeable future.

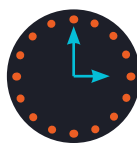
I offer my sincerest thanks to the finance team for their incredibly hard work and diligence and look forward to helping to steer our great organisation at this critical time.

MIRIAM KINGSLEY
Treasurer
2 April 2024



**10%
INCREASE**

IN WELFARE PAYMENTS



**847,000
HOURS**

OF CARE FUNDED



ALLOCATED
TO EDUCATIONAL
PROJECTS



**£0.5M
DROP**

IN THE VALUE OF
OUR INVESTMENTS

2023 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

FINANCE REPORT

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
Summary Income and Expenditure Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2023

NB all figures are subject to audit

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Claims Conference, Six Point & Other Grants	6,454,748		5,992,331	
Subscriptions/Donations	86,240		228,148	
Investment income	511,524		497,685	
Other Income	26,498		4,404	
		7,079,010		6,722,568
Legacies		1,377,539		1,780,695
Total Income		8,456,549		8,503,263
Less outgoings:				
Self-Aid, Homecare and Emergency Grants	6,444,638		5,858,747	
Social Services and other member services	1,339,570		1,225,068	
AJR Journal	84,603		84,459	
Other organisations	300,372		277,163	
Internal Educational and testimony projects	284,480		230,722	
Administration/Depreciation	1,372,714		1,292,175	
		9,826,377		8,998,334
Net outgoing resources for the year		-1,369,828		-495,071
Surplus/-Deficiency on realised and unrealised investments		-462,714		-2,256,325
Net movement in funds		-1,832,542		-2,751,396

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR)
Summary Balance Sheet
Year ended 31st December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets and Investments		15,790,013		15,862,649
Current assets	6,094,846		7,036,320	
Current liabilities	2,769,947		1,951,515	
Net current assets		3,324,899		5,084,805
Net assets		19,114,912		20,947,454
Reserves brought forward		20,947,454		23,698,850
Net movement in funds for the year		-1,832,542		-2,751,395
Reserves Carried Forward		19,114,912		20,947,454

2023 AJR ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

AJR EDUCATIONAL GRANTS AWARDED IN 2023

WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY

GRANT: £75,000

The AJR is pleased to continue our longstanding support of the Library as it embarks on a campaign focused on three core aims: strengthening its voice in the sector; active care for its precious collections; and increasing the reach and dissemination of powerful evidence held at the Library.

HOLOCAUST CENTRE NORTH

GRANT: £50,000

Our grant is supporting HCN's *Class of '33* project, consisting of learning sessions to schools on site; an outreach programme for schools in remote areas of the North; training for every teacher qualifying at the University of Huddersfield; and regular Sunday openings for families.

NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE MUSEUM

GRANT: £50,000

We are continuing our support of 'The Journey' outreach programme to schools, which aims to engage with schools with high levels of deprivation and those in parts of the country currently under-served by Holocaust Education.

ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY AND JEWISH HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH WALES

GRANT: £39,000 OVER TWO YEARS

The AJR originally helped these two organisations to form a partnership, which is now working to produce up-to-date bilingual educational materials for use in Welsh schools and accompanying teacher training sessions.

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

GRANT: £10,000

CCJ plans to take 15 senior Christian leaders on a study tour of Poland. The Cohort will visit ghettos, deportation stations, and death camps. Critically, it will also explore Jewish life in the country, before, during and after the Second World War.

GENERATION 2 GENERATION

GRANT: £10,000

Thanks to the AJR's support, G2G will expand their speaker programme, through

which descendants of Holocaust survivors share their families' stories in schools. The initiative involves recruiting and training new speakers and expanding their reach to areas outside London.

CORE & CO FOUNDATION

GRANT: £10,000

Through the Foundations 'Echo Eternal' programme, 180 students from six schools in Birmingham, Liverpool and London will engage in a 10-week Holocaust education programme inspired by Survivor testimony.

VISION SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

GRANT: £16,657

The AJR has supported the Vision Schools programme, run by the University of the West of Scotland, since its inception, and we are pleased to now support the programme's expansion to include an intensive 10-day professional development course at Yad Vashem for teachers in participating schools.

SIR MARTIN GILBERT LEARNING CENTRE

GRANT: £8,000

The Sir Martin Gilbert Learning Centre is developing a set of resources for secondary school History teachers to enhance their teaching about Jewish migration at GCSE and A-level. With this AJR funding, it will focus on a lesser-known aspect of Britain's response to the Holocaust – the Kitchener Camp.

NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

GRANT: £5,000

The AJR has renewed its support of NLT's programme, 'Improving Written Literacy: Holocaust Memorial Day, Remembering the Children who survived the Holocaust'. Educational activities centre around original stories written by Tom Palmer, author of 'After the War' which focuses on the experiences of 'The Windermere Boys'.

YOM HASHOAH UK

GRANT: £5,000

The AJR continued its longstanding support for the delivery of the national Yom Hashoah event. This year the event was held at Jewish Care's Wohl Campus

in Golders Green. The event was also live-streamed on YouTube and has received well in excess of 4,000 views.

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

GRANT: £9,245

University of Sussex was the first UK university to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and the AJR has supported their annual event since its inception. In 2023, in addition to its normal event for the university community and local schools, it also organised a series of professional development workshops for teachers.

YOM HASHOAH MANCHESTER

GRANT: £4,000

The AJR was pleased to renew our support for Manchester's local Yom HaShoah commemoration, which was attended by more than 1,000 people, extending the reach of this significant event in the Jewish community's calendar to the North of England.

THE AMELIA SCOTT

GRANT: £3,650

The AJR has renewed our support of the Amelia Scott, an arts centre in Tunbridge Wells, for a second year, following its successful delivery of Holocaust Memorial Day activities and educational programmes throughout the year focusing on the Kindertransport and its legacy.

LATEST GROUP CIC

GRANT: £2,500

Latest Group, whose work aims to benefit marginalised groups in socio-economically deprived areas, created an exhibition in Brighton of books, artworks, digital images and a documentary on the life of Holocaust survivor and artist Arnold Daghani.

DAY OF WELCOME

GRANT: £1,000

A Day of Welcome is a day of solidarity and learning in schools that aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for refugees and asylum seekers. The AJR was pleased to support the creation of classroom resources related to the Kindertransport and the UK Holocaust Map. In 2024, 531 schools participated in this programme.

ORDINARY PEOPLE – EXTRAORDINARY LIVES

Lawrence Collin has just written a book celebrating the lives of several first generation AJR members and other Jewish Nonagenarians.

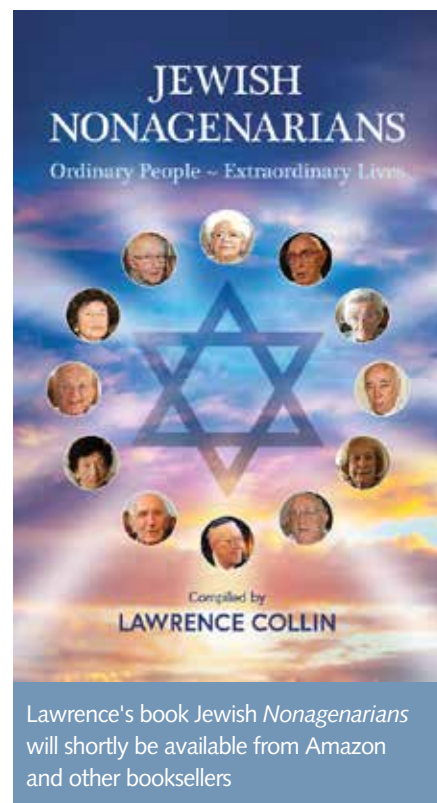
Around 2010, I had the pleasure of meeting spritely, newly minted nonagenarian Bernice Clarke, who was a regular customer at the Southend pharmacy where I worked one day each week. Intrigued by her Eastern European accent, I enquired as to her provenance and discovered that at 5 years old, Bernice (Bracha), together with her siblings, parents and extended family, had uprooted from Poland and emigrated to Palestine, becoming the first hoteliers on Mount Carmel. Sensing a fascinating story, I interviewed Bernice for our synagogue magazine. She described a difficult life growing up in British mandate-controlled Palestine, eventually meeting and marrying a non-Jewish British quartermaster sergeant and emigrating with him to England, whereupon a family was raised. The family hotels, and the Haganah, the early conflict, were distant but very clear memories.

Enter now upon the scene Otto Deutsch. Known to many in AJR, Otto was a Kind from Vienna, living in Westcliff, now a loved and respected member of our shul (Southend & Westcliff Hebrew Congregation). Taking me under his wing, he introduced me to some more nonagenarians whose stories, he felt sure, would be of interest. The first introduction - to Scarlett Epstein - took me to Hove, Sussex. Scarlett, who also hailed from Vienna, was a retired anthropologist who had fled to Albania via Yugoslavia with her parents following the Anschluss. Albania was the only country prepared to offer visas to Jews fleeing Austria. Her subsequent story, with five perilous flights to England with her mother, narrowly escaping over-zealous Nazi personnel in the process, was pure *Boys Own* stuff. Eventually pursuing a career in developmental anthropology, Scarlett lived among tribal communities in India and Papua New Guinea, finding a sense of belonging, hitherto undiscovered.

Freddie Knoller was another of Otto's fellow Viennese friends. Freddie and his wife, Freda, were a charming couple and Freddie, a natural communicator, had a warm and fluent style which he put to good use as a Holocaust educator. Fleeing Austria to Vichy France, he left his beloved cello in occupied Belgium, which he immediately regretted. After venturing back to retrieve the instrument, unsuccessfully, he ended up in Paris where, helped by his blond 'Aryan' looks, he was able to pass easily as a German, using forged documentation. He earned a living by pimping, meeting German soldiers on the steps of the Metro and introducing them to the seedy delights of the Parisienne night-club scene around the red light district. Witnessing the round-ups of Jews by the gestapo (ably abetted by the French police), Freddie survived by removing himself as far as possible from his fellow Jews – in effect removing himself from himself.

After meeting Freddie and Scarlett I sought out other nonagenarians with amazing but totally different stories to tell. My friend Michael Yaffe introduced me to David Arkush who had been the camp dentist in a notorious Japanese prisoner of war camp. Professor Colin Shindler introduced me to Michael Sherbourne who, following two periods of Aliyah, went on to become a leading light in the campaign to free Soviet Jewry. I met the inspiring artist Suzanne Perlman who, with her husband, Henri, had fled Rotterdam just before German occupation for Curaçao in the Dutch Antilles, where she discovered a centuries old Sephardi community. Suzanne found a gift for painting and went on to become a renowned artist.

Along with the effortless supply of Jewish nonagenarians with incredible stories to tell came the realisation how they had all lived through one of the most turbulent times in history. Spinning into the doom and gloom of WW2, like some gaping



black hole, many emerged blinking into the post-war devastation and dislocation. Not everyone was able to be easily pigeon-holed: Donald Zec, a *Daily Mirror* reporter, had a "good war", going on to become a friend to many of the foremost movie stars of the day, at a time when the nascent American film industry was hungry for a slice of the action in the cinema chains which were mushrooming in post-war Britain.

Not every subject of my book survived major trauma, yet all demonstrated, in their own ways, tremendous resilience of the human spirit and a remarkable capacity to 'get on with the job in hand' until the end. At the very least their stories deserve to be read, as testimony to the survival power of the human spirit.



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DEMENTIA ACTION

This month sees Dementia Awareness Week, which aims to raise awareness of dementia and improve the lives of people with dementia, their families and carers. Julia Baker, AJR's Dementia Support Programme Coordinator, explains.

A diagnosis of dementia can be a shattering experience for not just the patient but for the entire family. With no cure, at present, the thought of the inevitable decline in a person's cognitive ability to the point where they are unable to communicate, care for themselves or even recognise loved ones, is the immediate thought that comes to mind.

However, there have been massive strides made in the field of medical research. A new generation of drugs which, although unable to stop dementia completely, may be able to slow it down. New blood tests are being trialled to identify various dementias at very early stages, thereby facilitating earlier access to appropriate care and medication. If approved, these blood tests will be much more accessible than the current diagnostic methods and could benefit many people.

Here in the UK we are also making vast steps towards a person-centred approach to care, looking at the individual person and their specific needs, rather than a generic care 'suitable for dementia'. Treating everyone individually and focusing on what they *can* do instead of what they can't, will enable the individual to maximise their abilities and maintain their independence for as long as possible.

There are also many more activities and events in the community offering cognitive stimulation for people living with dementia. For example, singing has been shown to have a very positive effect and there are singing for the memory groups all over the country, including at St Albans Masorti Synagogue which is run by an AJR 2G



Anyone living with dementia is guaranteed a very warm welcome at the St Albans Singing Circle. Contact lu.lawrence@e-sams.org for more info.

member, Lu Lawrence, who saw the positive effect in her own parents.

There is a saying: if you have met one person living with dementia, you have met one person living with dementia. Everyone is different. Everyone needs assistance and understanding at some point in their life. Everyone deserves to be respected.

At the AJR we see our members living with dementia as no different from any other member. If *anyone* needs assistance to attend an event, for example, we will accommodate them as far as possible. We hope that dementia does not hold someone back from joining us. With the help of our wonderful volunteers, we run our own Dementia and Memory Loss Project as well as a dedicated Carer's Support service.

This year for Dementia Support Week we

are running a variety of activities, including:

13 May - Admiral Nurse Seminar This will be an informative and practical online session about the work of Admiral Nurses, who help support those living with dementia and offer tremendously useful insights.

14 May - Memory Way Café Designed for those living with dementia and their carers, this will be a special tea and singalong at a north London venue.

22 May - The Singing Cantor An online event during which Rachel Weston will entertain us and invite us to join in with her music.

For full details of any of these events or to get involved with our wider Dementia support work please email volteam@ajr.org.uk

FIRST SCOTTISH STAMMTISCH

We're excited to be bringing our successful Stammtisch informal event format to Glasgow on the evening of **Tuesday 21 May**, to coincide with the annual Scottish regional meeting the next day. Come along from 7.30pm,

grab a drink at the bar and chat with friends new and old. It's open to all descendants so please tell your children and grandchildren over the age of 18. Email nextgens@ajr.org.uk for venue details.

AJR Kindertransport 85th Anniversary **WIGMORE HALL**  **AJR**  


COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT

Featuring the Leonore Piano Trio

Sunday 12 May 2024
3pm | £20.00

Performing a programme reflecting the music, culture, and heritage of the German, Austrian, and Czech roots of the rescued children.

Purchase Tickets Now Via www.wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on


KINDER EVENTS
– for all Kinder and their descendants

The AJR is delighted that a group from KTA – Kindertransport Association, based in the USA – is visiting the UK for a week in May. Please join them - and us - for one of these 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.


KINDER CONTACT ONLINE PROJECT
THURSDAY 30 MAY at 1.30pm
ON ZOOM

<https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88136394931>
Meeting ID: 881 3639 4931

Our monthly opportunity to meet online and then divide into smaller groups to talk about our shared backgrounds and exchange news and views.

MANSION HOUSE EVENT
THURSDAY 16 JULY

We are honoured to be able to invite all Kinder and their descendants as guests of The Lord Mayor of London, Michael Manelli, to a private tour of Mansion House and to meet the Lady Mayoress, Elisabeth, as part of the 85th Anniversary of the Kindertransport.

 susan@ajr.org.uk

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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.

 karendiamond@ajr.org.uk


GAME TIME!

A MORNING OF SOCIALISING, BOARD GAMES, CARDS, KNITTING & CROCHETING

THURSDAY 16 MAY 2024
11AM-12.30PM

£3 each or £5 per pair to cover Kosher refreshments

All welcome but booking is essential!

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REVIEWS

INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE: CHILDHOOD AND THE REFUGEES FROM NAZISM IN BRITAIN

Edited by Charmian Brinson and Anna Nyburg

Peter Lang, £45.00 pb

Innocence and Experience is a book of essays based on an online conference that took place in December 2021. The essays range from literature and art to psychoanalysis, education and social work, and the contributors include some of the leading writers on the impact of Jewish refugees from central Europe on British culture since the 1930s. Many are from *Insiders/Outsiders* and the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies at the University of London, including Anthony Grenville, who used to edit the *AJR Journal* from 2006-2017. It's worth noting that several contributors are themselves the children of Jewish refugees. Monica Bohm-Duchen is the daughter of the photographer, Dorothy Bohm and Tony Grenville is the son of Jewish refugees from Vienna.

The book consists of three sections. The first is about 'Dealing with Displacement', and looks at different approaches to uprooted children as well as literary expressions of exile, both by and about child refugees. It begins with a fascinating piece by Anna Nyburg on how various refugees coped with motherhood in exile. How would they manage if their husbands were interned? How could they combine having children with building their careers? Should their children be brought up as German or Austrian or be as English as possible? Or should they sever all links with their home country? In particular, Nyburg focuses on several women: The Austrian writer Hilde Spiel, Hilde Kurz, also from Vienna, whose husband Otto, worked at the Warburg Institute and later became the Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford, the refugee artist Susan Einzig, and the writer Judith Kerr, whose trilogy gives a devastating picture of her mother's problems coping with exile.

Refugees had a huge impact on the way psychoanalysis thought about child development in wartime and post-war

Britain. Many of the key figures were female analysts, most famously Anna Freud and Melanie Klein, who was a refugee twice over, fleeing from Hungary to Berlin and then from Germany to Britain. Michal Shapira tells the story of a less well-known analyst, Kate Friedlander, who died tragically young in 1949, and was perhaps best known for setting up Britain's first child guidance clinics in West Sussex. What Shapira fails to explore is the important link between refugee analysts like Friedlander and British analysts like John Bowlby and DW Winnicott, who had such a huge impact on thinking about child development in post-war Britain.

Lucy Stone and Tony Grenville contribute interesting pieces on writings by and about children displaced during the war. Grenville, in particular, writes with great insight about the memoirs, autobiographies and diaries of Jewish children who came to Britain as refugees from the Nazis.

Some, like Judith Kerr, Lore Segal and Eva Figes are well known, others like Ingrid Jacoby and Charles Hannam are sadly underrated. Grenville points out that age at the time of emigration was often a significant factor and that gender did not seem to be especially significant (though nearly all the writers he focuses on are women). Grenville is also very good on the different kinds of trauma in these writings: the trauma of flight, the trauma of persecution and how trauma could be transferred between parents and children.

The second section is about Children in Refugee Art. The art historian Monica Bohm-Duchen looks at how different artists explored the theme of childhood in very different ways, from the stained glass images and paintings of Roman Halter and the extraordinary drawings of Fred Uhlman (in particular, his pen and ink work, *Child with Balloon with Dancing Skeleton*) to Eva Frankfurter's paintings of West Indian immigrant families. Very different are the sculptures of Franta Belsky and Oscar Nemon which offer much more positive images of small children as the future. Bohm-Duchen also contrasts these artists with earlier artists like the great German artist Käthe Kollwitz and images of children from the

Spanish Civil War.

Ines Schlenker has written a fine essay on some of the great refugee children's book illustrators: the prolific Jan Pienkowski, best known for his 1979 pop-up book, *Haunted House*, and the bright, vivid pictures in the hugely popular *Meg and Mog* books; Susan Einzig's famous cover for *Tom's Midnight Garden* (1958) and Milein Cosman's cover for Noel Streatfield's *White Boots* (1951); and stories like *Blue Peter* (1943), illustrated by Lewitt and Him, which introduced many British children to the experience of exile. What is particularly interesting about Schlenker's essay is how she connects the early work of some of these illustrators in central Europe with their later work, perhaps especially Walter Trier, a German illustrator best-known for illustrating *Emil und die Detektive* (1929), who came to Britain in 1936 and illustrated classics like *Brer Rabbit*. This essay is complemented by Rachel Dickson's fascinating piece on the neglected children's book author, Renate Meyer, who turned her own experience of exile and assimilation into children's books.

The final section consists of three essays on Children in Education and Play, including one piece on an early pioneer of Children's Art Pedagogy and the transformation of society through Early Years Learning. These offer an interesting link to some of the earlier chapters by emphasising the importance of timing for many of these refugees. Their careers began just when post-war Britain was thinking about new ideas of child development, from Anna Freud's Hampstead Nurseries to the Inner London Playgroups Association. But it's also worth connecting these with the support for public sculptures. Franta Belsky's *The Lesson* (1955) was commissioned by the LCC and some of the sculptures of children by the Hungarian-born Peter Laszlo Peri were commissioned by Lambeth Council. Jewish refugees, public funding and new ideas about childhood and child development came together in exciting new ways, which influenced a whole new generation in postwar Britain.

Innocence and Experience moves in interesting ways between dark stories

of trauma and displacement on the one hand and revolutionary new ideas about child development on the other. The range of the essays and the thoughtful analysis of child refugees, and all the questions their experience raises today, make this a fascinating book.

David Herman

ROOTS AND REBELLION

Personal Stories of Resisting Racism and Reclaiming Identity~

Jessica Kingsley Publishers

www.jkp.com

People from minority groups have fought back for many years against racial injustice and this small book chronicles their advocacy, activism and everyday acts of resistance to create positive change. The collection of eleven short essays is a prize-winning volume of these stories, spanning generations, cultures and communities.

Two of the book's authors are Jewish. One, Laura Godfrey-Isaacs, tells of a relative, 'Auntie' Ettie, who survived living in wartime Holland. After the war, she visited England and the author describes Ettie piercing the façade of the 'normal British family life' that they had created in order to fit in, assimilate and leave the past behind - all born of trauma. Also appearing regularly in the family home was 'Aunty' Ella, who was a skilled dressmaker and an exceptional cook. Godfrey-Isaacs has re-introduced many of the continental foods into her own home since becoming a mother herself and is increasingly aware of the heritage to which they are connected and how easily this can disappear.

The other Jewish author, Miriam Landor, tells of the racism, terror and murder the family experienced at the hands of the Nazis. Her great-grandmother 'Cilly' (Cäcilie) figures prominently in the autobiography of Lilli Palmer, Hollywood star of the 1940s/50s and Cilly's niece. There is doubt about the manner of Cilly's death, but it was said that, in order to avoid being apprehended, she killed herself by falling from a top-storey window.

Other authors in the book suffered discrimination because they are from

Black, Asian, mixed heritage and ethnic minority communities in the UK. This book is a microcosm of stories that make up the complicated and diverse tapestry of racial history and identity in this country. Whilst the essays within the collection speak to the ways in which individuals have tried to overcome barriers in different ways, it is well worth considering why these barriers exist in the first place and what can be done to remove them.

Lilian Levy

NOBODY LIVES HERE: A JEWISH CHILDHOOD IN THE OCCUPIED NETHERLANDS

By Lex Lesgever

Translated by Babette Lichtenstein and Josef van der Voort

The History Press

As a small boy Lex Lesgever grew up in a happy atmosphere with his parents and two brothers, wider family and friendly neighbours in Amsterdam's Jewish quarter around the Waterlooplein area. Shopkeepers were welcoming and there were interesting market stalls and in this seemingly secure environment he little realised the traumas ahead. Indeed even when war broke out things continued in much the same way until the German invasion in May 1940 when Lex was 11 and life began inexorably to change.

His mother had lived in Germany and had foreseen trouble ahead but his father was of a more optimistic nature. Soon Lex was forced to leave his school and go to an entirely Jewish establishment. But everyone was horrified when his eldest brother and his fiancée were picked up in the first Nazi raid on the city. His mother bravely visited Arthur Seyss-Inquart, Reichskommissar of the Netherlands, to see what had happened but he warned her not to call again.

As raids continued the family was scared to go out, and being blond-haired and less conspicuous as a child, Lex did all the shopping. But eventually luck ran out and the Lesgevers were sent to a deportation centre. Persuaded by his middle brother to escape Lex's life turned into a series of sobering adventures living alone in fear on the streets of wartime Amsterdam. During

the period of Anne Frank's time in hiding he lived by his wits sleeping rough in stairwells and air raid shelters in grim conditions, stealing food and trying to keep clean. The twists and turns of events are sometimes hair-raising but always fascinating and he was helped by so many good people. He could never rest his vigilance for a minute, always on the move until finally being taken in by the Dutch Resistance.

Lex ends up in the small agricultural community of Roelofarendsveen near Leiden. By then he no longer went to school and worked extremely hard and long hours as a farmhand. He came to be relied upon especially in times of crisis until war ended. Anxious to get back to his home city he eventually found out with difficulty the tragic news of his family. But after battling with illness, he recovers his health and starts a family. A successful career living in Leiderdorp followed. Devoting himself to the Jewish community he talked about his life – as the only survivor of a large family – in schools and on the radio until he died aged 90.

The account of the occupation and escape are very chilling but the descriptions of farm life fascinating, especially boating along the polder. The photos of life in wartime Amsterdam are unsettling. It is harrowing to read how innocent people would be turned out of their homes and carted off and grown up men would go hunting for a single child of 13. The story shows two diametrically opposite sides of human nature. It stresses the complete and random cruelty to harmless people and the uplifting kindness of strangers ready to risk their own lives to save those in mortal danger.

Janet Weston

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OBITUARIES

Kurt WICK

Born: 26 October 1937, Vienna

Died: 29 February 2024, London



Born Kurt Wickelholz in October 1937 in the 9th Bezirk of Vienna, Kurt was the second son of Moritz and Josefine Wickelholz. His father produced leather handbags with his brother. In 1938 his parents tried to emigrate. By chance a Jewish-Italian woman told Kurt's uncle about the possibility of going to Shanghai. She helped them get tickets for a ship departing from Trieste.

On 28 August 1939 Kurt's family and his uncle's family arrived in Shanghai, where the local Jewish community had made provisions to help refugees, buying empty warehouses and schools in an area called Hongkew which were turned into housing for the refugees called "Heime". When more refugees arrived, American Jewish aid organisations like the Joint and HIAS gave additional support.

Kurt remembers that he was never hungry. His father had brought a sewing machine from Vienna and started making handbags which he mainly sold to the Japanese forces who occupied Shanghai. The family managed to move out of the "Heime" into their own house in an area called the "restricted sector". Kurt and his brother went to the gigantic U-shaped Kadoorie School for Jewish refugee children and in the afternoons they played sport or went to the Talmud Torah. He recalls wading home through three feet of water during the typhoon season.

In an interview recorded just last year for the AJR Refugee Voices Archive, Kurt vividly recalls life in Shanghai. "At the corner of our lane was a shop which sold hot water, as no-one had hot water at home. A few houses down and the lane turned into a slum where there were two open sewers. That's where the very poor Chinese lived, in makeshift houses. There were always fights going on in the slum."

His parents opened a shop on East Yuhang Road, selling their handbags but without much success. The influx of Jewish refugees put a great strain on the small Sephardi community, which then sought financial help from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. But the money stopped when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour in December 1941. The Sephardi Jews were interned because they had British passports, so they could no longer help the refugees.

After the War, Kurt's maternal aunt, who had come to England on a domestic visa, arranged for his family to come to London. Moritz found a job in a leather handbag factory in Clerkenwell, and they lived in West Hampstead. Wick attended Hasmonean Grammar School and gained seven GCEs. He was urged by his headmaster to enter law, but finally rejected this in favour of joining the family handbag trade.

He and his brother Sigmund launched Mondaine Handbags, supplying some of the top shops in Bond Street and Knightsbridge. One of his proudest achievements was that the Queen Mother bought one of his handbags as a Christmas gift for Queen Elizabeth.

Kurt married Caryl Granville in 1964 at Dennington Park synagogue and

they lived in Hendon, then moved to Mill Hill. After the birth of their two daughters, Amanda and Chantal, they shortened their name from Wickelholz to Wick. He visited Vienna with Caryl and his brother and sister-in-law in 2009.

"I don't blame the Austrian people of today for what their parents and grandparents did to the Jews, but it's still unbelievable to me that people should stand by or laugh to see their neighbours abused, beaten and murdered."

In February 2019 Kurt also returned to Shanghai and found much of the area where he lived barely changed. The synagogue has become a museum dedicated to the 20,000 Jews who were saved in Shanghai and who are named on a wall. The museum opened a library in October 2020 and Kurt, ever passionate about books, donated 8,500 books from his own collection, in the name of his late parents. He also gave several talks about the Jews of Shanghai to community groups.

Kurt is survived by Caryl, their daughters, Amanda Solomons and Chantal Lehrer, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Jo Briggs



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OTHERS AND SHARE THOUGHTS
AND EXPERIENCES?**



caryl@ajr.org.uk



Henry WUGA

Born: Nuremberg, 23 February 1924

Died: Glasgow, 15 March 2024

Henry, an only child, was born in Nuremberg. His early years were carefree, spending holidays with grandparents at their catering establishment in Heilbronn.

Life was good until the rise of the Nazis. With Nuremberg being the centre of the Nazi party, Henry saw the Brown Shirts marching in their thousands past his home en route to the rally grounds.

Although forbidden by the Nuremberg laws, Henry aged 11, got himself a ticket to go to see a Wagner Opera. His parents were horrified, worried that he would be beaten, but the misplaced confidence of youth, his determination and some good fortune got him through!

Knowing there was no future for Jews in Germany, his mother arranged an apprenticeship for him as a chef in the kosher hotel Tannhauser in Baden-Baden. After six months he decided to go home without permission. The following day was 8 November 1938, the eve of Kristallnacht. Had he stayed in Baden Baden he would have been rounded up with all the Jewish men and deported to a camp. On Kristallnacht Henry witnessed a piano being thrown out of a first floor window. He talked of the horror and the sound as it crashed on the pavement. He spoke of feathers filling the air as people's duvets were slashed open. His family was not affected but this was the final signal to get out of Germany.

His parents found Henry a place on the Kindertransport. He remembers saying goodbye to his parents at the station while around him young children howled. Being a 15-year old who had travelled alone before, the journey had an element of adventure for him. He arrived in the UK on 4 May 1939 continuing his journey by train to Glasgow to the safety of Etta Hurwich, who welcomed him into her family. He corresponded with

his parents, still in Nuremberg, via an uncle in Brussels; this led to his eventual internment on the Isle of Man. In 1940 he was sent to the High Court in Edinburgh. Alone in the dock aged 16, he was charged with corresponding with the enemy! The letters between him and his parents had been intercepted and thought to be espionage! Henry was reclassified as a 'Dangerous Enemy Alien Category A'. He was interned for 10 months on the Isle of Man, until being returned to Enemy Alien category C due to religious persecution.

Once back in Glasgow he began his career in the hotel and catering trade. He joined the refugee centre where he met Ingrid Wolff. They married on 27 Dec 1944. Together they formed a successful kosher catering company, Wuga Catering, bringing French cuisine to the Jewish community. They ran their business for 30 years.

Henry's early passion for music continued throughout his life. Both he and Ingrid were loyal supporters of music festivals including the Edinburgh International Festival for more than 70 years.

Henry and Ingrid spent their retirement repaying the kindness shown to them in the early years of their marriage. They volunteered for the Prince and Princess of Wales hospice in Glasgow. Henry loved the mountains and skiing and became Instructor-in-Chief for BLESMA (British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association), teaching injured soldiers to ski as part of their rehabilitation. For this he was honoured, in 1999, with an MBE from the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Henry and Ingrid, who died in 2020, shared their Holocaust experience with thousands of school children in Scotland and engaged with people at every level. Many young people have said that meeting Henry and Ingrid had changed their lives for the better and influenced their careers.

Henry was a cultured gentleman, dapper, kind, resilient and inspiring to so many. A force for good. To quote from the JC: "with quiet dignity, he reminded us of the power of love and humanity. He was also full of stories and fun."

Henry celebrated his 100th birthday in February with his family and friends. He is survived by his two daughters, four grandsons and three great grandsons.

Gillian Field and Hilary Hodsman



**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

IN PERSON EVENTS

DATE	TIME	GROUP	CO-ORDINATOR
Thursday 2 May	2.00pm	Pinner	Karen Diamond
Tuesday 7 May	11.00am	AJR Ramblers Club	Karen Diamond/Ros Hart
Tuesday 7 May	3.00pm	South Manchester - with Alessandro Bucci from HUD	Michal Mocton
Wednesday 8 May	2.00pm	Muswell Hill	Ros Hart
Wednesday 8 May	12.30pm	Edinburgh	Agnes Isaacs
Thursday 9 May	12 noon	Kindertransport Lunch – see advert page xxxx	Susan Harrod
Tuesday 14 May	11.00am	North London	Ros Hart
Tuesday 14 May	11.30am	Wembley	Karen Diamond
Thursday 16 May	6.30pm	KTA Farewell Reception	Susan Harrod
Monday 20 May	2.00pm	North Manchester Games Afternoon	Michal Mocton
Monday 20 May	12.30pm	Enfield	Ros Hart
Tuesday 21 May	TBC	Liverpool – with Alessandro Bucci from HUD	Michal Mocton
Wednesday 22 May	12.30pm	Edgware/Stanmore	Ros Hart
Thursday 23 May	12.15pm	Birmingham	Karen Diamond
Wednesday 29 May	12.30pm	Kingston	Ros Hart

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.

Wednesday 8 May @ 2pm	Alex Maws, AJR Head of Education and Heritage - The UK Holocaust Map and other Holocaust education projects supported by the AJR https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88984210442	Meeting ID: 8898 421 0442
Monday 13 May @ 4pm	Margaret Mills - Isambard Kingdom Brunel: The little Giant https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/83579442709	Meeting ID: 835 7944 2709
Tuesday 14 May @ 2pm	David Allen - Manners Please, Dearest! The extraordinary world of Victorian etiquette https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89325557289	Meeting ID: 8932 555 6289
Monday 20 May @ 4pm	Bruce Barnes – Connections with Brandenburg https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88387869878	Meeting ID: 883 8786 9878
Monday 20 May @ 8pm	Tracing the story of the HMT Dunera in the archives of The Wiener Holocaust Library https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86511762289	Meeting ID: 865 1176 2289
Wednesday 22 May @ 2pm	Book Discussion (no speaker) – One Day with You by Shari Low https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88914596262	Meeting ID: 889 1459 6262
Tuesday 28 May @ 2pm	Jonathan Bergwerk - The composer Andre Previn https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86531586420	Meeting ID: 865 3158 6420
Tuesday 30 May @ 1.30pm	Kinder Contact Project https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88136394931	Meeting ID: 881 3639 4931

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 6 & 27 MAY	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	Dance Yourself Fit with Jackie Turner https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/86302485494	Meeting ID: 8630 248 5494

SCAN
HERE TO
CONNECT
WITH US



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