



AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

Birds of Passage



The Dutch artist Piet Mondrian was among several prominent Jewish figures who came to the UK to escape Nazi persecution but eventually settled on the other side of the Atlantic

Ninety years ago three famous refugees arrived in Britain from central Europe: the German Marxist thinker TW Adorno, one of the key figures of the Frankfurt School; the Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard, who helped develop the Manhattan Project; and the German architect Walter Gropius, famous for his work with the Bauhaus.

They had three things in common. They were all famous, they fled from central Europe to Britain, and they all then moved on to the United States. This was not unusual. A remarkable number of European refugees who came to Britain in the 1930s were “birds of passage”, people who didn’t stay in Britain, but moved on, sometimes more than once. In his superb book, *Jewish Refugees from Germany and Austria in Britain 1933-1970*, Anthony Grenville wrote, “In 1946 Ernst Lowenthal estimated the total number of Jewish refugees who had left Britain for the USA since 1933 at 13,000, with a further 500 leaving monthly. This amounted to nearly 60% of total re-emigration, and also represented some 16% of the Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria who’d come to Britain before the war.”

A striking number of these twofold refugees were famous physicists. The German

physicist, Hans Bethe, left Germany for Britain in 1933 and taught at Manchester and then Bristol. In 1935 he left for America and during the war became the Director of the Theoretical Physics Division of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. Bethe later received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1967. The Danish physicist, Niels Bohr, a pioneering figure in Quantum Physics, was warned in 1943 that he was about to be arrested by the Germans because his mother was Jewish. He left Denmark for Sweden and was then flown to Britain, where he joined the famous Tube Alloys nuclear weapons project, and then moved on to America, where according to Oppenheimer he played a crucial role in the Manhattan Project. Hans von Halban was born in Leipzig, studied in Frankfurt and Zurich, taught at the Collège de France in Paris and escaped to England after the Fall of France in 1940. After teaching briefly at Cambridge,
Continued on page 2

COMPENSATION & COMMEMORATION

Our centre spread this month focuses on the very interesting area of art restitution, with two different stories illustrating the challenges of claiming compensation for precious items that Jewish families were forced to give up because of Nazi persecution.

We also share the wonderful achievements of a team of historians working in the Channel Islands, where an impressive total of 35 Stolpersteine were recently laid over just two days (p.14).

Here in London, as one of the final series of events commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Kindertransport, the Lord Mayor recently welcomed an AJR delegation to his Mansion House. We hope you enjoy the photos on page 9.

News.....	3
We thank you all!.....	4
Letter from Israel.....	5
Letters to the Editor.....	6
You go to England.....	7
Art Notes.....	8
The Lord Mayor welcomes Kinder.....	9
Art and artefacts restitution.....	10-11
A very European dentist.....	12
One family's successful research.....	13
Powered by love and solidarity.....	14
'Jewish refugees not wanted, why?'.....	15
Reviews.....	16-17
Obituaries.....	18-19
Events.....	20

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

AJR Team

Chief Executive Michael Newman
Finance Director Adam Daniels

Heads of Department

HR & Administration Karen Markham
Social Services Nicole Valens
Education & Heritage Alex Maws
Volunteer Services Fran Horwich

AJR Journal

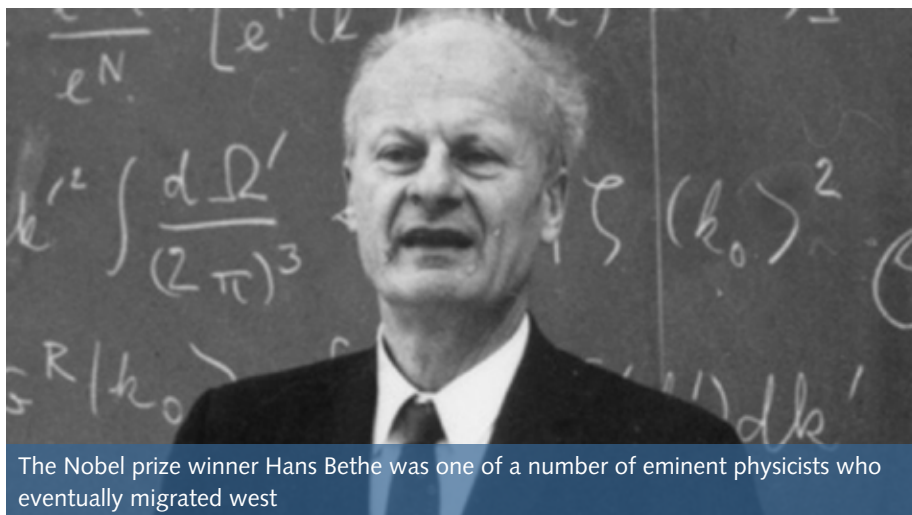
Editor Jo Briggs
Editorial Assistant Lilian Levy
Contributing Editor David Herman

Birds of Passage (cont.)

Halban was sent to Montreal as head of the research laboratories at the Montreal Laboratory, part of the Manhattan Project. After the war he moved between prestigious teaching positions in England and France. Finally, the Austrian physicist, Erwin Schrödinger, left Germany after Hitler came to power in 1933, taught at Oxford, returned briefly to Austria and then back to Oxford before spending almost twenty years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Dublin, when he finally returned to Austria again.

There were also a number of famous mathematicians who came as refugees to Britain and then moved on to America. One of the most eminent was the Hungarian Paul Erdos. Both his parents were Jewish mathematicians. He left Budapest in 1934 and taught at Manchester till he moved to Princeton in 1938 and began an itinerant career in the US, traveling from campus to campus, publishing around 1500 articles on mathematical theory. Richard Courant was a German mathematician who left Germany in 1933, taught briefly at Cambridge and founded an institute for graduate studies in applied mathematics at NYU.

Then there were key modernist figures. Gropius, of course, but also another influential figure from the Bauhaus, Marcel Breuer, a Hungarian-German architect and furniture designer. Breuer followed Gropius to Britain but in 1937 he followed Gropius again, this time to Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Naum Gabo, was a key figure in the Russian post-revolutionary avant-garde and one of the great sculptors of the 20th century. Gabo lived through a revolution and two world wars; he was also Jewish and fled Nazi Germany. He settled



The Nobel prize winner Hans Bethe was one of a number of eminent physicists who eventually migrated west

in Britain in 1936 but emigrated to the USA ten years later. He spent the rest of his life in America. One of the most famous modernist artists was the Dutch abstract painter Piet Mondrian, best known for his bright squares and rectangles of red, white and blue, who lived briefly in Britain in the 1930s before leaving for America in 1940. He died in New York in 1944.

A fourth important category were central European writers. Hermann Broch, author of *The Sleepwalkers* and *The Death of Virgil*, left Austria after the Anschluss, but only spent three months in Britain before moving on to America. Stefan Zweig was one of the most famous writers in central Europe but also left Austria for Britain before moving on to New York and then Brazil, where he tragically committed suicide in 1942. The German playwright Ernst Toller lived and worked in Britain in the mid-1930s but then left for America in 1936 where he too committed suicide in 1939.

There was also a group of distinguished literary critics including Geoffrey Hartman, born in Germany, who spent his childhood as a refugee in England, then emigrated to America where he became one of the great literary critics of the 20th century. Erich Heller was a Czech Jew who came to Britain in 1939, taught here till the 1950s, wrote his best-known work, *The Disinherited Mind*,

and moved on to teach German Literature in the US from 1960.

Then there were socialists like Adorno and Karl Korsch, a German social democrat and Marxist, who lived briefly in Britain after 1933, but then moved on to the USA, where he settled after 1936; and Karl Polanyi, who came to London from Vienna in 1933, but left for America in 1940, where he wrote his masterpiece, *The Great Transformation* in 1944.

Finally, there were musicians like Carl Flesch, the famous Hungarian violinist, who came to Britain in the 1930s, left for the Netherlands where he was arrested by the Germans but was released thanks to Furtwängler's intervention, and died in Switzerland, in November 1944.

Most, though not all, of these figures were refugees from central Europe who came to Britain in the 1930s or after the Fall of France. Perhaps most interestingly, many of them were classic outsiders: Marxists, modernists, German-speaking writers, the kinds of literary critics who never really fitted in in the English academic world, but found American universities more welcoming and open to their ideas. Physicists were, of course, drawn to America because of the Manhattan Project and the superior facilities and budgets in American universities. We rightly think of Britain as a haven to many European Jewish refugees in the 1930s, because of the work of the Academic Assistance Council and certain welcoming figures in British universities. But we also forget that British intellectual life could be conservative and insular, and some famous refugees never felt at home in British intellectual life.

David Herman

PillarCare 


Outstanding live-in & hourly care in your home at affordable rates



CareQuality Commission

020 7482 2188 | enquiries@pillarcare.co.uk

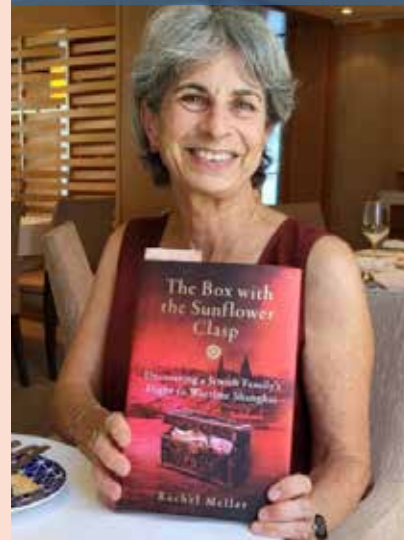
WHY NOT CONVERT YOUR OLD CINE FILMS AND PUT THEM ON DVDS FREE OF CHARGE?



Contact Alf Buechler at alf@buechler.org or tel 020 8554 5635 or 07488 774 414

SUNFLOWER CLASP IS A WINNER

Rachel Meller holding her award-winning book



AJR member Rachel Meller made the shortlist for the 2024 Royal Society of Literature's Christopher Bland Prize for her book *The Box with the Sunflower Clasp: Uncovering a Jewish Family's Flight to Wartime Shanghai* (reviewed by the AJR Journal in September 2023).

The Prize, now in its sixth year, is an annual award given to a debut novelist or nonfiction writer first published at the age of 50+. Although Rachel lost out to Chidi Ebere, she feels extremely honoured to have been shortlisted. Her book is now out in paperback.

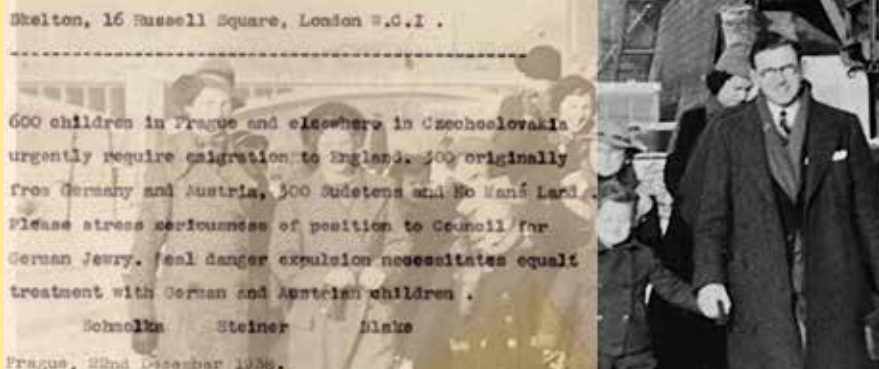
LOOKING FOR? 🔍

HEATHERBANK IN MINEHEAD

Dorothy Sadlik is hoping that one of our readers might have some information about Heatherbank Nursing Home, which was based in Tower Road, Minehead, Surrey between 1940 - 1948.

Any information about the home, its staff, the range of illnesses and conditions cared for and the age of patients would be most welcome.

dsadlik@onetel.com



Original documentation and photograph from the Czech Kindertransport

CALLING ALL CZECH KINDER

On 18 September, the Czech and Slovak Embassies in London are jointly hosting an educational and social gathering to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Kindertransport.

Entitled *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow* this will be a wonderful opportunity for families to share their stories, with presentations and panel discussions in the afternoon, followed in the evening by a piano recital and reception. All are welcome and there is no fee.

To register please go to: <https://Czech-kt85.eventbrite.co.uk> or email: CZSK.KT85@gmail.com.

TRANSLATIONS FROM GERMAN

Experienced, professional translator specialising in letters, diaries and memoirs with a Jewish connection and/or written in old German script (Sütterlin).

I have translated numerous documents for AJR members and would love to help unlock your family history, too.

CAROLIN SOMMER BA MCIL
carolin@carolinsommer.com
www.carolinsommer.com

Only barcoded postal stamps can be used from now on



NO FEES PLEASE

The AJR is always delighted to receive letters from our members and friends. When writing in, please remember to affix one of the new style, barcoded postage stamps to your letter as the old style, non-barcoded stamps are no longer valid. Using one will not only delay delivery but also means that the recipient incurs a surcharge fee.

www.fishburnbooks.com

Jonathan Fishburn

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

He is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association.

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

SWITCH ON ELECTRICS

Rewires and all household electrical work

PHONE PAUL: 020 8200 3518
Mobile: 0795 614 8566

JOSEPH PEREIRA

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

No job too small, very reasonable rates. Please telephone 07966 887 485.



Emma with Marika



Sofia with Else



Jonathan with Marianne

WE THANK YOU ALL!

For several years now the AJR has benefitted greatly from the help of young German volunteers who each spend a year in London through the ARSP ('Action Reconciliation Service of Peace'). This lovely letter comes from this year's group.

Dear AJR,

Our voluntary service in London with the German organisation started in September 2023 and is already coming to an end – this year has definitely passed too quickly! Max and Emma were based in the AJR head office and Jonathan, Sofia, Adrianna and Anna in other organisations like the Leo Baeck Institute London, but we all had the incredible opportunity to spend time with members of the AJR for almost a year now and want to thank the AJR for the incredible moments we had.

Jonathan was able to see Marianne L until November last year. He is still exceptionally grateful for the time they could spend together. "My meetings with Marianne L were very enriching. She was an incredibly kind and interesting person from whom I learnt a lot during the months I visited her. We met for tea

at her place, and she regularly invited me to visit London art exhibitions with her. Our relationship quickly developed into a friendship. When I received the news of her death at the age of 90 at the end of February, I was deeply shocked and saddened. During this time, my thoughts were with Marianne's family, to whom I am incredibly grateful that they invited me to Marianne's funeral and thereby gave me the opportunity to say goodbye to her one last time. The time I spent with Marianne had a huge impact on me and will accompany me on my future journey."

Sofia, who was based as a volunteer in the Jewish Museum, visited two AJR members and is very thankful for this opportunity. "Visiting them was always a nice break from my hectic day-to-day life and it's been amazing talking to them. I love listening to their life-stories and hearing their opinions! I will definitely miss my visits when I go back to Germany."

Emma also built up wonderful friendships with some AJR members. "I will miss seeing these wonderful ladies every week. It's been funny and interesting and enriching to spend time with them, write poems and sing together, have long and emotional talks about their past and also chat about our everyday life. I already remember Kitty's inspiring views on literature or politics, Marika telling me how important different

languages are and Renie reminding me to always remember how important it is to laugh, no matter what you've been through." Some of her visits were with members living with dementia. "I'd never done this before and the advice from my AJR colleagues was a huge support when I started. It's amazing to see how helpful certain activities can be for members and how enriching these visits have been for me as well."

Our gratitude goes to the AJR, as their volunteer programme made it possible for us to have this wonderful opportunity. We've been fully prepared for all our visits and the ongoing support from AJR colleagues is much appreciated. Being able to meet survivors and hear their personal stories and perspective as well as recognising the importance of history over and over again will always be something very valuable and special. But also on a personal level, we could learn a lot about another culture, another generation, listen to inspiring and amazing people and make friends that we would've never made otherwise.

Thanks to this incredible organisation and its members for this unforgettable and enhancing year!

Max, Anna, Sofia, Jonathan, Adrianna and Emma

DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON'S LETTER FROM ISRAEL



BEARING WITNESS: DOCUMENTING 7 OCTOBER AND ITS AFTERMATH



I jumped at the opportunity to take another guided tour of the splendid new National Library building in

Jerusalem (this time in the framework of IAWE, the Israel Association of Writers in English). The twenty or so assorted individuals who gathered in the Library's café (dubbed Harry's Café, but no one told us who Harry was) were equipped with audio apparatus before setting off on our tour.

Our guide was at pains to give us information about the establishment and history of the Library, which was founded as the B'nai Brith Library in Jerusalem in the early 1920s. It existed even before that, having been thought up and brought into existence by a group of intellectuals in eastern Europe in 1892, when Jews were asked to send books to Jerusalem to serve as a repository of Jewish culture and knowledge.

From 1925, when the Hebrew University was established on Mount

Scopus, the Jewish National and University Library was situated there. This state of affairs continued until 1948, when access to Mount Scopus and all its buildings was restricted by Jordan. During that time books were occasionally smuggled out of the old Library building into the new one, situated at the apex of the new Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University, at the point where the buildings housing the Humanities and the Sciences met.

After 1967, when Mount Scopus was once again in Israel's hands, the Hebrew University reclaimed its buildings on the mountain-top campus, although leaving the Sciences faculties on the Givat Ram campus.

Early on in the development of the State of Israel the government designated the area of Jerusalem known as Givat Ram as the site where government buildings, the Knesset, and various cultural institutions would be situated. In 2008 the project to construct a new home for the National Library (now no longer part of the Hebrew University) was launched, and Swiss architects, Herzog and de Meuron were chosen to design the building, which was inaugurated in October 2023, albeit with less fanfare than originally intended due to the Hamas attacks of 7th October that month.

Since the role of the Library is to preserve the collective memory of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, it has taken it upon itself to gather,

document and preserve any and all material related to that horrific event and the subsequent war. A special unit has been set up to manage the project, known as 'Bearing Witness,' and several library employees are involved in collecting and collating the material in its various forms. It is a collaborative national and global effort aimed at documenting 7 October and its aftermath, both in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world.

Our group sat in stupefied silence as we were given the facts and figures delineating the many thousands of filmed, written and photographic items of evidence of that dreadful event. I personally was torn between being full of admiration for the effort and feeling sickened by the detached way in which we were presented with the evidence. Thus was our collective trauma transmuted into impersonal facts and figures. But then one of our group pointed out that at the time of the Holocaust there were those, whether friend or foe, who amassed documentary evidence, and how valuable all that is today.

The scope of the material is immense and unprecedented, providing a national memory database and enabling evidence-based historical research. The objective is to preserve these materials and make them available and accessible today and for future generations. It is a mammoth task, but one that is both unenviable and invaluable.

Write Your Life Story Record a Family History

Whether you have begun writing, researched your ancestors, or never put pen to paper, we offer a personalised service to help you preserve your precious memories for future generations.

www.wordsbydesign.co.uk
tony@wordsbydesign.co.uk
01869 327548



**JACKMAN ■
SILVERMAN**

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

Telephone: 020 7209 5532
robert@jackmans.co.uk



**ARE YOU THE CHILD OF A
CAMP SURVIVOR?**

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



caryn@ajr.org.uk

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.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

In the July Edition you mention there are a number of members over 100 and also how useful the *My Story* project is to Holocaust education.

Here in Manchester is a school whose history teacher is very keen to teach the students about the Holocaust. He gets them to read survivor life stories and then we go to discuss and answer questions. This year was my second visit and rather optimistically, as I am almost 101, I have already been asked to come again next year.

There are not many first generation left so it is important to tell the story as a witness in a face-to-face situation. The students asked very good questions and gave me a lovely bunch of flowers.
Gisela Feldman, Manchester

MICHAEL GRAUBART

Thank you for publishing my late father's obituary in the August edition of the magazine, he would have been honoured. However, you've spelled his name wrong in the headline, although it is correct in the main body of your text, and he passed on 10, not 19, June.
Aaron Graubart

NOTE FROM EDITOR: *We apologise for these errors which slipped past our expert proofreaders.*

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

I always look forward to receiving the *Journal* and have just read with interest the letters about the Holocaust Memorial in your August issue.

It seems years ago since the Wembley Stadium Gathering. At that time, I would have preferred the National Holocaust Memorial to be placed at the National Holocaust Museum and Educational Centre in Laxton. However, when it was decided to have it in London, near Parliament, I initially reluctantly accepted the decision and then wholeheartedly backed it.

A number of years ago I and two other Holocaust survivors were invited to speak in Committee Room 10 in Parliament. At that time Amber Rudd was Home Secretary. When it was my turn to speak, I addressed Mrs. Rudd and the other MPs present that, as a Government Minister, she would be able not only to influence the British and overseas governments, that there was no place for antisemitism, or war but also that the new Holocaust Memorial so close to Parliament would be seen by her and others regularly, reminding them of the six million Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust. The Educational Centre would teach the younger generation and others attending this Centre To Stand Up To Hatred.

The people in power can, if they are so minded, change the culture towards Peace and Respect for one another.

Please start building this Monument, before all the Holocaust Survivors have all passed away.

I understand that the Monument will also have a Museum and Educational Centre. If only one child who visits goes home to tell their parents of the horrors that war causes (witness Israel/Gaza and Ukraine) then the new Holocaust Memorial will not only cover its purpose to remember the victims, including some of my own family, but also educate generations to come of the horrors of War!
Hanneke Dye

NOTE FROM EDITOR: *Thank you to everyone who has written in on this subject, including the reader who correctly pointed out that the designer of the proposed Westminster memorial is Adjaye Associates.*

LOVELY SOUTHEND

On 6 August my husband and I joined up with the group that had travelled from NW London to

Southend for the annual AJR day by the sea. Unlike last year, the weather was dry and it was lovely to see the sea, particularly as the tide was in. We had lunch at the Jolly Roger, which faces on to the sea and whose staff were very willing to please. I'm not a fish eater, but my husband assured me that his meal was excellent and it was nicely presented, as was my omelette.

We also met Natalie, an AJR volunteer, and what a very pleasant friendly lady she is. It was a pleasure chatting to her.

One lovely couple were celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary which made it all extra special.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the AJR staff for making the occasion so memorable. As a retired schoolteacher who used to arrange trips, I know that making outings like this go smoothly isn't always easy; but AJR always seems to get it right.
Susie Barnett BEM



We were delighted that Leatrice and Monty Wick chose to spend their 63rd wedding anniversary in Southend with the AJR

You go to England. It's an adventure, we will follow



In May the Austrian Forum, together with the AJR and the Kindertransport Association, organised a Study Day for Kindertransport descendants. A highlight was a workshop with the artist and poet Sophie Herxheimer, who first shared some of her own poetry and then asked the group to split into pairs to share their family stories. Sophie then collated the participants' notes and, in just a few hours, transformed them into a poem, which we are pleased to share with you here:

He wears the label that his parents make
around his neck. Descends the steps at
Croydon.
A note plays onwards, a song sings out

She smiles to be with her foster father
as if on a simple walk
sheds tears to part from her foster father
he leaves her at school in a puddle of tears

Karen doesn't find out she is Jewish
till she's at college and a relative tells her.
Her mother and aunt rescued
By train from Prague in 1939

Lise gives a box of biscuits from Vienna
to her foster mother, and drinks
her first cup of tea in England. Surprise
it's served with milk. *I like it*, she says.

A note plays onwards, a song sings out.
Old Mr Kollisch won't recall when he is
beaten up
by a group of Hitler Youth – including his
friend.
He is thirteen then. He won't refute it
either.

She sees the feathers flying from the
duvets
ripped from their beds by stormtroopers.
We must save her, whispers her mother,
and on the train the bread is white, perhaps
poisoned? *Don't let the little kids eat it.*

Father dresses him in lederhosen
and a *tracht* hat. *You represent Vienna!*
He waves him off. His first day in his east
end
school in such clothes: the worst!

Alone on a train, frozen emotions,
what should she feel? It is December and
so cold, she doesn't take her coat off for
two weeks.

Always looking forward, uncomplaining
In Glasgow – black suits, bowler hats, funeral
appearance. Loads of men in this get up.

The railtrack runs in a straight line from
the Seder table, parting the Red Sea.

He sees the synagogue burn on Kristallnacht
his father is arrested and taken to Dachau
he does not talk about his experience.

A note plays onwards, a song sings out.
Nazi soldiers at the Dutch border make
a thorough search of her suitcase – placing
in full view her unmentionables, she is
fourteen.

Karl has to wake up very early to milk the
cows
where he is placed at Favel's farm. He loves
the cream that rises to the top of the bucket.

Margarete corresponds with Einstein.
She writes him a poem, he keeps it.

When the train stops in Holland she sees
people
standing along the platform. They are
smiling!
They give the children oranges. Oranges!

A song sings out, a note plays onwards.
We don't hire Jews! shouts the boss in Leeds
as he chases Millie from the sewing factory.

A sister and two brothers on the train,
one boy's arm is broken, in a cast.
The Nazis say he's smuggling, take an X-ray –
find nothing. They stamp his cast with
swastikas.

Inge is twelve. She is with her friend.
I want the top bunk, says Inge.
I want the top bunk! says her friend.
Oh let's just sleep together!

Her mother comes to London, remembers
the dentures on the railing of the row
house
where she's to live with her new family.

For eight years he doesn't know –
are his parents dead or alive? His father
still
has the postcard he sent him
in his pocket when they meet again.

Black suits, bowler hats, bloom where
you're planted. Babies in hammocks on
the train
Susie sits with nine other girls. No one
speaks.

Ladies give them hot chocolate as the train
crosses the Dutch border. She's so cold
she doesn't take her coat off for two
weeks.

Ilse is eight, and shows no sign of emotion
hands by sides, put on a train to England.

He loves to sit beside his foster mother
singing hymns in church. *You don't have
to kneel*
Otto, she says. *I know that you're Jewish*
– *we'll help you remember who you are.*

Always looking forward, uncomplaining.
Haniš and Karel's doctor father
cannot bear to say goodbye. In England
there is MUD. They cut hay, with a scythe.

Crying and crying, this child is the only
one left at Liverpool Street Station.
Black suits, bowler hats, a song,
a puddle of tears. Who makes buttons?

The train's arrived. We're here, to here
we now belong. *Kann es wahr sein?*
Bring the buttons button-cousin, do us
up.

ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Angry, subversive, iconoclastic, the work of Peter Kennard will always rock society out of its comfort zone.

In its current retrospective, *Peter Kennard, Archive of Dissent*, the **Whitechapel Gallery** celebrates 50 years work by this leading British political artist, and yet we discover a man still challenged by what he considers has eluded him. He has been an activist for most of his life, radicalised by the Vietnam War, campaigning for Amnesty, supporting CND and demonstrating against nuclear missiles. But despite the righteous fury which motivated his powerful photomontage imagery, he is aware that those elements in society against which he has railed, are still there, at a time when conflict around the world is more prevalent than ever. His canvas is the public wall, the newspaper, the pamphlet, the placard.

Kennard felt that photomontage – the art of putting two photos together – could create depths of meaning not sensed on the surface. The technique was

developed by the dadaists during the First World War and creatively weaponised against the Nazis by John Heartfield, Hannah Höch and George Grosz.

"I suppose I'm breaking into the smoothness of an image with something that's hidden." Kennard said.

The images are, of course, terrifying, dark and super-realistic. A clenched fist crushing a Cruise missile, commissioned by the Labour party in 1981 for its anti-nuclear campaign. *Protest and Survive, 1980* featuring a skeleton holding a pamphlet with the ambiguous words: *Protect and Survive*, with a thumbnail image of a man, woman and child, markers you would find at a tube station. *Syria, 2018*, a massive, broken and shattered tree of twisted steel.

Margaret Thatcher – typical totem of hate – is an enthroned Queen Victoria with a tiny coronet, or a disembodied smiling face angled behind a grinning skull. His famous take on **Constable's Haywain** becomes *Haywain with Cruise Missiles, 1980*; the simple cart

Annelly Juda Fine Art
23 Dering Street
(off New Bond Street)
Tel: 020 7629 7578
Fax: 020 7491 2139
**CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE**

now bears the missiles and a weird, gesticulating creature in a helmet. Subtle it isn't, but then Kennard doesn't do subtle. This powerful work makes you wonder why art of this kind has not made a greater impact on society at large.

Paraphrasing TS Eliot, Harold Pinter said – "Kennard sees the skull beneath the skin, alright."

The Whitechapel Gallery is no stranger to the art of protest. In their day, David Bomberg, who influenced Kennard's early life as a painter, Jacob Kramer, Mark Gertler, the Polish immigrant Morris Goldstein and John Rodker were among the so-called Whitechapel Boys, a group of Jewish East End immigrant artists and writers whose work featured at the Gallery. These artists were deeply concerned about poverty and antisemitism against which they protested, particularly in the wake of the anti-Jewish riots in London and Manchester. Many were communists or anarchists.

Founded in 1901, the Whitechapel invited David Bomberg and Jacob Epstein to create a Jewish section within its Twentieth Century Art exhibition. The *JC* called it the first real attempt to organise a collection of works by Jewish artists, most of them from the East End. When the First World War broke out, Gertler became one of its conscientious objectors, and many of the Whitechapel Boys spoke out against the war. The art that powerfully expressed these anti-war sentiments included Gertler's *Merry Go Round*, and Morris Goldstein's *The Sacrifice: Incident of the Present War*.

Until 19 January 2025.



Peter Kennard. *Thatcher Unmasked*, 1986

THE LORD MAYOR WELCOMES KINDER

©ADAM SOLLER PHOTOGRAPHY-502

Eighty-five years since the Kindertransport brought the youngest victims of Nazi terror to safety in Great Britain the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City of London hosted some of the former child refugees and paid tribute to their dramatic escape.

Eight AJR Kinder and their descendants, were welcomed to The Lord Mayor's residence, Mansion House. They included Alice Hubbers, Alfred Kessler, John Farago, Kurt Eichner and Maria Ault, as well as Renate Collins and Alexandra Greensted, who were both part of Sir Nicholas Winton's missions.

Addressing the Kinder, The Lady Mayoress, Elisabeth Mainelli, said: "From its earliest beginnings the City of London has welcomed people of all faiths, beliefs, and nationalities – many of whom were fleeing persecution at home. The City played an important role in the Kindertransport story. Children arrived at Liverpool Street Station to begin their new lives in the UK, and Sir Nicholas Winton worked on the London Stock Exchange."

She later said it had been "an honour" to host Kinder and their families at the mayoral residence in the 85th anniversary year of the Kindertransport and that it had been "an opportunity to remember their bravery and celebrate their lives and legacies. We are proud of the City's Jewish heritage and, through the [City Belonging Project](#), continue to do what we can to celebrate it."

Danny Kalman, The AJR's Kindertransport Chair added: "We are thankful to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for hosting the Kinder today. It seems fitting that only a short walk from here, at Liverpool Street Station, so many of those children started new lives, after unimaginable journeys against the backdrop of oppression, displacement, and war. It's testament to their parents'



The Lady Mayoress addressing the AJR guests at Mansion House



The Lord Mayor (back row, between the AJR's Danny Kalman and Michael Newman) with seven of the Kinder at the event

brave decision to send their precious offspring into the unknown, for a chance of freedom, that we see three generations of descendants here today. A chink of light in one of the darkest chapters in history and emblematic of AJR's growing next generation membership, who enrol with us to celebrate and preserve their family heritage."

As part of the visit, the Kinder were treated to a guided tour of Mansion House and learnt about The Freedom of the City. They also had the opportunity to view memorabilia relating to Sir Nicholas Winton's work and discover more about the history of Jewish migration in the City of London.

Michael Newman, AJR's CEO, observed that the Kindertransport 85th anniversary

year had coincided with "a time of increased sensitivity and concern for Jewish people, in this country and globally and underscores the priority to instil, in all audiences, the universality of the Holocaust - its lessons and its warnings. Long may the Kinder have the energy and opportunity to share their important eye-witness accounts which bear witness to where antisemitism can lead."

The visit to Mansion House was part of a programme of events arranged by the AJR to commemorate 85 years since the arrival of the Kindertransport. Events have included arranging for His Majesty the King to meet with the Kinder last November as well as receptions hosted by Their Excellencies the German and Austrian Ambassadors.

LOOTED AND LOST

A new exhibition at the Joods Museum in Amsterdam focuses on the loss of Jewish cultural property in the Netherlands, through the eyes of the people whose possessions were looted. One of these was the collector Leo Lessman, whose great nephew, Ronald Cohn, a long-standing AJR member, takes up the story.

In 1928 my great uncle Leo wrote: "As a result of years of persecution, we have so few ancient Jewish sacred art objects from our rich history that the loss of even a single object should be deeply regretted."

Lessman was one of the most important collectors of Jewish ritual objects in Germany in his time. The exhibition explains what drove him to collect these objects and what they meant to him, as a Jew. He assembled a collection of 1,000

objects: torah crowns, ornamental towers, Chanukah lamps and other objects. For him they symbolised - as he himself put it - 'a spiritual link to a truly religious life'.

Unlike works of art, Jewish ritual objects and Jewish books are inextricably linked to Jewish identity. The Torah, the word of God, is the most important and holiest book for Jews. Jews study this text for a lifetime, just like religious texts of later date. The Torah contains the Jewish rules of life, such as the command to sanctify life. Rituals and ritual objects play an important role in this.

Religious books and ritual objects are therefore carriers of Jewish tradition. They are passed on from generation to generation and often have enormous emotional value.

After Hitler took power, the Nazi ideology became leading, not only in Germany, but later also in the occupied countries. According to this ideology, Jews were an inferior race. In a deliberate process of dehumanisation, they were

isolated, deprived of their belongings, and ultimately murdered. Objects in the exhibition show that Jews were continually humiliated and their human dignity was compromised. For example, there are insoles that were made from the parchment of a Torah scroll. They were in the boots of a German soldier who symbolically and literally trampled on the word of God.

The Nazis understood that if they wanted to exterminate the Jews, they must also destroy their culture. This included the symbols of Jewish identity. The mass murder of Europe's Jews and the destruction of millions of religious objects created an irreparable breach in the continuity of Jewish tradition. After the war, this breach was partly repaired, when countless books and ritual objects from murdered users were returned to the Jewish community. But photos in the exhibition show how disrespectfully the Nazis treated these objects.

How did it feel as a Jew to be robbed of objects that are so inextricably linked to



Claude Monet, *L'Homme à l'Ombrelle* (1865-67)

Monet painting herald

The wholesale looting by the Nazis of Jewish-owned works of art means that, even decades later, descendants struggle to prove ownership. A recent ruling in Zurich sets a new precedent.

L'Homme à l'Ombrelle by Claude Monet was one of several important paintings owned by the Jewish textile industrialist and art collector Carl Sachs and his wife, who were subject to collective persecution by the Nazi regime on account of their Jewish ancestry.

The repressive measures imposed on them led the couple to flee Germany in 1939 for Switzerland, only taking with them the permitted 10 Reichsmarks each.

To raise enough money to fund their passage and to live on, they were forced to sell urgently 13 paintings which they had previously loaned to the Kunsthhaus in Zurich.

Carl Sachs died in 1943 and his family has sought restitution for many years. Now the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft (Zurich Art Society) has ruled that the sale of *L'Homme à l'Ombrelle* (Man with Parasol) to the

SPECIAL FEATURE: ART RESTITUTION

one's own Jewish identity? That is exactly what this exhibition wants to convey. To get into the shoes of the main characters, a lot of research had to be done. Anna-Carolin Augustin, Marty Bax and Ruth Peeters made an important contribution to this.

Louis Hirschel, the dedicated librarian of the renowned Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana, did not survive the war. But his memory lives on in the precious and special books and manuscripts that he heroically managed to rescue from the Nazis. A selection can be seen in the exhibition.

The passionate antiquarian, writer and publisher Louis Lamm continued his antiquarian bookshop in Amsterdam after fleeing Germany. He did this successfully until the war. A few years later there was only emptiness: Lamm was murdered in Auschwitz and the Nazis left nothing of his antiquarian bookshop. In the exhibition, his grandson in Israel talks emotionally about his search for his grandfather's missing legacy.

Leo Lessmann survived the war. But for years he searched - in vain - for his collection, which was stolen in Amsterdam in 1943. Lessmann not only lost his collection to the Nazis. His status and company were also taken away. After the war he was a changed man and never started collecting again. In the exhibition, photos of his ritual objects show the love and attention with which he had built up his collection.

These personal stories can be seen in the Jewish Museum, in the New Synagogue, which is itself part of war history, because the Nazis also stole countless Jewish books and ritual objects there, which they discovered behind false walls in the basement of that building.



Leo Isaac Lessman and his wife Carry-Alice Lessman-Stokvis

This historical sensation brings the stories of the exhibition even closer. It makes us realise how important it is to keep telling these kinds of stories.

ds new provenance strategy

Kunsthau Zürich was the first case in which Sachs was obliged to sell a work on account of acute financial hardship. In a statement issued on 19 June, the Chair of the society acknowledged that "a swift sale was needed to provide the couple with money to live on" and that Sachs "was therefore acting under duress". He concluded that, "as a just and fair solution" the Monet painting should now be put on the open market for sale.

The ruling results from an extensive investigation championed by Philipp Hildebrand and Ann Demeester, who in October 2022 took up their positions as Chair of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft and new Director of the Kunsthau Zürich, respectively. Since then, one of their top priorities has been to expand provenance research at Switzerland's largest art museum by building up a

team, led by Joachim Sieber. Just a few months later, in March 2023, the board of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft and the director of the Kunsthau Zürich adopted a new provenance strategy committing it to deal more proactively with works that, following in-depth research, could be categorised as cultural property confiscated as a result of Nazi persecution.

This may, under specific conditions, also include artworks sold by emigrants in third countries outside the area of Nazi rule, such as Switzerland. The research prioritises the Kunsthau's own collection as well as new acquisitions. The ongoing systematic review of the collection holdings is being continued and conducted in greater depth, with the provenance of works created prior to 1945 that changed hands between January 1933

and May 1945 being investigated.

Dr Philipp Hildebrand said: "I am grateful that, through constructive dialogue based on the extensive findings of research, we have been able to reach an agreement with the heirs of Carl Sachs. Naturally, we regret that this wonderful painting will probably leave the Kunsthau after its sale, as part of the just and fair solution arrived at. At the same time, this step underlines the seriousness of our provenance strategy and our fundamental approach of acting transparently and seeking solutions for any work in our collection where there are substantiated indications of duress resulting from Nazi persecution."

Carl and Margarete Sachs were leading patrons of cultural life in their home city of Breslau before they were forced to flee to Switzerland.

A very European dentist

Simon James fondly remembers his experience in the dental chair.

My first recollection of our family dentist, Dr. Hans Orlay (born Hans Orlai on 2 November 1897 in Vienna) is from 1968 when I was twelve. It was not a happy occasion. At the time we were living in Heath Drive, just off the Finchley Road. A holiday to Ibiza was just couple of weeks away, and there was great excitement. Sadly, this led me to do something really stupid: break a front tooth with the recoil of a powerful harpoon as I was practicing for scuba fishing off Ibiza. I was in tears.

Despite it being a Sunday, my mother telephoned Dr. Orlay who kindly agreed to meet us right away at his surgery in 61 Kilburn High Road. My dear mother took the broken tooth wrapped in cotton wool in a match box, hoping that Dr. Orlay could somehow stick it back onto the broken tooth with an invisible join. We arrived at the surgery where Dr. Orlay, a short and stocky man with white hair and moustache, greeted us with a deep bow and enquired "Darling, how can I help?" Presented with the matchbox Dr. Orlay looked very dubious, carried out a quick examination, and patiently explained to my mother that the chipped tooth could not be reunited with its stump. Rather a crown needed to be fitted. More tears flowed.

What was required was something called a root canal treatment. I had no idea what that was, so Dr. Orlay patiently explained the details to me in his heavily accented English. Being curious, I asked him where he had learnt to do such things. "Vienna," he said, "before the war". He told me how antisemitism was on the rise in Austria, and seeing what was happening in Germany, his family decided to leave Vienna for the UK. Dr. Orlay was no run of the mill dentist, but one of the pioneers of root canal treatment and what we call now call endodontics.

Dr. Orlay explained how difficult it was for him to practise in the UK, as many British medical professionals feared that the expertise of foreign refugees could undermine their own grip on such services and thus put obstacles in their way. Dr. Orlay needed to re-sit his dentistry exams,



Kilburn High Road as it looked in the late 1960s, when Dr Hans Orlay had his practice there

even though he was much more highly qualified than his British assessors - he was both a doctor and a dentist in Vienna. British authorities were suspicious of his "outlandish" endodontics skills, and Dr. Orlay had to show them that it could be safely done with excellent results. He was also interned during the War, despite being initially exempt.

So it came to be that Dr. Orlay established an NHS practice, plus a separate private practice for treating the well-healed and thus subsidising his NHS practice, which benefitted from the most sophisticated Castellini dental equipment from Europe. Many of his clients were refugees seeking the advanced dental work otherwise unavailable in Britain. Dr. Orlay always hired very glamorous dental nurses and insisted they go out to buy ice cream whenever an ice cream van passed the surgery. The patient had to wait as he sat and ate his ice cream. For the nervous patients he had an ante room with a bed, where he offered hypnosis.

I clearly remember the waiting room where there was a painting of a crying tooth wailing in anguish as a pair of extraction pliers were bearing down on it. That, and the penetrating sound of the high-speed drill operating next door, was enough to scare all but the most determined and knowledgeable patient. His routine was always the same: on entering the waiting room in a crisp white coat he would look at the next patient and bow deeply, then say "Darling

please", gesturing to his surgery. German pleasantries were often exchanged. He was charming, with a naughty twinkle in his eye, and wonderful with children.

Later I would discover that Dr. Orlay founded the British Endodontic Society in 1963 and was its first president. He was always humble, kind and grateful to have found refuge in his new home, living in Willesden and raising lovely children, one of whom also became a dentist.

Dr. Orlay's story is but one of many of thousands of medical professionals who came to Britain as refugees and struggled to get established in their adopted homeland. Our family Doctor, Dr. Jacoby, who practised in Crossfield Road, was also a refugee and internee, as was his predecessor Dr. Augen.

Many second-generation refugees will have fond memories of their family doctors and dentists from the continent, and feel a debt of gratitude for their loyal service. I am one.

CHAOS CONQUEROR

Do you need help with decluttering, downsizing or organising and storage solutions?

Contact Jo Sovin,
Chaos Conqueror

07905 581 794 jo@josovin.com

www.josovin.com

Impeccable references provided

ONE FAMILY'S SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH

In the chaos surrounding the lives of Jews at the beginning of WW2, the death of an old lady in Vienna passed almost unnoticed – but in this touching article her great-granddaughter, Frances Taylor, describes how the family were able to give her a belated but worthy commemoration.

Let me tell you about my great-grandmother, Fanni Toni Traubenberg, who passed away alone on 19 September 1939 in the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde (IKG) hospital in Vienna. It was an IKG employee who organised her burial, the exact location being carefully logged in the Jewish cemetery records. Her last remaining relatives in Vienna - her daughter Clara Blum, 47, and her granddaughter Gertie, 12, had fled some three weeks earlier on one of the trains carrying Jews out of Nazi-controlled Austria. So Toni, as she was known by the family, was laid to rest in an unmarked and unvisited grave. The situation might have remained that way for eternity but for the intervention of the wishes of her granddaughter Gertie and me, Frances, her great-granddaughter. I was named with my great-grandmother in mind and since my aunt Gerti died, aged almost 98 in May 2024, I am the only one left to tell this story.

Nowadays a lot of digitised information is available on the internet and my husband Alan has been researching our ancestry, both on his and my side of the family. Fanny (known as Toni) was my mother's grandmother. In her own life story, my mother (Lilli Oppenheim) remarked that she remembered extraordinarily little about her grandmother except that she was a very good-looking woman, with blond hair and blue eyes, as well as being "... very Jewish, kept a strictly kosher home and was very generous to me." Other than that, it seems Clara – her own mum - was very 'tight lipped' about Toni, which made her something of an intriguing character to me.

Alan discovered fulsome online records kept by the Jewish community in Czernowitz (a town in the territory of Bukovina, within the Austro-Hungarian empire) where the family lived in the 19th century. The German language records were well indexed and

contained much detail of relationships - all of which was immensely helpful in constructing my maternal lineage.

In 1918, following the end of WW1 and the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian empire, Czernowitz became part of Romania. Most Jewish inhabitants were not happy about the change and chose to move. Toni's husband, Leib, had already sadly died in Vienna where he had moved for - I believe - medical treatment. Toni followed him there, together with her children (only two of their eight children survived beyond a year or so).

The Central cemetery in Vienna, where Leib was buried, covers almost a square mile and is one of 50 cemeteries in the Vienna area. Having discovered the recorded location of the graves of Toni and Leib, Alan posted on the Jewish Genealogy Facebook group to find someone who might be visiting the cemetery and would be willing to take a photo of their tombstones for us. A very experienced lady, whose hobby is photographing the graves in the Cemetery, responded and went to a lot of trouble to locate the precise grave site of Toni - which turned out to be no more than a bare section of muddy grass. In other words, there was no stone on the site. Given the circumstances and time, just after WW2 had started, it is probably unsurprising that no-one was around to arrange a stone setting. And so, Fanny Toni Traubenberg lay, totally ignored.

The grave marker arranged by Frances for her great-grandmother Fanni Toni Traubenberg



Her story finally ended with me and Alan standing in the early June rain shower alongside a freshly placed gravestone in the vast Jewish Cemetery in Vienna. A photograph snapshot to mark the occasion was taken by the cemetery's extremely helpful funeral director, Mordechai Hammer, a Brooklyn New York orthodox Jew living in Vienna. These moments were the culmination of several months of genealogical research and action to mark the gravesite of my great-grandmother Fanny Toni Traubenberg, late but not forgotten.



These 15 Stolpersteine were laid in the ground at various locations in Guernsey. Another 20 Stolpersteine were laid in Jersey.

Powered by love and solidarity

A Channel Islands project to honour both victims and survivors of Nazism came to fruition on 25 and 26 July when German artist Günter Demnig laid 20 Stolpersteine in Jersey and a further 15 stones in Guernsey.

The project was led by Occupation historian Dr Gilly Carr, of the University of Cambridge, working in partnership with Jersey Heritage's Chris Addy and Helen Glencross of Guernsey Museums.

Speaking before the event Chris Addy said: "These stones will raise awareness of Islanders who were persecuted for their Jewish origins or went into hiding for that reason; those convicted of acts of resistance, defiance or attempted escape; individuals sent to Alderney as conscripted labourers; or interned in Germany for being British born".

German forces occupied Jersey and Guernsey from the end of June 1940 until 9 May 1945. Occupation of the

tiny island of Alderney ended on 16 May 1945. Thousands of forced, slave and volunteer labourers were brought to the Channel Islands to build the Atlantic Wall, but only Alderney had SS-run concentration camps: Lager Sylt and Lager Norderney

Dr Gilly Carr told the AJR that "I was particularly pleased that families felt that the stones acted both as a symbolic way of 'bringing home' those whose bodies were never found after the war, and proud statements of defiance against those involved in their deportation. 'We're back!', they exclaimed. This was especially the case with the three stones for Guernsey policemen deported in 1942 to forced labour and concentration camps. They were convicted in a show trial and their sentence has never been overturned, which is just incredible. We continue that fight, and these Stolpersteine are playing their part."

One relative involved in the project is Iris Prigent, whose late husband, Gordon, was a conscripted worker sent to Alderney, and became an inmate of Norderney camp. A Stolperstein was laid outside his old address in St. Helier,

Jersey, and Iris said: "Gordon suffered greatly as a result of being sent to Alderney for refusing to work for the Occupiers. It affected him for the rest of his life and he would have been happy to know that he and many others who suffered during the German Occupation are being remembered."

Over 220 Channel Islanders were deported to Nazi prisons and concentration and forced labour camps in France, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, with a further 2,300 Islanders sent to civilian internment camps in Germany. Three Jewish women were deported from Guernsey to be murdered in Auschwitz, and a further seven Jews were deported to other camps; they survived. "I am particularly pleased that we were able to acknowledge and honour Jews in Jersey who were persecuted but not deported. On the day of the Stolpersteine laying, families of those who have now been honoured with Stolpersteine travelled round the islands to see the stones and express solidarity with others. The event was moving, emotional, happy, sad and filled with love. It was a beautiful thing," said Dr Carr.

'Jewish refugees not wanted, why?'

Miriam E. David writes: My mother, Esther David, refused the term 'refugee' for my father, Curt. After his death in 1980, I discussed the dedication of my book *The State, The Family and Education* with her. I wanted to call my father a German Jewish Refugee from Nazism. She was adamant that he came to a job in Manchester. In today's parlance, she thought of him as an 'economic migrant'. I changed the dedication.

It is only recently, about 40 years on, whilst doing research for my family memoir, that I have realised why she was so adamant, as it was (and is) so vilified. After my mother's death in 1996, we found a locked safe containing 5 German Jewish passports that sparked my journey of discovery. We also found albums, diaries, documents, letters, and postcards written in English and German.

In my mother's tiny diary for 1940, on 20 June, she had written 'Curt dismissed Why Jewish refugees not wanted'. Curt had been dismissed from his job as a machine tool designer at Kendall & Gent, Gorton, Manchester. It was a post that he had held for almost four years since arriving in England in 1936.

He was arrested because the incoming Prime Minister – Winston Churchill – argued to 'collar the lot', meaning all 'enemy aliens', as foreigners from Germany were then called. Churchill's speech became official policy in a government circular dated 21 June 1940. This was stamped on my father's record (HO 396/221) in the National Archives (TNA) at Kew. Churchill's policy was to intern or to imprison without trial.

Not only was my father arrested, but so too were his father Adolf David and his elder brother. Ernst had arrived in Manchester

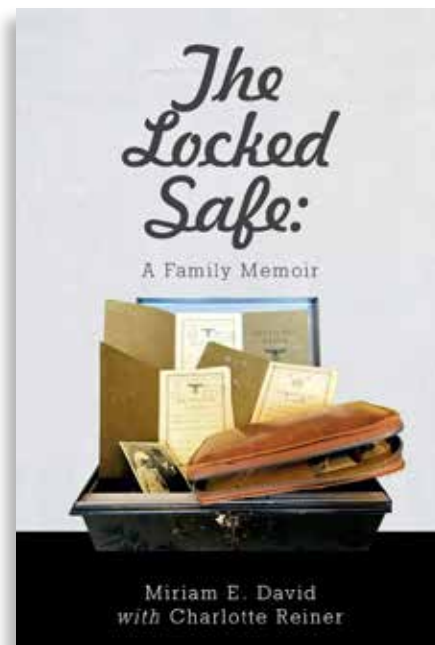
fourteen months earlier, from Dachau concentration camp in Germany. He had been sent there after Kristallnacht on 9 November 1938. At that point, before WW2 started, Hitler allowed Jewish people to emigrate. Curt sought Esther's help, although they were only good friends. As she was not a householder, Esther had to ask her mother and brother-in-law. The World Jewish Relief (WJR) 'slips' confirmed that Uncle Maurice (her elder sister's husband) financially guaranteed Ernst.

My grandparents – Adolf and Clementine David – my great grandmother – Bertha David – and Adolf's sister Klara arrived in Manchester from Frankfurt am Main on 31 July 1939, also guaranteed by my mother's family. Curt sent a postcard to Esther saying: 'all four arrived safely at Ringway Airport'. But were they safe?

Not eleven months later, Adolf was arrested. The three men were all sent to Huyton Aliens Internment Camp (AIC), outside Liverpool. They all remained there for over three months. Adolf was hospitalised and released back to his home in Manchester, a rental property that Curt and Ernst found for the David family. The three elderly women – Bertha was 85, Clementine was 60, Klara was 57 – were called 'internees at liberty'. But they had to adhere to strict rules for aliens.

Ernst and Curt stayed in Huyton until 10 October 1940 when they were transferred to Mooragh camp, Ramsey, Isle of Man, 'living with the wire' (Cresswell, 1994). Ernst was released to farmwork in February 1941, whereas Curt was not until March 1941. Ernst spent over a year in concentration and internment camps, affecting his health. He died prematurely, aged 51.

Esther had tried valiantly to get all three released, especially her fiancé, but her efforts were in vain. Curt's professor from the Technical University in Berlin, having been released from Nazi imprisonment in 1933-4, was allowed into England for the war effort. He was not interned but could not help Curt officially. He was released to a machine operator post in Ware outside London rather than near Manchester. This turned out to be worse than expected



and he 'could not contribute to Hitler's overthrow'.

Nevertheless, Curt and Esther married on 22 June 1941 and Esther wrote 'Grand. Went with a thrill...' She went to live in Ware and, when the Auxiliary War Service (AWS) permit arrived, started her 'new life' in Keighley. Here, she used the services of a Manchester solicitor - Leslie Lever later MP, Lord Mayor and Lord – to buy back her British citizenship that she had lost on marriage to an 'enemy alien'.

The year June 1940 to June 1941 covered the indignities of internment for Jewish refugees, which is why Esther later refused the term.

This is a short extract from Miriam E. David with Charlotte Reiner, 2024, *The Locked Safe: a family memoir*. London: Authorhouse.

REFERENCES:

Blog extract from the National Archives <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/collar-lot-britains-policy-internment-second-world-war/> accessed July 2024

Cresswell, Yvonne, ed. (1994) *Living With the Wire. Civilian Internment in the Isle of Man during The Two World Wars*. Douglas, Isle of Man: Manx National Heritage.

REVIEWS

BECOMING KATHRINE TALBOT: A JEWISH REFUGEE AND THE NOVELIST SHE INVENTED

Vallentine Mitchell

By Christoph Ribbat

Soon after Ilse Gross arrived in England she was dismayed to find herself interned on the Isle of Man. Ilse was born in Bingen which is beautifully located where the river Nahe flows into the Rhine and had a rich history and culture. Here her family had a longstanding and prestigious wine merchant business.

But in 1935, when she was 14 years old, she fled Germany alone after discrimination at school. Here two years earlier the Easter holidays were extended to allow history books to be re-written. So her parents paid for her to study at Geneva's International School in Switzerland. After the money ran out she came to London where – like so many – she worked as a domestic servant. Initially she stayed with an older cousin who found himself for the moment living in extremely reduced circumstances. Eighteen months later she was detained as a "Category B" enemy alien at a Port St Mary camp.

Her music-loving parents, Karl and Agnes, hoped to follow her to England but fatefully stayed behind to support her handicapped sister Bertha, 15 years her senior. Meanwhile Ilse eventually married the English painter Kit Barker and clashed with macho bohemians. The couple struggled financially but, despite taking other jobs to keep afloat, she studied literary giants including Henry James and Joseph Conrad. Then she rose to fame as an author with the pen name Kathrine Talbot publishing her audacious first novel, *Fire in the Sun*.

But life is never straightforward and she later struggled to get work published. At 41 she produced her only child Thomas (Tom). She carefully concealed her German Jewish identity but towards the end of her life returned to her hometown with her family and found three Stolpersteine outside her former home. Bingen once had a thriving Jewish

community but tragically only two of those who didn't emigrate survived the war.

Author Christoph Ribbat is a professor in the Department of English and American Studies at Universität Paderborn, Germany and a former Fulbright Scholar. He follows the story of this nearly forgotten novelist from London to post-war Cornwall to New York and California and then to a green hill in Sussex.

As Ilse Barker she shares a close friendship with American poet Elizabeth Bishop and the two women cover everything in their letters from the mundane to the traumatic. But all along Ilse resisted telling stories portraying her background. She ignores her life experiences even though her work could perhaps have benefitted from the human interest it could have generated. But later on she wrote things down and after she died Tom found two autobiographical works.

The book portrays very well the uncertainty and twists and turns of life, but rings very true about Jewish refugee life. Until the end the reader is kept wondering how things will turn out. Photos of Ilse's early life and parents are very poignant. This true story is based on Ilse's letters, diaries and accounts, on interviews with witnesses and on historical documents vividly portraying the difficult but interesting life of this private although remarkable woman.

Janet Weston

A MOTHER'S COURAGE

By Malka Levine

Pan Macmillan

This wonderful book, praised by Dame Maureen Lipman as "a fabulous memoir", is written by AJR member Malka Levine and had no less than six publishers fighting for its rights.

Forced by the Nazis from their home in the Ukrainian city of Ludmir (later renamed Volodymyr-Volynskyi), Malka and family went through unimaginable horrors, not least spending nine months underground in a 'living grave'.

Of the 25,000 Jews in their city, just 30 survived. Amongst them were nine

children, three of whom were Malka and her older brothers Shalom and Haim, who survived largely thanks to the bravery and strength of two remarkable women. One was her mother Rivka, an unstoppable force. The second was a farmer's wife called Mrs Yakimchuk, who sheltered them in a small, shallow pit in their barn, putting herself and her own family at great risk.

Malka put pen to paper during Covid when her daughter in Australia suggested she write a book 'to keep you sane'.

In her foreword Malka writes: "While I am the storyteller, I'm not the story. This book is not about me but about those people who saved me. And while it is set in a very small city in western Ukraine, the message is a universal one - that even in the darkest of days, the human spirit can triumph over despair and courage will conquer fear."

Malka was just three when the Nazis invaded Ukraine. Her father, Moshe Fischmann, was shot in the first pogrom and his last words to his wife, Rivka, were "save the children". Because Malka was so young, her storytelling is based on what she was later told by her mother and other family members.

The Levines left the ghetto to journey to a village about 15kms away to stay with Mr and Mrs Yakimchuk (their first names are never mentioned) only to then find the SS and Gestapo setting up a training centre at the farm. The family moved into a pit, dug in the barn, just 2.5 metres long and 1.5 metre high and covered in branches and twigs, to look like a pile of firewood. They survived there for almost 10 months, despite a horse falling into the pit, only leaving when their home city was liberated. Ghosts of buildings remained and headstones from the Jewish cemetery had been smashed and used to pave the streets. Their house was a ruin.

They left Volodymyr-Volynskyi in 1946 and journeyed to Austria and then Italy where they stayed in refugee camps before settling in Israel. Malka went on to meet her husband David, a journalist, on a trip to England. They had two children, Elaine and Avi, before moving to Nottinghamshire in 1972, where Malka still lives.

Her mother passed away in 1994 and Mr and Mrs Yakimchuk are no longer around but Malka did meet up with their grandchildren to say thank you. The book ends with a reference to Russia's present-day invasion of Ukraine. "Genocide can happen anywhere. We must learn to stand up for what is right rather than follow the masses. We don't have to repeat the same mistakes again," says Malka.

The pensioner says she was surprised by the interest in her manuscript and even more surprised when a Ukrainian publisher wanted it because, Malka says "they are not coming out of it very well". She turned down an offer from a Russian company which was prepared to pay good money. "I said once you finish the war and things settle down, come and talk to us. I'm not giving it to them now."

It's a wonderfully descriptive book which provides insights into many lesser-known aspects of the Holocaust. I recommend it thoroughly.
Jo Briggs

AJR
DAY TRIP TO HARWICH
TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER



Join us on a day trip to Harwich by train from Liverpool Street. View the historical sites of Harwich and see the Kinder Statue. Lunch and some free time included in the day.

Please note there will be a fair amount of gentle walking throughout the day.

karendiamond@ajr.org.uk

AJR
PRIVATE TOUR
BEN URI GALLERY
'REFUGEE ART DEALERS
IN THE 1930S-1960S
LONDON'

WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
6:30PM

An introduction to Ben Uri and its principal purpose of researching and disseminating the Jewish, Refugee and Immigrant contribution to British visual culture since 1900.

Donation: £10

karendiamond@ajr.org.uk

AJR
AJR's ANNUAL TEA
SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER
Stone X Stadium, Saracens Ltd
Greenlands Lane, Hendon, London NW4 1RL
2PM – 4.30PM



The opportunity to meet friends, old and new

Enjoy a delicious cream tea and entertainment

Please bring your children and grandchildren
ALL WELCOME!

susan@ajr.org.uk

AJR
AJ RAMBLERS CLUB



Our next walk will take place on:
MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 at 11AM

Meeting at a London underground station

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

AJR
LUNCH WITH
ANDY BURNHAM
MAYOR OF GREATER MANCHESTER

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
@11.30AM IN MANCHESTER



michalmocton@ajr.org.uk



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

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024
11AM-12.30PM

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

All welcome but booking is essential!

julia@ajr.org.uk / caryn@ajr.org.uk

AJR
KINDER EVENTS
– for all Kinder and their
descendants

LUNCH

THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER
at 12PM

susan@ajr.org.uk

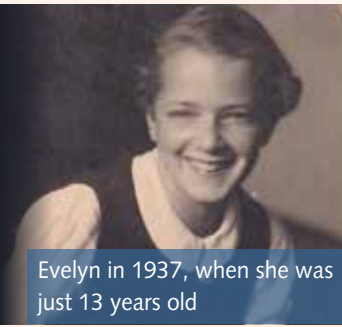
<https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89446319665>

OBITUARIES

Evelyn LIPMANN

Born: 18 June 1924, Vienna

Died: 21 July 2024, Surrey



Evelyn in 1937, when she was just 13 years old

My mother Evelyn Lipmann (née Guttman) died shortly after her 100th Birthday.

The bald facts are simple - my mother with my grandmother survived one ghetto and four concentration camps - Leopoldstadt, Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, Belsen, Salzwedel. The last was the Polte munitions factory where, ill with typhus, she filled brass shells with molten lead for the German military. When allied bombers flew overhead, the prisoners were required to sit on the ammunition dumps.

But there was another, happier side to my mother's life: brief pre-war happiness which I occasionally glimpsed when, quite by chance, her thoughts went back to a time before the terrors. For example, a humble apricot that I brought from the grocer prompted a memory of her Uncle Pos up a ladder, picking ripe apricots at the family holiday house in Bad Ischl; and the battle royal between the aunts as to who could cook the best Marillen Knedel (apricot dumplings). She recalled swimming in the Wolfgangsee with her cousins, Hans and Peter, and catching flies for Franz Lehar's frog (which lived in a vivarium and whose position on a ladder acted as a barometer); a chore for which the children were paid 20 groschen to buy sauerkraut. Then there was her dachshund, Bello, left by her aunt under the tree one Christmas. 'Maybe auntie wants me to look after it?' she thought, only to discover with endless joy that it was to be hers.

Even as the walls of freedom closed in during the late 30s, and she was confined indoors and prevented from school, I glimpsed the spirited teenager via her remaining letters - one in which she signed off to my aunt already escaped to England - 'Many kisses, your

niece, Sara', or the post-war recollection from October 1945 of removing her yellow star and sitting on the banks of the Alte Donau with a boy called Peter. There are photographs - perhaps the most poignant her as a little girl holding a parasol, hand-in-hand with her father dressed in tennis whites. The father who died upon arrival at Auschwitz in 1944. Or the photo standing with her mother and father on the waterfront on another Ischl summer holiday.

In later life mum rebuilt her world, joining her aunt in St John's Wood in 1947, meeting my father, marrying in 1948, then moving to Walton-on-Thames in 1957, where she lived for 67 years until December 2023.

Saying goodbye to her, as we did at a gathering on 2 August, we tried to dwell on those postwar years - the Open University Degree in Humanities she took to replace her lost education, her joy at children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, her ability to speak both fluent French and Italian, and her love of visual art - especially Frank Auerbach and Lucian Freud. But the sadness remains. As her son I have tried to glimpse the young person whose life changed forever in the 1940s. In reality my mother's optimism never returned and I am left with the picture of a young girl in the protection of parents whose power to protect had been almost entirely removed - the young girl whose place on a Kindertransport was booked for 5 Sept, who was trying to learn hairdressing so as to be useful upon arrival in the new country, and who writes to her aunt, 'Dear Auntie Esi! Would it be possible to get a permit for Bello? She would love to come to London...'.
I miss her terribly as well as the person I never knew.

Anthony Lipmann

Paul FOX

Born: 27 October 1925, Kreuzburg

Died: 9 April 2024, London

Sir Paul Fox was one of the remarkable generation of Jewish TV executives that included Sir Jeremy Isaacs, David Elstein and Michael Grade. They had an enormous impact on British TV during the 1970s and 1980s, especially at ITV.

Paul's father, Walter, a doctor, died when Paul was just six. His mother, Hilda, was a nurse who later died in a concentration camp. Soon after his barmitzvah Paul left Germany on the first Kindertransport, arriving in Harwich on 2 December 1938. He was adopted by a medical family in Bournemouth, becoming Paul Leonard Fox. According to his son Jeremy, in an obituary in the Royal Television Society, "It always amazed us that he never talked about this [his traumatic childhood] but that's because he never thought of himself as a Holocaust survivor."

Educated at Bournemouth grammar school, he signed up as soon as he was eighteen, joining the Parachute Regiment, 6th Airborne Division. According to Will Wyatt, a longtime colleague at the BBC, Fox used to say: "I left Germany aged 13 as a Kindertransport and returned by parachute over the Rhine when I was 18". He was wounded in the Rhine crossings. After the war he studied journalism in Biarritz, and then got a job at the Kentish Times. He moved on to *The People* and joined *Pathé News* in 1947. In 1950 he got a full-time job with BBC's *Television Newsreel*, the beginning of a distinguished career in British television.



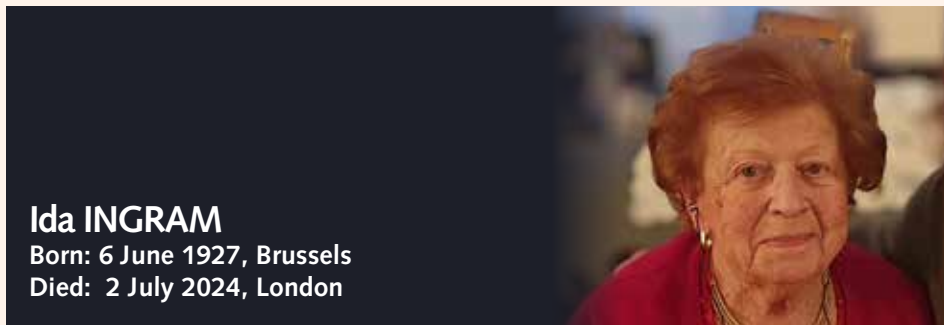
Fox devised and edited *Sportsview* and founded *The BBC Sports Personality of the Year*. In 1961, he became editor of the current affairs flagship, *Panorama*. He was steadily promoted during the next few years, rising from head of public affairs in 1963, and of current affairs in 1965 to controller of BBC One 1967-73, during its golden age. He oversaw *Dad's Army*, *Parkinson*, *The Generation Game* and *The Two Ronnies*.

When Fox failed to get the job of director of BBC Television in 1973, he joined Yorkshire Television, rising to become managing director (1977-88). He thought the BBC would never appoint a Jew as Director-General, a view later shared by Jeremy Isaacs. "There are only three jobs worth having in the BBC: Editor of *Panorama*, Controller of BBC One and Director-General. I have had the first two and I would never have got the third," he said, not long after joining Yorkshire.

Fox became a senior statesman in British TV: chairman of ITN (1986-88), a director of Channel 4 (1985-88) and president of the Royal Television Society (1985-92). In 1988 he returned to the BBC, replacing Bill Cotton as Managing Director of BBC Television. Honours poured in. He was appointed CBE in 1985 and knighted in 1991.

In 1948 he married Betty Nathan. She died in 2009. He is survived by their two sons, Jeremy and Jonathan.

David Herman



Ida INGRAM

Born: 6 June 1927, Brussels

Died: 2 July 2024, London

My mother was born to Chana Anna Goclaw and Alter Fefer, both from Warsaw. Her father, a pharmacist, was leader of Brussels' Zionist movement and wrote for the Yiddish press; her mother was a milliner. Though hardworking, life was not always easy. When Ida was 4½ her little sister died, aged 3, of a post-operative infection.

In May 1940, with German troops on the Ardennes border, they moved to France. When the Nazis invaded Paris they tried Toulouse but found life difficult, so returned to Belgium. Things were relatively normal, despite German occupation, until 1942 when deportation orders were issued.

The Germans promised that if Jewish children went to a work camp their parents could stay in their homes. Ida's father instead sent Ida to hide with an employee in the countryside, while her parents and brother hid elsewhere. They later learnt that the Germans had ransacked their house the very next day.

A decision was then made for a friend to take Ida to Switzerland. On the journey they saw many Jews taken by Nazis. At a post office, while attempting to send a coded message to her parents, they were arrested by Swiss police and locked in a convent.

A family friend in Zurich took Ida in but treated her like a servant and made her attend church. Through ORT, the Jewish organisation for refugees, Ida then became a carer in a Jewish boys' orphanage while resuming her own education in Basel.

Her 17th birthday coincided with D-day. Ida returned to Brussels but was immediately arrested: many 5th column collaborators were still present.

She had remembered her parents' pre-war Brussels telephone number, and a miraculous phone call was made. Her parents had returned to their home after Belgium was liberated in September 1944, reuniting with her brother who had been hidden with a different family. Ida managed to join them, only to learn that all their extended family had perished.

After three years of malnourishment, she fell ill with hepatitis. As she was recovering, a handsome British RAF airman came to visit. He was distantly related via his uncle's wife in London. Maurice had a 3-day pass but somehow extended this to 10. He then invited her to London, where she stayed with her cousin in Hackney. Maurice came every evening from Hendon by public transport. They married in 1948. Janine was born in 1950 and I was born in 1957.

My mother became an integral part of my father's successful textiles business in the east end. They celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1998. In retirement my parents regularly travelled to Miami and adored opera, joining U3A in the UK and a group in Miami.

My father passed away in March 2004, just short of his 80th birthday and their 56th wedding anniversary.

Ida had a fulfilled and varied life; she had 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren from whom she took great joy. I spent many days with her and will miss our little jokes that still made her laugh.

She will be sadly missed as the 'little Belgian lady' by those that loved her dearly.

Andre Ingram

IN PERSON EVENTS

DATE	TIME	GROUP	CO-ORDINATOR
Thursday 5 September	2.00pm	Pinner	Karen Diamond
Monday 9 September	12.30pm	Bristol	Ros Hart
Tuesday 10 September	11.30am	Oxford	Karen Diamond
Monday 16 September	12 noon	Leeds	Michal Mocton
Wednesday 18 September	11.30am	Manchester (Lunch with Andy Burnham - see advert on p.17)	Michal Mocton
Thursday 19 September	10.30am	Wanstead	Karen Diamond
Thursday 19 September	10.30am	Ealing	Ros Hart
Tuesday 24 September	12.30pm	Glasgow (Speaker: Lesley Urbach)	Agnes Isaacs
Wednesday 25 September	12.30pm	Brighton	Ros Hart
Wednesday 25 September	12.30pm	Edinburgh	Agnes Isaacs
Monday 30 September	11.00am	Ramblers Club	Karen Diamond/Ros Hart

CO-ORDINATOR DETAILS

Susan Harrod
Events and Outreach Manager
susan@ajr.org.uk
 020 8385 3078

Agnes Isaacs
Scotland and Newcastle Co-Ordinator
agnes@ajr.org.uk
 Tel: 07908 156 361

Ros Hart
London and South East England Co-Ordinator
roshart@ajr.org.uk
 Tel: 07966 969 951

Karen Diamond
London and South East England Co-Ordinator
karendiamond@ajr.org.uk
 07966 631 778

Michal Mocton
Northern England Co-Ordinator
michalmocton@ajr.org.uk
 07966 886 535

ZOOMS AHEAD

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

Tuesday 3 September @ 4pm	Lynne Bradley – The rise and rise of Barbra Streisand https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85304410249	Meeting ID: 853 044 10249
Monday 9 September @ 4pm	From Synagogue to Stadium: The Jewish Roots of Soccer Anthems https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85239412415	Meeting ID: 852 3941 2415
Wednesday 11 September @ 4pm	Irene Kyffin - The Harlem Renaissance, the revival of African-American culture https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85105262350	Meeting ID: 851 0526 2350
Wednesday 18 September @ 2pm	Book Discussion (no speaker) – Politics on the edge by Rory Stewart https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/84434909910	Meeting ID: 8443 490 9910
Monday 23 September @ 4pm	Kindertransport film: <i>The Little Suitcase – The Story of Ursula Judith Rhodes</i> https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/89446319665	Meeting ID: 894 4631 9665
Monday 30 September @ 4pm	Nancy Stevens – Japanese Gardens: A thing of beauty is a joy forever https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88051340619	Meeting ID: 880 5134 0619

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 Mon @ 10.30am	Get Fit where you Sit (seated exercise)	https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/85246889439	Meeting ID: 8524 688 9439
Every Tues @ 11.00am	Shelley's Exercise class	https://ajr-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88466945622	Meeting ID: 884 6694 5622

ANCESTRY RESEARCH

Dr Corinne Meiss is a professional biographer based in Germany who has helped several British families

and individuals with ancestry research and would be delighted to assist any AJR members.

www.woerteragentur.com or info@woerteragentur.com

SCAN
HERE TO
CONNECT
WITH US



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

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

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

[jewishrefugeesajr](https://www.facebook.com/jewishrefugeesajr) [TheAjr_](https://twitter.com/TheAjr_) Telephone 020 8385 3070 www.ajr.org.uk

For general enquiries please contact: enquiries@ajr.org.uk

For press enquiries please contact: emma@ajr.org.uk

For AJR Journal enquiries please contact: editorial@ajr.org.uk

• Designed and Printed by **FBprinters** | Tel: 020 8458 3220 | Email: info@fbprinters.com •

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