

AJR journal

Association of Jewish Refugees

Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, host reception for Kindertransport members

Ronald Channing

Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, honoured 100 Kindertransportees with a reception in Clarence House as part of the country's commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Kindertransport members of the Association of Jewish Refugees, chosen by ballot, came from all parts of the country to enjoy the Prince and the Duchess's informal hospitality and to recount their experiences in reaching safety in Britain. The invitation was received through the good offices of World Jewish Relief, with whose project in Cracow Prince Charles is personally associated. Under its former name, Central British Fund, World Jewish

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Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, receiving an inscribed copy of *I Came Alone*, a collection of Kindertransport memoirs, from Hermann Hirschberger, Chairman of the AJR's KT Group

AJR in 1950s keen to preserve memory of British officials such as Frank Foley

The June edition of the AJR Journal contained a report by Ruth Rothenberg on the recent unveiling of a memorial to the British agent Frank Foley in his hometown of Highbridge in Somerset. The following extract from Anthony Grenville's forthcoming history of the Jewish refugees from Central Europe in Britain, 'Aliens' and After: A Social History of the Jewish Refugees from the German-speaking Countries in Britain, 1945-1970, shows that the AJR was concerned as far back as the 1950s with preserving the memory of Frank Foley and like-minded British officials. Dr Grenville's book is based largely on intensive research in AJR Information, generously supported by the AJR.

AJR Information strove to preserve the memory of British officials who had helped Jews to survive the Third Reich, notably Frank Foley, Passport Control Officer (and spy) at the Consulate in Berlin, who otherwise remained largely forgotten in Britain until Michael Smith published his best-selling biography in 1999. In July 1958, the journal reported the death two months previously of Major Francis Edward Foley, who had been 'extremely helpful to the persecuted Jews', in recognition of which his name had been inscribed in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.

The following June, the journal publicised the appeal by a group of German Jewish friends of Foley in Israel

for funds to plant a memorial forest in honour of his memory. Donations were to be sent to an account in Tel Aviv in the name of Hubert Pollack, a Jew from Germany who had been one of Foley's agents in the rescue of Jews. The consecration of the forest, at which the memorial stone was unveiled by Siegfried Moses, State Comptroller of Israel and a leading figure among the Jews from Germany there, was reported the following month. Clearly eager to associate itself actively with this memorial to a government official who had at the same time been a benefactor of the refugees, the AJR announced that contributions could now be sent direct to its offices, whence they would be transferred en bloc to Tel Aviv.

Relief had been largely responsible for initiating the rescue of 10,000 mainly Jewish children on the Kindertransport in 1938-39.

Nigel Layton and Linda Rosenblatt, representing World Jewish Relief, and Bertha Leverton MBE and Hermann Hirschberger, representing the Kindertransportees, were presented to their Royal Highnesses. Prince Charles congratulated Bertha on her recent award and Hermann presented the Royal couple with an inscribed copy of *I Came Alone*, the book of Kinder memoirs.

'Kinder' described to the Prince their places of origin and arrival in Britain, many expressing gratitude to Britain for having saved their lives. The Duchess spoke particularly with the lady guests, seeking details of their individual stories, and was much interested in items of memorabilia.

Nigel Layton, World Jewish Relief's Chairman, wished the Royal couple 'Mazel Tov' on their recent marriage. He stressed the importance of educating the next generation on the significance of the Kindertransport and 'the tremendous sacrifice' of devoted parents. Hermann Hirschberger, Chairman of the AJR's KT Group, said that in the six decades since their arrival many had made conspicuous contributions in commerce, industry, medicine, science, politics and the arts: 'We recall with deep gratitude to the UK

the unique and historic act of the Kindertransport which saved our lives', he said. Leading Israeli sculptor and Kind Frank Meisler presented the Prince and Duchess with one of his own works.

In his response, Prince Charles expressed his pride in Britain for having given refuge to the children of the Kindertransport and to many others in need, and spoke of a debt of gratitude for the services the Kinder had given the country in return. It was necessary to learn lessons from the past, to share a moral and cultural heritage and to be constantly on one's guard to prevent history repeating itself. 'When my wife and I think about being separated from our children', he said, 'it is too much to bear. We are incredibly honoured to salute you and we remember you and your loved ones who did not survive.'

AJR's Chairman, Andrew Kaufman, who had acquainted the Prince with the Association's history and current responsibilities, admired the Prince's genuine sympathy and moving speech. 'I have the overwhelming feeling', he said, 'that the Kinder would not have dreamt that they would one day be presented to the future King of England.' Bertha Leverton declared that 'Both the Prince and the Duchess showed warmth and compassion for the fate the Kinder endured.'

AJR TEA

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2005,
3.00 PM

at

THE HILTON HOTEL WATFORD

A booking form is inserted into this issue of the Journal. On the back of the ticket application form there is a form for brochure space. If you would like to support the AJR even further, kindly complete the brochure form and return it to us.

We look forward to seeing you at the AJR Tea.

Should you require further details, please telephone us on
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Arts and Events Diary AUGUST

25-30 July 'Memory - The Forgotten Jews of Shanghai'. Arndean Gallery, 23 Cork Street, London W1. For further information, telephone 07717 231597 or visit www.arndean-gallery.com/exhibition.html

28 June to 8 August 'The Art of Eva Hirschberger' at the Etz Chaim Gallery, Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue, Oaklands Gate, Northwood. Tel 01923 822592

Until 21 August 'Closing the Door? Immigrants to Britain 1905-2005' Special exhibition marking the centenary of the 1905 Aliens Act. Jewish Museum, Camden Town tel 020 7284 1997

Until 2 October 'The Last Goodbye: The Rescue of Children from Nazi Europe' Exhibition on the Kindertransport. Jewish Museum, Finchley tel 020 8349 1143

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PHOTO: THE JEWISH NEWS

Ken Saunders, 84, was among AJR members who shared their wartime stories when a BBC team visited the Day Centre to gather material for its WW2 People's War archive. Born in Vienna, Ken was a British Army sergeant during the war. WW2 People's War is at bbc.co.uk/ww2

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR (PART-TIME) FOR AJR GROUPS

The AJR is looking for an energetic co-ordinator with excellent interpersonal skills to develop our existing nationwide network of regional groups.

The successful applicant will be responsible for managing existing gatherings of AJR members in the Midlands and on the south coast as well as developing new groups in the West Country and Wales. He or she will hold a full UK driving licence.

If you are interested (or know of someone who would be), please contact Carol Rossen at Head Office on carol@ajr.org.uk

The joys of travel

Martha Blend

Time was when you planned your trip, loaded up your car with luggage and the kids, and set off on a journey that might take days to complete. I remember having a yen to see the South of France, an almost unimaginable distance away as it seemed then. So we plotted our route on the map. Not along the Rhône-Saône valley in the east - that was bound to be congested with traffic and we always had to take our holidays at the height of the tourist season to fit in with my teaching commitments. No, we would go down the west side.

On that first day we drove to the port, stowed our car in the bowels of the ship, and faced a rough crossing, which resulted in my being sick in a lady's handbag. Then, driving on the wrong side of the road from the Pas de Calais, already weary, we stopped for the night at Pontoise, north of Paris.

Next day, as we unsteadily pushed southwards, we realised our mistake. We hadn't studied a relief map so what seemed a straightforward road turned out to include the Massif Central, a mountainous area stretching for miles.

There was relief when we reached the small towns and villages of the South. Here were shuttered houses with rusty drainpipes innocent of repair and everywhere men in blue berets solemnly playing pétanques in the dusty squares in the cool of the evening, delicious French bread, and an absence of plumbing. We had arrived. Now you can reach Agde, our final destination, in a few hours by plane and I hear that the once-stately resort has gone nudist.

We're all air travellers now. I had a taste of it recently. After much showing of passports, security checks, luggage check-ins and boarding card checks, you arrive in the departure lounge, making sure you hump your luggage with you when going to the loo in case it gets

seized as a suspicious object. That bottle of whisky, which seemed such a good idea for a present, is dragging you down. It can't be long before take-off now. Or *can* it?

No, it's alright. You're propelled into a tube loud with the sound of roaring engines, at the end of which a smiling face welcomes you. You've asked for an aisle seat, but the distance between the fixed arm on the outside of your seat and the seat in front is just a few inches. It takes a skilful sideways contortion to get you out. This creates problems when your fellow passengers decide they must visit the restroom, as the American crew charmingly call it, or have a rendezvous with a friend in another part of the plane.

A spate of turbulence puts a stop to these activities. The demonstration of blow-up equipment for landing on the ocean isn't entirely reassuring - there's an awful lot of water down there. As a consolation, on the seat in front of you is a tiny glass panel - a TV screen in disguise. On offer is a feature film, a kiddie programme or Discovery. I opt for the last. It's a programme about apes - their pecking order and mating patterns. Interesting.

Now, plastic food is dispensed on plastic plates to be eaten with plastic cutlery. A half-thawed roll, tired lettuce, an undercooked chicken. Still, we arrive safely only an hour late. The next leg of my journey is to Tampa, Florida, where thankfully I am met. As my cousin's large car sweeps along the freeway, there are no dusty villages but monster high-rise apartments dotted about at random. We swing into a gatehouse manned by a security guard, drive into an underground car park, a key is inserted into a panel at the side of a lift. And, in no time at all, we're on the 15th floor. Ah, the joys of travel.

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'Inspired' year for Kindertransport members, Chairman tells Annual General Meeting

The following are highlights from Andrew Kaufman's report to the Association's AGM at the Paul Balint Day Centre on Sunday 19 June:

I would like today to focus my comments on people. We are, after all, a members' organisation and still, to some extent, a self-aid organisation. It saddens me that we have lost so many members recently - 146 in 2004 alone. Although it is invidious to single out any individual, I am sure you will agree that it is fitting on such an occasion to acknowledge the hugely influential role of our late editor, Richard Grunberger. He was an intellectual giant who spread the reputation of the AJR far and wide. We will never be able to replace him at the Journal. We are actively looking for a new editor and would rather take our time before announcing a successor in order to make sure we have made the correct choice. I would like to pay tribute here to Howard Spier, who is editing and producing the Journal. Without Howard we would have no Journal today.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our members who have passed away. They have been hugely generous with legacies to the AJR Charitable Trust - without the legacies we simply could not provide the services we offer. This year we will be spending over £1 million more than our income, and the only way we can make up this deficit is through legacies and donations. It is a myth that the AJR does not need further monies. We intend to continue as a welfare organisation as long as the first generation needs our help - we believe it will be for at least another 15 years - but in order to be able to provide all our life-enhancing services, we rely on receiving these much-needed legacies. Last year we also received £443,000 from the Claims Conference, for which we are very grateful.

There have been many changes over the past year or so. At the Day Centre, our beloved Sylvia Matus has retired - her own decision, although we would have loved her to go on and on. She

was feted on her retirement with a moving party at the Day Centre. My wife Susie is now responsible for dispensing the Tender Loving Care. Gerry Ingram, our driver, has also retired - another great loss to the organisation.

The social workers too suffered a grievous loss when Wendi Wilson passed away after bravely fighting illness for many months. She served the AJR for over 20 years and helped so many of our members. Marcia Goodman and her team work so professionally with our members, who are becoming ever frailer but still wish to live in their own homes. Many of the problems they encounter are horrendous. We should acknowledge the enormous debt we owe to them - and to our Day Centre team - who in very stressful circumstances help to ease the lives of our members.

We must not forget the rest of our team in Stanmore who provide the much-needed support for all our services. In particular, I would like to thank our Directors, Carol Rossen and Gordon Greenfield, who make my life so much easier.

We have created a new post of Head of Media and Public Relations, which is being expertly filled by Michael Newman, who still devotes part of his time to the Claims Office. It is vital that the work of the AJR be publicised throughout the country as - with the help of our 36 regional groups - we are amazingly still finding refugees all over the UK. Michael has brought youth, vitality and imagination to his new job and is a breath of fresh air for us.

I have so many other people to thank, in particular our volunteers - our unsung heroes. Like every similar organisation, we have great difficulty in recruiting new volunteers. My thanks go to Carol Hart, who has a great knack of persuading friends, acquaintances and strangers to help the AJR.

The Kinder, under the leadership of Hermann Hirschberger, have had an inspired year. The Barmitzvah service at Stanmore was very moving, but an equal highlight (though actually in



The highs and lows: guest speaker Ned Temko, with AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman looking on, recalls the 15 years he spent at the JC

2005) was Holocaust Memorial Day. Not just the ceremony at Westminster Abbey, but the opportunity afforded to so many of our members to meet the Queen and Prince Philip at St. James's Palace. Who would have believed this could happen to our people when you think back to the dark days of the war?

Finally, my thanks to my committee for their support over the past year. I am fortunate to have such an outstanding committee.

Former JC editor looks back over his 15 years at the helm

AGM guest speaker Ned Temko, now Chief Political Correspondent of the *Observer*, looked back wryly on his 15 years as editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*. Having previously worked, among many other things, as a war correspondent in Lebanon, he had hoped that the editorship of the *JC* would be a rest cure. No chance of that! One of the biggest challenges he had faced was the threat of law suits by disgruntled readers - often over the most trivial matters.

With regard to UK Jewry, Ned Temko said it was organisationally and individually strong - but lacking in self-confidence; elements of it were 'intellectually narrow'. Nevertheless, as long as the community's characteristically Jewish 'genius for argument' remained, he said, its future was assured.

Howard Spier

Berlin Jewish orphanage for boys: second reunion

Leslie Baruch Brent

The building of the Jewish orphanage in Pankow, Berlin survived the war and the postwar period though it is no longer used as an orphanage. It was totally renovated in the late 1990s thanks to the Walter and Margarete Cajewitz Stiftung, a trust whose primary function is to provide comfortable accommodation for elderly people and chose to turn the orphanage building into a community centre for Pankow. This now comprises a public library on three floors and a centre for the rehabilitation of drug addicts on another. On the second floor is the Betsaal - the former synagogue, the ornate ceiling of which has been lovingly restored to something of its former glory. This large room is now used by the local community and by the committee 'of the association of supporters and friends of the former Jewish orphanage' for public concerts, talks and discussions. (I had my Barmitzva in it two months before my departure from Berlin in the first of the Kindertransports.)

The renovation was orchestrated and supervised with the utmost care by Professor P-A. Albrecht, Trustee of the Stiftung, and it is partly thanks to his continuing interest and generosity that this kind of reunion has become possible. The committee, led by Dr H. Simon of the Centrum Judaicum, Dr Inge Lammel, writer and local historian of the orphanage and the local Jewish community, Eva Bentzien, welfare officer of the Stiftung, and Karin Manns, teacher at the nearby Rosa-Luxemburg Gymnasium, worked indefatigably to make the four-day reunion a resounding success.

The 2001 reunion saw 15 men who had been Zöglinge (pupils) at one time or another before - and, in a few cases, even after - the outbreak of the Second World War. This time we were reduced to seven, though some of us were accompanied by our wives. Represented were the UK (3), the USA (1), Argentina (1) and Berlin (2). This smaller reunion, no doubt determined by the fact that we were becoming older and more decrepit, lent itself to a more informal programme and to greater intimacy, though absent friends were greatly missed.

The Jewish Museum

The programme was an attractive mix of the enjoyable, nostalgic and poignant. Among the latter was a visit to the Jewish Museum, which I had previously seen when it was still empty. It continues to be a hugely impressive and moving building, the welter of historical exhibits, artefacts, memorabilia, videos, and interactive computer terminals detracting only slightly from its symbolic significance. The Garden of Exile, with its leaning columns, tilting gangways and foliage now forming a canopy, is as disorienting and discomforting as ever, and the largest of the 'voids', the Holocaust Tower (the only void one can enter), still utterly daunting and alienating. Three hours seemed inadequate to do justice to the exhibition (which now includes a section on some non-religious Jews such as Karl Marx), which seemed overcrowded but nonetheless gave a fascinating account of the history of German and European Jews over the last 2,000 years.

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe



Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, designed by Peter Eisenman

The visit to the recently opened Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe was very poignant. Its 2,700 slabs of slate-coloured stone, arranged in straight intersecting rows, cover an area the size of two football pitches, right in the heart of Berlin, close to the Brandenburger Tor and the Reichstag. The narrow walkways between the stones, which vary considerably in height, often undulate and tilt disturbingly. The memorial had a long and stormy gestation and it has been much criticised because of its size, the absence of any

plaques, its vulnerability to abuse, and the exclusion of other minorities who suffered. The fact that among the hundreds of visitors that Sunday afternoon there were some who sat on the low stones near the circumference eating ice cream did not disturb me at all. The atmosphere was contemplative and respectful and there were no graffiti.

Holocaust Information Centre

The extensive Underground Holocaust Information Centre was brilliantly devised and the exhibits movingly displayed, with stark historical facts and photographs followed by family histories from a variety of countries, eye witness accounts by survivors and non-survivors and interactive exhibits such as the computer terminals to the archives kept at Yad Vashem, permitting visitors to look up biographical details of relatives who died in the Holocaust.

Art in Auschwitz exhibition

An exhibition of Art in Auschwitz opened on the last day of our reunion in the Centrum Judaicum and we were given the opportunity to view it. This was the first major exhibition based on Auschwitz, organised in collaboration with the Museum authorities there. On the face of it, the idea that art could flourish in the camp seems incredible and bizarre, but the high quality of many of the deeply moving paintings and drawings of life in the camp, the numerous portraits of inmates as well as of some SS officers and their families (and even dogs) and some escapist and romantic landscapes was a reminder of the wealth of talent that was destroyed there.

Get-togethers and concerts

On the lighter side, we had several get-togethers, always with wonderful food, allowing us to reminisce, listen to readings from the autobiography of one man who described the harsh life in the orphanage early in the twentieth century, and watch a video of a film made at the first reunion which focused on the lives of five former orphanage pupils, including myself. We also listened to a delightfully light-hearted

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor reserves the right
to shorten correspondence
submitted for publication

JEWISH SOLDIERS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Sir - There seems to be considerable interest in your columns concerning German Jewish soldiers in the First World War. May I suggest that those who have knowledge of any Jewish soldiers killed in action should find out whether any plaques commemorating them were destroyed during the Nazi era. There were also small towns and villages where the names of German Jewish soldiers were erased from monuments.

The responsibility for making good this disgraceful vandalism is that of the local authority - not the state. I hope in September to have a memorial plaque erected to six local Jewish soldiers killed in action, replacing one destroyed on Kristallnacht in my home town of Wesel a. Rh.

It is never too late to right a wrong. We are concerned with patriotic, heroic Jewish soldiers who died 'Mit Gott für König und Vaterland' inscribed on their helmets. What happened later is another story.

*Ernest G Kolman
Greenford Middx*

Sir - With regard to Jewish serving soldiers in Germany and Austria, such service was commonplace. Before 1914 military service was compulsory for all German citizens - Catholics, Protestants, Jews alike - for up to two years followed by 'Reserve', with the exception of students in higher education whose military service was restricted to one year. Compulsory military training was abolished after 1918 and was forbidden under the Versailles treaty.

Jewish soldiers served faithfully in the German forces and an unpublished census carried out during the 1914-18 war shows that pro rata

they served in greater numbers than anyone else.

The question of exclusion from the officer corps of certain regiments undoubtedly existed, but Jewish members of regiments in the Prussian army, for instance, were promoted to officer rank or made a career of it, as was also the case in certain Austrian regiments and elsewhere in the empire. Regiments in Bavaria discriminated more on a social basis. For instance, my father, a long established lawyer and notary public, was called up in 1914 as an unmarried reservist in his early forties and he served throughout the war on the eastern front in his pre-war rank of *Offiziersstellvertreter* - equivalent to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major or Chief Warrant Officer - even if on some occasions, when there was a shortage of officers, he was put in charge of the entire outfit. He survived with his Iron Cross and, after Hitler's accession, was issued with the *Frontkämpfer* medal on Hitler's orders in 1934, though none of this prevented the vandalism of his home on Kristallnacht, the loss of his livelihood, and his imprisonment in Buchenwald.

*K G Speyer
New Barnet, Herts*

GERMAN REFUGEES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Sir - I am surprised that among the various items published on the activities of German refugees during the war, no mention has been made of the small number of us who were employed by the Foreign Office to assist in the propaganda war against the Germans. Although, technically, we were enemy aliens, we were recruited to do the work English

people were unable to do because their German was not good enough (no change there!).

For myself, I at first had to put German war communiqués on stencils. They were usually incomplete with whole sentences missing so that only a native speaker would be able to make sense of them. Later, I became editorial secretary of a German-language paper designed to teach German prisoners of war the merits of democracy, though I don't know how successful we were in this respect. It was fascinating work and it certainly gave me the feeling of contributing to the war effort. Even the bomb that fell one lunch time on our building and destroyed most of the paper work we had done that morning didn't dampen our enthusiasm to help in the destruction of Nazi Germany.

*Marion Smith
London NW9*

CRISIS OF IDENTITY

Sir - As a Kindertransport child, I have always considered myself first generation - only to be told recently, by a Holocaust Centre board member, that I am second generation. Where do I stand in this crisis of identity?

Incidentally, an interesting programme was broadcast recently on BBC4: 'The Children of Guernica'. They were the first Kindertransport of 4,000 children taken in by Britain in 1937. The images on the television were reminiscent of train stations in Berlin, Vienna and Prague in 1938-39.

*Marion Goldwater
London W5*

BERLIN MEMORIAL

Sir - I was dismayed to learn by chance that the new Berlin memorial was unveiled without any notification or invitation. On enquiring, I learned that the event was for dignitaries only and that no ticket was available to survivors. Not only were individual Berlin survivors not circulated with information about the memorial, the organisations representing survivors were also not informed or invited.

The first proposed memorial to contain all the names of our relatives

from Berlin who perished in the Holocaust was turned down because it would have been too large! Now this further insult. What is this memorial about? For many of us, this is the only memorial to our lost families.

There is a suggestion that we could request a special event for survivors, but somehow I feel that it is too little too late and that the moment has passed. I would be interested to know what others feel about this.

Joanna Millan
London NW8

CREDIT TO THOMAS FRAME

Sir - I read with interest the letter from Leo Klag in Montreal, who gave credit to Sir Thomas Frame for saving his life. I am happy to say that I am one of the fortunate ones who also owe their life to Mr Thomas Frame, as he was then. His position as trade secretary at the British embassy in Berlin enabled him to help many people of Jewish origin to obtain a permit to enter Britain. In my case, he did this through Lt-Col Stanley Holmes, who was the secretary of the Industrial Development Board in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

These boards were responsible for setting up new industries in areas of high unemployment in Britain. Lt-Col Holmes travelled to Berlin in late 1938 to inspect the factory where I worked as a designer and production engineer to establish whether I was eligible to obtain a permit under his scheme. Tragically, my permit arrived in January 1939 when my mother lay on her deathbed.

Mr Frame was also of assistance to me when I was interned in Canada in 1940. He wrote to the Home Office in an effort to obtain my release. On my return, I enlisted in the Pioneer Corps. Eventually I settled in South Wales and after the war they both agreed to become directors of the engineering company which we established (Fairfax Engineering Ltd). I owe my life to both of them.

Carl Werner Zikel
London N2

COUNTRY OF THE MIND

Sir - I was greatly heartened by Peter Prager's article 'My Country' (June issue). When I fled from Austria in December 1938, Israel was also *my* country of the mind. 'Then came the settlements', as Peter Prager writes. I believe that they have been and still are the main obstacle to any lasting peace in the area. I feel now that only an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and the evacuation of all settlements can bring about a meaningful peace.

Inge Trott
Surrey

Sir - Peter Prager should thank his lucky stars that when in Hebron he got away with just hateful looks from Palestinians. Had he been there on the night of 23 August 1929 they would have cut his throat with gay abandon. That's what they did to 67 Jews. The rest were 'relocated'. For the first time in hundreds of years Hebron was made *judenrein* and remained so until the miracle of 1967.

Frank Bright
Ipswich

MARRIED REVIEW OF PROFESSOR BERNHARDI

Sir - Your sympathetic review of the London production of Schnitzler's *Professor Bernhardt* (June issue) is slightly marred by two mistranslations. The words 'regimental doctor' sound descriptive but are, in fact, the translation of a very precise rank (or professional title). 'Regimentsarzt' is the title of an army doctor of the rank of captain. A good translation into English might be surgeon-captain. Your reviewer may not be aware of the identification, before 1914 at any rate, of the image of army doctor with Jewish doctor.

Also, the highly unsympathetic Flint was *not* Minister of Education and Culture. His job was Minister für *Kultur* und Unterricht. In other words, he was responsible for religious affairs - a not insignificant job in a country where the sovereign appointed both the Catholic bishops and the administrative head of at least one of the Protestant churches.

Francis Steiner
Deddington, Oxon

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ART NOTES

Gloria Tessler

For a Russian artist born into an Orthodox Jewish family in the late nineteenth century, the religious and political freedom of early twentieth-century Paris represented both 'lumière' and 'liberté'. That is how the 23-year-old **Marc Chagall** saw it when he emigrated there. Although the imagery of his work had been forged in his native Vitebsk, it was in Paris that he developed contacts with other Jewish artists and writers like Apollinaire, Fernand Léger, Modigliani, Abraham Mintchine and Bela Kadar, and where the 'light of Paris' nourished an unprecedented flowering of Jewish art. For the artistic luminaries who were the forum for a virtual Jewish school of Paris, Yiddish and Russian rather than French were the lingua franca, and the Beehive or La Ruche in Montparnasse was the central point, where Chagall quipped 'One either died or came out famous.'

For artists like Chagall, this creative freedom meant they were citizens of the world. And yet the question was: did the work of these Jewish artists actually represent a Jewish expressionist style? Or was it mere nostalgia? The work of Chagall, Moise Kisling, Mintchine, Kadar, Mane-Katz Soutine, Jules Pascin and others, on loan from private collections and currently showing at the **Ben Uri** exhibition **Chagall and His Circle**, cannot really answer this question since the artists themselves are so varied. The sculptor and painter Archipenko, for instance, is a protagonist of Parisian Cubism, while Soutine blends Jewish anxiety with Fauvism and Cubism. Like Chagall, Mane-Katz absorbed Jewish mysticism from his Ukrainian Jewish heritage but, in contrast, Mintchine's *Montmartre, Paris* contains a dark thread suggesting hidden turbulence.



Marc Chagall, *Lovers & Flowers*, oil on panel, 82 x 72 cm, signed, 1925, Private Collection

Bela Kadar's stylised *The Musicians* is a duet of form and colour and Soutine's *Deux Enfants* carries a darker message since the two children in blue wear old men's faces. This contrasts with Jules Pascine's *Deux Femmes*, a drawing in which two women are intertwined. Kisling's *Paysage de Gloucester* is flatter and less romantic than anything seen here by Chagall, whose rapt and child-like vision is, as always, entirely captivating and completely different from that of these contemporaries. His *Lovers and Flowers* is more like a burst of shrubbery than a floral arrangement, in which human faces can be glimpsed and beneath which the obligatory lovers appear as more hint than reality. Some read an 'assimilationist impulse' into this painting, but beyond even that Chagall is seeking a genuine synthesis of form, spirit and imagination, which makes him a more interesting painter than he appears at face value. His surrealism is well served by his love of the Bible and Jewish mysticism. Chagall's pen and Indian ink drawing of *Rabbi Akiva* shows the sage and martyr wrapped in his *tallit*, from which it is said that the words of the Torah flew up to heaven at the point of his death. Though celebrated for his *Jerusalem Windows* at the Hadassah Hospital, it is really the work of Chagall's two Bible series which I find the most compelling. They are on sale in the gallery below.

REVIEWS

Memoir of a subversive broadcaster

NO FIXED ABODE: A JEWISH ODYSSEY TO AFRICA

Peter Fraenkel

I B Tauris, hardback, 249 pp., £24.50

Here, you may groan, is yet another of the many autobiographies written in recent years by ageing Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. You would be right and you would be wrong. It is indeed such a book, but Peter Fraenkel's history is unusual in that he and his family emigrated in 1939 from Breslau to Northern Rhodesia, where he forged a successful career, first as a journalist and later as an Assistant Broadcasting Officer in the Central African Broadcasting Service. Fraenkel was thus given the opportunity of using his undoubted skills as a broadcaster to help in the education of black people, using new methods of mass education. These memoirs end in 1957, the year in which he left Africa to make a home in Britain. This is regrettable - perhaps another volume is in the pipeline? - for his life at Reuters and later as Controller of European Services at the BBC should make for very interesting reading.

This book is exclusively concerned with the history of his family in Germany and his childhood years there, followed by a lively account of life in Northern Rhodesia (later Zambia). Anyone keen on dates will have to work hard to uncover them. For example, even the year of his birth - 1926 - has to be deduced from his age at the time of Kristallnacht. It would seem that his sojourn in Northern Rhodesia came to an end in 1957, a few years after the country was refashioned by the British government as the Federation of

Rhodesia and Nyasaland - a big mistake, Fraenkel thinks, and one that wasn't undone until much later when the independent state of Zambia was created. His love affair with Africa came to an end, and he felt impelled to leave, because of his 'dislike of racist politics in this bastion of white privilege'. The violence that became commonplace was officially blamed on the district commissioners and on broadcasts by the Central African Broadcasting Service for 'giving the natives ideas' - which didn't exactly let him off the hook. And so Fraenkel decided that the time had come for him to leave a country in which he had sunk deep roots. It had proved to be 'no fixed abode'.

Early chapters deal with his family. His father, having studied law, became a civil servant, a somewhat unusual profession for a Jew, and, like many other German Jews, he had served the Kaiser in the First World War. (He was, in fact, retrospectively decorated with the Iron Cross for heroism under enemy fire.) The family were not particularly religious, but 'remaining Jewish was a matter of honour'. They were comfortably off: emigration, when it finally came, was with 12 large wooden cases and travel to South Africa was by first class. Kristallnacht provided the impetus, and Fraenkel describes touchingly 'how we became Jews' as the result of Nazi persecution. It was only then that his father accepted his wife's pleadings to emigrate, and they were given the choice between Swaziland and Northern Rhodesia, having received visas for both. Northern Rhodesia won because it was deemed to be a wealthier country.

Peter Fraenkel's account of the 20 years in Northern Rhodesia is absorbing. Once in Lusaka, his father and a friend opened Rhodesian Dry Cleaners, which proved to be a successful venture. Fraenkel was sent to Lusaka Boys' school - all white, of course - which, despite its name,

took in a minority of girls. For him it was a tough initiation as one of the first of the new immigrant children, with a poor knowledge of English. 'Joed? Not another bleedy Yid', his classmates exclaimed. The young Fraenkel soon became aware of the degrading way black people were treated in the community and it made him want to work for their betterment.

Being sent to boarding school in Bulawayo proved, unexpectedly, to be a great success. Although not a sportsman, Fraenkel diplomatically went in for rugby and middle-distance running and, although conspicuously unsuccessful, proved that he 'had guts'. Outside school, thanks to a friendship with two girls, he developed an interest in left-wing politics. Having been rejected for a scholarship (even before sitting the examination), he was offered an interest-free loan by the government which, supplemented by a grant by some local Jews, enabled him to study English and history at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. There he became involved with the anti-apartheid movement. On graduating, he returned to Northern Rhodesia, but not before he was selected to join a team of debaters to tour some English universities. In Oxford it fell to him (he drew the short straw) to defend apartheid policies, a debate in which Jeremy Thorpe and Robin Day took part on the other side: 'I did my best. My side lost, but by a far narrower margin than anticipated.' The subsequent approach by a South African public relations officer, offering him employment, was dismissed.

After working for some time as an accounts clerk in the office of the registrar of co-operative societies, Fraenkel found a job at the Lusaka broadcasting station, and there are riveting chapters on his activities as a somewhat subversive broadcaster, working together with like-minded whites and Blacks. Their

programmes, making use of Bemba proverbs, soap opera and other ways of getting through to a largely illiterate audience, were designed to educate, and in this they were eventually successful. He was one of the reporters who accompanied Clement Attlee and his wife on a visit to a 'typical' African village. 'I suppose it will be a model village with handpicked government stooges', said an accompanying British journalist. 'You are not in the Soviet Union', was Fraenkel's reply. It turned out alright, with the chief entirely unscripted, and the account of this meeting is both amusing and instructive.

The book is written in a very lively manner and there are countless anecdotes, many of them in direct speech. I expect Fraenkel used a certain amount of poetic licence, but it makes the book very accessible. I recommend it strongly.

Leslie Baruch Brent

Poet on the Nazi era and much else

BLACK OVER RED

by Lotte Kramer

Rockingham Press, 2005, 64 pp., £7.95

Those who travel by Tube may well have come across Poems on the Underground. Among them is an arresting metaphor by Lotte Kramer, who compares the Kindertransports to England in the 1930s with the infant Moses in the bulrushes:

For all mothers in anguish
Pushing out their babies
In a small basket

To let the river cradle them
And kind hands find
And nurture them ...

There are other telling poems about the Nazi era and its aftermath in *Black over Red*, Lotte Kramer's latest collection. For instance, In 'At the Erich Kästner Museum, Dresden',

Kästner is described 'as a lone figure at the back/ Of the crowd, watching' the burning of his own books. In 'No Return', a former resident who revisits Vienna is met by 'that Austrian rustic look ... a sick/ Gemütlichkeit - and the forbidding face/ Of the post-war owner shutting the door on us'. Berlin offers a far happier picture, to the poet's worried surprise: 'Green and bright, even friendly'. In 'Mascots', she treasures 'a small silver pencil ... a present from my father', 'Good to hold between/ Arthritic fingers/Writing these words'.

Lotte Kramer's work ranges widely and there are also vivid descriptions of landscapes, poems about paintings, and some translations from the German, among them a lovely lyrical one the author describes as 'after Georg Trakl'. The particularly strong poem 'Tower' describes an eerie dungeon, where the author's eye is suddenly caught by a letter of rejection that somebody has left behind. She muses: 'It brings me back to today's world/And the pain of living in it.'

Kramer is good on loners. One recalls her marvellous, melancholy depiction of a piano teacher in an earlier volume. Here, there is a widower who loses interest in all his hobbies, lonely women in Swiss hotels facing empty rooms, and, touchingly, 'Library Men/ In deep conversation/With weeklies and dailies'.

Readers will find this book accessible, enjoyable and thought-provoking.

Gerda Mayer

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**CONTEMPORARY PAINTING
AND SCULPTURE**

Berlin Jewish orphanage for boys: second reunion, *continued from page 5*

choral concert, with soloist singers and instrumentalists, given by a choir from the Rosa-Luxemburg Gymnasium. The concert was, appropriately, performed in the Betsaal of the orphanage building and well attended by local people. Some of the older boys and girls had volunteered to help with some of the catering and did so with great charm.

Another agreeable concert of ancient Italian music took place in Pankow Town Hall, an ornate red-brick building that had survived the war, and a very pleasant evening was spent on a pleasure boat cruising through central Berlin on the River Spree, giving us a good idea of the adventurous design of many of the new buildings.

A vibrant city

Berlin has done a good deal to confront and acknowledge its murky past - there are numerous memorials and plaques commemorating different aspects of the Holocaust in all parts of the city, and the kind of event hosted on this occasion is a clear indication of the continuing wish to make amends and not to forget. I came away from Berlin, a city from which my family were sent to their deaths, without bitterness for the first time and I could see it for what it is now - a vibrant, diverse and interesting city.

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Letter from Israel

Having forsworn principles as the root of all human misery, while adhering only to one - to have none - I decided to accept the invitation to attend my nephew's engagement party deep in the heart of the Territories, in the fortified 'settlement' of Eilon Moreh.

Principles apart, the fear factor could also be a reason not to cross the so-called Green Line, which constitutes Israel's once-and-future border, but since I am no longer the mother of young children and am therefore biologically dispensable, I decided that my departure from this earth would be no great loss. Besides, terrorist attacks have declined considerably in recent months.

A bullet-proof bus had been laid on for the revellers by the family and, after some delays, we set off on our way. The long, light evenings that prevail at this time of year enabled us to enjoy the view as we passed.

The soft contours of the Judean Hills looked inviting and peaceful, with Arab villages and Jewish settlements dotted here and there, seeming to blend in with the scenery. The setting sun cast a rosy glow over everything, and no more idyllic or pastoral sight could be imagined.

We reached our destination without any untoward occurrences, and made our way to the synagogue hall, where the festive meal was to be served. The walls were plastered with posters glorifying the struggle to establish the initial settlements in the Territories some 38 years previously and praising the heroic efforts of all those who had followed in the footsteps of those early pioneers.

The meal was punctuated by speeches from the fathers of the bride and the groom with, as is customary in such circles, biblical quotations considered appropriate for the occasion. In this case, these were culled from passages regarding the settlement of the Land of Israel in ancient times. Thus was a family celebration turned into a political statement.

Dorothea Shefer-Vanson

A dull vibrating oppressiveness hovered over the scene and all those present. Fear drove away any feeling of hope. It was no longer a parting from loving, self-sacrificing parents; it was parting from love itself, from everything that had still seemed secure: the embrace of one's parental home. We had no inkling of what was to come. This leave-taking, this feeling of uncertainty, of insecurity, this fear of the unknown would never leave the emotional life of the majority of these children; they would reappear in all crisis situations in the future.

So wrote Hans Seelig some 60 years after boarding a Kindertransport train. The feeling of rejection, of being an outsider, has never totally deserted him to this day.

Nor has his sense of humour. 'Have you brought your mountaineering equipment with you?', Hans grinned as I pushed my way through the door of his house in a leafy quarter of Hemel Hempstead. I saw what he meant: the hallway, stairs, every room as far as I could see was stuffed solid with books and CDs - 3,000 of the latter. I didn't ask how many books were there. I'm not sure Hans would have known.

When I had squeezed my way into the clustered lounge, this amiable man with a professorial air, so well known to AJR members for his unfailingly courteous stewardship of Club '43, spoke to me of the conflicting emotions that had shaped his life since his enforced departure from Germany.

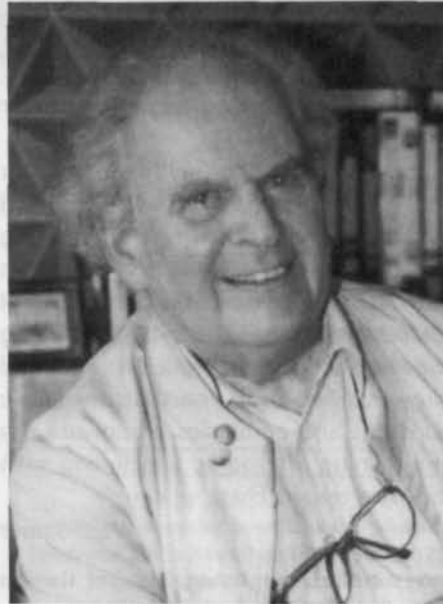
Hans was born precisely 75 years ago into a middle class family in Mannheim. It's not necessary to look far for his cultural pedigree. His father, self-taught, played the violin and was on friendly terms with musicians from Mannheim's prestigious opera house. While sharing this love of music, his mother was devoted to literature and wrote poetry. 'You attended your first concert at the age of minus 9 months!', she told Hans.

Hans 'took to music naturally', as he says. At the age of five he taught himself to read music. At the same time, he began to play the recorder. At the age of six, he began to play the piano and to compose. Later, he took up the flute, in which, he told me, he is most proficient. But Hans's interest in music, he felt

PROFILE

Howard Spier

Hans Seelig Overcoming rejection



instinctively, wasn't all-consuming: he just didn't have the passion needed to devote his life to it. And then there was a living to make.

For his mother, the Kindertransport train to Sweden didn't take Hans far away enough from Germany: she wanted 'more water' between her native land and their adopted country. England was ideal. He met up with his parents in Brighton. Hans wasn't happy at junior school, experiencing the familiar feeling of rejection.

The family moved to Oxford. Having inherited from his father not only an unusual musical ability but also a linguistic gift, he decided on a career in modern languages. He entered Worcester College - he remembers someone called Rupert Murdoch occupying the room above his - in order to study German and French.

Hans didn't neglect his music. He wrote a number of compositions which were performed at college and, immediately on taking his degree, he took an advanced course in harmony

and counterpoint at a Swiss conservatory.

In applying for jobs, Hans experienced rejection once again, sensing an ill-conceived prejudice towards his 'alien' background. Eventually he found a job teaching German together with some music at a grammar school in Manchester. He was happy there but after eight years, to be closer to his family, he took a job as head of German in a school in Hemel Hempstead, where he was to remain for seven years.

He continued his musical studies, having several of his compositions performed. But the old problem resurfaced time and again: self-doubt, panic before performances of his music - the fear of rejection he traced back to Germany.

Fifteen years was enough of teaching children. He obtained a job as head of German at the then Hendon College of Technology. Here he remained for 18 years before obtaining an advantageous early retirement package.

In the late 1970s Hans was asked to give a talk to a cultural association of former refugees from Germany: Club '43 (the title indicating the year in which the group was formed). Some time later, he gave a second talk and, in 1993, finding himself increasingly drawn into the association, he took over the chairmanship. Under Hans's steady hand, Club '43 is doing very nicely. The programme of weekly lectures continues to provide an astonishing array of subject matter. Hans estimates that around two in every three members are members of the AJR as well.

Besides his stewardship of Club '43, Hans is a long-time member of the Labour Party and an active anti-racist; he is Vice Chairman and Social Secretary of Bedfordshire Progressive Synagogue; and he has published quite a lot of poetry. Last but by no means least, he is a fine cook and a wine lover to boot. But the fear of rejection, it would seem, still lies dormant.

INSIDE the AJR

Group formed in Oxford

Meeting at the Oxford synagogue under the guidance of AJR Groups Co-ordinator Myrna Glass, it was proposed that a group which would meet on a regular basis be formed. This announcement is an appeal to those of you who live in the city and its environs to join us at our next meeting.

Edith Kozdon

Next meeting: Tues 16 Aug, to be confirmed

Finding happiness in Cambridge

Well-known actress and broadcaster Bettine Le Beau gave a delightful talk to 18 members on 'Happiness is an Attitude of Mind'. She stressed the importance of self-esteem and declared that 'thinking young' was essential at any age. There's no doubt that many of those present will have returned home with a renewed zest and outlook for the future. *Keith Lawson*

Next meeting: Thur 11 Aug. Ilse Mann, 'Magistrates are Only Human'

Happy ambiance in West Midlands (Birmingham)

We met in the beautiful environment of the spectacular home and garden of our hosts Ernest and Eileen Aris. The ambiance was a most happy one, culminating in a mouth-watering array of goodies. *Werner Abraham*

Socialising in East Midlands

Over 20 members met for our summer meeting, a delicious lunch as previously. Since most members do not see each other between the four meetings per year, everyone seems just to enjoy socialising in a private home with each other and without a speaker or theme. We cover a large area of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire so that AJR's help with transport is of great value. Nearly every meeting a Continental Briton turns up happy to share a lifetime's experience with us. *Bob Norton*

Next meeting: September. Invitations will be sent out

'Famous faces' in Pinner

Speaking on the subject 'Famous Faces', Michael Freedman told us about his



Look this way please!: members at last month's get-together in Cambridge

partnership with society photographer Paul Kaye: how they developed and exploited the technique of printing photographs on canvas to appear as portraits. They built up a successful market among heads of state, including Nigeria, Malaysia and Brunei, who wanted large numbers of the portraits for public buildings and embassies worldwide. An entertaining afternoon, concluding with the usual tea and chat.

Paul Samet

Next meeting: Thur 4 Aug, 2.00 pm. Garden Party. Details tba

Essex: Israel in the media

Jack de Metz gave us an impressive picture of the power of the media regarding Israel. It is not what they write or broadcast, but what they *omit* when they inform us of events in the Middle East. It is therefore the duty of every member of our community to challenge these misleading reports as soon as they appear. Only if we change our passive attitude can we hope for an end to the injustice of the media towards Israel.

Julie Franks

Next meeting: Tues 9 Aug. Details tba

Ilford concern with media image of Israel

There was an outstanding attendance for Shlomit Naor, the Redbridge community *schlichta*. Her enthusiasm for Israel was touching though some of those present were dismayed by the poor picture of Israel constantly painted by our media. It was suggested that more positive articles should be published in the *Jewish Chronicle* and other Jewish publications.

Meta Roseneil

Next meeting: Wed 3 Aug. Dr Fred Rosner, 'Sir Rudolf Bing: A Summary of his Achievements'

Brighton & Hove Sarid: miracle or mind over matter?

Our speaker Brian Rubin was diagnosed with cancer when he lived in South Africa. After one operation further tumours were discovered and another operation was to follow. He consulted a reflectologist, who massaged the location of his tumours. Eventually, to the surprise of his doctors, the tumours went and have not recurred. Do miracles happen? Is it a question of mind over matter?

Rudi Simmonds

Next meeting: Mon 15 Aug. Joy Markham and Cynthia Laurie, 'Spiritual Healing: A Demonstration'

Liverpool caricaturist

Following a tasty annual salmon lunch we were entertained by an illustrated musical talk by John Minnion based on his book *Hitler's List*. As a caricaturist, he had drawn many of the refugees who were, or later became, famous but were regarded as 'degenerates' by the Nazis. These refugees, mostly Jewish, intrigued him. He researched their lives, and combined them with his drawings in his book. It also made us think of the lost unknown famous ones among the millions who could not escape the *Shoah*.

Gerald Jayson

Wessex graphologist

Almost 40 members enjoyed lunch at the Normandie Hotel, Bournemouth. Myrna Glass congratulated Irmgard Isaacs on her ninetieth birthday before speaking to us of the continuing work of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and reminding us of the importance of identifying the over 2 million Holocaust victims not so far identified. Our guest speaker was Allan Conway, a full-time graphologist whose major activity is the selection of staff, including top management. It was most

interesting to hear his experiences when meeting major public figures in the UK, Israel and the US after he had analysed their handwriting. George Ettinger reported briefly on Israel, saying that terrorism and the continued missile bombardment of Israeli towns and villages were hardly mentioned by government spokesmen in Israel or by the British media. *George Ettinger*

North London: Wills, family and the taxman

Michael Anvoner spoke to us on the subject of 'Wills - Leaving it to your family rather than the taxman'. Not a particularly beguiling subject, but he managed to present the facts in such a coherent and meaningful manner that it engendered a lively set of questions, all of which were answered tactfully and comprehensively. *Herbert Haberberg*

Next meeting: Thur 25 Aug. Fourth Birthday plus Rabbi Alan Plancey

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

South London Thur 18 Aug. Tea at Nightingale House

Surrey Sun 21 Aug. Lunchtime get-together. Details sent out

South West Midlands Tues 23 Aug. Lunchtime get-together

An outing to remember

Over 60 people from the Cambridge, Norfolk, Ilford and North London Groups got together in Wesley House in Cambridge for a most enjoyable day. Following a warm welcome from Michael Newman, our guest speaker, Alan Conway, a well-known graphologist, gave a most interesting talk on detecting both genius and criminal tendencies by examining a person's handwriting. He is shortly to be included in the *Guinness Book of Records* for having kept a daily diary without a break for 55 years.

Social workers were present so anyone with a problem could discuss this as well as raise queries pertaining to pension claims.

An excellent lunch provided by AJR volunteers was served, giving everyone an opportunity to mix socially and to discover old acquaintances from their respective towns.

A Question and Answer session followed plus reports from all the groups present and the afternoon closed on a pleasant note with strudel and tea.

This was definitely an outing to remember and we hope there will be many more in the months ahead.

Meta Roseneil

'DROP IN' ADVICE SERVICE

Members requiring benefit advice please telephone Linda Kasmir on 020 8385 3070 to make an appointment at AJR, Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL

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Co-ordinator
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KT-AJR (Kindertransport)
Andrea Goodmaker 020 8385 3070

Paul Balint AJR Day Centre
15 Cleve Road, London, NW6
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KT-AJR Kindertransport special interest group MONTHLY MEETINGS AT CLEVE ROAD

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Tue 2	CLOSED
Wed 3	Nicola Smedley
Thur 4	Michael Heaton
Sun 7	CLOSED
Mon 8	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 9	CLOSED
Wed 10	Geoffrey Strum
Thur 11	Paul Coleman
Sun 14	CLOSED
Mon 15	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 16	CLOSED
Wed 17	Nikki Van Der Zyl
Thur 18	Ronnie Goldberg
Sun 21	DAY CENTRE OPEN
Mon 22	Kards & Games Klub
Tue 23	CLOSED
Wed 24	Margaret Opdahl
Thur 25	Mark Rosen
Sun 28	CLOSED
Mon 29	CLOSED - BANK HOLIDAY
Tue 30	CLOSED
Wed 31	Jenny Kossew

DIARY DATES

16 August Northern Groups
Get-together,
Manchester

18 September Annual Tea, Watford

23-30 October Bournemouth holiday

9 November Kristallnacht

Please make a note in your diary - this year's annual tea will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Watford on Sunday 18 September. Ticket application forms can be found in this and future issues of the *AJR Journal*.

For information about any of the above events, please call us on 020 8385 3070.

Editorials and articles published, and opinions expressed, in *AJR Journal* are not necessarily those of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deaths

Kew. Ruth Kew passed away on 7 June 2005 aged 88. She is survived by her son Dennis and daughter Monica, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Lippman. Gerda (née Fleischmann), born in Vienna 26 October 1925, died in London 28 May 2005. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family, especially Dan, Jonathan, Teresa, Julen and Ric.

Salter. Yetty passed away in June 2005 aged 94. Yetty was a great, independent lady, always a good friend, very fond of life and interested in everything. I miss her very much - Ruth Young.

Schneider (née Balbierer). Sylvia, born Cologne 4.5.1928, died New York 20.6.2005 after a spirited battle against leukaemia. Deeply mourned by her husband Milton, daughter Melanie, her 'Beacon sisters' and many friends.

Zucker. Hedy, born in Vienna, died in London 8 May 2005 aged 82. Greatly missed by her sons, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister, grandchildren and family as well as her many friends.

Day Centre

Chiropodist. Trevor Goldman at the Paul Balint AJR Day Centre Wednesday 24 August 10-11.30 am.

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Obituaries



Eric Ledermann

A physician and homoeopath concerned with the philosophy and psychology of healing

Dr Eric Ledermann, a physician and homoeopath, has died at the age of 96. Eric Karl Ledermann was born in Berlin; his father was a general practitioner. As a young doctor working in a paediatric hospital, he avoided a Nazi attempt to arrest him only through the intervention of his non-Jewish consultant.

He left Germany for good in 1939. Having settled in Scotland, he studied at the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital. In 1935 he moved to London to start his own practice. He worked for 20 years at the Children's Homoeopathic Dispensary in Shepherds Bush. In the mid-fifties he joined the Royal Homoeopathic Hospital, becoming a consultant in 1965.

The objective of Eric Ledermann's psychotherapy was 'to make the unconscious conscience of the patient conscious' - the answers to people's problems were already within them. In his nineties he was awarded an honorary degree in traditional Chinese medicine.

Arnold Pomerans

Translator with special affinity for works of Freud

Arnold Pomerans was born in Königsberg in 1920. In 1936 he left for South Africa, but, dissatisfied with the regime, he settled in the UK in 1948 and till 1955 taught physics in London.

In 1955 he became a full-time translator and had almost 200 major works issued by British and US publishers. He translated from most European languages, his wife Erica working as his editor. Among the authors he translated are Louis de Broglie, Anne Frank, Sigmund Freud, George Grosz, Jean Piaget, Jules Romain and Van Gogh. He had a particular feel for the language of psychoanalysis and translated the works of many analysts in addition to Freud.

Search Notices

Berman, Hedi, born March 1919 in Vienna. Lived in London during the war, later moved to Paris and USA. Any information please tel 020 8529 1983 or email amayer1247@aol.com

Frankel, Harav Avraham, my uncle, was the rabbi of Nyaradszereda in Transylvania until he, his family and community were taken to Marosvasarhej and put on cattle trucks for Auschwitz, where the family was murdered. He arrived in Auschwitz on the second day of Shavuot in June 1944. We are searching for individuals born in the above community over whose barmitzvahs he officiated and would be eternally grateful for any information. Please contact Bracha Frankel at a622906@actcom.net.il

Hess, Frank Stanley (formerly Fritz), born 28.01.1886, emigrated to England April 1934 from Berlin. Lived Daleham Mews, Camden, London; died November 1975. Children: Michael Andrew and Yvonne Bridgett. Also Edgar Hammond and Miriam Siodmak. Last known address of Michael Andrew is 56 Hillside Road, Ashstead Surrey. Information on relatives/descendants please tel 020 8908 0582

Jarosch/Parker, Eva, born 25.04.31 Vienna, went on Kindertransport 20.02.39 to Holland. Later apparently adopted in UK and may have married a Mr Parker. Appears to have lived at 66 Ashburton Road, Addiscombe, East Croydon, Surrey. Information please email barbara.kintaert@akwien.at

Dr Weisner, Paul (Berthold), left Vienna in 1930s for London. Married Dr Mary Barton and they established a gynaecological clinic in Welbeck Street. Any information on him or living relatives please to Peter Natt, The Old Ram and Hurdle, Luffenhall Walkern, Stevenage, Herts SG2 7PX tel 01438 861 685 email peter.natt@btinternet.com

Central Office for Holocaust Claims

Michael Newman

Hardship Fund

Victims of Nazi persecution who fled Austria following the Anschluss and who have not previously received compensation from the German government may now be entitled to receive a one-time compensation payment from the Claims Conference-operated Hardship Fund. Austrian Holocaust survivors *not* in receipt of a victim's pension from Austria and who did *not* receive any previous compensation from the German government in the 1950s or 1960s are eligible for the €2,550 (approx £1,700) award made by the Claims Conference with money endowed from the German government.

Survivors from Austria who have received payments from the Austrian National Fund or who are in receipt of an Austrian social security pension are entitled to apply. Application forms and guidelines are available from this office.

Restitution in Ukraine

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has held an exploratory meeting with representatives of the Jewish community in Ukraine with a view to setting up a process for the restitution of Jewish communal properties confiscated during the Soviet era. Suggestions include the creation of a commission to oversee the return of properties or the passing of legislation to establish formal guidelines.

One logistical difficulty is that the present territory of Ukraine includes part of what used to be Poland and concern has been raised as to how to address property claims where a border or territory has changed.

In return for progress on restitution, Jewish groups have pledged to assist the country's trade developments.

Further help

Written enquiries should be sent to Central Office for Holocaust Claims (UK), Jubilee House, Merrion Avenue, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4RL, by fax to 020 8385 3075, or by email to michael@ajr.org.uk Assistance can be provided strictly by appointment at the Holocaust Survivors Centre in Hendon, north London. For an appointment, please ring 020 8385 3074.

**AROUND
and
ABOUT**

with Ronald Channing

Anne Frank + me

I exited from Aldgate Station, arriving at the very heart of what the late artist, raconteur and author Harry Blacker called the 'native quarter' which, from the turn of the nineteenth century, housed the East End of London's teeming, Yiddish-speaking, immigrant Jewish population. Much of the environment has changed little in the intervening 100 years - far fewer Jews and Jewish businesses, of course, but immigrants aplenty of other cultures bustling along the Whitechapel streets. My father spent a tough boyhood and adolescence here before marriage permitted an escape to a leafy north London suburb where my brother and I were nurtured. A stroll up Brick Lane brought me to what is called The Old Truman Brewery, no longer quenching the thirsts of sweat-shop master tailors, *unter*-pressers and market boys, now a trendy leisure complex with exhibition space.

Here Gillian Walnes, the spirit and driving force behind the immensely successful team which is the Anne Frank Trust, chose to reveal their newly conceived and designed exhibition **Anne Frank [+ you]**. This most graphically striking and solid-looking of travelling exhibitions continues to relate the tragic story of Anne, born in Frankfurt in 1929, then living in Amsterdam. Following Nazi Germany's occupation of the Netherlands in May 1940, Jews were increasingly deprived of their freedom to move, go to school, make a living and own property as a precursor to ending their right to life itself.

In 1942 a desperate Frank family, with four others in the same plight, secreted themselves in the attic of their business premises, the entrance of which was concealed behind a false bookcase, in the now world-famous house on Prinsengracht. On 4 August 1944 they were betrayed and arrested by an SS officer and seven Dutch policemen. The author of a heart-rending diary of her

incarceration, Anne died of typhus and starvation in Bergen-Belsen not long before its liberation.

It is a life-sized replica of Anne's room in the secret annexe, with its precious few pictures of her family and film stars on the sparse walls, which I found most moving. The 14-year-old girl, who came to recognise her own literary gift, wrote the pages of her diary here despite what she called the 'stifling atmosphere' behind the shuttered window which she could not open to the world.

The new exhibition, whose adventurous design team included Stephen Greenberg, co-creator of the Imperial War Museum's outstanding Holocaust Exhibition, calls on young people to build a society based on mutual respect and moral courage. Sections of the exhibition are delineated by giant exhibition panels, each of which carries a relevant excerpt from Anne's diary together with present-day examples in picture and print. Its themes cover identity, prejudice and racism, conflict and peace, moral responsibility and freedom and democracy. Televisual displays show today's schoolchildren discussing these issues as they affect them in a contemporary context.

A new teaching pack, which accompanies the exhibition, was generously sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees. The Anne Frank exhibition has toured Britain since 1986 and, in that time, reached nearly two and a half million visitors. Always presented as a focus for discussion, the exhibition has been shown in cathedrals, town halls, schools, community centres, police-training establishments, shopping malls and even in prisons! The new exhibition will begin a five-year nationwide tour this summer, commencing with the Brent Cross centre in north London this month. It is an experience not to be missed.

Newsround

Museum for German-speaking Jewry opens in Israel

A Museum for German-speaking Jewry has been opened on the site of the Open Museum in Tefen Industrial Park in Western Galilee. The Museum depicts both the history of German-speaking Jews and their contribution to building the State of Israel.

Israeli journalist awarded top German honour

Ari Rath, 80, a former editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, has been awarded Germany's highest state honour, the Merit Cross of the Federal Republic. Rath, who fled Nazi-occupied Austria for Palestine, is the subject of a new documentary by Austrian historian Helga Embacher and filmmaker Hannes Klein.

Berlin Nazi shelter to become art gallery

Plans have been announced to turn a former Nazi air-raid shelter in Berlin into an art gallery complete with its own luxurious penthouse. The project is the brainchild of Christian Boros, a part-time modern art collector and Frankfurt-based advertising executive who has purchased the seven-story concrete building on Berlin's Albrechtstrasse. Berlin's city government had been at a loss over what to do about the massive grey concrete eyesore for decades.

Israel-Diaspora forum to be set up

Meeting in Jerusalem, Israeli and Diaspora leaders have decided that an annual gathering - Beit Yisrael: World Jewish Forum - will be convened for the first time next year as an advisory body helping the Jewish world to co-ordinate responses to the challenges of contemporary Jewish life. 'We're becoming two different peoples, both called Jews, and we need a common forum to work together', a World Jewish Congress representative said. The forum is modelled on the World Economic Forum at Davos.

Re-establishment of War Crimes Unit demanded

Hendon (North London) MP Andrew Dismore has called on the Metropolitan Police to re-establish its War Crimes Unit after the Home Office revealed that hundreds of former Nazis could still be living in the UK. The War Crimes Unit was disbanded in 1999, when its duties passed to the Anti-Terrorist Branch, which has a Crimes Against Humanity section.