



## **Association of Jewish Refugees**

SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES

AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

[www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

### **PRESS RELEASE**

December 2011

### **GERMAN AMBASSADOR HOSTS CELEBRATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES (AJR)**

**Members of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) have been invited to a reception to be hosted by H.E. the German Ambassador, Georg Boomgaarden, on Tuesday 20 December at his London Residence to conclude the AJR's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.**

Following a welcome from Ambassador Boomgaarden and a response from AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman, AJR members will hear from Dr Charlotte Knobloch, the former President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and President of the Jewish Cultural Society in Munich, who has kindly agreed to give a talk on 'Jewish Life in Germany today'.

As the reception coincides with the first night of Chanukah, Rabbi Danny Bergson of Pinner Synagogue will light the Chanukiah and lead prayers and blessings in celebration. Rabbi Bergson, a cantor and musician, will also sing a selection of popular songs. Light refreshments will include latkes and doughnuts.

The AJR has organised a series of events throughout 2011 to mark the founding of the organisation in July 1941 by the Jewish refugees who fled Nazi oppression. As well as a week-long series of lectures, debates and discussions co-organised with the London Jewish Cultural Centre, AJR members were hosted by H.E. Austrian Ambassador, Dr Emil Brix, and more than 250 members enjoyed a splendid afternoon of operatic entertainment and socialising at the AJR Celebration Lunch.

Speaking ahead of the reception at the Ambassador's Residence, AJR Chairman, Andrew Kaufman, said: "We are honoured and excited to accept His Excellency's kind invitation of hospitality and look forward to an afternoon of celebration and for our members to hear from someone who has played a key role in the revival of Judaism in Germany. The reception is a fitting finale to what has been a wonderful year of celebration for our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary."

- Ends -

For further information please contact Michael Newman:

Tel: 020 8385 3074

Fax: 020 8385 3080

Email: [mnewman@ajr.org.uk](mailto:mnewman@ajr.org.uk)

Website: [www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

Notes on the AJR for Editors:

The AJR is the leading national charitable organisation exclusively delivering social and welfare services, including financial assistance, to Jewish victims of Nazi oppression as well as their dependants and descendants living in Great Britain.

The AJR Charitable Trust supports Holocaust education and research projects and initiatives to commemorate the Holocaust.

The AJR has produced the ground-breaking audio-visual testimony archive, *Refugee Voices*. This collection of 150 filmed interviews creates a legacy of the experiences of the refugees and will advance and enhance Holocaust research for future generations. *Refugee Voices* enables Holocaust researchers and scholars to watch up to 450 hours of film and read fully edited and transcribed accounts. For the first time, researchers will also be assisted by time-codes that, together with a summary sheet and key words section, direct users to specific sections of the films. Details of *Refugee Voices* are at [www.refugeevoices.co.uk](http://www.refugeevoices.co.uk)

The AJR is part of the UK delegation to the [Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research \(ITF\)](#), which brings together governments and non-governmental organisations to raise awareness of the Holocaust and places political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research both nationally and internationally.