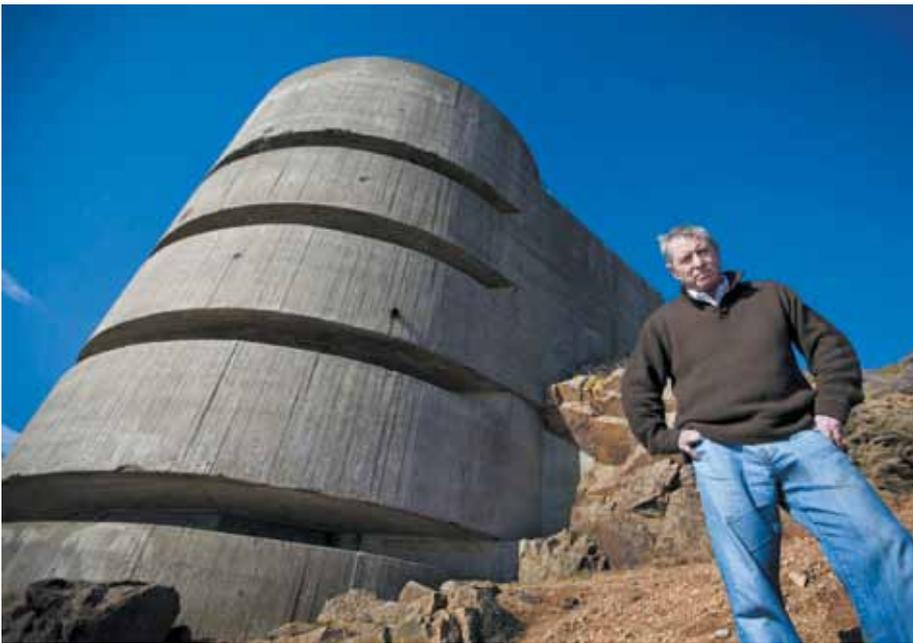




AJR JOURNAL

The Association of Jewish Refugees

Hitler's Channel Islands



Actor and author John Nettles stands next to a German occupation observation tower in Les Landes, Jersey.
Photo: UKTV

During World War II, the infant AJR, founded in 1941, could only communicate with its members through irregularly appearing circulars. One subject about which these circulars sought to inform anxious refugee readers was the fate of family members who had been deported by the Nazis to destinations in the East, cloaked in ominous mystery. The few camps named included the internment camps at Biberach in south-west Germany and Laufen in Bavaria, which were known to the British authorities because many hundreds of those deported from the Channel Islands by the occupying Germans had been interned there; the two waves of deportations, carried out in September 1942 and February 1943, were acts of reprisal that demonstrated the harsher side of what has otherwise been termed a 'model occupation'.

The occupation of the Channel Islands, the only part of British soil to fall under Nazi rule, is a sensitive subject, largely shunned by historians until the 1990s and since then a matter of acute controversy. The extent to which the

authorities on the islands appeared to have cooperated with their occupiers was hard to accept, as it ran directly counter to the carefully cultivated image of Britain and its people as
Continued on page 2

ROOTS AND ALL

Family roots are very much at the heart of this month's journal, with several stories about AJR members, trustees and staff commemorating and in some cases discovering their lost ancestors.

Fans of arts and culture will enjoy a fascinating article about the huge contribution that Jewish immigrants made to Hollywood, as well as reviews of recent productions at the Southbank Centre and JW3, in addition to our usual book reviews and Art Notes.

We also have a report and some lovely photos from the AJR's recent summer trip to Liverpool, complementing our regular round up of regional meetings and events.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

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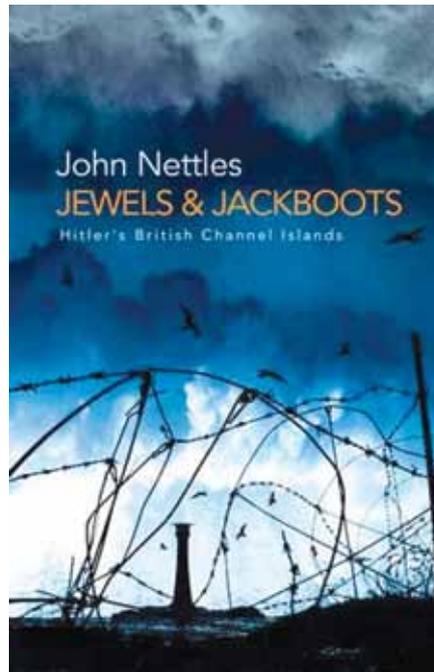
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Hitler's Channel Islands continued...

unwavering in their defiance of the Nazis. Commentators sympathetic to the islanders have pointed to the extreme difficulty of mounting any resistance to a powerful and ruthless invader in an area as restricted and as easily overseen as the Channel Islands. The hardships that the islanders endured have been vividly portrayed in works of fiction like *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (2009); the title proclaims the near-starvation to which the population was reduced in the later stages of the war, once the islands, still under German occupation, had been cut off from mainland France by the Normandy landings.

On the other hand, Madeleine Bunting's hard-hitting study *The Model Occupation. The Channel Islands under German Rule* (1995) is highly critical of the island authorities' apparent collaboration with the Germans. Bunting highlights their eagerness to discourage resistance activities for fear of provoking retaliation from the Germans and also the assistance that they rendered to the Germans in the implementation of their anti-Jewish measures; these ultimately led to the deportation to Auschwitz of three non-British Jews, two refugees from Vienna, Therese Steiner and Auguste Spitz, and Marianne Grünfeld from Germany. Julia Pascal's play *Theresa* (1990) uses the story of one of these Jews, abandoned to her fate by a largely indifferent island community, to powerful dramatic effect.

More recently, a comprehensive and sensibly balanced history of the occupation of the Channel Islands has appeared from the pen of John Nettles, famous for his portrayal of the hero of the TV series *Bergerac* (1981-91), which was set in Jersey. His study, *Jewels and Jackboots: Hitler's British Channel Islands*, published in 2013, appeared in German in 2015 as *Hitlers Inselwahn: Die britischen Kanalinseln unter deutscher Besetzung 1940-1945*. The first part of that title translates as 'Hitler's Island Delusion', a reference to the Führer's obsession with turning the islands into an offshore fortress, a



John Nettles' book

kind of Gibraltar of the English Channel. That cost the lives of unnumbered slave labourers brought in to carry out the construction work, while contributing nothing of military value to the defence of Nazi-occupied France, except for the effective incarceration of an entire German division, which could only stand by uselessly while the Allies bypassed the islands on their advance into Europe.

After the Germans, the principal villain of the piece is for Nettles the British government. The threat from the advancing German forces to the Channel Islands caught the British unprepared. The government, considering the islands to be of no strategic importance, had no clear plan of action until the disastrous deterioration of the military situation by mid-June 1940 forced it to withdraw all British forces from the islands, leaving them undefended, and to declare them demilitarised, the equivalent of an open city. But the British neglected to inform the Germans who, assuming the islands were still defended, launched air raids on 28 June that cost 38 lives on Jersey and Guernsey, wholly unnecessarily.

Nettles believes that this 'betrayal' of the islanders influenced British policy towards the Channel Islands during the war and after their liberation in May 1945. In the early years of the war, the British launched a series of commando-

style raids on the islands, some of which were executed with staggering incompetence and all of which achieved nothing beyond the pointless loss of British lives and the implementation of German retaliatory measures, including the removal of the able Attorney General of Guernsey, Ambrose Sherwill, from his post as President of the Controlling Committee on the island. After the war, the eagerness of the British authorities to avoid any full investigation into the issues of wartime collaboration on the islands was, Nettles argues, fuelled by the government's guilty awareness of its having left them in the lurch in June 1940. Neither Prime Minister Churchill nor the King ever broadcast to the islanders during the five long years of German occupation.

The Germans were fully aware of the propaganda value of the occupation of British territory and exploited their unopposed takeover of the Channel Islands to the full. The stage was thus set for the creation of the image of a peaceful and largely benevolent occupation, in which occupiers and occupied cooperated to their mutual advantage. That image was furthered by the relatively restrained and civilised behaviour of the German military – at least initially – and by the personal qualities of the senior German personnel. Nettles gives detailed and not unattractive portraits of men like Baron von Aufseß, the officer in charge of civilian affairs in the military administration, and Count von Schmettow, military commander of the Channel Islands until his replacement in February 1945 by the ardent Nazi Vice-Admiral Hüffmeier.

The counterparts to these German officers were the Bailiff of Jersey, Alexander Coutanche, and Victor Carey, his less effective counterpart on Guernsey, where Sherwill and his successor, John Leale, played key parts. Under Coutanche, an able man, the civil administration continued to function, but as directed by the Germans; crucial to Coutanche was that this arrangement still permitted the administration a certain freedom of manoeuvre, enabling it to act as a buffer between the islanders and the occupying forces and thus preserving the former from the worst excesses of Nazi rule. If Coutanche had opposed

the Germans' demands outright, the islanders would, he believed, have faced the full harshness of direct German, even SS, control. Victor Carey fell into the trap of prioritising good relations with the occupiers, apparently adopting a mode of collaboration that favoured German interests over British loyalties. On 8 July 1941, he notoriously issued a proclamation offering a reward of £25 to anyone informing the authorities about persons making the V-for-Victory sign; while intended to halt behaviour that threatened to trigger German reprisals, this looked like an appeal to denounce acts of patriotic resistance to the enemy.

The authorities on the Channel Islands made little attempt to resist the anti-Jewish measures brought in by the Germans, the first of which, by the decrees of 21 October 1940 on Jersey and 23 October 1940 on Guernsey, set in train the process of registering and identifying Jews, laying the basis for their subsequent deportation; the officers responsible, Clifford Orange on Jersey and police chief William Sculpher on Guernsey, were diligent in performing these duties. As in other Nazi-occupied countries, Jews of foreign nationality were arguably sacrificed in the interest of conciliating the Germans and thus alleviating conditions for the 'native' population. Jews of British nationality were subject to deportation, but to the same internment camps as the other civilian deportees, not to Auschwitz. Of the subsequent nine anti-Jewish decrees, only Coutanche on Jersey opposed one, that requiring Jews to wear the yellow star; a supply bottleneck in France in any case meant that no yellow stars ever reached the islands. It seems that when the Germans moved against freemasons, the Channel Islands authorities closed ranks and succeeded in protecting their own.

BEREAVEMENT

STRAUSS, Inge (née Lissner) formerly of Breslau. Born 10 July 1920, widow of Charles, passed away peacefully on 25 May. Forever loved and remembered by sons Edwin and John, daughter in law Sally, granddaughters Claire and Paula, family and friends.

FUN AT THE RUN

Chief Executive Michael Newman donned his running shorts to represent AJR at the Maccabi Community Fun Run on 11 June. AJR staff manned a stand at the event to chat with members of the public about ways they can get involved with the organisation and Michael, accompanied by his seven year old son Jack, stopped by for a quick photo opportunity before jogging off.

AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman also took part in the fun run along with his wife Susie, daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. Great effort by the AJR team!



Michael Newman and his son Jack at Maccabi Fun Run

In conclusion, one must record the great courage displayed by many of the islanders. The roll of honour includes those who braved the hazards of the sea crossing to make their escape on small, makeshift craft, sometimes at the cost of their lives. There were those like Louisa Gould, née Le Druillenec, who hid an escaped slave labourer from the Soviet Union, Feodor Polycarpovich Burri (renamed Bill by the islanders), but was denounced to the Germans and died at Ravensbrück concentration camp; or Albert Bedane, who gave sanctuary to Erica Richardson, née Olvenich, a Jew born in Holland; or

the journalists who established the Guernsey Underground News Service (GUNS) and paid the price when their secret press was betrayed to the Germans.

Anthony Grenville

AGNES AWARD

Congratulations to Agnes Isaacs in the AJR's Volunteers and Regional Groups team, who last month was awarded the Philip Jacobson Award for service to the Glasgow Jewish Community by the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council.

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FAMILY LOST AND FOUND



Susanna Millar

Therese Friedmann, my grandmother, died aged 34 in Berlin in 1917. She was one of three daughters of a kosher butcher, Julius Joseph. She married Berthold Friedmann, a Chazan from Berlin. My father Herbert (her only child) was born in the Charlottenberg district of Berlin in 1911.

When Therese died, her two sisters (who married two brothers named Mayer) persuaded Berthold that they should look after Herbert in Halberstadt. He was brought up as the son of one of these aunts, Martha, who had no children of her own.

Herbert married Annema Hannes, who had fled from Breslau to Amsterdam. They moved to London in 1939 with my older sister Eve; I was born in London in 1940 but Herbert died in 1943 while serving in the Pioneer Corps as Herbert Freedman. My mother married Helmut Rothenberg in 1945.

Helmut raised Eve and me as his own children together with his own two sons and a daughter. I still miss him every day.



Berthold Friedmann

Meanwhile all trace of Berthold disappeared. I visited Berlin 10 years ago, and located my grandmother's grave in Weissensee Cemetery. From the cemetery records I found my grandparents' address. I tried for many years to trace Berthold Friedmann or Freedman through Jewish communal records in Berlin, and through the internet, but always without success.

You can imagine my surprise to receive an email this March to tell me that a "match" to Berthold Friedmann had appeared in Ivrit on an Israeli family tree website; it suggested that Herbert had two sisters and – even more importantly – that Berthold had died in London. The keeper of the website had married into the Friedmann family of which his mother in law had a handwritten family tree. He promised to email it to me.

Meanwhile more research unearthed mention in a German Festschrift of Berthold Friedmann having been in London during the war under the auspices of the Jewish Refugees Committee. This suggested he had anglicised his name to Freeman, not Freedman, as I had thought.

Now I had a new name to work with. First port of call United Synagogue Burial Society website: here for the first time, using the surname Freeman, I found hard facts. According to a photo of his (and his wife Senta's) gravestone in Bushey Cemetery, Berthold Baruch Freeman [Friedmann] had died on 2 July 1961,

"deeply mourned by his wife, children and grandchildren". I had no idea that my grandfather was not only alive, but had lived in London until I was 21.

I then received the handwritten family tree from Israel, and found that Berthold had married twice after my grandmother's death. He had two daughters with his second wife Regina neé Schoenberger: Fela, born in 1921, and Susanna, born in 1924. Regina died in 1928, and Berthold then married Senta Ehrmann who brought up her step daughters as her own.

To shorten the story, I discovered that Fela had gone to America where she married Werner Klugman and had three daughters, Carol, Deborah and Margaret, with whom my sister now in New York is in contact. Fela – now Phila – Klugman died in 1977.

Even more exciting for me was that Susanna, my aunt, was still alive, and a healthy 93 year old retired academic living in Oxford. She is married to a distinguished ancient historian Sir Fergus Millar, with two sons, Andrew and Jonathan, and a daughter, Sarah.

My wife and I visited her in April, and discovered that her knowledge of events mirrored my own. She found a couple of family photographs, one of my grandfather, and one of my father as a little boy on his father's shoulders.

She told me Herbert had occasionally visited them in Berlin, and that her father Berthold had always regretted giving up his son. She had not known of Herbert's marriage in Amsterdam or of his children. Apparently Berthold, his wife Senta and Susanna had lived in the Maida Vale area, whilst I was brought up in Hampstead Garden Suburb, where the Mayer families also lived.

So in just five weeks I had found an aunt and six cousins, of none of whose existence was I previously aware.

David Rothenberg

LETTER FROM ISRAEL BY DOROTHEA SHEFER-VANSON



HEARTBREAKING AND INSPIRING



The history of the Herzog Hospital (formerly known as Ezrat Nashim) goes back to 1895 and the establishment

of a society to provide care for the chronically ill. Since then the facility has expanded both in physical terms and in its medical scope. In the 1960s it moved to its new building in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul neighbourhood, and added specialised care for geriatric patients to its psychiatric wards.

In May this year I was privileged to be present at the official dedication of the new Samson Medical Pavilion, which greatly increases the number of beds in the hospital as well as incorporating additional medical services. In recent years the hospital has added the treatment of children needing constant respiratory care to its spheres of treatment, and the new wing provides extensive state-of-the-art nursing in this field.

In addition to Mrs. Karen Lewis, the daughter of the donors, Dr. Heinz and Dr. Edith Samson, various dignitaries addressed those attending the dedication ceremony, which took place

on the fifth floor of the new wing. Not all the floors have been opened and are in use as yet, due primarily to lack of funds.

After some words of welcome and warm praise for the hospital's dedicated staff from its CEO, Dr. Yehezkel Caine, the first speaker was the Minister of Health, Rabbi Yaakov Litzman. He emphasised the importance the Ministry attaches to meeting the needs of Israel's growing elderly population, and the important role played in this by the Herzog Hospital. The mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat, stressed the crucial contribution to medical research made by Jerusalem's many start-ups in the field of life sciences, and Isaac Herzog, leader of Israel's Opposition Labour Party and the grandson of Rabbanit Sara Herzog, for whom the hospital is named, spoke of his family's close association with it. He also made a point of mentioning Israel's seminal role in medical research and services, noting that a recent edition of *The Lancet* was devoted entirely to medicine in Israel.

Following the affixing of a mezuzah by Isaac Herzog and the cutting of the ribbon by Mrs. Lewis, the attendees were divided into small groups and given a tour of the new facility. My group was taken round the department for children with respiratory problems. In some cases these are genetic in nature and in others the result of accidents or illnesses of various kinds. Almost all the children in this section, which encompasses several well-equipped wards as well as cheerfully-

decorated communal areas, are attached on a more or less permanent basis to respiratory equipment of various kinds. The intake consists of infants as young as three months of age and upwards, and some of these remain in the ward until they reach adolescence, when they are moved to another department. Both Arab and Israeli children are cared for, and in many cases their parents establish warm friendships as they attend to their bedridden children.

Passing one ward we heard lovely music. We peered in and saw a young flautist standing by one of the beds, playing for the young patient. As we proceeded along the corridor we encountered another person carrying an accordion, evidently about to perform for other young patients. Petting animals are brought in from time to time, and therapies of various kinds (e.g., music, hugging, movement) are also part of the treatment provided. A cadre of devoted volunteers plays an important role in helping to care for the children and brighten their lives.

While it broke my heart to see the cribs where tiny babies are hooked up to heart-lung machines, oxygen and other items of medical equipment, there is no doubt that the hospital does work of the highest importance. The caring dedication of the ever cheerful staff is both inspiring and admirable, providing an additional source of pride in Israel's medical achievements.

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Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten correspondence submitted for publication.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Sir – I do not wish to enter into an argument with Rabbi Rothschild (May 2017) on whether German railway lines were, should have been or could not be bombed, though it is an important subject since everything and everybody went by rail. Those leading to Blechhammer were bombed; this was an Auschwitz satellite camp where petrol was made from brown coal extracted by Jewish slave labourers with a life expectancy of one month. Felix Weinberg FRS, AJR member before his death four years ago, described in his memoir “what bombs did to our rails was quite spectacular, especially if they struck between them.” He was taken from the rail head at Gross-Rosen to Buchenwald by rail. The trains bringing prisoners to Dachau were so long as to extend past villas outside it (“Lee Miller’s War” by A Penrose, Thames & Hudson, 2008, pp. 182 & 183) and prisoners were taken to Belsen, etc. by rail which could be cut and they were, when and if it suited.

Neither do I wish to pass an opinion on whether the late appearance of the Me262 would have turned the tide. Delivery was erratic and there are too many ifs and buts. The Allies could have had an equal to the Me262. The Gloster Meteor had the Frank Whittle jet engines, better than the German ones because here better materials were available, but it was never used in combat. The USAAF losses were terrible because they didn’t have an escort fighter until the equally late appearance of the P-51 Mustang managed to protect the bombers all the way to Berlin and back. This reduced casualties considerably and achieved the air superiority so essential for D-Day and beyond.

What is a fact though is that nobody cared about Jewish lives. Auschwitz III, or Monowitz, the private fiefdom of IG Farben, now Bayer, was bombed out of action on four occasions, causing the death of thousands of Jews who were barred from shelters. On each occasion the US bombers were less than 1.5 minutes flight time from the gas chambers and railway line. There was no need for a special effort. They were already there. Auschwitz III was protected by anti-aircraft guns and the raid carried a

risk, the gas chambers were not so protected and there was no risk of being shot at. The omission to bomb the rails and particularly the gas chambers where the casualties were destined to die anyway, was a deliberately missed opportunity by fickle friends. That was all I had really said in the April issue.
Frank Bright, Martlesham Heath, Suffolk

BIBLE ENTHUSIASTS

Sir – Mrs Shaffer Vanson is not quite up to date about the Catholic religion discouraging the reading of the Bible. That was certainly true some centuries ago when the Church also obstructed the translation of the Scriptures into the various vernacular languages and when these two obsolete attitudes were, at least partially, the causes of the Reformation in central and Western Europe. But fortunately that is no longer true. For over 100 years now with ever more frequently updated translation into modern languages, Catholics have pursued biblical studies with enthusiasm and the laity is encouraged to read the Scriptures. Of course some centuries ago few people could read so the fact that no adequate translations were available mattered less but modern scriptural learning has spread in line with increased literacy.
F. Steiner, Deddington, Banbury, Oxon

PENSION ANOMALY

Sir – It occurs to me that as time goes on ever fewer people will remember one curious anomaly of the repressive measures of the Anschluss in 1938 which shows that viciousness can be tempered by illogically favourable outcomes.

Within a few days of the Nazi takeover all private occupational and insurance pensions payable to Jews were simply stopped without any compensation, outright theft which predated the later confiscatory measures. It is thought that the high numbers of Jewish suicides of those few weeks were partially caused by older Jews realising that on top of everything else, they were now destitute. One exception to this daylight robbery was that civil service pensions were not withheld.

My own father, a fairly senior judge, was suspended from duty but on full pay, from mid-March until I think mid-June (*vom Dienst enthoben*), and then retired on full pension as from July; I think this was paid to him until my parents left Austria in early 1940. The contrast came out even more sharply in an older generation: my grandmother had two private sector incomes, one a widow’s pension under her husband’s occupational pension scheme and the other I think an insurance annuity. Both were stopped immediately once the Germans arrived; fortunately she had other resources. Her two unmarried sisters had both been grammar school teachers and therefore federal civil servants, drawing civil service pensions as they had both retired before 1938. Their pensions were paid at least until 1941 before all three left Vienna for Theresienstadt, and for all I know may have been paid even there until their deaths from allegedly natural causes.

I wonder what the comparable experience in Germany was, where there was nothing similar to the cataclysm which hit Austria within the three days of mid-March 1938. Did the federal structure of the pre-1945 *Altreich* make any difference, leaving the Länder to make their own employment policies? I believe that at some time in 1933 there was a law dealing with *Berufsbeamtentum* but I have no idea of its contents and would welcome answers to these questions.
F Steiner, Banbury

MORE CONTRAST PLEASE

Sir – I am one of your older readers. The AJR journal is important to me, and I read it from cover to cover each month. This month I see there is a new format. It uses pale coloured inks for the print and some of the text is on a coloured background.

I can’t speak for all older readers, but I find it very tiring to read print whose contrast to its background is low. Unless the print is black on a white background I can’t read large blocks of text in detail, however much I want to. Could you please reconsider?
Frank Beck

Sir – Received latest issue of AJR-Journal. As usual it is most excellent. The only quibble I have is the *colour* of the print. I don't know about you but I am really quite old and my eyes are definitely not what they used to be. I need contrast and black on white is a far better contrast than blue on white, which I find a strain to read. I gave up reading books years ago but I would like to continue reading the Journal. I have no problem with my computer, I use large fonts and enlarge e-mailed articles by 130% (Gatestone Institute, Melanie Phillips, Caroline Glick, Honest Reporting, etc.) but I can't do that with the Journal. If at all possible, can we please be less chic, less progressive, a bit more conservative and have it black on white?

Frank Bright

NOTE FROM EDITOR: We are very sorry if anyone else has had problems reading our smart newly designed Journal. We have darkened the font and increased the contrast wherever possible within this issue. Please let us know if you have further suggestions of how we might improve the reader experience.

REAL PASSENGERS

In your latest book review section I see a book called *THE VOYAGE* about the MS ST. LOUIS. A second book about this journey published recently is *THE GERMAN GIRL* by Armando Lucas Corra. Both books are about imaginary, fictionalised passengers, but there are still real passengers around such as my sister and me in England and several in America. In fact I have just returned from California where I talked to 100 students about the Holocaust, my life before and after 1933 and my journey on the boat and after that in England.

Gisela Feldman, Manchester

CELEBRATE OUR JUDAISM

Peter Phillips wants to know what 'modern' orthodoxy means. I would love to know what his understanding of 'British' values is. If British values means Christian values then sure it is absolutely no surprise that there is a difference between Jewish values and Christian values, such as turning the other cheek. If British values equate with EU values (which today appear to be little more than lighting candles and the like in response to Muslim terrorist outrages) it surely should be no surprise that this does not equate to Jewish values at all. So far from bemoaning that one's Jewish religious

identification should be the strongest ideological influence, it should be a cause for celebration, whether one is modern, orthodox or any other sector of the Anglo Jewish community.

Peter Simpson, Jerusalem

BONHOEFFER RIGHTLY RECOGNISED

Sir – With reference to your article 'The Holocaust and the Law' in June 2017: When after the war the family of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pastor and outspoken opponent of the Nazi regime, wanted to exonerate him from the verdict of treason (for which he was executed a few weeks before the end of the war in Flossenbürg camp) the authorities claimed that he was duly convicted under the law in existence at the time and the verdict would stand. Fortunately his fame overrode this infamous attitude. A stone statue of Bonhoeffer now stands outside the frontage of Westminster Abbey, the consecration of which I attended a few years ago. I am still in touch with his niece, who is in a home in Bremen, and his great-nephew, who is a cellist and conductor in London.

Rudi Leavor, Bradford

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

Sir – From your June issue I learn that Dr Bogdanor objects to my critical review of his book... Yet I was unlucky enough to be on the spot in Budapest in 1944 to witness the close and valuable collaboration between Rezso Kasztner, Otto Komoly and other members of the Vaad. Clearly if you denigrate one you denigrate them all and similarly if you praise one you praise them all. Dr Bogdanor makes it obvious that he was not only fortunate enough not to be an eye-witness, but also that he has made no attempt to understand conditions of the period. I am afraid this makes it impossible for me to accept him as a credible historian.

George Donath

THE CORRECT CONDUCTOR

Sir – You published in the June *AJR Journal* a notice of the recent performances in Maidenhead of *Last Train to Tomorrow*, composed by Carl Davis, whose credits include the music for the film *Anne Frank Remembered*. The Maidenhead performances had special significance because of the link with the late Sir Nicholas Winton, whose daughter Barbara and son Nick attended the final performance.

To ensure accurate reporting in the excellent *AJR Journal* (congratulations on the superb new format, by the way – stylish, professional, attractive, accessible) I need to correct an inaccuracy in the photo caption. Carl Davis did not conduct the performances – I did. Carl accompanied them on the piano, which was a great privilege for all involved.

As you may know, my late father Fred Dunston was directly involved in the saving of a hundred children from Vienna in the *Kindertransport*. That story has been recorded in several publications. I will always be sad that he did not live to see his son conduct *Last Train to Tomorrow*, accompanied by the composer.

I hope you will be glad to have the error pointed out. Incidentally, there should be a link and possibly also a DVD available soon which will enable AJR members – and particularly *Kinder* – to see and enjoy what was an intensely powerful and moving production.

By coincidence, a letter from AJR member Peter Briess appeared in the same issue of the *Journal*. The Maidenhead production was sponsored by Peter, in memory of his uncle, the pianist Erich Schulhof.

Finally, thank you for the excellent article *A Life-affirming Journey* in the June edition. As it happens, to mark what would have been Fred's 100th birthday on 29 May, my brother Colin and I are embarking on the process of trying to get *Stolpersteine* placed in front of the appropriate buildings in Vienna where his and our mother's families lived.

John Dunston

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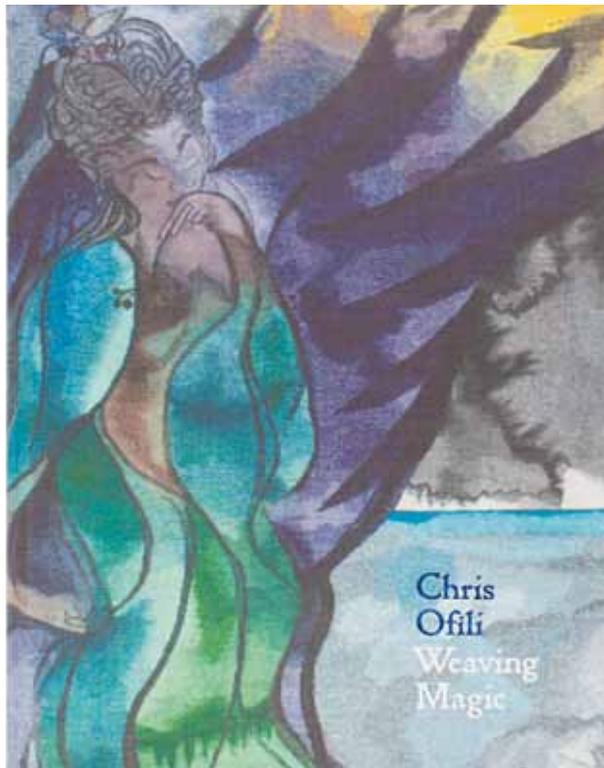
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ART NOTES: by Gloria Tessler

Inspired by Maya Angelou's autobiographical novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Turner Prize-winner Chris Ofili, a controversial figure for his early 1990s collages comprising paint, glitter and elephant dung, has excelled himself with his latest exhibition, *Weaving Magic*, which takes up the entire Sunley Room at the National Gallery. It is in the form of a large and whimsical triptych called *The Caged Bird's Song* which draws one into an immersive experience in which he collaborated with master weavers at the Edinburgh-based Dovecot Tapestry Studios who hand-wove his vision into an innocent theme of water, trees, a caged bird and two lovers.



Weaving Magic by Chris Ofili

This is Ofili's first exhibition at the National Gallery since **Titian: Metamorphosis 2012**, in which he and two other contemporary artists, were invited to respond to the Italian painter's great mythological works, *Diana and Actaeon*, *The Death of Actaeon* and *Diana and Callisto*, which depict stories from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. It is clear from Ofili's new show that he continues to draw inspiration from classical mythology, while transposing it to his personal Trinidadian background.

As you stare longer into the swirling shapes, the demigods and the classical myth of this tapestry, you realise there is something deeply anarchic, ancient and even suggestive of the biblical Garden of Eden. The central tapestry is bordered on each side by a ghostly wall featuring paler human beings in African dress or simple togas, hard men and sinuous women. They may suggest earth spirits guiding you into the central work, except that despite their greyness, they are very alive. They seem to throb and sing with a distant African harmony.

Central to the tapestry is a troubadour and each panel features a man naked but for his emerald robe, and a reflective woman. She is very delicate and her hand is on her chin, so the sensuality between them is nuanced rather than expressed. The figures seem to weave in and out of

their background of fronds, mountains and seas, and their hands resemble curved pipes.

The work is full of sound and energy. It is the first time Ofili has worked in tapestry and his colourful preparatory works on paper can be seen in the adjoining room. The Dovecot Tapestry Studio, took two and a half years to complete the conversion of Ofili's designs into a tapestry.

The artist describes the work as "marriage of watercolour and weaving." It was commissioned by the Clothworkers' Company, a 16th Century Livery Company which oversaw the cloth-finished trade in the City of London. Manchester-born Ofili, who lives and works in Trinidad, draws from many other sources, including jazz, hip hop, William Blake and the Bible. *The Caged Bird's Song* will be permanently displayed in Clothworkers' Hall after the exhibition. **Concludes on August 28.**

Annely Juda Fine Art

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

CONTEMPORARY
PAINTING AND SCULPTURE

GUIDED TOUR OF HOOP LANE JEWISH CEMETRY BY RACHEL KOSKY BLUE BADGE GUIDE

Thursday 17th August 2017
Those of you who heard Rachel give a tour of the National Gallery will know how knowledgeable and informative her tours are.

This guided tour highlights the history of the Hoop Lane cemeteries in Golders Green. Opened in 1897 for both the Reform and Sephardi Jewish communities there is an array of fascinating personalities for whom this is their final resting place.

They include those of religious leaders such as Hugo Gryn and Albert Friedlander, actor Sydney Tafler, philanthropist and youth leader Sir Basil Henriques, writer Jack Rosenthal, the parents of Maurice and Charles Saatchi and agony aunt, Marjorie Proops.

The tour will start at 1.30pm and following on afterwards we will go to a local restaurant and have tea and cake and the chance to speak to Rachel in more detail.

We will provide transport between the Cemetery and the restaurant.

For details please speak to Susan Harrod on 020 8385 3070 or email susan@ajr.org.uk

AT YOUR SERVICE: Telephone Friends

The second in our series of articles showcasing the work of the AJR focuses on our Telephone Friends service, through which over 50 of our members regularly receive calls from one of 20+ volunteers, establishing what we hope will be valuable and mutually rewarding friendships.

The service is co-ordinated by Ros Collin, who joined the AJR five years ago and introduced Telephone Friends in late 2014 to provide a broader range of outreach options for our members.

“We have a great network of social workers and volunteers who make house calls, but not all our members want someone visiting them, or live somewhere easy to get to,” Ros explains. “Telephone Friends is ideal for members who are able to chat on the phone. We pair them with a volunteer and over time they develop a relationship. It’s all very informal – we leave it up to the member and the volunteer to agree how often they wish to speak and for how long, and what topics they feel comfortable discussing.”

The service is particularly suitable for older AJR members who live alone and find it difficult to get out of the house. “As people get older, it is sadly quite common to feel isolated and alone. Perhaps they have lost their partner and/or friends, or perhaps their own children live far away. Perhaps they are no longer physically able to join social clubs and interest groups. Having a good friend just at the end of the phone line makes all the difference,” says Ros.

Charlotte is one of the volunteers aiming to make a difference. Nearing retirement from her job as an administrator for one of the Royal Colleges, she decided to throw herself into volunteering three years’ ago and currently has three AJR Telephone Friends. She calls each of them once a week on average, just to see how they are and discuss events that are happening in their lives or in the wider world.



Ros Collin (standing) and Charlotte

“It takes time to build up trust, like any friendship,” explains Charlotte. “But it’s a real privilege when one of these members, whose own lives have been so interesting and challenging, chooses to confide in me. I lost my own parents when I was quite young, so this is my way of connecting with and giving back to their generation.”

Both Charlotte and Ros are quick to point out that the content of the calls is completely confidential. “Within the AJR we have the ability to assist our members with many aspects of their lives. But I would never dream of passing anything on to my colleagues unless my ‘friend’ specifically asks me to,” Charlotte says. Instead she is tasked to send Ros brief emails to simply confirm when calls have been made.

AJR members are sent details of their volunteer before the first telephone call is made, along with an introduction to the service and some simple do’s and don’ts. These include an explanation that the volunteer makes the calls, not the other way round (in fact volunteers’ telephone numbers are automatically withheld) although the member can request the optimum days and times for calls.

“It’s not a once-a-year call like some shuls do, and it doesn’t suit everyone. Some people don’t enjoy talking on the phone while others feel they don’t need another friend,” says Ros. “But when we pair up the right people they can, over time, develop a genuinely close friendship.”

If you are interested in making an AJR Telephone Friend please call Ros on 020 8385 3070 or email her at ros@ajr.org.uk

A CLIENT'S PERSPECTIVE

99 year old Edith Poulsen has great trouble walking and finds it very difficult to get out of her house. So she describes her telephone friendship with Charlotte as a “lifeline” to the outside world.

Twice-widowed Edith has always been very active, but a combination of disabilities and arthritis makes simple things like hanging up her clothes virtually impossible these days. Her daughter is also disabled and her granddaughter lives the other side of London, meaning that she rarely sees them.

Edith, who is originally from Vienna, first got involved with the AJR in 1990 when her second husband fell ill. As friends who couldn’t bear to watch his gradual deterioration withdrew, she started to rely more and more on the Ilford AJR social get-togethers. But when her own health began to fail even these became a challenge.

She became Telephone Friends with Charlotte a year ago. “She rings me once a week and is very nice and friendly and always so helpful,” says Edith. “She laughs at all my jokes and always asks how I am and what I’ve been doing. I feel she genuinely cares about me.”

While working full time Edith always had a very wide network of friends within the community. She was twice Deputy Mayoress and once Mayoress of Waltham Forest and served on numerous committees. But without leaving the house she has found it difficult to keep up these relationships.

“I know so few people these days that at weekends I’m quite likely not to see another human face for two days,” she says. “So a phone call from Charlotte really cheers me up.”

REVIEWS

THE GREATEST COMEBACK

From Genocide to Football Glory

by David Bolchover

Biteback Publishing

ISBN 978-1-785-90139-3

This is the story of Bela Guttman, star player of the New York Giants in the 1920s and coach of the European Cup-winning Benfica in 1961. It is also the story of triumph over adversity, as Guttman narrowly dodged death throughout the Holocaust while many of his close family and friends perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Bolchover, whose previous books have included the bestselling *90-Minute Manager*, has done his research well. He vividly brings to life America's roaring 20s and its subsequent depression, followed by the horrific sweep of antisemitism throughout Europe. He explains how Guttman's all-consuming passion for football drove him to return from the US to the terrifying Europe of 1938, as other Jews tried desperately to leave it. Although only a small percentage of the book is devoted to Guttman's experiences during WW2 (he himself usually glossed over them with a sentence or two), we learn that he spent months crawling around a Budapest attic before being deported, somehow escaping just as he was about to be transported from a labour camp to an almost certain death in Nazi Germany.

The author explores the impact that these experiences had on Guttman's life and coaching career. Realising the world was not going to do him any favours, Guttman was fiercely independent, ambitious, and blessed with an iron will and stubborn resolve to overcome appalling tragedy and hardship. Not only did he survive, he conquered Europe – the only Jewish coach to do so.

Having read the book, I was surprised to discover that Guttman's significance in footballing history is not widely recognised. Although acknowledged by the cognoscenti as the Jose Mourinho of his day, Guttman's renown among the general football fan population is patchy to say the least. But the biggest question

that Bolchover poses is, given the massive impact that early 20th century Jews had on moulding European football and introducing strategy and thought into the sport, who knows what course football might have taken if the Holocaust had never happened, just as with so many aspects of modern life?

Jo Briggs

'LIESEL, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE'

Die Flucht der Familie Rosenthal vor der nationalsozialistischen Verfolgung

(The Flight of the Rosenthal Family from Nazi Persecution)

by Joachim Schlör

Stadtarchiv Heilbronn 2015, 259pp

ISBN 978-3-940646-19-4 hardback

Liesel Rosenthal was better known to readers of this journal in former years as Alice Schwab (1915-2001), our long-standing and much-admired art correspondent. Born in Heilbronn, she emigrated alone, aged 22, to Britain, where in 1942 she married Walter Schwab, the son of Anna Schwab, one of the leading figures in the Jewish Refugees Committee that played a vital part in the admission of Jews from the Third Reich into Britain. Some years after Alice's death, her daughter, Rabbi Dame Julia Neuberger, allowed Professor Joachim Schlör of Southampton University access to a bundle of letters and postcards from the years 1937-47, left behind by her mother and previously unread by anyone save the recipient.

From this source, Professor Schlör, himself a native of Heilbronn and one of the most discerning authorities on the emigration of the Jews from Germany and their settlement in new lands, has fashioned this engrossing study. He has not only recreated the narrative of Liesel Rosenthal's emigration and settlement in Britain but has embedded that narrative in an illuminating commentary on individual letters, employing a sophisticated and well developed theoretical framework. Some readers may balk at reading a study in academic German, but those who persevere will be amply rewarded.

Liesel received letters from a variety of relatives and friends, especially from her parents, Ludwig and Hermine Rosenthal, whose often reproachful missives from Heilbronn to England enable Schlör to demonstrate how emigration changed the dynamics of previously settled family relationships. As Liesel established herself

in England, rising from employment in Birmingham as a humble domestic to a responsible position in London with Marks and Spencer her role in the family changed from that of wayward daughter to responsible young adult; she arranged for her younger brother Helmut to attend a school in Brighton, then helped to bring her parents to safety in Britain. Schlör's conceptualisation of letters written to/from emigration as a specific form of writing allows him to analyse in depth the interaction in the Rosenthal correspondence between private family affairs and events of historical significance affecting the fate of German Jewry.

Anthony Grenville

BIOGRAPHY OF HEINZ LIEPMAN

A New Book by an Old Friend

by Wilfried Weinke

Many of those conducting research into the Jewish refugees from Nazism in Britain will be familiar with Wilfried Weinke who has made it his life's work to expose the extent of National Socialist activities in Hamburg, his hometown, and to show the ugly reality behind the city's artfully constructed image of itself as a bastion of liberalism where Hitler never dared set foot. He has also been tireless in researching the history of the Jewish community of Hamburg, especially in the area known as the Grindel, and has frequently travelled to Britain, to interview Jews from Hamburg, some of whom came to know him well.

Weinke has recently published his monumental piece of work on the writer and journalist Heinz Liepman, born in Hamburg in 1905, a Jew and an active opponent of the Nazis who was forced into exile in 1933, where he continued to produce powerful literary indictments of Nazism. He arrived in Britain in April 1935, staying until October 1937, when his permit to stay was revoked and he was obliged to move on to the United States. After his return from America to Hamburg in 1947, Liepman resumed his career with considerable success, but, dissatisfied with the political atmosphere of West Germany under Konrad Adenauer, re-emigrated in 1961 to Switzerland, where he died in 1966.

Anthony Grenville



AJR FILM CLUB

Our next film showing will be at Sha'arei Tsedek North London Reform Synagogue, 120 Oakleigh Road North, Whetstone N20 9EZ

on **Monday 24 July 2017**
at **12.30pm**

Lunch of smoked salmon bagels, Danish pastries and tea or coffee will be served first.

ONE CHANCE

Biopic starring James Corden as 'Britain's Got Talent' winner Paul Potts. The film charts Potts' rise to fame, from his humble beginnings as a timid shop assistant to an internationally-renowned opera singer thanks to his success on the 2007 British talent show. Following a string of failed chances, dismissals from his idol Pavarotti and unforeseeable accidents, Paul's determination and talent enabled him to battle through against the odds and achieve his lifelong dream.

Starring Julie Walters and James Corden.

A must for Opera buffs.

£7.00 per person

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Please call Susan Harrod on
020 8385 3070
or email susan@ajr.org.uk



LUNCH

Wednesday 12th July 2017
At Alyth Gardens Synagogue
12.30pm

Please join us for lunch when we will be joined by a special guest speaker.

For details please call Susan Harrod on
020 8385 3070
or email susan@ajr.org.uk

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DAY TRIP TO THE SEASIDE

Tuesday 8th August 2017

Coach Leaving
Finchley Road
and Edgware



**First stop –
Hyde Hall
Gardens**

Your one-hour garden tour with a trained guide will cover RHS Garden Hyde Hall's humble beginnings as a farm, to all the exciting new developments being planned. The Rose Garden, Dry Garden and Courtyard Garden will be included, and with ample opportunity to ask questions along the way.

Second stop – Lunch

A Delicious Fish and Chip Lunch on
Southend Sea Front

Please call Susan Harrod on
020 8385 3070 or email
susan@ajr.org.uk or esther@ajr.org.uk
for a booking form and full details

Thursday 13th July 2017

Outing to Whitechapel Gallery

Followed by lunch at Rinkoff's Baker

Please join us for a visit to The
Whitechapel Gallery to see the exhibition

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION

Artists' interviews are an important platform for the interpretation of artists' ideas and their communication to a wider public.

Stylistically they vary from snappy press interview to profound conversations between art historians and artists, and art works in their own right.

This display delves into archives at the Whitechapel Gallery to enable visitors to hear, see and read artists in their own words.

You will then have time to tour the Gallery at your leisure before we go onto Rinkoff's Family Bakery for a delicious sandwich lunch. Rinkoff bakery is a family run business which has been producing speciality bread cakes and rolls for over 100 years.

For details please call Susan Harrod on
020 8385 3070
or email susan@ajr.org.uk



10-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL NOVEMBER 2017

The AJR is considering organising a
10-day trip to Israel in early November this year.
The cost of the visit is not yet decided.
Carol Rossen will be accompanying the trip.

If you would like to join the trip,
please contact Lorna Moss
on **020 8385 3070** or at
lorna@ajr.org.uk as soon as possible.

Regents Park Open Air Theatre

THURSDAY 20th JULY
at **2.15pm** finishing at **5.00pm**

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

A new play by **MATTHEW DUNSTER**
Adapted from the novel by **CHARLES DICKENS**

*It was the best of
times, it was the
worst of times; it was
the age of wisdom,
it was the age of
foolishness; it was the
spring of hope, it was
the winter of despair;
we had everything
before us, we had
nothing before us.*



Sound familiar? How much more do those in power think Europe's poor can take? When will the people take to the streets of the cities and roar enough is enough?

Tickets £22.50 per person

In the event of bad weather alternative dates/performances will be offered.

For booking form please call Susan
Harrod on **020 8385 3070** or email
susan@ajr.org.uk

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OPINION PIECE

SOUTHBANK FAIL TO DO JUSTICE TO LEVI

On 30 April as part of the 'Belief and Beyond Belief' festival the reading of Primo Levi's book 'If this is a man' was presented at the Southbank Centre.

The six-hour long public reading at the Festival Hall of *If This Is a Man*, perhaps the greatest classic of survivor literature, conceived by the distinguished writers AL Kennedy and Philippe Sands, was an admirably ambitious idea, eloquently publicised in advance. Fifteen different readers of varying skill, some of them well-known figures, and among them two survivors, were combined with carefully chosen chamber music.

The reading clearly attracted a varied audience, including several young people who previously may have known little of the Holocaust. We felt that they should have been given more background about Primo Levi himself as a person and writer. Although his portrait appeared on the screen, not even the barest facts of his life figured either in the program notes, or in the performance.

We also felt that the introductory remarks offered on behalf of the Southbank creative team were designed to subsume the event, the author and the work into a contemporary world-view, equating Levi's exposure to ultimate human evil with a

bland and uninformative general notion of a timeless refugee. The sufferings of desperate survivors in the Europe of 1945-7 were jarringly assimilated to that of post-war Londoners sharing in the Festival of Britain.

One is also bound to ask why the inescapable Jewish dimension of the story was entirely obliterated from the framework – although mentioned often enough, of course, in the book itself, once the reading started.

Trying to incorporate into your consciousness the utterly unbelievable events of the Holocaust is a very special personal experience. In our opinion, the well-meant attempt of the Southbank creative team to present *If This Is a Man* failed to involve the large audience in the horrors of Primo Levi's description of his year in Auschwitz. Visual images related to the text would have helped, as well as a clearer linkage between the finely executed music and the read text.

Without truly exceptional works, such as Claude Lanzman's 'Shoah', Vasilij



Southbank Centre Primo Levi

Grossmann's 'The hell of Treblinka' and more recently the film 'Son of Saul' directed by Laszlo Nemes, it is impossible to share those events collectively.

I (Gerta Vrbova) am myself a Holocaust survivor and my late husband Rudolf Vrba was one of the only five prisoners of Auschwitz who managed to escape and provide accurate information to the world in the Vrba-Wetzler report about the killing on an industrial scale that took place in Auschwitz. I was therefore expecting an afternoon and evening of deep reflection, engagement, witness and remembrance. But the Southbank performance left me strangely unaffected. At a time when the events of the Holocaust are being questioned or even denied, and when many people just prefer to forget them, there is great danger that performances like this simply provide ammunition to those who do not want to remember.

Prof. Gerta Vrbova and Prof. Tessa Rajak

THE SOUTHBANK RESPONDS

We were glad to read that the reviewers admired the ambition of the event, but saddened to receive these criticisms.

In attempting a live reading of Levi on this unprecedented scale, we accept that there are always elements we can improve on, and greater biographical detail in our programme notes is a criticism duly noted. However, our primary goal was to immerse the audience in the detail of Levi's experience of Auschwitz in his own words, rather than distract from its great power through extensive introduction. We believe there are few more powerful

ways to communicate this experience than by being faithful to the original but, in such a format, unfortunately this didn't allow for discussion as part of the event.

The introduction sought to underline Levi's particular identity as a Jewish author while connecting him to the post-war origins and inclusive values of Southbank Centre, and more broadly the way his work alerts us to the 'dehumanising tendencies' of the present. Aware of the sensitivities of the subject matter, particularly in the current political climate, it was important that the reading represented a range of voices and

experience, including Holocaust survivors. While we regret that the event left the reviewers 'unaffected' we would urge them to reconsider the notion that this event was intended to obscure or minimise Jewish suffering during the Holocaust: this was absolutely not our intention. In providing a platform for Levi's words we had hoped to create a space to hear words which are impossible to forget, and need to be heard at the present time.

Ted Hodgkinson, Philippe Sands and AL Kennedy (Co-curators of the event)

LOOKING FOR?

The AJR regularly receives messages from our members and others looking for people or for help in particular subjects. Here are some of the most recent requests – please get in touch directly with the person concerned if you can help.

Upper Silesia

Mike Ticher is researching former Jewish communities in Upper Silesia, particularly Beuthen (Bytom), Gleiwitz (Gliwice) and Kattowitz (Katowice) and would like to get in touch with descendants of anyone who lived there in the early 1920s.

miketicher@optusnet.com.au

Peter Kronthal

Sandra Schmidt is hoping to find someone who knew her great-uncle Peter Paul Kronthal, a German art dealer who came to England from Berlin in September 1937. He lived in London at 46 North End Road and worked as an art dealer until his death in 1967.

sandra.schmidt@gmx.eu

Spier's descendants

Margaret Brewer, daughter of Jack Spier (born Hans Joachim Spier) would like to make contact with the daughter, and her children, of Eugen and Henny Spier who lived in Paddington, London.

mbrewer.ipggroup@gmail.com

Safety in Buxton

Historians in the Peak District spa town of Buxton are interested in reconnecting with any of the 300 Jewish families who sought refuge there during WW2. They are hoping to find enough information to build up a complete picture of where all the Jewish people lived, prayed, studied and played.

netta@discoverbuxton.co.uk

Farber family

Yvonne Ward is looking for any information about her father, grandparents and uncle who came separately from Vienna after *Kristallnacht*.

- Michael Heinrich Farber was smuggled at the age of 17 by train to a refugee camp in Switzerland, eventually landing in Croydon in January 1939. He worked at a mill in Cheetham and lived in Broughton. Enlisted AMPC Feb 1940 in Manchester; changed name to Fulton.
- Robert Farber, aged 45, arrived in Feb 1939 on business after 6 weeks in Switzerland and was granted permission to extend his stay. Interned June 1940, released October, AMPC.
- Johanna Farber, aged 39, arrived in July 1939 with Hannes Ferdinand Farber, aged 14, after eight months in Switzerland. She initially stayed in London W9 and then became a domestic at a Manchester vicarage.

Any information about their time in Switzerland, mechanisms for coming to England and the English addresses would be greatly appreciated.

yjward@virginmedia.com

Bunce Court School

Heidi Goldsmith would love to find anyone who remembers her from her brief time at Bunce Court School in 1940, when she was just seven years old. She particularly recollects being friendly with a young Czech-speaking boy.

Heidig24@ymail.com

Meanwhile Amsterdam-based experimental filmmaker Barbara Meter is currently developing a personal/experimental documentary that deals with (amongst other things) her childhood trips and memories of Bunce Court. She is particularly interested in connecting with Marion Gaze, whose mother wrote *Die Kinderchronik*.

tbastajian@gmail.com

If you would like to place a search notice in a future issue of the AJR Journal, please email editorial@ajr.org.uk including the words SEARCH REQUEST in the title of your email.

Books Bought
MODERN AND OLD
Eric Levene
 020 8364 3554 / 07855387574
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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.



AJR CARD AND GAMES CLUB

Please join us at our Card and Games Club
Monday 7 August 2017 at 1.00pm
 at North Western Reform Synagogue,
 Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune, London NW11 7EN

Open to all levels Bridge players – come and join us

We also offer card games, backgammon, scrabble. You decide.

Games are dependent on numbers being sufficient – the more the merrier

A sandwich lunch will be served upon arrival with tea, coffee and Danish pastries.

£7.00 per person

Booking is essential – when you book please let us know your choice of game.

Please either call Esther Rinkoff on 07966 631 778 or email esther@ajr.org.uk



Around the AJR

CONGRATULATIONS RUDI



The AJR is delighted to congratulate our long-standing member Dr Rudolph (Rudi) Leavor on being recognised in Her Majesty The Queen's birthday honours with a British Empire Medal.

Rudi Leavor came to Bradford with his parents and younger sister Winnie as a refugee from Nazi Germany in 1937 aged 11, having been raised in Berlin. He spent his career as a dentist having a successful practice in Heckmondwike, near Batley. He was made President and Chairman of the Bradford Synagogue in 1975. He lives in Bradford with his wife Marianne.

This award is rightful recognition of Rudi's tireless work in interfaith and in Holocaust education. We very much hope it brings him and his family and friends much joy and pride.

OUTING TO ISABELLA PLANTATION

15 members went on a mini bus to the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park on 11th May. With an excellent and well-informed guide we walked amongst the rhododendrons, azaleas and beautiful trees for two hours. The colours were wonderful. Afterwards we had a cream tea at the Maids of Honour in Kew. We all had an enjoyable afternoon and thanks are due to Eva, Esther, Kathryn and our driver, Tony.
Joan Kalb



BRADFORD C.F.: 'KAFFEEKLATSCH'

On a sun-blessed day we met in Ilkley for tea. The discussion touched on the rumour that those applying for German citizenship would have to relinquish their British nationality.
Stephen Tendlow

BRIGHTON & HOVE: THE WORK OF THE UJIA

Harvey Bratt and his assistant spoke about the educational work of UJIA in Israel and the U.K. They fund schools/colleges for Jews and Arabs in the Galilee and for young people in the U.K they arrange Birthright or gap year trips to Israel.
Ceska Abrahams

CARDIFF: INTRICACIES OF LAW

Retired solicitor Colin Davey enlightened the group with explanations of many legal terms that have become common parlance, such as contract, consideration and negligence. He was preceded by a talk on the AJR Homecare scheme.
Stella Lightman

CARDS AND GAMES CLUB

Larger numbers than usual enjoyed a convivial lunch; then the atmosphere became more competitive for the afternoon's games.
David Lang

CHESHIRE: A GOOD LAUGH

A 'full house' of 21 members met at the home of Peter Kurer. Over excellent refreshments we shared amusing jokes, as told by our favourite comedians. A delightful get-together.
Tom Einstein

EALING: OPERA IN THE U.K.

Frances Long spoke about the history of opera in the UK and then led an interesting discussion about challenges faced by opera today.
Leslie Sommer

ESSEX: FLOWERS IN WESTCLIFF

Nick Dobson gave an enjoyable talk on flowers in the UK and around the world and we had a short quiz about the flowers of other countries.
Linda Fisher

KENSINGTON: A DAY OF BIRTHDAYS

Israel's 69th Independence Day coincided with the birthday of our host, Peter Wayne, and we were delighted to mark both happy events.
Eva Stellman

PINNER GROUP: FEMALE PAINTERS

Mylene Goodman spoke fascinatingly on Adelaide Labille-Guiard and Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun, two female artists working in Paris around the time of the French Revolution.
Robert Gellman

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Esther Rinkoff
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Eva Stellman
Southern Outreach Co-ordinator
07904 489 515 eva@ajr.org.uk

KT-AJR (Kindertransport)
Susan Harrod
020 8385 3070 susan@ajr.org.uk

Child Survivors' Association-AJR
Henri Obstfeld
020 8954 5298 h.obstfeld@talk21.com

MY MISSING GRANDFATHER

My grandfather had a kind face, twinkling eyes and a beautiful white beard. He was a Chassid and I was his first grandchild. I loved playing with him and stroking his beard.

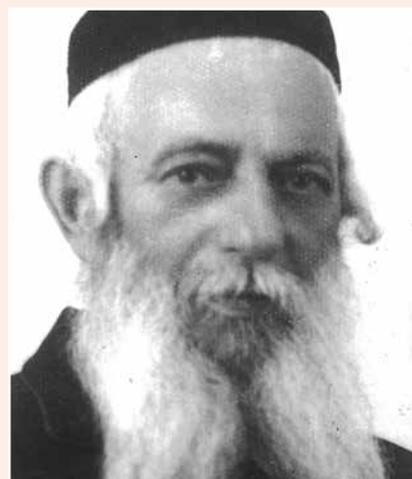
When Kristallnacht happened in Vienna I, could not understand what was happening. I heard noise, shouting and screams in the night. No one told me anything. My father disappeared for several days and when he returned, covered in bruises and blood and wearing dirty clothes, he was no longer my father. Some days later, I heard the adults saying that old Jewish men, including my grandfather, had been given buckets of water, soap and

scrubbing brushes and made to scrub the streets of Vienna. I thought to myself "The streets must have been very dirty for them to have to do that."

Some months after Kristallnacht we left Vienna. "We are going to a nice country called England," my parents told me. "And what about Oma and Opa?" I asked. "They are going to Palestine."

"Will we be able to see them?" "Perhaps, one day, but in the meantime we can write to them," said my parents.

Once in England we received a weekly letter from my grandparents and we sent them a weekly aerogram. My father wrote my messages out for me in Yiddish and I copied them into the letter.



Hersh Ephraim Schechter, Thea's grandfather

One day, soon after our arrival, my mother and I were travelling on that strange method of transport, an underground train. As we sat there, I looked around at the people in the carriage and there, straight opposite, was an old man with a long white beard. I burst into tears and rushed across to him, calling "Opa, Opa!" My mother was very embarrassed and dragged me back. The old man smiled at me sympathetically, but said nothing.

After the war, my mother visited my grandparents in Palestine. She travelled by train and ship and was away for quite a long time. When she returned she gave me a beautiful Siddur, which my grandparents had sent me. It had a wooden cover with inlaid decoration and I kept it by my bed all the time. Some years later, my grandfather died and we received an obituary from a Yiddish newspaper. A few years later, my grandmother also died.

When I was in my teens I visited Israel for the first time by boat. As we drew near the harbour everyone surged to the deck to enjoy the beautiful view of Haifa. Below us, in the dock, was a crowd of people awaiting relatives and friends. Amongst them I spotted an old man with a long white beard anxiously scouring the deck. As I looked, I burst into tears. "There, there," said a kindly Englishman next to me, patting my shoulder. "I know how emotional you must feel, returning to your homeland." But that was not the reason for my tears. I was crying for my lost grandfather.

Thea Valman

JULY GROUP EVENTS

As the exact timings of these events are often subject to last minute changes we do not include them in the AJR Journal and suggest you contact the relevant regional contact for full details.

Ealing	4 July	Nick Dobson: A Literary Cruise
Ilford	5 July	David Barnett – New talk on Adam Worth, Criminal Mastermind
Glasgow	6 July	Summertime BBQ
Oxford	6 July	Lunchtime social
Pinner	6 July	Diana Barnett – The Portuguese Consul De Sousa Mendes and how he saved so many Jewish people
Book Club	12 July	Social get-together
Bradford	13 July	Outing to Garden Centre
Hull	16 July	Outing to Ferrans Art Gallery
Brighton	17 July	Film: "The Forgotten Refugees"
Whitefield/Prestwich	17 July	Social get-together
Kensington	17 July	Tea at the home of Judy & David De Haas
Edgware	18 July	Avital Baruch, author of "Frozen Mud and Red Ribbons" (a novel about surviving Holocaust Romania and life in Israel)
Edinburgh	19 July	Social get-together
Glasgow Book Club	20 July	Social get-together
Radlett	19 July	Alf Kieles: Musical Morning
Wessex	19 July	Rhinefeld House
Cheshire	24 July	Social get-together
Wembley	26 July	Social get-together
Bromley CF	27 July	Churchill's German army
Muswell Hill	27 July	Social get-together
North London	27 July	Nigel Colman – Frank Sinatra talk with music
Bristol	31 July	Lunch
NW London	31 July	David Harris, former Deputy Head of JFS: "A Four Sites Saga: a short history of JFS"

LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION !!!

HOW HITLER HELPED HOLLYWOOD



The Cat and Canary

In the beginning there was one major figure—Sigmund Lubin, born Lubzynski, in Breslau in 1851, who began producing his first films in Philadelphia in 1897. His Lubin Company, with the Liberty Bell as its symbol, expanded into film exhibition and distribution and remained an active competitor to the larger American film companies for almost 20 years. A highly original and enterprising character who spoke English with a thick German accent, “Pop” Lubin’s paternalistic attitude toward his employees and competitive nature mark him out as a truly unique forerunner of those celebrated Jewish immigrant moguls who founded the leading Hollywood studios in later years... such as Carl Laemmle.

Born in Laupheim in 1867, Laemmle had first entered the film industry in 1906 in Chicago with a chain of nickelodeons. He then moved to New York, the early centre of the film industry, in 1909, where he produced his first short films. He was one of the first producers to promote his new film stars by name and to open a major new studio in California, not far from Hollywood, known as Universal City. He hired many Jewish and immigrant directors, such as the Viennese-born Erich von Stroheim, and relatives including Ernest and Edward Laemmle and a young William Wyler, whose mother was a distant cousin. The

young Irving Thalberg, born in New York to German immigrant parents who were also related to Laemmle, was first signed up as an assistant and secretary, then moved to California to become production chief for Laemmle’s Universal studio. Carl’s young son, Carl Laemmle Jr, became a producer, too, leading to the memorable catch-phrase coined by poet Ogden Nash, “Uncle Carl Laemmle has a very large faemmle”.

Ernst Lubitsch arrived in the US in 1922, attracted to Hollywood by the opportunities offered by the many large and successful film studios. With his highly original and sophisticated approach to comedy, he adapted well to the Hollywood mode of film-making. He provided a bit of prestige to the newly formed Warner Bros. studio in the 1920s, then moved on to Paramount where he directed a number of witty and entertaining comedies and musicals featuring many of the studio’s leading stars including Gary Cooper, Marlene Dietrich and Maurice Chevalier.

Other German-Jewish directors who followed Lubitsch to Hollywood included Paul Leni (née Levi) and Lothar Mendes, the Austrian-born Paul Stein and Berthold Viertel as well as the Czech cameraman, Karl Freund, who had been one of the leading figures in the flourishing German silent cinema of the 1920s. Paul Leni specialized in low-keyed horror such as *The Cat and the*

Several German Jewish immigrants, including Lubin, Laemmle and Lubitsch, made a great contribution to the early American silent cinema. They were joined by a new, younger group of producers and directors in the 1920s. But it was only after the Nazi rise to power early in 1933, when all Jewish film-makers were banned from the German film industry, that large numbers of German Jewish talents arrived in Hollywood, especially directors, writers and composers. Many of them had just started out in the early 1930s with the arrival of the talkies but had seen their promising careers suddenly cut short by the antisemitic policies of Hitler and Goebbels. The German cinema’s loss was Hollywood’s gain.

Canary and the extraordinary drama *The Man Who Laughs* starring Conrad Veidt, both filmed in 1927. But his sudden and unexpected death from blood poisoning in 1929 cut short a promising career.

Similarly drawing on the Germanic tradition of low-keyed drama and horror from the silent years, Karl Freund is also best remembered for his contribution to the iconic horror film cycle at Universal: cameraman on *Dracula* (1931) and *Murders in the Rue Morgue* (1932), he went on to direct *The Mummy* (1932) and an extraordinary horror-drama at MGM, *Mad Love* (1935), starring Peter Lorre newly arrived in Hollywood.

In marked contrast, the Alsace-born William Wyler emerged as a leading director of drama and comedy at Universal in the early 1930s. A well-made adaptation of Elmer Rice’s play, *Councillor at Law*, starring John Barrymore as a troubled Jewish lawyer, was followed by a delightful romantic comedy, *The Good Fairy* (1934), from a Molnar play. And for over thirty years Wyler continued as a top Hollywood director including *Ben-Hur* (1959) and *Funny Girl* (1966) starring Barbra Streisand.

During the 1920s, a new, younger group of German-Jewish producers started out at many of the leading studios, including an interesting mixture of immigrants and

first generation. For example, Lubitsch had brought with him a young assistant, Henry (Heinrich) Blanke, who continued at Warner Bros. after Lubitsch left the studio. He was responsible for many memorable productions such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1935), co-directed by Max Reinhardt, and *The Life of Emile Zola* (1937) dealing with the notorious Dreyfus case with Paul Muni and Joseph Schildkraut as the stars. Walter Wanger, born Feuchtwanger to German immigrant parents, began as a producer at Paramount, then Columbia and United Artists and continued as a leading independent up to *Cleopatra* (1963) written and directed by Joseph Mankiewicz. And when producer Irving Thalberg moved from Universal to MGM in 1924 he hired Berlin-born Paul Bern (nee Levy) as his most trusted production assistant. MGM had been founded by Marcus Loew, the son of Austrian immigrant parents, just as Columbia Pictures was founded by the sons of immigrants, Harry and Jack Cohn.

By 1934, after Hitler's rise to power, the first of the many Jewish refugees had arrived in Hollywood. For example, Joe May (nee Mandel) was employed as a producer at Columbia and was able to offer Billy Wilder his first script-writing job, while the half-Jewish, Austrian-born Fritz Lang was signed up by producer David Selznick at MGM. Similarly, when producer Erich Pommer arrived at Fox he was able to employ his immigrant friends on his first two films. *Music in the Air* (1934), adapted from the Hammerstein and Kern musical, was directed by Joe May, adapted for the screen by Franz Waxman and scripted by Billy Wilder and Robert Liebmann, while *Lottery Lover* (1935) was directed by Wilhelm Thiele, co-scripted by Wilder, Franz Schulz and Hanns Schwartz.

Meanwhile, over at MGM, an aspiring young writer-producer, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, was able to launch Fritz Lang on his American career with a downbeat project called *Fury*. A film of contemporary social comment dealing with lynch mob hysteria in a small town, very different from the typically glossy MGM style, it starred Spencer Tracy and Sylvia Sydney and was a surprise hit. Lang then teamed up with independent producer Walter Wanger on *You Only*



Live Once (1937) co-starring Miss Sidney and Henry Fonda as a young man framed for murder, a memorable crime drama which further established Lang's reputation in Hollywood.

In a lighter vein, the Hungarian-born producer, Joe Pasternak, tells in his autobiography how he and his director Henry Koster (Hermann Kosterlitz) arrived at Universal in 1936. Carl Laemmle had just sold the struggling studio and the situation looked hopeless for the two newcomers. But they had a five-picture contract and were determined. According to Pasternak, they invented a title, *Three Smart Girls*, and claimed they had a musical ready to go into production. Fortunately, they found a fourteen-year-old singer who had just been signed by the studio to star in their picture, thus launching the Hollywood career of Deanna Durbin.

Finally, anticipating developments in the 1940s, the Russian-born Anatole Litvak, who had first made his name as an editor, then director, in Germany, was hired by Warner Bros. to direct the first major anti-Nazi feature, *Confessions of a Nazi Spy*.

Joel Finler

NOTE FROM EDITOR: A follow up article, looking at the influence of Jewish refugees on Hollywood after WW2, will appear in a future edition of the AJR Journal.

MEMORY OF THE CAMPS



A woman inmate of Belsen concentration camp kisses the hand of Army Film & Photographic Unit cameraman Lieutenant Martyn Wilson on liberation. Film shot by Sergeant Mike Lewis, AFPU, 17 April 1945. © Imperial War Museums (IWM FLM 1226).

The Imperial War Museum has made the definitive film *German Concentration Camps Factual Survey* available on DVD/Blu-ray for the first time.

Commissioned by the British Ministry of Information in 1945, the film was designed to be shown to Germans and POWs after the fall of the Third Reich and was to be the Allied film about the subject, but was never completed. In February 1984, the Imperial War Museum made it publicly available in its unfinished form with the allocated title *Memory of the Camps*, and in 2010, a team at the IWM began restoring and completing the film, following the original filmmakers' directions.

This definitive version received its world premiere at the 2014 Berlin Film Festival and has since been shown widely at various film festivals and museums. A dual DVD/Blu-ray edition with subtitles for hard of hearing and nine foreign languages, can now be purchased via: http://www.iwmshop.org.uk/product/26062/German_Concentration_Camps_Factual_Survey_DVD_BluRay

According to the IWM's Senior Curator Dr Toby Haggith: "The brilliance of the editing in combination with the clarity of the digital restoration, gives today's viewer the impression that they are seeing these searing images for the first time. Despite the harrowing nature of the content, it is undoubtedly a film made with artistry and poetic reflection. Several survivors have praised the film's essential truth and urged us to make it as widely available as possible."

A new Outro film has been made to accompany the documentary. In this Belsen survivor Peter Lantos explains: "... in a way, by the repetition of these horrid images, people must realise that actually it was like that and you can't escape from it, and you shouldn't escape from it."

Discovering my roots



The Blonder family in Berlin, 1928. Charles' mother, seated, and two of his aunts made it to London. One uncle went to South America, the other to New York. Both grandparents and his eldest aunt perished in the camps.



A page from my mother's passport

Rosenzweig (née Neugeboren) born in 1856, was a merchant selling paraffin. In those days there were no street names, just numbers (our family house was number 65). Although the house no longer exists, the Mayor was able to show us its exact location. It would have been a wooden construction with three families (19 people) living in it, which was the

My mother died when she was only 47, never having recovered from the trauma of living under the Nazis. She was born Sara Sabina Blonder, 25 miles from Krakow in 1917. She was the youngest of six children. Around 1925 the family left Poland to make a better life in Berlin. With the rise of the Nazis five of the children managed to escape. The parents stayed behind with the eldest daughter, Bertha, who was now married. The parents were taken to Ravensbruck Concentration Camp where they perished in 1942. Bertha died in Auschwitz in 1943.

A few years' ago I received a telephone call from a lady claiming to be the daughter of my Aunt Rose. Apparently when her birth mother made her way from Berlin to Glasgow she was pregnant and penniless, unable to speak English or work. She gave birth to a daughter and an advert was placed in the Jewish Chronicle putting the child up for adoption. The baby (who would be my first cousin) was adopted by a London family, and Aunt Rose later settled in London and married. Mother and daughter lived within 20 miles of one another but their paths never crossed.

My new found cousin, Tetra, explained how she had found me through the Jewish Refugees Committee. We had much to talk about and in June 2006 the two of us, together with my cousin Ruth and our respective partners, decided to visit Poland to trace our roots.

The six of us journeyed from Krakow to Nowy Wisnicz where my mother was born. There we were taken to the Jewish cemetery where my great grandparents were buried. It was overgrown but most of the stones were intact although difficult to read. We said Kaddish and then made our way to the museum. The curator phoned a former resident of Wisnicz, Marian Drozd, now living in Gdansk. He had lived there in the 1920s and said the family name was familiar and gave an indication of where they had lived.

Our final stop was a meeting with the Mayor of Nowy Wisnicz. Through our interpreter, he told us about the approximately 2,000 Jews who once lived there, about half the population; most were merchants. Now there are no Jewish families. The next evening our guide called to say the Mayor had found some interesting documents and could we return to Nowy Wisnicz.

The documents related to the Rosenzweig family. One showed that my great grandmother, Beila Riffka

norm in those days; amongst them was my great-great-grandmother Breindel Rosenzweig, born 1820. He also told us there were other records in a museum in the nearby town of Bochnia. We thanked the Mayor for his time and patience and presented him with a bottle of Glenfiddich.

The following day we went to Bochnia. We uncovered more documents including the marriage certificate of my grandparents, records of my mother's birth, her siblings and extended family.

I had sent Mr Drozd photographs and details of my family. He replied that he had been friendly with a family with the same surname as my grandparents, although he was not sure it was the same family. He went on to say that he saved the life of a six year old Jewish boy by transporting him to a secret destination and many times took food to the Jews interned in the Bochnia ghetto. He was also a member of the Polish Home Army, working alongside the Jewish Fighting Organisation. He has forwarded the family details to a former school friend from Nowy Wisnicz now resident in Israel to see if he can shed any more light on my family.

It was a most exciting and emotional trip and filled many gaps in my family history

Charles J Drecksler

A LORRA LAUGHS IN LIVERPOOL



In front of Princes Road Synagogue

At the end of May 22 AJR members from throughout the UK made a five-day visit to Liverpool and the surrounding area as one of our most enjoyable and action packed annual outings to date.

Escorted by five staff from the AJR's Outreach Department, the group enjoyed a whistle stop coach tour around Liverpool, as well as plenty of time to explore many of its finest attractions such as Albert Dock, the Walker and Tate Galleries and the Museum of Slavery. They also had a turn on The Big Wheel, giving them splendid views of the whole city.

Further afield, the group visited the seaside town of Southport, the wonderful Tudor property Speke Hall – now managed by the National Trust – and Port Sunlight, where they particularly enjoyed learning about the history of the philanthropic Lever family. William Lever not only introduced

welfare schemes, he also provided for the education and entertainment of his workforce, encouraging recreation and facilitating the pursuit of art, literature, science or music.

Equally fascinating was a tour of the 'Beatles' Liverpool' where our group saw many attractions associated with the Fab Four, including Penny Lane, Strawberry Fields and, of course, the Cavern Club.

Of course several parts of the itinerary related to Liverpool's Jewish heritage. Princes Road Synagogue was built in the 1870s at a cost of £13,000 (£100 million in today's terms) and its sheer size and ornateness reflect the importance and wealth of the community at the time. Today's much smaller community has a challenge in preserving this impressive 900 seat Grade 1 listed building.

The group also visited King David School where they met up with many

AJR Liverpool members and enjoyed listening to a wonderful Klezmer band from Manchester. Meanwhile an undoubted highlight of the entire trip was joining Rabbi Harry Jacobi and his daughter at the Albert Dock to commemorate the 77th anniversary of his arrival from Holland on the SS Bodegraven in 1940, following his double escape from the Nazis.

Glowing reports have poured in from many members of the group. Ruth Ramsay wrote "I cannot praise highly enough the complete organisation and support that the AJR team provided" while June Wertheim said "from the start it was a delight to meet so many old friends and to make new ones." Patricia Tausz and Alan Hinson, both first time participants in an AJR trip, said they were "very impressed by the precision and attention to every detail" while Peter Briess, who had visited Liverpool 67 years earlier with the RAF, described himself as "thoroughly spoilt".

The destination and dates for next year's trip are currently being finalised, and the AJR also runs many shorter outings and day trips throughout the year. Please contact Susan Harrod on susan@ajr.org.uk or **020 8385 3078** for more details.

Meanwhile the group would like to personally thank the AJR team behind the trip, particularly the Outreach Department led by Susan Harrod and including Wendy Bott, Agnes Isaacs, Kathryn Prevezer and Esther Rinkoff, and the 'local' social workers Christine Brazier and Dave Moon.



Jackie & Jack Sheldon with Cilla Black's statue



The group visting Penny Lane

A PIECE OF FAMILY HISTORY



AJR's Debra Barnes recently got the chance to see and hold a precious handbag belonging to her grandmother when she visited the National Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire.

Debra, who joined the AJR in January to co-ordinate the My Voice project in London, was aware that her late mother had donated the handbag to Beth Shalom, but knew very little about its history.

"My mother lost both her parents, one older brother and her twin sister at Auschwitz but she never wanted to talk about it," explains Debra. "She passed away quite suddenly in 2010 and I felt the need to find out more about her background. The stories are fascinating and it is lovely to know that a little piece of her family history is commemorated here in Nottingham."

The handbag is on permanent display in *The Journey*, the National Holocaust Centre's special exhibition for primary school children, which opened in 2008. Following the story of Leo Stein, a 10 year old German Jewish boy living with his parents and younger sister Hannah as Nazi propaganda spread, the exhibition was part sponsored by the AJR, making the location of Debra's family heirloom doubly fitting.

Debra is now writing a novel based on her family's experiences during the Shoah in France, and hopes to publish it later this year.

ALONE IN BERLIN

The producers of the new WW2 film *Alone in Berlin* are offering the chance for Jewish communities around the UK to hold special screenings at their local cinemas.

Based on the bestselling book by Hans Fallada and starring Brendan Gleeson, Emma Thompson and Daniel Bruhl, *Alone in Berlin* focuses on a German couple who become secretly anti-Nazi.



If you would like to organise a private screening please email sales@trafalgar-releasing.com or log onto www.ourscreen.com/film/Alone-In-Berlin.

THE CEREMONY

The AJR recently supported the first staged reading of a powerful new play by Eva Hoffman, whose own parents survived the Holocaust by hiding in Ukraine.

Set at a commemorative ceremony in the small Polish town of Jedwabne, where during WWII a massacre was perpetrated by neighbours upon neighbours, *The Ceremony* offers a dark but urgently relevant dramatization of the terrible violence of ethnic and religious conflict.

On 21 May at JW3 a 16-strong cast gave the first public reading of the drama, in which descendants of those who had perished come together to mark 60th anniversary of the massacre, along with local dignitaries and various international ambassadors.

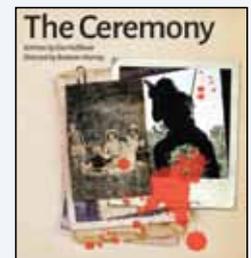
One of the main perpetrators of the massacre makes an unwelcome appearance, much to the disgust of the ghosts of some of those who died and their relatives. It seems at first as though he has come to gloat, until he admits to his disturbed conscience.

Eva Hoffman and the reading's director, Braham Murray, are now raising funds towards staging a full theatrical production of *The Ceremony*. For more information please contact their Head of Development on **07976 918 476** or via jessicasharp@btinternet.com.

Even the deeply cynical female lawyer from Baltimore,

whose grandfather perished in the massacre and who is attending the ceremony under duress from her parents, leaves with an enlightened understanding of fear and indecision and a pledge to always remember where she came from. Meanwhile, the US Ambassador receives regular phone cries for help throughout the ceremony, reminding him – and us – that many people in the world are being persecuted today.

In the Q&A after the reading Eva Hoffman explained that the main purpose of the play is to demonstrate how such a horrific event could come about in what was hitherto a peaceful community with Jews and Poles living and working happily side by side. The play demonstrates how mistrust and resentment grew, with Jews becoming the scapegoat for all of Poland's troubles.



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