



Kindertransport

A special interest group of

The Association of Jewish Refugees
SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE



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Previous issues may also be viewed at:

www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm

Dear Kinder and Friends



From the Editor's Desk

This edition of the Newsletter is written at a worrying time, especially during the period recalling the destruction of the Temples. However, despite this, like newspapers, we must appear on time. Once again the contents reflect a variety of items, as far away as Australia and USA and as near as Akiva School in Finchley. Kindertransport has become a topic of study at various levels. Let us pray and hope that *shalom*, peace will reign in Israel, so that, in the words of the prophet Micah, Israel and world Jewry may all sit under their vine and fig-tree and no one shall make them afraid. Finally, no Newsletter would appear without Andrea's wonderful work (and odd nagging!). Thanks Andrea.

Shanah tova vechag sameach

Bernd.



From your  Chairman

Quite a summer - what with hot sunshine and a few thunder storms in between; a summer not to forget.

Of course the main news for us is what is happening in Gaza. Somehow the media seem to conveniently forget the thousands of rockets that have poured into Israel from the Gaza strip fired

by Hamas. Hamas appear to lay more importance in building tunnels and stocking up on rockets in order to try and destroy Israel rather than look after their own people most of whom live in poverty. At the end of the day communicating is surely a better way than trying to wreak havoc in Israel. The consequences as we have witnessed are hundreds of Palestinians killed, maimed or lost their property, not to speak of the many Israelis who have died or are living under constant threat of bombardment

We can but hope that peace will eventually prevail

Meanwhile I wish you all *Chag Sameach and Shanah Tovah*



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Time Flies

"I can't believe it's Rosh Hashanah again!" Well. Dear Readers, it is Rosh Hashanah once more. The Shofar awakens us again. Kol Nidrei is there to move us spiritually – the day itself, punctuated with conversations about "how are you going to break your fast?" Then the joys in succeeding days of Sukkot with the riotous behaviour' of Smchat Torah to conclude the period of the Chagim.

In my article on the Shemittah year, I mentioned that it is a sabbatical for the farmer. In a smaller way the High Holy Days are also a sabbatical period. Leaving aside the material elements, be it "What do I wear?" food with its shopping and cooking, there is the spiritual side, the sabbatical element.

The month of Tishri sets the tone, with Shofar and especially the Selichot. How moving is the midnight service with Chazan and choir. The service over the two days of Rosh Hashanah are lengthy. Question: "What can I do, if I cannot follow it all, or any part?" Study the English translation, and if there is, a commentary –there are many commentaries available. Bring a book on Jewish themes, which can also be uplifting. Let your mind wander and reflect on the significance of the days and what they mean for YOU. In modern jargon, let it be a period 'of self-appraisal.' The same applies to Yom Kippur where the service is much longer. Also, let the music of the days envelop you. "Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." (Berthold Auerbach, German Jewish Novelist,, 1812-1882). The melodies of Unetane Tokef and Kol Nidrei, among others, are awe- inspiring; a prelude to Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur could be listening to Max Bruch's Kol Nidrei. As the day draws to a close, one cannot help but be moved by the inspiration of the *Ne'ilah* service; *ne'ilah* means 'closing', yes, it brings Yom Kippur to a close, but hopefully not to the spiritual inspiration of the High Holy Days for the year ahead.

In contrast, there is the joyous Chag of Sukkot. The Sukkah is a symbol of Divine protection, as one 'leaves' the security of a house for a temporary dwelling. Currently, that Divine protection is so much needed, In Israel, and elsewhere in the face of anti-Semitism the world over. Additionally, the Sukkah represents hospitality (symbolised by the seven guests, Abraham, Isaac, etc), an act of chased (kindness) which Judaism mandates must be shown to all, whoever they are. The physical structure and the activity (or non-activity) are represented by aspects of the four species (Lulav, etc.) Maybe the combinations of these two explanations emphasises the importance of being active, of contributing to society wherever, as shown by the waving in six directions of the Lulav.

“Bring joy to our Land and happiness to Your City,” as well as peace and understanding that all may dwell in peace.

Bernd

The Last Train to Tomorrow

The AJR is excited and very proud to present the London premiere of THE LAST TRAIN TO TOMORROW at 3pm on Sunday 9 November at the Roundhouse, London NW1.

A song cycle composed and conducted by the internationally acclaimed artist Carl Davis CBE and written by the celebrated children’s author Hiawyn Oram in tribute to the Kindertransport, the sequence of ten songs was commissioned by the Halle Orchestra and will be performed by the Finchley Children’s Music Group.

This special one-off event will also feature The Marriage of Figaro Overture by Mozart and Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto performed by City of London Sinfonia, together with an outstanding young violin soloist from the Yehudi Menuhin School.

As the event takes place on a Sunday afternoon on 9 November which marks the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the concert will begin with a memorial for the Reichspogrom and Kinder and their families are particularly encouraged to come along.

To book tickets please visit the Roundhouse website www.roundhouse.org.uk or call 0300 6789 222.

Michael Newman



The Roundhouse, Camden Town

The Journey

This was a play put on by Year 6 of Akiiva Primary School, Finchley Whilst I was invited to see it, unfortunately I could not make the presentations. The script was written and performed by the pupils. It resulted out of their study of World War 2 and the Shoah, ‘inspired by meeting a number of survivors of this time.’ Visits to various sites and exhibitions contributed to the overall play, such as Imperial War Museum, Liverpool Street Station, Jewish Museum, AJR as well as meeting with Kinder.

‘The play is comprised of 6 separate acts which illustrate both the physical and emotional journeys of the children of the Kindertransport and WW2 evacuees.’ (Liz Papier and Rohann Plunkett, year 6 teachers and Directors of the Play) - quoted from the Introduction.

Act 1: Germany 1938 leading to Kristallnacht.

Act2: Kindertransport

Act3: England 1938-9 and adaptation to the new life

Act4: Devon 1939-40, evacuation

Act 5: Devon 1945, getting along

Act 6: What happened? London 2014; 'stories of where Kinder ended up and how their lives played out.'

Each act contained, music, song and dance (choreographed by Susy Stone, Head Teacher). Thanks were also expressed to Carl Davis and Paul Kaye, actor and comedian and a parent.

I have been to talk at the school several times and must congratulate the staff and pupils alike.

MIK



Dear Bernd,

Thank you (in reply to an email –ed) that would be great especially for Kinder as I am sure they will be interested to hear about the book and know when it will be published.

I have been working on MEMORIES THAT WON'T GO AWAY for four years and have documented 100's (over 400) of our Kinder. The theme of the book is based on a ceramic train sculpture that was developed by Gabriella Y. Karin. I collected the photos of each of our Kinder and each photo was inserted into one of the windows of the sixty four train carriages. We exhibited these carriages at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust back in 2011, where I am an educator/docent. The success of the exhibition prompted me to compile a book, which documents the stories of each of the Kinder whose photos were recorded in the windows (see picture below). My mother arrived to London on a Kindertransport from Leipzig, Germany, in March 1939, and it is because of this and the fate of my natural grandparents, that this has been a project very close to me and certainly a subject I am most passionate about.

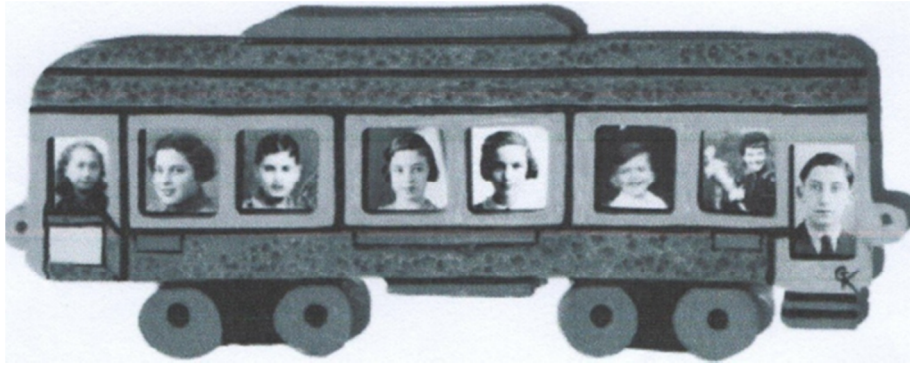
My book is being published by KOTARIM INTERNATIONAL who are located in Israel (the book will be published in English). Gabriella has illustrated the book using her wonderful ceramic trains. I think I am still about three months or so away from publication. I shall launch it most likely in Israel and London too, where so many of our Kinder live, and of course, back here in Los Angeles where I live.

I am an ex-pat. I grew-up in Golders Green and moved to Los Angeles in 1990 when I married my husband, Larry who, at that time, had just moved to Los Angeles from New York.

All good wishes,

Michele (Gold)

- NB: For any JFS readers also ex-Zangwill 196



A carriage with windows showing Kinder

Dear Andrea

Please would it be possible to hear more about, and may be from, the families, or their descendants, who took in the Kinder, without whom none of them could have got here? I did not myself come that way, but my younger brother did. His family, George and Dorothy Bailey of Leamington Spa and their 3 children treated me as part of their family as well. They were Quakers and Pacifists, wanting to do their bit to rescue a child and give him a good chance in life, especially a good education. They had been given lists of children with their backgrounds to choose from. They kept in touch with my parents until the war started. My brother went farming in Australia at 25, his ambition from a young age. Dorothy visited him several times to see her "grandchildren"! She always invited me or came to see me after such visits. I doubt whether most of the children were easy to understand to start with! My brother felt very guilty for having left our parents and at 13 years old, knew better than I, who had left earlier, how bad their position was. When the first reunions of Kinder were reported by AJR I did send him the address, but he got no answer and has no contact with others in the "same boat". He does not 'do' email. Not that I am any good at it, but I do feel that we should show appreciation to those who rescued so many children! Hopefully some attended the parties, and some "Kinder" will be encouraged to write about them! One letter in the last AJR Journal mentions living with a nice couple, but more about the not so nice teacher, who did not understand "continental" knitting! Are there statistics about the backgrounds of the hosts?

Bettina Cohn

Dear Bernd

Mike Auerbach assumes that those of us who came by Kindertransport have no gratitude towards the Armed Forces during or after the war. How on earth does he know? There was a classmate of mine (Austria) who managed to join the paratroopers after or towards the end of the war. However, when I myself, on leaving school in 1944 at the age of seventeen, made enquiries about joining the ATS, I was told they were no longer recruiting. All those older than me and connected with me served.

Saddest of all was the fate of my uncle Paul Eisenberger (mother's brother) who had come to this country with great difficulty. He joined the free Czech army (?Czech Contingent) and did not manage to be evacuated from Dunkirk. I once heard that he gave married men precedence in the lorry that was to take them to Dunkirk, but I haven't been able to verify this. A grateful French nation for whom he had gone to fight handed him over to the German invader and he subsequently perished in Auschwitz.

Others happily did better. A cousin of my mother (came over on a domestic permit) joined the ATS (absolutely loved it) but returned to her very loyal German (non-Jewish) husband after the war. Apparently, he had, from time to time, been urged to divorce his absent Jewish wife, but had refused to do so. A nephew of hers (I myself only met him after the war) had served in the Air Force. My first boyfriend (Vienna) served in the REME, my husband-to-be (also Vienna) joined the Pioneer Corps. Two second cousins (Karlsbad), saved to the US, were in the American Army throughout the war.

Gerda Mayer

Dear Bernd

Regarding the April issue of the KT/AJR bulletin, I am one of the children in the photograph on page 10. I would like to give you more information about the girls in the photo. This picture of the Hackney Hostel girls was taken in the village of Cockley Cley, in Norfolk, in front of the home of Sir Samuel and Lady Roberts' house, known as Cockley Cley Hall where some of children from our London School were evacuated. The Roberts family owned the village, with the exception of the Post Office, and most of the villagers were employed by the family, primarily on the farm.

The girls shown, with the exception of Mrs. Reisner (adult on the left) and her daughter Hannah (now living in Israel) in front of her, lived in the Hall. Mrs. Reisner had been our cook in the kosher hostel in London and came to Cockley Cley to continue in that capacity.

The girls shown (from left to right) next to Hannah are: Anita Schiller (deceased), Lilly Schischa, married Tauber, now living in Vienna, Austria; Ruth Wasserman-Segal (deceased), in front of her Frieda Kohn (deceased), next to Ruth: Rita Wislizki, I believe (deceased); under her Thea Herzberg, married Katz, lives in Florida; Sylva Abramiwici (not sure about the spelling) died in 1993; her daughter Deborah Oppenheimer made the Academy Award winning documentary *Into The Arms of Strangers*. Next to her is me, and on the extreme right Lilly Kohn, married Groewald. The funny story about Lilly was that she had braids which seemed to make her lean forward all the time. We persuaded her to cut them off and she right away started to walk straight. She was the first of these girls to get married, while still in England.

Although my husband, Kurt Goldberger, is no longer the President of the KTA (after a 14 year stint in that position), he and I would appreciate receiving both the AJR and KT newsletters. My current position in the organization is Corresponding Secretary.

You are now on the mailing list - Andrea

Margaret Goldberger, née Heller (USA)

Dear Editor

For a number of years now, there has been a monument to the memory of those who arrived on the Kindertransport at Liverpool Street Station in London. I have no personal involvement and am not Jewish, but I admire the monument to this remarkable achievement when I pass it twice a day on my commute. Unfortunately, it is in a place frequented by smokers, just outside the station and there are always people sitting on, leaning against it, whilst smoking. Is there not something that can be done to ring fence this statue in any way? I find it incredibly disrespectful that members of the public lounge all over what is a very serious and sombre commemoration.

Stephen Kiery, Managing Director, Head of Securities Finance New Business Development, BNY Mellon, Global Collateral Services

Dear Andrea

At the end of page 12 Of the April Newsletter there is a mention of Mr Allan Overton. This gentleman collected my wife Ingrid at Liverpool Street Station on 4th July 1939 to take her to her guarantors in Ashby de la Zouch, Allan Overton, from the Christadelphians, did a lot of valuable work for Kindertransport refugees. His grand-daughter, Jane Mackenzie, tells us he established a hostel in Rugby for the Children. Has anyone any information about this gentleman and his good deeds. Mrs Mackenzie would like to know. I am in contact with her.

Henry M Wuga, Glasgow



A helping hand for Kinder

Six Point Foundation was set up in 2011 with some of the proceeds from the disposal of assets which were owned by the Otto Schiff Housing Association (OSHA). OSHA had its origins in a fund set up in 1933 to rescue Jewish people from Nazi oppression in Germany.

Since the Foundation made its first grant, it has awarded over £390,000 in over 360 grants to individual Holocaust survivors and refugees in financial need. Grants have been for one-off expenses to improve quality of life such as home adaptations, medical bills, travel costs and temporary care. So far 26 Kinder have been supported with grants, including seven grants in 2013 towards costs associated with attending the Kindertransport reunion (e.g. transport, care).

Susan Cohen, Executive Director of Six Point Foundation, spoke at the 9 June Kindertransport lunch to explain about the work of the Foundation and to ask everyone to help spread the word that it is here to help. She is grateful to the Kinder who suggested several excellent ideas for where the Foundation might publicise, particularly the idea of kosher shops!

The Foundation does not take requests for funding directly. Those who got in touch after the Kindertransport lunch were referred on to AJR. AJR is one of five SPF partner agencies that confidentially assess people who have asked for help and request grants on their behalf.

Before it closes within the next three years, the Foundation aims to reach and help as many struggling Holocaust survivors and refugees as possible in modest but meaningful ways that would not come about if it did not exist.

Holocaust survivors/refugees must be of Jewish origin living in the UK with an income of less than £10,000 per year (excluding pensions or social security) and have assets less than £32,000 (excluding a primary residence and a car). Please contact AJR on 020 8385 3070 for more information.

www.sixpointfoundation.org.uk

Wirral, Bucks and Beer

Speaking about Kindertransport has taken me, and I am certain many others, into interesting places. Earlier this year, as a result of the BBC programme, I went up to the Wirral of which I had heard but ignorant of its location; it is on the other side of the river Mersey to Liverpool. I was hosted by Maria's brother; she was the producer of the BBC programme on Kindertransport. I spoke to several groups at a Catholic High School and also at a Catholic Primary School. As I stayed overnight, there was also ample time to see the quiet countryside and enjoy the local brew. Before returning to London, we visited the revamped Liverpool Docks which housed among other exhibition buildings the Tate Gallery where we saw an exhibition of Modern Art.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the programme was seen in Tylers Green (Buckinghamshire or Bucks) where I lived in a hostel. I asked my contact, Miles Green, whether I could visit and speak at my old Primary school which I left in 1942. It was arranged and back I went. Due to reorganisation, the school is divided into two parts, with the upper classes in a new building where I spoke. The old building, Victorian in appearance, where I attended for a year is still there and where I learned to dance the Hornpipe! As a record of my visit, I left behind a copy of my last report from the school.

A third outcome of the programme was a more local visit organised from Germany. Fortismere School, Muswell Hill (North London), is linked to a German school with interchange visits. Rudi, the German organiser and teacher, contacted me from Germany and arranged for me to meet his students as well as the local students studying German. I had two sessions: one with the German students to whom I spoke in German for an hour and then questions and after that another hour-long session with the English students. After a break for lunch, I was interviewed by four German students. It was a most fascinating experience. I was presented with two interesting books (in German) on my home town of Fuerth. As I was about to leave, Rudi presented me with a collection of German beers; we had discussed that subject over the phone!

Whilst the experiences I have described and others also have had, there is one area that is ongoing. AJR frequently receives requests for information about Kindertransport many of which I am asked to deal with. The questions are very varied, some with more exacting details, some very general. A small number deal with material or interviews for dissertations. To date, I have one complete dissertation of 22 000 words on a memory stick.

Please let me have some of your experiences of speaking about the Kindertransport to whatever group. You might like to share serious questions or even some funnies.

Bernd Koschland

SEARCHES



Where are you?

I am seeking information about my mother (Josephine Perl Frisch, born in Vienna November 1923) regarding her experiences once she arrived via Kindertransport in England. She left Vienna on 22nd July 1939 (aged 15) and arrived in Harwich on 27th July. Subsequently she is recorded as being in

Staffordshire on 12 December 1939, where she was employed as a 'domestic servant' (nanny looking after 3 children) living and working on Big Cullamores Farm near Stone in Staffordshire. By October 1940 she was living in London. Her mother arrived in England on 28 August 1939. Particularly I am seeking information / references on what would have happened to her from arrival to her placement, and subsequently how Kinder moved on. Specifically where were the Kinder sent following arrival, what happened to them there, and how did the process for 'adoption' operate, for her to move to Staffordshire and thence leave to move to London.

Maybe someone out there might have some knowledge. Thanks for any references /information that anyone can provide.

Peter Guttman, Melbourne, Australia

Shemittah

The year 5715 is once again a shemittah year. According to the Torah, the Shemittah year means that the land in Israel lies fallow and uncultivated; nothing is planted and whatever grows of itself can be used by anyone for food but not for business. Also according to the Torah, loans are remitted. The great teacher Hillel realised that remission of loans could cause difficulties and instituted the prozbul, a document whereby the loan would be held by a Beth Din.

Apart from the Sabbath for the land, the Shemittah allowed a sabbatical for the farmers to cultivate their spirit, by devoting themselves to the study of Torah.

Economic difficulties demanded ways of helping in the early days of the Yishuv (Settlers) in the Eretz Israel of the early 20th century. Certain Rabbis helped by deciding that the land should be sold to a non-Jew (much like chametz at Pesach time). Many objected. Another way was the later introduction of hydroponics, that is growing crops in water with appropriate plant food. Modern Israel has given advice on this system of cultivation to other countries.

There are also those who feel and felt that supporting the agricultural activities of Israel (certainly when it was more agricultural in days gone by) was essential for its economy and went against the laws of Shemittah.

I personally feel that whatever our outlook on the matter is, we must support and give help, when asked, to those that observe the shemittah.



Regretfully Mr Alex Lawrence of Marlow died shortly before the article on the Royal Mail in the last issue of the Newsletter appeared.

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It might be of interest to the reader the KINDERTRANSPORT supplement that both Lotte Kramer and I (Gerda Mayer) have been included in a book called 2ND WORLD WAR POETRY IN ENGLISH by the

poet John Lucas, published by Greenwich Exchange London in 2013. The book is in prose with some quotations from the respective works.

(Gerda Mayer)

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Thank you for answering my questions! This has helped my research a lot! I am grateful for your help! I have learned a great deal about the Kindertransport by doing this research and was quite horrified by how much evil was and still is in the world, because unfortunately, similar things are happening to children from different countries around the world at the moment. Thank you again! It was a pleasure interviewing you!

(Julia Pavel)

(For some time, we Kinder have been able to assist students from GCSE to MA in essays and dissertations on Kindertransport and Holocaust studies generally. It is always great to have a reply regarding progress and results. BK)

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The Schlesinger Hostel

Behind the door of 26 Shepherds Hill, Highgate, lies an undiscovered and unique story. In March 1939 it became a home and sanctuary for 12 children rescued from Nazi Germany.

Although busy with their own family of 5 children, Dr Bernard Schlesinger and his wife Winifred, felt they had to act. They watched the spread of Nazism in Germany with increasing horror and resolved to do what they could to help. They established the hostel in Highgate and rescued Jewish children from Berlin to give them a home in the UK.

This hostel stands apart from the many others which housed children who came on the Kindertransport.

The Schlesingers had already decided in the summer of 1938 that they wanted to rescue Jewish children from Berlin, educate them in England, and give them a new life. The tragedy of Kristallnacht in November prompted action from the Jewish Community in the UK and led to the Kindertransport. This provided the means to get the children to London - but the Schlesingers had already started looking for suitable accommodation and settled on a large Edwardian house in Highgate. The timing is important here, and the Schlesingers seemed to have extraordinary foresight and vision.

They had a clear idea of the kind of home they wanted to create, one in which the children would be compatible and from similar backgrounds. In October 1938 the Schlesingers were working with the Jewish Agency in Berlin. Edith Kaufmann helped to find and select the children. Applications forms had to be completed and the children carefully chosen.

The Schlesingers wanted to create a refuge for the children which would feel familiar and like a home for them. Not only did they successfully rescue 12 children from Berlin, but they staffed the hostel with 4 Jewish women also from Berlin. By bringing over a matron, cook and 2 maids, Dr Schlesinger was able to save their lives as well.

Initially, the application to convert the property on Shepherds Hill into a hostel for refugee children was refused by Hornsey council. Only when Dr Schlesinger went in person to the appeal, did the council change their mind. Hornsey agreed to allow 12 children to stay temporarily in the property.

After Kristallnacht, families were desperate to leave Germany. Mark Kneale - one of the Shepherds Hill Hostel children, recalls from that time "it was all about emigration, people everywhere talked about nothing else - visas, where they could go, how they could get out of Germany". Anxious

parents were desperate to get their children to safety and Dr Schlesinger's hostel provided sanctuary.

Dr Schlesinger's children came to the UK on the Kindertransport, leaving their families behind to an unknown fate. They arrived at Liverpool Street Station on 16th March 1939, with Dr Bernard and Winifred Schlesinger to meet them. One of the children, Reni Birnbaum, recalls feeling so scared at being in such an unfamiliar and strange place. She was comforted by Winifred Schlesinger who could speak German, which helped her and the other children feel more at home.

So much care and consideration was put into this home. Not only did Dr Schlesinger personally write to the local schools to secure their education, but he thought about the children's extra-curricular activities such as Boy Scouts. He made sure they visited the dentist and looked after their medical needs himself. Their spiritual needs were met by a young refugee Rabbi called Rabbi Erwin Zimet. He came to the house in Highgate with his guitar and sang songs with the children.

There was a 13th child - a distant cousin called Dick Levy who was also saved by the Schlesingers. Unlike the other children, he came from Leipzig. Since he was unable to stay in the hostel (as it was restricted by the council to only allowing 12 children), he was given a home at the Schlesingers' own house in Hampstead. He remembers calling Bernard and Wini 'mummy and daddy', and he grew up with the Schlesinger children as part of the family. Miraculously his mother and baby sister caught the last KLM flight out of Holland on 30th August 1939. They were reunited in the UK, but it took some time before the family could actually all live together.

When war broke out in September 1939, the hostel was closed down and the children evacuated. But the Schlesingers continued to support and care for them. Even when Dr Schlesinger went to war, the children were looked after by Wini. This care carried on throughout the lives of the children and the Schlesinger family. Every ten years after the war, the children would meet up with their growing families. The children felt all through their lives a huge sense of gratitude and love for the Schlesinger family.

Deborah Cowen



*Singing with World War II refugee children in London
Clockwise – Rabbi Erwin Zimet, Mrs. Frida Glucksman, Ilse Jacobsohn,
Lore Feig, Ilse Salomon, Michael Maybaum, Marianne Mamlok, Reni
Birnbaum, Wolfgang Kohorn, Kurt Seelig, Steffi Birnbaum, Peter Hecht,
Vera Baer, Walter Bluh.*

Children from the Schlesinger Hostel 1939

TRAVELLING VIA THE HOOK

Some journeys are full of ghosts. The 30 minute ride from Rotterdam to Hoek van Holland (or vice versa) is in that vein.....The view from the train window has changed over the years, as oil storage depots and refineries march relentlessly along the banks of the River Maas. We have watched an old windmill (1710).....The days the trains from the Hook have no through carriages to distant spots. The route is served by humble sprinters, which hardly sprint and stop at every station along the way. They serve Maassluis which has long since lost its Jewish population.

The railway line from Rotterdam to Hoek van Holland is full of ghosts. There are the shadows of quiet villages gobbled up by the city, the echoes of the last Psalms recited in the synagogue at Maassluis. And there are the voices of Jewish children. Thousands upon thousands of them who, in the months prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, travelled by special Kindertransport trains to Hoek van Holland, there to board the ship for the crossing to Harwich and new lives in England.

Just one of those who were sent to safety by their parents was 15-year old Ruth Neumeyer, who 75 years ago this week, said goodbye to her parents on a railway platform in Munich and boarded the train for Hoek van Holland. Ruth never saw her parents again. Like the parents of so many children who found refuge through the Kindertransport programme. Hans and Vera Neumeyer perished in the Holocaust. Ruth died in London in 2012

For us, as surely for many other travellers on the line to Hoek van Holland, the ghosts of young German Jews are what gives character to this rail route. It is one of those instances where the psychogeography of the route is shaped not by the passing landscape beyond the carriage window but more by overwhelming historical circumstances. This is a good week (when the original was written – editor) to reflect on the Kindertransport rescue mission. It is a good week to reflect on Ruth Neumeyer and many more like her. You can read more about Ruth at <http://ephraimneumeyer.wordpress.com>.

The full article was written by Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, Editors, Hidden Europe Magazine, a Berlin-based editorial bureau that supplies text and images to media across Europe.

- The above article is a shortened version of the one appearing on <http://www.hiddeneurope.co.uk/travelling-via-the-Hook> .

BK

Views expressed in the Kindertransport Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Kindertransport Special Interest Group or of the Association of Jewish Refugees and should not be regarded as such.