



# Kindertransport

A special interest group of the Association of Jewish Refugees

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Previous issues may also be viewed at : [www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm](http://www.ajr.org.uk/kindertransport.htm)

## Dear Kinder and Friends

Hopefully you all had a pleasant Pesach and Shavuot. I spent Pesach as usual with my family in Israel. Travelling is getting a little more difficult, although staff at the airport are helpful. I spent some days with Inge in Jerusalem who sends regards to all her friends. She booked a day trip tour and lunchtime we stopped at a Kibbutz where we saw a very special film about the pioneers who built up this wonderful country. Now 60 years old and against unbelievable odds we can rightfully be proud of what has been achieved. The least we can do is to visit as often as possible. Here in England we can and should attend all meetings, saluting Israel on this special anniversary.

## OUR 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION

We are getting closer to our special event culminating at the JFS school on Sunday 23 November 2008. We may not be as young as we were at the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> reunions but remember this is a wonderful and remarkable opportunity to meet up one more time with old friends and explore our mutual experiences of the past.

There will be a number of well known guests and speakers who wish to share with us in honouring our parents who sacrificed so much to let us live and at the same time thank those who made the unique decision to allow entry onto these shores.

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!! SO IF YOU HAVEN'T BOOKED YET DO IT NOW !!**

One of our most useful modern assets is, I believe the telephone. If you feel a bit low or perhaps really happy with good news, it's nice to share it with a friend. So why not pick up the phone and share your news.

As usual Rev Bernd Koschland is enclosing an article on *Yom Tov*. Many thanks Bernd.

Some of our members have recently returned from their hometown Vienna where they had been invited to speak to schools and meet with important officials. Among them were Josie Dutch, Harry Heber and Otto Deutsch. Today's pupils find it very hard to imagine that *their* grandparents and great-grandparents were the perpetrators of such horrific crimes.

Here is an example:

My parents, who after ten years flight from Munich in 1940 (and I know how very lucky we are) managed to get to England, worked out their own restitution. They went to seek out a former employee who quite willingly gave a statement to that effect. When my mother remarked on her nice furniture and carpets, she said *oh jah, das sind judenmöbel*. It was said so quickly, that she forgot who she was saying it to. Our mother was a great believer in doing it herself and in Munich, sitting in an ante-room waiting to see an important official who only needed to give his stamp on a paper. We sat for hours and the secretary only called one person at a time, with long intervals inbetween. My mother said to me "I will show this woman, got up, marched to the officials door and knocked. "Herein". We were received very politely and our affairs attended to, after which my mother told him what his secretary was doing. He then called the people in himself. The woman was furious and started abusing my mother, who in no uncertain terms told her that Nazi time was now officially over in Germany and she had better get used to it.

Some of the younger Kinder are losing out on their pensions. We have members in their late 70's who are entitled to a pension and not getting it. German pensions should not be a charity.

At the Yom Hashoah meeting in Pinner, arranged by Dr Gaby Glassman, the main speaker was Susie Bechhofer, who had arrived with her twin Lotte (who sadly died in her 30's) on a Kindertransport from a Munich children's home, on their third birthday. Everyone was spellbound by her most unusual history finding out 50 years later that she was Jewish and had an aunt and cousins in New York. Her book is called *Rosas Child*.

When giving a talk at Borehamwood recently I met an old school friend I have not seen since I was 15, very special and sentimental.

Inge, I love your article and am sure others will too. There are many memories I can share with my children but only siblings can share the stories from *Daheim*.

All best wishes and a good *Yom Tov*.

Beatha

### What's in a name?

The Festival of Shavuot, one of the three Pilgrim Festivals, has several names, which indicate different aspects of the 2 day Chag (one day in Israel). Shavuot ("weeks") is the 50<sup>th</sup> day and marks the end of the 7 weeks of counting the Omer. Pentecost, its English name is the Greek for 50, a name also found in Christianity, as an occasion marking the beginning of the Church. Because we must have complete 49 days of the Omer, the evening service on the first night begins after nightfall, marking the beginning of the next day.

Like Pesach and Sukkot it is a harvest Festival, *Chag Hakatzir* in the Torah (Exodus 23:16). The occasion was marked by the bringing of the first fruits to the Temple; hence it is also called *Chag Habikkurim* (Festival of the First Fruit). The Mishnah (*Bikkurim*, chapter 3) has a description of the joyful ceremony. Nowadays in Israel there are celebrations of bringing first fruits.

Its rabbinic name is *Atzeret*, the 'Concluding Festival' to Pesach. What it did not conclude were the massacres of the 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade (called in 1096), in which the Jewries of France and Germany suffered so horrendously.

Lastly, a name not found in the Torah is *Zeman Matan Torateinu*, the 'Season of the Giving of our Torah' at Sinai. This is the main feature of the customs which have become associated with Shavuot, but not mentioned in the Torah, unlike Pesach and Shavuot with their various *Mitzvot*, e.g. *Matzah*, or *Sukkah*, The Revelation at Sinai is read on the first day, followed by the Haftarah, which contains Ezekiel's mysterious vision of the Divine.

This small Festival's customary observances are several. Flowers and plants decorate the Synagogues, to recall the harvest aspect and also Sinai which was covered with flowers while G-d appeared on it, according to the Midrash. The dairy foods symbolise the essential nourishment of milk, like Torah, which is our essential spiritual and religious nourishment. At one time, children were introduced into Torah learning on Shavuot. According to tradition this was done near water and is illustrated in the Monday 14th April 2008<sup>th</sup> century Leipzig Machzor. Torah finds comparison to water as a life sustaining liquid.

A strange water custom was found in Morocco, where men poured water over each other – water and Torah linked – or 6<sup>th</sup> Sivan, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Shavuot, infant Moses was finally rescued through water where he was found by the daughter of Pharaoh.

15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century Cabbalists introduced the concept of staying up the whole night learning Torah in preparation for the following morning. They put together what is called the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, a compendium containing the first 3 and last 3 verses of each Sidrah of the Torah, plus important passages, e.g. the 10 Commandments, verses from the remaining books of the Tenach, sections of Mishnah, the 613 *Mitzvot* and some other materials. Nowadays the tradition is to participate in talks and lectures (*Shiurim*) on Torah themes during the first night and then daven (pray) *Shacharit*, the morning service, at the earliest possible moment.

Rev Bernd Koschland

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### **Report from Inge Sadan on Desert Trek for a good cause**

There I was, innocently minding my own business in our local mini-Mall, when I bumped into some acquaintances in the nearby restaurant. Exchanging a friendly greeting I was ready to make my way towards the supermarket, when they asked whether I would like to participate in a sponsored walk, either financially or physically. Never one who thinks ahead, I said "Why Not", and before I knew it, was signed in for the Good Cause.

The Cause was to raise funds for the new facility recently established at the Shaarei Zedek hospital to help Alzheimers patients. I think everyone knows someone who suffers from this terrible disease, which can hit anywhere, any time and not merely old people. So it is not very difficult to get people to support anything that can be done to alleviate the hardships of the sufferers and their families. The project the organizers had in mind was for every participant to raise one thousand dollars in a sponsored 2 and a half days' trek in the desert region of Israel. In all, over 60 people registered, and I have a suspicion that I was the oldest to take part. (I won't see 75+ years again, just to give you an idea).

A few preliminary walks were arranged in the Jerusalem hills, which were far from reassuring. Sleepless nights followed, with doubts and misgivings, whilst instructions came through the post, as to what to bring, including walking poles, torch, energy bars, glucose tablets, good walking shoes (of course) clothes for cold evenings, with ability to peel off, sun creams, etc. etc. Since I had been walking around the local park with a good friend/neighbour for the last few months at 7 a.m. twice a week, for an hour each time, things could have been worse....

The Day of Reckoning came on a sunny day in late November, when we boarded the bus taking us to Mitze Ramon Field School, which is far south in Israel.

We passed Beer Sheba as the sun set, and soon settled into the Field School of Mitzpe Ramon - naturally not a 5 star hotel, but very adequate. The first evening had been promised as a Moonlight hike along the summit of Mount Gvanim. The only snag was to get up the mountain to go along it.

All those younger intrepid hikers strode along (with the required 3 pints of water), and settled themselves comfortably on the summit, amid "the stillness and quiet of the desert and the play of moonlight and shadow", whilst guess who brought up a rather panting rear, hauled up the last 50 meters by 2 sympathetic helpers. The full(ish) moon and distant outlines of the hills were quite inspiring, and within a couple of hours we had negotiated the downward path, to our Field School and well-earned night's rest.

The next morning (6 a.m. get-up time), after breakfast we prepared our day's food supplies, including those energy bars and this time we were

divided into 3 groups (according to ability and stamina), with the senior (in age) making up Team A. We were to hike 6-8 hours through various geological areas, with amazing colours of rock formations, denoting different periods of thousands of years. Up Mount Ardon, down to Jabel Harut (Cone Hill), with magnificent views of the Ramon Crater, its surrounding ridges, and even to the mountains of Edom in Jordan. We saw wild ibexes trotting surefootedly along the crags and wandering around the Mitzpeh Ramon Visitor Centre, where one can learn about the Crater's formation. Our guide Zel, a handsome Australian, knew so much about archaeology, history, etc., we could almost see the camels of the ancient famous spice route.

In the evening the three groups met up at a huge Beduin Tent, where we had supper, prepared by the organizing staff of Keshet the tour organizers, and watched the amazing sunset spreading over the hills. In Israel the sun sets within half an hour of early dusk, with the hills quickly becoming dark, and the stars very bright.

The last day we once again trekked in three groups, enjoying the different coloured stones - red, purple, green, yellow, and all other colours, as well as small patches of tiny flowers growing, despite the long, hot summer. There were also salt bushes, where the tangy leaves can be used to flavour food. There were only a few birds, which were quite tame, with very black, and very white plumage. In the evening a fantastic barbeque was prepared by the Keshet Company team, in a hollow clearing among the mountains.

From a personal point of view, I found myself so much healthier and agile than before the trek, with memories of a beautiful adventure, with a really congenial group of fellow-hikers. Maybe I'm not so old as I thought, and would be glad to participate again.

The thought that we had raised, after expenses, over seventy thousand dollars towards the cause of MELABEV, the organisation which takes care of Alzheimers patients and their carers, gives one a sense of satisfaction and achievement. May they continue their good work in such a positive way which brought everything alive.

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### **The Happy, Healthy Senior Ramblers**

Yes, we're still around! We've been going for many years, every Sunday throughout the year. But now it's not 15 or 16 miles each time, but more like up to 6 miles, often with break-off points. That is, if you want to go home before the end of the walk.

We usually meet at a railway or tube station, travel to a certain point, more often then not within the Freedom Pass zone.

How lovely it is to breeze the unpolluted air, to see the trees, to hear the birds, to have some exercise, and, what's more, to be in good, varied and pleasant company.

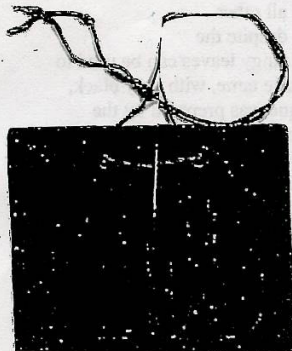
Some of us are "Kinder" and we are trying our very best to keep young and healthy. So how about it? You'll receive a very warm welcome!  
Put on your walking boots/shoes, make your sandwiches and come along.

For more details please ring Michael Shore on 020 8806 7539.

#### LETTERS

Sir - I was recently doing a presentation about my father's immigration to England on April 27th 1939 for my French course at Southampton University. My father came to England on the Kindertransport. Whilst doing the research for it I discovered that you live but a stone's throw from where my father, Heinz Gluck, lived for 28 years. Amora London Road Stanmore. I attach a picture of the documents he arrived with. Unfortunately he died in 1988 but I have lots of information. If you are interested please reply. My name is Jenny. I am 58 and live in Southampton with my husband, Roger. Best wishes.

Jenny Elmer



4535 (1)

This document of identity is issued with the Royal of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to young persons to be admitted to the United Kingdom for educational purposes under the care of the Inter-Aid Committee for children.

THIS DOCUMENT REQUIRES NO VISA.

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Name: GLUCK, Heinz Karl

Sex: Male Date of Birth: 23 - 11 - 0

Place: Vienne

Full Names and Address of Parents: GLUCK, Walter & Margit

51, 52, WeiBasse  
Vienne 89

Sir - Thank you for sending me the Kindertransport Newsletter. In your editorial you mention the Holocaust Memorial Day service held at Belsize Square Synagogue on 24 January.

However, you mistakenly named Rabbi Mariner as the speaker. He, in fact, only introduced my wife Lilian and, as you can see from this month's (March) AJR Journal, the address was given by (Lilian Levy).

Herbert Levy

*Bertha has sent her sincere apologies for this mistake.*

Sir - My name is Miriam Ravid and I live on Kibbutz Carmia near the Gaza border, but my life started as Marianne Remak in Breslau, Germany in 1934. I came to the UK on a Kindertransport in 1938 with my 8 years older brother Ulrich Remak. We were in the 'Birkenward' hostel in Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, Scotland at the beginning of the war, then I was moved to 'Ernespie' hostel in Castle Douglas and finally family Hylander

took care of me. They lived in Giffnock, Glasgow. In 1946 I arrived in Palestine with Aliyat Noar and initially lived in Ben Shemen and since then in Carmia. Here in 1956 I married Avner Ravid (Jacques Rabinovitz), who passed away recently, I have three sons Imri, Ninrod and Guy and some grandchildren too.

My mother Nanni Remak escaped to Mauritius and also reached Israel about the same time as I did. She worked as a nurse for some time in Tel Aviv and Cholon and she died in 1977.

As I have no recollection of my early years, I would be very pleased to hear from anyone, who remembers me from the UK or Israel or my brother and my mother. Thank you.

Miriam Ravid  
Kibbutz Carmia  
D N Chof Ashkelon  
Israel - 79135

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## OBITUARIES

Adrienne Behrendt has passed away on 13 January 2008. If anyone wants more information please contact Michelle @ (860) 826-7678.

*I remember sitting and chatting to Adrienne for a long time when I was last in the USA. I am saddened by her untimely death. Her father Eddy was one of the first Kinder, closely involved early on with the US KT movement. Bertha*

Willi Usher died in hospital, Arad ,Israel 23 Feb 2008 from a lung infection probably not helped by the fact that he had a very weak heart. I think he was about 84. After retiring he was administrator and chazan of the Darmstadt (Germany) shul. He also had a klezmer group and for a while did concerts in Germany and made recordings. I last saw him at his daughters wedding in June 2006 when his voice was pretty well as good as ever. Bertha may probably recollect his singing.

Alex Richendoller

PS Another Kindertransport friend of mine -Fred Haberberg died in the USA a few years ago.

Trudy Reiss died February 2008, sorry no more information

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## REVIEW

.....*So froh, dass Ihr Draussen Seid*  
*Die Briefe der Familie Inow, Wuppertal.*  
*Wuppertal, April 2005 ISBN 3-9807118-8-9.*

These letters are a historic document, the story of a united, loving family, as seen in their correspondence between 1937 and 1946.

Margalit Harlev nee Grete Inow, the eldest daughter, translated the letters into Hebrew and English for her own family in 1995, calling them *Voices from the Past* (see end of review).

The person who runs the Begegnungsstätte in Wuppertal Dr Ulrike Schrader, was so impressed with these letters, that she decided to have them published in German, and some in English, as a book, with many copies distributed to local schools.

Max and Beatrice Inow, left behind in Nazi Germany, correspond with their children:- Margalit in Sweden, later in Palestine (left Germany in 1937) Alfred in England (in March 39) and Renie in England (on the Kindertransport in May 39) as well as family in America. During the early days of the war letters were transmitted via Belgium and USA via friends and family until 1941. The parents were deported to the ghetto in Lodz – Litzmannstadt, when correspondence between parents and children ceased except for some Red Cross letters, consisting of 25 words each to Margalit in Palestine.

The letters from the parents reveal the deteriorating atmosphere and difficulties of getting out of Nazi Germany. The rest of the family abroad strive to help their emigration. The children bravely conceal their own problems in a new country. The parents write with courage and optimism, taking comfort in nature, music, literature and loving home life. The reader gets to know this family intimately and feels deeply moved, especially those of us who experienced similar situations.

“We always try to think positively and are sure that better times will follow. There will be a time when we will be able to enjoy sunshine and the beauties of the world...” “...” we won’t give in to despair in spite of everything”.

Letters to the children repeatedly stress the desire for the family to be reunited again soon, for them always to be there for one another, the beauty of nature, music and of course, advice about life.

There are also letters – some very touching – between members of the family living here in England and family in USA.

This collection of letters is a vivid description of lives in Nazi Germany and refugees experiences in war time – deeply moving and invaluable material for possible researchers.

*Elizabeth Rosenthal*

“...so froh, dass Ihr draussen seid” can be bought from: Begegnungsstätte, Alte Synagogue, Genügsamkeit Str, 42105 Wuppertal (Germany). Tel:- 00942 025 632 843. Cost Eur 12 plus postage.

The above book as well as *Voices from the past* (Letters translated into English) can be viewed at:- The Wiener Library, The Imperial War Museum, Beth Shalom, Brighton University (German and Jewish studies) ...so froh, dass Ihr draussen seid only (not *Voices from the past*).



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Lotte Kramer's poems, *Kindertransport, Before and After* available from the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex. Contact Diana Franklin.

I have done a reprint of my book *I Came Alone* so anyone who would like to buy a copy, for a gift or for themselves I am now selling them at cost price £8.00. plus £3.00. postage as it is over 400 pages. If you would like to contact Andrea at the office she can make them available at the Day Centre at a Kinder Lunch or at the office.

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#### KT LUNCHES

I am pleased to report that our last two lunches were very well attended. Unfortunately Alex Faiman has had to cancel for our June lunch but will be coming in August instead.

Sigi has done very well and managed to get us another speaker at short notice who is Bernard Ecker who will be speaking about Catering for a laugh, so I look forward to seeing you all again on the 2 June. *Andrea*.

**KINDERTRANSPORT  
70TH ANNIVERSARY  
REUNION  
ELY EVACUEES**

In order to create a small exhibition on 23 November at JFS, we are looking for memorabilia – letters, pictures, photographs etc – from Kinder who were evacuated with JFS to Ely.

Please contact Andrea Goodmaker at the AJR on 020 8385 3070 if you have anything that might be suitable.

## By the way, did you know that

to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the start of the Kindertransporte, a sculpture was unveiled on the 14<sup>th</sup> March at the Westbahnhof in Vienna?

The organisers of this event, obviously did not consider it to be worthy of interest or consequence to the surviving Kinder or indeed to the Jewish Community at large.

It was just by chance, some three weeks prior, I happened to see a brief but undetailed announcement in "Jewish News". My subsequent enquiries to the appropriate Jewish refugee organisations, did not leave me any more the wiser. I mentioned it to other Kinder who also started to make enquiries, with little better results. AJR gave out the erroneous information that the bronze girl figure in the original, but technically flawed sculpture (no pun intended) which had been removed from Liverpool Street Station, was being transferred to be displayed at the Westbahnhof in Vienna, where, with my sister Ruth, I and some thousands other Jewish children had commenced our journey to seek refuge in England. Actually, I discovered that the sculpture has for some time been on display at the Shalom Centre, Nottingham. The Spring Kindertransport Newsletter containing a vague one-line announcement, was received three days before the event was to take place. Eventually, I was able to obtain an invitation from the Austrian Embassy and contacted the organiser.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, in the concourse hall of the Vienna Westbahnhof, I attended the unveiling of Flor Kent's sculpture of a little boy sitting on a suitcase, to commemorate the numerous Kindertransporte that commenced from that station between December 1938 until September 1939 and the outbreak of WW2.

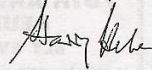
In a moving ceremony, Dr. Ing. Peter Klugar, a Director on the Board of Management of the Austrian Railway, OBB-Holding AG, regretted the tragic circumstances of Nazi persecution, that in desperation, impelled loving parents to send their children into an unknown world. Mr. Werner Payman, Federal Minister of Transport and sponsor, unveiled the monument.

The model for the lifesize sculpture was 9 year old London schoolboy Sam Morris, the great grandson of Eva Schreiber, now aged 86 years, who came on a Kindertransport from Vienna and returned to attend the event with members of her extended family. She never saw her parents again.

For me, the most poignant moment was when this little boy pointed out that his very presence emphasized the significance of the Kindertransporte. His great grandmother would not have otherwise been able to engender the family of which he was the fourth generation. It also made me reflect and be thankful to the original organisers such as the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief, the Jewish Refugee Committee, as well as other Christian organisations and churches, who had contributed to the successful outcome.

I was gratified that I had made the journey to Vienna that evoked my vague memories as a bewildered 7 year old child. It is baffling to understand why no-one had any prior notice of this event, especially as the majority of the surviving Kinder are still living in the U.K. I am sure, others would have wished to have participated. I received no satisfactory explanation from the event organiser, Millie Segal or from Flor Kent the sculptor.

Hopefully, we will be kept better informed in advance of the planned arrangements for the unveiling of the new Kindertransport memorial, due to take place later this year in Berlin. . .



Erinnerung

# Zug ins Ungewisse – aber Rettung in letzter Minute

10.000 jüdische Kinder wurden 1938/39 mit Zügen nach England in Sicherheit gebracht. Eine Statue am Westbahnhof erinnert an die Transporte.

VON CLAUDIA STELZEL-PRÖLL

**E**in kleiner Koffer als Begleiter. Mehr durften die Kinder zwischen 4 und 16 Jahren auf ihrer Reise ins Ungewisse nicht mitnehmen. Und doch waren die Kindertransporte für rund 10.000 jüdische Kinder aus Deutschland, Österreich, der Tschechoslowakei und Polen der Weg ins Leben.

**Abschied für immer** Sara Schreiber und ihre Geschwister waren damals dabei, sie selbst kam 1939 bei einer armen Familie unter, überlebte so die Nazi-Diktatur und blieb in England. „Unsere Eltern haben wir nie wieder gesehen.“

Auch heute, siebzig Jahre später, fällt es ihr schwer, über die Ereignisse zu sprechen. „Und ich treffe viele, die bis heute gar nicht über diese Zeit reden können.“

Gemeinsam mit einem Teil ihrer großen Familie besuchte sie dieser Tage Wien, um bei der Enthüllung der Statue „Für das Kind“ am Freitag in der Halle des Wiener Westbahnhofes dabei zu sein. Dort erinnert ab sofort eine Bronzeskulptur



**Enge Familienbande:** Sara Schreiber (li.) überlebte die NS-Zeit in England, ihr Urenkel Sam Morris (re.) war Vorbild für Statue „Für das Kind“ von Flor Kent (o.)

mit einem Buben, der auf einem Koffer sitzt, an die Kindertransporte. Vorbild für die Statue der Londoner Bildhauerin Flor Kent ist Sara Schreibers Urenkel Sam Morris, ein fideler 9-Jähriger. „Bei diesem Kunstwerk geht es auch um die Lebensgeschichte meiner Urgroßmutter und um Menschen, die das Richtige getan haben“, sagt Sam Morris. Dieser Zugang ist auch für die Künstlerin Flor Kent entscheidend. „Das ist die Geschichte von ganz normalen Menschen, die unter abnormalen Umständen heroisch gehandelt haben.“

Denn die Kindertransporte waren Rettungsaktionen, an denen sich sowohl in Wien als auch in England viele Organisationen, aber auch Einzelpersonen beteiligten. Für viele englische Familien be-

deutete die Aufnahme eines oder mehrerer jüdischer Kinder einen spürbaren Verzicht im Alltag. Trotzdem fanden sich viele, die helfen wollten. „Diese Kinder hatten alle Umstände gegen sich und haben trotzdem so viel aus ihrem Leben gemacht“, betont die gebürtige Venezulanerin Flor Kent.

**Gegen das Vergessen** Die Zeit heißt alle Wunden? Stimmt im Fall von Sara Schreiber nicht. Die Wien-Besuche sind für die 86-Jährige nicht einfach. Zu stark sind hier die Gedanken an den Abschied, an Vater und Mutter. „Die Erinnerungen sind immer da, sie werden im Alter sogar stärker.“ Trotzdem schweigt sie nicht. Gerade deswegen spricht sie über ihren Transport. Damit die Zeit nicht vergessen lässt.



**Wollen erinnern:** Mailath-Pokorny und Kaufmann

## ► Mariahilf Gedenken auf Schritt und Tritt

Im Rahmen des Projektes „Erinnern für die Zukunft“, verlegten Kulturstadtrat Andreas Mailath-Pokorny und Bezirkschefin Renate Kaufmann eine Gedenktafel im Gehsteig Ecke Mariahilferstrasse und Nelkengasse. Sie soll an die Namen der 732 in der NS-Zeit

ermordeten Mariahilfer erinnern. Auf das Gedenken auf Schritt und Tritt war man gekommen, als sich Hausbesitzer geweigert hatten, die Tafeln an den Fassaden der Wohnhäuser der Opfer anbringen zu lassen. Dies zeigt auch, wie notwendig solche Erinnerungen sind.



BETREUT  
30RENE  
BURG, S.30

# Cloppenburg

OLDENBURGER MÜNSTERLAND

MIDDENDOF  
25 JAHREN  
→ CLOPPEN

## Bernhardt begrüßt Engagement

**HOLOCAUST** 200 Cloppenburger Bürger bei Gedenkfeier zur Reichspogromnacht

Die Haupt- und Realschule Leharstraße übernimmt im kommenden Jahr die Organisation. Die Gedenkfeier wird seit 1995 veranstaltet.

VON BODO MEIER

**CLOPPENBURG** – In Cloppenburg wird das dunkle Kapitel „Verfolgung der Juden und brennende Synagogen“ nicht verdrängt. Rund 200 Bürgerinnen und Bürger der Stadt haben am Sonntagabend an der Gedenkfeier zur Reichspogromnacht am 9. November 1938 teilgenommen, die in diesem Jahr von den Schülerinnen und Schülern der Marienschule gestaltet worden ist.

„Sie bekunden mit Ihrer Teilnahme das Wachhalten an die schmerzliche Zeit, die am Herzen liegt“, sagte Schulleiter Norbert Moormann zum Beginn der Feier in der Sankt-Josef-Kirche. Eindrücklich erzählten die Schüler abwechselnd aus dem Leben der jüdischen Eheleute Karl und Selma Simon aus Cloppenburg. Diese wurden mit der jüngsten Tochter Ilse am 21. April 1943 im Konzentrationslager Sobibor in Polen vergast. Nur die beiden älteren Töchter Ruth und Hildegard gingen 1938 mit zwölf und 13 Jahren „auf Reisen“ und überlebten so den Nationalsozialismus und den Holocaust. Im Herbst 2007 kehrten die beiden betagten Damen aus



Ein Schüler der Haupt- und Realschule Marienschule (r.) übergab am Ende der Gedenkfeier den Leuchter an einen Schüler der Haupt- und Realschule Leharstraße (l.). BILD: BODO MEIER

Amerika zurück und widmeten den verstorbenen Eltern und der Schwester ein Gedenkstein auf dem jüdischen Friedhof in Cloppenburg.

In einem Schweigemarsch trugen die Schüler der Marienschule den Leuchter mit dem Judenstern voran zum Gedenkstein an der Ritterstraße. Er steht als Symbol für die abgebrannte Synagoge der jüdischen Gemeinde in Cloppenburg. Hier warnte die

stellvertretende Bürgermeisterin Ursula Bernhardt vor einem Anstieg der Straftaten mit antisemitischem Hintergrund in Deutschland. „Die Zahl der Straftaten mit rechts-extremem oder ausländerfeindlichem Hintergrund hat im August mit 1116 Vorfällen einen Höhepunkt erreicht“, zitierte Bernhardt eine Zeitungsmeldung. Sie unterstrich die Notwendigkeit, das Geschehene in Erinnerung zu

behalten, und begrüßte das Engagement der Schüler, das dunkle Kapitel mit authentischen Geschichten und Dokumenten wach zu halten.

Die Schulen in Cloppenburg beteiligen sich seit 1995 an den Gedenkfeiern zur Pogromnacht. Mit der Übernahme des Leuchters organisiert die Haupt- und Realschule an der Leharstraße im nächsten Jahr die Veranstaltung zum ersten Mal.

## MEMORIES

### **Train into the Unknown – but Rescue in the Last Minute**

10.00 Jewish children were brought to safety in 1938/9. A statue in Westbahnhof (Western Railway Station Vienna) recollects the Transports.

A small suitcase as companion; more, the children between the ages of 4 – 16 years were not allowed to take on a journey into the unknown. Yet the kindertransports ran for around 10,000 Jewish children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland seeking a future life.

**Farewell for Ever.** Sara Schreiber and her sisters were participants. She herself, having escaped from the Nazi regime in 1939 was looked after by a poor family and has since lived in England. “We never saw our parents again”, she said.

Even today, 70 years on, it is hard for her to speak about the events that occurred. “I have met many, who, even today, cannot bring themselves to talk about those times”.

Together with a part of her large extended family, she is visiting Vienna to be at the unveiling of the statue “Fuer das Kind” (For the Child) in the concourse hall of the Western Railway Station. We are reminded of the Kindertransports by a bronze statue of a boy sitting on a suitcase. The model for the statue by London sculptress Flor Kent, is 9 year old Sam Morris, the great-grandson of Sara Schreiber.

In his short address he pronounced, “This work of art is concerns the life story of my great-grandmother and how ordinary people did the right thing”. This approach was also decisive for Flor Kent. “This is the history of ordinary people, who, heroically dealt with abnormal circumstances.

The Kindertransports were rescue missions in which numerous organizations as well as individuals took part in Vienna and England. For many English families, the adoption of one or more Jewish children meant noticeable sacrifices in their daily lives. Nevertheless, many families came and helped “Despite being disadvantaged, the children succeeded in making a life for themselves”, declared the Venezuela born Flor Kent.

**Against Forgetting.** Time certainly heals many wounds, but not in the case of Sara Schreiber. To the 86year old the visit to Vienna is not easy. Still too vivid, are her memories of taking her leave from her mother and father. “The memories are always there and become even stronger as one gets older”. But she does not remain silent. She recounts her journey, so that the events that occurred during that time, should not be forgotten

Harry Heber's translation of article by Claudia Stelzel-Proell KURIER 15/03/08

## THE MAN WHO SAVED TEN THOUSAND CHILDREN

Britain will this year at last pay tribute to the remarkable Englishman who saved 10,000 Jewish children from death in Hitler's extermination camps. The Archbishop of Canterbury will unveil a plaque to George Bell in Chichester, where he was bishop from 1929 till his death in 1958. Working closely with two German protestant clergymen active in the fight against Nazism, Dean Maas of Heidelberg and Pastor Gruber of Berlin, he made a moving speech in the House of Lords urging the British government to let the children come here. The government agreed - but charged the Jewish community £50 each. The secret trains - the kindertransport - in which they came started in Vienna and Prague and stopped as they crossed Europe. The last train crossed the border into Holland and safety the day after the war started.

All the children - who had to be under 16 - were adopted. Some of them do not know to this day who was responsible for their salvation. A few of the survivors will however attend the ceremony in Chichester on Sunday October 5. Dr Fischer, the bishop of south Germany, has also been invited. The weekend has a double significance; it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bell's death, and the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cathedral's first consecration. Both will be celebrated. Bell's house has been refurbished and will be used as a centre for the vocational training of the priesthood and the study of spirituality. It will also be used as a reminder of Bell's many-sided enthusiasms and interests.

He was a keen advocate of modern art; examples can still be seen in the cathedral. He was interested in religious drama, poetry and hymnody, in church schools and the study of theology. Above all these stood his passionate belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ - wherever they led him. He first found a lifelong ally in Maas after the first world war when he led the campaign to save German children from starvation. He spoke so passionately in the Lords against the saturation bombing of Germany in 1944. He called it "the policy of obliteration, openly acknowledged." The new plaque in Chichester is dedicated to Bell's memory by the Maas Foundation "in admiration of his exemplary humanity."

The Maas Foundation was founded in 1988 by Walter Norton. His Jewish father was a classmate of Maas at the Mannheim Gymnasium and arranged for him to baptize his son in 1920. The Foundation promotes understanding between Christians and Jews and presents a Maas prize of £2500 every two years for an outstanding contribution in this field. It has published a book in Germany - What Christians can learn from Judaism - which is being translated into English. The Archbishop of Canterbury will write the foreword and it is hoped it will be ready in time for the celebrations in October.

Did Britain benefit from the children it saved? The Wiener Library, which holds the archives to Jewish history in London, says they included Professor Paul Cohn, emeritus professor of mathematics at London, the painter Frank Auerbach, Susan Charles, born Czarlinski, (the nurse who assisted Sir William Gilliat, the royal obstetrician, deliver Prince Charles), the writer Jakob Lind, and the film producer Otto Placzkes. It also believes the trains brought to Britain a future member of the House of Lords, a previous controller of BBC 1 and two Nobel Prizewinners. But their places on the kindertransport have not yet been validated.

Bishop Bell certainly was a wonderful person who helped tirelessly to place Jewish Kinder, though it was the refugee committee who rescued and placed most of the Kinder. It would be of interest to hear from Kinder who were placed by him. BL.

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Harry Heber's translation of article by Claudia Stelzel-Proell KURIER 15/03/08

## Au Revoir but not Good Bye

### An Explanation

Quite a number of KT & AJR members have recently asked me why I have resigned as Chairman and from the KT/AJR Committee. I am taking this opportunity to explain and say au revoir.

I have been fighting for over 12 years to obtain some justice for a section of KT members, who gained a special compensation pension from Germany, by agreeing, to reinstate their German nationality, which had been forcibly removed by the Nazis. (This was granted in conjunction with the European Court of Justice, and only applied to ex- German nationals, who came with Kindertransport and are living in the UK.)

Several hundred regained their German nationality. They swallowed their pride, in order to enhance their standard of living in their retirement. To their immense disappointment, and in most cases, the amount paid out was only a fraction of their justified expectations. The pension was blighted, by the German authorities, who revealed only after the nationality deed was done, that by hiding behind an obscure and totally illogical law, they can, by bureaucratic evasiveness just pay a small percentage of the "promised" monthly amount. The individuals affected were devastated and helpless.

Since 1995, I have relentlessly sought to alleviate this unfairness, with the help of my local MP and government ministers. After all these years, one year ago, a golden opportunity presented itself to put some pressure on the German government from totally refusing natural justice. A group of enlightened German friends, had hosted several of us to speak in Berlin about the effect of Kindertransport on our lives. They requested me, in my capacity of Chairman, to write a letter, on behalf of the erstwhile Kinder in the UK, to support a project to erect a version of the Liverpool Street Station Kindertransport Monument at a Berlin railway station.

I put it to our committee that we could NOT give such support, whilst the action of their government was operating the total injustice of their pension policy. The committee unanimously agreed, and I wrote to our friends in Berlin, explaining with regret why our support could not be forthcoming. They understood the basis of our concerns, and decided to help by using their influence to harness support from public opinion over there.

Regrettably, however, pressure from another source entered our committee discussions some weeks ago, claiming that the two matters were totally unconnected (the pension and the statue), and that whilst not giving expressly our approval, we should relax our refusal to support the statue project. I strongly opposed this attempt to take away the one "weapon" I had found in all those years, and I was devastated that the committee voted to reverse their original support. The decision was arrived at democratically, but for me it was too fundamental to accept. The vote of course became known to the other source, and was speedily transmitted to our friends in Berlin. This has, in my opinion, thwarted a good opportunity to enhance the pension prospects of some 250 Kinder. My priority is justice in the pensions issue and not the statue in Berlin.

The pension issue was the main reason, but not the only one which separated me from the committee. I think the essence of a statue for Kindertransport in Germany is bizarre, because it will imply that the Nazis were in some way instrumental in saving our lives. We all know that



had it not been for the inspirational efforts of a number of righteous people in the UK and the decency of the government of the day, as well as the selfless sacrifice of our brave parents, so many of whom must have known in their hearts that they may never see their children again, Kindertransport would not have happened. Add to this that the "denial" historians will use the statue to misconstrue the real events, and be "evidence" that Hitler was not so bad. It will make Germans feel better about themselves. The whole symbolism of the Liverpool Street Station statue was to reflect our escape from tyranny and a chance of life. It was the UK who saved our lives, not the Germans, who subsequently murdered most of our parents.

My ex-colleagues did agree that the struggle for justice is right, but by reversing their earlier decision, they denied the connection between the statue and moral pressure to assist the fight for fairness in the pension issue. That is their prerogative, but it meant I had to resign. I am glad that I found the resolve to resign, on a matter of principle and conscience, although it broke my heart to have to leave the work I have happily done for nearly five years. I shall miss it.

However, no one is indispensable, and the organisation will continue as before. In this I wish the committee good luck and success in their work.

Hermann Hirschberger

#### SEARCH

I am the daughter of a recently deceased Kinder – his name was Rudolf Marcus Glaser. He was born in Liegnitz, Germany 25<sup>th</sup> April 1924 and died in Sheffield on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2008. I am eager to give and find out as much as I can about his journey.  
email: [sonia@rogers.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:sonia@rogers.fsnet.co.uk) Sonia Glaser - Rogers

#### NOTICE

There will be a talk on the Kinder Transport at the Memorial Hall, Wincanton, Somerset at 7pm on Wednesday 10 September 2008. The talk is sponsored by the Wincanton & District Museum and History Society. The entrance fee is £6. The talk is in aid of the Wincanton Museum, which needs to rebuild the staircase to the upper floor of the museum in order to comply with Health and Safety rules.

Dr Frank Beck was born in Vienna in 1930. He was evacuated to a Jewish foster home in north London in 1939. When the bombing of London started, he was evacuated a second time, to Minehead in Somerset. He subsequently became a mathematical engineer at CERN, the nuclear physics research laboratory at Geneva, Switzerland, where he rose to Director level. He is now retired in Highgate, London. Frank is a member of the U3A in north London and is a popular speaker on a wide variety of subjects. In addition to unaccented English, Frank speaks fluent German and French. He wrote his Ph.D. thesis at the University of Strasbourg in France.

If her health permits, Frank will be accompanied by Mary Hutterer, also a resident of Highgate and also a veteran of the Kinder Transport.

There is a limited amount of rather plain accommodation in Wincanton, for anyone who doesn't want to drive home late at night after the talk.  
Contact Derek Hudson on telephone 01963 31663 or e-mail at [derek.hudson@mail.com](mailto:derek.hudson@mail.com).