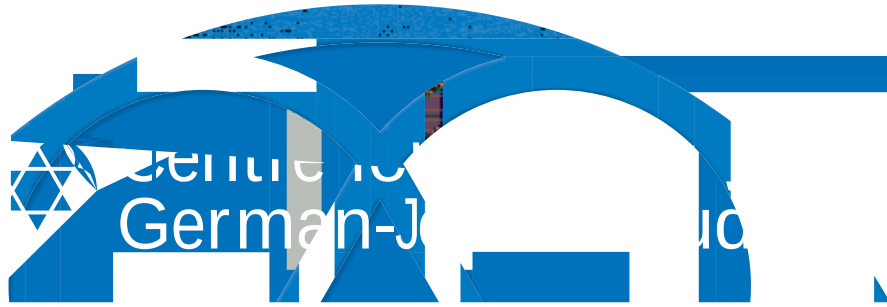






Conference Report: 'Forward from the Past: The Kindertransport from a Contemporary Perspective'

The German Historical Institute,
London, June 2013

On a beautiful summer day the venue was packed with enthusiastic participants. Organised by Andrea Hammel (formerly of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies) and Bea Lewkowicz in conjunction with the Leo Baeck Institute, the conference was a blend of academia, culture and experience.

The day started with three papers which looked at the way the Kindertransport has been discussed in research. While they took different approaches, all panellists agreed that more research needs to be done to fully explore the organisation of the Kindertransport.

Many people in the audience were former Kinder, and the next panel addressed how the Kindertransport has been remembered, written and spoken about, particularly within families. Continuing with the theme of family, we watched a section of Melissa Hacker's 1996 film, *My knees were jumping: Remembering the Kindertransport*. The discussion benefitted greatly from the presence of the film's director and two of the people featured. Many in the audience contributed their own family stories.

The day finished with a reception, the opening of a photography exhibition, *Double Exposure: Jewish Refugees from Austria in Britain*, and a recital of songs from Hans Gal's *What a Life! – Singing a Song in a Foreign Land*, written while the composer was interned on the Isle of Man in 1940. The conference proved stimulating and innovative, and it is hoped the German Historical Institute will facilitate such events again in the future.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 at the University of Sussex

This event will take place on Thursday 30th January 2014
from 13:30-18:00 in the Jubilee Lecture Theatre.

Speakers

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch (born Anita Lasker 17 July 1925 in Breslau, Germany (now Poland)) is a German-born cellist of world renown and is a surviving member of the Women's Orchestra in Auschwitz. Anita and her sister were sent to Auschwitz in December 1943. Her membership in the 40-piece orchestra saved her as cello players were difficult to replace. The orchestra played marches as the slave labourers left the camp for each day's work and when they returned. They also gave concerts for the SS.

Maya Jacobs-Wallfisch, daughter of Anita Lasker-Wallfisch will speak about the legacy of the suffering and how it affects subsequent generations. As a psychotherapist, she works with people that have been affected by the Holocaust, both the first and the second generations.

Sir Andrew Burns, a former UK Ambassador to Israel, who leads the government's work on post-Holocaust initiatives will speak about the links with the past, including the issue of resistance, and address the question of how society can deal with contemporary global challenges of human rights violations, war and genocide.

Sir Andrew Burns was appointed Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust issues in June 2010. He works closely with the wide range of

Discounts on publications associated with the Centre

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