

# WIENER LIBRARY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2008

NUMBER 55

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY AT THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

The Wiener Library is delighted to have consolidated its links with the Liberal Jewish Synagogue (LJS) by organising educational activities centred around Holocaust Memorial Day. In the week leading up to 27 January, two half-day workshops with school students took place at the Synagogue, in the main Sanctuary. To begin with, the students were invited to ask any questions they wished about Jewish prayer and rituals, and were answered by Jan Roseman, the LJS' Education Officer. This was followed by two Holocaust survivors, Susan Pollock and Lily Freeman, giving eyewitness accounts. The students were then invited to view and comment on the Holocaust memorial at the LJS by sculptor Anish Kapoor, and light candles, led by Rabbi Mark Solomon. This 'rounded' approach to thinking about the Holocaust helped students to understand not only a dark period in history, but also to experience Judaism as part of a long spiritual

*(Continued on page 4)*

## LIBRARY LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE LEARNING MATERIALS

Using funds generously donated by the Marit and Hans Rausing Charitable Trust and the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Library is pleased to announce the development of a body of online learning materials. For the first time, a selection of some of the Wiener Library's unique stories and materials will now be remotely accessible.

The online learning materials are accessed through the Library's homepage and will be going live in February 2008. Aimed primarily at students and teachers, the new learning materials will allow the user to trace different stories or topics interactively, as well as providing substantial background information on a number of themes connected with the Holocaust and Nazi era. The site also contains a detailed timeline highlighting key dates and events in this area of history. Each topic can be explored through a number of different screens, making the most of the Library's visual material.

A considerable degree of personal choice is afforded with regard to the level of depth the user wishes to pursue. For example, the user can follow the content in a linear fashion – reading one of the main topics from beginning to end – or, by browsing intuitively - for example, reading the beginning of a topic, jumping to look at photos, sampling some of the other stories, referring to the in-depth timeline and so forth.

The topics that have been chosen allow the Library to focus on material that is only available at the Wiener Library. At present, the online learning materials include detailed information on Childhood under the Swastika, Helping the Survivors, and the fascinating story of German-Jewish factory owner Ludwig Neumann. The site has been planned and developed to enable the Library to continue to add further topics to the site in the future.

We are grateful to Dr Jutta Strauss for developing much of the material and content for the project, and our donors for their generous support. To access the online learning materials, Newsletter readers are directed to visit our website – [www.wienerlibrary.co.uk](http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk) – and click on "Learning Materials".



## WHAT THEY SAID

As part of the ADP the *Susie Fisher Group* conducted three focus groups – questions asked in an interactive group setting – to explore how the Library is perceived. “Change everything, but don’t change anything”: this participant summed up the paradoxical way the Wiener Library comes across. On one hand there is a great sense of community between readers and staff. Users agree that the collections are of international significance and are passionate about the Library and its continued existence. On the other hand we are perceived as quirky and old-fashioned, even exclusive. Non-academics may feel overwhelmed and expressed a need for the Library to make the collections more accessible. Comments included:

“The Wiener Library has got the lot, it’s unique.”

“It holds an important part of the collective memory of the human race.”

“Lessons have to be re-learned in every generation.”

“Young professionals want a more professional service: slick, quick, longer opening hours, wi-fi, pre-ordering.”

“They should not be too academic. They should walk you through the history and make the books come alive.”

---

### WIENER LIBRARY NEWS

JOINT EDITORS: BEN BARKOW AND  
KATHERINE KLINGER

PUBLISHED BY THE WIENER LIBRARY

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

REGISTERED WITH THE CHARITY

COMMISSIONERS NO 313015

ISSN 1465-5004

THE WIENER LIBRARY

4 DEVONSHIRE STREET

LONDON W1W 5BH

TEL 020 7636 7247

FAX 020 7436 6428

E-MAIL INFO@WIENERLIBRARY.CO.UK

WEBSITE WWW.WIENERLIBRARY.CO.UK

# PROGRESS REPORT

## AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**F**rom September the Wiener Library has been working on an audience development plan (ADP), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. An ADP is a framework for exploring what kind of audiences we would like to work with and which services and activities would be appropriate and attractive to these audiences.

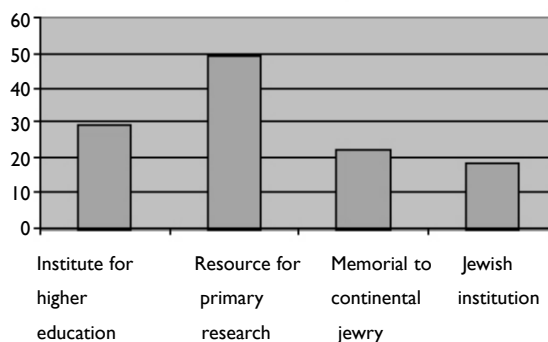
The first step of any ADP is to assess the current position of an organisation, to explore how it is perceived, to understand its strengths and weaknesses, and identify possible barriers to usage. We collected information by sending out questionnaires to a wide range of audiences including our existing readers, the attendees of lectures, the Holocaust Education Fellows of the Imperial War Museum, the Second-Generation Network and LiberalJudaism.org. We also conducted three focus groups, one each for staff, users and non-users, and our consultant conducted phone interviews with a number of readers representing key audiences.

The information gathered makes for very interesting reading (see sidebar). The ADP has prioritised audiences to be developed and suggests a whole range of activities and services to attract a more diverse and bigger audience. The resulting draft was discussed by a steering group and will be signed off by the Trustees in February.

Simultaneously we are in the process of finalising our collection policy and drawing up a strategic plan for the future of the Library.

### Questionnaire results:

#### How the Wiener Library is perceived



The biggest barrier to people using the Library is a general lack of awareness of our existence. One participant stated: “People don’t know about it. It’s not a brand name organisation nor is it aligned with one.”

### WINNERS

**We raffled three £20 book vouchers amongst those who completed the questionnaire. The lucky winners are: Linda Asquith, Paul Dowswell and Julia Nelki.**

# REMEMBERING THE LIBRARY IN YOUR WILL



**M**any friends and supporters of the Wiener Library who wish to give to the Library are prevented from doing so by other commitments. Leaving a gift in your Will does not burden you during your lifetime. It is quick and simple to arrange and is something that anyone can do, young or old.

The majority of the gifts the Library receives through legacies go towards the day-to-day costs of running the Library, or to building up our endowment. This money allows the Library to continue its vital work: developing, cataloguing and conserving our collections and making them accessible to the public. Some of our supporters prefer to leave money to a specific project – to conserve a collection that is particularly special to them, or to fund an acquisition they feel passionate about. Other legacies come to us through families or executors who wish to fund a special event or endowment in memory of the deceased.

There are a number of different ways of leaving money to the Library. Some people choose to leave a specific gift of money, whereas others choose to leave us the residue of their estate, ensuring that any surviving dependents are provided for first. An explanation of these different methods of giving can now be found on our website at [www.wienerlibrary.co.uk](http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk). As a UK registered charity, gifts made to the Library may be exempt from Inheritance Tax, and could potentially reduce the overall tax liability on your estate.

In the future, as competition increases for charitable funding, legacies are likely to play an increasingly important part in supporting the Wiener Library. Whether you give £250 to fund a periodicals subscription, £2,500 to preserve thousands of our unique press cuttings on microfilm, or £25,000 to establish a travelling exhibition, your gift will make a real difference to our work.

If you would like more information about leaving a legacy to the Wiener Library, visit our website [www.wienerlibrary.co.uk](http://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk) or contact Bridget McGing on 020 7636 7247 or [bmcging@wienerlibrary.co.uk](mailto:bmcging@wienerlibrary.co.uk).

## RELOCATION

### UPDATE

As the end of the Library's lease on 4 Devonshire Street in summer 2009 draws nearer we will keep readers up-to-date with developments.

As readers know, the Library has been in talks with Birkbeck, University of London for some time, about the possibility of leasing a building in Russell Square on the Birkbeck campus, close to Senate House. These discussions are ongoing but a number of complex planning and conservation issues relating to this Grade II listed building are still being considered by the Camden local authority. The timing of the availability of the building is also affected by major rewiring being carried out in Senate House by London University. This has necessitated personnel from Senate House being temporarily rehoused in the Russell Square building while the rewiring is carried out.

The Library has also entered into exploratory discussions with Queen Mary, University of London about a building bordering its campus in London E1. We are also exploring the possibility of finding temporary accommodation if a permanent home cannot be ready by the date on which our lease expires.

The Library has started detailed planning of the steps that need to be taken to vacate our home of 50 years. These range from identifying fragile items from the collection which will need special protection in terms of boxing and wrapping, to getting quotations from removals companies and allied services.

## HOLOCAUST

### MEMORIAL DAY AT LJS

(continued from page 1)

and philosophically vibrant continuum – with a past, present and future.

On 27 January the LJS and the Wiener Library held a joint lecture, given by Philip Spencer, Associate Dean of the Department of Arts and Social Sciences at Kingston University and Director of the Helen Bamber Centre for Human Rights and Genocide. The lecture was entitled *The Holocaust, Genocide and the Jews* and presented the listener with a dynamic perspective on the 20th century's grim record of genocide, provocatively enquiring if Jews have a particular responsibility towards engaging with anti-genocide activity and education, in light of their history.

## IMAGES FROM THE ARCHIVES

# THE ORT TRAINING CENTRE SOUTH KENSINGTON 1947

One of the Jewish relief organisations that in post-war Britain helped Holocaust survivors rebuild their lives was ORT – Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training. While the organisation's extensive rehabilitation programmes were mainly aimed at the Displaced Persons camps in central Europe vocational training centres were also set up in Britain. The centre in Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, conducted courses in dressmaking and designing. During its existence from 1946 until 1950 the school trained some 200 young people, mainly former inmates of Bergen-Belsen DP camp who were lodged in London hostels.





## PRESENTATION FOR M25

The Wiener Library has been a member of the M25 Consortium for two years now. The Consortium has 58 member institutions, representing a total of over 160 libraries, ranging from large HE institutions such as the University of London Colleges to smaller research ones such as the Courtauld Institute of Art and including specialist collections like the Wiener Library or the V&A.

The twice-yearly meetings always include a morning programme of speakers on emerging topics and issues relevant to the Consortium's membership. At the last meeting in January three specialist institutions were given the opportunity to introduce their collections. Kat Hübschmann gave a very well-received overview of our holdings illustrated with images from the photo archive. In particular she emphasised the continuing relevance and wide application of our holdings.

## WIENER LIBRARY JOINS AIM25

AIM25 provides a web-accessible database of descriptions of document collections of the principal colleges of the University of London and other universities and colleges in London and the surrounding area.

The project aims to make it easier for researchers from a wide variety of academic disciplines to locate information about archival collections held in London and the M25 area, and assist cross-disciplinary use of archives.

In January, 1,824 searches were done across 70 Wiener Library collections which have already been added to the AIM25 database of collection descriptions. Ultimately we will add about 1,000 descriptions.

**In December 2007, 13 grandchildren of survivors and refugees gathered at the Wiener Library over three consecutive Sundays to embark on a conversation about the meaning of being a third generation descendant. It was a creative process in which participants were invited to share their thoughts, feelings, ideas and experiences through discussion, art-making, psychodrama and a spirit of openness and willingness to confront the material.**

Participant Rachel Schon wrote:

"I was able, for the first time, to connect all those parts of my life which seemed to me charged with the legacy of my grandmother's experience. At the end of the first session I left disturbed by the subject matter, stimulated by the day's reflections, and mindful of the challenges I faced in reconciling the many questions which had surfaced."

The workshop was run by Natalie Krasnostein who founded 3GH in Melbourne three years ago. 3GH is a

## EDUCATION

# 3GH: 3RD GENERATION DESCENDANTS GATHER AT LIBRARY

Another participant, Thomas Freidemann, wrote:

"I feel that the human loss and misery of the Holocaust can never be undone, healed or made up for; my Grandma's suffering can never be reversed and humanity will always be scarred by what it did to itself during the Holocaust. However I do feel that the Jewish people collectively can recover from this episode; they won't ever be able to go back to how things were before the

day workshop with members of the 2nd and 3rd generation together, as the work moves into intergenerational concerns and questions. Together the generations will explore and ask: "What is still silenced between us? What is not being said? What may occur when we share our concerns, messages, thoughts and ideas – and have them witnessed intergenerationally? What are our perceptions of continuing the 'legacy' of the Holocaust and how do



global project which aims to facilitate exploration and enable a conversation directed towards personal and social action and empowerment. According to Natalie, the workshop was engaging, challenging, thought-provoking and heart-warming. "Participants bonded as they shared deep concerns about their lives, individually and collectively – and their hopes for the future."

Holocaust but as a cultural, spiritual and national group they can and are regaining their former strength."

The Wiener Library will be hosting another 3GH workshop for third generation descendants over the long weekend of 4 and 5 May 2008. Interested members of the third generation are encouraged to participate. Then on Sunday 11 May there will be one full-

they differ?"

The Wiener Library is currently working on creating online resources relating to these workshops. It is hoped that this will disseminate awareness of the Holocaust among the third generation.

For further enquires please contact: 3GH@wienerlibrary.co.uk or 07851 754 824.

# LORD CALLAGHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

**O**n 29 January 2008, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, paid his first ever visit to the Wiener Library for a tour of its collections with our Director, Ben Barkow. The Archbishop was shown some of the highlights of the Library's collection, including the eyewitness accounts of Kristallnacht, images from the photo archive, signed papers from the Nuremberg trials and a painting by Eric Taylor of a Hungarian pianist in Bergen-Belsen. Accompanied by Canon Guy Wilkinson, the Archbishop listened with great attention to the stories behind our objects, and read with interest the documents and books we showed him.

## House of Lords lecture

Following his visit to the Library, the Archbishop left for the House of Lords where he delivered a lecture to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The Archbishop's lecture, entitled "Religious Hatred and Religious Offence" was both thoughtful and thought-provoking, commenting on the way in which the history of antisemitism in Europe "shows how the slippage can occur from abusive words and images to assumptions about the dangers posed by a community stigmatised as perpetual outsiders to actions designed to remove them for good." If anyone would like to read the Archbishop's lecture in full, it can be found at [www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1561](http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1561). Introduced and chaired by The Right Hon Baroness Jay, the event in the Robing Room was held in memory of Lord Callaghan.



James Callaghan

## First President

Lord Callaghan first became associated with the Wiener Library in 1946 when, as a new MP, he joined the Library's Board. He had met Dr Wiener some time before, and been impressed by the collection he had amassed and the work being done by the institution bearing his name.

Many years later, following his term as Prime Minister, Lord Callaghan was asked to become the first President of the Wiener Library Endowment Appeal at a time when the Library's position was so precarious that its very existence was in question. Lord Callaghan fulfilled this role with characteristic generosity and dedication from 1982 to 1991, securing the future of The Wiener Library. Following his death in 2005 the Library received a bequest from Lord Callaghan's estate, a final act of generosity and kindness, from one of the Wiener Library's truest friends.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the lecture and made the evening such a memorable occasion. Special thanks go to everyone at the House of Lords who made the event run so smoothly, Baroness Jay and her family, and our Patron Sir Bernard Rix.

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

### WIENER LIBRARY LONDON 28-29 April 2008

An international conference, *Antisemitism in Theory and Practice: Legacies in Cultural and Political Thought*, is being organised by the Wiener Library and Leo Baeck Institute as a contribution to the European Network for Research into Historical and Current Antisemitism.

The conference will look at theories of antisemitism and antisemitic legacies in modern cultural and political theories highlighting three stages: an assessment of modern theories of antisemitism; a critical examination of the problematic legacies that partly fostered these theories; a discussion on praxis-oriented approaches of dealing with antisemitism in a number of European countries, including the UK, France, Germany, Poland, Hungary and Russia.

Themes and speakers include:

- Frankfurt School & Cultural Studies: Anson Rabinbach / Birgit Erdle, commentary Leonard Olschner
- Country Reports: Juliane Wetzel (Germany), Michael Bilewicz (Poland) Alexander Verkhovsky (Russia), Monika Kovacs (Hungary), Jean Yves Camus (France) & Mike Whine (UK)
- History & Sociology: Shulamit Volkov/ Roger Griffin; commentary Werner Bergmann
- Theology & Philosophy: Tanja Hetzer/ Christopher Clark, commentary Katharina von Kellenbach
- Political Theory / Social Theory & Psychoanalysis: Vincent Tiberj, Celine Surprenant, commentary Brian Klug.

Admission is free, but as space is limited, places must be reserved by emailing [info@wienerlibrary.co.uk](mailto:info@wienerlibrary.co.uk) or by phoning Neil Huckstepp on 020 7636 7247.

# FUTURE EVENTS AT THE WIENER LIBRARY

## WIENER LIBRARY/KINGSTON UNIVERSITY JOINT LECTURES

A SERIES OF LECTURES EXAMINING SOME OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND RECOGNITION OF CERTAIN PRINCIPLES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR EVOLVED, AND HOW THESE ARE VIEWED IN SOCIETY TODAY. THE SERIES ASKS IN WHICH WAYS CERTAIN MORAL VALUE SYSTEMS, HELD SINCE THE END OF THE WAR, ARE INCREASINGLY ATTACKED, IGNORED AND ERODED. IN DECEMBER 2007, PROFESSOR JAN GROSS GAVE THE OPENING LECTURE IN THE SERIES, ENTITLED ANTISEMITISM IN POLAND AFTER AUSCHWITZ.

### 19 FEBRUARY 2008

KARL PFEIFER V. AUSTRIA, 15 NOVEMBER 2007 BY KARL PFEIFER

### 28 FEBRUARY 2008

ARE THE MIDDLE EASTERN CONFLICTS THE SOURCE OF RECENT ANTISEMITISM? BY PROFESSOR DINA PORAT, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

LECTURES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE WIENER LIBRARY AT 7PM

TO RESERVE A PLACE PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@WIENERLIBRARY.CO.UK](mailto:info@wienerlibrary.co.uk) OR PHONE NEIL HUCKSTEPP ON 020 7636 7247.

## WIENER LIBRARY/BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

### JOINT LECTURES

#### 13 FEBRUARY 2008

THE MEDIA AND THE WAR ON TERROR BY YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN, *THE INDEPENDENT*

#### 8 APRIL 2008

THE UNIQUENESS OF NAZISM'S RACIAL WAR BY PROFESSOR SIR IAN KERSHAW, SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY

#### 11 JUNE 2008

THE DEGENERATION OF WAR BY PROFESSOR JAY WINTER, YALE UNIVERSITY

ALL LECTURES TAKE PLACE AT 7PM AT LECTURE ROOM B33, BIRKBECK, MALET STREET, LONDON WC1

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RESERVE A PLACE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE SEE THE WIENER LIBRARY WEBSITE.

## FILMTALK

FILMTALK IS AN ONGOING LECTURE SERIES ORGANISED BY THE WIENER LIBRARY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE. THE SERIES LOOKS AT MAINSTREAM FEATURE FILMS, TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS AND ARTHOUSE FILMS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CONTEMPORARY JEWISH HISTORY. THE FIRST TWO TALKS IN THE SERIES WERE GIVEN BY DR NATHAN ABRAHAMS AND PROF GINETTE VINCENDEAU.

#### 5 MARCH 2008

JEWISH IDENTITY IN BODY AND SOUL BY PROFESSOR JOSE ARROYO, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

#### 4 JUNE 2008

FROM YIDL TO YENTL TO BEN STILL(H)ER: MEET THE FOCKERS AND THE LONG HISTORY OF THE EFFEMINATE JEW BY DR MICHELE AARON

LECTURES TAKE PLACE AT 7 PM AT THE WIENER LIBRARY

TO RESERVE A PLACE, PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@WIENERLIBRARY.CO.UK](mailto:info@wienerlibrary.co.uk) OR PHONE NEIL HUCKSTEPP ON 020 7636 7247.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE SEE THE WIENER LIBRARY WEBSITE.