

Centre for German-Jewish Studies



With the death on 27 June 2004 of Muriel Emanuel (née Hill), the Centre lost one of its most loyal supporters.

Born on 14 October 1928, she grew up in London and was educated in Muswell Hill. Her marriage to Ralph Emanuel in 1953 brought her into contact with some of the refugees who had been assisted by the Emanuel family, including Alfred Bader, the well-known chemist and art collector, and Gerald Loewi, the immunologist, father of the Centre's Liaison Officer, Diana Franklin. To many readers Muriel will be best known as co-author (with Vera Gissing) of the landmark publication

ranging literary and cultural interests are reflected in the invaluable reference work, which she helped to edit.

Muriel made equally significant contributions in less tangible ways, especially when she and Ralph made their home in Hampstead available for meetings and other events in support of the Centre. The original gathering in autumn 1994 that led to the creation of the Centre's Support Group was held at their house. More recently, they hosted a recital by the young Russian-Israeli soprano, Ilona Domnich, who performed a programme of German and other songs to an appreciative audience. Music and painting formed an essential part of Muriel's life, and she helped to organize a number of events at the London Jewish Cultural Centre, including exhibitions of paintings by the Czech-born artist Bedrich Feigel and the Berlin artist Eugen Spiro.

Since arriving at the Centre in October 2003, Lisa Silverman has been working as a part-time Research Fellow on a project supported by a grant from the Kohn foundation. Her special interest in Jewish women photographers has led her to concentrate on a relatively unexplored field, 'Visualizing Modernity: Jews and Photography in Berlin and Vienna, 1870-1940'.

Building on discussions with colleagues at the Centre, she has undertaken research at the British Library and the Victoria & Albert Museum, consulting their extensive collections of books on photography and visual culture. She has also found opportunities to conduct interviews and examine private collections. In January 2004 she met Primavera Boman-Behram, the daughter of Hilde Holger (1905-2001), the well-known Expressionist dancer and choreographer from Vienna, who allowed her to view materials from her mother's estate, including many photographs. In February 2004 she interviewed two well-known photographers in their London homes and viewed their extensive collections: Wolfgang Suschitzky, who was born in Vienna in 1912, and Dorothy Bohm, who was born in Königsberg in 1924, both of whom came to the United Kingdom as refugees in the 1930s.

In May 2004 Lisa travelled to the University of New Hampshire to conduct research on Lotte Jacobi

(1896-1990), a Jewish photorapher from Berlin. The Jacobi Archive comprises 47,000 negatives, several hundred exhibition prints, and three portfolios, as well as letters, catalogues, and other documents. An article based on Lisa's research in the Jacobi archives was published in the Autumn 2004 number of the autumn 2004 under the title 'Family Business'.

The contribution of Chana Moshenska, the Centre's Director of Educational Programmes, to the work of the University has been recognized by a Chancellor's Award, which will be presented to her at the Winter Graduation Ceremony. Chana launched our annual programme of educational events marking Holocaust Memorial Day. She has also organised the Centre's weekly colloquium programmes, setting up a seminar series focusing on life history narratives entitled 'Refugees from Hitler'.

A presentation to the Board of the ANNE FRANK-Fonds in Switzerland secured funding for her educational project on 'Living with Diversity'. This enabled Chana to develop a teaching pack for primary schools entitled 'Welcome to Britain?' linking refugee stories from the 1930s with current refugee experiences. The project has been piloted in primary schools in Brighton and Cambridge, linking teachers and educationalists from both cities to their mutual advantage.

Chana has made several visits to Poland in connection with the new Galicia Jewish Museum in

Krakow, helping museum staff to prepare for visitors by means of Holocaust awareness workshops. This educational outreach is based on insights developed during her teaching of the Jewish Holocaust course at Sussex. As co-author of the

, Chana has made a lasting contribution to British educational resources. Working with colleagues at the Centre, she has helped to ensure that a selection of documentary materials from our archives is globally accessible via the Web. Chana has earned for herself a reputation as a multicultural educationalist that enhances both the reputation of the Centre and the international standing of the University.

Gerhard Riegner Memorial Lecture

Professor Carlo Ginzburg, University of California, Los Angeles

Georges Bataille, the French thinker and novelist, put forward a religious interpretation of fascism in the framework of the Collège de Sociologie, which he founded in Paris with his friend Roger Caillois in 1937. The lecture will deal with the precedents, ambiguities, and relevance of Bataille's approach.

Professor Ginzburg is the Franklin D. Murphy Professor of Italian Renaissance Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his dottore in Lettere from the University of Pisa (1961) and taught at the University of Bologna before moving to the United States. His field of interest ranges from the Italian Renaissance to Early Modern European History. He is a leader in the field of 'microhistorical' methodologies. He has published extensively and written numerous books including (1983 and revised edition (1983),

2000), and (1999).

Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture Professor Anson Rabinbach, Princeton University

Raphael Lemkin (1900-1959) is best known as the creator of the term genocide and the author of the United Nations Genocide Convention. His admirers have emphasized his single-minded belief in the efficacy of both law and language to alter reality, as well as his conviction that the extermination of entire peoples and cultures was by no means a uniquely modern experience in history. Critics have pointed to the lack of means to enforce the convention, to Lemkin's almost naïve belief that language translated into law could prevent mass murder, and the difficulties of translating supranational principles into a world where law and sovereignty remain intimately linked.

This talk takes as its starting point Lemkin's belief that genocide was an unpolitical concept and looks at how Lemkin's lifelong campaign was thwarted by the United States' failure to ratify the convention. Professor Rabinbach will look at the reasons behind the United States' obduracy and at the resulting stalemate which made genocide a lost cause until the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1994.

Professor Anson Rabinbach is the Director of European Cultural Studies at Princeton University. He is a specialist in modern European history with an emphasis on Nazi Germany, Austria, and European thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He is the co-founder of an area and the premier journal in German studies in the United States. He has published extensively and is the author of (1991) (1997). His current research is on Nazi Germany and on post-second world war exchanges between

European and American intellectuals.

Professor John Röhl, University of Sussex

Hilde and Max Kochmann Memorial Lecture Professor Edward Timms, University of Sussex

Dr Avraham Barkai

Dr Cynthia Hooper

Professor Richard J. Evans, University of Cambridge

Dr Nikolaus Wachsmann, Birkbeck College, London

These lectures will be held at:

Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1 and begin at 19.00.

Admission is free. Places must be reserved by contacting the LBI on 020 7580 3493 or email:

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