Holocaust Memorial Day

Journeys

Thursday 30 January 2014
Jubilee Building Lecture Theatre
University of Sussex

Organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies
Sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees
Programme

1.30 pm  Welcome

Professor Michael Farthing, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex
The Mayor, Cllr Denise Cobb, Mayor of the City of Brighton and Hove
Kelly McBride, President, University of Sussex Students’ Union
Dr Gideon Reuveni, Director, Centre for German-Jewish Studies

1.50 pm  Sir Andrew Burns
‘Seventy years after the Holocaust: why does it still matter and what have we learned?’

Chaired by
Professor Matthew Cragoe,
Head of School of History, Art History and Philosophy

3.00 pm  Tea, Jubilee Building
G30 workspace

3.30 pm  Survival, Memory and Trauma

Part 1: Anita Lasker Wallfisch will relate the story of her experiences during the Holocaust

Part 2: Anita Lasker Wallfisch and her daughter, the psychotherapist Maya Jacobs-Wallfisch will discuss the impact the Shoah had on their family life

Chaired by Gideon Reuveni

“I could never accept that I should be killed for what I happened to be born as...”

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch
Sir Andrew Burns KCMG
Sir Andrew Burns has been the United Kingdom Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues since 2010. He is Chairman-designate of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for 2014-15. He is the UK representative on the International Commission for the International Tracing Service at Bad Arolsen. He was British Ambassador to Israel from 1992 to 1995. He is a past Executive Chairman of the Anglo-Israel Association.

In the course of a long career in the Diplomatic Service of the United Kingdom since 1965, he was also British High Commissioner to Canada, Deputy Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, British Consul-General in Hong Kong and Macau and Head of British Information Services in the US. He was Press Secretary to three successive British Foreign Secretaries, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr John Major and Mr Douglas Hurd. His earlier postings were to India and Romania.

Sir Andrew has been an International Governor of the BBC, Chairman of Royal Holloway, University of London and Chair of the Committee of University Chairs in the UK. He currently chairs Hestercombe Gardens Trust and the International Polar Foundation-UK and is a Governor of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch
was born in 1925 in Breslau, Germany – now Wroclaw (Poland), as the youngest of three sisters. Her father was a lawyer and her mother a most accomplished violinist.

All three sisters learnt to play an instrument. Anita played the cello. The children were brought up speaking French. In April 1942 her parents were deported and not heard of again. Anita and Renate were sent to work in a paper factory where they got involved in forging papers for French prisoners of war to escape.

They were caught as they were trying to escape themselves, were arrested and sent to prison. They were sentenced for ‘Forgery, Attempted Escape and Helping the Enemy’.

In late 1943 Anita was sent to Auschwitz/Birkenau, where she became the only cellist in the Women’s orchestra. With the advance of the Russian Army she was transported to Bergen Belsen in 1944 and liberated by the British Army on 15 April 1945.

After a prolonged battle with immigration laws she was eventually allowed to come to England in March 1946 where she has lived ever since, and became a founder member of the English Chamber Orchestra. She toured internationally but only returned to Germany in the late eighties.

She has two children, Raphael Wallfisch who is a cellist and Maya Jacobs-Wallfisch who is a psychotherapist.

She has written a book about her experiences entitled: ‘Inherit the Truth’ published by Giles de la Mare. In 2011 Anita Lasker Wallfisch received an honorary degree as Doctor of Divinity from Cambridge University.

Maya Jacobs-Wallfisch
is a psychotherapist who works with people that have been affected by the Holocaust, both the first and the second generations.

Maya’s interest in trauma and the issues arising from trans-generational trauma have their origins in her experience of being a second generation Holocaust survivor. Her mother never spoke to her children about the past. Living in the shadow of this secretive heritage, Maya found that her sense of personal identity and experience of ‘un-belonging’ to be deeply challenging. These experiences inform her work as a psychotherapist in which she seeks to help her patients address their own subjective experiences of difference, exclusion and persecution. Maya is a co-founder of The Forum For Trans-Generational Trauma.
The Centre for German-Jewish Studies
Since its establishment in 1994, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies has developed into a major institution for the study of the history, culture and thought of Jews in Central Europe and for the training of a new generation of teachers and researchers in this field.

The primary aim of the Centre’s teaching and research activities is the re-evaluation of how the history of Jews in German-speaking lands is studied. The Centre attracts international scholars who actively contribute to scholarship in German-Jewish studies through teaching and research, focusing on political, social, literary and intellectual German-Jewish history.

Given the location of the Centre, another key objective is to research the history of Jewish refugees and their families to the United Kingdom during and after the Second World War. The Centre also focuses on projects related to the history of anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and its effects on post-war history. The Centre’s archival collection, located in the University of Sussex Special Collections (now located in The Keep), is being developed in accordance with these main themes. There is a particular interest in materials documenting the histories of German-Jewish families since the Enlightenment, including diaries, letters, oral testimony, survival narratives and other biographical sources recording the history of refugees.

For further information please contact:

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This event is open to all, however booking is essential as seating is limited.

Book your place for this event now:
www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/hmd

Free entry to this event is made possible by the generous support of the Association of Jewish Refugees.