



Over two weeks in July 2018, the Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies at Shandong University, in



Trudy Gold addressing the Summer School in China

Launch of the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute for Jewish Studies



photo courtesy of German Embassy, London

The Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies was officially launched on Wednesday 13th March 2019 at an event hosted by the German Ambassador, Peter Wittig, at the German Ambassador's residence in London and attended by Lady Weidenfeld, Lord Weidenfeld's widow, amongst many other distinguished guests.

The event celebrated the establishment of the Institute as part of the University of Sussex's new Centre for Jewish Studies. This Centre will also comprise the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and the Chair in Modern Israel Studies.

Dr Gideon Reuveni, Director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies explained that the Institute has been established to commemorate the work of the late Lord Weidenfeld, a long-time supporter of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and that its remit is to fight the rise of modern antisemitism by means of research, education and outreach.

To discuss part of the work the Weidenfeld Institute will undertake, a panel was assembled to examine

the rise of antisemitism. The four panellists were: the Booker Prize-winning author Howard Jacobson; Baroness Neuberger, senior rabbi of the West London Synagogue and a cross-bench member of the House of Lords; Dr Hella Pick CBE, the former foreign correspondent of the Guardian and leading spirit in the founding of the Weidenfeld Institute; and Lord Pickles, who was Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in the coalition Government until May 2015. Lord Pickles sits in the House of Lords and is currently the chairman of the Conservative Friends of Israel. He is also the United Kingdom Special Envoy for post-Holocaust issues.

The panel, chaired by the author Thomas Harding, the author of "Hans and Rudolf" and "The House by the Lake," discussed antisemitism and examined ways of dealing with its rise. The panellists offered different approaches to countering it. Hella Pick was the most optimistic; she felt that the best way to fight antisemitism was to emphasise the valuable contribution made by Jews to the intellectual and cultural life of the country. By contrast, Howard Jacobson thought that the fight would be extremely difficult as antisemitism was in the DNA of all western societies. Rabbi Neuberger adopted a more practical approach and advocated the use of the criminal law to punish antisemitism, thereby indicating that the state would not tolerate antisemitism and was prepared to defend the Jewish community. It was left to Lord Pickles to put forward the view that education and working through religious and secular societies was the most effective way to combat antisemitism. All the panellists concurred with the view that the

to England to build a life and career as a founder member of the English Chamber Orchestra and its principal cellist for many years. She married and had two children, one of whom is the renowned cellist Raphael Wallfisch, and in her life and work she successfully recreated the highly-cultured home atmosphere in which she had been raised in pre-war Germany. For Niklas, the task was also to rebuild a life which had been affected by war; however, in his case, as the child of a high-ranking Nazi, his life during the war had been pleasurable: it was afterwards that he had suffered.

Both have had to deal with the difficulties which memories of their pasts have brought.

Anita told us that for many years she did not discuss her incarceration in Auschwitz and Belsen and her participation in a death march between the two camps towards the end of the war. Like many survivors, she buried her traumatic past. She refused to travel to Germany and the orchestra toured there without her until an invitation to perform in a venue near Belsen persuaded her to break her taboo, and she went to see the camp. Since then, she has visited the country many times and now sees it as her mission to talk to schoolchildren in Germany and to speak to them personally about the camps and the behaviour of the Nazis.

Niklas Frank has the same mission to teach the new generations in Germany about the dangers of antisemitism and intolerance but from a different angle. He has had to struggle to come to terms not only with the crimes committed by the Nazis against the Jewish population of Europe but also his father's prominent role in this. He has tried to reconcile the elegant, well educated lawyer figure his father presented to him with the enormity of the crimes his father committed and for which he was tried and executed in Nürnberg

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