

NUMBER 41

“THE  
BROOK”

THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON  
SYNAGOGUE

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OCTOBER 1967/5728

"We will give thanks unto thee for  
thy miracles which are daily with us."  
— Amidah.

## HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

BROOK GREEN, W.6.

Secretary's Office: Noble 1405

Synagogue Hall: Noble 5238

Minister: Rev. S. VENITT, B.A.

Reader: Rev. SAMUEL FORSCHER.

Emeritus Reader: Rev. B. PALETZ.

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Mr. L. LEVY.

## THE CHIEF RABBI'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE FOR 5728

The year 5727 is sure to move into the imperishable record of time as one of the most momentous years in our millennial history. What we have been privileged to witness are epoch-making events that only occur once in 2,000 years.

The Providential salvation of Israel, snatched from the mortal threat of utter doom by the infinite grace of our Guardian combined with the heroism and unprecedented dedication by our people everywhere, has placed altogether new burdens and responsibilities upon our communities.

We must now prove worthy of the Divine favours we have received and at the same time continue the battle for Jewish survival with the same zeal and fortitude in our schools, homes, Synagogues and all other places of Jewish endeavour and thinking. I am hopeful that during the ensuing year we will succeed in initiating numerous communal projects, born of vision and an acute sense of urgency, designed to mobilise the resources of Anglo-Jewry in its own defence. Above all, through the expansion and intensification of Jewish education, we are now called upon to reverse the tide of defection from Judaism threatening Jewish survival no less grimly than did the Arab governments sworn to Israel's destruction.

I am confident that your community will play a valiant part in this exciting adventure to maintain within Anglo-Jewry the high idealism and commitment to Jewish values generated by the miracles which have immortalised the past year. May the New Year witness the completion of our redemption, bringing renewed glory to Zion and Jerusalem, relief and security to our brethren everywhere, historic credit to Anglo-Jewry, and lasting peace and happiness to all mankind.

DR. IMMANUEL JAKOBOVITS,  
CHIEF RABBI.

## EDITORIAL

Until the third week in May, communal activities were proceeding along the same leisurely lines. After the Festivals, the year opened with the usual series of lectures, a successful Gala Film Show took place at the Commonwealth Institute, the J.P.A. Annual Dinner was held at the Washington Hotel, with Mr. J. L. Godfrey acting as genial host, to mark his 70th birthday. Then overnight everything changed. Israel was in danger. A wave of fellow-feeling carried Jews throughout the world in support. Emergency meetings were hastily called, and all who wished to identify themselves with their people, did so in the most practical manner. A circular letter was all that was needed to pack our Communal Hall. People did not really wait for eloquent appeals to move them. They knew why they had been called together. The response was immediate and overwhelming. The youth showed a remarkable solidarity with Israel. Many volunteered to go there and help. The Ladies opened Thrift Shops. Our Synagogue Hall, like so many others, was soon piled high with goods of all descriptions. Who can forget the day the war began? The services of intercession, at which thousands poured out their hearts in anguish and anxiety, quite unaware of what was actually happening in Israel. When the old city of Jerusalem was taken, and Chief Chaplain Goren went forward to the Ko'el Maaravi, with a Sefer Torah in his arms, many must have been deeply moved with emotion. When it was all over in a matter of six days, most people were convinced that a miracle had happened.

During those crucial days and weeks, everything else had been set aside. Funds raised for other purposes had been diverted.

We are now on the threshold of a New Year. There must be a new Cheshbon Hanefesh, in other words, we must take careful stock of our new situation.

The new spirit infused into Jewry must not be allowed to evaporate. Everything we do has acquired a fresh meaning—our prayers are more heartfelt, our faith in the eternal people is strengthened. We must now pick up the threads of our own communal life once again. Whilst we will still, without a doubt, be mainly pre-occupied with Israel and its needs, we dare not neglect our own charitable causes, we must pay attention to our youth, and provide them with proper amenities in their clubs, we must try and strengthen the spiritual and social ties of our congregants, we must spread and intensify Jewish education both for children and adults.

Symbolic of this heightened sense of duty is the new Sefer Torah presented recently at a service and ceremony rarely seen more than once in a lifetime.

May it be symbolic too, of a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year for us and for all Israel.

Once again, many thanks to all who have helped by their articles, and monetary contributions to make the publication of this issue possible.

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## A Message from the J.P.A. Committee

In the aftermath of the greatest Military Battle of our People, we pause and think of our brethren who died in the Pogroms of Russia, those who today live under intolerable conditions in that Country, and those who lost their lives in the Gas Chambers of Hitlerite Germany. We recall the birth pangs of 1948 when the State of Israel emerged upon an exultant and stimulated World Jewry to be followed alas in 1956 by the Suez crisis. We ask ourselves, has not World Jewry suffered enough, and is it not time to look forward to an era of Peace and Tranquility.

As we count the cost in precious Jewish lives lost in defence of our heritage in Israel, we also are concerned with its cost in terms of money. British Jewry in general and our own Hammer-smith and West Kensington Community in particular rose to this emergency in full measure. Our members, their wives and the Youth have shown our Israeli brethren we are indeed one family, by contributing to the Emergency Appeal the magnificent sum of £29,500.

The fight is not yet over. The subsequent problems of establishing a peace, restoring the economic equilibrium of the land and continuing with the absorption of immigrants—a great humanitarian adventure—require our continuing efforts. We must, and indeed will continue to identify ourselves with these problems, and ensure that our present expression of solidarity with Israel shall continue.

Let us see this through together and with God's help, witness the establishment of Peace for all our People. Our promise of sustained effort will give heart and encouragement to our Brethren in Israel in the knowledge that they do not stand alone. On the eve of Yom Kippur our Ministers in our Synagogues throughout this land will appeal to us to play our part. Their inspiring words will not fall on deaf ears, but will encourage us to maintain our efforts.

Israel may rely upon us.

BERNARD DAVIS

## Presentation and Completion of a New Sefer Torah

Tremendous interest was aroused when it was announced that a new Sefer Torah was to be presented and completed on the afternoon of September 17th. A large gathering came to watch the proceedings. Hardly any had witnessed the ceremony before. Following the Mincha Service, Mr. J. L. Godfrey, the donor, brought the incomplete scroll into the Synagogue, where it was unrolled on the Reading Desk. A number of persons were then honoured with the Mitzvah of inscribing a letter. What in fact happens in our communities nowadays, is that the Sofer or scribe leaves a number of letters in outline, and each person in turn holds his hand whilst he fills them in. This precaution is taken to ensure that no error will be made, which might cause the Sefer to become Passul or unfit for reading, and thus mar the whole ceremony. The Torah having been completed, it was carried round in procession with all the other scrolls, which were taken out of the Ark, and appropriate Psalms were recited. Then followed the Prayer for the Royal Family and for the State of Israel, a Blessing on the Donors, and Memorial Prayers for their Parents, Oleinu and Adon Olam.

In the course of his address, Rev. Venitt turned to the donors and said: "Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey, you have been gracious to donate this Sefer Torah to us today, in memory of your dear parents. May you derive pleasure and comfort in the knowledge that its sacred use, here in this place of worship, brings you nearer to the ideals of them who are no longer with us, and of the countless generations who lived by it, and were prepared even to die for it. Your presentation today, is but one of a long series of acts of benevolence which you have, in the goodness of your hearts, been moved to perform. Your kindnesses have been extended to many deserving causes in our midst, and you are doing your duty towards Israel in a most magnanimous way.

Yet, your gift today is in a special category, because of the great inspiration and uplift it must undoubtedly give you—inspiring you to further great deeds of charity and mercy, and urging you to help in the promotion of Jewish life and knowledge."

The mantle for the new Sefer Torah was presented in memory of Mrs. Bertram Topper's uncle, by her aunt in America.

Following the ceremony, tea was served in the Synagogue Hall.

## WOMAN'S PAGE

### THE WEAKER SEX?

"Why can't a woman be more like a man?"—so runs a line from one of the most delightful musical shows that was ever presented on any stage.

It seems to me that with the advent of every new generation, this is becoming more and more of an actual fact, and less and less of a physical comparison. When you stop to think of the rôle women play in today's world, you have to admit, quietly, so that the men won't hear, that we really are something special—a breed apart!

There are those amongst us, who are quite, quite brilliant, no, I am really serious, because there is a big difference between those who are, and those who think they are! There are the women diplomats, look at Golda Meir, Mrs. Ghandi, and our Barbara Castle, and also those wives behind the scenes, of whom one never hears, but who exert great influence on their husbands just the same, as well as women in all the professions, who acquit themselves magnificently. Women have, even during the most recent years, managed to gain a foothold across the most hallowed of portals, after many moons of determination, and persistence, and I can well understand, now, the strong feelings of Emily Pankhurst and her contemporaries of that generation, in their fight for rights, and the emancipation of women. These women seem to me, to possess one thing in common, they are dedicated to their cause, or their calling, and come what may, this, above all else, takes pride of place in their lives.

When you come to think of it, that is exactly how we, ... Jewish women of Great Britain, and I am sure of all over the world behave, for we are united in a common bond, because we are all dedicated to OUR cause, which is to our rôle in life as wives, and mothers, as recent events have shown only too well. When you think how, in Israel's darkest hour, we ran our home, how we did our shopping; the hours we spent on the telephone, begging, pleading, and sometimes even downright threatening people, for the goods to sell in our Thrift shops. The hours we spent standing on our feet all day, sorting, pricing, bargaining—all for a common aim, firstly our dedication as Jewish women, and secondly, above all, the need to identify ourselves with the right to exist as a Jewish Nation. Our daily lives went on, if somewhat under pressure, and to emphasise our dedication, some of our children went to Israel to strengthen our bonds.

Nonetheless, the rôle that the Israeli wives, and mothers played at that time, equalled that of any of the heroines of Biblical days. Normally, in times of unsettled peace, they regularly do

many of those jobs which their menfolk would be doing, in any other country in the world. Again and again in the Biblical stories, women, like the wives of the Patriarchs, Miriam and Deborah, Hannah and Huldah, Ruth and Esther, play an important part in the sacred story of the Bible. Again and again, men are rescued from the consequences of their folly, and even the State from impending calamity, by a woman's hand.

Is it not, therefore, a remarkable fact, that in a religion, which has denied the importance of women in its religious rites, now, with the establishment of the State of Israel, not only has there been a woman Foreign Minister, but the women serve, fight, and even die in defence of THEIR cause, which is their country, and their freedom?

Living as we do in these enlightened days, is it not time that Jewish women were given a more active role to play in the daily running of Communal affairs in the Diaspora, and that the more archaic and degrading customs affecting the rights of women in Judaism were revised? Women stand side-by-side with their menfolk, work with them, worry with them, and still they are considered to be inferior, deep down in most male thoughts. Nowhere in the Bible, is the dignity of marriage more striking, than in the account of the creation of woman, in the second chapter of Genesis. She is, in the Scriptural phrase, considered to be "his helper," and yet "his equal." Thus all talk about the superiority of either man or woman is idle, they are co-ordinate. If man is king, then woman is the power behind the throne, and she can use her opportunities either for good or for evil.

It must follow therefore, that a woman does not need to be more like a man. She has her own rightful place in society, and in the world of today, she well fulfils her rôle in every sphere.

Speaking for myself, I must admit that there are times when I would truly love to be like one of those Sheridan, or Thackeray Victorian Mamas, who threw a fit of the vapours under the slightest provocation, but that, I know, is not at all like me—we can't have the best of both worlds!

JEAN H. CAPLAN.

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#### FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Under the auspices of the Council of Ministers of the United Synagogue a series of Six Talks on SABBATH IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY will be given by Rev. S. Venitt on Thursday evenings, commencing November 2nd at 8.30 p.m.

## LECTURE SERIES 1967

The succession to the Chief Rabbinate, which was the dominating event this year in Anglo-Jewry, was somewhat overshadowed by the crescendo of the Middle East crisis which culminated in the salvation of Israel. Nevertheless during May 1967, we in Hammersmith carried out our intention of giving our members a vivid impression of the historical background of the Jewish spiritual leadership in this country.

The institution of the office of Haham, the life work of the varied characteristics of the occupants, were ably delineated by Mr. Edgar Samuel, a Fellow of the Jewish Historical Society. A colourful and chronological lecture on the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbinate with its inter-relationship with other major communal developments was brilliantly delivered by Mr. S. S. Levin, a Vice-President of the United Synagogue. Mr. Levin dealt in a frank and facile manner with the searching questions which were posed concerning the higher ecclesiastical office which controls the religious functioning of the Jewish community.

It has been our privilege in the past to receive as guest lecturers some of the most outstanding contemporary exponents on themes concerning the theology, literature, philosophy and history of our people. Three years ago, our lecture devotees were most impressed by the debut in this field of a young scholar, Rev. Irving Jacobs, B.A., who was then the spiritual leader of the Sutton Synagogue. He has since been appointed as full time lecturer and research scholar at Jews' College. We are glad to welcome him back at Hammersmith this autumn in a challenging series on "Schisms in Early Jewish History." The Pentateuch which has been the source of guidance for the Jewish people, was transmitted to Moses by direct Revelation, "Min Hashomayim." The Prophetic Books (Nevi'im) and the Biblical Writings ("Kesuvin") which were conceived by Divine inspiration, have added to our sum total of religious instruction and belief. The generations of the Rabbinic sages were responsible for the formulation of the Talmud of the Midrashim.

The whole corpus of Jewish Law derived from the Sinaitic and prophetic sources, supplemented by the Oral Law (handed down by word of mouth), collectively constitute the Torah. Jewish history has witnessed theological conflicts based on the differing attitudes to the concept of Torah and its interpretation by Rabbinic and other sources.

In the course of eight weekly lectures commencing Tuesday, 31st October, 1967, Rev. Irving Jacobs will present an historical survey of this outstanding theme in that vigorous and lucid style which appealed so greatly to us.

We look forward to your personal participation in this fascinating series of lectures.

L. FREEMAN

## THE LATE MR. GERSHON SILVER

The Synagogue has suffered a tragic loss in the untimely passing of Mr. Gershon Silver. Several of us had seen him on the Sunday at an engagement. He seemed his usual self, full of bustle and energy, eager to get down to work on the Emergency Campaign for Israel. His collapse and demise the next day came as a terrible shock. Gershon was a great asset to the congregation in so many ways. He was clear-headed, deliberate and essentially practical. If there was a job to be done, he would tackle it without much ado, and he brought much common sense to bear in his approach.

Gershon was the son of the Rev. S. Silver, who at one time was Minister to the Chester Congregation. His upbringing was traditionally orthodox in pattern, and it was therefore natural for him to be keenly interested in Jewish matters. He served for some time as an Honorary Officer of our Synagogue. For many years he was a representative on the Council of the United Synagogue. His chief Jewish interest was, undoubtedly, the J.P.A. As Vice Chairman of the Hammersmith Committee from its inception, he brought to his task unbounded energy and zeal, and the funds benefited enormously as a consequence. He was greatly respected not only in Jewish circles. At an early age he was made a Freeman of the City of London, and since 1943, was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Carmen. He also had a distinguished war record, serving in the R.A.O.C., and rising to the rank of Major. He was a son-in-law of the late Sydney Moss, who was also a warden of the Synagogue for many years.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife Pearl, his daughter Jane, the Rev. S. Silver, and other members of the family.

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## SYNAGOGUE NOTICES

Despite repeated notices in 'The Brook' it still happens from time to time that meetings of different **local societies and committees** have been arranged independently to take place on the same date. As a number of people are on more than one committee it is obviously desirable that clashing should be avoided. The Synagogue Secretary maintains a central diary of dates of meetings **which are notified to him** and Secretaries of local organisations are sincerely requested to remember this and to advise the Synagogue Secretary of all meeting dates as far in advance as possible.

A **Yahrzeit Register** is kept in the Synagogue Office. Rev. Forscher is prepared to record entries at your request and to send you a reminder each year.

## CHASAN TORAH AND CHASAN BERESHIS

Just before going to press, we heard that the Chasanim for this year will be Mr. Basil Benzimra and Mr. Joseph Nisner.

The Chasan Torah, Mr. Basil Benzimra with his dynamic personality, sincerity of purpose and forthrightness, is a very popular figure in the community. Typical of him was his decision—taken in consultation with his dear wife Rebecca and their son Jonathan—to cancel their Barmitzva party and give the money to Israel instead. His generous gesture was acclaimed by many. For several years he served the Synagogue as Financial Representative, giving of himself wholeheartedly and unsparingly. Last year he was Chairman of the Functions Committee which arranged the gala film show at the Commonwealth Institute. Rebecca Benzimra fully supports and encourages him in his activities.

No less a worker for the Synagogue and its many aspects is Mr. Joe Nisner the Chasan Bereshis. He likewise has been an Honorary Officer for a number of years and also serves on the Functions Committee in an executive capacity. Well liked and respected, he works with a quiet efficiency, and can always be relied upon to give of his best, no matter what the cause. His wife Phyllis has also worked hard for the community, organising tombolas and brochures, assisting at Ladies' Guild functions and more recently taking a leading part in the collection of goods and fund raising for Israel.

We are sure our members and their families will want to join in the Simchas Torah celebration which will be given in their honour on October 29th in the Synagogue Hall.

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## THE SUCCAH

will be ready for decorating on  
Monday and Tuesday, 16th and 17th October.

Gifts of flowers, foliage, wine, etc., will be gratefully accepted, also donations towards the purchase of cakes.

It will be greatly appreciated if members could send their gifts on those days, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Offerings from all members of the Congregation will help to make the Succah celebrations worthy of this festival, and emulate the wonderful effort made last year.

## Youth Committee

Two main events which took place in connection with Youth work in the area during the last six months need to be recorded.

The first is that outline planning permission has been granted for the proposed West London Jewish Youth Centre. This was a real milestone and one further step to the realisation of our goal. The building sub-committee immediately commenced finalising instructions for a firm of architects to prepare a more detailed plan.

The second event which took place was the re-opening of the Wessix Jewish Youth Club on Sunday, 3rd September, and already it is apparent after only a few club meetings that this club will play a significant role in the life of our community. On another page in this issue you will find further details of the Wessix Jewish Youth Club.

Now, more than ever before, the congregation is willing to serve its youth, for they have proved themselves worthy of being looked after. One has only to attend Synagogue services every Shabbat to see how the youth, in turn, serves the community and indeed a large proportion of the congregants present are under 21! We also remember how, a few months ago, many of our youth immediately volunteered to serve in Israel during the hostilities. Besides all this, there has never been a viable community without the enthusiasm of the younger generation, who, after all are the future of a community like ours.

DAVID H. VELLEMAN,

Chairman, Youth Committee.

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The Hon. Officers and Board of Management extend their Compliments and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year to all Members of the Congregation and their Families.

The Reverend and Mrs. S. Venitt and Family wish to convey their sincere wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to the Honorary Officers, to the Board of Management, relatives, friends and members of the Synagogue.

The Reverend and Mrs. Samuel Forscher and Ruth, wish to convey their warmest greetings for the New Year to the Honorary Officers, to the Board of Management, and to all members of the Congregation and their families.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Friedmann and Family wish to convey their most cordial wishes to the Congregation for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Short send their compliments to all the Congregation.

## Looking Back in Wonder

Looking back now, it seems incredible that we could have packed so much into 12 days. But when, in February, we planned to go to Israel in August, we did not visualise that the Middle East boundaries would be so drastically revised. Our original plans included a two-day stay in Beersheba for a visit to Massada, and this was the only item adhered to.

Our first stop was Jerusalem and the Holy City was in a ferment. We commented that there were very few British visitors, but all Israel appeared to be making a fourth Festival Pilgrimage. The travel agencies, coaches and buses were full of Israelis eager to see the Old City and other places barred to them for nearly twenty years. On our Egged coach tour to Jericho, there were only two other English tourists—the rest were all Israelis.

Our first pilgrimage was, of course, to Old Jerusalem which we entered by the Damascus Gate. The surrounding buildings, which suffered during the fighting, were being pulled down and we were besieged by a horde of Arab taxi-drivers and peddlers. We followed the stream of pedestrians along the narrow lane with its rising steps and pungent odours, passing the historic Via Dolorosa. On all sides, were yelling Arab hawkers and stallholders, mostly children and youths, offering fruit, chewing-gum, cold drinks, plastic sponges, combs, hot and cold sweet-meats, etc. The crowds milling through were just as varied: Jews and Arabs, tourists, veiled Arab women, bearded orthodox Jews with their large fur hats, Yeshivah boys, push-carts, donkeys and prams.

Eventually, we reached the Western or Wailing Wall, traditionally, the last remnant of the Second Temple. The sudden sight of the Wall is a tremendous emotional experience, not only for its immense religious significance, but for the more recent and bitter memories of the 1920's and 1930's when it was the focus of Arab-Jewish strife. Old slum houses in front of the Wall had been demolished and a large area had been cleared; what had been a narrow lane where Jews prayed and Arabs led their laden donkeys is now a large open space which will be laid out as a dignified square. A rope barrier separates the sexes, about a quarter being allotted to women. In the men's sector were several minyanim and I joined a minyan, which included the Sephardi Chief Rabbi, Isaac Nissim.

The sanctity of the area is unfortunately being defiled by a commercial set-up. There are tables with prayer-books, Tefillin and Tallisim and enterprising gentlemen offering to photograph you, wearing Tallis and Tefillin and deliver the photographs to your hotel the following morning! I fervently hope this distasteful enterprise will be stopped.

Our next stop was the beautiful Mosque of Omar, on the Dome of the Rock, an inspiring and magnificent edifice. The light

shining through the lofty stained glass windows is a sight that leaves one spellbound and the interior of the Dome is as splendid as the exterior. From the spacious square of the Mosque is a grand panorama of the hills surrounding Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, the Mount of Olives, etc.

Our further excursions into what was Jordan, included Jericho where we saw the excavations of the Old City, the modern (?) town and the completely deserted refugee town. Bethlehem and Hebron were exciting stops, but I was startled to find that the "Cave of Machpelah," the tombs of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, were enclosed in a Mosque—the Mosque of Abraham. At each of the tombs were devout worshippers and a poignant sight was an old Jewish woman, praying side by side with an equally venerable Arab woman—both praying to the same ancestor and emphasising that we are, after all, cousins!

Rachel's tomb is quite separate and reminded us of the replica at Ramsgate which Sir Moses Montefiore built for his wife, Judith.

On our travels through Jordan, and indeed on our further travels into Syria and Egypt, it was inspiring to see the Israeli flag flying from the Public Buildings and white flags still hanging sadly from private dwellings. At Hussein's Villa, at Ramallah, a Menorah adorns the front!

Our journey to the Golan Heights in Syria, though tiring, was illuminating. On our previous visit to Israel we had seen the Heights with their constant threat to the Galilean settlements. Now we could see the vast fortifications and entrenchments, freely decorated with burnt out and blasted tanks and armoured vehicles. And it was good to know that these hills will never threaten Israel's security again! We saw one of the head waters of the Jordan—the beautiful Banias spring and here again, it was good to know that Syria will not be able to divert Jordan water.

On our return journey from Syria we stopped at Kibbutz Hagoshrim, where most of the volunteers from the Federation of Zionist Youth are working.

Having visited Jordan and Syria, we could hardly offend Egypt, so with special permits, we toured the Gaza Strip, as far as El-Arish, the scene of heavy bombing. Again, there was the edifice of military preparation and the woeful results! Bombed houses and hundreds of massive Russian tanks and armour lying useless and hopeless by the roadside.

At Khan-Yunis, we saw a deserted school where the walls were adorned (?) with lurid propaganda paintings in the Streicher tradition showing what the noble handsome Egyptians led by their noble Nasser would do to the dreadful ugly Jews. Blood—Jewish blood—was liberally splattered over these examples of modern Egyptian art and culture.

On the way back, we stopped for a drink at Ashkelon and met a young volunteer from Streatham. He had come out in June hoping to see Israel but had been stationed at El-Arish as a tank driver and had hardly set foot in Israel!! This was reminiscent of the Briton who joined the Navy to see the world. However, he was beginning a fortnight's leave which was to be spent in touring Israel.

We did manage to ascend Massada and it was indeed worth the effort. We stood there in two-fold wonder; that such palaces, with Synagogue, ritual baths and store houses could have been built on such a high and inaccessible site two thousand years ago and that the twentieth-century archaeologists should have achieved so much with their digging and reconstruction.

The relatively restful holiday was ruled out for us by the events of June but we also managed to visit Kibbutz Saad, where my father had spent Pesach and where we wished to thank his hosts. A feature of this religious Kibbutz is the Synagogue, surely the most beautiful modern Synagogue I have seen. The interior upper walls are decorated in a series of mosaics depicting the Creation.

We also spent a most enjoyable day at Kibbutz Givat Chaim Ichud, near Hadera, where we were interested to see something of the Kibbutz way of life. There is a first-rate swimming-pool and it is indicative of the prosperity of the Kibbutz that whereas at one time the first essential of the Kibbutz was the watch-tower and the water-tower, today it is the swimming-pool! This Kibbutz grows and packs nuts and fruit juices for export and we were happy to sample these wares.

We found time—we had to find time—to visit Jaffa twice. The Tel-Aviv-Yaffa Municipality have embarked on a unique building project whereby the old labyrinth of narrow winding lanes and covered alleyways are being rebuilt exactly as they existed before. The interiors are modern with up-to-date lighting and ventilation but retaining the old arched ceilings. The area is occupied by artists and galleries and is already proving a great attraction to tourists. We visited a Youth Club, with first rate recreational and educational facilities, which had been built on what had once been one of Jaffa's notorious evil quarters.

The atmosphere of Israel is of a people who have emerged triumphant from a crisis. There is such exhilarating buoyancy; the film of the "Six Day War" is filling the cinemas and there is a feeling of excitement and determination in the air. Everybody accepts that the occupied territories, with their attendant problems, must be held in order that Israel's security shall not again be in jeopardy.

And now we need a restful holiday!

HARRY BAYES, August 1967.



## Cruising Under the Blue and White Flag

A few months ago a news item in "The Times" informed us "Kosher Ship Sold To Germany" and in the same week the "J.C." reported: Zim Line selling the "Shalom." As one who sailed in the "S.S. Shalom" twice during the last two years and as one who really and truly fell in love with the "Shalom," this news item made me and my wife really feel sad! May I, in these notes, quoting from memory, tell you, why?

In the same way, as someone arriving the first time in Israel, greeted by suntanned, healthy, beautifully built Israeli boys and girls, feels the pleasure, "the naches" of experiencing the first time the miracle of our Jewish nationhood; the same pride in your heart in seeing the beautiful, elegant, spotlessly clean "S.S. Shalom" and the courtesy, the perfection, the discipline of the crew of the flagship of the Israeli shipping line.

May I immediately add—in case someone has the notion that I may have some ulterior motive in praising my ship—I am no travel agent, nor have I any shares or interests in the Zim.

I would only like to recall in these lines some incidents, some memories, which I really cherish, because cruising in the "S.S. Shalom" from New York harbour in winter into the sunny Caribbean ports and islands of the West Indies was real pleasure and enjoyment. First: 24,000 tonnage, 10 decks, 3 swimming pools, the finest theatre, synagogue, excellent food and then the crew: Captain Avner Freudenberg who came as a refugee from Berlin to London in 1936—lived in the East End and studied at John Cass in Aldgate; made his naval degree and Master's Certificate in Liverpool and subsequently skippered the "Exodus" type of ships during the mandate period to Palestine. A wonderful, dedicated Israeli naval officer; my wife and I considered it a privilege—as the only British passengers—to join him in his quarters. We were delighted to give him the first "Mazel tov" when he received the radiogram informing him of the arrival of his first grandchild in Haifa. Each of his officers were perfect gentlemen and a credit to Israel.

I recall this most remarkable experience with our stewards. Our cabin-steward on one trip was Shloime, on the next one Hershele. Both men—middle-aged—with homes and families in Haifa, were anxiously eager to make our trips as pleasant and enjoyable as possible. Each a character, not to be forgotten. Hershele always had a "mansé" (a story) to tell; whatever you asked him, the answer was: "Gur nisht a problem." I remember vividly one typical "Hershele" achievement: we were due to arrive in Port Everglades, Florida, and as I have an old aunt in

Miami, whom I was keen to meet, I asked Hershele to reserve me a separate table in the dining room, as I would like to entertain my aunt and family while we dock in Florida.

Hershele's reply was: "Sorgt ach nisht—gur nisht a problem."

When I went ashore and came back with my guests in our stateroom, there was Hershele in impeccable boardjacket; he laid the table for dinner—prepared the cocktails—he made my guests feel they were at a Simcha. And then started telling Israeli stories—from the War of Independence to jokes about Sabras, etc.

After my guests left, I asked him to get the bill from the Purser. Hershele's reply was: "Your guests are our guests."

Here is yet another very pleasant memory: Rabbi Harry Schwartz from Long Island, who was the travelling Minister on one trip. We celebrated Chanuka first as we were approaching St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Rabbi Schwartz and his charming Rebbetzin were the life and soul of our Chanukah party. Their rendering of the beautiful prayers and songs, together with the Israeli songs and dances were unforgettable experiences.

I should like to say however that in one respect I was often reminded of home and Brook Green. It was—apart from Erev Shabbat and Erev Chanukah—when the ship's Synagogue was full—difficult to have a Minyan for the morning and Mincha-Maariv Services. And just as our Reverend Veniti has to send out messengers for the completion of the Minyan, so Rabbi Schwartz had to send one of us in the Synagogue to the Restaurant for one or two stewards to make up the numbers.

If you consider that we were approximately 150-160 male passengers (a few non-jews excluded) it is definitely a sign of our times, or as Rabbi Schwartz said: "they are all pastrami-jews"—pastrami being in the U.S.A. the equivalent of our salt-beef—not practising co-religionists.

The artistes on board were the best exponents of the Israeli stage and cabarets. For the almost 90% U.S.A. passengers they were of course "too Israeli"—not enough American!?! We had 12 days Hebrew lessons and certificates were issued to the successful pupils before the end of the cruise.

We visited interesting places—old and modern Synagogues in Jamaica, Puerto Rico and in the Virgin Islands.

As I said in my introduction: I feel sad, that owing to lack of support—especially by the millions of American Jews—the Zim had to sell the "Shalom"—What a pity—the pride, the beauty of Israel's flagship will sail under the foreign flag.

F. J. GERTLER

## Wessix Jewish Youth Club

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This Club re-opened on Sunday, 3rd September, after a lapse of approximately nine months. The Club meets at the Brook Green Synagogue Hall every Sunday and Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. until the end of October, after which the Club evenings will be every Saturday and Thursday.

In addition, a football team has been entered in the A.J.Y. under-19 League, which commences playing every Sunday from the 17th September. More players are required, so please contact either the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Barend Velleman, the Sports Leader, David Phillips, or the Football Manager, Ian Napper.

Other facilities the Club provides include: Table Tennis, Netball, Swimming, Tennis, Cricket, Dances, Rambles, Discussion Groups, Play Readings, Chess, Speakers, Cinema and Theatre going, Summer and Winter holidays and week-ends, etc. etc. An ambitious programme has been drawn up for the winter months.

On October 28th we are holding a Grand Dance to celebrate the re-opening of Wessix with dancing to a famous live group. Watch for further announcements. The age group covered by Wessix is 13-21 and all meetings take place from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m.

Wessix is one of the oldest established Jewish Youth Clubs in London and now, with substantial backing and new experienced leadership, is ready to re-establish itself as the premier Club in the area. Now all that we need is MEMBERS so please contact any member of the committee, or better still, come along to our meetings and I am sure that you will enjoy yourselves and will return regularly.

Sunday evenings, Socials only, dancing to the latest top ten (or twenty) records, Coffee Bar, etc. Thursdays, chess, debating group, speakers, J.Y.V.S. (Jewish Youth Voluntary Service), drama, play reading, table tennis, dancing, coffee bar, etc. **COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS.**

We would like to record our thanks to Mrs. Annenberg for donating a football to our Sports Section; the Rev. S. Venitt, our Club Chaplain, for composing a special Wessix Club Prayer; the Honorary Officers and Board of Management of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue for their advice, concrete help, financial assistance and for putting the club premises at our disposal; Mr. Short, the caretaker, for his regular assistance and advice and last but not least, our Management Committee for

making all this possible and for giving their time and energy to our cause.

We urgently need a few armchairs, fireside chairs, rugs or carpet and some large screens for our coffee bar. Any donations of same would be gratefully received.

For full particulars about the club contact Barend Velleman, Chairman, Membership Committee, 125a, Earls Court Rd., S.W.5. Tel: 373-7171.

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## Jewish Youth Study Groups

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Jewish Youth Study Groups is a national organisation for young people between the ages of 14 and 18, whose aim is to "promote and encourage the study and practise of the Jewish religion and culture." The meetings usually consist of talks, discussions and debates, mostly given by the members themselves, and several guest speakers are invited to come along and speak to us.

As well as the regular weekly meetings, Jewish Youth Study Groups holds two annual seminars at Carmel College, one in summer and one in winter. Not only are these schools thoroughly enjoyable, but they also enable one to make friends all over the country from the various provincial groups such as Manchester, Leeds and Cardiff, and there is also plenty of opportunity to get together with old friends at the summer and winter school reunions.

**YOUR NEAREST GROUP** is West London, one of the major of the eight London groups, and this term we have planned a very interesting programme. We meet every Sunday evening at 5.15 p.m. in the Children's Synagogue, Herbert Samuel Hall (New West End Synagogue), Bark Place, W.2, and we look forward to seeing all newcomers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

**HARRY GANZ,**  
48 Stafford Court, W.8.  
(937 9739)

## Norwood Homes

Last April a letter was published in "The Brook" from Mr. B. Moss, the then Secretary of Norwood. Part of this letter is reprinted in the hope that some of our members will be moved to do some work on its behalf, or at least offer to become annual subscribers.

All who are interested, will you please write to Rev. S. Venitt at 69 Brook Green, W.6, who will pass on the information to the right quarters.

The Norwood Homes maintain and care for about a thousand Jewish children (residential and non-residential). Children from broken homes—whose parents have been charged at Court with cruelty or neglect, children virtually abandoned by their parents, illegitimate children, children whose mothers are in hospital suffering from incurable diseases—all these, the innocent victims of circumstances beyond their control, look to the Community for a chance in life which is their due. The children arrive psychologically battered and bewildered by being uprooted from what they imagined was the security of their home, but once installed into the calm Jewish atmosphere of one of our family houses and under the care of a devoted Housemother, their sense of security is restored and they face the future with anticipation rather than with apprehension.

Wherever possible we render financial assistance to enable the parent to keep the child at home because, as devoted as our Housemothers are, there is really no substitute for a natural mother.

When a child leaves one of our homes, every assistance is given for further education to University level. For those who enter employment at school leaving age, we find them jobs suitable to their capabilities, foster homes if they have no home of their own to which to return, and we supplement their earnings until they become self-supporting.

In 1964 Norwood assumed financial responsibility for the children previously maintained by the Jewish Welfare Board, thus avoiding the duplication of effort and money which had been taking place. The result is a considerable financial deficit for Norwood consequent on the large increase in our "family" with the enormous compensation to the Community of the creation of a fully comprehensive welfare service for deprived Jewish children briefly described in this article.

On behalf of the Norwood Homes, I thank Dr. M. D. Caplan and his Committee for their untiring efforts in aid of our children for so many years."

## The Thrift Shop

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Israel desperately needed the funds. Minds were working feverishly how best to raise them. Then the Fashion Houses hit upon a bright idea. They approached firms for goods, a mammoth sale was well advertised in the press, and on the day there was a long queue for the opening. All the stocks were disposed of in a matter of hours—including the hangers. This spontaneous response gave women's organisations throughout the country the idea for Thrift Shops. In our own area, the Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild joined forces with the Chiswick Ladies' Guild, the Kensington & Chelsea Wizo, and the Ealing Wizo, and a shop was taken over in Chiswick High Road. Goods of all kinds poured in. The Hammersmith Synagogue Hall soon resembled a warehouse—but rather a disordered one. Then came the arduous task of sorting, pricing and selling. Many of the women must have been quite exhausted by their efforts. Nevertheless, they had the satisfaction of knowing that over £2,500 was raised in a fortnight—a remarkable achievement, which reflects great credit on all concerned.

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## West Side Hafinjan

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This Youth Zionist Society caters for the 14-17 group. They have been meeting regularly on Sundays at 7.30 p.m. for lectures, debates and socials. Apart from this, they have engaged in a wide range of activities. Members usually transfer to the West London Young Zionist Society on reaching the age of 18. Enquiries should be made to Mr. W. Belson, Joint Chairman, 34 Morshead Mansions, Maida Vale, W.9, 01-286 8733.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined the Synagogue in the last year, and we extend to them a hearty welcome:—

Mr. & Mrs. A. Chaytow.	Mr. R. Nathan.
Mr. E. Elvey.	Mrs. D. Pantelis.
Mrs. P. Fineberg.	Mrs. H. Paros.
Mrs. P. Joseph.	Mr. & Mrs. A. Phillips.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Kaye.	Mrs. N. Samuels.
Mr. & Mrs. S. Lewis.	Dr. & Mrs. J. Spira.
Mrs. M. Linderfield.	Miss D. V. Tabor.
Mr. M. Menzell.	Mrs. G. Wright.
Mrs. R. Nathan.	

## WEDDINGS

The following marriages were solemnised at this synagogue during the course of the year.

Jack Winkler to Gitel Kling.  
Louis Brown to Rosita Renee de Botton Cohen.  
Harvey Sydney Beck to Sally Ruth Clayton.  
Malcolm David Mark to Pamela Chaplin.  
Norman Marks to Ilana Goodman.  
Bennie Fife to Ray Schmulewitsch.  
Leslie Peter Winston Sommer to Evelyn Ellenberg.  
Murray Figov to Pamela Venitt.

## BARMITZVAHS

The following boys celebrated their Barmitzvah at this Synagogue during the course of the year:—

David Bean.	Martin Brown.	John Simmonds.
Alan Bennett.	Richard Brown.	David Williams.
Jonathan Benzinra.	John Clarke.	Terence Wiseman.
Laurence Berle.	David Kaye.	

To the above, and to all members and their families who had celebrations during the year, we extend hearty congratulations.

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Sincerest good wishes for the New Year are extended to the Ministers, the Honorary Officers, the Board of Management and to all Congregants, relatives and friends by:—

- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Amias and Family, 38 Barons Keep, W.14
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Arram and Family, 37, Uxbridge Road, W.12.
- Mr. and Mrs. H. Bayes and Family, 3, Eversfield Road, Kew.
- ✓ Joy and Jeffery Brand, 73, Barons Keep, W.14.
- ✓ Mrs. J. Caplan, 255, Latymer Court, W.6.
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. M. Cutler and Family, 288 Latymer Court, W.6.
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Davis, 18 Palace Mansions, W.14.
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. George Evnine & Family, 120 Oakwood Court, W.14.
- ✓ Dr. and Mrs. L. Freeman and Daughter, 20, The Drive, N.W.11.
- ✓ Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3, Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. H. Gelpsmann & Family, 45, Caithness Rd., W.14.
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. Jack Halfin & Family, 32 Granard Avenue, Putney, S.W.15.
- ✗ Mrs. A. Hart, 6, Argyll Mansions, W.14.
- ✓ Dr. and Mrs. F. Hodes and Family, 7, Oakwood Court, W.14.
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212, Goldhawk Road, W.12.
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Parker and Family, 86, Brook Green, W.6.
- ✓ Mr. and Mrs. H. Sharpe, 6, Argyll Mansions, W.14.
- ✓ Dr. and Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22, Chesterfield Road, W.4.

15-210      6      8-0-0      18-00      Galle 12-12-0  
5-0-0      140-00      affl 2-2-0  
5-0-0           Gora 2-2-0  
Langton 2-2-0  
18 18 0  
140 0  
36-18 0  
Galle 5 5 0  
Levy 3 3 0  
45 6 0

*Compliments and Best Wishes for a Happy,  
Prosperous and Peaceful New Year*

*from*

✓ **Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Gertler**

*Greetings for the New Year*

*from*

✓ **Dr. & Mrs. David Lovell**  
Shauna and Jonathan

MONTREAL.

*Best Wishes for the New Year*

*from*

✓ **Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Gertler**  
Jerome and Anthony

PARIS.

*Mrs. Bessie Apfel*

*wishes her son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, relatives,  
members of the Hammersmith Friendship Club and  
Ladies' Guild and members of the Notting Hill  
Friendship Club a Happy and Peaceful New Year.*

✓ 14 Clarendon Court,  
Stacerton Road, N.W.2

*Compliments of the Season*

*from*

**Mr. & Mrs. SIDNEY GROSE & FAMILY**

✓ Berkeley House, 10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13

*Compliments of the Season and  
Best Wishes for the New Year*

*from*

**Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Godfrey and Family**

60 Montrose Court,  
Princes Gate, S.W.7

*With the Compliments of the Season  
and Best Wishes for the coming Year*

*from*

## **FIDELITY RADIO LTD.**

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*Extend their Compliments and Best Wishes  
for a Happy New Year*

★

50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

*Greetings and Best Wishes*

*from*

**Mr. & Mrs. JACK LEVY**

HAND & FLOWER HOTEL  
1 HAMMERSMITH ROAD, W.14

### **ORGANISATIONS**

**Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild.** Meets first Tuesday evening in the month in the Synagogue Hall. For information Tel.: 603 4938.

**Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Assn. Hon. Sec.:** Mrs. S. Verby, 45 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions, S.W.6. Tel.: REN 3731.

**Hammersmith Friendship Club.** Meets every Wednesday in the Synagogue Hall. Chairman: Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12. 743 3276.

**Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society.** Hon. Sec.: Mrs. L. R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, Stamford Brook, W.6. Tel.: RIV 8577.

**Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee (under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews).** Enquiries at Jewish Board of Deputies, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.2.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust.** Hon. Sec.: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, Stamford Brook, W.6. Tel.: RIV 8577.

**West London Jewish Youth Centre, Sponsoring Committee, Hammersmith,** representative, Mr. D. H. Velleman, 125a Earls Court Road, S.W.5. Tel. 01-373 7171.

**Wessex Jewish Youth Club.** Enquiries to Mr. Barend Velleman, 125a Earls Court Road, S.W.5. Tel. 01-373 7171.

**West London Zionist Society.** Enquiries to Hon. Sec. Miss R. Longhorn. Tel.: RIV. 8577.

**West London Young Zionist Society.** Enquiries to Chairman, Miss Rosalind Bayes, Tel.: RIC 6867.

**West Side Hafnian.** Enquiries to Hon. Sec., Miss Julia Lynn, 31 Joyner Drive, Greenford, Middx. Tel.: WAX 4123.

**Hamishmeret Hatzeira—Forum for Discussions on Jewish Topics for the Over 18's.** All enquiries to Mr. Leslie Venitt. 603 4938.

**Jewish Lads' Brigade—Hammersmith Coy.** All enquiries to Brigade Secretary: Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Tel.: EUS. 5148.

**Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch).** Hon. Sec.: Councillor Norman Mann, 61 Clifford Avenue, S.W.14. Tel.: PRO 3049.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue Library.** Hon. Sec. and Librarian: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel.: RIV 8577.

## TIMES OF SERVICES

### WEEKDAYS

Morning ... .. 7.30 a.m.  
Evening ... .. By arrangement.

### SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30 a.m.

### SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS

Evening ... .. 15 minutes after the commencement of  
Sabbath.  
During Summer Months, 7.0 p.m.  
Morning ... .. 9.30 a.m.

### Hammersmith Synagogue Religion Classes

(Supt.: Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.)

Classes meet every—

Sunday	...	...	...	10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
Tuesday	...	...	...	5.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Thursday	...	...	...	5.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

The Secretary can be seen any Sunday morning between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and by appointment.

The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

Rev. S. VENITT, B.A., 69, Brook Green, W.6.  
603 4938.

Rev. S. FORSCHER, 70, Brook Green, W.6.  
603 8565.