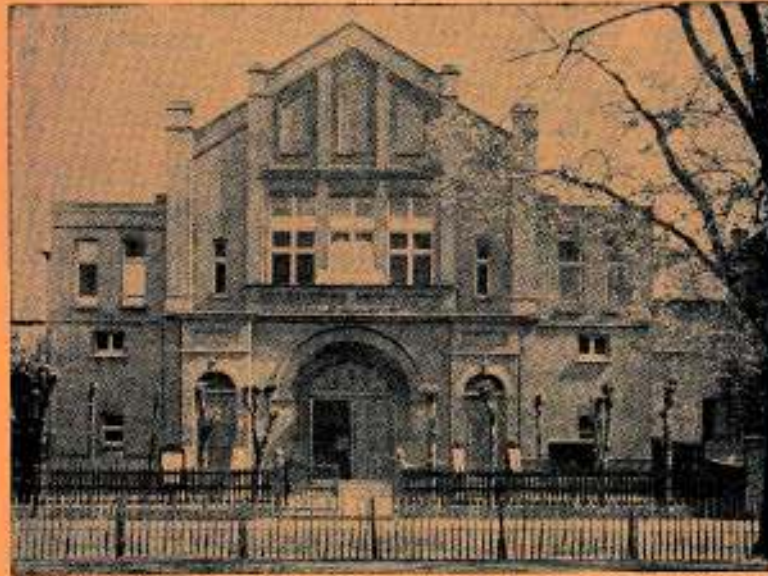


NUMBER 49

SEPTEMBER 1973 - 5734 תשל"ד

THE BROOK



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

"The word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth and in thy heart,
that thou mayest do it."

Deuteronomy XXX, 14

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

Officials

Minister: The Rev. Sam Venitt, B.A.,

69 Brook Green, W.6

Reader: The Rev. Samuel Forscher,

70 Brook Green, W.6

Secretary: Mr. M. Friedmann

Communal Hall

Telephones

603 4938

603 8565

602 1405

603 5238

The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

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

Wardens: J. Brand, Esq., H. Sharpe, Esq.

Financial Representative: M. A. Amias, Esq.

Board of Management:

D. Arram, Esq.

Dr. L. Freeman

J. Langdon, Esq.

Dr. M. D. Caplan

F. J. Gertler, Esq.

J. N. Nisner, Esq.

M. De Vries, Esq.

J. L. Godfrey, Esq.

Dr. F. S. Tysh

G. Evnine, Esq.

Dr. C. B. Hodes

I. Yoffey, Esq.

Representatives at the Council of the United Synagogue:

H. Bayes, Esq., B. Davis, Esq., Councillor S. Grose.

Representatives at the Board of Deputies: B. Davis, Esq., G.

Evnine, Esq.

Representative at the London Board of Jewish Religious Education:

J. Brand, Esq.

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

(Superintendent: The Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.)

Classes meet every —

Sunday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

" THE BROOK "

EDITORIAL BOARD: Mr. J. M. Shaftesley, O.B.E., B.A. (Hon. Editor); the Rev. S. Forscher; the Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.; Dr. and Mrs. M. D. Caplan; Mr. B. Davis, F.C.I.S.; Councillor S. Grose, B.A.; Mr. H. Sharpe; Mr. M. De Vries, B.A.; Mr. M. A. Amias; Mr. J. Brand, LL.B.

MINI-SERMON

"BIGNESS" IS NOT "GREATNESS"

By the Rev. S. VENITT, B.A.

One of the most conspicuous qualities of this age is "bigness". What an impact it has made on our lives. We have become conscious as never before of the vastness of space, of the tremendous power of the atom, of world-girdling communication systems. When we turn to business and industry, we note continuing growth of the supermarket and the industrial giant — the small man is squeezed out and business for him becomes less and less feasible. Automation in many branches of business has grown to a size to make the worker deeply anxious. The issues in politics are big. Tensions in distant parts of the globe affect people everywhere — problems are international. How is the individual affected in this age of bigness? As the dimensions of the world expand, the individual becomes smaller and less significant. The individual is overwhelmed and overshadowed by the physical and ideological bigness of the times. He feels helpless, physically and psychologically, and he begins to feel spiritually insignificant.

What is the message of Judaism this Rosh Hashanah to the individual man, the victim of "bigness"? The teaching of the Torah is not to turn back the clock. That is well-nigh impossible and not altogether desirable. The moral directive of the Torah is for the individual to grow spiritually with the times, in other words, to match "bigness" with "greatness".

THE "AYTANEI OLAM"

The history of our people from patriarchal times to the present has been the response of greatness to the challenge of bigness. The patriarchs were lonely men in a big world, outnumbered by sheer numerical force and challenged and defied by long-prevailing pagan ideologies. But they rose to the occasion, showed tremendous heroism and greatness, and created the faith and people of Israel. They were called the "Aytanei Olam" — the mighty ones, the great ones, because of the tremendous courage they displayed. Throughout our history we have had gedolim — great men, scholars, who have been a light and beacon to Jewry, very often in their darkest days.

The Jewish people as a whole has been called a Goy Godol — a great nation — not for its size but for its greatness in ideals and faith, as Moses states: "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you because you were more in number than any people, for you were the fewest of all people."

Today more than ever we need "great" Jews who will not be crushed by the times but grow with the times and their challenges.

continued on page 23

Mr. & Mrs.
JOSEPH L. GODFREY

*take the opportunity to
wish all relations,
friends
and
all the congregation*

Happy New Year

CHIEF RABBI'S MESSAGE—continued from page 3

before. The Jewish Educational Development Trust has made financial grants to the sixth-form colleges of the JFS, the Lubavitch Foundation, and the Midrasha and Torah Collegiate of Jews' College, in addition to supporting expansion programmes at three Zionist Federation schools, the "Torah stream" at the Hasmonean Grammar School, the intensification of Jewish studies at the King David School in Manchester, and the scholarship scheme for educationalists now training for senior posts. Altogether, £150,000 has been distributed and much larger sums have been allocated to impending developments in Ilford, in Kingsbury, and in the Provinces.

Year by year, more of our young Jewish students are spending a period of intensive studies at a Yeshiva, frequently in Israel — a concept which a few years ago would have seemed a dream. The successful establishment of the Jerusalem Academy of Jewish Studies, under British leadership and sponsorship, is particularly gratifying as an indication of growth of Torah in this country. Jews' College has succeeded in incensing its detractors by surviving in the face of their prognostications and machinations, and by having excited the interest of more full-time students, more applicants for post-graduate courses, more university recognised teachers and visiting lecturers from abroad, and more munificent endowments than for many years past.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

In Britain, the year has witnessed some notable leadership changes, having had a replacement in the two top lay positions of the communal hierarchy: the Presidencies of the Board of Deputies and the United Synagogue. We salute Alderman Michael Fidler and Sir Isaac Wolfson on their retirement from these offices after many years of outstanding communal service, and extend our best wishes to their successors, Sir Samuel Fisher and Mr. Alfred Woolf, on assuming their momentous positions in these testing times.

In national and communal leadership, no less than in parent-child relations, ways must be found to narrow the generations gap. Capable young aspirants to high office are bound to feel frustrated and eventually alienated if their chances of rising to the top with new and imaginative ideas are stifled. In our impatient age we must expedite the process of promotion in public service if we are not to lose the precious talents of young and dynamic people in the slow turning of the bureaucratic machine.

Happily, a new generation of deeply committed people is rising, able and ready if we encourage them to shoulder responsibility. We should revise our constitutional machinery to harness their enthusiasm and skills before they seek an outlet for their energies elsewhere. As the challenges accumulate and the

continued on page 23

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

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. P. Howard send their compliments to all the Congregation.

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

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Abrahamson and daughter, 15 Hammer-smith Broadway, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W12 9AT

Mr. & Mrs. M. Angelus, 96 Addison Gardens, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. David Arram, Adrienne and Raymond, 7 Blenheim Road, W.4

Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Bankover and Family, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12

Mrs. Vera Barsky, 3 Palace Mansions, London, W.14

Mrs. Ecca Bash, 60 Fitz-George Avenue, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. H. Bayes and Family, 72 Quickswood, N.W.3

Mr. & Mrs. J. Beim, "Tara", Coombe Ridings, Kingston Hill, Surrey

Dr. & Mrs. F. J. Benesi, 8 Atherton Road, S.W.13

Marjorie, Leonard Beth and Family, 145 Camelot Close, Andover, Hants

Rebecca and Basil Benzimra and Family, "Wickenden",

Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey

Joy and Jeffery Brand, 73 Barons Keep, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. H. Brandon, 22 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4

Mrs. M. V. Bobbe, 38 Romney Court, Shepherds Bush Green, W.12

Mrs. Jeanie Caplan, 255 Latymer Road, W.6

Dr. & Mrs. M. D. Caplan and Jonathan, 54 South Parade, Bedford Park, W.4

Mrs. Rose Cohen, 91 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Collins, 20 Hamlet Court, London, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W.12

continued on page 7

NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 6

Roger & Bianca Curtis, Kinross, 13 Coombe Lane West, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey

Mrs. S. Cutler, 288 Latymer Court, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Davis, 18 Palace Mansions, W. Kensington, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions, S.W.13

Mr. & Mrs. G. Evnine and Family, 120 Oakwood Court, London, W.14

Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6

Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge, Warwick Dene, W.5

Mrs. Rebecca Fox & Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison Road, W.14

Joan and Manny Franks and Family, 54 Barons Keep, W.14

Dr. & Mrs. L. Freeman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gold and Family, 111 Barons Keep, Barons Court, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. George Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Acton, W.3

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Gordon, 25 Stafford Court, Kensington, W8 7DL

Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 35 Corringway, London, W5 3AB

Mr. & Mrs. J. Halfin and Family, 32 Granard Avenue, Putney, S.W.15

Miss C. Halfin, 18 Cloncurry Street, S.W.6

Mr. M. Halfin, 18 Cloncurry Street, S.W.6

Mrs. J. Harris (Chorister), 84 Western Avenue, Acton, W.3

Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes, Angela and Philip, 1 Ashchurch Terrace, W.12

Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court, Kensington, W.14

Mrs. Minna Katits-Springer, 8 Bolingbroke Road, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. J. Kurzman, 35 Suffolk Road, S.W.13

Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W.3

Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey Levy and Family, 44 Fitzjames Avenue, London, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12

Hettie and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4

Miss Julie Lichtblau, 56 Fraser House, Brentford, Middx. Denise and Melvyn Lux and Daughters, 62 Traps Lane,

Coombe Hill, Surrey

Mrs. H. Lux, 87 North End House, W.14

Mr. A. Mark, J.P., and Mrs. Mark, 46 Audley Road, W.5

Pamela, Malcolm, and Samantha Mark, 2 Anne Mount, Madeley Road, W.5

Mr. and Mrs. H. Mirwitch and Family, 11 South Side, Stamford Brook, W.6

continued on page 8

NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 7

Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris, 115 Barons Keep, W.14
Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington,
W8 4HX
Dr. and Mrs. O. Moses, 32 Wolberton Gardens, W.6
Mrs. Olive Naschauer, 249 Latymer Court, W.6
Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Nisner and Maxwell, 27 Thorntree Court,
Parkview Road, Ealing, W.5
Mr. & Mrs. David Ohayon and Family, Orchard Close, Vine
Road, S.W.13
Mrs. Rose Parker and Family, 86 Brook Green, Hammersmith,
W.6
Mrs. H. B. Paros, 24 Hartswood Road, W.12
Mr. & Mrs. S. Perbohner, 121 Castelnau, London, SW13 9EL
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips and Melanie, Flat 11, Bridge
Avenue Mansions, W.6
Mrs. Beatrice Rose, 12a Kensington Hall Gardens, W.14
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Rosen, 35 Clavering Avenue, S.W.13
Mrs. Betty Rothman and David, 59 Glasgow House, 175
Maida Vale, W.9
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sacks, 18 Heathercroft, Ealing, W.5
Ann and Richard Sampson, 66 Stamford Court, Stamford
Brook, London, W.6
Mrs. N. Samuels, 285 Latymer Court, W.6
Mr. & Mrs. L. Shooman and Robert, 10 Tudor Court,
Gunnersbury Avenue, Ealing, W.5
Mrs. Anita Simmonds and John, 14 Cecil Close, Mount
Avenue, Ealing, W.5
Mr. & Mrs. N. Sogan, 18 Sutherland Gardens, East Sheen,
SW14 8DB
Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4
Leslie, Evelyn and Ruth Sommer, 14 Lillian Avenue, London,
W.3
Dr. & Mrs. J. Spira, 59a Oakwood Court, London, W.14
Mrs. Elsa Steindler, 7 Glenallan House, North End Crescent,
W14 8TF
Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road,
W.14
Lily and Alfred Turner, 14 Laburnum Court, Dennis Lane,
Stanmore
Dr. & Mrs. F. S. Tysh and Ian, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6
Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Williams and Family, 23 Westmoreland
Road, S.W.13
Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Woolich and Family, 1 North End House,
W.14
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Chiswick, W.4
Elizabeth and Benjamin de Winter, 109 Oakwood Court, W.14
Mr. & Mrs. I. Yoffey, 139 North End House, W.14
Miss Fiona Yoffey, 139 North End House, W.14

PROFESSOR SAMUEL TOLANSKY

OBITUARY TRIBUTE

In the course of a memorial address earlier this year on the late Professor Samuel Tolansky, F.R.S., a distinguished member of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Congregation, the Rev. Sam Venitt said:

Samuel Tolansky was one of those rare personalities who passed through the world leaving behind them a splendid record of achievement not only in their own specialised sphere but equally in the field of human relationships.

It is no wonder that the feeling of bereavement and loss has been so universal, for Samuel Tolansky was no ordinary man, his life story can be seen as the fascinating record of a man who gathered together all the natural gifts and capacities with which God had enriched him, and trained them, disciplined them, and ordered them into the service of his fellows. From his early days in Newcastle, where he was born, it soon became evident that he was destined for a brilliant career. He won all the science prizes at school, and at Durham University not only took every physics prize but also the Gladstone History Prize, an early indication of seeking knowledge for its own sake. Optics became his main field of work. This led him on to great discoveries in surface topography in the '30s. After occupying a senior post at Manchester University for 11 years, he then went on to the Royal Holloway College, London University, as Head of the Physics Department. His achievements there have received world-wide acclaim.

BRILIANT MIND

Looking back, one can only marvel at the brilliance of his mind. He was blessed with a phenomenal memory. He told me on one occasion that he could easily recall to mind the notes he had learned as a student. With such intellectual gifts, all knowledge was his province. Just as a prism when turned from side to side and held up to the light gives a colourful brightness from every angle, so too the theme of Prof. Tolansky's life is one of great brilliance, from whichever angle you touch upon it. I was glancing at the *International Who's Who*, giving biographical information about the most eminent men and women in the world today, and read that our lamented friend had published 15 books on optics and on the structure of diamonds, and had presented hundreds of research papers. He had also led research on lunar samples for Apollos 11 and 12.

What interested me particularly was a note referring to his leisure interests, music, folklore and self-education. To each of these he applied his keen analytical mind. He simply had to go to the very root of his subject, and was even able to make original contributions.

continued on page 10

But the man himself is greater than his work. "Show me," says Fichte, "what thou truly lovest, show me what thou seekest and strivest for with thy whole heart, and thou has shown me thy life. What thou lovest supremely is that which thou livest." This is true of Samuel Tolansky if of any man. All his work was an expression of his inner soul, of his heart. In the days that have passed since his lamented death, one has heard from all sides expressions of the love and affection in which he was held.

What was it that attracted everybody to him? The secret lay in his own approach to life. He loved life, he loved people. In this distinguished gathering there are many of his colleagues who would readily recognise his enthusiasm for his scientific work, his deep humanity, his charity and compassion. They always found in him a friendly and helpful colleague who delighted them with his great sense of humour and gaiety. He had a genius for invention and much of the equipment he dreamed up served as it were like Jacob's ladder, for his fellow-scientists to go up and down. As for his many students, he fired them with his tremendous enthusiasm, he inspired them with his sense of purpose and dedication, his warmth and involvement and ready sympathy in their problems. They loved and respected him and are grateful. His patience and forbearance were proverbial; a very close colleague wrote of him, "In twenty-five years of contact with him, I can recall no occasion on which he said a harsh word to anyone."

TV AND RADIO FIGURE

We all know the gift he had of getting through to the masses which made him such a popular figure on television and radio. He could explain technicalities in a way that everybody could understand. He still found time to serve on committees and governing boards, to give talks to children, to write for magazines on a host of varied subjects that had nothing to do with his own sphere of work. His expert advice was always at the disposal of the World Jewish Congress and other bodies — in short, life to him meant living every waking moment of the day — zestful living, and in whatever he did, he made a remarkable contribution to the happiness and wellbeing of many.

It is difficult at a time like this to speak of that wonderful home life which the Tolanskys all enjoyed together. Science and music and art were all part of the domestic scene, and family and friends looked upon it with admiration and respect. Our loving sympathy goes out to Otilie Tolansky, who is bereaved of the companionship of such a husband, to Ann and Jonathan, who are deprived of the counsel and love of such a father, and to his sisters and other members of the family.

PALESTINE RECALLED

BY WILLIE GERTLER

(An extract from his forthcoming memoirs)

Palestine, under British mandate since 1920, entrusted by the League of Nations, and to be, according to the Balfour Declaration of 1917, "a national home for the Jewish People".

It was November 1946 when I arrived in Palestine. My first impression, as I proudly presented my British passport to the Immigration Control official at Lydda airport, was that to him I was more a Jew than a British subject on an export mission. After very careful scrutiny and long questioning, I was given the entry stamp in my passport.

My search and call for my Tel Aviv agent, whom I had telegraphed from Cairo to meet me and reserve hotel accommodation, was unsuccessful, and, after trying to telephone him, I learned that, owing to the difficult security conditions, no visitors were permitted at the airport. The transport provided by BOAC consisted of an RAF jeep complete with armed guards, driving into the centre of Tel Aviv. Here I hired a taxi, asking the driver to take me to an hotel. He drove from one hotel to another and, as I instructed him, at each stop inquired on my behalf for a room, but returned on each occasion with the message: "No room".

"NO ROOM" — IN EMPTY HOTELS

I simply could not understand it: practically no tourists, and there were no hotel rooms vacant? Somehow it did not sound right, so after six calls I decided to go into the next hotel myself. It was a small one called Armon, the Hebrew word for palace. On entering the hotel lobby I asked for the proprietor and, as I noticed in his first sentence a strong German accent, I addressed him in German. Immediate response: "Please follow me to your room."

After checking in, I related to him my experience with the other hotels and the explanation to me, who had found shelter and home in Britain, was rather sad. The taxi driver, a refugee and immigrant from Czechoslovakia, asked on each occasion for a "room for an Englishman," and in Tel Aviv during the critical year 1946 — the year in which the King David Hotel in Jerusalem was blown up, the leaders of the Jewish Agency, who later became the Israeli Government, were imprisoned, and there were continuous battles between Hagana, the Jewish defence force, and the British military and security forces — there simply was no hotel room for an Englishman!

When the owner of the Palace Hotel realised that I was *not* simply an "Englishman," his hostelry was at my service.

To one born in Budapest, educated and married in Vienna,

continued on page 13

ל ש ו ה ט ו ב ה

**Best Wishes
for a happy New Year
and well over the Fast
from
Mr. and Mrs. F. J. WILLIE GERTLER**

37 CAMPBELL COURT,
QUEENS GATE GARDENS,
LONDON, SW7 4PD
584 1891

**and from
Dr. and Mrs. DAVID LOVELL
and SHAUNA and JONATHAN**

5 EASTBOURNE ROAD, CHISWICK, W.4.

PALESTINE RECALLED—continued from page 11

and with a knowledge of Theodor Herzl, the infamous Dreyfus Case in France, and so on, the Zionist ideology, the Homeland for the Jewish People in Palestine, was an *idée fixe*. It will therefore be understandable that to me my first visit and stay in Palestine was an exhilarating experience. But I was here on behalf of my British company and the object was business.

Within one hour of my arrival at the hotel — still dressed in my grey flannels and beige Harris tweed jacket, I started walking towards the centre of Tel Aviv, so as to see the shops and to contact my agent. After two hours of walking, observing all the street signs and shop facias and writings in Hebrew — a language which in its ancient form I only know from the Prayer-books — I wanted to return to my hotel.

I saw a uniformed man, dressed like an English guardsman, in khaki shorts and shirt, peaked cap, at least a six-footer, a perfect soldierly figure. So I approached him, asking him in English for directions to the Armon Hotel. He looked at me and replied, "Why do you speak English to me?" I thought the best answer was the truth, so I said: "I arrived today from England and I speak English." He looked at me again and in the most insulting manner called me a liar! I assumed from his appearance that he was a British soldier and I simply said: "You have insulted me. Will you take me to your commanding officer?" His next move was: "Are you a Jew?" To which I said (still not knowing whether he was an Englishman or a Jew): "Yes, any objection?" Then came his punch line: "If you are a Jew, why did you not say so — here you are in Tel Aviv, a one-hundred-per-cent Jewish city, and with our present difficult situation and troubles with the Mandatory Administration we do not welcome English visitors."

THE JEWISH DILEMMA

The next morning my agent called and we attended to our business matters — not with great success, because the uncertain political situation was detrimental to commerce.

My personal feelings during the first days in Palestine could be summed up: the English considered me as a Jew and the Jews of Palestine as a Britisher.

It is actually a dilemma which we Jews in the Diaspora often encounter; loyalty to the country of our residence and our citizenship, either born or naturalised citizenship, or loyalty to our coreligionists in Palestine — now the State of Israel. I firmly believe that it need not be an either/or, which means divided loyalty, but "dual loyalty." The thousands of years of persecution of the Jewish people gave them a sense of belonging, which, perhaps inexplicably, draws one Jew to his fellow-Jew. These were my feelings in Palestine, in spite of the difficulties encountered.

continued on page 14

From Tel Aviv I had to travel to Jerusalem in order to pick up my mail and draw some cash against my Letter of Credit at Barclays Bank. I had to call also on BOAC to book my flight to Teheran with transit stopover at Bagdad. I had substantial business awaiting me in Teheran; the object of my call at Bagdad airport was to meet a newly appointed agent for Iraq.

So I tried to hire a taxi in Tel Aviv for the day's journey to Jerusalem, returning the same evening to my hotel in Tel Aviv. It was not easy, because, as I was told, there were constant exchanges of fire on the road between Hagana and the British army patrols. At last, one taxi driver told me: "The Hagana knows my car, I will take you!"

So we set off early in the morning on the highway leading through the Judean mountains — the seven serpentines — driving through Arab villages, past fortifications from Roman times; as the road led up onto the hills you could distinctly differentiate between orange groves in the Jewish settlements and those of the Arab communities. The first ones, planned in perfect geometric positions — one could not but notice that scientific planning was at work — while the others might have been attended in the same way as their forefathers did years and years ago.

On the way we passed the heavily armed and fortified detention camp of Latrun, where since February of that year leaders of the Jewish Agency had been imprisoned. During the approximately 40-mile journey and again just before entering Jerusalem, we were stopped by British military personnel four times for identification and I had to explain the purpose of my visit, presenting my passport and letters of introduction from London.

"BEVINGRAD"

The centre of Jerusalem was just like an armed fortress. The inhabitants of the Jewish part called it Bevingrad, after Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary in the Attlee Government after the 1945 election landslide, and not exactly a friend of the Jews. It was really open warfare between the mandatory administration and the Jewish community.

In Jerusalem we drove first to Barclays Bank, where the banking hall had sandbagged emplacements in each corner, with a soldier, his tommygun at the ready. After collecting some money and my mail, we went to the BOAC office. Here I was informed that they could not book me on the plane to Bagdad even if I only wanted to stay and meet someone in the transit lounge at the airport, without a visa from the Iraqi Consulate. My comment that normally at international airports transit passengers do not need a transit visa was met with the reply: "Bagdad

continued on page 28

Private י"ן

"HaCohen" and "HaLevi"

As will be seen from the report in this issue, our Bridegrooms of the Law this year are to be Mr. Frank Cowan and Mr. Joe Canter. They are both well-known veterans in the Congregation, and by a happy coincidence, Mr. Cowan is a "Cohen" and Mr. Canter a "Levi," the distinctive religious duties of which they both conscientiously carry out on the proper occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowan celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary last December. They were married at Great Portland Street, where Mr. Cowan had been a choir-boy. Mr. Cowan has been attending Services regularly for many years, and one can hear his melodious voice when he goes up to "Duchan". He served in the Royal Artillery during the First World War.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Canter were married in Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue, and must surely be among our members of longest standing. This is a very important year for them, as their wedding took place on December 28, 1913. Mr. Canter, too, has attended Services regularly for many years. He served in the Royal Fusiliers in the First World War, and has a medallion inscribed with his name, number, "Zion" in Hebrew (צ"ן) — Palestine 5-2-'18.

ENCYCLOPEDIA

Indirectly, may I point out, *The Brook* is connected with one of the biggest and most important Jewish publishing ventures in English this century. I refer to the recent appearance of the 16-volume *Encyclopedia Judaica*, from Jerusalem. It brings bang up to date information about almost every Jewish topic and personality that one can think of, and has been received with enthusiasm all over the world. I don't mean, of course, that our magazine is associated with such a prestigious publication in actual fashion, but it is true that our own Hon. Editor, John Shaftesley, OBE, is one of the Departmental Editors (and a contributor) listed in Volume I of the *Encyclopedia* among the distinguished staff responsible for its contents. I might even go so far as to say, without being thought to be advertising, that any reader of *The Brook* interested in acquiring a copy of this great *Encyclopedia* could get details from Mr. Shaftesley in these circumstances!

PERCEIVER.

Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

*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

1 HAMMERSMITH ROAD, W.14.

HAND & FLOWER HOTEL

Compliments of the Season

from

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

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

J.P.A. APPEAL 1973

General Appeal 1973 £46,512

(including £15,000 contributed to trade appeals)

Kol Nidre Appeal 1972 £1,800

The Annual Appeal this year was conducted on different lines. The small but dedicated Committee raised the total above by personal exhortation to our members to play their part. The main theme was the rescue of Russian Jewry. To close the Appeal, a meeting was held in the Synagogue Hall and a film show dealing with the humanitarian aspect of the valuable work taking place in Vienna as the staging post for Russian Jewry in transit to Israel. This theme was further developed by our guest speakers, Dr. D. and Mrs. Jean Caplan, who had witnessed the event in Vienna. Mr. Willie Gertler, co-Chairman, made a most moving and inspiring appeal.

Mr. Bernard Davis, presiding, paid special tribute to Dr. Louis Freeman for his most sincere and devoted service as co-Chairman for over 15 years, and made a presentation to him on behalf of the Committee on his retirement. This was a certificate for a Garden of 150 trees planted in the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Forest in Israel. Dr. Freeman suitably replied and proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their work.

During the year the Zionist Movement suffered a grievous loss in the death of Mr. Louis Pincus, Chairman of the World Zionist Organisation. He was a remarkably able and dedicated leader of our time. Fluent and erudite, filled with compassion for our People, he had a gift for analysing a situation and calling on world Jewry for their help. It is difficult if not impossible to replace him.

MAKING HISTORY

We recall 1969, when our Hammersmith and West Kensington community made history by being the first J.P.A. Committee to have its launching Appeal in Israel. (It is interesting to record that the J.P.A. now has missions and Appeals on similar lines). On that occasion, over 100 of our members were present. Realising the importance of the event, Mr. L. Pincus, despite the many calls on his time as a world Jewish leader, and in response to my request, addressed our meeting in Israel and made a most profound impression. (A picture of the event appeared in the London press.) We mourn the loss of a great Zionist. May his memory be an inspiration to us all.

Let us, through the Kol Nidre Appeal, which will shortly be made in our synagogues, remember his call for help for the underprivileged in Israel and our continuing identification with our brethren in Israel.

B.D.

Mr. & Mrs. ALFRED COLEMAN

*wish the Ministers
and their friends
of the Hammersmith & West Kensington Synagogue
a very Happy New Year.*

BESSIE APFEL

*wishes her dear children, grandchildren, family, ministers, and
members of the Hammersmith and Willesden Ladies' Guilds
and Friendship Clubs, a very happy and peaceful New Year.*

14 Clarendon Court, Staverton Road, Willesden, N.W.2.

J. SAMUEL & SON

JAMES SAMUEL 1797-1866

MEMORIALS & RENOVATIONS

All work under the personal supervision of
Mr. Louis M. Samuel, a direct
descendant of Haham Moses Cohen D'Azevedo

SIDNEY STREET, LONDON, E1 2EH

Telephone: 01-247 5181/4256

House Committee Notes

From time to time members inquire through the Ministers, Honorary Officers, or the Secretary where they may direct suggestions or requests for information concerning the Synagogue buildings. Although it is many years since the Board of Management established the House Committee to deal with such matters, not all members may be aware of its continued existence and the work in its charge. At its inception the Committee was called to discuss the redecoration of the Synagogue, but since that time, under the Chairmanship of Mr. L. Levy, and more recently that of Mr. J. Langdon, the members of the Committee have dealt with all problems relating to the care and maintenance of all our communal buildings, the Synagogue, classrooms, Synagogue Hall, and the residences of our officials.

In the last year members will have seen the excellent improvements made in the Hall, both in terms of redecoration and improving the amenities, such as the removal of the stage and replacing the lighting fittings and curtains. Here the entire community has special cause for gratitude for the donors of the cost of these items; without their generosity it would have been impossible to install such modern items within the general financial restrictions of the communal budget. The arrangements for the Hall were undertaken by the Ladies' Guild, and they are of course most closely involved with the work of the Committee during the year and are substantially represented on it.

Recently it has proved possible to achieve a most effective renovation of the Ark in the Synagogue, the results being both pleasing and harmoniously in keeping with the previous reconstruction by the installation of Ark gates. At the same time as the Hall redecoration, it was decided to close the roof opening for the Succah in the old Boardroom, as the mechanism needed considerable repair. Last year, therefore, a new site for the Succah was located between the Classrooms and the Hall, and in readiness for the Festival it is hoped to clear and tarmac the area to produce a less uneven surface.

In view of problems relating to security over the extensive site occupied by all the buildings, new measures have been taken in conjunction with the advice of the Building Superintendent of the United Synagogue to strengthen the security of the perimeter fencing, together with refitting all locks and bolts in the premises as a whole.

Throughout the year, therefore, both in major items of repair and smaller problems connected with the use of our communal buildings, the House Committee has been concerned, under the overall approval of the Board of Management and Honorary Officers, to improve and maintain our premises as required and to the extent of our financial limitations. If any member has suggestions or criticisms, both are entirely welcome.

COMPARISONS ARE ODIUS – BUT . . .

Although one can consider the attitude of British Jewry towards educating their children and keeping their religion as being apathetic, for the most part, the situation in the U.S.A. is such that I am returning to Britain realising that the problems in America are just as serious, if not more so, although in a different way.

Having spent the last summer as a counsellor in a camp for Jewish children, I feel that there are very serious problems arising in the next generation of American Jews which could certainly mean a grave loss of number to the community. The camp at which I worked—Seneca Lake—is situated deep in the Finger Lake country of up-State New York and draws most of its children from the richer parts of Rochester. Rochester lies some sixty miles to the north-west and possesses giant industrial complexes for Kodak and Rank Xerox. Of the city's three hundred thousand people about half are Jewish, of one strength or another. Despite the fact that these children were the most spoilt I have ever met, I was assured by people who know that children from New York City are far worse.

The religious part of camp was kept at a fairly low level in terms of quantity and was not too high when quality was considered either, but the blame could not be apportioned to any one thing, more a combination of circumstances which I do not have time to deal with here. The salient points of the religious programme in camp were the observance of Shabbat (to a limited extent) and the keeping of Kashrut. About two hundred and twenty children aged eight to fourteen attended each session of four weeks and the vast majority arrived from Brighton, the Rochester version of Golders Green but on a larger scale. Very few of the campers were at all interested in Judaism and I would say that this was largely due to their Jewish background to date.

In England there is a continual need for parents to show a greater interest and get their children into Cheder for more religious education: in America there is a great deal of forcing of children into Hebrew Schools by parents who then see themselves as being free of further responsibility for the religious education of their offspring. Time spent in Hebrew School is high compared to British standards: three hours on a Sunday morning and at least two sessions of two hours or more during the week. It follows from this that there is a barrier built up against Judaism, since no child will willingly do something if forced and the children also become resentful, as there are many alternative attractions in which their non-Jewish contemporaries can participate at the same time.

The children that I met had mostly been brainwashed about political issues so that they all believed Kennedy to be a good President and Nixon a bad one, but apart from Watergate none

continued on page 21

COMPARISONS—continued from page 20

of them could name another relevant issue. In the same way, their parents' idea of Jewish identity passes to the children, so that observance of Judaism in the future could well be measured in terms of one's ability to sing from "Fiddler on the Roof" rather than reciting the Amidah. This possibility became obvious in the planning of Friday night services, which, although they were supposed to be creative, usually turned out to be a musical talent show in which some of the items bore only the flimsiest relevance to a religious service. Saturday services were very demoralising at first owing to a lack of planning and it was eventually left to a few of us to organise a semi-traditional service, but without a Sefer Torah or even a Hebrew Chumash they lacked what could have been a very good atmosphere. Enthusiasm from the campers and staff was such that we were very pleased to be able to scrape a Minyan together each week. Of the children who came, there were many who looked upon the service only as a means of escaping the discussion group which was the alternative Saturday morning activity. Despite all this, there were many children who were experiencing more religion in this month than they would do in their homes for another year.

To sum up then, the basic problem is a refusal on the part of the parents to show the children how to practise Judaism at home but to divest themselves of this responsibility by sending their children to copious Hebrew lessons, thus considering their job completed. Perhaps this happens in other countries as well but when one considers the probable number of born Jews who will neglect their religion in the next generation and subsequently refuse to pass it on to their children it must be a signal to those still clinging to Judaism by even the weakest thread that as much effort as possible should be made in order to keep the candle burning.

The final example of decay has to be three questions which I was asked by an eleven-year-old when he first met me; they were: "Did you go to Hebrew School?", "Were you Barmitzvah?", and "Did you get a lot of money?"

JOHN CLARK

Gifts for the Succah

The *Succah* will be ready for decorating on Monday and Tuesday, October 8 and 9.

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.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

The sun blazed down from a cloudless blue sky as we drove into the Valley of Jezreel, in the Galilee. As we left Afula we caught a glimpse of a new township on the hills to the north-west. This was the purpose of our journey — to visit this new settlement of Migdal Haemek (Tower of the Valley), with 25 members of the Furniture Trades Mission of Great Britain, who had adopted this area.

On entering the main street, we were met by the Chief of Police, who conducted us to the town's new picnic park, set on the hillside, and which is laid out with permanent tables and benches under the shade of pine trees. Incorporated in the park was a large open-air swimming pool, and the whole park commanded a magnificent view over the fertile valley below — once a malarial swamp.

Waiting to greet us was the Mayor, a 40-year-old dynamic personality, and around him was a group of children with carnations for each of us, and ready to serve us with ice-cold drinks.

Laid out on a table were four parchment scrolls, to be buried under the foundation-stones of two new projects which were to be dedicated that afternoon, and each would bear, for posterity, the signatures of those present that day.

It was, by now, high noon, too hot to expend much energy, and instead, we were treated to a barbecue lunch of steak, salad, wine and fruit, followed by a rest in the shade of the park, or a swim in the cool water of the pool.

PUBLIC PROJECTS

By 4 o'clock it was pleasant enough to carry out the dedication ceremonies, and we walked through the town to the first project to lay the foundation-stone for the public library. From here it was only a few yards to the site of the second project, which was to become a medical clinic. This was to be manned by three doctors, two of whom were Russian olim. On our way, we passed some of the new factories which had been built in the town and which are especially important for the integration of Russian immigrants. We were told that 350 families from Russia have been absorbed, over the past two years, into a population of 11,000 lethargic immigrants from North African and Arab countries. It is the injection of this Russian aliyah which has changed the whole character of the town from one which threatened to become a backward area, for, by their example, the Russians have given a new impetus to the industrial life of the town. They now produce clothing, particularly leather and fur, cosmetics, and furniture.

Following the dedication ceremonies, we were welcomed at the Mayor's home, and a little later came the opening ceremony

continued on page 23

SERMON—continued from page 1

Spiritually we need a "take-over" generation of great men and women, heroic Jews and Jewesses, who will steep themselves in Jewish heritage, Jewish learning and Jewish commitment.

We have the shining example in Medinat Israel, which has more than compensated for its small size by the greatness of its aspiration, the breadth of its vision, and the magnitude of its heart. Israel is the finest example of conquering "bigness" with greatness. It is the firm faith of the Jew that man has the free will and the spiritual resources to renew himself, to rise to greatness. Rosh Hashanah is that occasion when he may become a "Briyah Chadasha" — a new creature. Refreshed in spirit, regenerated in faith, we emerge from the New Year spiritually significant and fortified to meet any challenge of the time.

CHIEF RABBI—continued from page 5

experienced generation of veterans grows older, there is all the more urgency to train successors and to smooth the path for their advancement in communal government.

Significantly in our daily prayers, we associate the prayer for the elimination of distress with a yearning for the restoration of competent leadership: "Restore our judges as at the first, and our counsellors as at the beginning; remove from us sorrow and sighing." May the New Year indeed exchange the sorrows and anxieties of the past for the blessings of progress and prosperity assured through the exercise of leadership, which combines the stability of the old with the enterprise of the young. May they lead our generation to the fulfilment of our age-old dreams for universal peace, happiness, and understanding in the service of our common Father.

A DAY TO REMEMBER—continued from page 22

of the largest and most important project for the town — an amphitheatre given by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Poster. As we arrived at the entrance, fireworks lit up the sky, while the benefactors unveiled a plaque bearing their names. The amphitheatre, built to hold 5,000 people, was packed to capacity with nearly twice that number, and they gave the Study Mission a standing ovation. After a few short speeches we were entertained to a concert given by some of Israel's top artists, and the pleasure and excitement on the faces of the audience was a sight to see.

It was midnight before we left the town in our coach and set off for Herzlia. The singing on that journey home may not have been of the highest quality, but it emanated from a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment, in the knowledge that another community in Israel, made up of olim from such differing backgrounds, was learning not only how to live together but also to work together for the common good of Eretz Yisroel.

M.D.C.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS

The religious cycle of the Jewish year is intertwined with the whole spectrum of our eventful history. Since the dawn of creation, the spiritual elevation of man (in the chapters of Genesis) to the moral plane of the Patriarchs is a fitting background to the relationship between God and man. This is stressed repeatedly in our liturgy, most particularly in our prayers during the Yomim Noraim (the days of awe). We aim to reach as sublime a level during these eventful days consistent with our realisation of human frailty.

The drama of Jewish history reached a pinnacle, after a long period of bitter bondage, with the Exodus from Egypt. Exodus was the unique prelude to Revelation at Sinai. We were moulded into a People with a supreme destiny. We had become charged with a spiritual mission to all who would listen. This has imprinted itself into the consciousness of every Jew.

Our development as a nation was not without turbulence and resulted eventually in dissolution until revival of the State in our own time. Certain episodes in Jewish history have remained as a vivid representation of the Jewish spirit. In particular, this has been well personified in the Maccabean drama now highlighted annually in the celebration of Chanukah, in the unfolding of the Jewish scene in Persia, with Esther as our heroine on Purim, and the unforgettable story of the proselyte, Ruth, the ancestress of King David and bearer of the messianic strain. After centuries of exile, the breathtaking emergence of the third Jewish Commonwealth was the direct sequence of emancipation and Zionism. In our own generation, we are witnessing the Divine miracle of Resettlement in the Holy Land.

All these themes and more will be discussed during the forthcoming course of six weekly lectures commencing Tuesday, 30 October, 1973, on "The Historical Background to some Major Jewish Concepts". We are privileged to introduce two outstanding exponents in this field. Details as follows:

Three lectures to be given by the Rev. J. Grunewald, B.A.:

1. The Exodus in the light of Modern History.
2. History — Character and Significance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
3. The History of Chanukah.

Three lectures to be given by Dr. A. Shalev:

4. The Scroll of Esther.
5. The Scroll of Ruth.
6. Emancipation and Jewish Nationalism.

These lectures should prove illuminating in tracing the historic development of Jewish principles and outlook. We invite your participation in this unique series.

L.F.

GRANNIES ALL (OR NEARLY ALL)

THE LADIES GUILD

The report of the Ladies' Guild is that of a year of many activities. Starting with our new Succah, beautifully decorated by many willing hands, and with the assistance of some of the youth of our Synagogue, we ladies of the Guild were very grateful for the help thus received, as nearly all our Committee are grandmothers or even great-grandmothers!

Nevertheless, we forge ahead with our plans. An innovation was to hold a Sherry Morning Bring and Buy on Sundays. This enabled husbands to accompany their wives, and a total of £90 was raised.

Our Sunday Evening Card and Supper was one of the highlights of the year, which we hope to duplicate in the autumn.

Several of our Committee attend the meetings of the Association of Ladies' Guilds, and Hammersmith was one of the Guilds chosen to give a report of their work, which was well received.

In March, at our Annual General Meeting, our Chairman, Mabel Phillips, resigned. She had given invaluable service for several years and decided to take a well-earned rest. Rifka Venitt, in accepting the chairmanship, said how difficult it would be to follow such a high standard. The Guild were most fortunate to have Mrs. Betty Dickman to take over as Functions Chairman, a position vacated by Hetty Williams, who, owing to pressure of her other commitments (such as hospital visiting, Chairmanship of the Parents' Association), had also to resign.

The Communal Seder was undertaken once again, with many ladies giving up their precious time just before Passover to prepare for this. The tables looked really "Pesachdik" and I am sure were greatly appreciated by all who participated.

Flag-selling for Geranium Day was again helped by several young folk of the Synagogue and our collection was £200.

As we contribute to Israel and to every worthy cause we are called upon to support annually, we must maintain our funds. Under the able chairmanship of Betty Dickman we held a whole day's function recently. Starting at 10.30 a.m., ladies arrived for the Bring/Buy Coffee Morning, others joined later for the Self-Service Luncheon and continued in the afternoon with cards and tea. This exciting day for us grandmothers raised the magnificent sum of £150.

We meet once a month in members' homes for a Working Committee Meeting and a social chat.

I as secretary would welcome a telephone call from any lady, young or not so young, to join us in all our activities.

Awaiting your call!

REBECCA FOX, Hon Secretary.
(Tel: 602 4242)

ON MEETING PEOPLE

"The apple does not fall far from the tree" is the well-worn cliché for eulogising the apple but indirectly paying tribute to the tree on these occasions.

My wife and I were privileged to have spent holidays on three occasions during the last three years in company with Dr. and Mrs. Kissinger, the parents of Dr. Henry Kissinger. It was inevitable that the fame of their illustrious son should envelope them with a special attraction and mark them out as a target for well-wishers.

It is interesting, therefore to comment on the abundance of patience exercised by the Kissingers, who, possibly appreciating the desire of all and sundry to come as close as possible to the almost rarefied presence of their son, acted with rare courtesy as a parental substitute for him.

The Kissingers are people of humility — a humility matched by their Orthodoxy — who considered a bottle of kosher wine for Shabbat kiddush an essential part, *inter alia*, of their luggage. That I was able to organise in the hotel a Minyan for Friday night pleased them so much.

Dr. Kissinger, senior, is an avid reader, a philosopher who draws upon Biblical and other historical data to complement the contemporary scene. Mrs. Kissinger is quiet, ever smiling, with a look of dedication about her.

When, as is inevitable, questions of a political or quasi-political nature are put to him, he replies, in contrast to the young boy who may say, "I'll have to ask my Dad," instead, "I'll have to ask my son!" He has a keen sense of humour. On one occasion in our hotel swimming pool the Jewish guests had discovered each other and the language barrier of a multiplicity of tongues was overcome by the loud use of Yiddish — and sound travels in a swimming pool. Hearing the hubbub, Dr. Kissinger inquired if we were assembled in the water to form a Minyan or to create a male Mikvah, and in either case we should cover our heads — with water!

I should have liked to ask questions about his son, the second most powerful man in the States. Who would not? But he asked me not to quote him. He was ever active, although an octogenarian, walking with a step as sprightly as his wit. One of his hobbies is collecting press cuttings about his son — quite a task nowadays. When I commented to him about a fine piece of diplomacy by his son and that he would make a fine Foreign Secretary of State, he replied he must do "what he thinks is best" — a neat answer.

My promises prevent me from quoting at length. It was a privilege to know such a charming couple as the parents of Dr. Henry Kissinger, is whose hands may very largely lie the destiny of the world; but the tree is not far from the apple.

B.D.

GROUP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

CENTRAL AND WEST LONDON

BY GEORGE EVNINE

In mid-June 1973, the Jewish Defence Committee of the Board of Deputies, now known as the Jewish Defence and Group Relations Committee, called a meeting at the Marble Arch Synagogue, of ministers and deputies representing synagogues in the Central and West London areas.

The meeting was addressed by the then Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Victor Mishcon, who spoke of the necessity of combating racial prejudice and of involvement in the improvement of group relations not merely as a matter of communal self-interest but as a positive precept of the traditional ethical values of the Jewish people.

The purpose of the meeting was to follow the example already set in various parts of London and elsewhere in establishing a local committee to this end in accordance with policies adopted by the Board of Deputies in February 1972.

Though the attendance was poor and only a few synagogues were represented, all the synagogues in the area are included. The area, roughly speaking, is bordered by the following synagogues: in the north by Lauderdale Road Spanish and Portuguese, in the south by Chelsea, in the east by the West End Great (Dean Street), and in the west by Hammersmith. The local committee, known as the Central and West London Group Relations Committee, is under the *pro tem*, chairmanship of Mr. Simon Reiss, of Marble Arch, who is well known to many in our community, having on several occasions been the appeal speaker at our annual J.P.A. functions. We in Hammersmith are particularly fortunate in having as our Financial Representative Mr. Moss Amias, who has been for several years an active member of the Board of Deputies' Defence Committee.

AN INVITATION

While all ministers and deputies representing synagogues in the area are ex-officio members of the local committee, participation in its work should not be restricted to these and to synagogal Honorary Officers. It is hoped that organisations in the area, Ajax branches, women's organisations, etc., will play an active part, as well as individuals interested in Jewish-Christian relations and race relations generally.

The committee has specific terms of reference drawn up by the Board of Deputies and will function strictly in accordance with these, under the aegis of and in liaison with the Board's Defence and Group Relations Committee. Individuals and organisations interested in working on this important aspect of Jewish activity are invited to get in touch with the committee through the Synagogue office.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Hammersmith Friendship Club is very happy to report that it has now entered its 22nd year and we are understandably delighted that throughout the years our Wednesday afternoon sessions have provided so much happiness and companionship to so many people.

To commemorate the 21st anniversary, the club organised a special celebration luncheon at the Synagogue Hall, which had taken on a most festive look. This was a memorable occasion. The Rev. S. Venitt, B.A. (President), accompanied by Mrs. Venitt, was in the Chair and welcomed among others the guests of honour: Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Godfrey, of Hammersmith Synagogue, the Rev. S. Forscher, Rabbi and Mrs. Aaronberg, of Shepherds Bush

continued on page 29

PALESTINE RECALLED—continued from page 14

might be the place for 1001 nights, but it is not bound by the internationally accepted rules of an international airport."

So there was nothing else to do but call at the Iraqi Consulate in Jerusalem. There I presented my passport and completed the visa application form. After some waiting in the anteroom, a clerk appeared to inform me that, unless authorisation could be obtained from the Ministry of the Interior in Bagdad, no visa could be granted. I protested that my stay in Bagdad would be only for transit, within the time of my incoming aircraft's arrival and the departure of the flight from Bagdad to Teheran. As this did not help, I suggested that he telephoned or cabled his Ministry, which he declined to do, as not being within his instructions. I remembered the method I had adopted with the Inspector of Customs at Cairo and told him that I had a special document to enable him to grant me the visa, inserted a £10 note in my passport, and handed it over to him. He disappeared with my passport, returning after a few minutes, explaining that two passport photos would be needed. As I do not carry surplus photographs with me, I handed him in an envelope an additional £10, saying that the photos were in the envelope. It worked — bakshish — at an expensive rate — corruption unlimited.

My passport carried the Visa No. 1338 issued by Consulat Royal de l'Iraq à Jerusalem dated 21 November, 1946. I went back to BOAC, where arranging my flight to Teheran, with stop-over in Bagdad, was now quite easy.

We were stopped by British Military Police several times. On each occasion the driver was questioned about why his car, with a Tel Aviv registration number, had been to Jerusalem. I had to explain and explain my export trip and never once had a chance to visit any of the historical and Biblical places, in one of the most important cities, if not *the* most important, in human history.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB—continued from page 28

Synagogue, Mrs. R. Grodence, League of Jewish Women, Mr. H. Sharpe, of the Hammersmith Board of Management, and representatives of the Red Cross Society and many other organisations.

A company of 150 were present. The speeches were all commendably brief, especially that of Mr. Venitt, when he said, "After 21 years of organising, working hard, and giving satisfaction to everyone, the Friendship Club has found the key to the door. The key to friendship and fellowship is proved by the weekly attendances in increasing numbers who enjoy the meetings."

Mrs. H. M. Levy, Chairman, in presenting her report for 1972-73, gave an account of the many activities which had contributed to the happiness of the members, and thanked her fellow honorary officers and committee for the devoted service they had so readily given.

On Chanukah Mrs. B. Apfel (Life President) gave a party to celebrate her son's Silver Wedding. A concert followed, provided by the local authorities. The Rev. S. Forscher then kindled the lights, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

We have already carried out part of our programme for 1973 as follows:

1. Cinerama — "The Great Waltz."
2. Coastal outings — Brighton, Eastbourne, Westcliff.

A special trip to Barry Island, Wales, arranged by British Railways for Senior Citizens at low fares.

We wish to express our grateful thanks to the Board of Management for the use of the Synagogue Hall and its amenities, and a special thanks to the Ladies' Guild for their invaluable help.

We mourn the death of one of our founder members, Mr. H. Gelpsmann (Geen) who died on December 16, 1972. He will be missed by all his friends. Gentleness, kindness, and understanding were his passwords throughout life.

Let me conclude by quoting a very appropriate verse.

THE MAKING OF FRIENDS

"Life is sweet just because of the friends we have made
And the things which in common we share;
We want to live on, not just for ourselves
But because of the people who care;
On that all life's splendour depends,
And the joy of this world, when you've summed it all up,
Is found in the making of friends."

SOPHIA MORRIS (Miss), Hon. Secretary.

If you were to see a book entitled *The Nabis and their Period* you would be forgiven for thinking it dealt with the Hebrew prophets. But it does not. By Charles Chassé, translated by Michael Bullock, it deals with the Nabis (the Hebrew derivation is admitted), a distinguished art group, who included Bonnard, Denis, Vuillard, and Maillol, and who led the way in the 19th century out of Impressionism into Expressionism.

HAMMERSMITH & DISTRICT AJEX

As is the case with many societies there are those who ask if it is necessary to maintain the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women after so long a time has elapsed since the last world war. The affirmative answer is surely exemplified by the important work that is constantly being performed by AJEX for both the Jewish community in general and ex-Servicemen in particular. There are certain aspects of our work, particularly where we need to co-operate with the non-Jewish community, where ex-Servicemen and women are still held in high esteem. This can best be illustrated by our ever constant watch against antisemitism. As we all know, this manifests itself from time to time, and AJEX plays a major part in combating racialism. Though at this moment antisemitism is at a low ebb, that is therefore no reason for complacency. In another direction, our efforts to assist Soviet Jewry are often for obvious reasons not publicised but have yielded results which we all now witness.

Do you know that there are thousands of Jewish ex-Servicemen who are even today in dire need; many through the wounds they received during the war. Most will agree that these people should receive assistance from those of us who are more fortunate. Every week at the Head Office of AJEX numbers of these men and women are interviewed and assisted to survive. The flatlets for ex-Servicemen in need at AJEX House are a monument to the work of our organisation. Another feature of our work is that each year a day's outing is arranged for disabled ex-Servicemen. And to some of them this is the only day in the year when they are able to leave the vicinity of their homes.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our own branch in particular organises a number of social events each year when members can meet in a convivial atmosphere. This year we held our Dinner and Ball at the Grosvenor Rooms, where the National Chairman, David Tack, was the guest of honour. The Carvery and Cabaret, with salt beef and all the trimmings, was held in the Hammersmith Synagogue Hall and we were entertained by Stajex. Recently we held a theatre evening, when the Jewish musical "Lib and let lib" was performed.

Part of our work is to maintain and improve public relations. As in past years, our members took an active part in the Mayor of Hammersmith's springtime ball in aid of worthy causes.

Unfortunately our branch has lost the services of its secretary, Bertie Banhover. Bertie, though we are pleased to say he is fit and well again, feels unable to undertake these duties in addition to his other work. We are glad that he continues to work for the branch in its several activities.

continued on page 36

Synagogue Class Prizes

A particularly heartening feature of the Prize Distribution which was held in the morning of Sunday June 24, was the lively and well-rehearsed greeting of song which began the formal proceedings. After refreshments had been served, the pupils of the classes entertained the parents and friends with traditional and modern Israeli tunes. The Chairman, Mr. J. Brand, rightly described this innovation as a most pleasant and charming idea, which certainly contributed to the cordial atmosphere in which the ceremonies were held.

The Guests of Honour were Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Caplan, whose family history of communal participation and active involvement with local affairs both religious and national is of course well known. A hearty welcome was offered to them both by the Chairman and the Hon. Superintendent, the Rev. S. Venitt, who delivered his customary report. In view of Mrs. Caplan's great interest in encouraging the pupils of the classes, in particular the girls, it was of note that there were now more girls than boys on the Classes Roll. The newly-introduced syllabus for the Bat Chayil examination had been studied, and one pupil had gained a high standard to obtain the London Board Certificate. Despite the fact that the midweek attendance was less than it should be, those who attended regularly were soon able to absorb far more.

The Purim party and Chanukah service had both been happy and enjoyable occasions, and the collection for Jewish Child's Day had realised £27. On the initiative of one of the pupils, Danielle Lux, a special donation for 14 trees in the Jubilee Forest in Israel had been made by pupils, parents, and friends.

CHILDREN AS "AMBASSADORS"

Mrs. Jean Caplan, J.P., then addressed the members of the Classes. The growing generation of young people, who had the duty of pursuing our Jewish traditions, had the good fortune to live in a country where the community enjoyed great freedom, which certainly was not the case elsewhere. During a recent visit to Israel for the 25th Anniversary Celebrations, she had had the chance to see much that had been done in the recent creation and building of new settlements, and pride in the achievements of our homeland meant that Jews could no longer fear to reveal their Jewish identity. Our children were ambassadors for the entire Jewish people, and had the opportunity of learning in our classes a greater appreciation of both the history and literature derived from our entire religious tradition.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Caplan for her remarks and before the presentation of the prizes by Dr. Dennis Caplan, the pupils of the classes gave another short song recital. A particular special prize was awarded to Eve Cohen in recognition of her

continued on page 36

West London Jewish Youth Centre

PROGRESS REPORT

I am happy to report that after seven years of planning, negotiations, and many disappointments, building of the West London Jewish Youth Centre is now well under way. The builders started at the end of February and now 70% of the construction work has been completed. Inevitably, delays were encountered. Steel is in short supply, but even so, the Centre should still be completed and open early next year.

The focal point of the Centre is a large, multi-purpose hall. The architect has also planned for a big coffee bar/lounge, kitchen, cloakroom, separate boys' and girls' toilets and shower rooms, a permanent office, and a flexible arrangement of activity rooms, as well as ample storage space, an outside games area, and a car park.

With the membership of existing Youth Clubs forming the nucleus of the new Centre, plus the pooling of membership potential of the other communities involved, initial enrolment of some 250 young people in the 14/21 age group is expected. This figure will, obviously, be larger if the Centre's facilities are also used by Habonim, J.L.B., Jewish Scouts, Guides, and other specialist youth bodies.

We were fortunate that the Sponsoring Committee was considerably strengthened when the Bernhard Baron St. George's Jewish Settlement added its weight to the project.

Oxford and St. George's, as they are more popularly known, brought with them nearly 60 years' practical experience of youth work, and have agreed to manage the running of the new Centre.

It is the intention to perpetuate the name of Oxford and St. George's and all that it stands for by calling the club the Oxford & St. George's West London Jewish Youth Centre.

So, in addition to providing our young people with their own premises, we will also be giving them a great tradition to follow and expert guidance to show them how. In fact, Oxford & St. George's are, even now, about to appoint a full-time trained Youth Leader for the Centre.

Unfortunately, the present cost of the Centre is more than double our original estimate and the final bill will exceed £60,000.

The appeal launched by the Sponsoring Committee is gaining momentum. Several thousands have been donated, but the race against the clock is certain to be lost unless we collect several thousands more. We need your help. As representative of this synagogue on the Sponsoring Committee, I shall be delighted to forward your donations or give you any further information.

If you are in any doubt, visit the site at Cawdor Crescent, which is literally a minute's walk from Boston Manor station, and see the Centre taking shape. It is a worth-while enterprise to which to add your support.

CYRIL HODES

LEST WE FORGET

It is a fine warm Sunday afternoon, and I am sitting, like so many other people, enjoying this exceptional English summer's day. By my side sits a young Russian girl, 22 years old, seemingly at peace with the world, having come to England to learn the language.

In her handbag is a vital document — a visa which allowed her to leave Russia for Israel with her mother, who is now mentally sick — not surprisingly so, when one hears about her sufferings and of her humiliations in a labour camp in Siberia. She tells me of how they had to stand trial in Russia, because her mother had fled from the Nazis in 1939, when Poland was invaded, and that all the other members of their family had been shot. Their "crime" against the U.S.S.R. was that of being illegal immigrants, and for the past twenty years they had pleaded with the Russian Government to be allowed to emigrate to Israel, during which time her father had died from a fatal accident in the labour camp, and her brilliant, 18-year-old uncle, who was a teacher, had died from the cold and starvation. Her parents had married in the labour camp, and she had been born there.

INHUMAN TORMENT

It was 1971 before she and her mother were allowed to leave, on that long train journey from Moscow to Vienna, because, by that time, the Russian authorities knew only too well that her mother's state of health was so bad that she would be of little use to them or to Israel. Not content with allowing them to go, the Russian border police tormented them unmercifully at the check-point of Brest-Litovsk, and having taken their visas for examination, pretended that they had not received them, and then told them they would have to go back to Moscow to get new ones. These two pitiful women pleaded with the guards, saying that they had no money left to make the journey back to Moscow, and they insisted that the guards were holding their visas. Only after they had missed the train to Vienna were their stamped visas handed back to them, with the explanation that a "mistake had been made"!

Now, the mother is a heartbreaking mental case, trusting no one and suspicious of everything, even though she is now in Israel. Her daughter has come here, and with her work permit has taken a job, so that she can support and help her mother as much as possible. Eventually, she wants to become a journalist, but, because all the places in the universities in Israel are full, and in addition she has not the necessary knowledge of English or Ivrit, she will work here and learn the language at the same time, before going to a cousin in the U.S.A. who is willing to put her through university there, and in time she will go back to Israel.

continued on page 34

West London Jewish Youth Study Group

The 31st annual summer school of Jewish Youth Study Groups was held as usual at Carmel College; and was enthusiastically attended by 130 studygroupers from all over Gt. Britain. The school flourished as in the past thirty years under the leadership of Mr. Harold Levy.

We all met every morning for lectures, which were interesting and provoked much discussion, given by Mr. E. Cashdan on "The Book of Job", Rabbi S. Leperer on "Rambam and Prophecy", Mr. Bobby Hill on "Aspects of the Ten Commandments", the Rev. J. M. Cohen on "Oral Law and Tradition", and Mr. Harold Levy on "Poems of Bialik". Among the guest speakers was Mrs. Ruth Winston-Fox, whose refreshing talk delighted us all.

The afternoons were given over to activities of every kind: swimming, tennis, playreadings, outings, etc., while in the evenings the school was kept interested by different groups performing entertainments which they had prepared. One evening we were entertained with music and discussions by the Lubavitch. Another evening was dedicated to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust; this was a very moving experience. At the end of every day there was "Shirim and Rikkudim" — Israeli singing and dancing; the climax to every enjoyable day.

The high spots of the school were undoubtedly the two Shabbatot, of which the first was attended by the Chief Rabbi, who addressed the Study Groupers. (Dr. Jakobovits had come with his family by caravan and camped in the Carmel College grounds.) The "ruach" experienced on Shabbat, as during the whole school, is difficult to describe on paper, it has to be felt to be believed. To go to a Shul filled with young people; to sing zemirot in unison at every Shabbat meal, this indeed is a truly Jewish atmosphere.

However, this experience is not confined to summer and winter schools; we try to recreate it every Sunday afternoon from 5 to 7 o'clock. I invite everyone aged fourteen to eighteen to come along and sample the delights of being a studygrouper at the Youth Room of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, 9 Lauderdale Road, Maida Vale.

ANGELA HODES (Chairman)

LEST WE FORGET—continued from page 33

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case, it is only one of the many tragic stories one hears from Russian olim.

As I sit here, what can the passers-by know of such tragedy, when they glance at this petite Russian girl sitting by my side? What understanding can they have of her problems? How we, as free Jews, respond to the Kol Nidre Appeal this year will, I feel, be the measure of our own understanding.

JEAN H. CAPLAN

West London Young Zionist Society

West London Young Zionist Society is a large, friendly society which has provided activities for members since its name was first voiced in 1960. The society enables people between the ages of sixteen to thirty to meet every Thursday in members' homes in the West London area.

We are affiliated to the Federation of Zionist Youth, whose three main aims are Jewish and Israeli culture (Tarbut), fund-raising towards a youth village being built in Ashkelon, and emigration to Israel (Aliyah). Programmes are arranged to include both culturally and socially orientated evenings — therefore, covering all the varied interests of our members. For example, among our August programmes we have discussed with an invited Humanist the conflicting views of Judaism and Humanism, and we have had a day's outing to Maidenhead. In this way people can be drawn to the society and their interest maintained by providing this strong balance of activity.

The committee plans programmes for six months in advance, which is an idea that has worked well during the last half-yearly period. This enables us to plan folk evenings, parties, and rambles with ease, and also to give speakers plenty of notice for future dates.

ANNUAL SEMINAR

This forward planning also helped us a great deal in planning the annual seminar, which this year was held between May 18 and 20, and whose theme was "Is Aliyah the answer or should we stay at home?". Sessions were planned in order that both Anglo-Jewish and Israeli history were used to provide the background, with later sessions dealing with the present-day attitudes of British and Israeli Jews both towards each other and between themselves. Involvement of those present was high, and a successful weekend resulted.

At present West London are the holders of the F.Z.Y. debating competition, which has led us into commencing an internal debating competition to be contested over the coming months by as many members as are willing to try. Further future programmes are a short series of talks on oppressed Jewry, a film evening, folk evenings, play-reading, talks and discussions on religious topics, e.g., Judaism without Zionism, as well as party socials.

The society enjoys large weekly attendances of at least 30, with 70-80 at Folk Evenings, and can boast the best attendance record in F.Z.Y. Meetings are held in the Greenford, Ealing, Hammersmith, Kensington, Fulham and Acton areas, and with a monthly programme sheet giving directions to venues no one can possibly get lost.

One major fact pointing to our strength is our magazine "The Voice" — now 124 monthly editions old. The August edition

continued on page 36

And finally of course there is the annual AJEX parade. Should this be continued? What do we get out of it? We think, a lot. It is an excellent advertisement for AJEX not only in the Jewish but also in the wider community and forms a base from which we work each year. But even if we gained nothing, many of us think the annual parade is worth while. Those of us who fought and witnessed the world war should never forget the horrors and inhumanity which emanated therefrom. Yes, even 27 years after, in this affluent society, we are still the same people who lived through those days. We are proud once a year to remember. As was recently stated as to our attitude to the German people after all these years, "Always forgive but never forget".

Is this all worth £1 per year subscription from any ex-Serviceman or woman? If you think it is, just send £1 in an envelope as an annual subscription with your name and address to us at the address as shown in this journal and you will join us to continue this important work.

J.B.

SYNAGOGUE CLASSES—continued from page 31

gaining the Bat Chayil Certificate of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education.

Mrs. Joy Brand moved a vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Caplan, saying that the community was deeply appreciative of the time they had devoted to the work of the classes and by the pleasure given by Mrs. Caplan's remarks. Equally the understanding care and supervision of the classes given by the teachers, Mrs. S. Venitt and Miss Ruth Forscher, under the direction of the Superintendent, the Rev. S. Venitt, was also gratefully appreciated. A special word of thanks was due to the members of the Parents' Association and the Ladies' Guild for the happy social atmosphere of the occasion, and on such a note of felicity the proceedings were concluded.

YOUNG ZIONISTS—continued from page 35

extended to sixteen very full pages, with articles ranging from a report of a Zionist Conference in Israel to an opinion on the current fashion of moustaches among men.

I know, having lived in Fulham for my 21 years, that there are many young Jewish people in the West London area who want to make new friends and participate in planned and interesting programmes. If they can spare a Thursday evening, they will be welcomed with true West London hospitality.

PHILIP KERSTEIN (Chairman)
Tel.: 736 1567

ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

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

Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Assn. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. S. Verby, 45 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions, S.W.6. Tel. 736 3731.

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

Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society.
Inquiries to Mrs. Jennie Caplan, Tel. 748 2727.

Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee (under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews). Inquiries at Jewish Board of Deputies, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust. Representative: Miss J. Lichtblau, 27 Wavendon Avenue, W.4.

West London Jewish Youth Centre Sponsoring Committee. Hammersmith Representative: Dr. C. B. Hodes, 1 Ashchurch Ter. Askew Road, W.12.

West London Young Zionist Society. Chairman: Mr. Philip Kerstein. Tel. 736 1567.

Jewish Lads' Brigade—Hammersmith Coy. Brigade Secretary: Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Tel. 387 5148.

Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch). Hon. Sec.: Mr. A. S. Bankover, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12. Tel. 743 5139.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue Library. Hon. Sec. and Librarian: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel. 748 8577.

Jewish Youth Study Groups—West London Branch.
Inquiries to Miss Angela Hodes, Tel. 743 2920.

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

from

**FIDELITY
RADIO
LTD.**

(J. DICKMAN)



**FIDELITY HOUSE
OLAF STREET, LONDON, W.11**