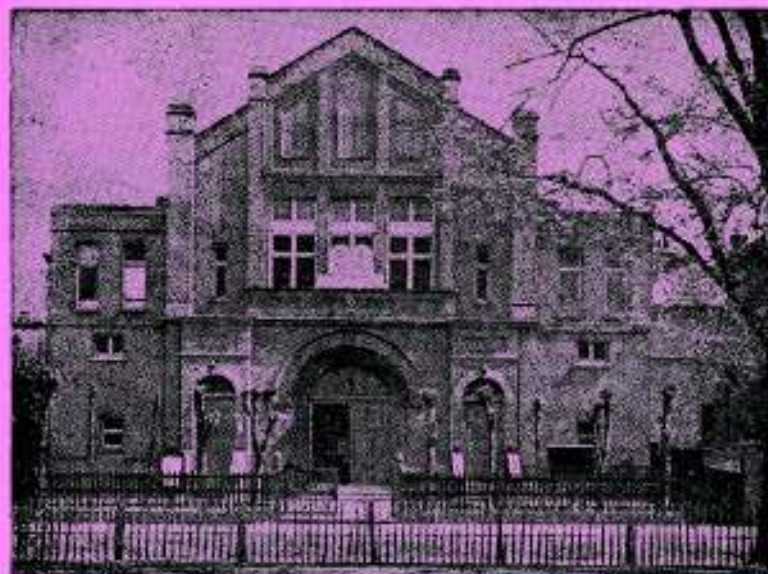


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# THE BROOK

1890 - 1987



THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
**HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON**  
**SYNAGOGUE**

**"Be mindful of us for blessing, and save us unto life"**

From the Festival Prayer Book

## HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

### Officials

Minister: The Rev. Sam Venitt, B.A.,  
69 Brook Green, W6 7BE

Secretary: Mr. S. Fainlight

The Minister can be seen by appointment.

The Secretary can be seen any Sunday morning between  
10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. and by appointment.

Wardens: M. A. Amias, Esq., M. De Vries, Esq.

Financial Representative: D. Arram, Esq.

### Board & Council of Management:

A. S. Bankover, Esq.	J. L. Godfrey, Esq.	H. Rieck, Esq.
Dr. M. D. Caplan	Dr. C. B. Hodes	H. Sharpe, Esq.
Dr. J. Cowan	J. Langdon, Esq.	B. Topper, Esq.
F. J. Gertler, Esq.	J. N. Nisner, Esq.	S. Williams, Esq.

### Representatives at the Council of the United Synagogue:

J. Brand, Esq. Councillor S. Grose

### Female Representatives on the Council of Management:

Mrs. D. Arram	Mrs. A. Phillips
Mrs. J. Brand	Mrs. P. Wender
Mrs. Z. Brickman, M.B.E.	Mrs. S. Williams

### Representatives at the Board of Deputies: D. Arram, Esq.,

Cllr. S. Grose.

## Times of Services

### WEEKDAYS

Morning By arrangement 7.30 a.m. Evening By arrangement

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 8.30 a.m. By arrangement

### SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS:

Evening: 15 minutes after the commencement of Sabbath  
and Festivals.

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

### "THE BROOK"

EDITORIAL BOARD: The Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.; Mr. M. A.  
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Mr. H. Sharpe.

### EDITORIAL

## A YEAR OF EDUCATION

One of the more significant changes in the Jewish community in the past year has been the increased prominence given to education in all its aspects. The United Synagogue Youth and Community Committee, which has developed valuable and indeed pleasurable study and recreational programmes for young people, has joined with the former London Board of Jewish Religious Education to form the United Synagogue Board of Education. A Year of Jewish Education has been marked by special events and further work is planned.

What change, apart from more confusion and interest — led wrangling, is this intended to secure? You would be entirely justified in concluding that unless there is an impact on the members of our community individually and collectively it would not be very much. However, it is clear that there must be a wider realisation among all of us of precisely what is required to provide, and moreover operate sensibly and efficiently, Jewish education in its widest sense.

It is very significant also that increased effort is to be given to adult education in which our own community has had a long involvement.

We must all see that as a new year opens that our individual stake in the Jewish world must be constantly revived. It is little use to expect that without the help we can give, others will take on and expand the provision of Jewish education. We can resolve instead, both individually and as a community that we wish not merely to be associated with others' efforts but also to join positively in supporting them. We will have an appropriate opportunity to do so by marking the New Year with a genuine decision to ensure our community continues to pledge all it can in financial and other terms so that what we value as Jews is able to be passed to our children and grandchildren.

At the same time we may reflect how much we need as individuals to renew our own attachment to our faith, to our fellow Jews here and in Israel and above all how we can achieve such a task. The coming year is a time for such renewal for all of us.

## Chasanim

We are delighted to announce that our Chasanim for this year will be Mr. Maurice DeVries and Cllr. Joseph Mirwitch.

For Mr. DeVries it is the Bar Mitzvah year of his entering the box as warden of the Synagogue, an office he has adorned with great efficiency and assiduity, coupled with a marked sense of propriety, decorum and dignity. Despite his very heavy commitments as Borough Solicitor to the London Borough of Kingston, he still finds time to devote himself wholeheartedly to the needs of our Congregation.

Mr. Joseph Mirwitch has likewise given great service to the

London Borough of Hammersmith. In recognition of his dedication to the needs of the Borough, which he has served as a Councillor for a number of years, he was this year elected to the office of Deputy Mayor. Mr. Mirwitch is a solicitor working for the Post Office.

We look forward to our members and families joining in the Reception to the Chasanim who will be accompanied by their mothers, Mrs. Rose DeVries and Mrs. Gertrude Mirwitch. The date will be the 17th October.

## MINI-SERMON

By Rev. S. Venitt

There are moments in our life-time when we are motivated by some strange inexplicable force. We are inspired by a thought which crosses our mind — influenced by the words of a prayer or a sermon, or by the solemnity of our surroundings or by a special occasion.

The High Holydays set all those forces in motion, geared as they are to stimulate our reason and kindle an emotional flame. One month before Rosh Hashanah the Shofar sounds its awakening call to us, to spend time probing our actions of the past year. We are asked to take an inventory of our behaviour, to search and probe our relationships, to discover and identify where we went wrong, to recognise the harm we have done and truly regret it, and finally to resolve that our misdeeds will not be repeated.

When the Days of Awe arrive, we can now place ourselves under G-d's scrutiny, and petition him to enable us to make a good start to the New Year.

But one obstacle remains, even if we accept that we can be confident of G-d's forgiveness.

Can we go to G-d to ask Him to forgive us for something we did to another person? If we wronged our friend Mr. A. would it be logical to ask Mr. B. to forgive us? Would we even approach Mr. B? Could Mr. B. have it within his power to forgive? Would his expression of forgiveness have any meaning if Mr. A. did not forgive?

Our High Holydays require us to search out each person who was affected adversely by our conduct during the past year, and acknowledge what we did, express our regret, apologize and seek forgiveness. This is not easy, but nevertheless, it is a prerequisite for G-d's forgiveness.

The mere knowledge that we must seek forgiveness of our friends, face to face, is in itself a deterrent factor to committing anything untoward. It is only then, in these circumstances that we are able to meet G-d with new strength and confidence in our prayers, having the thought at the back of our minds, that if our fellow man has seen fair to forgive us, then surely the Creator — the source of all Mercy — will forgive us too. We are now fully prepared to offer our Rosh Hashanah prayers.

## ANNUAL REPORT 1986/7

We are pleased to report that we have once again maintained our financial position and have ended the year to 31st December 1986 with a surplus due as in previous years to the continued care in limiting our expenses as much as can be managed. The Synagogue Hall has been completely redecorated and we extend our sincere thanks to our Ladies' Guild for presenting new curtains. Our Hall is now a pleasure to us and we hope that members will consider hiring it for their Simchas. The ongoing maintenance of our Synagogue and its surrounding buildings receives our constant attention, and we would wish to thank our colleagues Mr. Jack Langdon and Mr. Bankover for their help and advice.

Our Functions Committee has during the year under review assisted in funding many of our efforts by the two supper socials held one at Chanukah and the other at Purim. We record our thanks to the very hard-working members of this committee.

During the year many very successful Kiddushim have been held with the assistance of our Ladies' Guild, a number of our members have celebrated Anniversaries, Birthdays and other Simchas by giving Kiddushim. All who attend our Shabbat services and partake in the refreshment are truly appreciative of the friendly atmosphere. We extend our thanks to all who assist in the preparation and of course to the donors.

The Yamim Nora'im services were held as usual with support to Rev. Venitt being given by Mr. Amias and Jonathan Miller. Our colleague Mr. Hersh Reick continues to delight us with his davening throughout the year, and we extend to them our sincerest thanks.

Our Chasanim this year were Rev. S. Venitt, Chasan Torah, and Dr. J. Cowan, Chasan Bereshis. Rev. Venitt celebrated his fortieth year ministering to our congregation and we extend to him and his wife Rifka our sincere thanks for their devoted service to our community. Dr. Cowan, a well respected member of our congregation and Board of Management has always been ready with help and support. We extend to him our congratulations on his recent wedding and are pleased to welcome his new wife Thelma to our community. At our Annual Reception both Chasanim were our Guests of Honour and after the usual vote of thanks they were presented with inscribed certificates commemorating the event on behalf of our congregation.

The Mayoral Visit by the Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham Councillor Mrs. Joan Caruana accompanied by several members of the Council and our Local M.P. was held as is usual on Shabbat Shira. A special Kiddush was held after the service to mark Ladies' Guild Shabbat also on that day.

The Friendship Club under a very active committee chaired by Mrs. Netta Guyer, continue to hold their meetings in our Synagogue Hall. We are delighted that the club is flourishing and send them our best wishes for the future.

The Hammersmith J.I.A. Committee continues its good work on behalf of Israel and it is gratifying that their hard efforts were rewarded with a substantial sum being collected. It is hoped that next year which is the 40th Anniversary of the State of Israel, a Synagogue Tour will be arranged. Full details will be available at a later date.

Our Part Time Secretary Mr. S. Fainlight continues his duties and we thank him for his support. Our caretaker Stephanie Englefield together with her husband Tom, continues the good work in keeping our buildings and grounds in good condition. Their gardening efforts have been commented on very favourably by both members and neighbours.

We have continued to receive help and advice from Mr. Barry Winterman and his colleagues at head office, for which we are very grateful.

Finally, to our colleagues and friends Rev. & Mrs. Venitt, the Members of the Board of Management and the Representatives on the U.S. Council, we express our sincere thanks and appreciation for their continued support.

M. AMIAS  
M. DeVRIES  
D. ARRAM  
Hon. Officers

## FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

The pre-Chanukah Supper-Quiz Party was the main event arranged by the Functions Committee during the past year. A Fish Supper was enjoyed by all who attended and the General Knowledge Quiz at which every table party competed with each other, proved very entertaining.

During the coming year the Committee hope to arrange a programme of functions and events which will be appreciated by everyone, and we look forward to your support.

You will be notified of these events as they are arranged and we would appreciate early response to our circulars thereby enabling us to cater the function according to number attending.

The members of the Functions Committee thank all who have supported them and wish you all a Happy New Year, and hope to see you at our future functions.

DAVID ARRAM  
Chairman

## Synagogue Israel Tour

By popular request I am trying to arrange a Tour to Israel in October/November 1988.

Will members and friends who would like to participate send me their names. A meeting of those interested will be held early in 1988 when further details will be available.

DAVID ARRAM  
Financial Representative

## Ladies Guild Report 1986/7

I am very happy to report that our social and financial activities continue to thrive.

Our Annual General Meeting was once again held at the home of our President, Mrs. Frank Hodes.

The year commenced with the Annual Bring and Buy and afternoon tea at the home of Councillor and Mrs. Sidney Grose, and £492 was raised. The money was earmarked towards the cost of new curtains in the Communal Hall.

The Guild gave the Kiddushim in the Succah which was once again beautifully decorated with fruit and foliage. The Annual Simchat Torah Party was catered admirably by the Ladies' Guild.

By way of an innovation, a Bring and Buy Cream Tea was held on Sunday February 1st, when we enjoyed the scones baked on the premises.

Ladies' Guild Shabbat was very well supported. The gathering included ladies from other organisations, and as in previous years, the Mayor of Hammersmith made it the occasion for the civic visit to the Synagogue.

Unfortunately, we were unable to take an active part in the Geranium Day Collection. An increased donation was sent to the Jewish Blind Society instead.

A number of ladies of the Guild attended the Annual Supper of the renamed Association of United Synagogue Women held at the South London Synagogue. The Chief Rabbi and Lady Jakobovits were the Guests of Honour.

Floral decorations for the Synagogue were again provided on Shavuot and thanks to the generosity of members, we were not involved in any expense. A Kiddush was provided by the Guild after each Service.

Our fund raising event of the year was the Annual Luncheon and Bring and Buy when our Guest Speaker Mrs. Rhoda Burns spoke on her trip to China, being one of Lady Jakobovits' party.

The Guild is very grateful to all members who have given donations to mark special occasions and to those ladies who help prepare the Kiddushim. Thanks are also due to the two ladies who transport disabled to the Centre in Camden Town.

If you are not a member of the Ladies' Guild, you can join us for an Annual Subscription of £3.00 and you can be associated with the charitable work we are doing.

REBECCA FOX  
Hon. Secretary

## Can You Help?

It is obvious that in a community like ours there must be quite a number of elderly, lonely, isolated and housebound people who would welcome a contact either in person or by telephone. We are looking for people who are willing to perform such a service, which would indeed be a Mitzvah.

Please contact Mrs. Rebecca Fox (Tel. No. 602 4242).

## The Breakthrough

After years of lobbying by individuals and groups, 1987 has seen the exciting breakthrough in the cause for women's equal participation in the administration of Synagogues within the United Synagogue.

Since March of this year, it has been mandatory on all Synagogues to elect women to a Synagogue Council of Management. This replaces the singular Board of Management. The new administrative body incorporates the Honorary Officers, Board of Management, representatives at the Board of Deputies and United Synagogue Council and up to six female members (a ratio of 1 female to 2 Board members) with full discussion and voting rights.

Women must be members in their own right to qualify for nomination. This has caused some confusion as many wives assume that as their husbands are members, with benefits covering his wife and family, she is automatically a member and eligible to vote at the Synagogue AGM and stand for election should she wish. This assumption is incorrect. Women who wish to make sure of their eligibility can contact the Synagogue secretary or Honorary Officers.

In Hammersmith, the part women have played, whether individuals or groups, in caring for the well being of the community has been greatly appreciated by the Honorary Officers and has over the years built a working relationship of mutual benefit.

Regretfully, this has not been so in some Synagogues. To achieve the change now taking place the Association of United Synagogue Women has worked long and hard. Inevitably there are some who argue for taking the change further. Nevertheless, this is an important first step. If young girls feel that they do not have an equal place within the Jewish community, as they have in the wider one, they will turn their interest elsewhere.

This first year is seen as a transition period, and each Synagogue congregation will build from it to suit their needs.

MABEL PHILLIPS

## League of Jewish Women Richmond & Thames Valley Group

The Annual General Meeting of the League of Jewish Women was held recently at the home of Mrs. Betty Gassman. The Guest Speaker was Mrs. Sheila Shear, President of the League, and she spoke about her experiences during her term of office.

Several new Officers were elected on to the Committee, and we hope to have more meetings during the coming year. The League is not a fund raising Organisation — our aim is to do voluntary work — helping those less fortunate than ourselves of all denominations.

We are always keen to enrol new members — anyone interested, please contact the Chairman, Mrs. Netta Guyer, 748 4797.

## The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message

It is once again my pleasure and privilege to extend warmest greetings for the New Year to all the readers of this magazine.

While tensions in the world at large are ominously escalating — with trouble-spots threatening peace and stability far beyond their borders in places as distant as the Persian Gulf, South Africa and Central America — there have also been some notable advances on the credit side, among them the prospect of an arms-control agreement between East and West and the as-yet-intangible signs of some mild deliberalisation inside the Soviet Union. All these events have some direct bearing on Jewish fortunes, for, as a rule, Jews are the first beneficiaries of stability, and the prime sufferers of instability.

More real and visible have been some welcome manifestations of progress and solidity within the Jewish experience. In Israel, threats of terror and aggression have somewhat abated, and the National Unity Government has preserved the nation's cohesion against all odds and prognostications. Even the religious-secular conflict, gravely menacing as it still is, seems to have lost some of its virulence of the previous year.

The plight of Soviet Jewry has eased only marginally, with the release of some more celebrated prisoners and refuseniks, and vague promises held out for lifting some repressive measures inside the country. But the indications are that major policy decisions on the Soviet attitude to both Israel and the Jews are still pending, and the situation continues to demand high statesmanship as well as perseverance on the Jewish side too, if the hope of rehabilitating millions of Jews is not to be abandoned.

The historic advance in Jewish-Catholic relations dramatised by the Pope's visit to the Rome Synagogue has unfortunately been compromised by several set-backs: the Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz, the beatification of Edith Stein and the reception of Kurt Waldheim at the Vatican. On the other hand, the happy relationship we enjoy with Christian leaders and citizens in this country is reflected in the singular honour bestowed on me by the award of a Lambeth Degree.

Perhaps most marked have been some hopeful developments within our own community. The Year of Education has not only firmly established Jewish education at the top of our communal agenda, it also generated many valuable new enterprises which have caught the imagination of many congregations and their members. The restructuring of the United Synagogue, its new leadership, building ambitiously on the firm foundations already laid in recent years, augurs well for the consolidation and revitalisation of Anglo-Jewry's traditional heartland. In fact, the sights should now be raised to encompass the expansion of the United Synagogue as an ever-stronger bulwark of Orthodoxy in the world — quantitatively by reaching out to kindred communities throughout the country in some associated confederation and qualitatively in devising some organisational bond with the newly-flourishing smaller units attracting many of our members' children by their very intensity and intimacy.

Other major urgent items also remain on our agenda for immediate action. There is the new secondary school planned by the JEDT, together with other important new educational enterprises; the co-ordination of our Jewish social services already begun under the aegis of the Central Council; the recruitment of high-calibre talent from younger elements for community leadership and the promotion of Jewish contributions to ethical integrity and moral excellence as well as in particular family stability in society at large — to mention just some specific objectives calling for broad vision and resolute action.

May 5748 bring the blessings of peace, security and prosperity in freedom and contentment, sustained by our own worthiness to merit these gifts, and accompanied by the progress of harmony among the nations, speeding the promised Redemption for Israel and all humanity.

SIR IMMANUEL JAKOBOVITS  
Chief Rabbi

## Hammersmith Friendship Club

Hammersmith Friendship Club is still well supported. During the past months we have enjoyed celebrating the Golden Wedding of Mr. & Mrs. Angelus who provided the Club with a delightful tea and we were entertained by the Kol Rina Singers. We have also celebrated several birthdays, including the Club's second anniversary. We have enjoyed lectures on "Period Costumes" and "Fans through the Ages", arranged through the auspices of Mrs. Zara Brickman, M.B.E. We have also had happy afternoons listening to entertainment provided through the good offices of Hammersmith Borough Council. Recently, some of us joined Richmond Friendship Club on a day's outing to Brighton, and we all had a very happy day — even the weather was kind! There is an excellent friendly atmosphere at the Club, which continues to maintain its high level of Membership.

New Members are always very welcome — if you would like to come and join us please contact the Chairman, Mrs. Netta Guyer, on 748 4797.

## Inter-Faith Relations

A number of parties from local schools visited the Synagogue during the past year. Godolphin and Latymer and Sacred Heart Convent School continued their long association. Children also came from primary schools. I was invited to a gathering at an E.S.N. School in Hammersmith to explain in simple terms how we celebrate Passover. The children were very fascinated by the Chad Gadya given to them in the English version.

S. VENITT

## 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.

Hella Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year. 7 King's Close, N.W.4. Tel. 203 1163.

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Fainlight wish to convey their most cordial wishes to the Congregation for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. T. Englefield send their compliments to the Congregation.

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

- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Abrahamson and Family, 47 St. Mary Abbot's Court, Warwick Gardens, Kensington, W14 8RB
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Abrams and Family 11 Mercers Place, London, W6 7BZ
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W14
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Amias, Flat 5/72 Courtfield Gardens, SW5
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. M. Angelus, 96 Addison Gardens, W.14.
- David & Pearl Arram & Family, 7, Blenheim Road, London, W4 1UB
- ✓ Eve and Bertie Bankover and Family, 3 Albany, Alexandra Grove, N. Finchley, N12 8NN
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Beim, "Tara", Coombe Ridings, Kingston Hill, Surrey
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- ✓ Dr. & Mrs. L. Bernstock & Mr. David Silk, 2 Windermere, Lytton Grove, Putney, London, SW15 2ER
- ✓ Irene & Joe Bondt, 24, Berkeley Court, Hale Lane, Edgware, Middx.
- ✓ Mrs. Mary Bossick, 2 Sutherland Court, Manor Close, Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury, N.W.9
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- ✓ Zara Brickman, M.B.E. and Lionel Kaufman, 3 Rugby Mansions, London, W14 8XD
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- ✓ Richard, Elizabeth & Daniel Brown, 1 Queen's Grove Court, Queen's Grove, St. John's Wood, N.W.8

- ↪ Dr. & Mrs. Denis Caplan & Family, 58 Fairacres, Roehampton Lane, S.W.15
- ↪ Robert and Miriam Clark, 4 Pinewood Grove, Carlton Road, Ealing, W5 2AG
- ↪ Janet & John Clark & Family, 41 Elizabeth Road, Moseley, Birmingham
- ↪ Philip, Dorrit & Elizabeth Cohen, 101, Madrid Rd., London, SW13 9PQ
- ↪ Mrs. Netta Coen & Family, 65 Primley Park Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7LP
- ↪ Mrs. R. Cohen, 292 Latymer Court, London W6 7LD.
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Coleman, 14 Abbots House, W14 8NU
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis S. Collins, 78 Campden Hill Court, London, W.8
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. L. Cook, 13 Strafford Road, Twickenham, Middx. TW1 3AD
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 17 Underwood House, Sycamore Gardens, W6 9BR
- ↪ Thelma and Jack Cowan, 22 Granard Avenue, Putney, London, SW15 6HJ
- ↪ Lilian & Bernard Davis, 39 Hamble Court, Broom Park, Teddington, Middx. TW11 9RW
- ↪ Mrs. R. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions, Arundel Terrace, Barnes, London, SW13 9DS
- ↪ Mrs. Betty Dickman, 60 Minster Court, Hillcrest Road, Ealing, London, W.5
- ↪ Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.
- ↪ Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge, Warwick Dene, W.5.
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- ↪ Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 36 Haven Green Court, Haven Green, London, W.5
- ↪ Mrs. Netta Guyer and Maurice, 1 Atherton Road, Barnes, London, SW13 9NH
- ↪ Mrs. Annette Halfin, 2 Rutland Drive, River Lane, Petersham, Surrey, TW10 7AG
- ↪ Elizabeth & Alfred Harris, 23 Parkside, Wimbledon Com. London, S.W.19.
- ↪ Mrs. J. Harris, 20 Goldsmith Buildings, East Churchfield Road, Acton, W.3
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. J. Harris, 182 Latymer Court, Hammersmith Road, W.6
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. M. Hirth, Flat 1, 18 Flaghead Road, Poole, Dorset
- ↪ Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes & Family, 1 Ashchurch Terrace, London, W12 9SL
- ↪ Ruby & Frank Hodes, 7 Oakwood Court, Kensington, W.14
- ↪ Basil & Bella Isaacs & Family, 43 Clifton Court, St. John's Wood Road, London, NW8 8HT
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. M. Isaacson & Family, 8 Rosedew Road, London, W6 9ET
- ↪ Mrs. M. Katits, 8 Bolingbroke Road, London, W.14
- ↪ Lily Jacobs & Ann Keenoy, 8 Aldbourne Road, Shepherds Bush, W12 0LN
- ↪ Mrs. D. Kurzman, 35 Suffolk Road, Barnes, S.W.13.
- ↪ Jack & Adelaide Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, Acton, London W3 7LT
- ↪ Mildred & Henry Levy, 22b Argyle Road, W. Ealing, W13 8AA
- ↪ Hetty and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4.
- ↪ Naomi & Philip Lewis & Family, 14 Madrid Road, S.W.13
- ↪ Miss Julie Lichtblau, 21 Meadow Croft, Brooks Road, Chiswick, W.4.
- ↪ Mrs. Hettie Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.
- ↪ Mrs. Betty Meltz & Melvin, 69 Addison Gardens, W14 0DT
- ↪ Raie, Joe & Jonathan Miller, 16 Samuel Richardson House, North End Crescent, W14 8TE
- ↪ Mrs. G. Mirwitch & Family, 11 South Side, Stamford Brook Common, W6 0XY
- ↪ Councillor Joseph S. Mirwitch, 66 British Grove, W4 2NL
- ↪ The Mishcon Family - Peter, Penny, Oliver, Anna, Kate and Eliza, 89, Elgin Crescent, London, W.11
- ↪ Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, W8 4HX.
- ↪ Mrs. G. Moses, 120 North End House, Fitzjames Avenue, London, W14 0RY
- ↪ Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Morris, 95, Barons Keep, Gliddon Road, London, W.14
- ↪ O. A. & E. Newfield, 52, East Acton Lane, London, W3 7EQ
- ↪ Joe Nisner with Rochelle, Maxwell, & Daughters, 27 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, Ealing, W.5
- ↪ Mrs. S. Perbohner & Family, 121 Castelnu, S.W.13
- ↪ Alfred & Mabel Phillips & Family, Flat 11, Bridge Avenue Mansions, Hammersmith, London, W.6.
- ↪ Mr. Hersh Rieck, 33 Campden Hill Gate, Duchess of Bedford Walk, W.8
- ↪ Mrs. Rita Rosen, 59 Montagu Mansions, London, WIH 1LH

- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sacks, 18 Heathcroft, Ealing, London, W5 3EZ
- ✓ Ethel Sacks, 18 Kingfisher House, Melbury Road, W.14
- ✓ Mr. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, Fitz James Avenue, London, W14 0RT
- ✓ Prof. & Mrs. Al Shiloh & Dina, 36 Barons Keep, W.14
- ✓ Lew & Minnie Shooman, Robert, Carole & Family, 10 Tudor Court, Gunnersbury Avenue, W.5.
- ✓ Anita Simmonds & Family, 14 Cecil Close, Mount Avenue, Ealing, W.5.
- ✓ Gerard Snoeck, 4 Park Avenue, London, S.W.14
- ✓ Mrs. L. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4.
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. N. Sonnenblik, 14 Vaughan Avenue, London, W6 0XS
- ✓ Deborah, Michael & Bobby Talalay, 6 Stamford Brook Ave. London, W6 0YD
- ✓ Mrs. Stella Tesler, 68 Homecross House, Fishers Lane, Chiswick, W4 1YB
- ✓ Bea & Bertie Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Rd., W.14
- ✓ Ilse & Ian Tysh, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Heathfield Terrace, Chiswick, W.4.
- ✓ Hettie & Sidney Williams & Family, 28 Lime Court, Gipsy Lane, Putney, S.W.15.
- ✓ Elizabeth and Benjamin de Winter and Family, 24, Northways, College Crescent, NW3 5DR
- ✓ Joel Winterman, 29 Eagle Lodge, Golders Green Road, NW11 8BD
- ✓ Vivienne & Barry Winterman, 80 Linton Avenue, Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 4QY
- ✓ Dina & Philip Wisbey, Wendy & Bob, 2 Rupert Rd., Bedford Park, London, W4 1LX
- ✓ Mr. I. Yoffey, Fiona, Manny and Penina, 93 Mayfield Road, W12 9LT

**HETTIE & DAVE BALONOV**

with their Families in England and the U.S.A.

offer sincere greetings for the New Year

**Gifts for the Succah**

The Succah will be ready for decorating on Tuesday 6th October. Gifts of flowers, foliage, wine, etc., will be gratefully accepted, also donations towards the purchase of cake.

**J.I.A.**

Traditionally our annual Joint Israel Appeal begins with a meeting for all contributors and friends. This year was to be no different, and invitations were sent out for a gathering in the Synagogue Hall on Sunday afternoon 18th January at which our distinguished guest speaker was to bring us first-hand and up-to-date news on political and economic conditions in Israel. Unfortunately, as you will remember, the weather at that time was appalling and in the circumstances our Committee felt that the only sensible course of action was to cancel the meeting. This, of course, meant that we had no face-to-face appeal with which to begin our 1987 Campaign. Instead, our Committee decided to implement a special written appeal.

The result was excellent, donations were both prompt and generous, amounting to £23,760. This is an outstanding response and on behalf of our Committee, we thank each and everyone of our contributors most sincerely for their willing and continuous support for our people in Israel.

D.A.  
J.B.

**Hammersmith & District AJEX**

**A brief report by Percy S. Gourgey MBE, Chairman**

During the year under review, 1986-87, the Branch and AJEX as a whole suffered a great loss in the death of Cecil Hyams, a veteran and prominent stalwart of AJEX who held high office at headquarters. He kept the Branch constantly informed about various developments concerning AJEX and also showed keen interest in Branch activities. He put the Branch in touch with SAJEX, i.e. the South London group of AJEX branches to augment both its financial position and its range of activities.

Appropriate tributes were paid in the Jewish press. A special Memorial Service was held at Richmond Synagogue, where Cecil was a Warden for many years. It was particularly impressive with the participation of over twenty Standard Bearers. Tributes were paid at and after the Service by Rev. Dr. I. Levy, Hon. Chaplain to AJEX, Mr. E. Tabachnik, Q.C., also former Warden of the Synagogue, and by Mr. Harry Kardo, BEM., National Chairman of AJEX, and Mr. Percy Gourgey, MBE, Branch Chairman and also former Warden of the Synagogue.

A joint function with the Synagogue was held in January with the showing of a special film on the life of the late Lord Fisher, President of the Board of Deputies.

Members of the Branch took part in the local and national parades held in November annually, and in their individual capacities in various other activities, including the field of good race relations.

Our Standard Bearer Mr. Hyman Forman continued to render valuable service both at various functions and also at head office where his considerable experience in welfare matters is put to good use for the benefit of those concerned.



## Jews' College

On the part-time studies programme, our popular and successful nusach and chazanut courses are being expanded, with more choices than ever before for those aspiring to conduct various services or to read from the Torah or Megillah. This year the course has been structured so that students may choose nusach for Shabbat and the High Holydays. As part of the courses, students will learn the Laws and History of our prayers.

Prospectuses for both courses are available either from the synagogue secretary, or direct from the Registrar of Jews' College, Albert Road, London, NW4 2SJ, telephone 01-203 6427.

## The Jewish Woman and Mother

In the days of horror of the later Roman Empire, throughout the time of the migration of nations, it was not only war that destroyed and annihilated all those people — despite their former world dominating greatness, nothing remains, but their names.

It was the ensuing demoralization of home life. This is proved by the Jews, for they suffered more severely and more cruelly by wars than any other nation. Strict discipline and family devotion was at all times preserved. This mysterious preservation of the Jewish people gives praise, and is due to the Jewish woman. This is her glory not only in the history of her own people, but in the history of the world.

Jewish custom bids the Jewish mother after her preparations for the Sabbath have been completed for Friday evening, to kindle and bless the Sabbath candles. That is symbolic of the Jewish mother's influence on her own home. She is the inspirer of a pure, chaste, family life, whose influences are incalculable, and is the centre of all spiritual endeavours. It is on account of the woman also that G-d's blessings are vouchsafed to the house.

We are on the eve of the most important of the Holydays in our Calendar. Let us pray for lifelong peace, health and happiness for everyone, all over the world. May the Almighty accept our sincere prayers, grant us our wishes and inscribe us in "The Book of Life".

Shalom

JOEL WINTERMAN

## LADIES PLEASE NOTE

The Burial Board wishes all synagogues to advise ladies that head covering must be worn when visiting the cemetery. J.L.

## SOCIAL & PERSONAL

### WEDDINGS

The following marriages were solemnised at the Synagogue during the course of the year:

John Frederick Eldred Cowan to Thelma Beatrice Robinson

Harry Jeffrey Menasche to Andrea Ruth Isaacs

Richard Mark Fox to Susanna Clinton Davis

To these and to all members who had celebrations during the year we extend warmest felicitations.

### NEW MEMBERS

Mr. R. Brown

Mr. A. Brown

Mrs. D. Brown

Mrs. Jean Cohen

Mrs. Thelma Cowan

Ms Esta-Malka Charkham

Miss J. Fainlight

Mr. R. M. Fox

Ms M. Kass

Mrs. J. Miller

Mr. H. Menasche

Mr. & Mrs. A. Rodberg

Miss P. Robinson

Mrs. L. Sommer

Mrs. R. Spector

Miss D. Shiloh

Mrs. L. Simmons

Mrs. L. Toff

Mrs. L. Waterman

## Kensington & Chelsea WIZO

This past year has been an active and rewarding one, albeit that at the time of going to press we have been unable to find premises for our Good as New Shop, which is our main fund raising source. If anybody could help us in this respect we would be more than grateful. Our functions commenced in November with the annual Brunch Bring and Buy which was very successful as were an Afternoon Card Party, the Spring Lunch followed by a delightful piano recital by Mrs. Evelyn Segal, and the Summer Lunch to which we welcomed Mrs. Brenda Katten, Co-President of British WIZO, as our Guest of Honour. Everyone listened spell-bound to her address. Due to a lot of hard work and effort, a very substantial sum of money was raised for Jewish Women's Week. New members are always very welcome and any interested lady should contact Membership Secretary Mrs. Ilse Tysh on 748 1620.

ETHEL SACKS,  
President

## HAVE YOU SIGNED A COVENANT

Our Synagogue can benefit without any extra cost to you  
provided you are a Tax payer.

For further information contact our Financial  
Representative Mr. David Arram or our Synagogue  
Secretary Mr. Sidney Fainlight

ל ש נ 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

and from

**Mr. and Mrs. HERBERT D. GERTLER,  
JEROME and ANTHONY**

13 RESIDENCE DE LA PORTE VERTE,  
AVE. DU GENERAL PERSHING,  
VERSAILLES 7800, FRANCE

and from

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

26 FAIRFAX ROAD, SWISS COTTAGE,  
LONDON, N.W.6

## **Einayim Aid Society**

The Einayim Aid Society, the Ealing Branch of the Jewish Blind Society, meets regularly to plan events which are intended to raise funds for the Jewish Blind. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee the Hon. Secretary would be delighted to give any information regarding this matter, 'phone no. 01-866 2693.

Some recent occasions held by the Committee have included a highly successful theatre presentation to see The House of Bernarda Alba, for which we would like to thank everyone for their support. The Group has also heard several very interesting talks; Mr. Michael Bookbinder entertained us with tales of the origination of Marks & Spencer and Mr. Jonathan Freedman told us of his visit to the Soviet Union and encouraged us to write to a blind Refusnik, who is now in Israel.

Future events include another theatre presentation to see The Hypochondriac starring Tom Courtenay at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, on Saturday 24th October 1987, where we hope to have the same excellent attendance as last year. More information regarding tickets can be obtained from Mrs. Beatrice Topper, 'Phone No. 01-603 9708.

## **Mentally Handicapped Jews –**

### **The Challenge to You**

To me, perhaps the most moving part of the Rosh Hashana service is the recitation of "Unctaneh Tokef" in the Mussaf service. In it we are told how G-d will judge our actions over the past year. One simply has to read the translation to conjure up an awesome and frightening image of a mighty G-d sitting in judgement, sealing our fate at the stroke of a pen. I am sure I am not alone in visualising this type of scenario. Yet, strangely enough, just when this imagery becomes almost too powerful, the verse changes its tone completely to convey a positively benign image:

"... like a shepherd pasturing his flock, making sheep pass under his staff, so shall You cause to pass, count and consider the soul of all the living."

How can the image of a shepherd tending his flock represent a G-d sitting in judgement? Our Rabbis explain that G-d judges all people individually, like sheep going single file through a narrow opening in a sheep pen. But he also looks on them as a shepherd would survey his entire flock. From this, say our Rabbis, we see that Man is not only judged at Rosh Hashana for his own personal achievements, but also for his efforts as part of G-d's entire 'flock'. In other words, on Rosh Hashana one must ask oneself "What have I done to serve the needs of my fellow Jew?"

Ravenswood looks after some of the less able members of our 'flock' — the mentally handicapped. We've shown that, given the right kind of facilities, the people we used to dismiss as

'ineducable' can achieve a lot. 30 years ago it would have been considered enough to give them a bed to sleep in. Today that's not enough. The sort of education and training we want to offer now is for life — an independent, near-normal life, within the Jewish community.

When a mentally handicapped child is born the first question its parents ask is always the same. Why? Why us? But when some of the pain and anguish have begun to diminish, the other questions are just as difficult. How will our child survive with all the pressures of modern society? How can we make sure they get the best there is to offer in care and education? And, when we're no longer there to help, how can we give them the opportunity for a real home, a proper job and a fulfilled adult life? Inevitably, outside help must be sought. But then the questions change again. Who can help? Who has the expertise to know what's best? Who can provide the right facilities?

This year apart from the 1,000 mentally handicapped people we already look after, we will get calls for help from another 400 families. This year, we're going to continue making contact with all the Jewish people locked away in long-stay mental handicap hospitals. This year, we want to build more homes in the community.

So perhaps this year when you stand in Shul and hear the Chazan recite 'Unetaneh Tokef' you will think about all the work entailed in tending some of the people in our flock. Perhaps you would like to become a volunteer, helping out at one of our residential facilities. Or perhaps you would like to help us by making a donation. One thing is for sure; if you can help us, you will certainly have done much to meet the needs of your fellow Jews, at a time when unity with Klal Yisroel — G-d's entire flock — is so significant.

JULIAN M. SORSBY  
Executive Director,  
The Ravenswood Foundation,  
Tel: 01-458 3282

## Austria Before and After Waldheim

Dear Congregants, Dear Friends,

The recent reception of President Waldheim by Pope John at the Vatican resulted in the further escalation of antisemitism in Austria, as the Gemeinde, the official organ of the Kultusgemeinde in Vienna reported in its issue of 7th August.

Please allow me to take you back into the history of Austria and her hundred years of antisemitism. During the Habsburg Monarchy, the Jews were tolerated in the liberal atmosphere of a multi-national, multi-racial Empire. During the First World War, however, 1914-1918, the Jewish population in Vienna rose to 200,000, owing to the influx from Galicia-Bukowina (Russian, Roman and Polish areas).

As a result of the lost war, the breakdown of the Habsburg Monarchy into the various Succession States and the Treaty of

St. Germaine left Vienna with the small Republic of Austria and a population of six million people. The capital had two million, with an ever-increasing Jewish population which had fled from the new republics. The term "Ostjude" came into the language of "the Wiener".

Austria, now a democratic state was governed by the Socialists and the Christian Volkspartei. Leading the Socialist Party were atheist Jews, Dr. Bauer, Julius Deutsch, Hugo Breitner and others, M.P.s in Parliament and Governors of the City of Vienna — "das rote Wien" (Red Vienna). Leaders of the Christian Volkspartei were the Catholic antisemites under the leadership of Prelate Dr. Seipel.

The Jews profited from the Viennese Socialist rule. They obtained citizenship, stores, shops and exports. Banks flourished until the Wall Street crash resulted in bankruptcies. Unemployment changed the picture. Swastikas appeared on the scene. A book, Die Stadt Ohne Juden (State without Jews), written by somebody calling himself a friend of the Jews, Hugo Bettauer, gave a portent of what was to come. Then came Hitler. Austria, with almost a third of the people on the dole, greeted the Anschluss with flags and the Austrian Nazis began robbing and killing Jews in ten days, showing more brutality than the Germans in five years.

This is Austria before Waldheim!!

In 1945, after the Holocaust, a few hundred Jews trickled back. After 1948 some came from Prague, followed after 1956 by Hungarian Jews who settled in Vienna, and in more recent times, the Russians.

So today there are 7000-8000 Jews registered with the Kultusgemeinde.

They are well organised — the famous Seitenstadter Tempel gives beautiful Shabbat Services.

Antisemitism was below the surface — asleep until Waldheim as Presidential Candidate and the protests from the USA awoke the anti-Jewish elements — with the help of the Volkspartei.

May I end with a few questions?

1. The World Jewish Congress knew (and must have known) of Dr. Waldheim's past. Why did they not raise it during his eight years as UN General Secretary?
2. Why did Lord Weidenfeld publish his book?
3. Why did his editor not ask Waldheim about the missing two years?

Now, my friends, if you are not tired of reading my story, I am going to the Catholic side, with a few questions: Why did Pope Pius the XII, previously Cardinal Pacelly in Germany, not help the Jews? Why did Cardinal Innitzer of Vienna greet Hitler on March 11th 1938 as the greatest German?

The Catholic Church never liked Jews!!  
Shalom!

CHAIM ZEEV BEN YOSEPH

לשנה טובה

*BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
AND WELL OVER THE FAST*

FROM

Mr. & Mrs.

**JOE GODFREY**

★ ★ ★

*TO ALL OUR RELATIVES, FRIENDS  
AND HONORARY OFFICERS, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT  
AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION*

## ROMAN MITZVAHS

It was Second Day Shavuot. The temperature was 75°F. We set out for the Synagogue in Rome just by the Tiber which flows through Rome but, to my mind, not as majestic as the Thames through London. We arrived at the Great Synagogue after 10-12 minutes walk and came upon this huge, imposing building which, at first glance, looked as if we had reached the largest Shul in Europe. It certainly was the highest one I had seen and when we approached the entrance we were stopped by several male "security" congregants who asked us if we had any cameras. On satisfying them that we were "kosher" they courteously directed us where to enter — ladies round the corner of the Shul and then upstairs, the men straight ahead. But before we walked on, we could not help but notice the Police Van parked outside and police with automatic guns standing around. After all, wasn't this the Shul that only a few short years ago received the full blast of the terrorists and a few of the congregants were killed or maimed.

On entering the Shul we had to brush aside a curtain that hung across the main doors and, on entering, we picked up a tallis from a table which literally held dozens. There was also a table on which there were also dozens of copples, if one required it. A Chazan was already chanting the prayers (it was about 9.30) through a microphone, I hasten to add!! They davened in the Sephardi accent coupled with a strong Italian influence so that it was not easy to follow the service. However, their Siddur was very familiar to us and it was all in Hebrew with no Italian translation (not that this mattered to us) but we managed to follow a lot of the Service. Glancing around, we noticed the Chief Rabbi of Rome was sitting in the place of honour, the Rabbi of the Shul sat next to him, another Chazan sat nearby whilst the second Chazan was davenning.

Above all, there was a choir, all-male, behind the Ark whom we could not see and the Bimah was just in front of the Ark — just like Hammersmith's, only on a vastly bigger scale — all in marble as was the rest of the Shul. It was about 50% higher than our Shul and twice as wide. All seats faced the Ark in four blocks with lovely stained-glass windows all around. A magnificent Ark was approached by first walking up to the Bimah, then ascending about 6/7 steps to the curtaining of the Ark. On pulling the curtains aside there were two doors to open and then a final curtain and several very large Seforim.

Being Shavuot the Bimah and surrounds were covered with the most beautiful flowers extending to the floor of the Shul in lovely containers, bowls and vases.

When the congregants were called to the Reading of the Law each went up with their teen-age daughter holding hands and later on we observed there was a Bat Chayil ceremony which took place at the end of the Service. The girls (about six of them) all stood in front of the Ark with the Chief Rabbi and, although we could not hear them, I believe they must have recited one or two prayers and/or Psalms — still facing the Ark

— and at their conclusion the Chief Rabbi pronounced the Priestly Blessing. Even though we seemed to be the only non-Italians in the Shul, it seemed strange that no-one came up to us, which I thought most unusual as it is the usual thing at Hammersmith to greet the "stranger" with a welcome.

I haven't forgotten the ladies. They sat upstairs in the 3-sided gallery although on that day all the ladies sat in the centre gallery. It was through a lady in our party who sat next to a congregant of the Shul that we learned there was a Bat Chayil ceremony taking place that morning.

What impressed me was the utter magnificence of the Shul itself, and if anyone has the opportunity of visiting Rome, a visit to this Shul when a Service is taking place is a "must".

Yes, a rather unusual and impressive Yom Tov.

J.N.N.

## International Conference

By Percy S. Gourgey, M.B.E.

Coinciding with the 20th anniversary this year of Israel's magnificent victory in the Six Day War, increased attempts are being made to convene an International Conference to consider the future of the West Bank and Gaza seized in that War as a result of Arab aggression.

This suggested Conference looks a long way ahead. Its aim is to enable Jordan to enter into direct negotiations with Israel as instructed by the Conference, which would include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. While Prime Minister Shamir and his Likud Cabinet Ministers are opposed to the Conference contending that it will only pressurise Israel to make concessions instead of engaging in direct negotiations, Foreign Minister Peres and his Labour colleagues are in favour of it to provide King Hussein an international framework within which to negotiate, in order to overcome Arab objections to direct negotiations.

However, the positions adopted by Shamir and Peres are in reality not too far apart. Both agree that on no account will there be any PLO participation, as its oft-proclaimed aim is to destroy Israel backed with acts of terrorism. Both agree that there will be no Soviet participation unless the Soviets resume diplomatic relations with Israel and improve the situation of Soviet Jewry. Before fulfilling these conditions the Soviet Union might seek to influence the course and outcome of the negotiations. This is wholly unacceptable to both Peres and Shamir. It is true that the United States can veto any decisions of the Conference and Israel can refuse to implement them, but Israel's image will suffer in consequence.

When Peres was in London in June, he said at a public meeting in reply to my question, that both the Soviet Union and China, as permanent members of the Security Council, would have to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

In a sense, both Peres and Shamir are right and there is no need to break up the National Unity Government before general

elections due in 1988. Peres is right in trying to find a way out for Hussein in his dilemma, and Shamir is right in seeking to ensure that such a Conference will not just pressurise Israel. The momentum toward peace could be maintained through careful preparation for the Conference, by clearly defining its commitments, its agenda and its participants.

## THE NEW SPEAKEASY

Two furtive figures checked that the coast was clear before entering the bakery. They nodded to the man behind the counter and went to the back of the shop. The man knocked twice, paused and then three times more. A small window opened in the door. "I'm a friend of Sam" the woman said. The door was unbolted and the couple walked down the stairs to where the lights were bright, the music was playing and their drinks were waiting.

Hampstead High Street and the United Synagogue may not seem to have much in common with the scene above. Yet like the Speakeasy itself, appearances can be deceptive. Speakeasy is the name given to a new project launched a few months ago by the United Synagogue Youth and Community Services (USYC for short). It was aimed at helping with a problem that was gaining a considerable amount of attention.

The scene was becoming quite familiar to the inhabitants of Edgware. Saturday nights and the forecourt of Edgware station would be full with young people. Teenagers with apparently nothing to do and nowhere to go. Youngsters who seemed to have more cash than they know what to do with. Boys and girls, so it was reported in the always reliable Jewish Chronicle, who were becoming involved with the drugs scene.

The police appeared, Lubavitch arrived, the Board of Deputies inconspicuously were everywhere and suddenly Edgware was not quite the "in" place anymore. Now it was Hampstead and on Thursdays too. People were travelling in from as far away as Ilford just to be there and be seen.

So the High Street would fill, the car drivers would curse, the local residents complained, the police distributed leaflets warning that there might be arrests for obstruction and suddenly winter arrived and it was cold so everyone could forget about the situation.

What was the problem. Nobody seemed terribly sure. USYC were sure of one thing. The problem was not the children. They were perfectly happy meeting each other and spending time talking together. The people who seemed to be upset were the adult community. The cry went out that these kids should have somewhere else to go. The residents of Hampstead wondered why they were camping on their doorsteps and all wished that the boys and girls would go somewhere else and play. The youngsters could have replied very simply — where?

Speakeasy set out to try and create a place where young people could just drop in, find a coffee and some company. It

was not just a question of opening up a Shul hall, since most of these youngsters would not go anywhere near a Shul. As it happens the place chosen used to be a Shul (my parents were married there) but has since moved. The old Beehive Lane Synagogue was unused. Ilford is the largest Jewish community in Europe. It seemed a good place to start.

The Speakeasy coffee shop is currently open on Sundays from 7.30 p.m. until late and on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. The search is on to find another centre in the North West area. The shop is opened by young volunteers and counsellors are always available if people have anything they wish to talk about.

The coffee shop has attracted interest but inevitably some of the Hampstead regulars are not going to be interested. The second approach Speakeasy uses is to go out to them. People have been wandering around the same areas as the crowds, getting to know the young people, becoming familiar sights there and being there if people want to talk. This approach is by far the hardest and slowest but it has been used by individuals for a couple of years and Speakeasy have integrated their expertise into the project.

The final strategy used is in opening a telephone counselling service. Volunteers are at the end of a phone (202 1441/2) between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sundays and from 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Mondays. If there is nobody there, we have a 24 hour answering machine that will take messages which we can return at the next session.

As expected, this started slowly but more and more calls are being answered as people begin to hear about the service. They range from the Mum phoning for her daughter about to come to London who doesn't know anybody, to far more serious problems. The phone line, as all the Speakeasy services, is aimed at young people and absolute confidentiality is guaranteed.

The project has been fortunate in receiving a lot of advice from experts who have considerable experience in these areas. The volunteers are all put through a short training course on counselling in general and a separate course for the particular area in which they will be involved. Trained counsellors are always available to people at the coffee shop or phoning in. Speakeasy is up and walking. More volunteers would be welcome (phone USYC on 202 7529) and we will start running and then sprinting as more people start to hear of us. We will not stop young people wanting to spend time at Edgware or Hampstead but we are providing somewhere for them to go and someone for them to talk to.

Sam's two friends stumbled upstairs back into the bakery, lighter in the head and lighter in the wallet. It had been another wonderful evening despite the cloak and dagger start. They both looked forward to a time when they could walk freely into a club. A place where they would not have to worry about being raided by the police. Somewhere they could relax and know they were welcome.

JONATHAN M. MILLER

## ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

**Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies Guild.** Meets first Tuesday Evening in the month. Tel. 603 4938.

**Hammersmith Friendship Club.** Enquiries to Chairman, Mrs. N. Guyer, 748 4797.

**Richmond & Thames Valley Group of the League of Jewish Women.** Enquiries to Chairman: Mrs. N. Guyer, 748 4797.

**Kensington and Chelsea WIZO.**

Enquiries to Hon. Sec. Mrs. Martha Tauber, 373 8437  
or Mem. Sec. Mrs. Ilse Tysh, 748 1620.

**Board of Deputies Defence Department, Western Region.**

Enquiries to Mr. Moss Amias at the Synagogue Office.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust.** Representative: Miss J. Lichtblau, Tel. 995 7279  
21 Meadow Croft, Brooks Road, Chiswick, W.4.

**Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith & District Branch).** Enquiries: Mr. P. Lamb, 19 Denehurst Gardens, Richmond, Surrey. 878 1080.

**Jewish Youth Study Groups — West London Branch.**

Enquiries: Mr. Bobby Hill, 387 2681.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Combined Charities Fund.**

All correspondence to Hon. Sec.: A. S. Bankover, Esq.  
3 Albany, Alexandra Grove, N. Finch., N12 8NN 446 0022

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