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THE BROOK

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

With length of days will I satisfy him
and will let him see my salvation

(Ninety-first Psalm)

Thought for our Ninety-first Year

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

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69 Brook Green, W.6

Emeritus Reader: The Rev. Samuel Forscher

Secretary: Miss R. Longhorn

The Minister can be seen by appointment.

The Secretary can be seen any Sunday morning between
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SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 8.30 a.m. By arrangement

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

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

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" THE BROOK "

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THE BROOK

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HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

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EDITORIAL

A YEAR OF CONTRASTS

It is hard to imagine a more turbulent year, nationally and in Israel. For a substantial period of time it has been impossible to distinguish underlying patterns or trend in vital national and international affairs. In comparison with calmer times it has seemed that established and well accepted concepts were being not just challenged but abandoned.

All this must contrast strikingly with what was to be the necessarily more limited area of our communal activities. Any moment of reflection on this must surely reveal the thought that while we cannot hope to remain unaffected by the wider developments which must influence our lives we must be able to rely on the essential steadfast continuity of religious and social purpose. This cannot be allowed to be merely an uncritically complacent attitude, but an active stimulus for enlivening our approach to all we consider our community should stand for.

The sense of balance must be revitalised by increasing commitment to supporting our religious and social activities as well as the essential role undertaken by the community nationally in developing social awareness and concern, not least for those most dependent on the support of others. There can be no contrast so stark as the difference between the demands justly raised against us and the measure of our response if we fail to act by not constantly extending and developing our individual and collective support for the most vital part of our religious affairs. Our resolve to do so is our best hope for the forthcoming year.

**ARE YOU MAKING A SIMCHA?
OUR SYNAGOGUE HALL
IS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

RECENTLY RE-DECORATED —
REASONABLE CHARGE

Apply to Synagogue Secretary,

Miss R. Longhorn

Tel. 602 1405

Sundays 10 - 12.30

MINI-SERMON

FLOOD-WARNING

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

You will have noticed that I chose as a text for this year's cover a quotation from the 91st Psalm. The source was not merely suggested by the fact that it is the 91st year of the Synagogue.

Far more important than that, it has a most compelling message for the times in which we are living. It speaks of faith and courage in facing up to the realities of life.

Take the verse for example, "Thou shalt not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flieth by day." Then think of our present situation, when twenty-four hours round the clock there are being perpetrated acts of violence, of the utmost brutality, the violation of human decency, mugging, vandalism, immorality, an utter lack of respect for human dignity, the constant toll of life and limb. Where is it all leading to?

Instead of real progress in the moral, ethical and social advance of humanity, we seem to be drifting back to the generation of the Flood.

What was the great crime of those days. The land was filled with Chamas, with violence. The many other attributes were regarded as secondary.

In the Divine Message to Noah wherein He reveals to him his dread decision to wipe out mankind only violence is referred to.

It was violence that sealed their fate and brought down Divine Judgement upon them. True, the Divine Promise thereafter was that He would not bring such a deluge to wipe out mankind again. Man, with his developing skills, in the art of destruction might be able to do the job himself. Who knows?

As we approach the end of Neila on Yom Kippur, the recurrent theme is that salvation lies in our own hands if only "we stay our hands from violence".

One of the great concepts of Yom Kippur referred to in Ezekiel is that G-d does not desire the death of the wicked but rather their repentance.

The generation of the Flood were given their chance to see the error of their ways. The warnings did not avail, and the Flood came and wiped them out. We shall be spending a good part of the High Holydays looking at the Ark in front of us containing the sacred Torah with its charter for a decent world and we shall be praying for ourselves and for all mankind that that message will strike a chord in the human heart as being the only solution to our problem in a deluge-threatened world.

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*

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 and Shmuel Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Miss Reina Longhorn wishes to convey her most cordial wishes to the Congregation for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Englefield send their compliments to 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 Family, 47 St. Mary

Abbot's Court, Warwick Gardens, Kensington, W.14.

Mimi & Henry Addisman, 86 Wavendon Avenue, W.4.

Sophie & Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W.14.

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

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

Eve & Bertie Bankover and Family, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12.

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

Dr. and Mrs. F. Benesi, 11 Cocksut Road, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1JH

Sonny & Madeleine Benmax, 29 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.4.

Mrs. Rita Berg & Family, 1 West Kensington Mansions, W.14.

Irene & Joe Bondt, 24 Berkeley Court, 273 Hale Lane, Edware, Middlesex.

Jack & Mary Bossick, 87 Park Avenue North, N.W.10.

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

Pauline & Harry Brandon, 22 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Canter and Ray, 13 Lena Gardens, Hammer-smith, W.6.

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

Jean & Denis Caplan and Family, 43 Lime Court, 2 Gipsy Lane, Putney, London, S.W.15.

Janet & John Clark, Robin & Daniel, 34 Kingfisher Way, Bourneville, Birmingham.

Miriam & Robert Clark, 46 Lynton Road, Acton, W3 9HP.
 Mrs. Netta Coen & Family, 43 Hamlet Gardens, W.6.
 Philip, Dorrit & Elizabeth Cohen, 101 Madrid Road, London, S.W.13.
 Mrs. R. Cohen, 292 Latymer Court, London W6 7LD.
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Coleman, 14 Abbots House, W14 8NU
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W12.
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 Lilian and Bernard Davis, 60 Thamespoint, Fairways, Teddington, Middx.
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 Mr. & Mrs. H. Dwar, Philippa & Alan, 12 Flanders Road, W4 ING
 Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.
 Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge, Warwick Dene, W.5.
 Pauline & Joe Finkleman & Family, 291a High Road, Chiswick, W.4.
 Mr. & Mrs. N. Fishman, 5 Windsor House, Heathfield Gardens, W4 4JT.
 Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison Road, W.14.
 Juan and Manny Franks and Family, 54 Barons Keep, W.14.
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 Stella & Harry Gold and Mrs. Ada Hayman, 30 Emlyn Road, W.12.
 Minnie and Henry Gold and Family, 111 Barons Keep, Barons Court, W.14.
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 Hetty and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4.
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 Denise and Melvyn Lux, Danielle and Collette, Georgian House, 62 Traps Lane, Coombe Hill, Surrey.
 Mrs. Lily Lux, 87 North End House, W.14.
 Mrs. Hettie Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.
 Mr. B. Menton, Spencer House, Spencer Road, Chiswick, W.4
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 Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris, 115 Barons Keep, W.14.
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Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8.

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Shepherds Bush, W.12.

Hettie & Sidney Williams & Family, 28 Lime Court, Gipsy
Lane, Putney, S.W.15.

Elizabeth & Benjamin de Winter and Family, 109 Oakwood
Court, W.14.

Barry Winterman, 76 The Paddocks, Wembley Park, Middx.

Dinah & Philip Wisbey, Wendy & Bob, 2 Rupert Road,
London, W.4.

ROGER AND BLANCA CURTIS

now in Sydney, Australia, where they have joined their
Family, wish to extend their best wishes to everyone in the
Hammersmith Synagogue for the New Year and well over
the Fast.

BESSIE APFEL OF WILLESDEN wishes her Son,
Daughter-in-law, Sister, Grandchildren, Great grand-
children, Friends of Hammersmith Ladies' Guild, Friend-
ship Club, Willesden Friendship Club, Walm Lane Friend-
ship Club, A Healthy New Year, and a comfortable Day
of Fasting.

ANNUAL REPORT

In presenting the Annual Report for the past year we record with great sadness the passing of our dear colleagues Dr. Fred Tysh, a member of the Board of Management for many years, and Basil Benzimra, a former Financial Representative, and member of the Board of Management. There is no area of communal activity that did not benefit from their concern and active interest, and the Honorary Officers and Board of Management join in extending sincere condolences to their families. We know they will both be long remembered with great affection for the way in which they upheld and developed the welfare of our community in every possible way.

It was significant that the same spirit which had marked the 90th Anniversary Service was present throughout the remainder of the year. The 90th Anniversary Tour of Israel was particularly successful, and it has been suggested that if possible a further tour should be arranged for 1982. This is under consideration. A Tea was held for those who went on the Tour when photographs and slides were displayed. A donation was made in the Name of the Tour Party towards the cost of the redecoration of the Synagogue Hall ceiling to mark the Anniversary. There was also a most successful 90th Anniversary Supper Party organised by the Functions Committee.

The Annual Reception was held to present certificates to our Guests of Honour who this year were Mr. L. Shooman, Chasan Torah, and Mrs. Shooman, and Mr. S. Perbohner, Chasan Bereshis, and Mrs. Perbohner. We are pleased to record that a presentation of a Persian Hamadan Rug was made to the Synagogue by Mr. D. Perbohner to mark the occasion of his father being Chasan Bereshis. This is now placed on the Bimah and is a most interesting addition to the Synagogue.

The Succah was again beautifully decorated and prepared. Services for Sabbaths and Festivals were held, as is now usual, by Rev. Venitt with the assistance of Mr. Amias as Baal Shachris on the High Holydays. Jonathan Miller has regularly also acted as Baal Shachris for Sabbaths and Festivals and his help is very much appreciated.

We have continued to enjoy the excellent support of our voluntary Choir consisting of Miss R. Longhorn and Mrs. J. Harris. Their tuneful renderings never fail to provide both dignity and joy to our Services.

The Ladies Guild continues to be most active in the support of the community. We are most grateful for all that they do, and it is noteworthy that the Supper Entertainment Evening which they organised was a special success, both in financial and social terms.

This year we were able to join the celebrations of the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Godfrey. The occasion was marked by them by the presentation to the

Synagogue of a Sefer Torah which joins the Sefer already donated by Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey in memory of their parents.

A Special Kiddush was held after the Service on Shabbat Metzora, 11th April, during which Mr. Godfrey had read the Haftorah in a spirited and tuneful way which gave much pleasure. We extend our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey and their family and wish them many more happy anniversaries. In recognition of, and to commemorate the occasion the Hon. Officers and Board of Management have presented a framed edition of the Prayer for the Royal Family and the State of Israel to the Synagogue in their honour.

The Functions Committee enjoyed a successful year organising the 90th Anniversary Supper already mentioned, and also an evening reception on 10th May at which Mrs. Jean Caplan, J.P., gave a most interesting talk on her judicial work entitled 'Silence in Court'. We are very grateful to the Functions Committee members for the active support they give which has been helpful in many different ways.

It has proved possible this year to arrange the necessary repairs to the roof of the Synagogue Hall, and for the ceiling to be redecorated and the walls cleaned. We hope to undertake further repairs to the lighting next year.

We are very grateful to have been assisted during the year by the House Committee under their chairman Mr. Jack Langdon, as well as by our Caretaker Mrs. Englefield supported by her husband Tom.

The J.L.A. Committee led by its Chairman Dr. M. D. Caplan and its Treasurer Mr. J. Brand has continued its vital work for Israel, and it is hoped that all members will support them in their efforts.

A most successful meeting and exhibition organised by the Hammersmith Branch of AJEX and the local Community Relations Council was held on 11th January which was attended by Members of Parliament, Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Community Leaders and representatives of local religious communities.

We cannot conclude our report without recording our gratitude for the support and encouragement of Rev. and Mrs. Venitt who do so much throughout the year for the welfare of the community and for the members individually. We also express our thanks to our colleagues on the Board of Management, and representatives at the Council of the United Synagogue and Board of Deputies for their support, and to our Secretary Miss R. Longhorn.

We look forward to carrying on in the spirit of the 90th Anniversary year with renewed dedication to serve the community.

M. A. AMIAS
D. ARRAM
M. DEVRIES
Honorary Officers.

THE LADIES' GUILD

(In the Year of the Disabled)

On looking back over the past year, I can only quote from our Chairman's Report, that our committee meetings were well attended and apart from the business side have been enjoyed socially.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Supper & Entertainment. This being the year of the disabled and following the visit of a number of our Guild ladies to the J.L. Godfrey School for handicapped children in Ashkelon, part of the proceeds of the function were allocated to the school.

Our calendar was as in previous years very full indeed. The Succah was once again beautifully decorated and the Simchat Torah Reception was catered admirably. A fund-raising function was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. de Winter with Mrs. Velleman as guest pianist. This was a most enjoyable evening. As a result of this function and the Bring & Buy Tea held earlier in the year at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gold, donations were sent to British Women's ORT and the Jewish Welfare Board.

A kiddush was provided on Shabbat Chanukah and many kiddushim were catered for various simchot.

'Geranium Day' for the blind — our collection totalled over £200. Shavuot, and our 'Sponsor a plant' scheme was again in operation.

Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Godfrey celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and the guild catered the buffet Kiddush.

Our last function for the year was our Annual Bring and Buy Tea at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gold and as a result £100 will be sent to the hospital at Tottenham.

The Guild has undertaken to take a disabled lady to the Social Centre at Camden Town once a month.

REBECCA FOX
Hon. Secretary

Caretaker

We must again record our appreciation of our Caretaker, Stephanie, and her husband Tom.

Our Synagogue is always immaculate and a delight to see. The grounds are full of flowers and plants are very beautiful.

Stephie and Tom are always friendly and helpful, and we are pleased to take this opportunity of thanking them for their efforts on our behalf.

It is with sincere regret that we record that Mrs. Lewis, who has assisted Stephanie and our previous Caretaker, Mr. Howard, with the cleaning, passed away a few months ago and we send our condolences to her family.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

WEDDINGS

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

Norman Harold SEGALL to Susan Melanie COHN.
Alan Gerald AMIAS to Fay Aviva LUNZER.
Malcolm BENNETT to Caroline Dora GASSMAN.
Larry Philip MILLER to Susan Deborah WILLIAMS.

BARMITZVAHS

William GREEN Oliver SEARS
Hon. Jonathan MORRIS Grant SHAPPS

To those above, and to all members and their families who had celebrations during the year, we extend warmest felicitations.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a welcome to the following new members who joined the Synagogue during the past year:

Mr. & Mrs. M. BENNETT Mr. W. LEON
Dr. & Mrs. N. FIELDMAN Mr. & Mrs. L. MILLER
Mr. H. FAINLIGHT Mr. R. OSBAND
Mr. S. GRANT Dr. & Mrs. N. SEGALL
Mrs. A. HALFIN Mrs. E. WINTERMAN
Mrs. R. JESKY Mr. A. WEST
Mrs. A. POSNER

Gifts to the Synagogue

We record the following gifts to our Synagogue and tender our grateful thanks to all donors:

Persian Rug	Mr. D. Perbohner on the occasion of his Father being Chasan Bereishith
Sefer Torah	Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Godfrey on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding
Sefer Mantle	Miss Reina Longhorn in memory of her parents
Sefer Mantle	Mrs. R. Fox in memory of her parents
Sefer Mantle	Mr. & Mrs. D. Arram on their Silver Wedding
Rug for Brides Room	Mr. & Mrs. B. Topper
Refrigerator	Mr. & Mrs. S. Williams
Repair of Silver	Mr. M. Cutler

90th ANNIVERSARY TOUR OF ISRAEL

It was bitter cold in London on the morning of 6th November 1980 and those members of the party going on the 90th Anniversary Tour of Israel who had gathered at the Synagogue were muffled to the eyebrows. Talk of woolly vests and ski pants prevailed and no one could believe that in a matter of hours we should be pleasantly warm. However, although the weather was bleak our spirits were high because at last, after over a year of planning we were on our way. Fortified by tea and cake supplied by Stephie, and waved off by our Senior Warden we got away in good time, rendezvoused with the rest of our party at Heathrow and, after a superb flight, landed in Israel at 8 p.m. — a clear and balmy night. On the journey we had been given badges and 90th Anniversary souvenir keyrings and now Albany Travel presented us all with flight bags and red carnations for the ladies. Our journey from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem took another hour, and, after the hustle and bustle of the day we all felt our holiday had really begun when, on the outskirts of Jerusalem the coach paused for a few minutes while Rev. Venitt recited a short prayer and shecheyonu.

On arrival at our hotel we were greeted by a familiar face — Mr. Mick Yoffey, an erstwhile member of the Synagogue, who had emigrated to Israel with his daughter Fiona some eighteen months previously, had taken the trouble to come right across the town to meet us.

Our hotel looked across to the Old City and it was a delight to those whose rooms faced the front, to look across to the floodlit walls and towers and, in the morning to see the sun rise over the ancient buildings, on our first Friday.

Our Albany guide, appointed for our entire programme of excursions, proved to be an ex-Englishman, by the name of Joe Brett. His love and enthusiasm for Israel shone through all he showed and told us — in fact, after our feet had worn down to our knees, some of us thought his enthusiasm might have been tempered with a little mercy!! However on our first day we were treated gently, going by coach for a tour of Jerusalem, taking in the Knesset, Mount Scopus, Shrine of the Book and Yad Vashem. Lunch was taken at a cafeteria and it was a pleasure to find that English currency seemed to be acceptable everywhere — all shop assistants were equipped with pocket calculators, and instant conversions were a matter of seconds.

In the evening, after some of the party had been to Service at the Hechal Shlomo Synagogue, we had a special Kiddush at the hotel for our party, all tables being served with a bottle of wine.

Saturday, being Shabbos, we spent a quiet morning, some of the party going to Synagogue, others for a stroll to the Windmill which is a present day artists' colony and music centre.

We were on half-board at the hotel but eating difficulties were overcome by our party leaders, Dr. Denis Caplan and David Arram, who arranged with the nearby Plaza Hotel to serve us with a large a la carte lunch, settled in bulk by American Express (that will be quite all right, sir!) and paid individually after Shabbos was over, a compromise worthy of Solomon himself.

At two o'clock Joe Brett met us and we proceeded to the Old City for a fascinating tour through all the four quarters. Apart from the twisting alleyways and the veritable "holes in the wall" where tailors, carpenters and shopkeepers of all sorts plied their trade, the high emotional spot was, of course, the Wall where we said our individual prayers and, in most part, found our feelings too deep for speech. Afterwards we ascended to the Dome of the Rock and went into the Al Aksar Mosque (where the murderers of St. Thomas a Becket were buried) and the Mosque of Omar where, astonishingly, the bare rock rises in the middle of the floor. This rock is purported to bear the footprint of Mahomet and his whiskers are preserved behind glass (we tried telling this to the Marines!). Under the main hall, which is magnificently carpeted there is a small crypt which is even more holy and Muslims come here to sit and recite the Koran. As all true believers remove their shoes before entering the Mosque the aroma in this confined space was fairly pungent — one has heard of the odour of sanctity, but this was a bit much. — Our exhaustive — and exhausting — tour ended after dark in the Jewish Quarter where old Yeshivas had been rebuilt and were now flourishing once more.

On Sunday we took our first whole day tour — to the Qumran Caves and Masada. The drive through the desert, past Bedouin encampments, with the occasional oasis, prepared us for the bleak area of the caves. The excavations were still in the earth scratched stage, but it was not difficult to imagine the excitement when the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls became known. Masada was something else again, its great bulk rising from the plain, and it was almost eerie to realise that all the details of the campaign which Josephus had chronicled nearly two thousand years ago had, by modern technology of aerial detection and ground excavation, been proved in almost every detail. Only some 14 of our party undertook the last hard climb right to the top, the rest of us being content to stop where the cable cars landed and enjoy the view across to the Dead Sea. On the way back we made a short stop at the Dead Sea, not really long enough to bathe, but it was most amusing to watch other holiday makers plastering themselves with the mud, which has health giving mineral properties — instant Kentucky Minstrels in bikinis and bathing trunks.

After a free day on Monday spent shopping or contacting friends we prepared to leave for Natanyah, by way of Ashkelon

and a "surprise" stop. Our coach driver hitherto an Arab, had been replaced and, when our 'surprise' turned out to be a visit to an Army Camp, we understood why. Here we were shown all aspects of training for the Tank Corps, our instructors being both men and women officers. Our one and a half hour stay was not only fascinating and informative, it also brought home to us the vital necessity for financial support from those of us living outside Israel. The cost of merely firing one shell is around £700 (one of the reasons why a lot of the training is carried out on highly sophisticated simulators) while the full training from conscription to officer class works out at nearly £100,000. While we all pray that peace will come and prevail, nothing that has happened in the last thirty years has led us to think that any guard can be dropped and until the economy can be diverted to civilian needs it must be bolstered up by those still in the Galut.

At Ashkelon we proceeded immediately to the Godfrey School where we were entertained to a programme of song, dance and acting by the children before being taken round the school and having lunch. Considering that all the pupils are handicapped, to a greater or less degree, the standard of scholarship and imagination are extraordinary. Speeches at lunch were given by Mr. Godfrey, the young Mayor of Ashkelon and Rev. Venitt and when we left the Headmaster had the wherewithal for a Chanukah treat from our party.

Great Britain J.L.A. has undertaken the re-habilitation of the whole town of Ashkelon — a task named Project Renewal, and before going on to Natanyah we paid a short visit to a Dental Clinic which is manned by dentists from this country who give their services free for a few weeks at a time.

As night fell we approached Natanyah to find our hotel beautifully situated on the cliff top, all rooms having a balcony overlooking the sea. Here we were to stay for the rest of our holiday, mostly free to plan our own diversions, but with two whole day trips to come.

On Thursday we assembled for our first tour to Tiberias, but on checking our numbers found that one of our senior members, Mrs. Rose Cohen, was missing, and she was found collapsed in her bathroom. Luckily we had two doctors in our party, so help was available at once and an ambulance was quickly called to take Mrs. Cohen to the nearby Laniado Hospital. To tell the outcome of this sad happening it was diagnosed that Mrs. Cohen had suffered a stroke and she passed away on the following Sunday. Albany Travel performed wonders in tracing and contacting her son and daughter and getting them on flights to Israel and they were both with her at the end. Although we were all shocked and distressed it was a great comfort to us all to hear that on the very day that the daughter

heard of her mother's illness she had received a card from her mentioning what a good time she was having and how well she was being looked after by her friends on the tour.

It was decided to go on with our day tour and we proceeded along the coast road stopping at Kibbutz Ginossar for coffee and Kibbutz Ayelet Hashachar for lunch. We had stopped briefly at the Golani Junction where we had the opportunity to plant trees to commemorate our visit, and our 90th Anniversary. The trees are cypress and the spot is near the road so if anyone is in Israel now they can check on the progress of "our" trees.

The day continued with a visit to the Golan Heights, our coach having skirted the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the "Good Fence" where Lebanese are allowed into Israel for medical treatment, and Banias where the Jordan rises.

Friday and Saturday were free days and activities varied from simply lazing by the hotel pool to venturing afield visiting friends. The evenings were enlivened by the exchange of adventures from being 'chatted up' by some American visitors to getting lost in the "shuk" in Tel Aviv. On Friday evening the hotel laid on a special dinner, served in a private room so that we felt we were one large family sharing our Shabbos meal. Some of us attended the nearest Synagogue which was one large room with the sexes separated by a screen most fashioned of a sort of macrame openwork which had the effect of protecting the property without in any way obscuring the view!

Sunday came with our last arranged trip which was to Caesarea and Acre by way of Haifa. The Roman Amphitheatre at Caesarea was a most impressive sight and one could imagine performances of Greek and Latin drama there with the sound of the sea providing the background. The panorama from the top of Mount Carmel, with Haifa laid out before one was beautiful, but one would think that this would be even surpassed by the view from the sea after dark.

Acre, always most interesting to anyone familiar with English history, with its connection with Richard Lionheart and the Crusaders has been made even more so in the last ten years with the discovery of an entire complex of buildings dating back to Crusader times under the hill where the notorious jail once stood. Halls, refectories and even a secret passage to the sea have been unearthed while up and above rooms have been laid out showing the various peoples who have occupied Acre down the centuries. This, to more than one of the party, proved a high spot of the tour. Having spent some time in Acre we were almost too late to go down to the sea grotto at Rosh Haniqra, but an intrepid few, who were fleet of foot managed to catch the last cable car and were suitably impressed.

Almost imperceptibly our last few days sped away and too soon our last evening came. Once again the hotel had given us

a private room and we all gathered for a farewell reception and dinner. We had come on this tour as forty four people, some acquainted with others, some strangers, but we all felt that we had blended into a group of real friends. There had been no arguments, or splinter groups, and we sat down to dinner as a family. Speeches and presentations were made to our leaders and "backroom" workers which were all received with acclamation. Dr. Caplan made an eloquent appeal for support for the J.I.A., and our experiences over the last two weeks moved many of us to sign pledges then and there.

The next day we left Natanya early in the morning to catch our flight home, and after a good journey and no trouble at the customs, even for those who had bought items at the Diamond factory we visited, we were back in Hammersmith in the early afternoon.

Our memories — first the weather, which kept good for us even though we were in Israel after the usual time when the rains began.

The handsome boys and girls at the Training Camp — G-d keep them safe from the perils of war.

The Wall — both at morning and evening, never without someone there praying or merely sitting quietly meditating.

The beautiful grounds of Kibbutz Ayelet Hashachar and the gleam of the golden roof of the Bahai Temple in Haifa.

The children — our hope of the future — from many lands and cultures, but now all Israelis, all with the stamp of that confidence which has known no persecution and will, we feel, tolerate none as they grow into men and women.

The Chassidim, and the Mea Shearim quarter with its apparent squalor contrasted to the exotic clothing of some of the residents — wide beaver hats, gold lame coats over cream silk tunics (that was the man — his wife was, like the birds, a much less flamboyant sight).

Well, our holiday was over, but unlike many arranged tours, this was not quite the end. Ten days after our return we met once more, in the Synagogue Hall, to show our snaps and slides which were now developed, and to talk over our experiences. We had all had a truly memorable time and had formed and increased friendships which, we felt sure, would last well beyond this 90th Anniversary Year.

R.L.

ל שנה טובה

**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

**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
722 6358

OBITUARIES

THE LATE MR. BASIL BENZIMRA

The death of Basil Benzimra came as a great shock to all who knew him. Although his activities were spread over a wide field, the Hammersmith Congregation always had a warm place in his heart.

His father was a pillar of the community for many years, and his dear mother Betty, may she be spared, kept open house for the whole of that period. Basil himself became deeply involved in many aspects of communal activity, as a member of the Board of Management, and for a time, as Financial Representative.

After his marriage to Rebecca Mizrahi, the family tradition of hospitality was continued in their own home. Basil had a brilliant brain, but also possessed personal qualities which made him universally loved, admired and respected. He was a very modest man. He was forthright, but never unkind. He was decisive, without being aggressive. A staunch Jew, he never spared himself in the defence and service of his people. As Mr. Clifford Lawton wrote of him, "He was widely regarded as a linchpin in the many organisations to which he belonged, and there will be few who will not in some way be impoverished by the passing of an outstanding individual."

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his dear wife Rebecca, herself a beloved figure in our Community, to his dear mother, and the sons and daughters.

THE LATE DR. FRED S. TYSH

The death of Dr. Fred Tysh which occurred last Spring, has occasioned much sorrow and caused a void in the community.

He was a popular figure in the Synagogue and was for many years a member of the Board of Management and the J.I.A. Committee. Fred was a great intellect, possessed of charm and dignity, and a wry sense of humour. Reared and educated in Vienna, he practised for a while as a lawyer. But music and lyric-writing was his first love, and he soon achieved name and fame with a number of musical hits, internationally acclaimed. He collaborated with Richard Tauber, Franz Lehar and many others. During 1938-9, he spent a whole year in the notorious Concentration Camps of Dachau and Buchenwald. On his release he came to London where he met Ilse. They married in 1947. His experiences in Germany left a deep scar which never healed. He had come from a very religious background. For him Yom Kippur was also Memorial Day for all his perished relatives.

Once settled in this country, his musical activities had virtually to be halted. Yet even today, the name of Fred Tysh features in many a revival of famous musicals of those earlier days.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Ilse, Ian, his brother Max and the rest of the family.

THE LATE MR. JOHN M. SHAFTESLEY

It is with profound regret that we learned of the death in August of Mr. John Maurice Shaftesley, a former editor of the Jewish Chronicle. We in Hammersmith owe him a special debt of gratitude, because for a number of years he took over the Editorship of The Brook. With his expertise, he raised the quality, tone and presentation of our Magazine, and gave it the format it still retains today.

Our sympathies to his widow and daughter.

WOMEN OF WORTH

Once upon a time the ladies of the Jewish Community knitted matinee coats for underprivileged babies, they repaired Synagogue appurtenances, raised monies for charitable causes and worked diligently behind the scenes prior to the festivals.

Year after year the ladies took it upon themselves to work for the good of the community. They visited the sick in hospital, discreetly assisted people with problems and were available to give help whenever needed.

As times changed so did they. The knitting was discontinued (there just wasn't enough babies who wanted matinees). They held their meetings in the evenings instead of afternoons, for many were continuing with their jobs so were not available to attend meetings during the day. And because women were experienced in the professions and business, they wished to use their expertise and capabilities in helping to administer communal affairs. What a furor that caused! Nevertheless, although progress was slow, today, for those women who wish, there is opportunity albeit limited, to voice their opinion and offer advice alongside those male members of the community who likewise choose to give service.

Some in the Jewish community have accepted this evolution or revolution with bad grace and some, not at all, and some like Hammersmith have welcomed the added strength that enthusiastic people give to community.

Now women are invited to sit on Boards of Management as observers — some are deputies to the Board of Deputies and the most recent innovation, two women officially attend as observers at meetings of the Kashrus Commission.

Today, the Ladies Guilds are still the backbone of the Synagogue life. Fashioned a little differently in the new communities — changing with the times in the established ones.

This is a story that will never end, the story of the Women of Worth.

MABEL PHILLIPS

FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

During the past year the Functions Committee have presented two Socials, both very well supported by members and friends.

The first, on Sunday 14th December 1980, was a Supper Evening, celebrating the end of our 90th Anniversary Year. The entertainment, given by Rev. Robbins, consisted of songs, jokes and some beautifully rendered Chazanuth. The evening proved very successful and was enjoyed by all.

The second function was a Tea/Social on Sunday 10th May 1981 when Mrs. Jean Caplan J.P. gave a very interesting talk on her experiences as a magistrate entitled "Silence in Court". This was followed by tea, sandwiches and pastries after which Mrs. Caplan answered many questions from the audience.

These functions provided the funds for the redecoration of the ceiling in the Hall and the cleaning of all paintwork, and repairs to the roof.

Future functions will be arranged, the next being a Chanukah Supper on Sunday 20th December. Further particulars will be sent to members in due course, but in the meantime please make a note of the date.

Members are asked to give their full support to all the events arranged by a very hardworking committee not only for their entertainment, but also to help provide funds to help our synagogue finance the repairs, renovations and improvements that are always needed.

D.A.

Synagogue Israel Tour

Following the successful 90th Anniversary Tour of Israel (see report on pp. 13-17) we are, by popular request, arranging a Tour in November 1982.

Will all member and friends who would like to participate please send their names to our Financial Representative — Mr. David Arram.

A meeting of all those interested will be held early in 1982, when all details will be available.

D.A.

Hammersmith WIZO

I am most grateful to the few faithful who continue to support our local branch. That has encouraged me to continue my work into the sixty-first year. The Annual dues continue to come in, and we still collect over £100 for Jewish Woman's Week.

We would welcome more subscribers to our list. Please ring me.

JEANIE CAPLAN
748 2727

JOINT ISRAEL APPEAL

It was a most stimulating, and enjoyable experience to be part of the Synagogue group which travelled to Israel last November. The J.I.A. marked the occasion by organising a visit to a Tank Training Depot, and provided lunch at the Godfrey School in Ashkelon. All of us were deeply moved by the entertainment, and warm welcome given by the children and staff, and the Mayor was also present.

Whilst in Ashkelon we had the opportunity of seeing something of Project Renewal, and I am sure that many of us came away with a much better understanding of the problems of urban poverty in Israel. We also visited the volunteer Dental Clinic which is doing such wonderful work.

This year's appeal meeting took place at the Communal Hall on Yom Ha'atzmaut, and was in the form of a cocktail party, film, and appeal. The total sum raised was £9,409 — an increase of £3,000 on the 1980 appeal, but well below previous years. There were 57 contributors. The Kol Nidre Appeal raised over £4,500.

At no time since the establishment of the State has Israel been more isolated, and the loyal support of Jewish communities throughout the world is needed more than ever before. We can play our part, not just by contributing money, but also by learning something of the facts about Israel in relation to her neighbours, and thereby spread goodwill and truth at a time when there is a propaganda war directed against Israel, not only by the media but also on University campuses.

I would appeal to members to come forward and work with us on the J.I.A. Committee. You will find it, both rewarding and interesting. Our meetings are always held in a social atmosphere. Please give us your help and support. DENIS CAPLAN

Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

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

★

50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

Friendship Club Report 1980-81

I am pleased to report another busy year which gives great pleasure to us all.

A party of our members enjoyed a lovely holiday at Folkestone. Still in a happy mood, we celebrated our 29th Birthday Chanukah Party with invited guests, and Rev. & Mrs. S. Venitt, a great success as always. Further enjoyment with our Bring and Buy Sale, which was very good, considering merchandise is a problem due to inflation.

Entertainment by the Council has been restricted due to the recession.

Our Chairman, being a good pianist, we can enjoy our afternoons with the piano and a sing song. Still with our Chairman, we discovered she is also a painter, a display of her work was much enjoyed, and a member found a picture which gave her pleasure. We have had half day outings to various beauty spots which everyone enjoyed. Our next half day outing is a mystery tour, we hope the weather treats us well to complete our day. Another lovely holiday at Folkestone was enjoyed by members. Bingo sessions continue to be fun, and afternoons just to chat and gossip are always enjoyable to the members.

In 1980 George Wimpey Ltd. celebrated their centenary. In 1981 grants to Hammersmith and Fulham Borough were made through a committee of members from H.F.V.S.C. and Age Concern. We were advised by letter to make application to the fund, which we did, and were delighted to receive a gift which resulted in helping with our outings.

Old friends have left us — this makes us sad, but new ones join to enjoy our friendship days. And may we continue to remember those unable to be with us of old.

Mrs. MARY WILSON
Hon. Secretary

Hammersmith & Fulham Council for Racial Equality – Annual Report 1980-81 (Extract)

Another very significant development this year has been the initiative taken by the Jewish Community in organising and hosting the first of a series of Community Relations Seminars aimed at bringing together ethnic minority communities and the majority communities in efforts to bring about better understanding between and amongst them.

This first Seminar was an enormous success. We hope to make this event a regular feature in our work and have approached other ethnic minority communities to host similar occasions.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM

HETTY & DAVID BALONOV

148, CONINGHAM ROAD, W.17

with their families

JOYCE & DAVID KIPNES,

with

LIANE, IAN and DANIEL

OF LONG ISLAND, U.S.A.

and

GLORIA DEANER, J.P.,

& JULIAN DEANER

with

KATHARINE, ADAM & EMMA

OF 26 GREENHALGH WALK,

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, N.2,

AND OF CANN, MELBURY ABBAS, DORSET,

AND OF MEDWAY HOUSE, SHEPHERDS' BUSH ROAD, W.6.

Hammersmith & W. Kensington Synagogue Combined Charities Fund

We are pleased to let the congregation of the Synagogue know that the Combined Charities Fund has now been revitalised. In the past, this Committee has carried out its duty by supporting numerous diverse deserving causes by way of donations, but unfortunately, membership had become somewhat depleted. It was left to the Chairman and the Treasurer to administer the Fund and upon the recent resignation of the Treasurer, Mr. B. Davis, FCIS, to whom thanks and appreciation are extended for so many years devoted service and expert advice, there was only Mr. H. Sharpe, the Chairman, to run the CCF affairs single-handed.

The re-formed Committee is fortunate in having retained Mr. Sharpe as Chairman, electing Mr. H. H. Reick, FCA, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. A. S. Bankover Hon. Secretary, with Rev. and Mrs. S. Venitt and Mr. L. Sommer serving on the Committee.

While suggestions are invited where the Fund may assist lesser known charities, congregants might also consider supporting the Committee by sending a donation. However small — it will be well used.

Correspondence please to the Honorary Secretary, A. S. Bankover, 47 Emyln Road, W12 9TF.

It was Open Day at Hammersmith Synagogue

It was Open Day at the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue on 11 January when, by invitation of our fellow-parishioners Mr. and Miss Langdon, nine of us represented St. Dunstan's at a large assembly of community-workers and church-people. The Rabbi explained something of Jewish faith and practice to us, and described the appointments of this beautiful building. We then moved into the adjacent hall where there was a striking display of objects related to Judaism — a Passover meal, a Sabbath meal, devotional books, a wedding canopy, and so forth — and the officers of the Synagogue were on hand to talk about these to the visitors. The Rabbi called us to order with some resounding blasts on the ram's horn, and we had some absorbing and moving speeches on aspects of community relations among the religious, racial and cultural minorities in our midst. Tea was then announced, and we all circulated cup-in-hand — Jew and Gentile, worshipper and secularist — for amicable exchanges of views on the basis of our common humanity. It was a most heartwarming occasion, and we thank all our friends at the Synagogue for the great welcome they gave us and for the efforts that they put into organising it all. (RNGR)

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE STUDENTS

By Jonathan M. Miller

It has often been said, "schooldays are the happiest days of your life". Do you remember what life was like when you were at school or University? When you now talk to students, do you with hindsight think in terms of your own years in full time education? If the answer to these questions is yes, then this article may surprise you. Why? Because, in the words of the song, "fings ain't wot they used to be". The granting of student representation on the Board of Deputies has highlighted the more prominent position students have attained. You may wonder what makes students so special today to merit extra attention. One answer is that more than ever the majority of our future leaders will rise from the ranks of today's undergraduates. So students are a good insurance for the future and one where, G-d willing, the initial premium will be repaid many times over.

In the meantime, there is still much to be gained today from the students body, an asset which I feel is unfortunately largely ignored. It is truly said that "youth rebels against the establishment" but it is too often forgotten that the protest may be justified. As one example, examine the religious education offered by the community. The Jewish secondary school in or near London, by which I mean JFS, Carmel and Hasmonean, cater for very different sections of the community but by no means for all. For those young people whose education is limited to Cheder, their knowledge is a very, very poor second best. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Clive Lawton the Education Officer of the Board of Deputies and many others have loudly declared that our part time education needs a radical overhaul. Exactly the sentiments expressed by young people, all too often ignored. To a large extent the Sunday Cheder has become a maze of confusion and boredom on the path to understanding. As students who have relatively recently emerged from the Cheder classroom we know what did not appeal and, in far too many cases, turns people away from our religion. I was very lucky that my years at Cheder were spent with excellent teachers in classes which were not too large. However, around the country, this appears to be the exception rather than the rule.

Moreover the student body not only deserves the attention of the community; we need it and very badly too. I have recently ended my first year as an undergraduate. During this time we have escaped a debate on Zionism (one which being outnumbered by Arab students we would have lost) by the thankful demise of the society arranging it, encountered an Arab speaker from the West Bank University Bir Zeit on the subject of Israeli repression on the West Bank, engaged in correspondence on this subject in our student newspaper and had a Jewish

anti-Zionist speaking to our Iranian Society. This, in one of the quietest, most apolitical and pro-Zionist colleges in London! With conditions like these, and far worse, in our Universities, all help is welcome. Our own student organisation, the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) does what it can and it was through the work of their research officer hearing the Bir Zeit speaker at the City Polytechnic the previous day, that enabled us to go into the meeting at Imperial armed with a large number of awkward questions and knowing in advance what the speech would be about. This advantage would not have occurred had I not contacted the people at UJS and had a friend who is now chairman of the Jewish Society at City Polytechnic; thus did Imperial benefit by being the fourth largest Jewish Society in London.

Pity those Jewish students who may be alone on a campus where anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic graffiti is commonplace and where students are attacked for walking about with their heads covered. Pity those societies which find themselves banned because their student Union has agreed with the United Nations that Zionism is Racism. Feel for those brave individuals such as the young lady at Ealing College who tried to put up a few posters and start a Jewish Society only to find half the posters torn down and the rest covered with graffiti. Are you surprised? These events are frequent and far worse occurs. It is through necessity that there has been a Jewish student movement in this country for over sixty years but this is still, obviously, a real achievement. Of the youth groups which were not youth clubs formed in recent years YJAR the Young Jews Against Racism and the National Jewish Youth Council have both died quietly, leaving only the Soviet Jewry Youth Groups and the Association of Jewish Sixth Formers (AJ6) carrying on their work. Of these the Youth Council for Soviet Jewry has almost disappeared, the Students and Academics Campaign for Soviet Jewry was started as a student group and AJ6 was formed initially to prepare and educate future students for the anti-Zionist propaganda now prevalent at University. The obvious success of those groups organised for or, more usually, by students is a result of the deep need for them in the foreseeable future.

Still there are too few students trying to do too much and all help is welcome. There are signs of student-community co-operation around the country but there is always room for more. Also, while it is heartening to hear of the collaboration in the formation of a Defence group in Leeds or about the many generous people who invite students home for Shabbat lunch, it is heartrending to sit at a Hillel Executive meeting and hear of squabbling (there really is no other word for it) between the community and students in places such as Oxford and Exeter. In London, where most Jewish students live at home, the needs are slightly different but all too often students who are known

to be living away from home are ignored. In Golders Green (of all places!) no synagogue has bothered to try and contact the students living in the Golders Green Hillel. It is heart-warming that I belong to a synagogue which is concerned about students and which felt hurt, quite rightly, that the Shepherds Bush Hillel in Addison Gardens was opened without any notification by the local Bnei Brith Lodge.

At the beginning of the new University year in October we will be holding a students Shabbat at our Shul when the students from this Hillel will be invited to a special Kiddush for them. Something like this means a great deal to students; after all who doesn't like to be shown that someone cares about them. It also means a great deal to us as a synagogue community. It shows that we are trying to do our part in increasing the dialogue between two parts of the community — the students and the experienced — a dialogue which is essential if we are to correct the wrongs in the Jewish community and if we are to cater more fully for the needs of the future.

Special Note on Visitation

Rev. Venitt has requested that members notify him when they or any members of their family go into hospital. This also applies to people who are sick at home and would like a visit. Being a somewhat scattered community, it should never be assumed that he will automatically get to know.

He would also like it to be known, that as from November, he will no longer be making regular visits as Chaplain to either Charing Cross or Hammersmith Hospitals.

Synagogue Notices

In order to keep the Synagogue tidy, special bookcases were installed. Members are kindly requested to replace books in the cases, and not to slip them into their seats after the Service.

We possess an excellent library, which was installed when the new block was built.

Members wishing to borrow books, please contact the Hon. Librarian, Miss R. Longhorn at 602 1405 (Sunday mornings) and make an appointment.

Gifts for the Succah

The Succah will be ready for decorating on Sunday 11th October.

Gifts of flowers, foliage, wine, etc. will be gratefully accepted, also donations toward the purchase of cakes. It will be greatly appreciated if members could send their gifts on Friday 9th October or early on the Sunday morning.

THE LANIADO HOSPITAL

"It is an ill wind that does no one any good" says the adage, and it was only because of the fatal illness of one of our party on the Shool trip to Israel, last November, that our attention was drawn to the Laniado Hospital.

The hospital is situated in Kiryat Sanz, a very orthodox community close to Netanya. It was founded by the Klausenburger Rebbe who was incarcerated in one of the Nazi concentration camps. During that time he was wounded in the arm and was implored by other inmates not to go to the camp hospital, nor to allow the camp doctor to treat him as they might experiment on him. Accordingly, he treated his own wounds with leaves from plants, and they gradually healed. It was then that he vowed that if he ever got out of the camp alive he would found a hospital to which no one would ever be afraid to go. In his own words, "During these days of terror I resolved that when, and if the Almighty extricates me from this hell, I will dedicate my life, every fibre of my soul, to the service of the Almighty by doing Zedakah and Chesed in the manner prescribed by the Almighty."

The Laniado Hospital was first founded as a maternity hospital, and has now become a general hospital in a new modern building, and supported entirely by private funds, which the Klausenburger Rebbe and his son collect from all over the world — some £60,000 per month.

The hospital is shomrei shabbat, and all drugs used are kosher, except where there is no substitute. Every member of the staff must agree to be on duty for Shabbat, on a rota basis, and on Shabbat all notes are written by a "shabbos goy" who accompanies the doctor on his rounds. Only essential treatment is carried out on Shabbat, and patients may call for assistance by an ingenious method which does not involve the ringing of a bell, or the switching on of a light. Rather does the method depend on the exposure of a light which was put on before Shabbat commenced. Lifts are automatic, stopping at every floor, and injections which have to be given on Shabbat are prepared beforehand. Any halachic-medical matter can be referred to a Rabbi who is attached to the hospital, and this would be particularly important in the case of termination of pregnancy.

The chief pharmacist is a red-bearded Lubavitch rabbi who is in communication with pharmaceutical firms throughout the world to ensure that the ingredients of new drugs are kosher.

Attached to the hospital is a new school of nursing, started in 1978 with 15 students, and founded and directed by Rachel Sklar Morowitz, wife of Rabbi Morowitz from America, who is the Public Relations Officer for the hospital. The intake of girls to the Nursing School is mainly from the orthodox families in Kiryat Sanz, but many difficulties had to be overcome before

these families would allow their daughters to learn nursing, and this including the vetting of textbooks and the pictures they contained, and the nursing of male patients. Gradually these problems have been resolved, and there are now 55 students training at any one time.

It says much for the Rabbinic and hospital authorities that compromise on both sides has allowed the development of a first class nursing programme of a very high standard.

The hospital is now in the process of completing a chronic sick block, the only one of its kind in Israel. Funds are urgently needed for furnishings, wheelchairs, and beds. One hospital bed can cost £900.

I would commend a visit to the hospital for anyone going to Netanya. It is an experience which has left a deep impression upon me, and if there is anyone in the Community who would be prepared to form a Friends Committee it would be a very great mitzvah.

M.D.C.

CHAD GADYA, CHAD GADYA

Everyone knows the joyful song with which the Seder Service ends on Passover. The first line which is also the refrain "One kid, one kid which my father bought for two zuzim One Kid, One Kid". But how much is two zuzim and what sort of coin was one zuz? Every one knows that last year the Israeli Government changed its unit of currency from the Israeli Lira to the Shekel which was also the unit of currency for the Jewish people in Bible times. But how much do we really know about the Shekel and did it have any relationship with the Zuz.

My idle thoughts on this subject were stirred whilst I was listening to the beautiful Haftorah from Jeremiah Chapter 32 which is read on Shabbat Behar (the last but one of the Book of Leviticus). In the Haftorah we are told that the Divine Message came to Jeremiah saying "Buy the field of Hanamel the son of thine uncle Shallum, for the right of redemption is thine". This took place in the year 587 B.C.E. whilst Jerusalem was besieged by the Babylonians and a short time before the city was captured, the First Temple destroyed and the beginning of the period of Babylonian exile. Jeremiah was told to buy the field notwithstanding this dark hour in Jewish History because of the Divine Promise "For thus saith the L-rd of Hosts, the G-d of Israel, houses and fields and vineyards shall yet again be bought in this land". And Jeremiah bought the field and according to the literal Hebrew wording the price paid was "Seven Shekalim and ten of silver. This phrase is translated in the Hertz Chumash as seventeen pieces of silver and in the Dr. A. Cohen Soncino Chumash as seventeen shekels of silver. Neither book has a note on the phrase. This is strange, because in the Aramaic translation of the Hebrew text (Targum Jonathan) this phrase

is translated as seven **manehs** and ten Sela'im of silver. Kimchi in his commentary states clearly that the word shekalim in the text refers to manehs and the (ten) of silver refers to sela'im and quotes the Targum in support. This translation of the text introduces a new dimension, for how much is a maneh and how much is a sela?

It should be noted that this translation of shekalim is an exception and proves the rule that a Shekel in any ordinary context is the same as a sela and is generally equal to it in value. But how much is a maneh? Here reference books differ, some saying that a maneh was worth sixty shekels and some that a maneh was worth fifty shekels. Both statements are correct! It depends whether before or after revaluation of the currency. (There is really nothing new under the sun.) This revaluation took place during the lifetime of Ezekiel, the prophet of the Exile, who followed after Jeremiah. There is a puzzling text in Ezekiel Chapter 45, Verse 12 which reads "And the shekel shall be twenty gerahs; twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, ten and five shekels shall be your maneh". On this verse, there is commentary from every source including Targum Jonathan, Rashi, Kimchi and Metzudat David. Space does not allow me to quote from these sources but readers who are interested will find they repay studying.

I shall try and summarize the deductions made from this verse as briefly as possible. By way of introduction I would like to quote from the Soncino Ezekiel (Commentary by Rabbi S. Fisch M.A.). Here is the salient part of the note on verse 12: ". . . the tradition which is found in the Talmud (Bechoroth 50 a, b) which interprets the verse as follows: The original value of the Shekel in the time of Moses was twenty gerahs (cf. Exod. 30.13; Lev. 27.25). In Ezekiel's period the value of the Shekel was **increased** by a fifth to twenty-four gerahs, and the Shekel of the Torah was made equal to the Tyrian Sela. Therefore it is here pointed out that of the original Shekel (of twenty gerahs) there shall be pieces of twenty, twenty-five, ten and five Shekels sixty in all in the new **sacred** money; but of the new Shekel consisting of twenty-four gerahs there will be only fifty in the sacred and twenty five in the common maneh. The reason why four different units are enumerated in the verse is that they were in use in those denominations".

Finally I would only add the following remarks:

- (1) The sacred Shekel (Shekel HaKodesh) was always twice the value of the common Shekel.
- (2) It is generally agreed that the Shekel was equal to four zuzim. By a somewhat roundabout route we have arrived at a figure for the kid in the Hagadah bought for two zuzim. Most authorities would agree that these two zuzim were equal in value to half-a-shekel.

H.S.

THE CHARIOT OF ISRAEL – A Review

I had the privilege to attend the Literary Luncheon of the Balfour Diamond Jubilee Trust in honour of Sir Harold Wilson to mark the publication of his book, THE CHARIOT OF ISRAEL (published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson) on Tuesday May the 5th at the King David Suite. And as Greville Janner QC, MP, writes in his review of the Book "No Prime Minister — and no Non-Jewish Politician — has better understood or more greatly respected the aspirations of the Jewish People and the aspiration-ideals of Zionism and of the Jewish State".

It is a magnificent book, from the story of the diaspora up to the present, and even if the fact that most of the material is well known from so many of the memoirs of others, the documentation of events, Parliamentary reports, exchange of letters between Ministers, USA Presidents etc., are eye openers.

To me, reading the book, two events seemed important to be recorded. One to show how a chance comment resulted in causing the Jewish battle for a home in Eretz tremendous harm. The other one, later, how the appearance of one man helped us against adversaries to win the battle for the establishment of the State.

Now Story No. 1

After the post-war election in 1945 — Churchill recalled from the Potsdam Conference, Attlee was appointed Prime Minister. There was a story strongly believed in those days, that Attlee submitted his Cabinet list to the late King George VI; it included Hugh Dalton as Foreign Secretary and Ernie Bevin as Chancellor of the Exchequer, jobs for which Attlee considered them well fitted. The King, it was said, used his constitutional rights and experience to query the post for Dalton. Attlee about to leave for the Potsdam Summit, promptly switched the two.

The switch is also confirmed in Attlee's memoirs!

"One wonders", writes Harold Wilson, "how different middle eastern history might have been over the past 30 years had the original postings held firm?" A generation of Labour spokesmen was committed to the Balfour Declaration — to a National Home for the Jews in Palestine and against the infamous 1939 White Paper. Hugh Dalton was a supporter of the Jewish cause! Bevin was not!!

May I paraphrase Sir Harold's question, by asking how many lives — British and Jewish could have been saved, even wars avoided and peace established, if the King — even with the best intentions would not have suggested the "Switch"?

And now Story No. 2

After Britain, under Bevin's command of Foreign and Middle East policy failed completely in its efforts to stabilize the situation (intercepting the ships bringing the survivors from the concentration camps — internment in Cyprus — shooting by the Royal Navy — returning Jews to Germany etc.) the mandate was

relinquished and the United Nations were in March 1945 debating the partition plan. This was suggested by the Anglo-American Commission, established on the urgent suggestion of President Truman. The Jewish Agency accepted the plan. Britain delayed, procrastinated!! May 1948. Weizmann — ill in London — Eban — Dayan — worked hard to have President Truman's help on the Jewish State Idea. But the President weakened. He was irked by the persistence and orchestration shown by America's own counter-productive Zionists. He later wrote, 'I do not think I ever had as much pressure and propaganda aimed at the White House, as in this instance. As the pressure mounted, I found it necessary to give instructions that I did not want to be approached by anyone for the Zionist cause. I was so perturbed that I put off seeing Dr. Weizmann.' This is a quotation from President Truman's book, Years of Trial page 165.

Eban sent an urgent cable to Dr. Weizmann, who was in London, in which he urged him to cross the Atlantic, because, "most crucial phase, we miss your presence!" Weizmann had to see Truman, but Truman did not want to see anyone.

Abba Hillel Silver, leader of the American Zionists contacted a man — not a Zionist — a Kansas City Jew — a friend and former business partner of the President in a clothing store, which failed, Mr. Eddie Jacobson and he persuaded the President to see Chaim Weizmann.

It is worth recording a passage from Jacobson's letter to the President:

Andrew Jackson, (seventh and one of the greatest Presidents of the USA) He's been your hero all your life — hasn't he? You have probably read every book there is on Jackson. I remember we had the store, you were always reading books and pamphlets — all about Jackson. You put his statue in front of the Jackson Court House in Kansas City, when you built it.

I have never met the man, who has been my hero all my life — but I have studied his past, as you have studied Jackson's.

He is the Greatest Jew of all times. You have told me he is a great statesman and a fine gentleman. I am talking about Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

He is an old man and very sick. He has travelled thousands of miles to see you and now you put off seeing him.

The President — Jacobson recounts — remained silent, looking out of the window. Then he said: All right, you bald headed son of a bitch, you win. Tell Matt (Truman's appointment secretary) to invite Dr. Weizmann here. On March 18th 1948 Chaim Weizmann had a three hour private discussion with the President. On the 14th May Abba Hillel Silver announced in New York at the U.N.

"This morning at 10 o'clock the Jewish State of Israel was proclaimed". But would it be recognised?

The reply came in a letter from the President to Dr. Weizmann in response to a letter dated May 13th. This was the

answer, handed to the American Ambassador to the United Nations:

"The U.S. Government has been informed that a Jewish State has been proclaimed in Palestine and recognition has been requested by the Provisional Government thereof. The United States recognizes the De Facto authority of the New State of Israel".

May I conclude that the name of Eddie Jacobson may be remembered as one of the heroes of ERETZ YISRAEL.

J. W. GERTLER

A.J.E.X. SERVES THE COMMUNITY

In November 1921, twelve members of the Old Comrades Group of the Jewish Regiment placed a wreath at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. From this single act of remembrance grew the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women of today, a major national organisation with branches throughout the United Kingdom.

It is popularly supposed that Ex-Service Associations in their various forms are but vehicles for old soldiers to live in the past constantly referring to the memory of events gone by. The work done by AJEX, some of which is described below, surely puts this supposition into the realm of mythology.

Remembrance is still the fundamental inspiration behind all its activities and although this is demonstrated each November at a unique Jewish Memorial Service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, it also takes a more positive form in the practical help given to ex-servicemen and women in need and in the constant vigilance maintained to ensure everything possible is done to prevent circumstances creating a similar tragedy to that of the 1930's.

It is in times of economic recession with its frustrations, disillusionment and hardship that extremist movements seeking power and influence become bolder and more militant. A scapegoat is always sought and AJEX is constantly engaged in combating these evil doctrines. Recent events have illustrated that the Community should be grateful that AJEX has maintained its Defence machinery in full working order during a period of comparative quiet.

Many are the Jewish ex-servicemen and women who have benefitted from help given by the AJEX Charitable Trust. So often the toll of war has just overtaken them. As middle age recedes and old age approaches, ill health prevents many ex-service people from maintaining a decent standard of life and particularly in these harsh economic times AJEX does all it can to help. The erection of AJEX House, a block of flatlets for disabled and elderly ex-servicemen and women and their dependants is yet another practical way in which AJEX faces its responsibilities.

It is impossible to list in a few words all the social service activities undertaken. The help given in hospitals at Christmas time, the thousands of disabled ex-servicemen and women taken on outings to the sea and the country during the summer and the transport provided for the physically handicapped throughout the year, are but some of the tasks performed.

work of community relations. We extend a hand of friendship to all minority groups suffering the prejudices and harassments which the Jewish people have always experienced.

In a constructive way we are dedicated to the creation and maintenance of racial harmony and are fully involved in the

Concern for communities overseas is implicit in the close liaison established with Jewish Ex-Service Associations in many countries and joint action is taken whenever necessary. An important example arises from the plight of Soviet Jewry where AJEX has an elaborate and efficient adoptee scheme to establish communication with and give hope and encouragement to Jewish ex-servicemen and women in the USSR who are being persecuted and denied their human rights. AJEX has set an example with this scheme that overseas associations have been pleased to copy.

Always conscious of its responsibility to the State of Israel, AJEX has made its voice heard on many occasions and has made full representations to past and present Governments and to United Nations agencies.

Neither is youth neglected. Help is given to Societies at Universities where Jewish students are faced with many difficulties. The annual Lionel Rose Public Speaking Competition is designed to encourage young Jewish people to involve themselves in communal affairs and it is gratifying to note that from the contestants of previous years have come many of the most involved young people in the Community. A Bursary Scheme to assist with educational and travel projects is also in being.

There is much being done and yet there is still so much to do and very often it is AJEX, whose members have all demonstrated their sense of loyalty and service in the Forces of the Crown, that is the organisation in Anglo-Jewry most likely to achieve the required results: moreover as ex-servicemen and women we have a special right to be heard.

With a strong and active membership and with the support of Anglo-Jewry generally, AJEX has never been found wanting when there is work to be done.

This article gives the broadest outline of but a few AJEX activities. More details can be obtained from The General Secretary, Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women, AJEX House, 5a East Bank, London, N16 5RT. Tel. 01-800 2844. For those who have not served in the Forces but who subscribe to the AJEX aims and objects, Associate membership is available. The AJEX concept of service, vigilance and remembrance are an example to the whole community.

PURIM IN JERUSALEM

In modern days, the distinction is made, in regard to observance of Purim, between WALLED TOWNS AND UN-WALLED TOWNS since Shushan was walled. In fact, we treat as a "walled town" a town that had walls in the days of Joshua, and thus, Jerusalem is treated as a walled town, where we celebrate Shushan Purim.

The trouble, of course, started as when this year Shushan Purim (that is, Purim in Jerusalem) occurred on Shabbat. We therefore had to celebrate what is known as PURIM MESHULLASH. That is to say, the four main mitzvot of Purim were spread out over three (meshullash) whole days, erev Shabbat, Shabbat and Sunday or, as they say here, Yom Rishon. They were apportioned out as follows:

Friday 14th Adar — We read the Megillah, that is, on Thursday night and on Friday morning, just as if it was in the provinces.

Friday 14th Adar — On this day we also gave our gifts to the poor, that they, too, might enjoy a pleasant Purim.

Shabbat 15th Adar — On Shabbat, we read VAYAVO AMALEK from the Torah in the Synagogue and included AL HANISSIM in the Benching and in the Amidah.

Sunday 16th Adar — On this day, we performed those mitzvot that we were able to postpone until the day after Purim, and of course, this is important, because otherwise, in such a year, there would be little difference between Purim of the provinces and Shushan Purim. Therefore, on this day, we wore nice clothes, gave MISHLOACH MANOT and had our SEUDAH. But we did **not** say AL HANISSIM.

On a purely practical level, I was amazed by the ignorance of most secular people, at least the ones I came into contact with, about this whole procedure. On the Thursday, when I wanted to get home in time to hear the Megillah, they were quite ignorant at work about why I could not do some overtime that day (which, typically, they wanted me to do!) and someone said to me: "BUT WHERE ARE THEY READING THE MEGILLAH IN JERUSALEM TODAY?". Also on the Sunday, although it was a big holiday for the children with lots of civic events in Jerusalem, one only got the day off work if one was lucky; otherwise, it was a half day, and I had quite a struggle to manage everything!

(The above article was contributed by Miss Fiona Yoffey, daughter of Mr. Mick Yoffey, well-known member of our Community. They left to settle in Israel over 2 years ago.)

ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

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

Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Assn.
(Now under auspices of Ladies' Guild)

Hammersmith Friendship Club. Meets every Wednesday in the Synagogue Hall. Chairman: Mrs. R. Whitby, 2 Linden Court, Frithville Gardens, W.12. Tel. 743 3920.

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

Board of Deputies Defence Department, Western Region.
Inquiries to Mr. Moss Amias at the Synagogue Office.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust. Representative: Miss J. Lichtblau, Tel. 568 7094
56 Fraser House, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx.

West London Young Zionist Society. Chairman: Mr. David Peters. Tel. 572 1239.

Jewish Lads' Brigade — For Information: Brigade Secretary:
28, St. John's Wood Road, N.W.8. Tel. 286 8632.

Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch). Inquire: 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: Mr. Bobby Hill, 387 2681.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Combined Charities Fund.
All correspondence to Hon. Sec.: A. Bankover Esq.
47 Emlyn Road, London, W12 9TF

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