

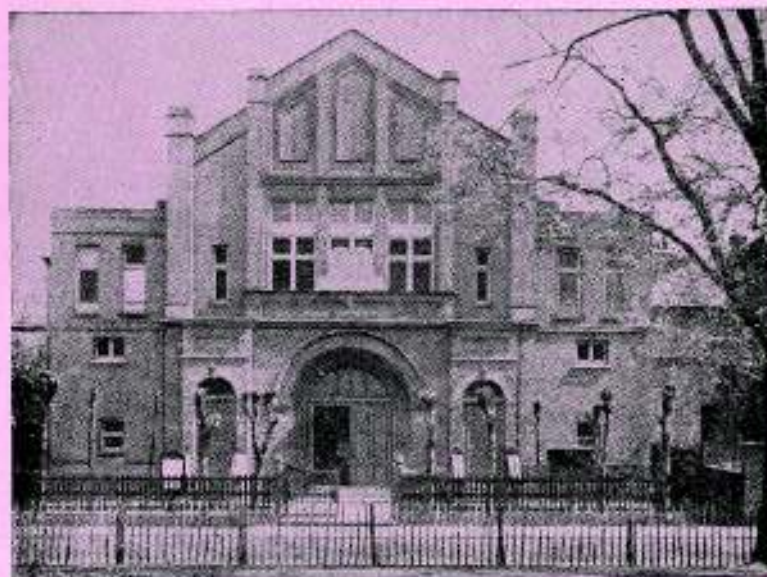
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THE BROOK



1890-1983



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

"Answer my supplication in an acceptable time"

Festival Prayer Book

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

Officials Telephones

Minister: The Rev. Sam Venitt, B.A.,
69 Brook Green, W.6 603 4938

Secretary: Miss R. Longhorn 602 1405

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.

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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.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE RELIGION CLASSES

All inquiries regarding Religious Education and Hebrew
Instruction to Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.

" THE BROOK "

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

REV. SAMUEL FORSCHER

In reviewing the important events in the life of our community over the past year, we record the profoundly moving Memorial Service for our dear late colleague, Rev. Samuel Forscher, Emeritus Reader of the Synagogue.

The text of the sermon delivered by Rev. Venitt at the Service is to be found elsewhere in these pages. To set down with sadness and great affection a tribute to his memory in such distinctive terms is only one way in which it is to be recalled and kept fresh by all those who knew him. His life in the community and the characteristic feeling for others that he demonstrated are facts of which each can tell in his or her own way. What is more revealing are the personal insights he gave of his early life and the energetic way he resolved the problems he faced at different times. Such a man who by dedicated service to the community and each individual who sought his help, brought part of his own personality into the lives of others with genuine concern and friendship, is not only an example. He was a guide to the achievement of harmony of communal and family life which we would wish to be present and remain with us not just for the High Holydays but throughout the whole new year.

We have had other occasions throughout the year marking the passing of those who have given of themselves to the community and to the country of which we are part. In our sadness we can offer a lasting memorial by resolving to make the coming year one of harmony and charity that proves we have learned from a leader of our community like Samuel Forscher, how to do so with the same concern for others that reflects the true humility he represented in the twenty-three years we were grateful and proud to know him and have him among us.

Bridegrooms of the Law

We are very happy to announce that our Bridegrooms for this year will be Mr. Mark Ross and Mr. Philip Lewis.

Mr. & Mrs. Ross are longstanding members of the Congregation, and give their support to many of the fund-raising activities of the Synagogue.

Mr. & Mrs. Lewis have likewise been associated with our Congregation for many years, and have actively assisted in the Synagogue's functions. Naomi Lewis chairs the Thames Valley Branch of the League of Jewish Women.

The Annual Simchat Torah Party will be held on Sunday, October 2nd, and all Congregants are cordially invited.

Gifts for the Succah

The Succah will be ready for decorating from Sunday 18th September and onwards.

Gifts of flowers, fruit, wine etc. will be gratefully accepted, also donations towards the purchase of cakes. It will be greatly appreciated if members could send their gifts on those days between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

1984 – AND ALL THAT

By Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.

When George Orwell wrote Nineteen Eighty-Four, he intended it to be a satire on the world around him, something like Gulliver. He was amazed to find that people took it as a prophecy of the shape of things to come, and as a warning to a world which seemed to be drifting into the state of affairs presented in his work. So seriously has he been taken that not only has his book become a world best-seller, translated into sixty languages, but the year 1984 is being dedicated to him.

A leading article in The Times recently gave an imposing list of events planned for the year, including conferences of world-wide dimension on the State of the World. The Council of Europe, for example, is going to discuss such topics as War and Peace, dependence and freedom, knowledge and conscience, communication and culture.

Why has this book had such a tremendous impact? Is it not perhaps because people could read into it from their own daily experiences and through the world media, the slow but sure trend in the direction he was satirising? Could they not see around them a world becoming more and more steeped in violence and naked terrorism and aggression? As the physical means of communication improves, the gap in understanding, goodwill and give and take grows wider and wider.

As we approach our own New Year 5744, which to a large extent overlaps into 1984, we can let our minds go back to the year 1984 B.C.E. for it was about that time that there stirred a man who was to be the founder of our faith and people. His was an intellectual quest, the search for religious truth and the persistent pursuit of absolute values. He went in search of his fellow man. He believed that no effort towards better understanding was ever wasted. He was able to convert a world of people by making his words and deeds count among his fellow men. That is why we during the solemn High Festivals repeatedly refer to our father Abraham, and that when we think back on our 1984 B.C.E. we really have something to remember and celebrate. Let us remember as we pray how Abraham strove for the betterment of man, how he blazed the trail for Judaism and its main purposes, to develop human kindness, love of neighbour, the spirit and acts of charity and the qualities of goodness, sincerity and humility.

Please Note

The consecrations of the Tombstones to Rev. Samuel Forscher and Mr. Jack Dickman will both take place on Sunday 13th Nov. at Bushey Cemetery.

Mr. Dickman's at 2.45 p.m.

Rev. Forscher's at 3.45 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT 1982-1983

In presenting the Annual Report for the past year we record with great sadness and affection the loss of Jack Dickman who by his service to the Jewish and wider community had achieved a distinguished place in communal and national affairs. At a Memorial Service on 20th February the Synagogue was crowded with family, friends and colleagues who had gathered to pay tribute to his memory.

We have continued to benefit from the support of members in Donations and Gifts which improve and maintain the fabric and interior of our extensive buildings. In particular the new curtains in the Old Board Room donated by Mr. & Mrs. de Winter were a very welcome addition. There have also been many Kiddushim presented in honour of Birthdays, Anniversaries and other celebrations, including a Kiddush given by Mr. & Mrs. Miller to mark the 21st Birthday of Jonathan Miller whose active help with our services is most welcome.

At the Annual Reception we were pleased to welcome as Guests of Honour our Chasanim Mr. H. Sharpe, Chasan Torah and Mr. F. J. Gertler, Chasan Bereshis together with Mrs. Sharpe and Mrs. Gertler. The festive atmosphere that marked their Golden Wedding Anniversaries was continued with the presentation of Certificates.

The High Holyday Services were conducted by Rev. Venitt and Mr. Amias as Baal Shachris together with Jonathan Miller and assisted by our choir. However for future years it has, for understandable reasons, not been possible for our excellent voluntary choir to continue, and while we hope of course to mark their splendid and most tuneful support over many years, at a suitable occasion, it is only right to say that both Miss R. Longhorn and Mrs. J. Harris deserve not only our most grateful thanks but good wishes for a happy, active and vocal retirement.

The Succah decoration was again most beautiful and we are grateful to those who help so tirelessly in its preparation.

As usual Mr. J. Langdon and Mr. B. Winterman were most active on behalf of the House Committee and their support is indispensable to all of us.

As in the past years a most successful Civic Service was held in the presence of the Mayor of Hammermith & Fulham, who again this year was Councillor William S. Smith J.P., well known as a visitor to the community while in office. A Kiddush was held after the Service and presentations made.

The Civic Service coincided with the Annual Ladies Guild Sabbath on 29th January. In our community there is no need to await a special occasion to recognise the work and support given by our Ladies' Guild as their efforts are constant throughout the year and their encouragement and help are greatly valued. Their work provided essential funds to maintain our buildings and activities and we look forward to their continued help particularly as we have substantial repairs and maintenance requirements.

The Functions' Committee has been very active with most successful functions. At Chanukah a concert of songs from around the world by Joy Hyman, and Purim which was an evening of songs by our own member, the late Fred Tysh, sung by Carol Rosen and Friends accompanied at the Piano by a member of our Synagogue, Mr. Sonnenblik. The evenings were not just financially rewarding but very pleasant Social Occasions. We are very grateful to the committee for their help.

The J.I.A. Committee led by its chairman Dr. M. D. Caplan remains active in its work for Israel and it is hoped that all members will support them in their efforts.

There have been several visits to the Synagogue by parties of local schoolchildren, and this valuable work in community relations is a long standing feature of Rev. Venitt's work. We continue to enjoy much encouragement and support from our colleagues Rev. and Mrs. Venitt and offer our sincere thanks to them.

We also offer our appreciation and thanks to our Secretary Miss Longhorn, the members of the Board of Management and representatives on the United Synagogue Council. Our caretaker Mrs. Englefield (known as Stephie to all) and her ever helpful husband Tom have continued to be energetic in the essential work of cleaning and improving our premises. The grounds are full of Flowers and Plants and are very beautiful.

Despite the need to increase financial contributions by direction of the United Synagogue and for local purposes, the past financial year has resulted in a very small surplus which has only been realised by the most stringent economy and voluntary financial effort. We hope that the success this indicates will be carried forward into the coming year.

M. A. AMIAS
D. ARRAM
M. De VRIES
Honorary Officers

Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

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

★

50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

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.

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 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, W.14.

Mimi & Henry Addisman, 143 Watchfield Court, 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, W4 4NB

Rebecca Benzimra & Fam. "Wickenden", Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey.

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

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bossick, 87 Park Avenue North, N.W.10.
Joy and Jeffery Brand, 73 Barons Keep, W.14.

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

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

Ann, Harry & Melanie Chaytow, 10 Grosvenor Court, Rayners Road, Putney, London, S.W.15

Miriam & Robert Clark, 46 Lynton Road, Acton, W3 9HP
Janet & John Clark & Family, 41 Elizabeth Road, Moseley, Birmingham

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.

Dr. Jack Cowan & Family, 22 Granard Ave., Putney, S.W.15
 Mrs. S. Cutler, 288 Latymer Court, W.6.
 Lilian and Bernard Davis, 60 Thamespoint, Fairways,
 Teddington, Middx.
 Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions,
 Arundel Terrace, Barnes, London S.W.13.
 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, Gary, Michael and Tracey,
 26 Meade Close, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W4 3NT
 Mr. & Mrs. N. Fishman, 5 Windsor House, Heathfield Gardens,
 W4 4JT.
 Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison
 Road, W.14.
 Dr. & Mrs. L. Freeman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11.
 Betty & Lewis Gassman & Family, 21 Castelnau, S.W.13.
 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.
 Lydia & Manfred Gorvy and Family, 111 Barons Keep,
 Barons Court, W.14.
 Kitty and George Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Acton, W.3.
 Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose and Family, Berkeley House,
 10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13.
 Mr. A. Gross, 31 Kings Court, King Street, London, W.6.
 Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 33 Corringway, London, W5 3AB
 Mrs. Annette Halfin, 2 Rutland Drive, River Lane,
 Petersham, Surrey
 Mrs. Cecelia Harris, 60 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Rd.
 Chiswick, W.4.
 Mrs. J. Harris (Chorister), 20 Goldsmith Buildings, East
 Churchfield Road, Acton, W.3.
 Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes and Family, 1 Ashchurch Terrace,
 London, W12 9SL
 Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court,
 Kensington, W.14.
 Bella & Basil Isaacs and Family, 70 Woodsford Square,
 Addison Road, W.14.
 Evelyn & Monty Isaacson, Rhian & Mark, 8 Rosedew Road,
 W.6.
 Mrs. M. Katits, 24 Bolingbroke Road, W14 0AL
 Lionel Kaufman & Zara Brickman, 1 Rugby Mansions,
 London, W14 8XD
 Lily Jacobs & Ann Keenoy, 8 Aldbourne Road, Shepherds
 Bush, W12 0LN
 Mrs. D. Kurzman, 35 Suffolk Road, Barnes, S.W.13.
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Lakota, 39 Holland Park Mews, London,
 W11 3SP
 Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W3 7LT.
 Phyllis & Godfrey Levy, 44 Fitz-James Avenue, London W.14.

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 & Melvyn, 69 Addison Gardens, W14 0DT
 Mr. B. Menton, Spencer House, Spencer Road, Chiswick, W.4
 Raie, Joe & Jonathan Miller, 16 Samuel Richardson House,
 North End Crescent, W.14.
 Penny & Peter Mishcon & Family, 89 Elgin Crescent, W.11.
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Mirwitch and Family, 11 South Side, Stamford
 Brook, W6 0XY.
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris, 95 Barons Keep, W.14.
 Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington,
 W8 4HX.
 Mrs. G. Moses, 120 North End House, Fitzjames Avenue,
 London, W14 0RY
 Muriel Muslin, 2 Clavering Avenue, Barnes, S.W.13.
 Andrew, Elza & Norma Newfield, 52 East Acton Lane, London
 W3 7EQ.
 Phyllis & Joe Nisner with Rochelle, Maxwell & Lauren, 27
 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, Ealing, W.5.
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Nyman, 84 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.
 Mr. & Mrs. David Ohayon & Family, 17 Chiswick Quay, W.4
 Mrs. Rose Parker
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips and Family, Flat 11, Bridge
 Avenue Mansions, Hammersmith, London, W.6.
 Doris & Hersh Rieck & Dr. Jonathan Rieck, 33 Campden
 Hill Gate, London, W.8.
 Mrs. Beatrice Rose
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Rosen, 35 Clavering Avenue, S.W.13.
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sacks, 18 Heathcroft, Ealing, London W.5.
 Ethel Sacks, 18 Kingfisher House, Melbury Road, W14 8LN
 Ann and Richard Sampson, 66 Stamford Court, Stamford
 Brook, London W.6.
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, W.14.
 Lew & Minnie Shooman, Robert, Carole & Claire, 10 Tudor
 Court, Gunnersbury Avenue, W.5.
 Vera & Gerard Snoeck, 4 Park Avenue, London, S.W.14.
 Anita Simmonds & Family, 14 Cecil Close, Mount Avenue,
 Ealing, W.5.
 Mr. & Mrs. N. Sogan, 17 Fairburn Court, St. John's Avenue,
 Putney, SW15 2AU.
 Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4.
 Evelyn, Leslie and Ruth Sommer, 14 Lillian Avenue,
 London, W.3.
 Mr. & Mrs. N. Sonnenblik, 14 Vaughan Avenue, London,
 W6 0XS

Hyman Spector

Dr. & Mrs. J. Spira, 59a Oakwood Court, London W.14.

Mrs. Stella Tesler, 89 Watchfield Court, Chiswick, W.4.

Bertram & Beatrice Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road, W.14.

Mrs. G. Turgel, 48 Stone Road, Bromley, Kent

Ilse & Ian Tysh, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8.

Marguerite Velleman & Family, 88 Howberry Rd., Edgware, Middx.

Stanley & Rita Verby & Family, 11 Cavendish Close, St. John's Avenue, Putney, London, S.W.15.

Dr. H. Waters, 28 Castelneau, London, S.W.13.

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Heathfield Terrace, Chiswick, W.4.

Mrs. R. Whitby & Brenda, 2 Linden Court, Frithville Gdns., 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.

The Ladies' Guild or D.I.Y.

The Ladies' Guild have just purchased a new cooker now installed in the kitchen, bright and shining. In future our functions will include home-baked cakes and biscuits. This should prove an added bonus to our luncheons or our Evening functions.

Once again the Guild is going from strength to strength, committee meetings are well attended. These now take place in the Synagogue Board Room. Our activities are numerous. Summer season started with a Bring and Buy Garden Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gold. £100 was sent to WIZO from the proceeds. This gift was to mark the 90th birthday of Mrs. Jeanie Caplan our Vice-President and a life-long worker for WIZO.

The **Succah** was once again beautifully decorated with fruit and foliage. A Kiddush was held after each Service, provided by the Guild.

Simchat Torah. After the Service on Simchat Torah morning the Guild provided a savoury Kiddush. The Annual Simchat Torah Party to honour Mr. & Mrs. Sharpe and Mr. & Mrs. Gertler was once again admirably catered by the Guild. Our next fund-raising function was on Sunday evening 31st October at the home of Mr. & Mrs. S. Williams with Mrs. Frances Ullman as Guest Speaker. £106 was realised and donated in its entirety to the Synagogue at the request of the hostess.

In November, 5 delegates represented the Guild at the Bi-Annual Meeting of the Association of United Synagogue Ladies' Guilds.

Chanukah. A Kiddush was provided by the Guild on Shabbat Chanukah. On the occasion of the 90th birthday of our Co-Vice President Mrs. Betty Benzimra, a Kiddush was given by the Guild and a certificate of trees was presented to her.

Shabbat Shira. The Ladies' Guild Shabbat was combined with a visit by the Mayor and Mayoress with their party. This is the occasion when the Synagogue honours all the ladies of the community for the good work they do.

Geranium Day, April 26th. Several ladies kindly collected once again.

May 10th. Our Annual Bring and Buy Luncheon, a net sum of £205 was raised.

Shavuoth. The Floral Decorations. Thanks to the generosity of individual members of the Guild we were not involved with too much expense.

During the past year we have had many Barmitzvahs and other Simchot and the Guild have prepared the Kiddushim. The Guild has benefitted by donations enabling us to honour our commitments to the various charities we support.

REBECCA FOX
(Hon. Secretary)

Hammersmith Friendship Club

We continued our travels through 1982 ever hopeful regarding our membership.

We celebrated our thirty-first birthday party with invited guests and Rev. and Mrs. S. Venitt, entertainment from the Council helped to make an enjoyable afternoon.

As winter weather arrived, members had to combat illness, and we said a sad farewell to old friends who for years had enjoyed the fellowship of their club. During this year membership has varied a great deal, due to illness and distance to travel.

The problem we face is the fact that our members do have to make journeys and our buses leave much to be desired. Outings of course are out of the question. However, we still enjoy a variety of entertainment from the Council and have met many interesting people in the process. In the last issue of The Brook we extended a warm welcome to retired Jewish ladies and gentlemen, who wish to have weekly contact with other retired people for friendship and company. Afternoon tea is served between 2.30 and 3.00 p.m. and while chatting, you may make a new friend — so come along.

The club meets on Wednesday 1 to 3.00 p.m.

Mrs. MARY WILSON
Hon. Secretary

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*

FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

During the past year our Functions Committee arranged Two Socials. Both were well supported and enjoyed by Members and their Friends.

On Sunday 12th December a Chanucah Supper Party was the first social of the year. This as is our usual custom was preceded by a Sherry Reception and followed by an Entertainment given by Joy Hyman a well know Singer/Guitarist who went 'Around The World in Song'.

Our second function, a Purim Party held on 27th February 1983 also commenced with a Sherry Reception and was followed by a Buffet Supper. The entertainment, 'An Evening of Music with Lyrics by Fred S. Tysh'. The Singers were Carol Rosen, Kenneth & Henrietta Asch and at the Piano one of our own members, Mr. N. Sonnenblik. This was a unique occasion as all the Lyrics had been written by one of our most respected members, the late Fred Tysh. We convey our sincere appreciation to the artists who gave their services as a tribute to Fred, and to Mrs. Ilse Tysh who arranged the programme.

Our Chanucah and Purim Functions are now a firm fixture in our calender of events. All the proceeds go towards providing funds for Repairs and General Upkeep of our Synagogue.

We are now arranging our Socials for the coming year. The first will be on Sunday 4th December (4th Day Chanucah). Further particulars will be sent to members in due course.

Please make every effort to attend these functions and give your support to our hardworking committee who work wholeheartedly for your enjoyment, and to provide funds for our Synagogue.

D.A.

Gifts to the Synagogue

Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries (in memory of Miss Fay Richter)

Mr. & Mrs. B. de Winter
Ladies' Guild
Miss Reina Longhorn

Prayer Books
Curtains
Gas Stove
Vacuum Cleaner

To all these donors our warmest thanks.

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

THE LATE REV. SAMUEL FORSCHER ז"ל

Address delivered at the Memorial Service

on Sunday, 17th July, 1983

by Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.

We are assembled here today to pay tribute to the man who led this congregation in prayer for 23 years, and had a warm place in many hearts.

During the past month I have met so many of our congregants who have felt his passing with a sense of deep personal loss. He not only endeared himself to them, but he loved our congregation.

For 23 years we were together — almost daily — working as a team — with one object in mind — that of caring for the spiritual and general well-being of our flock. For twenty of those years we lived in the same block next door the Synagogue.

In trying to evaluate Shmuel Forscher's aim and purpose in life, one naturally turns to the sources of Jewish inspiration and wisdom.

At the beginning of Chapter 2 of the *פירקי אבות* The Ethics of the Fathers, Rabbi Yehuda Ha-Nasi asks

איזה היא דרך ישרה שיבור לו האדם

"Which is the right course that a man should choose for himself" And he answers: כל שהיא תפארת לעשה ותפארת לו מן האדם

"That which he feels to be honourable to himself, and which also brings honour from mankind".

This is the usual interpretation. However, other M'forshim or Commentators chose to define the word 'Oscho' as referring to G-d the Creator, and read the statement — whichever honours the One who made it.

In this context, man is advised to lead a life exemplary in the sight of G-d and man.

As in the words of the Grace

ובמצאתן ושכל טוב בעיני אלקים ואדם

"That we may find grace and good understanding in the sight of G-d and man."

When we think of Shmuel Forscher, we see that this is what he strove for all his days.

He was reared in a home of piety and learning in Mahrish-Ostrow, Czechoslovakia where his father זצ"ל משה אברהם was Chazan-Shochet, and where he saw in practice the love and reverence of the Almighty combined with Gemiluth Chasadim. He often spoke of his early days which left a lasting impression and influence on him, and he would often recall his revered father with great tenderness and feeling.

He received his education in Rabbinics and training in Chazanuth and voice production in the renowned Yeshiva of Pressburg where he sat at the feet of men of scholarship who could be counted among the גדולי הדור, the spiritual giants of that generation. His love of learning remained with him for the rest of his days. One of his greatest joys was to study and attend Shiurim, latterly at the Hendon Adath Synagogue.

In 1939, he left for Israel, where later, in 1948 he was to serve with the Haganah during the War of Independence. This experience left a deep and lasting impression upon him. He could not refer to it without some emotion. For a major part of the fifteen years he was to spend in Israel, he was Chazan to the Geula Synagogue in Haifa.

It was in 1954 that Shmuel Forscher arrived to take up the post of Chazan at our Synagogue. He had to acclimatise himself to an Anglo-Jewish type of community, and at the same time, there was the language barrier. It was truly amazing how in an incredibly short space of time he had endeared himself to our members, and gained a workable knowledge of English. He studied long and hard at local language institutes, and also spent several years at the Guildhall School of Music, under eminent teachers, who became his friends.

Shmuel conducted our services with great dignity and reverence. He had a sweet melodious voice, and prayed with much feeling and Kavanah. His rendering of the Selichot at Neilah was marked with great emotion, one could feel that his prayers came from the very depth of his being.

He felt very much for his people, and would at times be visibly moved. It was this deep feeling of compassion which marked him out as the kind of man he was. It showed itself in so many different ways.

He loved life, he loved people, and he was able to communicate. His warm, gentle, kindly approach was a tonic to the many patients he visited in hospital. He would lend a ready ear to their problems, and on many occasions helped them beyond what would normally be expected. There is no question but that he put himself out for people generally. His ready assistance for those who came to him with their difficulties, had the hallmark of sincerity and concern. No effort was too much for him in helping others.

Many will speak of his humour and wit. His conversation was full of interest, and interwoven with many an anecdote culled from his varied experiences.

He was very interested in youth. Many whom he had taught became his firm friends. They looked up to him as mentor.

In our robing room hangs a life-long portrait of the late Mr. Ben Busky, just one of the many paintings and etchings which Shmuel Forscher enjoyed doing in his leisure moments. He was gifted at doing many things of a practical nature.

Shmuel and Hella had a wonderful happy married life. Theirs was a home of love, devotion and understanding. Many people enjoyed their warm hospitality and friendship. Ruth and Alex presented them with two lovely grandchildren, a source of pride and joy.

Shmuel was very devoted to his brothers and sisters, especially his twin brother Shlomo.

One particular night stands out in my memory. At three o'clock in the morning a telephone call and the sad news that Shlomo is no more. It was left to me to break the news

gently to Shmuel in the morning. It was as if part of himself had been taken away.

At the outset, I quoted Rabbi Yehuda Ha-Nasi, and showed by the two interpretations how the ideal aim of life was to strive in the two spheres בין אדם למקום ובין אדם לחברו between man and G-d and man and man, to seek harmony between them, so that the lofty deed might approximate to the lofty intent.

We who knew Shmuel Forscher feel that he achieved this synthesis, and has fully merited his heavenly reward.

To you Hella, Ruth, Alex and Annie, and all the family, I express on behalf of us all our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy. You will find comfort in the thought and knowledge that his life was spent in the service of G-d and man. He fulfilled the words of the Psalmist which were inscribed above his head whilst he prayed at the Amud שויתי ל' לפני תמיד "I set the L-rd continually before me".

Amen

OBITUARIES

Mr. JACK DICKMAN

Our Synagogue and the wider community suffered a severe loss through the passing of Mr. Jack Dickman. With barely more than his army gratuity and hard work, plus brains, tenacity and resolve, he succeeded in building up Fidelity to become an important Public Company in the Electrical, T.V., and Radio Industry. In the course of so doing he gained the respect and admiration of many people, even of his competitors, for his fairness, straightforwardness and integrity. He never lost the common touch. Mindful, at all times, of his early struggles, he showed his gratitude by acts of benevolence and charity to many causes.

He was for some time a member of our Synagogue Board of Management. Over the years he helped the Congregation in many ways. He was a leading member of the Hammersmith Norwood Committee, and gave most generously to Israel. He leaves behind his dear wife Betty, his daughter Linda and his three sons Steven, Jeffrey & Robert, who continued to run the Company.

Mr. NATHAN GORDON

It is with deep sorrow that we have to record the death of Mr. Nathan Gordon. He was a member of the Board of Management for many years, and an ardent supporter of the Joint Israel Appeal, serving on the local committee. He gave generously to many causes, quietly and without any ostentation. We shall miss his dignified presence, and his commonsense approach to communal problems.

ISRAEL

The solemn season is upon us, — Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, when we step back and take a critical look at ourselves, — our lives and our actions. At the same time we are confronted with the Kol Nidre Appeal, and this is followed shortly afterwards by the launching of the main J.I.A. Appeal.

As I look at some of the large sums raised in more affluent communities than ours, I ask myself does giving of money, by itself, denote commitment? Is the St. John's Wood Synagogue more committed to Israel than Hammersmith because it donated ten times as much?

At a time when one reads of "opting out of Jewish marriage", a "decline in Synagogue membership", "a closing of Hillel House due to lack of funds", and a lessening of support for so many Jewish organisations, perhaps the giving of money excuses the individual from personal involvement, — "take this donation and don't worry me!"

Israel is not in that category, nor can it be treated in this way. Israel is the first homeland we have had in 2000 years. It is the miracle that our forebears have prayed and dreamt about. 35 years ago it became a reality, and WE are living at a time of this great miracle and what are we doing about it? Do we really have to employ non-Jews to preach to us and encourage us to support Israel?

G-d forbid we should have to go there because we are no longer welcome here, that we should have to go by force of circumstances than by voluntary decision, but many of our brethren have to do just that, arriving in Israel bereft of all their possessions, except what they stand up in.

There is no immigration bill in Israel that selects those citizens it wishes to accept; there is the Law of Return which enables every Jew to enter with full rights of citizenship.

The fact that we may not wish to settle in Israel, for whatever reason, should not be a reason for denying to others that privilege. A Jew is a Jew; there are no second class citizens. The opportunities are there for all, but if we do not involve ourselves many will not be able to take advantage of the opportunities, and there will be second class citizens in Israel by dint of impoverishment.

10% of Israel's population (300,000), do live, at present, below the poverty line. What are we, in the diaspora, doing about it? We are trying, through Project Renewal Ashkelon, to raise their quality of life, and through it, their standard of living. It is up to us to decide whether this becomes a reality, just as we say in the Unesaneh Tokaf that it is the Almighty who decides our destiny.

As a retiring chairman of our J.I.A. Committee I give up my office, not without serious qualms. I am not irreplaceable, but no one has come forward. Our Committee is very small and can ill-afford loss and depletion. We have lost, recently, two very staunch supporters in the late Fred Tysh and Nat Gordon, and until his retirement, our dear and lamented Shmuel Forscher.

In the year just ended the Community subscribed £6500 to the Kol Nidre Appeal, and £7500 to the main J.I.A. Appeal. These are not large sums, and amounts could be considerably increased if we had the workers, because time and effort are just as important as the ability to give.

I ask you, I beg of you, make the cause of Israel one of your most important commitments in the coming year. One visit, and you will be convinced. Once committed, and you will make it a way of life!

M.D.C.

Hammersmith & District Ajex – Brief Report

In the course of the year 1982-83, the Branch continued with its customary activities. These included a fine attendance at the Annual Remembrance Parade of the Borough with the Mayor taking the salute, which preceded the Parade organised by AJEX Hq. at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. In cooperation with the Grand Order of Israel and Shield of David Friendly Society, the Branch participated in fund-raising activities, as a result of which donations to various charities were made. The Branch did not win the Roger Cummings Quiz Trophy this year as it had in the preceding four years — we believe in giving others a chance!

On defence, the Branch did not have to contend with any incidents of anti-semitism, though the usual precautions were taken. It also developed useful contacts with the Borough's Council for Racial Equality, and the branch of the Royal British Legion.

PERCY S. GOURGEY, MBE
Chairman

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

WEDDINGS

The following marriage was solemnised at the Synagogue during the course of the year.

SYMON JACOB DANIELS to SUSAN BROWN

BARMITZVAHS

David CLEIN Oliver MISHCON

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:

Mrs. C. CLEIN	Mrs. G. MOSES
Mrs. H. DWAR	Mr. Jonathan MILLER
Mrs. A. FALK	Mr. J. S. MIRWITCH
Miss L. KATZ	Mr. S. SILVER

MOSS AMIAS ON HIS 80th BIRTHDAY

Extracted from a tribute given by
Rev. S. Venitt, B.A. at a Kiddush
to mark the occasion

It was a great day for the Hammersmith Community when Moss Amias came here to join us. How fortunate for Hammersmith to have a man of his calibre to be one of our leading laymen!

Looking back today, he has served as a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews since 1943, involving himself on many of its committees, particularly Defence.

He has been a member of the Council of the United Synagogue for 41 years, serving on the Ministerial Appointments, Welfare and Visitation Committees. He is currently a member of the Race Relations Committee of the Hammersmith Council.

When the London Board of Jewish Education was created in 1946, Moss was on the original organising committee. He is also actively involved with the Anglo-Jewish Association, serving on their Israel & Foreign Affairs Committees. This list is by no means exhausted. Yet, this formidable catalogue notwithstanding, Moss has found the time and energy to devote himself whole-heartedly to our Hammersmith Community, with a record 22 years of unbroken service as an Honorary Officer, and with such singular devotion that can only evoke our admiration and gratitude. He has brought to his Office great personal qualities of compassion, humanity, consideration, humour, warmth and feeling. He loves people and he cares. During the past few years Moss has been our Baal Shacharit for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In his conduct of the Services, he reveals a deep religiosity, and great humility, and his prayers are heartfelt and moving.

He is also a man of Jewish culture — a lover of books and a collector of books. *וְהוּא קָעַן וְעָפְרָיִם וְהוּא מְבַרְכֵנוּ בְּיְהוּדָה*

May you, Moss, remain as vigorous in the years to come as you have been until now, and continue to guide the affairs of our Shool, together with your Colleagues David Arram and Maurice DeVries.

Congratulations to your dear wife Sophie, who has also reached her 80th Birthday.

May you both continue for many more years in good health, and enjoy nachas from your dear family.

. . .

Editor's Note: In recognition of his work, the United Synagogue have now bestowed on Mr. Moss Amias a life membership of the Council.

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

ISRAEL TRIP 1982

The 90th Anniversary Tour of Israel in 1980 was a resounding success, so much so that the organisers were asked to arrange a similar tour in 1982. Accordingly David Arram began work very early in 1982, getting estimates from various travel agencies and selecting the one which gave most value. A preliminary meeting was held, at which enough interest was shown to go ahead with arrangements.

Shortly thereafter, disaster struck and, by a series of mischances the numbers fell and kept falling. When only 8 names were left David and his wife lost heart and pulled out, then another 3 cancelled which left only 3 green bottles, in the shape of myself and Jack and Adelaide Langdon, still hanging on the wall. We were all in the position of having gone without a break for eighteen months in order to reserve the two weeks in November and we were desperate for a holiday so we decided, while regretting the "lost ten tribes" to go ahead as a "Remnant" tour.

After all the alarms and excursions of the previous few months it was a relief when we met at Heathrow on 4th November, but when we got on the plane and were then left sitting without taking off for over an hour it did strike me that perhaps somebody, somewhere, was trying to tell me something! I could see no sign of an angel with a flaming sword but really — substitute the plane for Balaam's ass and here was a pretty situation. I found on comparing notes later that the same thought had crossed the minds of my companions and none of us believed that we would arrive safely until we were actually walking up the steps of the King Solomon Hotel in Netanya.

But — back to the plane. Eventually word filtered through that we were waiting for a party of Americans who were arriving from the U.S. that morning and held up by fog in the Western Approaches. When this group at last arrived it turned out that they were a party from an Episcopalian Church in Maryland, some of the men complete with baseball caps bearing the legend "Jesus Saves" — so what with them, our own contingent, a party of nuns, and another of coloured Baptist Missionaries, who sang hymns during the flight, we felt that we were well covered for any eventuality and settled down to enjoy ourselves.

The King Solomon Hotel lived up to the reputation it gained with our 1980 group, the food being even better than we had had previously. However, the place was woefully empty and it was here that we heard continually repeated during our stay "The non-Jews are still coming to Israel in almost the same numbers, but where are our own people?" I must say, here and now, that apart from Jerusalem (where there was a greater presence of service men and women than perhaps was normal) we saw and heard very little evidence that any hostilities were going on.

I do not mean by this that troops were not in action or that lives not being lost. Indeed, members of the 1980 party may recall the souvenir shop in the King Solomon Hotel. That was closed as the proprietress had lost her only son in Lebanon only a couple of weeks before we arrived and she was not yet in a fit state to carry on her business. Nevertheless, we could not help feeling, and the Israelis obviously thought, that Jews abroad could have shown their solidarity with their own people by continuing tourism as usual.

The highlight of our wandering was the trip from Netanya to Jerusalem by train. The train itself, model circa 1903, was surprisingly comfortable considering its age. The 'guard' dressed in overalls and baggy blue shirt checked our tickets twice during the journey — heaven knows why — and caused a great deal of amusement in our carriage when he told Jack that "he was a very lucky man, with two wives". The fact that we were a bachelor and two spinsters made it even more hilarious. After leaving the flat coastal plain the train winds through the Judean Hills and one can imagine oneself back in Biblical times. There are few habitations, the scenery is green with terraced vineyards and chattering streams, and the occasional Arab tent and family only helped to preserve the air of timelessness.

While in Jerusalem we visited our old friend Mick Yoffey, a former member of our Board of Management, now resident in Israel. His flat overlooks the main road out of Jerusalem which was used by troops going to Lebanon and he told us tales of the numbers of armed vehicles moving out, and later the enormous amount of captured equipment which was brought back, some of it the most sophisticated Russian weaponry taken from the Syrians.

We also took the opportunity to visit Eve and Manny Aizen — old members of our community now retired to Netanya — and were pleased to find that though they are now in their eighties and Manny suffers from deafness, they are still enjoying life and taking a great interest in the activities of the synagogue to which they now belong.

It had been a relatively quiet but memorable holiday. What shall we remember? Well, of course the Museum, and being half in tears all the way through it, the peace of the Judean Hills, the pride in our Israeli youth, once more pitting their strength against the world, but also such silly things as the strident voiced woman in turban and long caftan that we used to see at breakfast who amazingly turned out to be one and the same as the woman we saw in the evenings in a fearsome sheitel and short skirt. And the terribly hot hors d'oeuvre which was surprisingly tasty, but only after your mouth had gone numb! But above all the sense of "one-ness" with the country. We shall return — perhaps, who knows it may be "Next Year in Jerusalem".

R.L.

WHAT'S THE SCORE?

There is something in most human beings which looks for a result — or at least for the present score. Thus, so far it's been a good year for tomatoes, the Stock Exchange, inflation, a bad year for the Liberals, housing, unemployment. Yet history tells us these things are largely cyclical and the impact of intense human endeavours — though important — is neither massive nor permanent.

What then of the sum total of our existence? What's the score so far? How are we judged? I speak of us as individuals and collectively as Jews. Are there not in our own lives cycles of belief, endeavour and unselfishness. Does the Omnipotent take an average, or are we judged on those moments — they may be rare — when we are so vibrant in our faith that there no longer seems any mystery in the nature of human existence and an inner peace and calm transcends external problems? Of course we don't know. As we become adult, probabilities and certainties should replace earlier doubts and perplexities. Those who are wise avoid the pitfalls of complacency and learn that religion like sport has to be practised.

Collectively as Jews we must surely be fully aware that we are privileged to be living in what history will hopefully record as the apex of our existence to date. The conception and establishment of a Jewish State — a home to the grief-stricken remnants of the Holocaust — its doors still open to our deprived and underprivileged kinsmen from any part of the world as well as to our young, so enthusiastic to play a part in shaping the destiny of our people — is at once an opportunity and a challenge. It is an opportunity to practice religious values in the land in which they developed.

The challenge is intimidating. We have developed a *Modus Vivendi* with our Arab neighbours which will provide peace and the basis for reconciling the bitter enmities which have taken such a heavy toll in grief and suffering.

It is certain that we must not allow our faith to flag or falter. If we take pride in our past and maintain our confidence in the future, if we hold on to the tenets of our religion, our prayers will not go unanswered. It may take some time, but we shall never be in danger of losing the match. S.G.

Y.F.N.F.C.

You may care to have news of Your Friendly Neighbourhood Functions Committee. They are still functioning, still friendly, and needed all the more to raise money, for now the community is financially responsible for keeping the fabric of the Synagogue in good repair. No big brother U.S. Building Department to foot the bill should the roof (perish the thought) fall in.

The committee members are very experienced. As the time comes for a function to be planned, they swing into action. phone calls abound, talent scouts are sent out to assess acts for the evening's entertainment. The menu for the meal is decided upon, always making sure that the high standard of a Hammer-

smith function is maintained. The approach is nothing less than professional.

But what of the "hitches"? Hitches that attack the best laid plans, as has been stated before in these pages. That is where the committee's experience is invaluable. They try to make provision for any eventuality. As when only half the order for bread and cakes was delivered — late! — someone dashed off to get the balance and the time-table for the preparation for the meal re-arranged. The supplier made reparation for that mistake by donating a cake for a subsequent function.

On another occasion when fresh cream to top the dessert (delicious) was omitted from the order, a Parev Whip (not so delicious) was sent instead. The bill was adjusted accordingly. Such is the value of experience.

Now, to cut the cost of catering for future functions, the ladies of the committee have volunteered to bake cakes in the Synagogue Kitchen (new cooker provided by the Ladies' Guild). Apart from benefitting from the culinary expertise of the members, it should save some of the last minute panic — or will it?

Maybe to cover all eventualities we will have to have an "All Singing — All Dancing — All Catering — Friendly Neighbourhood Functions Committee. MABEL PHILLIPS

SYNAGOGUE SECURITY

During the past few years you may have wondered why, whilst Services are taking place, some of our congregants have been seen in the forecourt of the Synagogue — at times approaching those about to enter. No, they are not part of a welcoming committee but volunteers who have been willing to forego parts of the Services by selflessly helping with security arrangements.

These precautions have been taken on the advice of the Board of Deputies, against the possibility, however remote, of extremist groups or individuals causing us some disturbance or intrusion.

In order to relieve the annual burden from our regular volunteer stewards the Board of Management have this year decided to use the services of a professional security organisation and a uniformed static security officer will be present outside the Synagogue during Services. This, however, does not entirely relieve us of our duty to remain vigilant and alert to the ever present possibility of a disturbance and it is requested that those who previously acted as stewards continue the practice of occasionally checking the precincts of the Synagogue and reporting anything that may give rise to suspicion.

Would congregants please co-operate by dispersing immediately after Services — repeated requests have so far been totally ignored but for your own safety and security DO NOT LINGER outside the Synagogue when you leave — this is when we are most vulnerable.

Should any reader have experience in security matters and have any constructive ideas on the subject I shall be pleased to hear.
BERT BANKOVER

BOOKSHELF

1. "MY FAMILY RIGHT OR WRONG"

By Ephraim Kishon (Published by Bachman & Turner) £8.50

2. "THE JEWS, STORY OF A PEOPLE"

By Howard Fast (Published by Dell Publishing Co. N.Y.)

In hardback, Published in London by Cassel 1968

It was in November 1976 that this reviewer attended with other members of our Congregation the J.L.A. Leadership Conference Mission in Jerusalem. The main events of the of the Conference was a Dinner at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel at which the then Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin gave a rather sombre Report about the International and Internal Situation of Israel. As if to counterbalance the politics and economics, we were then entertained by Ephraim Kishon, who was introduced to us as the "Philosopher under the Court Jester's Cap".

As soon as Kishon started telling his hilarious stories about his family, his life in Tel Aviv, in English that sounded to me — a fellow Hungarian — I felt, like George Mikes (the author of How to be an Alien) that Hungarian humour in Hebrew, English, French, Yiddish or Chinese, is simply unique. Kishon, born in Budapest, came in 1949 to Israel and within two years he acquired a mastery of Hebrew and his stories were printed in "Maariv", translated by Miriam Arad for the "Jerusalem Post" and now translated and published in 25 languages and has sold 27 million copies. Recently his first book was published in London and you have to read it, if only to forget problems and enjoy yourself.

My second choice this year is in my humble opinion a Masterpiece by the author of the best seller, The Immigrants — Howard Fast. This book was first published in 1968 and I was really fortunate when a friend sent me a copy only recently. I started reading and I could not put it down: Eleven Chapters — 370 pages — telling the story, our history in plain colloquial language from the Desert to the Holocaust. I would like to quote from Fast's introduction:

"There is no human being on the face of this earth exempt from the Jewish influence. For as long as there has been history, the Jew has wandered through it, shaping at times, riding the current silently at other times, but always leaving his mark. History without the Jew?? The world without the Jew? It is inconceivable!"

This is a book to read with fascination by adolescents and adults. By father to son and to the grandchildren.

Have a good read and a feeling of: I never knew how much I missed by not reading "THE JEWS".

CHAIM ZE'EV

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM

HETTY & DAVID BALONOV

148, CONINGHAM ROAD, W.12

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.

INDIA RE-VISITED

by Percy S. Gourgey, MBE

Returning to India after more than 20 years' absence, my overall impression was that while changes had taken place and considerable progress had been made, the problems to be tackled are still formidable. Foremost among these is the perennial one of the population explosion which has made India the second most populous country in the world (700 million) after China (1000 million). It is obvious that this must have a radical effect on the country's economy and ultimately, on its governance, whichever is in power.

Initially, I visited New Delhi to cover the 7th Non-Aligned Summit which proved very interesting especially as I could compare it with the first held in Belgrade in 1961, with the founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nehru of India, Tito of Yugoslavia and Nasser of Egypt, with other prominent leaders and first presidents of their countries, such as President Soekarno of Indonesia, Nkrumah of Ghana, Sihanouk of Cambodia, U Nu of Burma (a great friend of Israel) and Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. In 1961 there were 25 Heads of State or Government and in 1983 there were over 100, making it a far more complex and confused collection of leaders.

The two and a half-year-old conflict between Iran and Iraq dominated the proceedings at Delhi as it undermined the moral authority of the non-aligned leaders to appeal for world peace since they could not prevent a war between two of their own member-states! The condemnation of Israel and the United States is almost a ritualistic affair so much so that an African delegate told me that his country still wanted to renew "the constructive relationship with Israel it had in the past before the Yom Kippur War because of the benefits gained thereby". Moreover it was observed that there were many inter-Arab conflicts such as those between the radical and conservative states in the region, including Libya and Egypt, North and South Yemen, Iraq and Syria, internally in Saudi Arabia etc. The Indian Ocean was designated a "Zone of Peace" and while Cuba said there was the American base at Diego Garcia, the Singapore Foreign Minister referred to Aden (South Yemen) as a Soviet base. The conference served to draw attention to the real problems afflicting the majority of mankind such as poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease.

India's attitude towards Israel, on the governmental level, is as hostile as ever, though India has recognised Israel and allows an Israeli consulate in Bombay, but on a popular level there is a great reservoir of goodwill for Israel and admiration for her achievements in the economic and technological spheres. In this respect I found much interest in Israel's resort to sources of energy alternative to oil, such as solar energy, of which India has a potentially inexhaustible supply with guaranteed sunshine 9 months in the year. I spoke to leading politicians, professors,

writers and intellectuals, who hoped India would one day develop fruitful relations with Israel to their mutual benefit.

I found the Jewish community much smaller — about 7,000 now — but still active and having drawn closer together, in Bombay, still the main centre, and other cities I visited, Cochin in Kerala and Poona. I was glad to note that plans are being made for the celebration of the centenary of the founding of the Knesset Eliahoo Synagogue in Bombay (Fort) called in honour of Elias David Sassoon by his son, Sir Jacob, my great-uncle, in the year 1884, an account of which appeared in "The Times of India" of the relevant date.

I much appreciated the opportunity of addressing various groups, such as the Indian Council of World Affairs, the Council of Indian Jewry, the Rodef Shalom Synagogue, Rotary Clubs in Cochin and Bombay, an academics group in Poona University, the Sabbath Congregations in the Fort Synagogue, etc. It was a great pleasure to renew old friendships, visit my old School, Cathedral and John Cannon, and my former naval establishments, Castle Barracks now INS ANGRE.

I am glad to observe that the banner of Judaism is still kept flying high — and there is great interest in this as I noted in reaction to my articles in the press on the Passover and Pentecost Festivals — and the keen interest in Israel is maintained where many families settled there. After 36 years of independence, India treats her small Jewish community well and is well served by it.

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Stepney Connection

By Barbara Altman

Lily Sogan, a well loved member of the Stepney Jewish Settlement, celebrated her ninetieth birthday last month.

The welfare of the Stepney Jewish Settlement has been high on Mrs. Sogan's list of priorities for more than five decades — she has been its chairman for 50 years. She is now the secretary and she said she is still making good use of her shorthand.

Mrs. Sogan visits the settlement — now housed at the Beaumont Community Centre in Stepney — once a month. She arranges the year's programme for the 60 members, most of whom are over 80, who meet regularly.

Probably the most enjoyable task of Mrs. Sogan's year is to organise a week's holiday for club members, at the Edith Morrison House at Folkestone.

Lily and Nat Sogan, who have five grandchildren, are members of Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue. When they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1970 they donated £210 to the Stepney Settlement. Many of its members state emphatically that "if Lily stands down from the committee we will all stop going".

A new look at some Old Objects

A hot sultry Sunday morning is hardly the weather to browse around a museum. Nevertheless for 'The Brook' one must forsake a deck-chair in the garden and pay a visit to Woburn House.

It is there that one finds The Jewish Museum, to which this was my first visit, although it was opened in 1932.

In 1939 with the advent of war the museum was closed and all objects were moved and safely stored away from London. The museum re-opened to the public in 1947. The Hall is dedicated to Rose Hertz (1880-1930) wife of the late Chief Rabbi Dr. Hertz.

Articles are displayed in large cabinets, the first object a Megillah in a silver gilt case chased with scenes from the Book of Esther (German 17th century), in fact all the festivals are represented. A remarkable piece was the Child's Peep Show depicting a Succah scene (18th century). One object of great interest, a Mezuzah Case of polished bone, Italian circa 15th century, was a truly unique piece.

There is a fine collection of porcelain, Rockingham, Minton, Derby and Canton with Hebrew writings, also figurines of Jewish Pedlars (English 18th & 19th century), minute prayer books, tephillin cases and bags so small one can hardly read the writings.

A coin section going right back to 135 B.C.E. with seals and stamps. Very interesting was the Synagogue section with a Synagogue Ark from Venice (16th century) and a Circumcision Bench (Seat of Elijah) and a Synagogue Chanukah Lamp in brass.

Finally one piece worthy of note was a Wooden Torah Case with Scrolls and bells of silver, recently released by the Egyptian Government and brought to England by courtesy of the late President Sadat. This is lent by Lord and Lady Segal née Rolo and made for her family in the 18th century.

R.F.

bAk tOo sKOol

In a few weeks time I shall be starting a one year teachers' training course. At the end of the year I will be qualified to teach chemistry to secondary school children, aged 11-18. As a preliminary to this I was required to observe for two weeks at a local primary school. Although, at first, I was a little surprised — observation at a primary school when I wanted to teach an older group — I soon became excited, involved and totally captivated by the children.

The school has slightly over 100 children aged 5-11. They are distributed over five classes because of the low numbers whereas this age range would more usually split into eight classes. Each class has its own teacher with special staff for Music and P.E. In addition, certain children are taken out for a lesson or two each week with special teachers for slow children or English as a Second Language. (A minority of the pupils were not born in this country and have difficulty with English).

During my two weeks I spent a day or two in each of the five classes.

The most obvious thing which struck me was the incredible energy the children have. I know I must have been like them a few years ago but it is easy to forget. It was particularly surprising though because of the hot weather. This was the fortnight when temperatures jumped into the nineties. The staff were happy to collapse in the staffroom with a drink at break but not the children. They dashed around as if trying to warm up! There is some hope for them though. One day in the second week, Spencer (age 10) confessed to me that they were not playing football as it was too hot. (It did not stop them on other days).

Inevitably, as a stranger in the classroom, I provoked some interesting reactions. The most fascinating, I found, were not so much to me as to my Kippah. With only one male member of staff I was not too surprised to be called "Miss" quite frequently. One girl decided I must be a "Miss" because of the hair clips holding the Kippah. Another girl — and I had to think about this — asked me where I came from; was it the church?

One of the highlights of the two weeks was the school outing to Littlehampton. This was the English school outing at its most typical. We left our hot classrooms for a day at the seaside — the weather was awful. It was cloudy and overcast. The highlight of the day for the children may come as a surprise. It was not the sea or the sand but a little bus they rode up and down the front.

For me, the highlight of the fortnight had come the day before. On "Leavers' Day" the school had put on a modified production of the musical "Oliver". Each class had its own song and the whole effect was enchanting. The excitement had mounted through the rehearsals and a small panic was evident amongst the staff after a dreadful run through in the morning. However, it was all right on the night, or afternoon in this case, and the leavers accepted their prizes with justifiable pride.

I received a small prize while I was there also. Of course I cherish the experience and I am glad that I had first-hand experience of what my secondary school pupils will have gone through. I keep a more material reminder in addition. Clara (age 7) drew a picture of me and let me keep it. This will, I hope, be the first of many such mementos of schools and classes. I shall always treasure this one above all though, as this will remind me of the very first time I went back to school.

JONATHAN M. MILLER

Our Caretaker

Steffie has continued her wonderful services to the Congregation, which she carries out with great enthusiasm and love.

The gardens of the Minister's Residence and Synagogue are looking as beautiful as ever. Stephie hardly lets a day go by without some attention to her display of blooms. In all this her husband Tom lends a willing hand.

Their work is much admired and appreciated.

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 WIZO Head Office.

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. 995 7279
21 Meadow Croft, Brooks Road, Chiswick, W.4.

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

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

from

**FIDELITY
P.L.C.**



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