

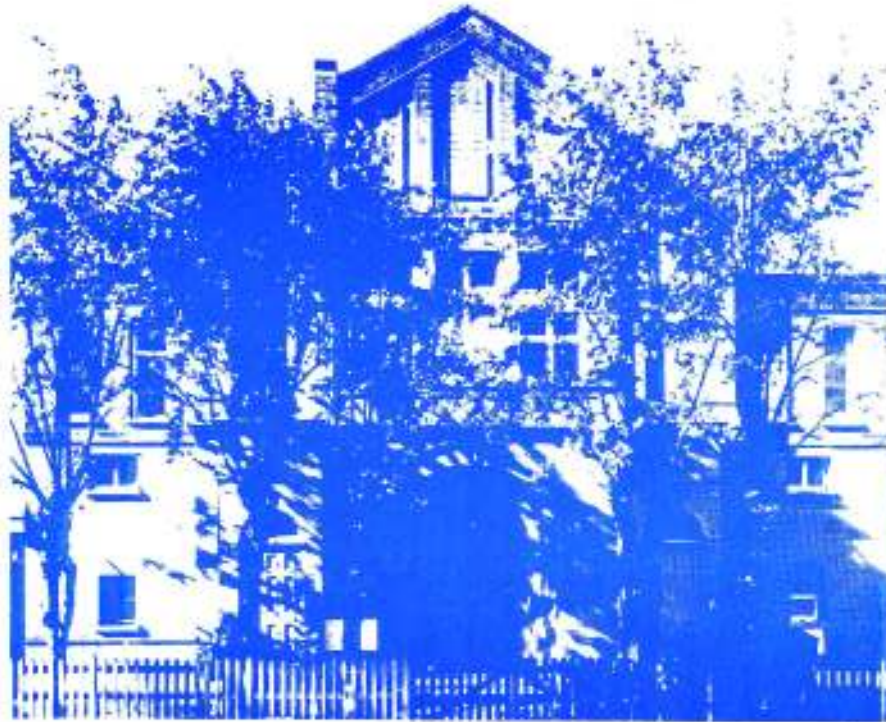
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THE BROOK

1890 - 1990

CENTENARY ISSUE



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

"I will give thanks unto thee for thou hast answered me
and art become my Salvation".

Psalm 118 verse 21

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)
71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W6 7BE

Officials

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The Secretary can be seen any Sunday morning between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. and by appointment.

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

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Elder: H. Sharpe, Esq.

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Female Representatives on the Committee of Management

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Mrs J. Brand	Mrs A. Phillips
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Representative at the Board of Deputies: D. Arram, Esq.

Times of Services

WEEKDAYS

Morning By arrangement 7.30 a.m. **Evening:** By arrangement
SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 8.30 a.m.

By arrangement

SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS:

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

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

"THE BROOK"

EDITORIAL BOARD:

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Mr D. Arram; Mr M. De Vries, M.A.
Councillor S. Grose, B.A. Mr S. Williams

EDITORIAL

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

This year has given each of us every opportunity, should be have chosen to accept it, to reflect on the past in a questioning way. During the course of his address on the occasion of the Service of Thanksgiving for the Synagogue Centenary, the Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, laid particular stress on the contribution of those who founded our community to ensuring that it was established in accordance with traditional values. Those who have led the congregation since its inception have had the innovative example of the founders as an inspiration at all times.

The essential continuity we have achieved can mask the critical issue which remains for us, as individuals. We have had much to celebrate in our Centenary year, which has been marked with heartening expressions of goodwill and support from members, former members and friends in the wider Community. It is the confidence that we can derive from this which is required to help to provide the means of continued renewal for each of us as we approach a New Year. We place on record our thanks for what has been done for us in the creation and establishment of our congregation. It is for each individual to recognise in the attachment they hold for the community to undertake that personal renewal required for the future.

The contrast between collective activity and individual response is easily obscured. As we pray as an entire community for the gift of life, health and happiness for ourselves and all Israel, we should ensure that in both a reflective and active way we offer our own answers to the renewal of the community. Each individual contribution in a personal and distinctive way provides the only valid way towards the future, and in deciding whether we can face it with the confidence derived from the courage, ability and energy of our founders and past leaders, and our own added strength, or otherwise.

We join in sharing a notable anniversary this year with the 120th anniversary of the foundation of the United Synagogue itself. We offer the renewal of ourselves and our congregation as a personal and collective support to the United Synagogue, and all its responsibilities in educational and welfare matters, to ensure that the next 120 years can be successful and inspiring in moving towards the future from past ages.

ISRAEL TOUR

A tour of Israel is being arranged for early November, 1991. Members and friends who are interested are asked to contact Mr. David Arram for further particulars.

- THE MEASURE OF OUR DEEDS

In our prayers on the High Holydays, our attention is focussed on the grand themes of life. But at the same time, we ought not to lose sight of the truth that great matters depend so much on little things.

In the Ethics of the Fathers, our Rabbis tell us to be as mindful of a small deed or Mitzvah as of a big one, because we are so limited in our vision that we do not know the ultimate value or the reward coming from our action.

Great consequences have come from little things. Greatness is within the reach of every one of us. It does not demand anything spectacular. Greatness lies in the faithful carrying out of whatever duties life places upon us, and the generous performance of the small acts of kindness that G-d has made possible for us.

Of course, some of the most heroic people have been unsung.

Parents caring for a handicapped child, compensating for nature's frail endowment with inexhaustible gifts of unselfish love. Young wives and mothers who have borne bravely the heavy burden of widowhood and managed to be both mother and father to their children.

Each of us has a job to do, each of us has love to bestow, each of us has compassion to show.

Let us also remember another vital area where we can bring happiness through little deeds. How much do we care for others? How much a re-assuring word, a friendly greeting, a well-timed visit, an encouraging gesture, a sincere compliment can do.

As our Torah tells us at this time of the year, "It is not in heaven, it is not beyond the sea. It is in your own mouth and heart to do".

Whether our prayer for happiness will be answered or not, depends not alone on what life will bring to us, but also on what we will bring to it.

Again, just as we can find happiness and greatness in little things, so is the measure of our loyalty to Judaism reflected in little things. We are too likely to disregard them because they are little.

Loyalty to Judaism was frequently shown in heroic acts of martyrdom. Great acts of courage and sacrifice. But for us loyalty to Judaism is spelled out in undramatic tasks, unspectacular little deeds and yet it is precisely in these little acts that our loyalty to Judaism is reflected, and the texture of our lives is woven by these small acts of identification with our faith, with its customs, with our people and with Israel and determine our very future as a viable Jewish Community.

Let us pay attention to the little things. They contain the seed of greatness, they bear the fruits of happiness and they nourish the tree of Jewish living.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF RABBI

ROSH HASHANAH 5751

Future historians may well rank the past year as encompassing events without precedent in scale, extent and speed.

For us the principal challenge is to see these cataclysmic changes through Jewish eyes.

History has witnessed the fall of great empires - from the Roman to the British - and great revolutions, such as the French Revolution, all with enduring effects. Yet they were limited; they did not affect the entire human race across oceans and continents. And they took time to unfold.

This time the speed with which Communism collapsed across two continents has been breath-taking. Likewise it is the speed of the Exodus from Egypt, the most formative event in Jewish history, which is emphasised in our commemoration of the event. The major symbol of the Festival marking the exodus is the *matza bechipazon*, "in haste"; they had no time to delay, and could not wait for the dough to ferment.

I would list as of special relevance to us four main Jewish ramifications and concerns:

1. The testimony to the triumph of the spirit over materialism. Communism was convinced it had superseded all other religious and economic systems. Some had already written off religion altogether. They developed a 'G-d-is-dead' theology, and spoke of the 'post-Christian era'. Religion, it was widely believed, had been overtaken by science and technology, and morals by-passed by the indiscipline of the permissive society. But the obituaries were premature. Communism came to grief at the hands of the very forces it attacked and reviled. Its disintegration began with the rise of Solidarity in Poland which was essentially, a Catholic-inspired movement. From there it spread to the rest of Eastern Europe, from churches in East Germany to religious study groups among Jews and others inside the Soviet Union.
2. Most dramatic is the geo-political earthquake. The shock-waves will be particularly powerfully felt in the Middle East. Israel may escape being the centre of super-power rivalries, in which East and West pour vast arsenals of arms into the region, fighting out their battles by proxy. But there is the danger that Israel will no longer be considered indispensable to the United States, with the resultant threat to military, political and economic support on a virtually unlimited scale. Since drafting this message at the end of July, other events are unfolding at an alarming pace in the region. We applaud the almost universal stand, led by the United States, against Iraq's aggression and extortion and at this season, we pray with special fervour for the safety of Israel and of all concerned in the defence of freedom.

3. Alongside the freedom now enjoyed by Jews in Eastern Europe, anti-semites also enjoy the same freedom where they had hitherto been suppressed. Moreover, as the Soviet Union declines as a superpower, creating a dangerous power-vacuum in the East, Germany looks set to take its place. Today economic power counts for more than military power, and with an industrial strength at least twice as large as any other country in central and western Europe, Germany is likely to become the dominant factor in Europe and beyond. Jews are bound to view this prospect with very special concern, especially as the re-unification of Germany is due to take effect even before we have completed Succot.

Some signs of renewed anti-semitism, happily mild in this country, are disturbing, and constant vigilance is imperative. But it would be dangerous to exaggerate. Creating undue fear and panic can only undermine Jewish self-confidence, whilst giving comfort to our enemies. By gratuitously calling people anti-semites, we may breed them at a time when what we need is to win friends.

4. Above all, events in Eastern Europe will of course affect the future of Soviet Jewry - a community twice as large as the rest of Europe. Soviet Jews now enjoy a double freedom to leave and to live as Jews.

We have not yet begun to appreciate the enormity of the task now facing us. Never in our history have we had both the chance and the challenge to save two million Jews as Jews.

Of course, the top priority is to help the maximum number of Soviet Jews to settle in Israel. But even for them we have to be careful to ensure their spiritual preparation and absorption. Without appreciating Jewish values and nurturing an intense love of Jewish living, many are likely to leave at the first opportunity.

It is one thing for Jews who have never been to Israel to proceed from Vienna or Rome to other destinations. But once they have been to Israel and then leave, disenchanted or unfulfilled, the demoralising effect on those left behind can be extreme, especially after all the propaganda to "Let My People Go" as the supreme cause galvanising the Jewish people.

But for the time being, the majority will stay behind, and unless we help them to reconstruct their Jewish communities - with religious, educational, cultural and social services - most may well be lost to the Jewish people altogether.

At the Conference of European Rabbis held in Brussels in May (attended by over 100 Rabbis, including the Chief Rabbis of Moscow and Leningrad) a scheme was adopted for twinning communities in Western Europe with communities or regions in the Soviet Union - providing for the exchange of personal letters, visits particularly by youth and

student groups, supply of literary and religious material, and the sponsorship of Russian speaking *schlichim* (trained in Israel) as rabbis, teachers, youth leaders, social workers, etc. It is hoped that every community in this country will play some active part in this effort to stretch out our hand to fellow-Jews who were denied their Jewish birthright for over seventy years.

We hope that wise and cautious statesmanship will ensure a safeguard which will make even a remote threat to racial harmony and the security of minorities and violation of human rights, actionable before international courts of justice.

Among notable events at home were the appointment of my successor, the outstanding cultural events sponsored by Jews' College, the opening of Immanuel College as the most ambitious single project ever undertaken by Anglo-Jewry, the removal of the threat to *shechita*, the consolidation of *kashrut* and *shechita* administration within the United Synagogue of London, and the balance for the first time in decades between demand and supply in filling ministerial vacancies.

The planned integration of Britain into Europe leading up to 1992 will no doubt also have a distinct impact on our community. I hope Anglo-Jewry will retain and enhance its pivotal role in Europe. Though limited in numbers, we excel in cherishing and preserving our traditions, in our organisational stability, and in our role as a vital nerve-centre of Europe's three million Jews. We were virtually alone to be saved from the horrors of Nazi occupation, and we now owe it to the survivors to spearhead the strengthening of Jewish life - in Israel and in the Diaspora.

May the New Year bring us ever closer to the promise of freedom, progress, peace and redemption.

LORD IMMANUEL JAKOBOVITS
CHIEF RABBI

ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90 CENTENARY YEAR 1890-1990

This year's most significant and memorable occasion has undoubtedly been the Service of Thanksgiving to mark the Centenary of the Founding of the Synagogue. On Sunday, 18th February - 23rd Shevat, the Synagogue was filled with a distinguished congregation representing every aspect of communal religious and civic life. The Service was conducted by Rabbi Simons, Rev. Venitt and Rev. Freilich, with a Choir, and the Address was given by the Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits. We were greatly honoured to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith and Fulham, Councillor and Mrs Gray, the Members of Parliament Mr. Soley and Mr. Carrington, together with the Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London, Major Coren. The

United Synagogue was represented by the President, Mr. Sidney Frosh, and the Honorary Officers. The Congregation was also able to welcome as guests Councillors, local Clergy, and lay representatives of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

After the Service a Reception was held in the Synagogue Hall, at which Mr. Amias presided. There were brief speeches of congratulation from Mr. Frosh, His Honour Israel Finestein (Vice-President of the Board of Deputies) and Mr. De Vries who gave the Vote of Thanks.

The planning for such an event was undertaken over an extensive period, and we place on record our thanks to our colleagues on the Organising Committee, Mr. Nisner, Mr. Brand, Councillor Grose, Mr. Rieck, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Phillips and the Committee Secretary, Mrs. Meltz, for all their help, and we also greatly appreciate the great encouragement and support from the Board and Committee of Management.

The Annual Reception was held in honour of our Chasanim, Mr. David Abrams and Mr. Dennis Collins, on 29th October, 1989. After Votes of Thanks and presentations, both replied in appropriate happy terms.

The year has continued to be a busy one, and our colleagues on the Board and the Committee of Management continue to support us in every way. The Ladies' Guild has arranged several successful functions which have been most enjoyable, and they have given much needed financial help to Charities, both here and in Israel, and to our own Synagogue and of course in all our activities, particularly the Centenary service. The Friendship Club remains a valued service to all its members and visitors, and offers a happy and welcome atmosphere to all who attend.

We have continued to issue a Newsletter to supplement our annual publication of "The Brook", and have welcome contributions from Rabbi Simons and Miss Finch Allibone who wrote a historical note on the architect of our Synagogue, Delissa Joseph, who was also Financial Representative when the Synagogue was founded.

The J.I.A. Committee continues to arrange essential fund-raising support for Israel, and there was a most encouraging response to the Kol Nidre and Annual Appeals. In addition, we call on Members to increase their efforts to help our fellow-Jews leaving Russia for Israel in unprecedented numbers, by contributing to the current appeal.

We are pleased to place on record that the newly-arranged earlier times of Services have been adhered to, and we thank those who have helped by arranging to be present earlier, so we have a Minyan on time. As ever, our friend and colleague Hersh Rieck

gives much pleasure with his davening. A noteworthy feature continues to be a Kiddush every week after the Service, to which everyone is invited, and which enables members to meet informally and to greet the many visitors we see during the year. We are grateful to all those donors who presented Kiddushim to mark special events, and to the ladies who arrange the catering so attractively.

We have once again had to increase financial contributions, in accordance with the directions of the United Synagogue, and to enable us to keep pace with rising costs to maintain our activities. We are grateful to our Secretary, Sidney Fainlight, for his excellent efforts in controlling expenditure and maintaining our records. He is always helpful, courteous and friendly to all.

The High Holyday Services were led by Rabbi Simons and Mr. Jonathan Miller, and were most moving. We are most grateful to them and to all our colleagues for their support throughout the year. We have also been delighted to see Rev. and Mrs. Venitt regularly when they are not with their family in Israel. To them and to all Members and Friends we send our good wishes on the occasion of our historic Centenary Year.

M. Amias D. Arram M. DeVries
Honorary Officers

CHASANIM

We are happy to announce that our chasanim for this, our centenary year, will be Mr. Jonathan Miller and Dr. Ralph Spencer.

Jonathan Miller has grown up in our congregation. He attended our Hebrew Classes, has helped us in our services, and is very highly respected in our community.

Ralph Spencer, although a member for only a few years, has shown a great interest in our Synagogue and is always willing to help in any way.

We look forward to our members and friends joining in our Annual Reception and which our Chasanim will be our honoured guests. The date will be Sunday 14th October.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Angelus	Mrs F. Fox
Mrs Balanov	Mrs Moss
Mrs Dobkin	Mrs Myers
Mr J. Feld	Mrs Ross

GIFTS TO THE SYNAGOGUE

Sefer Torah Mantle from Mr Gertler and Family

GIFTS FOR THE SUCCAH

The Succah will be ready for decorating on Monday 1st October. Gifts of Fruit, Flowers, Foliage, Wine etc., will be gratefully accepted; also Donations towards the purchase of cakes.

J.I.A.

The main thrust of this year's general appeal campaign has been to rescue Russian Jewry. There are two issues: the need to get Jews out of Russia, and their successful absorption into Israel.

The cost of this work is substantial. The requirements include the provision of homes and jobs, school and university places, hospitals and facilities for the aged and the sick. A planeload of 300 people and their belongings costs £300,000; world Jewry must raise £500 million over three years - the people of Israel will provide the rest.

The British Appeal is committed to raise £50 million over this period. But this is not all, because at the same time we have to continue to support the ongoing activities of the Jewish Agency, including Aliyah, especially from Ethiopia, Romania, Iran and South America, as well as Youth Aliyah, and the J.I.A.'s Project Renewal areas of Ashkelon, Dimona and the Northern Galil. The task is immense, and our local contribution is an essential part of it.

In this connection, our local J.I.A. Committee is pleased to report that the total sum raised in the 1989 Kol Nidre Appeal and the 1990 General Appeal was £16,640, an increase of £2,058, more than 14% over the previous year. Sincere thanks are offered to all those of our members who have associated themselves with our local appeal efforts, and who have contributed so generously. Israel looks forward to your ever-continuing support.

D.A. and J.B.

THE LADIES GUILD 1989/90

It is with deep regret and much sadness that I have to tell you that our beloved President, Mrs. Ruby Hodes, passed away in December '89. Ruby Hodes was a staunch supporter of the Guild spanning a period of over sixty years, the last twenty of which she held the office of President. She was loved, respected and admired by the whole of the Hammersmith Community. Her generosity and hospitality was of the highest order. To us, she was a very special person, the like of which is rarely seen today. She will be greatly missed by us all.

We were also greatly saddened by the passing of our Vice-President, Mrs. Elizabeth Frances Benzimra in January of this year. Elizabeth Benzimra gave many years of valuable service to the Guild. She was one of our longest standing members and for over twenty-five years held the office of Vice-President. She, too, will be very sadly missed by us all.

This has been a particularly active year for the Guild. We have carried out our regular preparation of the Kiddushim and we also provided the Kiddushim in the Succah, which was again beautifully decorated with fruit and foliage with the assistance of many of our ladies. The food for the Annual Reception was prepared and served by a team of our ladies, and for this we received much praise. The Guild purchased all the flowers and plants which adorned the Synagogue for Shavuot.

On February 10th, '90 the Annual Ladies Guild Shabbat took place. This was attended by many of our members and by members of other organisations.

We continue to send parcels to a selected list of patients at Springdene Hospital on certain Festivals and we are very grateful to those who undertake this task. Our thanks are also due to the two ladies who, until April of this year, have been transporting the disabled to the centre in Camden Town. The Hospital Visitation Committee at Woburn House has recently appointed one of our ladies to be the official visitor to Jewish Patients at Charing Cross Hospital and she has already commenced visiting on a regular basis.

This year, we held three very successful Functions. The results enabled us to increase our support for the various charities which seek our help. It also enabled us to make a substantial donation to the JIA Appeal for Soviet Jewry and to send a donation direct to a charity in Israel engaged in the absorption of newly arrived immigrants. We also gave a substantial donation to the Synagogue Centenary Fund which was greatly appreciated by the Honorary Officers.

All this could not have been achieved without the generous support of our members and the many others who wished to associate themselves with this charitable work. We are extremely grateful for your wonderful response for it has made all the hard work which our members put in both rewarding and worthwhile.

Betty Meltz
Hon. Secretary

FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

The Synagogue Functions committee are proposing to hold a SUPPER PARTY to Celebrate the Synagogue's Centenary. This will be held towards the end of the year probably during Chanukah.

It is hoped that members will give this function every support. Further details will be sent to you as soon as arrangements have been made.

During the year support has been given to our Ladies Guild who have arranged a number of Functions in aid of the Synagogue. We thank them most sincerely for their efforts, and also to all who have given their support.

David Arram
Chairman

HAMMERSMITH FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Club goes from strength to strength. We have enrolled many new members during the year, and have a very happy family atmosphere.

We had a very interesting outing to the Silk Centre at Crayford which was a great success, and we hope to arrange similar outings in the future to places of interest.

We also had a very entertaining afternoon when Mr. Laurie Fedeler came to sing to us, and on another occasion Mary Hornick devised a quiz afternoon which was great fun.

Many members have celebrated Birthdays and Anniversaries during the year and provided us with Cake and Strawberry and Cream Teas.

The Club members also participate in many of the Synagogue and Ladies Guild Functions.

We would be delighted to welcome anyone who is lonely or who would like to make new friends. Please telephone me on 081-748 4797 (after 7 pm) and I will gladly give you full particulars.

Netta Guyer

SAN FRANCISCO ADVENTURE

It needed little persuasion to travel eleven hours by air to attend a Grandson's wedding. It was a rewarding journey. San Francisco is reputed to be the most beautiful city in the world, it certainly lives up to its reputation. The wedding was to take place in the Conservative Synagogue, and as there was to be an "Aufruf" on the Shabbat I hinted to my grandson that I would be prepared to read the "Haftorah" on that day. Word came back, via the Rabbi, that a Mrs Esther Coren would be reading the "Haftorah" as it was her birthday and she was making the Kiddush as well. No doubt, I thought, she would read it in English.

The Synagogue "Beth Sholom" holds about 1,000 worshippers and surprisingly most seats were taken. The "Shachrith" Service (Very United Synagogue) was conducted by the Chazan Kenneth Koransky a South African whose parents came from Mile End Road in London.

The Ark was opened by a warden and the Sefer taken by the Chazan was paraded round the Synagogue followed by the Rabbi Alexander Graubart and the other warden, an imposing lady in Talith and Kippa who greeted all and sundry on the way round the shul, nicely informal.

Before the reading of the Law the Rabbi, a warm hearted approachable character, gave an excellent precis of the Sedra which was listened to with great interest by the congregation.

I was honoured with an Aliyah as were both the Bride and Bridegroom and a suitable "Misheberach" recited for them. Finally the "Haftorah". Mrs Coren in Talith and Kippa was called. She recited the Beracha which sounded not unfamiliar to her and after her Aliyah the whole congregation rose and led by the Chazan sang Happy Birthday to the Birthday Girl (After this I've heard everything). Then followed the "Haftorah" read by Mrs Coren in faultless Hebrew with the traditional "Niggun" in superb style and with an obvious knowledge of every word. It was a delight.

I spoke to her after the service and was not surprised to learn that her father was a "Rav" and her grandfather a Dayan in the "Old Country".

The kiddush afterwards in the Shul Hall must have been lavish but being new to the Minhag I found that you have to be quick. All I managed to salvage was a tail end of shmaltz herring and a thimbleful of sweet red wine. You live and learn. Altogether an interesting Shabbat morning.

There was much to hear and see and feel in the extraordinary fortnight that we spent in this exhilarating city. It might be of interest to mention that at 6.40 a.m. on the day we left my bed shook and slid to the other side of the room. This was followed by two further tremors at about five minute intervals. I can assure you it was a most moving experience.

"Moshavami"

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Hon. Officers and Board & Committee 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 best wishes for a Happy & Prosperous New Year to the Hon. Officers Board and Committee of Management, friends and members of the congregation.

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

Hella Forscher and family wish to convey to the congregation their warmest wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year, 7 King's Close, N.W.4. 081-203 1163

Ms. Jane Best sends her compliments to the congregation.

Sincerest good wishes for the New Year are extended to the Rev. Venitt and family, the Hon. Officers, the Board and Committee of Management and all congregants, relatives and friends by:

- Mr & Mrs Samuel Abrahamson & family,
47 St. Mary Abbots Court, Warwick Gardens, W14 8RB
Anita & David Abrams, 11 Mercers Place, W6 7BZ
Mr Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep W14 9AT
Mr & Mrs A. G. Amias, Flat 5/72 Courtfield Gdns,
SW5
David & Pearl Arram & family, 7 Blenheim Road,
Bedford Park, London W4 1UB
Eve & Bertie Bankover & family, 3 Albany, Alexandra Grove
Finchley N12 8NN
Mrs R. Berg & Mr N. Berg and family, 1 West
Kensington Mansions, North End Road, W14 9PE
Mrs Leonard Bernstock & Mr & Mrs David Silk,
2 Windermere, Lytton Grove, Putney SW15 2ER
Irene & Joe Bondt, 24 Berkeley Court, Hale Lane,
Edgware, Middx, HA8 8NW
Joy & Jeffrey Brand, 73 Barons Keep, Gliddon Road
W14 9AU
Zara Brickman, M.B.E. & Lionel Kaufman, 3 Rugby
Mansions, W14 8DX
The Brown Family, 3 Milton Mansions, Queens Club
Gardens, W14 9RP
Mr & Mrs John J. Bush, 33 Ashfield Road, W3 7JE
Dr. & Mrs Denis Caplan & Family, 'Caramay' Parsonage
Lane, Farnham Common, Bucks SE22 3NZ
Miriam & Robert Clark, 4 Pinewood Grove, Carlton
Road, Ealing, W5 2AG
Netta Coen & family, 65 Primley Park Drive, Alwoodley,
Leeds LS17 7LP
Philip & Dorit Cohen 101 Madrid Road, SW13 9PG

Mr & Mrs Denis Collins, Flat 5, 15 Pembridge Square,
W2 4EH

Mrs Jean Cohen, 26 Kinch Grove, Wembley, Middx.
Leslie & Sheila Cook, 13 Strafford Road, Twickenham,
Middx. TW1 3AD

Jack & Thelma Cowan, 16 Sandykeld, 26 Manor Road,
East Cliff, Bournemouth BH1 3EX

Bernard & Lilian Davis, 39 Hamble Court, Broom Park,
Teddington TW11 9RW

Mrs R. DeVries and family, 52 Arundel Mansions,
Arundel Terrace, Barnes SW13 9DS

Mrs Betty Dickman, 60 Minster Court, Hillcrest Road
Ealing W5 1HH

Mr & Mrs David S. Filer, Warwick Lodge, 1 Warwick
Dene, W.5

Mrs P. Finkleman & family, 26 Meade Close, Strand on
the Green, W4 3NT

Mr & Mrs Lewis Gassman & family, 21 Castlenau,
Barnes SW13 9RP

Esther (Hetty) Godfrey & family, 60 Montrose Court,
Princes Gate, SW7 2QG

Harry & Stella Gold, 30 Emlyn Road W12 9TD

Mr & Mrs Manfred S. Gorvy, 16 Hans Road, London
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Cllr & Mrs Sidney Grose & family, Berkeley House,
10 Berkeley Road, SW13 9LZ

Mrs Netta Guyer & Maurice, 1 Atherton Road,
SW13 9NH

Elizabeth & Alfred Harris, 23 Parkside, Wimbledon
Common SW10

Mrs Jenny Harris, 20 Goldsmith Bldgs, W3 7LP

Mr & Mrs J. Harris, 182 Latymer Court, Hammersmith
W6 7JO

M. Hirth, Flat 1, 18 Flaghead Road, Poole, Dorset
BH13 7JW

Dr & Mrs Cyril Hodes, 1 Ashchurch Terrace, W12 9SLO
Bella & Basil Isaacs, 43 Clifton Court, St. Johns Wood
Road, NW8 8HT

Mr & Mrs M. Isaacson, 8 Rosedew Road, W6 9ET

Adelaide & Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, Acton,
W3 7LT

Naomi & Philip Lewis, 14 Madrid Road, Barnes
SW13 9PD

Mrs H. Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, W4 1QG

Mrs Betty Meltz & Melvin, 69 Addison Gdns., W14 ODT

Raie, Joe & Jonathan Miller, 16 Samuel Richardson
House, North End Crescent, W14 8TE

Mrs G. R. Mirwitch, 11 Southside, Stamford Brook
Common W6 OXY

Joseph Mirwitch, 66 British Grove, London W4 2NL

Mrs Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace
W8 4HX
Lily & Ralph Morris, 95 Barons Keep, W14 9AX
Mrs G. Moses, 120 North End House, Fitzjames
Avenue W14 0RY
O. A. & E. Newfield, 52 East Acton Lane W3 7EQ
Joe Nisner with Rochelle, Maxwell & Daughters
27 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, Ealing W5 2JB
Mabel & Alfred Phillips & family, 11 Bridge Avenue
Mans. W6 9JB
Hersh Rieck, 33 Campden Hill Gate, W8
Phyllis Robinson, 14 Lansdowne, 9/10 Carlton Drive
SW15 2BY
Mrs Rita Rosen, 59 Montagu Mansions, W1H 1LH
Ethel Sacks, 18 Kingfisher House, Melbury Road, W14
Mr H. Sharpe, Jewish Home at Tottenham
Prof. & Mrs Al. Shiloh & Dina, 36 Barons Keep,
W14 9AT
Lew & Minnie Shooman, Robert, Carole & family,
10 Tudor Court, Gunnersbury Ave, Ealing W5 4HD
Gerard Snoek, 4 Park Avenue, SW14
Mrs L. Sommer & family, 128 Heathfield Court, W4 4NE
Mr N. Sonnenblick, 14 Vaughan Avenue, W6 0XS
Mr & Mrs K. Steinhart, 63 Doneraile St. SW6 6EW
Michael, Debbie & Bobby Talalay, 6 Stamford Brook
Avenue, W6 0YD
Mrs Stella Tesler, 68 Homecross House, Fishers Lane
W4 1RX
Bea & Bertie Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road
W14
Ilse & Ian Tysh, 58 Prebend Gardens, W6 0XU
Mr & Mrs Morris Weintroub, 352 Western Avenue
N. Acton, W3 0PL
Peter & Rosetta Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Heathfield
Terrace, W4 4LR
Hettie & Sidney Williams & family, 28 Lime Court, Gipsy
Lane, London SW15 5RJ
Vivienne, Barry & Evelyn Winterman, 80 Linton Avenue,
Borehamwood, Herts WD 4QY
Dinah, Philip, Wendy & Bob Wisbey, 2 Rupert Road,
Bedford Park, W4 1LX
Miss Hilary Wood, 101 Latymer Court, Hammersmith
W6 7JF
Mr I. Yoffley, 93 Wellington Court, Mayfield Road
W12 9LT

BUDAPEST JULY 1989

After the sudden passing away of my lifelong marriage partner, my wonderful wife of 57 happy years, my son and daughter suggested that I should go away with them, so as to find some way to ease our pain at the grave loss we had suffered.

A suggestion came to fulfil an old idea; to visit Budapest, my birthplace and to show both of them various places that they have been told about many times in the past, and now would be the right time.

My daughter arranged the itinerary for us both to travel from London and for my son Herbert from Paris.

We left London Heathrow Airport on Thursday 22nd June and flew on the Malev (Hungarian airlines), a Russian plane. In 2 hours 5 minutes we were in Budapest. Excellent service, comfortable seats, a smooth flight and landing, and the most modern of airports greeted us. The exchange rate at the bank was approximately 100 Hungarian Forint to the pound sterling. We took a taxi to the Taverna hotel in the centre of the town; every room of this recently built hotel is fully equipped with everything a western tourist may require.

On Friday 23rd, our first full day, we decided to book a sightseeing trip which left the central coach station at 10 am for a 3 hour excursion with an English and German speaking guide, who explained not only the geographical, but also the historical importance of each area and its background. Budapest is divided by the Danube, which flows from South Germany, through Hungary to the Black Sea. The Right Bank is BUDA, with beautiful architecture of Palaces, Cathedrals, official buildings etc., and the Left Bank is PEST in which is the Parliament building, of Gothic architecture, (almost a replica of Westminster Palace), and the centre of industry and commerce. The Jewish area, of course, has been in PEST for generations. After sightseeing I wanted to show my son and daughter the personal memories of my childhood.

I was born in January 1907 in my grandparents home in an apartment building at Szerecesen-Utca 33, renamed later to Paulai-Ede Utca 33. The first name means "Black Coloured", the second the name of a Hungarian writer. The house is still standing although dilapidated. However some people are still living there and a part is used industrially - a sign told me it was a shoemakers.

Round the corner was a Synagogue where I received my first lessons in Jewish ritual. I visited Budapest after the second world war in 1947 and this local synagogue, like so many other places, was destroyed. I now found it rebuilt and being used; when we entered a caretaker called up to the first floor and a Shammas

(Beadle) appeared. I introduced myself and my children, he was delighted to see us and opened the Synagogue, switched on the lights, and had no objection to being photographed.

There was no service being held at the time. I was however very moved and took the opportunity to say a Kaddish for my wife. I left a donation for the Synagogue and was asked whether we could come that evening for the Eruv Shabbat service. I regret we never took up this offer, but we did return on the following Monday. I left my card and promised to keep in touch with the community.

Our plan for Shabbat was to visit the famous cathedral like Synagogue "The Tabak Temple" (Tabak is German for the Hungarian word Dohany. This beautiful building was erected from the 17th Century onwards and has a capacity of 3,000 worshippers. A notice at the entrance gives the time for Shabbat services starting:

Friday evening 7.30 p.m.

Shabbat Shachris 10.00 a.m.

Shabbat Mussuf service 10.30 a.m.

We arrived at 10.00 a.m. and found a gathering of approximately 150-200 people. The ladies are placed on the right side. I was informed by my neighbour that there was a special service on this Shabbat as the Ober Rabbi (Chief Rabbi) Dr. Schoner's son was Barmitzvah. The Chasan introduced Ein Komocho and just like the Chief Rabbi, had a beautiful baritone voice. The decorum - non existence - continuous coming and going. Some men wear tallis, some do not. Everyone has a story to tell of where they come from.

Hungary, with the present population of 11 million, has about 80,000 Jews (Over 200,000 in 1914-1918) and 22 Synagogues are open for worship. The majority are in the capital, the rest in various provincial cities. Budapest has a rabbinical seminar for teaching ministers (like Jews College). It is the only one in Eastern Europe.

Sunday was scheduled for the visit to the Budapest Jewish Museum, which is situated next to the Tabak Temple. As you walk up the stairs to the first floor you face a monument stating that on this place stood the house where Herzl Tivador (Theodor Herzl) was born. Herzl was the founder of modern Zionism which held the first Zionist Congress. Shamir, Israel's Prime Minister, was also born in Budapest. The inscription is in both Hungarian and Ivrit. There are four rooms with the most interesting and fascinating exhibits. Room 1 is dedicated to the Shabbat and Torah ornaments. Room 2 exhibits are dedicated to the various festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Pesach, The Shofar, etc. Room 3 is dedicated to private life from cradle to the grave. The rooms are all well lit and have a variety of objects on display.

Room 4 is in darkness and here the events of the Holocaust are recorded. We did not spend time there.

We finished our visit by meeting a Russian lady on vacation from Cernauti which used to be called Cernowice. She told us that since Gorbotchov, life for the Jews is much better. Or is it?

It was indeed an interesting trip.

Willie Gertler

OF DINOSAURS AND FILM MEN (AND WOMEN) by Jonathan Miller

It is a wonderful feeling as the summer holiday from school approaches. During the last week of school this atmosphere so pervades the building that serious work somehow has less and less attraction for the children. At J.F.S. we now deal with this by finishing the year with a couple of special activity days. These consist of a range of visits and outings which the pupils can choose for themselves. This year I was with the group of twenty-five twelve and thirteen year olds on a trio of museum visits.

Day One saw us heading for South Kensington, where we started with the Natural History Museum. This has really livened up its presentation in the last few years. We were primarily interested in their galleries on Human Biology. These consisted of some imaginative models, displays and games, all using the best of modern technology so that there was a lot for the children to do, as well as just looking and reading. We all enjoyed pressing the buttons, trying the computer puzzles, testing our observation skills on an interactive video of a robbery, and all the other parts of this guide to the human body.

From there we wandered across to a special exhibition the museum was hosting for the summer - the living dinosaurs. These consisted of an assortment of giant dinosaurs that were able to move due to their mechanical insides. We would suddenly find ourselves nose to nose with a brontosaurus, or notice the "skin" move as the tyrannosaurus was "breathing". My favourite was the mummy dinosaur waiting over her clutch of eggs, some of which were starting to crack open!

After our picnic lunch in the excellent visitors' facilities of the museum, we went next door to the Science Museum. We let the pupils have some time to explore, as we had in the first museum, but we were all really here for just one part - Launch Pad. This is a series of about thirty to forty exhibits, which challenges our expectation of most museums since the intention is that they should be picked up and played with. All the exhibits are puzzles and games for the children to explore and learn from. There is a giant water pump for the kids to build and make work, a giant lock to do the same with, bridges to build, model air tunnels to see how aircraft fly, and many, many more.

Our second day was spent at a relatively new arrival in London - MOMI, the Museum of the Moving Image. This is on the South Bank near the Festival Hall. Being near the river gave us a delightful picnic site with some fine views across the river. The museum itself does what its name suggests, and takes you on a historic tour of the evolution of film and television. The displays are well set out and we had a full two and a half hours wandering through. At various stages there were actors playing roles to add to the authenticity of the display. Some of our pupils became actors for a "film set" making a mini-Western. Others acted as usherettes in the cinema there in the museum. There was lots for all of us to see. The nostalgia side of the museum is not fully appreciated by the children, but I enjoyed seeing how many actors and actresses I recognised from the past at various parts of the museum.

Whenever we travel as tourists we rush around seeing lots of sights in foreign climes. As Londoners we often neglect the rich and varied tapestry of historic and other venues we have in the city. It was a pleasure to play the tourist and view these three places - especially MOMI, which I had not seen before. If school was always like this, both staff and pupils might look forward to the end of the summer holidays with as much joy as we greet its approach.

A VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND

One evening towards the end of June, I happened to walk down Haymarket and looked into the shop-window of New Zealand Airways. To my surprise there was a special offer for people over eighty, ending 30th July. I had often heard how beautiful New Zealand is, so I called there next day, only to be told that the special offer had been sold out weeks ago. I agreed to have my name put on the waiting list, and to my surprise they phoned within two days to confirm my travel dates.

The flight from Gatwick went via Greenland to Los Angeles, and after refuelling, straight across the dateline to Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, flanked by the South Pacific in the East and the Tasman Sea in the West. The Airport bus took me to Downtown, and to my surprise I found myself surrounded by most modern skyscrapers - a mini New York. Auckland City is home to some 830,000, including 140,000 Maoris out of the total of three and a half million New Zealanders. The Jewish Community was founded in 1840 by David Nathan, a Londoner. Today the Auckland Community is vigorous and prosperous, with approximately 2,000 members. So far there have been five Jewish Mayors in Auckland City.

After sightseeing in Auckland and excursions to nearby subtropical islands, I went on to Rotorna, a resort city with spectacular geysers, steaming cliffs, and hot springs everywhere.

Rotorna is also a centre of Maori culture and native art. Leaving Rotorna, I took an early morning intercity bus for a long but scenic drive past Lake Tenpo and Turoa, with famous ski-fields, to wonderful Wellington, New Zealand's capital, and a city of a "thousand views". I arrived late afternoon, just in time to take part in the Erev Shabbat Service in the new Webb Street Synagogue and Jewish Centre, which is under the authority of the Chief Rabbi in London. I had a very warm and friendly welcome, and was called up Shabbat morning. The Minister was on holiday, but the congregation numbered about sixty out of a membership of about 1,200. It was memorable how many young people took part in the Service.

The first Jews arrived in Wellington in 1840. Free from any discriminatory disabilities, New Zealand's Jews have made valuable contributions to the country's development and progress. Sir Julius Vogel, twice Prime Minister, 1873-75 and 1876, has been called New Zealand's most far-sighted statesman. Sir Michael Myers of Wellington was Chief Justice from 1929 to 1946. Jews have pioneered in business and farming. The oldest business in New Zealand was L. D. Nathan & Co., which developed the Glaxo Pharmaceutical Company. New Zealand's brewing and hotel industries were also pioneered by Jews.

After Shabbat, on Sunday morning I made the three and a half hours crossing off the Cook Strait to the South Island. I was very lucky with the weather, and landed in bright sunshine in the small seaside town of Pafon, where I boarded the "Coastal Pacific Express", a scenic adventure by rail along the Pacific Ocean and past the snow-covered Keikure Mountains, to arrive in Christchurch about six hours later.

Christchurch, called "the most English City outside England", is New Zealand's third largest city, with about 350,000 inhabitants, and a small Jewish Community. Christchurch, a garden city with lush green parks, has its main attraction in the tree-lined Arow river, partly meandering through the city, which is used for punting, as in Oxford. After a day's sightseeing, I took the early morning Transalpine Express, one of the great railway journeys of the world, across the Arthur Pass National Park, to the magnificent West Coast of the South Island and the small city of Greymouth, which once, at the time of the goldrush, had over a hundred hotels.

From Greymouth, I travelled by Intercity bus along the Tasman Sea, backed by the snow-covered mountain peaks of the Southern Alps, through dense, lush rain forests, to the Franz Josef and Fox glaciers, where I stayed overnight. After sightseeing in the Westland National Park, I went back all the way to Christchurch.

Next morning, I caught an early excursion bus to the Mount

Cook National Park and the base camp of New Zealand's highest mountain, Mount Cook (3764 m.), named after the great explorer. When I heard that so far 49 people had lost their lives on Mount Cook, I decided not to attempt to be the fiftieth, and went straight back to the safety of my hotel room in Christchurch.

Next day, back to Wellington for Shabbat, and early Monday morning, an eleven hour ride in the Silver Fern Express back to Auckland. Two days later, on the 18th July, in the evening, I started my return flight, only to find next day in Los Angeles that the date was still the 18th July, after crossing the dateline. I much enjoyed living the same day twice. A few more hours of a smooth flight, and I was back in Gatwick and at the end of my travels.

Dr. W. Kraus

CENTENARY

Sunday, 18th February, 1990 was the day for the celebration of our Centenary - the actual date was 4th February, but it was postponed for a fortnight so that we could have the pleasure of the company of the Chief Rabbi and Lady Jacobovitz.

A special Centenary Committee was formed, to help the Honorary Officers, who bore the brunt of the work, and many meetings were held, to ensure that the celebrations went smoothly. Thankfully, this was the case on The Day.

The Synagogue was full, both downstairs and upstairs in the Ladies Gallery, and the stewards were kept busy showing the VIP's, visitors and members to their seats.

There were many dignitaries from all over London, including the Deputy Lieutenant of London, Major Edwina Coren, (representing the Queen), Lady Jacobovitz, Councillor Ian Gray, Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham who brought along his Mayoress, as well as many local councillors.

On looking round, it seemed so right that among the sea of faces, we could pick out so many well-loved people from our past - and the past of the Synagogue - people like Rabbi Dr. Weisenberg, Mrs. Ruth Winston-Fox and, appropriately sitting next to dear Rifka Venitt, Mrs. Hella Forscher: many of the young boys and girls who had started their Jewish education in Hammersmith classes, and had now grown into fine young men and women with their own families, had elected to come along to help in our celebration.

Half-way through the Service, the Chief Rabbi gave his address, Lord Jacobovitz had had a busy day - earlier, he had met and taken lunch with the Prime Minister, who had graciously agreed to be present at the 230th anniversary of the formation of the Board of Deputies. Lord Jacobovitz spoke of the two celebrations, the Anniversary of the founding of the Board of Deputies, and the Centenary of our Hammersmith Synagogue, as being linked, and said that it was appropriate that they both took place on the same day.

Looking back, he recalled the days of the cut-and-thrust of the period when Rev. Lipson and Rev. Paletz were in office, and then

went on to the 42 year tenure of office of Rev. Venitt, whose selfless devotion to the Synagogue and the community, was unsurpassed. The Chief Rabbi spoke of the handing over from Rev. Venitt to Rabbi Simons, our present Minister, as the transition from old to new, and wished Rabbi Simons luck for his future at Hammersmith.

All members of our Synagogue must have felt great pride on this special occasion, and a bittersweet feeling for past members of family and friends no longer present.

The Service continued, concluding with Adon Olom. Then the Chief Rabbi's party and the special VIP's, were escorted from the Synagogue into the Hall, where tea and cakes waited.

When all the congregation had entered the Hall, our Senior Warden, Moss Amias, said a few words about his feelings on the great occasion, and he was followed by Mr. Sidney Frosh, President of the US, who said that Hammersmith Synagogue was regarded by the US as a pearl in their crown. His Honour, Israel Finestein, QC also spoke to great effect, and the proceedings concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. DeVries, our Warden, to the Chairman, Mr. David Arram, the members of the special Committee, the Security Team, and all who had helped in the success of the day. Everyone seemed delighted, and surely this day will remain with us for a very long time to come. HW

ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for enquiries)

Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies Guild

Meets first Tuesday Evening in the month Tel: 071-603 5398

Hammersmith Friendship Club

Enquiries to Chairman, Mrs N. Guyer, 081-748 4797

Richmond & Thames Valley Group of the League of Jewish Women

Enquiries to Chairman: Mrs N. Guyer, 081-748 4797

Kensington and Chelsea WIZO

Enquiries to Hon. Sec. Mrs Martha Tauber, 071-373 8437
or Mem. Sec. Mrs Ilse Tysh, 081-748 1620

Board of Deputies Defence Department, Western Region

Enquiries to Mr Moss Amias at the Synagogue Office

Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith & District Branch)

Enquiries to Mr P. Gouragey, MBE, 4 Poplar Court,
Richmond Road, East Twickenham, Middx. TW1 2DS

Jewish Youth Study Groups - West London Branch

Enquiries to Mr Bobby Hill, 071-387 2681

Hammersmith and West Kensington Combined Charities Fund

All correspondence to Hon. Sec: A. S. Bankover, Esq.
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