

NUMBER 12

“ THE
BROOK ”

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

ANNUAL REPORTS

תשי"ג

PASSOVER 5713
APRIL 1953

“ Than the voices of many waters
more mighty is the Lord on high ”

—Psalm 93

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

71, BROOK GREEN, W.6.

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Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue ANNUAL REPORT

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management beg to submit the Annual Report for the past year.

It is with the deepest regret that we record the lamented death of Mrs. B. Paletz, the wife of our Reader, Rev. Paletz. For many years she was an ardent worker on all the Ladies' Associations attached to the Synagogue and her loss will be keenly felt.

Retirement of Rev. Paletz. In May, 1953, when he reaches the age of seventy, Rev. Paletz will be retiring from his position as Reader to our community, a position which he has filled most ably for no less than 34 years. The good wishes of all our members go with him and we trust that he will, D.V., be spared for many years to enjoy his well-earned retirement in health and tranquillity. (An appreciation appears elsewhere in this issue.)

During the past year, steady progress has been maintained in all spheres of communal activity.

Income has increased to £6,400. Although there is still a final deficit, the figures are an improvement on those of last year. Membership was almost unaltered at 530.

Hebrew and Religion Classes. We are proud to record that, for the first time ever, the number on roll has passed the century mark. Attendances compare favourably with other Synagogue classes. Members will be pleased to learn that one of our pupils, Arthur Pottersman, won two prizes in the Open Examination (Senior Grade) held by the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. Our sincere thanks are due to the Superintendent, Rev. Venitt, to the teaching staff and to all the members of the Classes Committee for the excellent results that have been achieved.

As in previous years, we held a number of **Youth Sabbath Services**, at which the Mitzvoth, Aliyoth and Hapthoroth were given to young members of the Congregation.

The **Children's Synagogue**, now in its second year, may be said to be firmly established. Each Sabbath morning, there are between 20 and 30 children attending regularly at these Services. The devoted work of Mrs. Venitt and of Miss Marion Stern in this connection is sincerely appreciated.

A Youth Study and Discussion Group conducted by the Rev. S. Venitt continues to meet at intervals on Sabbath afternoons at 71, Brook Green.

Chanukah. An outstandingly well-attended Choral Chanukah Service took place on Sunday, December 14th, 1952. The traditional stage entertainment by the children under the capable direction of Mrs. Mark was appreciated immensely by a large audience of parents, congregants and friends.

Popular Lectures. We have continued our series of Lectures under the aegis of London University and Jews College. Full details will be found elsewhere in this issue. It is noteworthy that Hammersmith is the ONLY Congregation in London which is having these University Extension Lectures. We were the pioneers in this field and no other Congregation has succeeded in carrying through four series of lectures in the short period of two years. All who support these lectures deserve the warmest thanks of the whole community for their constant and unswerving devotion to the cause of Adult Jewish Education.

Rev. B. Paletz and his son, Mr. G. Paletz, were respectively **Chasan Torah and Chasan Bereshith.** At the Simchas Torah Reception, many tributes were paid to the devotion, loyalty and outstanding service rendered by Rev. Paletz during his tenure of office. Our grateful thanks are due to the following benefactors for their gifts to the Synagogue:—

Ladies' Guild—Curtain for the Ark. Covers for the Reading Desk and Lectern. Decorations and Gifts to the Succah during the Succoth Festival.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Coleman—Twenty-four Singers' Prayer Books.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Apfel—Gifts and Sweets to the Children at Chanukah.

Mr. F. J. Hawkings—Floral Decorations for Shevuoth and Succoth.

All who have so generously contributed to the Classes Prizes Fund.

Charities. During the year, over £200 was raised for Norwood, over £100 for the Flood Relief Fund, and over £70 for Child's Day. Substantial sums were raised from time to time during the year by the members of the Ladies' Guild for various charities. A successful venture was undertaken by the Western Area Charities Committee. The St. James's Theatre was taken for a performance of the play "Escapade" on Thursday, February 19th, 1953. Proceeds in aid of Wizo, Norwood and Synagogue Local Funds. Outstanding work was done by an active Committee headed by Mr. S. Grose and Dr. D. Caplan (Joint Chairmen), Mr. S. Taylor (Hon. Treasurer) and Mr. M. Freedman (Hon. Secretary). It was well supported by the Community and each of the Charities named will benefit considerably.

Joint Palestine Appeal. The Kol Nidrei Appeal devoted entirely to J.P.A. realised approximately £800. The 1953 West London Appeal has made an excellent start with promises of £1,350 before the holding of its main function at Selby's Restaurant on March 25th at which the principal guests will be Lord and Lady Strabolgi. It is hoped that members will give the 1953 Appeal every support and make its total collection a record one. Our thanks are due to all those members who have worked hard in this campaign and in particular to Professor Yudkin (Appeal President), to Mr. J. G. Silver (Appeal Treasurer), and to Mr. H. Bayes (a leading member of the Committee).

Choir. We extend a warm welcome to Mr. B. H. Busky, our new Choirmaster, who took over on the resignation of Mr. Hizer. Members have greatly appreciated the many new melodies introduced and look forward to hearing many more in the future. Congratulations to Mr. W. A. Rolfe, our Caretaker, on completion of 25 years' service with the Synagogue. Presentations were made to him by the Synagogue and by several of our Organisations.

During the year seven marriages were solemnised and five boys celebrated their Barmitzva. Each lad was presented with a Certificate and a suitably inscribed Prayer Book to commemorate the occasion. Two of the Barmitzva Boys also qualified for the Certificate of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education given for Hebrew and Religious knowledge, one gaining distinction.

The Honorary Officers desire to thank the Ministers and the Synagogue Secretary for their untiring efforts throughout the year, which have been sincerely appreciated.

Signed on behalf of the Board.

Wardens. { H. SHARPE
 { L. FREEMAN

B. DAVIS, *Financial Representative.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYNAGOGUE

will take place on

SUNDAY, 10th MAY, 1953
at 3 p.m. prompt

Refreshments.

Your Attendance is Earnestly Requested

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE HEBREW AND RELIGION CLASSES

All communal records of the Hammersmith Synagogue have gone by the board by our soaring Class Roll, which now numbers over 100 pupils. Thanks to the efforts of Rev. Venitt, an earnest endeavour is being made to incorporate all unattached children in Hammersmith and its neighbouring areas.

We extend a warm welcome to Miss S. Kirsch who has now taken over the instruction of the elementary class, and to Mr. Lieberman who is undertaking the tuition of an older group of children.

It is gratifying to report the success of one of our senior pupils, Arthur Pottersman. He gained the distinction of winning two prizes in the senior grade examination of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. He obtained the highest marks among all candidates in this division in Jewish Religious Knowledge.

The weekly Sabbath Services for children are being successfully maintained by Mrs. Venitt and are well attended. During the High Festivals, Children's Services were excellently conducted by Mrs. Venitt, with the generous assistance of Miss Marion Stern, for the juvenile age groups of over and under eight years.

A traditional celebration of Chanukah took place on Sunday, December 14th, 1952. Rev. B. Paletz conducted a colourful service in the Synagogue, which was packed to capacity. Rev. S. Venitt gave an intriguing address to the children on the significance of Chanukah. This was followed by an entertainment given by the children in the Communal Hall under the capable direction of Mrs. Mark.

The Jewish Child's Day Collection realised a record figure of £44.

The Annual Prize Distribution took place on Sunday, March 8th, 1953. Dr. L. Freeman, the Chairman, emphasised the heightened importance of Jewish Religious Education in bridging the gap between the Diaspora and the "Yishuv." Rev. S. Venitt, in presenting the annual Superintendent's Report, appealed for even greater co-operation from parents in encouraging a higher class and Synagogal attendance.

Mrs. Sperber distributed the prizes to the juvenile recipients. Rabbi S. Sperber, M.A., gave a stimulating and inspiring address which left a deep impression on the crowded audience.

L. FREEMAN.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE LADIES' GUILD

The work of the Guild has progressed well through the last year and good attendances were maintained.

It has always been the policy of the Guild not only to give aid to local deserving cases, but also to help other organisations in the promotion of their functions and undertakings, and the past year has been no exception to this rule.

Amongst many donations to various institutions, £18 18s. was sent to the Bachad Fellowship for the Fanny Brodie Cottage, this sum being the outcome of two card afternoons. A cheque for £5 5s. was sent to the Lord Mayor's Flood Relief Fund, and at a card afternoon held recently the sum of £25 was raised for the Jewish Blind.

The ladies of the Guild also helped, as usual, with Geranium Day, and the amounts collected were very satisfactory.

Garments were made for the Jerusalem Baby Home and parcels sent to various Mental Institutions.

The demands on the funds of the Guild are very numerous and exceed by far the amounts received in subscriptions. It is felt that many more lady members of the community could attend the meetings and pay the annual subscription of 12s.

The Secretary, Mrs. H. Wynbergen, 73, Finlay Street, S.W.6, will be pleased to receive subscriptions or donations, or give any further details regarding the activities of the Guild. The meetings take place every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Communal Hall.

REV. B. PALETZ PRESENTATION FUND

Those who have not yet contributed to the above Fund, but desire to do so, are invited to send their remittances to

Mr. A. Coleman, 61 Roehampton Lane, S.W.15

Cheques to be made payable to the "Rev. B. Paletz Presentation Fund."

HAMMERSMITH AND DISTRICT WOMEN'S ZIONIST SOCIETY

(Affiliated to the Federation of Women Zionists)

The Society has found the past 12 months possibly the most difficult since its inception. Illness and increased family ties have been responsible for many changes in official personnel which, naturally, have reacted in a disturbing manner on the smooth running of the Society.

The constitution of the present Committee appears much more stable than for some time past and, under the energetic and able chairmanship of Mrs. H. Caplan, it is hoped to disprove the fear that Zionism in Hammersmith is waning.

It may not be generally known that between 1948 and 1952 Israel has found asylum for almost one million Jews, the majority of whom are practically destitute persons displaced from Central Europe. The funds raised by WIZO are vital to the survival of these of our less fortunate brother and sister Jews, and all ladies of the Hammersmith congregation who are not members of the Society are urged to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary (see back cover of this publication).

The officers of the Society played a major part in promoting the recent Combined Charities' performance of "ESCAPADE" at the St. James's Theatre, which raised a total of £525. A portion of this amount has been allocated to the Society and placed to the Jerusalem Baby Home Fund, for which the Society is pledged to raise a total of £1,200 to provide a ward. Smaller functions undertaken solely by the Society have given members some enjoyable times, notably the Sunday evening performance of "TOUCH OF THE SUN" at the New Lindsey Theatre and the musical evening at the home of the Secretary. Further "get togethers" arranged for the immediate future are a Cocktail Party on March 22nd, commencing at 7.30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Holloway, 63, Emlyn Road, W.12, and a "Bring and Buy" at Mrs. Benzinra's, East House, 1a, Addison Crescent, W.14, on May 18th, commencing at 2.30 p.m. The Committee earnestly hope that both will receive the support of all members, especially as the proceeds of the "Bring and Buy" will be allocated to the Women's Week Fund.

WESTERN AREA JEWISH CENTRE

It was decided that in 1952 the efforts of the Western Area Joint Council should be concentrated in running together with all other Synagogue organisations, a West End Theatre function. For this purpose a committee was formed styled the "Western Area Charities Committee" with Mr. S. Grose and Dr. D. Caplan as joint Chairmen, with Mr. S. Taylor as Hon. Treasurer and with Mr. M. Freedman, the Synagogue Secretary, as Hon. Secretary.

Notwithstanding all efforts it proved impossible to secure a suitable new West End play during the winter of 1952, but early in the new year the St. James's Theatre was secured for a performance on Thursday, February 19th, 1953, of "Escapade," a new play by Roger MacDougall starring Nigel Patrick and Phyllis Calvert. Here is an account of the function given by Dr. M. D. Caplan, one of the joint chairmen:—

"Those who attended the special evening performance of "Escapade" at the St. James's Theatre, S.W.1, on Thursday, February 19th, organised by Western Area Charities Committee, will agree that it was a most enjoyable social occasion.

The play had a most refreshing theme built around pacifism. Nigel Patrick played the part of a father who had immersed himself in the task of organising a peace petition, to the exclusion of his family responsibilities, and whose three schoolboy sons had decided to help in their own inimitable way.

As the plot developed, Mr. Roger MacDougall's use of this theme gave us comedy and drama most cleverly blended.

Unfortunately, Miss Phyllis Calvert was indisposed, and could not appear in the part of the wife. Her understudy, however, gave a most charming performance.

I am sure no one will forget the delightful scene where a young pupil, played by Lance Secretan, was "put on the mat" in the headmaster's study. The reporter, played by Hugh Griffiths, was another excellent character part.

The proceeds, amounting to £525, will be shared by The Jerusalem Baby Home, Norwood Orphanage, and Combined Charities.

The Honorary Officers of Western Area Charities Committee wish to thank Advertisers, Donors, and Patrons for their support, and wish to express their appreciation and thanks to the Committee, Brochure Sellers, and all who contributed in so many ways to the success of this function."

HAMMERSMITH

Jewish Literary and Social Society

The Society is now in its third year. It will be remembered that the leaders of the Community were the prime movers in the establishment of the Society, because they realised how vital a limb of the parent body such an organisation can be. Nevertheless, those who have borne the brunt of the work during the past two years are for the most part the very people who are to the fore in so many other branches of Synagogue activity. Ill health and family commitments each have their demands, and as a result, the past year has been rather a strain on the energies of the few.

The Society must now appeal to younger or not so otherwise occupied members of the Community to come forward, and help this valuable adjunct of communal life to continue to preserve a healthy, lively existence.

Our membership now stands at over 80 and we have been able to arrange during the past year a large and varied programme, both literary and social. Our two most successful functions were the Simchas Torah dance in the Communal Hall with an attendance of over 100 members and friends; and the inter-debate with the Streatham Sicha Society, where the motion that "In the opinion of this house the institution of marriage is unnecessary" was heavily defeated after a spirited debate. Earlier in the year the Society hired a coach to Streatham, where we had a most enjoyable evening and decided that the standard of modern journalism was to be deplored.

The 1953 season opened with a musical and social evening, when our guests artists included Stella Earlis, and other successful social functions included a highly appreciated version of "Have a Go," and more recently our Purim Spiel, where we enjoyed Bingo and heard a first-class playlet.

Each summer the Society organises a coach trip to the seaside or place of interest. Last June a most pleasant day was spent at Eastbourne.

On the literary side we have welcomed many able speakers including Lady Abrahams on the life of the wife of a magistrate and judge in Africa; Mr. Archer, the fingerprint expert formerly of Scotland Yard, and Dr. S. Jacob, who described his most exciting trip into the wilds of Africa. A course of weekly lectures under theegis of the Society was delivered in the autumn of 1952 by Mr. Israel Finestein, M.A., on "Notable Figures in Anglo-Jewish History." Refreshments at these extension lectures are provided by the Society.

A novel event this season is the Progressive Quiz, where general knowledge questions are asked at each function, the marks being totalled, and the leaders at the end of the season will be asked to take part in the finals when valuable prizes will be presented.

The Society would particularly welcome new members interested in dramatics, as we have a very keen nucleus with ambitious designs.

We regret to announce that Mr. A. Berger, who has been our Vice-Chairman since our foundation and one of our most active members, has been obliged to resign from his office owing to ill health. Mr. Berger has been elected an Honorary Member in appreciation of his valuable services. Mr. N. A. Mann is now directing social activities.

If you are interested in any of our activities please get in touch with the Hon. co-Secretary, Miss S. Collins (for address see back cover), who will be pleased to send details of our forthcoming events.

G. H. GREEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

HAMMERSMITH AND WEST KENSINGTON NORWOOD AID SOCIETY

The past year has been rather a quiet one. Apart from the usual collection of subscriptions and donations, no function was held, the reason being that the Committee considered that more could be gained by a joint effort on behalf of Combined Charities, out of the proceeds of which Norwood would get its share.

Most of the Norwood Committee worked for the Western Area Charities Theatre Show which is reported elsewhere in this issue. The total raised in the past year is in the region of £200.

Annual Subscribers are still the mainstay of the Society's funds for the Orphanage, and it is hoped that during the coming year an intensive drive will be made to add more names to our list.

S. VENITT, *Chairman.*

Rev. B. PALETZ — An Appreciation

In May, 1953, Rev. Paletz, on reaching the age of seventy, will be retiring from the position of Reader to the Hammersmith Synagogue.

Born in Wilkomir, Lithuania, he was educated at the famous Yeshivoh of Wilkomir, Slobodka and Vilna, and studied Chazanuth in Vilna under Chazan Sirota and his choirmaster, Low.

Arriving in England in 1904, Mr. Paletz studied voice production at the Guildhall School of Music, London, under Professor W. Ganz.

In 1905 he was appointed Chazan to the community at Bangor, North Wales, and in 1907 he was elected Reader to the community in Bristol. It was in 1919 that Rev. Paletz was appointed Reader to the Hammersmith Synagogue. He will thus have completed 34 years' service with Hammersmith and 49 years' service in all as Reader to communities in England.

Rev. Paletz has identified himself with all synagogal activities and his achievements on behalf of Hammersmith are too numerous to detail. The following must, however, be mentioned as particularly outstanding. He was the founder of the "Hammersmith and District Norwood Aid Society" and its President for over 20 years. During this period he was instrumental in raising large sums for the Orphanage. He is now Life President of the Aid Society and has been for many years a member of Norwood Executive Council.

In the Association of Ministers (Chazanim), he has held successively the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President. He occupies the position of President in 1953 for the second year in succession.

Rev. Paletz has collected large sums of money on behalf of the Synagogue and did notable fund-raising work when the Communal Hall was built some 25 years ago.

During the past year, he has held the position of President of the Hammersmith Friendship Club.

Rev. Paletz is a Chazan in the old tradition in every sense of the phrase, combining in himself dignity, and a deep Kavanah which reveals itself in his interpretation of the sacred prayers. He is a profound Rabbinical scholar. At the same time, he is thoroughly conversant with everyday affairs, and deeply read. To all this, he brings an independent, critical and well-balanced judgment. He has always been most zealous for the preservation of

Nusach Hattfillah, His devotion to his synagogal duties, and his energy in carrying them out are well known. Due in great part to his untiring efforts, Hammersmith Synagogue was open daily for prayer during the whole of the 1939-45 war.

His retirement will mark the end of an epoch in the history of the Hammersmith Synagogue. All members will wish him well and hope that he will be spared for many years in health and in happiness.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings of the Executive of the Parents' Association have been held at regular intervals to decide on all possible methods of enhancing the attractiveness of the Hammersmith Religion Classes.

A coach outing to the Essex Coast and Thaxted Bachad Farm was arranged and took place on Sunday, June 15th, 1952. Despite inclement weather, the enthusiasm of the children knew no bounds. They gleaned much practical information at the farm where one of our former class teachers, Miss Sheila Belcher, gave them an inspiring address.

On Simchas Torah a special buffet was organised for the children who attended the Synagogue festivities.

The traditional arrangements effectively carried out by the Parents' Association in the Communal Hall for the Chanukah celebration on December 14th, 1952, were much appreciated by children, parents and friends.

At the Annual Prize Distribution on March 8th, 1953, a presentation was made on behalf of the Parents' Association to Mr. Rolfe on the occasion of his 25th anniversary of service to the Hammersmith Community, as a tangible expression of its appreciation of his sterling work "behind the scenes" in connection with the Religion Classes.

A special bumper Coronation Treat has been arranged for the children, to take place on Sunday, May 31st, 1953. This will take the form of a Mammoth Entertainment and Tea in the Communal Hall.

The work of the Parents' Association has been a great incentive to Class Enrolment and we appeal to all friends and well-wishers for co-operation and help in our endeavours.

L. F.

West London Zionist Society

We are pleased to report a year of steady, if quiet, progress. Membership has been maintained, but, as is the general trend today, it has been well-nigh impossible to run functions of a serious nature. The policy of the Committee has been to limit the number of functions held, and to concentrate on making them a success.

Our most successful function of the year was a Brains Trust held in October. Although very serious doubts were raised about the attendance, owing to "The Dybbuk" being performed on T.V., nevertheless some fifty people were present when they were privileged to hear an expert team consisting of Mr. Maurice Roston, Secretary of the Jewish Defence Committee of the Board of Deputies, Miss B. J. Barwell, a member of the Council of the Zionist Federation and President of the National Union of Hebrew Teachers, Professor John Yudkin, a highly respected member of the Hammersmith Synagogue Board of Management, and Mr. H. Content, a former Warden and past member of the Hammersmith Synagogue.

Mr. Harry Bayes was Question Master.

Our Annual Chanukah Concert was graced by several guest artistes, and was supported by the Habonim Choir with song and dance.

The Society was well represented at the Weitzmann Memorial Service.

Several of our Committee are active on the J.P.A. Committee.

Plans were laid in October for an extensive membership drive, but owing to illness or pre-occupation of the majority of the Committee the work had to be postponed.

Thanks are due to the Committee and members for their loyal support, particularly to Mr. P. Ferst, our Secretary, and Mr. H. Gelpson, our Treasurer. We are also grateful to the Hon. Officers and Board of Management for the use of the Communal Hall whenever required.

S. VENITT, *Chairman*.

Hammersmith's Lead in the Cultural Field.

The policy of the Hammersmith Community in providing a colourful series of Popular Lectures on Jewish Fundamentals, History and Literature, has proved eminently successful.

These cultural sessions on Monday evenings, under the auspices of Jews' College, have drawn individuals from all corners of the metropolis. Apart from the compelling themes and the personality of the lecturers, the popularity of these gatherings has been brought about by a friendly and sociable atmosphere, very remote from an academic austerity.

A brilliant course of lectures on "The Notable Figures in Anglo-Jewish History" (1600-1900), was delivered by the eminent historian, Mr. Israel Finestein, M.A., during the Autumn Session of 1952. The lecturer, in his own inimitable and effortless manner, gave us a magnificent survey of the spiritual, social, political, civic and economic development of the Anglo-Jewish Community from the time of the Return in the days of Cromwell up to contemporary times. The central notabilities included Menasseh Ben Israel, David Nieto, Solomon Hirschell, Sir David Salomons, Sir Moses Montefiore, Nathan Marcus Adler, and Herman Adler, Leaders of the Board of Deputies, Leaders of the United Synagogue, Solomon Schechter and Israel Zangwill.

The final lecture of the series was followed by a Soiree on January 5th, 1953.

Another Course of Popular University Extension Lectures on "The Spiritual Movements in Judaism in Modern Times" (from the 17th century to the present day) was given by Dr. Joseph Heller, D.Ph., during the winter term, January-March, 1953. The syllabus of this series covered all the profound movements which have swept throughout Jewry during the last three centuries. Dr. Heller gave us an erudite and thought-provoking account of the Rabbinic Movement, Mysticism, Chassidism, Pseudo-Messianism, the Haskalah Movement, the Neo-Orthodox trends, the Reform and Liberal Movements, Nationalism and Zionism, up to contemporary times.

The audiences have been most responsive in their contribution to the fascinating discussions which have followed each lecture.

The Hammersmith congregation may rightly regard itself as pioneers in this field of Jewish spiritual endeavour.

L. FREEMAN.

HAMMERSMITH FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Reviewing the first year's progress the Honorary Officers and Committee consider it has been an unqualified success and that their aims have been fully realised.

Many firm friendships have been made between members who before they joined the Club were complete strangers to one another, and many people have found an answer to their loneliness and boredom in the sociable atmosphere.

The activities have been wide and varied; coach outings to the seaside, concerts, card parties, dancing and some very interesting talks by distinguished speakers. Members birthdays are always remembered.

Our first anniversary party was a great success, when 200 guests were entertained. The Mayor and Mayoress were the guests of honour.

The highlight of the year was the introduction of a Communal Sefer (the first in the annals of the Hammersmith Synagogue) held in the Communal Hall on the second night of Passover, with the consent and good wishes of the Board of Management and the help of the United Synagogue Welfare Committee. Sixty members participated and Mr. Jack Apfel conducted the service assisted by Mr. Davies. This proved so successful that it has been decided to make it an annual event.

We have, however, had our sad moments. The illness of Mr. Apfel is causing much anxiety. The Committee and members wish him a speedy recovery. We also deeply regret the deaths of Mrs. Paletz, our co-President, whose lovable presence will be sadly missed and of two of our members, Mr. I. White and Mr. Kandler.

At our first General Meeting for the election of Officers and Committee, Rev. Paletz tendered his resignation as President, and by unanimous vote, Rev. Venitt, whose invaluable help in the past year is greatly appreciated, was elected as our new President.

The Hon. Officers are now as follows:—

President	- - -	Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.
Vice-Presidents	- - -	Mr. and Mrs. Bernardi.
Chairman	- - -	Mrs. J. Apfel.
Secretary	- - -	Mrs. H. M. Levy.
Treasurer and Caterer	- -	Mrs. B. Parker.
Welfare Officer	- - -	Mrs. Hayman.

The Club meets every Wednesday afternoon in the Communal Hall from 2—5 p.m., and our Wednesday evening meetings will recommence on April 29th with a Bring and Buy Sale. New members will receive a warm welcome.

We again tender our sincere appreciation to the Board of Management for their kind co-operation.

MILDRED LEVY, *Hon. Secretary.*

HAMMERSMITH AND DISTRICT BRANCH, Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen

After months of "Back Room" activities an inaugural meeting was held on January 12th and it was attended by over 50 ladies and gentlemen. It was decided to form a local branch of the Association to be known as the Hammersmith and District Branch. The following Honorary Officers were elected: Chairman, M. D. Selwood; Vice-Chairman, Dr. N. Rosen; Treasurer, N. Goldston; Secretary, M. Freedman.

Membership is open to all Jews and Jewesses who have served in H.M. Forces or the Mercantile Marine during the two world wars.

A ladies' section is being formed for wives of members.

The activities of the branch cover Jewish Defence Anti-Defamation, Welfare, Social Functions and Public Relations. It is hoped that all members will take an active part.

All who are eligible for membership are kindly asked to communicate with the Hon. Secretary, M. Freedman, Esq., 158, Clarendon Road, W.11 (Park 7276). The subscription is only 7s. 6d. per annum. I am sure you will enjoy being with us and helping to make this branch the best in the A.J.E.X., albeit the youngest.

M. D. SELWOOD, *Chairman.*

The heartiest congratulations and Mazeltov from the Hon. Officers, Board of Management and the Congregation as a whole go out to Rev. and Mrs. S. Venitt on the joyous event of the birth of a son on Tuesday, 3rd March, 1953

WESTBROOK JEWISH YOUTH CLUB

The Club has been steadily gaining in popularity during the past year, and attendances at the regular Thursday meetings have been quite good. Several dances were held, but weather conditions on one occasion ruined the prospects of a successful evening. One dance was held to help the funds of the Western Area Joint Council.

Apart from indoor activities, parties were arranged for tennis, skating and theatre shows, all of which attracted a fair number of members.

The Committee are most appreciative of the kind co-operation of the Hon. Officers of the Synagogue, in continuing to place the Communal Hall at the disposal of the Club. Their thanks are also due to Mr. and Mrs. J. Arram and Mr. M. Freedman for kind help at all times.

The Club would welcome new members over the age of fifteen. All enquiries should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Jean Arram, 37, Uxbridge Road, W.12. (Telephone: Shepherd's Bush 3809.)

HAMMERSMITH AND DISTRICT DEFENCE COMMITTEE

The year under review differs from its predecessors in that the Fascist propaganda machine geared itself to make a determined effort to spread a creed over as large an area as possible and, during the spring, summer and autumn, held as many as five meetings a week in the districts covered by the Defence Committee. Although our resources were strained to the utmost, I am proud to report that each and every meeting was covered, and, to quote our parent body, the Metropolitan Area Committee, "Hammersmith and District Defence Committee is one of the best organisations in the London area," and the thanks of the whole community are due to that splendid body of men and women who have devoted themselves so whole-heartedly to the cause of Jewish Defence.

It is with regret that I have to report the resignation of Mr. R. S. C. Lawton as Hon. Secretary, after five years of loyal and active service. A resolution acknowledging his magnificent contribution to the work was passed unanimously by the Hammersmith and District Defence Committee and the Metropolitan Area Committee.

Although Fascism and Anti-Semitism are not so blatant as it was some years ago, this must not give rise to complacency. Ever must we maintain the closest watch and ward in order that we may be prepared to meet and counter any attempt by our enemies to use the Jew as a political scapegoat.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Mr. M. J. Roston, Secretary of the Metropolitan Area Jewish Defence Committee:—

"The innate modesty of this Committee no doubt prevented them from adding that the Metropolitan Area Committee (which is the guiding Committee for all District Committees in the metropolis) had on more than one occasion recorded in its Minutes its appreciation of the work of the Hammersmith and District Defence Committee, which it added was "one of the finest in the metropolis."

I might add that an unusual tribute was also paid by the Metropolitan Area Committee at its last meeting to Mr. R. S. C. Lawton, by way of the insertion of a special resolution of the inspiring manner in which he carried out his task as Hon. Secretary of the Hammersmith and District Defence Committee."

HAMMERSMITH COMPANY JEWISH LADS' BRIGADE

A judgment of the past year, the fifth in the existence of the re-formed Hammersmith Company of the Jewish Lads' Brigade, will be formed in what we hope will be a successful present year. Last year showed little material progress, but after early retrogression from the heights of the previous year, the Company steadily built itself up and stabilised itself, if not in numbers, in enthusiasm.

The first event of the Company's programme was the annual Banner Drill Competition. In this, the Company failed to justify itself, mainly owing to lack of numbers. The advent of Dicky Spence, a former England footballer, brought larger attendances and revived flagging interests in P.T. The culmination of his coaching was the entry of the Company into a Youth Club display at Lime Grove Baths under the auspices of the Hammersmith Borough Council, which was very well received.

After several weeks' athletic training at the White City Stadium, the Company failed to retain the Cup, so well won the previous year. This was by no means due to lack of quality, but of quantity.

For the first time the Company failed to enter the cricket competition, again owing to lack of numbers. Several boys, however, represented Hammersmith at the J.L.B. Summer Camp at Walmer. Raymond Solomon was chosen to make the commentary to the film of the camp events.

Autumn brought football, and the team, so successful in previous seasons, reiterated its superiority even with younger and untried members. So far the team is unbeaten in J.L.B. matches and has reached the semi-final of the Cup.

The arrival of B.S.M. Rosenband in December brought about a renewal of organisation in the Company. The results of his policy and enthusiasm were seen at the Battalion Drill Competition, in which the Company surprised itself by obtaining an amazingly high position with a surprisingly small attendance. A prelude to this was the promotion of several boys on the recommendation of Major Lyons. These promotions were Corporal Leverick to Lance Sergeant, Cadets Kaufman and Solomon to Corporal and Cadet Mark to Lance Corporal. Kaufman celebrated his promotion by winning the award for the smartest member of the Second Battalion.

Throughout last year, as in the previous years, the Company owes its smoothness and ability to the kindly and helpful guidance

of Brigade Captain Salkin, who has continually helped the club by his attentive work.

The Company meets on Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Swanscombe Road School, off Norland Road, Shepherd's Bush, and will be pleased to welcome all lads from the age of 12 upwards.

SYNAGOGUE ITEMS YAHZRIT REGISTER

A register of Yahrzeits is kept in the office and a reminder is sent each year. Entries are made on request and you are therefore advised to inform the Secretary of any you wish to have recorded.

Covenants

Those members who have signed Covenants, the nature of which will be explained to you by the Secretary on request, are helping the Synagogue to augment considerably its income at no additional cost or liability to themselves. They are thus proving benefactors to the Congregation.

Communal Hall

The Communal Hall is available for engagements. For terms, please apply to the Secretary of the Synagogue.

Will Secretaries of Organisations Please Note

To avoid clashing of dates, Secretaries are strongly advised to consult the Secretary of the Synagogue in the first place, to see which days are available. This applies even to Committee Meetings.

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ORGANISATIONS.

Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild. Meet every Tuesday in the Communal Hall. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. H. Wyrnbergen, 73 Finlay Street, S.W.6. Tel.: REN. 4564.

Western Area Jewish Centre. All communications to the Hon. Secretary, Miss S. Collins, 20 Hamlet Court, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 5684.

Hammersmith Jewish Literary and Social Society. All communications to Miss S. Collins, 20, Hamlet Court, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 5684.

Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Association. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. Yudkin, 160 Oakwood Court, W.14. WES. 0706.

Hammersmith Friendship Club. Meet every Wednesday in Communal Hall. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12. Tel.: SHE. 3276.

Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee, under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews. All communications to N. A. Mann, Esq., 61, Clifford Avenue, S.W.14. Tel.: PRO. 3049.

Hammersmith and West Kensington District—Norwood All Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. P. Wender, 109 Shepherd's Bush Road, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 3996.

Westbrook Jewish Youth Club. Hon. Sec.: Miss J. Aram, 37 Uxbridge Road, W.12. Tel.: SHE. 2809.

Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. W. R. Langhorne, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 7137.

West London Zionist Society. Hon. Sec.: Mr. P. Festi, 20 Greyhound Road, W.6. Tel.: FUL. 3990.

Jewish Lads' Brigade—Hammersmith Coy. All enquiries to I. Sulkin, Esq., 55, Stamford Court, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 6826.

Religion Classes (Sunt.: Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.)

Classes meet every—

Sunday	...	...	10.00 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.
Tuesday	...	...	5.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.
Thursday	...	...	5.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.

Times of Services.

WEEKDAYS.

Morning	... ..	7.30 a.m.
Evening	... ..	By arrangement.

SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

8.30 a.m.

SABBATH AND FESTIVALS.

Evening	... ..	At the commencement of Sabbath During Summer Months, 8 p.m.
Morning	... ..	9.30 a.m.

YOUTH SERVICES.

Held regularly every few weeks.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

Sabbaths	11.15 a.m.
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A Study and Discussion Group is held at the Minister's residence (71 Brook Green), 90 minutes before Mincha.

Sabbath Afternoon Service.—One hour before termination of Sabbath. This is followed by a Shur and Evening Service.

Lectures and Shurim.—Details of these activities, usually held on Monday evenings, can be obtained from the Synagogue Secretary.

The Secretary can be seen on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or by appointment.

The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

Rev. S. VENITT, B.A. RIV. 7601

Rev. B. PALETZ RIV. 4728