

NUMBER 52

SEPTEMBER 1976-5737 תשנ"ו

# THE BROOK



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

"They that wait for the Lord  
shall renew their strength:  
They shall mount up with wings as eagles"

*Isaiah XL, 31*

## HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

Officials	Telephones
Minister: The Rev. Sam Venitt, B.A., 69 Brook Green, W.6	603 4938
Emeritus Reader: The Rev. Samuel Forscher	
Secretary: Miss R. Longhorn Communal Hall	602 1405 603 5238

The Minister can be seen by appointment.

The Secretary can be seen any Sunday morning between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and by appointment.

Wardens: J. Brand, Esq., M. De Vries, Esq.

Financial Representative: M. A. Amias, Esq.

### Board of Management:

D. Arram, Esq.	M. Cutler, Esq.	J. Langdon, Esq.
A. S. Bankover, Esq.	F. J. Gertler, Esq.	J. N. Nisner, Esq.
B. J. Benzimra, Esq.	N. Gordon, Esq.	Dr. F. S. Tysh
Dr. M. D. Caplan	Dr. C. B. Hodes	I. Yoffey, Esq.

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

H. Sharpe, Esq., B. Davis, Esq., Councillor S. Grose.

Representative at the Board of Deputies: Dr. M. D. Caplan

Representative at the London Board of Jewish Religious Education:  
Miss R. Longhorn.

## 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  
During Summer Months, 7.0 p.m.

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

### HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE RELIGION CLASSES

(Superintendent: The Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.)

Classes meet every —

Sunday	... ..	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday	... ..	5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Thursday	... ..	5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

### "THE BROOK"

EDITORIAL BOARD: Mr. J. M. Shaftesley, O.B.E., B.A. (Hon. Editor); the Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.; Dr. and Mrs. M. D. Caplan; Mr. B. Davis, F.C.I.S.; Councillor S. Grose, B.A.; Mr. H. Sharpe; Mr. M. deVries, B.A.; Mr. M. A. Amias; Mr. J. Brand, LL.B.

# THE BROOK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON  
SYNAGOGUE

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON W.6

SEPTEMBER 1976/5737

## Contents

	Page
Editorials: Past and Future; Friendship Club 25 ... ..	2
Bridegrooms of the Law ... ..	2
Mini-Sermon: Measuring Religious Experience ... ..	3 & 9
New Year Greetings ... ..	5-7, 14
Annual Report 1975-76 ... ..	8-9
Social & Personal ... ..	10
The Rev. S. & Mrs. Forscher: Retirement ... ..	11-12
Gifts for the Succah ... ..	12
Annual Prize Distribution ... ..	13 & 21-22
The Jewish Blind Society ... ..	14
A Candle in the Night ... ..	16 & 19
The Ladies' Guild ... ..	17
Hammersmith Women Zionists ... ..	17
AJEX, Hammersmith ... ..	18-19
J.I.A. ... ..	20
News of Friends in Israel ... ..	22-23
Prague's Vanished Glories ... ..	24-25
Meditations on the Separation of Meat from Milk ... ..	26 & 28
Hammersmith Friendship Club ... ..	27

## PAST AND FUTURE

Last year we spoke about present and future. However, we are a people that should always be mindful of our past, for the lessons it contains.

On the New Year we shall be reading of Abraham, who after experiencing a very critical time on Mount Moriah, was told to look behind him.

Look back is like the rear-view mirror of a car. Keep your eyes on the road ahead but do not forget to glance back continually, to keep alert to possible dangers and maintain a safe outlook. Looking back on events like Entebbe, for instance, gives us heart to face the present and the future.

Again thanks are due to all who have responded so magnificently to ensure the publication of this issue of *The Brook*.

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB 25

Congratulations to the Hammersmith Friendship Club, which is shortly to celebrate its Silver Jubilee.

When the idea was first mooted, 14 very shy people attended the inaugural meeting. Today there are over 100 members, and a full programme of activities.

Guiding its affairs conscientiously and patiently for almost all that period has been Mrs. H. M. Levy, ably assisted by Mrs. Rose Parker and Mrs. Rose Nelman, the latter being until a few years ago Honorary Secretary. Now Mrs. Levy has decided to retire. She deserves great credit and thanks for her dedicated service.

## Bridegrooms of the Law

We are happy to announce that our Chasanim this year will be Mr. Michael Cutler and Mr. Melvyn Lux.

Mr. Cutler, a very loyal and devoted member of the Synagogue, has always shown himself ready to help the congregation. He is almost invariably the first to appear at Sabbath and Festival Services, and will support the Minyan whenever possible. Any call for charity will meet with an immediate response. He is a member of the Board of Management.

Mr. Lux is likewise always ready to be of help, and will never permit a call to go unanswered. His two daughters are among the star pupils at our Classes. Mrs. Lux is Chairman of the Wimbledon Aviv.

We extend our best wishes to Michael and Natalie Cutler and Melvyn and Denise Lux.

## MEASURING RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

Which other people celebrate their New Year in the manner and spirit of the Jewish people! The joy we experience is not the usual gaiety and revelry. It takes on a much more solemn note. We are exhorted to become more religious, to redirect our step towards a more spiritual life. How does one become more religious? On the surface, it is not easy. Nevertheless we should not be discouraged. Man does not refuse to cross the ocean because of storms, or travel by car because of accidents. To those to whom it matters, faith is a pillar of hope. Some few selected people have become intoxicated with deep religious fervour as a result of direct revelation or sudden religious experience. Nearer to us is Jacob's religious experience, his dream, the dream of a lonely and despondent man who turns to G-d in his hour of need and crisis. Many of us have been through similar experiences, and it may well mark the turning-point in our lives. The moment of truth comes when we realise for the first time that we are not master of our own destiny and that we depend on a merciful G-d for existence and salvation.

Some people, on the other hand, work hard to become religious and struggle to attain it, when they realise that they have not found an ideal which should give life a sense of value. They have found food for their bodies but not nourishment for their souls. For economic success, they struggled and worked hard — religion they expected to find without effort. Religion, however, cannot be found without work. Remember how hard Jacob had to work before he could earn the title "Israel," which meant that he had struggled with G-d and with man and had prevailed.

The late Chief Rabbi Kook once commented that in the Birchat Hamazon we recite two distinct prayers. One "May the All-Merciful grant us an honourable livelihood" and the other "May the All-Merciful break the yoke from off our neck and lead us upright to our land."

For the former we do not depend on prayer alone — one doesn't remain idle and wait for G-d's blessings. On the contrary, he devotes all his energies and works with all his faculties to earn a livelihood. But for the restoration of Zion he satisfies himself with prayer alone. How many Jews are actively engaged in working for Eretz Yisrael? That is why the task and burdens remain formidable and difficult.

The same is true of our religion in general. We realise its value, we admire its influence, we may even wish for it, but we do not work hard enough for it. We do not make the necessary sacrifices for our religion — and any religion worthy of the name in which the moral element is supreme must imply and presuppose

*continued on page 9*

Mr. & Mrs.  
**JOE GODFREY**

★ ★ ★

*Wishing all our relatives, friends  
and members of the congregation  
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR  
AND WELL OVER THE FAST*

Owing to absence abroad, New Year cards will not be sent.

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Hon. Officers and Board of Management extend their Compliments and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year to all Members of the Congregation and their Families.

The Reverend and Mrs. S. Venitt and Family wish to convey their sincere wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to the Honorary Officers, to the Board of Managements, relatives, friends, and members of the Synagogue.

Helga and Shmuel Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year, and would like them to know that their new address is now 7 King's Close, N.W.4.; Tel. 203 1163.

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

Mr. and Mrs. P. Howard send their compliments to all the Congregation.

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

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Abrahamson and Family, 15 Hammersmith Broadway, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W.14

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Bankover and Family, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12

Mrs. Vera Barsky, 3 Palace Mansions, London, W.14

Mrs. Ecce Bash, 60 Fitz-George Avenue, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. H. Bayes and Family, 72 Quickswood, N.W.3

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

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

Marjorie, Leonard Beth and Family, 145 Camelot Close, Andover, Hants.

Rebecca and Basil Benzimra and Family, "Wickenden",

Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey

Mrs. M. V. Bobbe, 38 Romney Court, Shepherds Bush Green, W.12

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

Mr. & Mrs. H. Brandon, 22 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4

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

Dr. & Mrs. M. D. Caplan and Family, 54 South Parade, Bedford Park, W.4

Mrs. Rose Cohen, 91 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Collins, 20 Hamlet Court, London, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W.12

*continued on next page*

*NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 5*

Roger & Bianca Curtis, Kinross, 13 Coombe Lane West,  
Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey  
Mrs. S. Cutler, 288 Latymer Court, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Davis, 18 Palace Mansions, W,  
Kensington, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions,  
Arundel Terrace, Barnes, London, S.W.13  
Rosaly & George Evnine and Family, 120 Oakwood Court,  
London, W.14  
Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6  
Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge,  
Warwick Dene, W.5  
Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison  
Road, W.14  
Joan and Manny Franks and Family, 54 Barons Keep, W.14  
Dr. & Mrs. L. Freeman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gold and Family, 111 Barons Keep,  
Barons Court, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. George Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Acton, W.3  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Gordon, 25 Stafford Court, Kesington,  
W8 7DL  
Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose and Family, Berkeley House,  
10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13  
Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 35 Corringway, London, W5 3AB  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Halfin and Family, 32 Granard Avenue, Putney,  
S.W.15  
Miss M. Halfin, 18 Cloncurry Street, S.W.6  
Mr. C. Halfin, 18 Cloncurry Street, S.W.6  
Mrs. J. Harris (Chorister), 84 Western Avenue, Acton, W.3  
Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes, Angela and Philip, 1 Ashchurch  
Terrace, W.12  
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court,  
Kensington, W.14  
Mrs. Minna Katits Springer and Granddaughter, 8 Bolingbroke  
Road, W.14  
Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W3 7LT  
Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey Levy and Family, 44 Fitzjames Avenue,  
London, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12  
Hettie and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove,  
N.W.4  
Miss Julie Lichtblau, 56 Fraser House, Brentford, Middx.  
Denise and Melvyn Lux, Danielle and Collette, 62 Traps  
Lane, Coombe Hill, Surrey  
Mrs. Lily Lux, 87 North End House, W.14  
Sally and Alfred Mark, 2 Anne Mount, Madeley Road, W.5  
Pamela, Malcolm and Samantha Mark, 46 Audley Road, W.5

*continued on next page*

*NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 6*

Mr. & Mrs. H. Mirwitch and Family, 11 South Side,  
Stamford Brook, W6 0XY  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris, 115 Barons Keep, W.14  
Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington,  
W8 4HX  
Dr. & Mrs. O. Moses, 32 Wolverton Gardens, W.6  
Mrs. Olive Naschauer, 249 Latymer Court, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Nisner and Family, 27 Thorntree Court,  
Parkview Road, Ealing, W.5  
David and Doreen Ohayon and Family, Orchard Close, Vine  
Road, S.W.13  
Mrs. Rose Parker and Family, 86 Brook Green, Hammersmith,  
W.6  
Mrs. H. B. Paros, 24 Hartswood Road, W.12  
Mr. & Mrs. S. Perbohner, 121 Castelnau, London, SW13 9EL  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips and Family, Flat 11, Bridge  
Avenue Mansions, W.6  
Mrs. Beatrice Rose, 12a Kensington Hall Gardens, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Rosen, 35 Clavering Avenue, S.W.13  
Alfred and Mrs. D. Sacks, 18 Heathercroft, Ealing, W.5  
Ann and Richard Sampson, 66 Stamford Court, Stamford  
Brook, London, W.6  
Mrs. N. Samuels, 258 Latymer Court, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, W.14  
Lewis and Minnie Shooman and Family, 10 Tudor Court,  
Gunnersbury Avenue, Ealing, W5 4HO  
Mrs. Anita Simmonds and John, 14 Cecil Close, Mount  
Avenue, Ealing, W.5  
Mr. & Mrs. N. Sogan, 17 Fairburn Court, St. John's Avenue,  
Putney, SW15 2AU  
Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4  
Leslie, Evelyn and Ruth Sommer, 14 Lillian Avenue, London,  
W.3  
Dr. & Mrs. J. Spira, 59a Oakwood Court, London, W.14  
Mrs. Elsa Steindler, 7 Glenallan House, North End Crescent,  
W14 8TF  
Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road,  
W.14  
Lily and Alfred Turner, 14 Laburnum Court, Dennis Lane,  
Stanmore  
Dr. & Mrs. F. S. Tysh and Ian, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8  
Mr. & Mrs. David Velleman and Family, 88 Howberry Road,  
Edgware, Middlesex  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Chiswick, W.4  
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Williams and Family, 23 Westmoreland  
Road, S.W.13

*continued on page 14*

## ANNUAL REPORT 1975-76/5735-36

Since last year's report there have been several major developments in the affairs of the Hammersmith community. Of outstanding importance is the retirement of the Rev. S. Forscher as Reader of the synagogue after 22 years in that office. During that time, together with his dear wife, Hella, he has been deservedly held in the highest regard by the entire community. His devotion to the welfare of the members, as well as the inspiration and enthusiasm he has shown in the conduct of the services, has meant that he is not only a respected religious leader but also is regarded as a friend by all who have benefited by his advice or assistance in times of stress and difficulty or on the occasion of a bereavement. We record our deep appreciation of the Rev. Mr. Forscher as a communal leader and devoted friend and colleague of us all.

As members already know, the Honorary Officers and Board of Management set up a Testimonial Fund so that a suitable presentation may be made to the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Forscher.

We are particularly happy to extend our best wishes and congratulations to Miss Ruth Forscher, who was married to Mr. Alex Portnoy on February 1. The Honorary Officers and Board of Management were delighted to commemorate the occasion by the gift of a suitably inscribed pair of candelabra.

*Ladies' Guild* — The community is indebted as always to the members of the Ladies' Guild for their untiring efforts in many social, benevolent, and charitable activities throughout the year. As in previous years the Succah was decorated most beautifully. Many members attended a communal Seder arranged by the Ladies' Guild, which was greatly enjoyed by all present. To mark the occasion of Miss Ruth Forscher's wedding a kiddush cup was presented to her by Mrs. F. Hodes, as President, on behalf of the members of the Guild.

*Annual Reception* — The Guests of Honour were Mr. Peter Wender, Chatan Torah, and Mr. Nat Gordon, Chatan Bereshit, together with Mrs. Wender and Mrs. Gordon. The arrangements for the catering for the large number of members, relatives, and friends who attended were in the capable hands of the Ladies' Guild and the evenings was a most enjoyable and happy one. Certificates commemorating their having been called to the Torah were presented to the Chatanim.

*Synagogue Classes* — The classes continue to meet regularly under the Hon. Superintendent, the Rev. S. Venitt, B.A. The classes committee also recorded the marriage of Miss Forscher, a former teacher, by a presentation. We welcome Mr. Malcolm Venitt as a member of the teaching staff, which is completed by Mrs. Venitt. We were pleased to have Councillor and Mrs. S. Grose as Guests of Honour at our Annual Prizegiving and thank

*continued on next page*

### *MINI-SERMON—continued from page 3*

sacrifice — the sacrifice of policy to principle — of comfort to the demands of conscience.

On Rosh Hashanah we stand before the L-rd our G-d. The Shofar is sounded as a divine call.

Let us respond to that call and work harmoniously to bring religion into our life, and add life to our religion.

### *ANNUAL REPORT—continued from previous page*

Councillor Grose for his splendid address to the children, parents, and friends.

*J.I.A. Committee* — The Committee continued its fund-raising efforts during the year and £7,000 was collected for this vitally important cause.

*Our Community* — We have already mentioned the major event of the year in our affairs concerning the Rev. S. Forscher. In consequence of the recently declared decision of the Honorary Officers of the United Synagogue, we express our pleasure that we shall continue to have the benefit of the able and devoted leadership of the Rev. S. Venitt, our Minister, in the conduct of the Sabbath and Festival Services and communal duties generally. We are most grateful to him and to Mrs. Venitt for their support and encouragement.

We thank our colleagues for their enthusiasm and devotion to the welfare of the community, and record our appreciation of the services of the Choir, our Secretary, Miss R. Longhorn (who is joined in the choir by Mrs. J. Harris), the Board of Management and Council members, and our caretaker, Mr. P. Howard and Mrs. Howard.

As in the past, we have been able to rely on the unfailing support and assistance of the members of the House Committee, under their active Chairman, Mr. J. Langdon, in connection with all necessary communal tasks.

Members will of course be aware that, in common with all other Constituent Synagogues, the Honorary Officers and Board of Management have been obliged to effect a rescheduling of synagogue membership contributions to increase our income. This has been undertaken with great reluctance, mindful as we are of the consequences of such increases among many members. However, we feel sure that, as has been fully demonstrated at all times in the past, our members will play their part fully in support of the United Synagogue as a whole, on which so much of the charitable and communal work of Anglo-Jewry is dependent.

We are confident that our members will actively maintain their support of the community at a time of difficulty, and that next year will be one of continued endeavour for the benefit of the community as a whole.

JEFFERY BRAND, M. DeVRIES, *Honorary Officers*  
M. A. AMIAS, *Financial Representative*

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

### WEDDINGS

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

ROBERT JEFFREY SHOOMAN to CAROLE BALLABON

MARK MICHAEL FAIN to GLORIA JEAN LESLIE

DAVID LAURENCE WILLIAMS to

MANDY BEVERLEY SCHNEIDER

ALEX PORTNOY to RUTH FORSCHER

SAUL AARON KRIPKE to

MARGARET PATRICIA GILBERT

MAXWELL JOHN NISNER to ROCHELLE HARRIS

### BARMITZVAHS

ANTHONY WOOLICH

JAMES ABLESON

PAUL KINGSLEY

BRIAN LIPKIN

SEAN GORVY

IAN SEARS

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

### NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to the following, who joined the Synagogue during the past year:

Mr. F. D. BENZIMRA

Mrs. S. HYAMS

Miss D. BENZIMRA

Mrs. E. MONTEITH

Mrs. A. COHEN

Mr. J. SIMMONDS

## Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

*Extend their Compliments and Best Wishes*

*for a Happy New Year*



50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

## THE REV. & MRS. S. FORSCHER: Retirement Presentation

The Hammersmith Synagogue Hall was filled to capacity with a large gathering of members and friends on 13 June 1976 (15 Sivan 5736) at the Reception given on behalf of the community to the Rev. and Mrs. S. Forscher on the occasion of the Rev. Mr. Forscher's retirement as Reader of the Synagogue.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman, Mr. J. Brand, said that throughout the past 22 years the Rev. Mr. Forscher had devoted himself to the service of the United Synagogue as our Reader. The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Forscher had lived among us all as special and loyal friends of the congregation as a whole, and there was indeed a family relationship which affected the members individually and collectively. Although there was inevitably a touch of sadness on this occasion, any sense of loss was alleviated by the deep personal regard in which the Forschers were held. As an Honorary Officer it had always been a pleasure for him (Mr. Brand) to work with Mr. Forscher, whose devotion exceeded official definitions of ministerial duties. In a separate tribute to Mrs. Forscher the Chairman added that her contribution to the community had been without price and she had never spared herself.

On behalf of the United Synagogue, Mr. S. S. Levin, Senior Vice-President, said that the large gathering which was present to honour the Forschers was a sign of the continued virility of the community. The Rev. Mr. Forscher as the Reader was the holder of the oldest communal office in Judaism, and the community could rightly be proud of his chazanut and general devotion to the synagogue throughout his distinguished period of office.

The presentation to the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Forscher of the Testimonial Fund contributed to by members, former members, and friends was made by Mr. M. A. Amias. A gift of an hors d'oeuvres dish to Mrs. Forscher from the Ladies' Guild was presented by Mrs. F. Hodes and a further presentation to Mr. Forscher on behalf of the choir was made by Miss R. Longhorn, who stressed that there had always been a fine rapport between Mr. Forscher and the choir amounting to almost telepathic communication, and the choir had had great pleasure and pride in sharing with him in work for the community in the conduct of the services.

The Rev. S. Venitt cited a verse from Psalm 133, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," as an appropriate summary of the cordial relationship he had always had with the Rev. Mr. Forscher. It was significant, he said, that there had been no problems between the ministers, and Mr. Forscher's close co-operation with him as a close friend

*continued on next page*

*The Rev. & Mrs. S. FORSCHER—continued from previous page*  
as well as a colleague had been of the very greatest help to him in his own ministry in Hammersmith.

In reply, the Rev. Mr. Forscher said it was deeply moving to see such a large gathering and to hear such tributes as had been paid to Mrs. Forscher and himself. Although it was not easy for him to express his feelings, he was particularly delighted to see in the Hall the Honorary Officers who had been in office 22 years ago when he first joined the community as Reader.

He intended to enjoy his retirement, which would be an active one. It had been a privilege for Mrs. Forscher and himself to receive the true friendship of the congregation. He was grateful to all the speakers for their good wishes and kind remarks and for the expressions of affection and recognition from all members and friends present. He thanked the Honorary Officers, Board of Management, and all contributors to the Testimonial Fund, and the Ladies' Guild and Choir for their gifts. He concluded by expressing his great respect for the Rev. Mr. Venitt, his colleague throughout the twenty-two years, saying that it had been an honour for Mrs. Forscher and himself to work with the Rev. Mr. Venitt and his dear wife. He prayed that blessings would be bestowed on all the congregation.

A vote of thanks to the Rev. Mr. Forscher and the previous speakers was moved by Mr. M. DeVries, who said that it was particularly gratifying that Mr. Levin had been able to attend to show the high regard in which the Rev. Mr. Forscher was held by the whole United Synagogue as well as our own community. It was also true that the close accord which existed between the ministers was extended to the Honorary Officers and Board of Management.

Although the proceedings were clearly tinged with sadness as the Rev. Mr. Forscher was retiring, the gathering was enlivened by the opportunity provided after the formalities for members and friends to greet the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Forscher and to express their best wishes. A landmark in the history of our congregation had been reached in an atmosphere of cordiality, respect, and gratitude towards the Rev. Mr. Forscher, who would henceforth be accorded the honour of being known as Emeritus Reader of the Hammersmith Synagogue  
M. deV.

### **Gifts for the Succah**

The *Succah* will be ready for decorating on Wednesday and Thursday, October 6 and 7.

Gifts of flowers, foliage, wine, etc., will be gratefully accepted, also donations towards the purchase of cakes.

It will be greatly appreciated if members could send their gifts on those days between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Offerings from all members of the Congregation will help to make the Succah celebrations worthy of this festival, and emulate the wonderful effort made last year.

## **ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION**

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on Sunday, 20 July 1976, and before the proceedings commenced those present were regaled with refreshments provided, as usual, by the efforts of the Ladies' Guild.

Mr. J. Brand, who was in the Chair, welcomed what he aptly described as a happy, cheerful audience, and our guests of honour, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Williams. It was appropriate for many reasons, he said, that Mr. and Mrs. Williams should be our guests as they had long been associated with the classes through their children and their own active participation in the Parents' Association, of which Mrs. Williams had been Chairman. Mr. Williams too had given willing help at all times, and many aspects of communal work had been helped to success by his efforts. Mrs. Williams's connection with the congregation had been of many years' standing — we remembered her dear mother with affection, and were particularly pleased to see her father, Mr. L. Essex, among those present.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Williams by Giselle Eligoloff, and a choir of youthful voices drawn from the pupils rendered a song of welcome.

After this innovation the Superintendent, the Rev. S. Venitt, gave his annual report. The number of pupils was the same as last year, and there were more boys than girls. As usual, special Children's Services had been held on Rosh Hashana, and the collection for Jewish Child's Day had been most successful, raising over £35. There was a most happy atmosphere in the classes and it had been possible to put on most enjoyable Purim and Chanukah plays. A model Seder had also been held. However, greater efforts were needed to ensure that children attended services in the synagogue. This should be part of the experience of the classes and not separate from it. Several girls were being prepared for Bat Chayil examinations next year. There had been a favourable report from inspectors of the London Board of Religious Education, who had praised the valuable work carried on in our small classes. As regards staff, Miss Ruth Forscher had married and moved away and Mr. Malcolm Venitt had joined the staff. The Rev. Mr. Venitt thanked the Chairman and Classes Committee for their support and the donors of memorial prizes for their gifts. After the report the choir gave another short recital.

### **MRS. HETTY WILLIAMS'S ADDRESS:**

Mr. Chairman, Reverend Sirs, Ladies and Gentlemen — and most of all, boys and girls:

I am really delighted to be here with my husband today, in these classes where I myself attended as a child and with which

*continued on page 21*



## THE JEWISH BLIND SOCIETY

The Jewish Blind Society cares for over 1,500 blind and partially sighted people and their families in Britain. Various services include:

Financial help by providing pensions and grants: In 1975 the Society gave over 300 pensions and over 600 special grants for Pesach, Rosh Hashanah, and winter.

Residential care: Three homes, two of which are combined residential and holiday homes. Over 800 holidays are provided each year at either our Bournemouth or Southport Homes.

Fourteen social workers who regularly visit members living in their own homes.

### BRAILLE

The Braille department is at the North London Day Centre, and its activities are extensive.

The department is supervised by a completely blind person who, together with a team of voluntary helpers, undertakes the task of transcribing into Braille the reading requirements of the library and also special requests from individuals. Various books are transcribed for students and teachers, instruction books, knitting patterns, and recipes.

The library has a large selection of fiction and non-fiction books which are of special Jewish interest. A whole range of Braille prayer books are available in English and Hebrew. Large-print books are at the disposal of the partially sighted; these are sent from the Jewish Braille Institute of America — prayer books, the Haggadah, and Jewish reference calendars. In liaison with the Jewish Braille Institute of America, talking books of Jewish interest are available on tape or cassette, and so are a limited number of records. The extensive tape library contains both Hebrew and Yiddish material.

Various publications are printed in Braille. Each week extracts from the *Jewish Chronicle* are Brailled and sent to members. The members write their own magazine, called *Listen*, which is published in both Braille and print. In addition, the official journal of the Jewish Blind Society, *Perception*, is also available in Braille. For this service the thermoform machine is an invaluable asset, duplicating many sheets of Braille in a short time, thereby allowing a wide distribution of topical news items.

The address of the Jewish Blind Society is 1 Craven Hill, Lancaster Gate, London, W2 3EW.

### NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 7

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

Dr. & Mrs. John Woolich, Anthony and Richard, 1 North End House, W.14

Mr. I. Yoffey and Miss Fiona Yoffey, 139 North End House, W.14

ל ש נ ה ט ו ב ה

Best Wishes  
for a happy New Year  
and well over the Fast  
from

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. WILLIE GERTLER

37 CAMPBELL COURT,  
QUEENS GATE GARDENS,  
LONDON, SW7 4PD  
584 1891

and from

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

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

and from

Dr. and Mrs. DAVID LOVELL  
and SHAUNA and JONATHAN

26 FAIRFAX ROAD, SWISS COTTAGE,  
LONDON, N.W.6  
722 6358

## A CANDLE IN THE NIGHT

It was in December 1962 that I decided to visit Israel with my wife, my previous visit having been prior to the establishment of the State. My first thought on arrival was to contact my cousin, who, as a young girl, escaped deportation from Hungary during 1942 and had managed to join one of the illegal transports to what was then Palestine. We had had news that after working in the Kupat Cholim in Petach Tikvah as a student nurse she had married a teacher who was now Headmaster of a school in Neveh Or — a suburb of Petach Tikvah.

Our arrival and two weeks' stay coincided with the Festival of Chanukah. All the buildings and dwelling-houses were festively decorated and, during the hours of darkness, illuminated with the Menorah, the candelabrum being the emblem of the young State, the haven, refuge, and now the home of our persecuted, oppressed brethren. This was a sight never to be forgotten.

My cousin Ariela and her husband, Avraham (a wonderful, learned man, as we found during our various meetings), invited us to join them and their two young sons, Yaron and Yinon — 10 and 12 years old — for the Chanukah celebration at the school and we gladly accepted. The playing field of the school was surrounded by hills, on one of which had been erected a large Menorah. The children were in a wide circle, boys and girls wearing white shorts and blue blouses and one of the teachers had a guitar. At the Headmaster's signal the music started, the children singing and dancing to Israeli and traditional Maccabean tunes. As the Hatikvah was sung, two boys — Yaron and Yinon — lit the first "candle in the night" on the Menorah on the hill. It was a wonderful experience seeing these children enjoying the freedom which most of their parents had never known, and I am not ashamed to say that I could not withhold my tears. Ariela and Avraham, both of whom lost their parents in the holocaust, had, with their two boys, given us a lasting memory of our 1962 visit.

After this we kept in close contact and subsequent visits confirmed that a happy family life was developing. After finishing school in Petach Tikvah, the boys decided to join a Kibbutz right on the border in the Jordan valley and after the Six-Day War in 1967 they both joined the Israeli forces, serving in the Tank Corps. Avraham was promoted to the Headship of the Teacher Training College and devoted his life to his studies.

Ten days before the Yom Kippur War the two boys were at home for Rosh Hashana, but on Shabbat Yom Kippur, 6 October 1973, the younger son, Yaron, was killed on the Golan Heights — a "Candle in the Night."

After the sad news reached us we decided to donate an ambulance in memory of our cousin's son, and at Pesach 1974

*continued on page 19*

## THE LADIES' GUILD

### FORWARD, LOOKING EVER FORWARD

Although we tend to report our past activities, nevertheless we forge ahead. As can be seen in our advertisement in *The Brook*, we intend to have a full year's programme.

After the Yomimtovim we shall have an "Audio-Vision Evening", with a guest speaker, a "Sherry Morning, Bring/Buy", and our annual "Card and Supper Evening". These events help to swell our finances. We have distributed moneys to deserving charities and have supported the J.I.A. Appeal.

This year our target for the "Geranium Day" collection for the blind was well past the norm.

Our joint Seder Service with the Friendship Club was again an outstanding event. Parcels for the Mental Hospital are sent for the Yomtovim and the tea money collected at our monthly meetings in members' homes helps to allay the cost. "Sponsor a Plant" scheme, an innovation this year, made the Shavuoth floral decoration in the Synagogue a magnificent display.

We do not therefore rest on our laurels, but are looking forward to another year of very active work, which we hope may attract ladies who hitherto have not joined us.

REBECCA FOX,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

THE LADIES' GUILD WOULD LIKE YOU TO NOTE  
THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS WHICH ARE TO BE  
HELD IN THE SYNAGOGUE HALL:

TUESDAY OCTOBER 26 at 8.15 p.m.: AN AUDIO-  
VISUAL EVENING. SPEAKER, MRS. CYRIL SHAPS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14 at 11 a.m.: SHERRY BRING-  
AND-BUY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5 at 7 p.m.: SUPPER & CARD  
EVENING

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR SUPPORT.

## HAMMERSMITH WOMEN ZIONISTS

We are only a small group, but our members are loyal and subscriptions are regularly maintained. £85.50 was collected for Women's Week.

I should welcome new members to this very noble cause. It costs only £1 per year. Please telephone me at 748 2727 with your offer to help us.

JEANIE CAPLAN.

## AJEX Hammersmith & District

During 1976 the members of our branch have continued to play their part not only on a local level but also in the wider issues in which AJEX is prominently involved. In previous issues of this magazine we have given details of our local activities. In this one we give an inside picture of three of the many important activities in which the branch takes part on a national level.

### ISRAEL AND SOVIET JEWRY

This forms part of a wider committee, also taking in our relationship as Jews with other countries. With Israel isolated in the world, particularly in the United Nations with its inbuilt voting bias, we endeavour to collect and disseminate information and take action wherever necessary to assist Israel. Of many examples we quote the universities of Britain, who are being swamped with Arab propaganda, mostly by Arabs at the universities. We know it is here where antisemitism disguised as anti-Zionism nurtures. Our present task endeavours to bring together young Jewish men and women at these universities to form groups in order to swing the pendulum in the other direction. To do this we publish leaflets, booklets, and news-sheets which give a clear picture of Israel and world Jewry.

Soviet Jewry forms a large part of our efforts and regular contact is maintained with our brave brethren in Russia. Our branch has adopted a Soviet Jewish "Refusnik," to whom we write regularly to give encouragement and to emphasise to the Soviet authorities, who open the letters, that they are not forgotten. Much of the work is done behind the scenes but with every Jew leaving Russia we feel something has been achieved.

### ANTI-SEMITISM

Since the war this has become an unpopular word, to be avoided. However, anti-Zionism, which is flourishing in the majority of countries in the world, as is shown by voting in the U.N., is the same vile evil but wrapped up with a different title. Where anti-Zionism is prevalent, antisemitism can't be far away.

In this country it is the National Front and the National Party which disseminates racism. The leaders of both these parties are ex-fascists and do not hide the fact that they are anti-Jewish. We have all noticed the increasing number of votes they have obtained in local and by-elections. They receive a fair amount of publicity as well as substantial funds. At the next General Election they intend to fight at least half the total of Parliamentary seats. This all needs careful watching. Our branch observes any manifestations from these parties as well as others, be it newspaper articles, letters, leaflets, as well as meetings. Information is collated at Head Office and action taken.

*continued on next page*

*AJEX—continued from previous page*

### WELFARE

Apart from local cases of ex-servicemen in need, of which we are happy to say there are only one or two, I had the fortunate experience of spending an evening at AJEX H.Q., where needy cases are investigated and assisted. A large number of these people have lived normal happy lives but now through old age or sickness, and in many cases both, have fallen on hard times. Some are embarrassed by their position but in every case they are given a sympathetic hearing and made to feel that we, as Jews, have not forgotten them. Another group need help which is not so much financial as clerical, to sort out their affairs with which they are now unable to cope.

In this world, with its hundreds of regulations and forms, as well as the normal bills which have to be paid, some older people are unable to comprehend and small things worry them. At AJEX H.Q., our welfare workers assist to straighten out their affairs. Another and much larger group does not ask for any assistance, but they are lonely. A visit from another ex-Serviceman brightens their lives and sometimes we can be of assistance with advice.

These are but three of the activities of AJEX. People these days say that most help asked for is financial and in these hard times it is difficult to give. Here is an opportunity for any ex-Service man or woman to help and it costs nothing. If you are prepared to spend an occasional evening (or afternoon) visiting a lonely ex-Service man of the Jewish faith, we should be grateful for your assistance. And if you think we are doing a worthwhile job and wish to identify yourself with our work, become a member for £2 per annum. Phone our Secretary, Mick Ast, 736 3175.

J.B.

### *A CANDLE IN THE NIGHT—continued from page 16*

we joined his parents at the Dedication ceremony and visited the provisional resting-place of Yaron and other boys at the Military Cemetery near Naharia. Here, almost on the seashore, over 60 Israeli soldiers found a temporary resting-place. At one of the graves an elderly gentleman was replacing some flowers with beautiful fresh ones from a large lorryload and one by one he decorated every grave. I entered into conversation with him, in the course of which he told me that he came twice weekly and changed the flowers, adding, "My only son lies here with his comrades and so the distance from Askalon, where I live (120 km), is nothing to me. Yom Kippur is Yahrzeit for all of us" — "a candle in the night".

Yaron was subsequently re-interred in Petach Tikvah, and his father, that wonderful teacher and scholar, now lies beside him.

"A Candle in the Night."

F. J. GERTLER.

## J.I.A. REPORT

"Solidarity Year" was the inspiration for our community's special efforts for Israel. The increasing Arab boycott, trying to strangle Israel's economy, must be counteracted! The civilised Western world has still not woken up to the dangers of the destructive P.L.O. terrorists. The plight of Russian Jewry is daily in our minds.

Our J.I.A. Committee, under the joint Chairmanship of Messrs. Bernard Davis and Willie Gertler, with the assistance of our Treasurer, Dr. Dennis Caplan, and a handful of indefatigable Committee members, called an Appeal meeting for June 6, by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin De Winter at their home. During the absence of Mr. Bernard Davis, overseas, Mr. Willie Gertler introduced our Guest of Honour, Dr. Marcus Einfeld, Ph.D., Chairman of the Committee for Russian Jewry, a very eloquent and distinguished Australian, who will shortly emigrate to Israel. Dr. Einfeld gave a resumé of the world situation as it affects the State of Israel, world Jewry, the needs of our people, and the duty of every one of us to do all we can to safeguard the future of our children and grandchildren. The impact of Dr. Einfeld's personality, sincerity, and eloquence was really an inspiration. Mr. Willie Gertler made the Appeal, which consisted only of: "Dr. Einfeld told us what to do, and now act!" The response was magnificent!

After the miraculous Entebbe operation, "Mission Impossible," described in *The Times* as "a deed of daring and courage," we called a "Thank You, Israel" meeting for Sunday, July 11, at the Synagogue Hall, attended by over 200 people from our congregation and neighbouring communities.

### FINE APPEAL RESULT

Mr. Bernard Abital, Information Counsellor of the Israeli Embassy, gave us some details of events and assured us that vigilance against terrorism must not be lessened.

Mr. Bernard Davis, in the Chair, reported about American Jewry's great contributions, and Mr. Willie Gertler, in his Appeal, emphasised the fact that as a rule we Jews could only rely on our fellow-Jews for understanding, assistance, and help in our battle for Israel's prosperity.

We had a record number of contributions, 156, reaching over £15,000. Dr. Caplan, after announcing the result of the evening's donations, thanked Mr. Abital and the people present. The evening concluded with the singing of "Hatikvah."

### ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING—continued from page 13

I have been happily involved for many years, to have the honour of presenting the prizes and saying a few words to you.

One of our two London newspapers, the *Evening Standard*, has been informing us recently that "Everyone Needs Standards". To no people is this more applicable than to us. Jews have to do all in their power to ensure that they keep, as far as they are able, to the traditions and procedures that Jews have followed for centuries. Our faith is three times as old as Christianity, and there is, therefore, more risk that its foundations may become eroded with time, if we do not act to prevent it. Speaking as a mother of a son and daughter, both of whom attended these classes, I know how important it is for every one of us to ensure that they are doing their part in preserving the continuity of all in which we believe.

I am not striking a blow for Women's Liberation, but merely stating a fact, when I say that the girls have a very special part to play in this important continuity of Judaism. When all is said and done, it is the woman who keeps the home kosher, who makes the arrangements to ensure that Yomtov is kept, that the candles are lit each week . . . and it is the woman around whom the household revolves. To the girls, I would say that it is not all work. There is a tremendous amount of pride and pleasure to be felt as the person who has made possible the special days of Sabbath and Yomtov. And is there anything to be compared with the atmosphere of a Jewish home at the commencement of the Sabbath, when the whole family gathers together?

While I am speaking of pride — the Yiddish word for which is "*nachas*" (and this means especially the pride which parents feel for their children who have accomplished something special) — I would like to say to all the children who have attended classes and who have earned a prize today, do continue with the good work. You will derive from this not only knowledge, which is an end in itself, but you will be arming yourself for the future. You will also be able to enter a synagogue anywhere in this shrinking world, and be able to follow the service there, and feel yourself one of the wonderful brotherhood of Jews. And the pride your parents feel today does not end when you leave childhood behind you and become young men and women. To me, as a mother, it is one of life's rewarding experiences to stand in the Synagogue, singing with the congregation one of our traditional hymns, and to hear beside you another voice — that of the next generation — who is carrying on all that you hold dear.

We, as a nation, have contributed much to the culture of the world — and when the annals of courage and bravery are recorded, surely there must be a place for the rescue of the hundred hostages by the Israeli force, which happened in Entebbe

*continued on next page*

*ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING—continued from previous page*

a week or two ago. There, too, is cause for pride on a national scale.

I would like to thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers you have presented to me, and to express the great pleasure which Sidney and I feel at the honour we have had today. It is a joint honour, for I know how many times Sidney has acted in his capacity as collection and delivery man for the cakes and biscuits when the classes or congregation have had a function. He is much quieter than I am, but a good marriage, like a good bottle of wine, depends on body and on bubble — in ours, Sidney provides the body and I provide the bubble.

And finally, I would like to say that I feel today's honour is shared by the small group of ladies who, whether they are called "The Parents' Association" or "The Ladies' Guild", are always ready to prepare teas, coffees, and light refreshments, and to work cheerfully in the background, just as they have done today. I would like to say "Thank you" to them, most sincerely, and also, ladies and gentlemen, to you for listening to me.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Williams for her pertinent and memorable remarks and invited her to present the prizes. who attended.

M. deV.

At the conclusion of this ceremony the choir sang two lively songs and there were special musical items by Julie Ohayon (guitar) and Rhian Isaacson (recorder) and Danielle and Colette Lux (piano duets).

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. M. DeVries to all prize-winners for their efforts, to the teachers for their encouragement of the pupils, and to the Hon. Superintendent, Chairman, and Classes Committee and Representatives at the London Board of Religious Education. A special vote of thanks was due to the choir and musicians, also to the Ladies' Guild for providing the refreshments.

The happy atmosphere of which the Rev. Mr. Venitt had spoken in his report clearly existed not only in the classes but extended to the Annual Prize Day, which was obviously enjoyed not only by the participants but also by all members and friends who attended.

M. deV.

## **NEWS OF FRIENDS IN ISRAEL**

As a shining example of fortitude, courage, and determination, I should like to refer to Pearl Silver.

She and her late husband, Gershon, were highly respected members of our congregation for many years and great workers for Israel. After Gershon's sudden death in 1967, Pearl felt she had to pull herself together for the sake of her teenage daughter Jane. After taking various courses in arts and crafts, she began to study to become a London Tourist Guide, a field which called for great application and a grasp of detail. The subject fascinated

*continued on next page*

## *NEWS OF FRIENDS IN ISRAEL—continued from prev. page*

her. In the meantime Jane went off on Aliyah to Israel, studied at the Hebrew University, and met Arik, a Sabra. Pearl was now faced with a problem. It became clear that her daughter would not wish to return to England. She decided to go on Aliyah too. Jane, realising how successful her mother had been as a London Guide, prevailed upon her to take the Israel Course. In order to overcome the language difficulty, Jane also enrolled for the course, and after each lecture translated the notes into English. In this way, both mother and daughter became qualified guides. Pearl Silver has now reached the very pinnacle of her profession. She takes guests from the Prime Minister's Office on tour.

Her daughter Jane has now gone as the wife of a Shaliach to the U.S.A. and will come back to Israel with a group of over 30 teenagers, whom she will guide through Israel for one month. Jane has been giving talks on Israel at universities and to Jewish youth, with slides, and for the first time a group is actually coming from Texas, owing to her efforts.

Arik has to do summer camps all the holidays and he often has to go to seminars in different cities. They are both counting the days before they actually come back to Israel. I understand they have not been smitten with living in the States! Z.

### *NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM*

#### **HETTY & DAVID BALONOV**

148, CONINGHAM ROAD, W.12

with their families

#### **JOYCE & DAVID KIPNES, with**

**LIANE, IAN and DANIEL**

OF LONG ISLAND, U.S.A.

and

#### **GLORIA DEANER, J.P., & JULIAN DEANER**

with **KATHARINE, ADAM & EMMA**

OF 26 GREENHALGH WALK,

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, N.2,

AND OF CANN, MELBURY ABBAS, DORSET,

AND OF HAMMERSMITH BROADWAY, W.6.

## PRAGUE'S VANISHED GLORIES

There was a time when Prague was a good place for the Jews. In the 16th and 17th centuries, when, persecuted alike by Catholics and Lutherans, Jews were being expelled from cities in Germany and France, the whole Bohemian community were under the special protection of the Imperial Court. Leaders of the Jewish community in Prague were financial and medical advisers to the Holy Roman Emperor and many, over the years, were accorded privileges which were tantamount to patents of nobility. Although the Ghetto was enclosed, the walls meandered to such an extent that in some places half a building was inside and half outside the limits.

In this benign atmosphere the Jews flourished and Prague became the centre of learning and culture in Europe. The spirit of tolerance was such that Jews took part in all State processions, under their own banner, and the influence of the Jews upon their fellow-citizens is shown by the fact that in many churches Hebrew is used in the mural paintings and on the principal bridge over the Vltava, the Charles IV bridge, there are groups of statues, the central one being a crucifix surmounted by "Kodosh, kodosh, kodosh, Adonai Tzvo'ous" in Hebrew characters made in wrought iron.

As time went on the direct impact of the Jews upon the Imperial Court waned, but still life was good. Synagogues in the Old Town multiplied and old traditions and customs survived without interference. And then, in 1938, came Hitler . . .

When I visited Prague in 1962 the Jewish community in the whole of Bohemia had been more than decimated. Only one Synagogue, the Altneu (the oldest in Europe), was still functioning. All the others were museums or warehouses. It gave one a curious pang to come upon a building with Hebrew lettering in relief around the façade — obviously a synagogue — and see trucks of merchandise wheeled in and out of the once impressive doorways.

In the Dusni Shul there had been collected Ark and Sefer covers from all over the country, some dating back more than 300 years. The Ark covers were displayed on runners, as carpets are hung in a showroom, and these were erected under Chuppah canopies so that they could be drawn out and viewed singly. The materials and decoration bore eloquent testimony to the wealth and devotion of the long-dead donors. To our eyes, accustomed to seeing either ruby or blue velvet covers, the delicate saffron yellow silk and soft blue satin of some of the oldest curtains were most attractive. The Dusni Shul itself is, I think, the most beautiful, speaking architecturally, that I have ever seen and it must have been a wonderful sight to see it thronged with

*continued on next page*

*PRAGUE'S VANISHED GLORIES—continued from prev. page*

nearly 2,000 worshippers, as would have been the case on Yom-tovim in its palmy days.

The Klaus and the Pinkas Synagogues were used to house various relics and documents relating to everyday life of the Jews from about 1300 onwards. The Klaus, a much smaller Shul than the Dusni, had been cleared of all seats and the walls had been washed white with what appeared, at first sight, to be a wide band of decoration in grey, black and red around the middle. Upon looking closer, however, this decoration resolved itself into a continuous line of writing and formed a list of the names of all known Czech Jews, men, women, and children, who "disappeared" after 1938. I have since been to Jerusalem and seen Yad Vashem, but although the sense of horror and pity was strong there, I have never been so moved as I was in that small whitewashed hall, with its piteous catalogue of crime. I went from there to the Old Cemetery, which adjoins the Synagogue, in order to stay awhile in Kever Ovovus and regain a little composure from the serenity of that holy spot.

### SHABBAT SERVICE

On Shabbat, my aunt and I went to the Altneushul. As a small indication of the general shabby appearance of the gentle and charming people of Prague, we attracted a great deal of notice by the fact that we were wearing hats *and* gloves with our simple summer dresses. The Shul, dating back to 1320, is built on the principle of a box within a box. The inner block is the Shul itself, where the men would congregate, and the outer shell was where the women sat, able to hear the service through small apertures in the very thick walls. Now, alas, there was a bare minyan and one only lady beside us and we all huddled together in the inner room. However, we all knew the service and some at least of the tunes were familiar, although there was no Ein Keiloheinu and no Adon Olam. The building was cold and dusty and our voices seemed to rise into the dim heights of the roof like a faint echo of all the chanting and singing that had gone before over more than six hundred years. But here, as in no other place before or since, I felt surrounded by our loving and beloved dead, whose staunch beliefs had carried on the glorious heritage which had now descended to me.

My visit to Prague was a profound experience and the feelings which arose are still strong in my mind. If ever I should chance to forget, for a little, what it meant to be Jewish, for good or evil, the sights I saw in Prague will remind me both of the tolerance and the bigotry which we have experienced for 2,000 years.

R.L.

## Meditations on the Separation of Meat from Milk

The law of *Basar BeHalav* (Meat and Milk), that is to say, the law whereby we do not mix milky and meaty foods or dishes, belongs to the category of laws known as *Chukim* (singular: *Chok*). These are laws which G-d has commanded us to perform but He has not made known to us the reasons for them. Nevertheless, everyone agrees that we are obliged to obey these *Chukim* even though we cannot understand them. There are, however, those who consider that, since we are blessed with the faculty of reason, it behoves us to meditate on possible reasons for these *Chukim*; this does not imply that our obedience to the *Chukim* should be in any way dependent on our success in finding satisfactory explanations, but nevertheless we should not be deterred from our search.

The law of *Basar BeHalav*, however, is perhaps the hardest to explain rationally. Ibn Ezra concluded: "the reason of this prohibition is concealed from the eyes of even the wise." The law is of course based on the command found three times in the Chumash, "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in its mother's milk" (Exod. xxiii, 19; xxxiv, 26; Deut. xiv, 21).

According to the Oral Law — *Torah Shebe'al Peh* — which was revealed at Sinai together with the Written Law, this thrice-repeated sentence refers to the three prohibitions: *Issur Bishul* — boiling meat and milk together; *Issur Akhilah* — eating meat and milk together; *Issur Ham'ah* — deriving any benefit from a mixture of meat and milk.

### MYSTICAL EXPLANATION

A mystical explanation for the law of *Basar BeHalav* is that it involves a mixture of species. In the same way as we are forbidden to wear a garment made of wool and linen together, or to plough with an ox and ass together, or to sow our field with mingled seed, so we are forbidden to mix milk and meat. At the Creation, G-d created every creature in accordance with the law of its own species — *Lemino* — and the Jewish Mystics assert that we must not interfere with the law of the species initiated at Creation, because "it disturbs the balance of the Universe." Thus, say the Mystics, meat and milk boiled or eaten together disturb the harmony of man and the harmony of the Universe.

Samson Raphael Hirsch, the founder of Neo-Orthodoxy in Frankfort in the nineteenth century, took the view expressed above, namely, that it behoves us to meditate on reasons for the *Chukim*. As regards *Basar BeHalav*, he, like the Mystics, connects the law with the preservation of different species. Israel, too, is a "species" and must observe its own special law, the

*continued on page 28*

FOR THE OVER 60s

## HAMMERSMITH FRIENDSHIP CLUB

In reporting on the Club's activities for 1975-6, we can say that we had a very happy year with lots of pleasure parties held for many different occasions.

Coastal outings took place as always and the weather was all we could wish for. Members derived great pleasure from being able to take part in the Seder, which was made possible by the Ladies' Guild and held in the Synagogue Hall. The Rev. Mr. Venitt conducted the service.

Our entertainments were gay and varied, and we do enjoy some lovely afternoons of music over the year, provided by the local authority.

We spent a busy afternoon when we were able to take part in a demonstration of flower-making. We really became involved. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Rosalie Evnine.

The club was represented at the service held in the Synagogue for the presentation of the testimonial to the Rev. and Mrs. S. Forscher, which was a very moving but happy afternoon.

We also enjoyed a visit from the Chairman of the Association of Jewish Friendship Clubs; it is good to hear what is happening in the club world.

Our members fully enjoyed a visit we made to a real beauty spot, Bourdon-on-the-Water, a half-day outing and afternoon tea was a must.

With the welfare of our members always in mind, we now open the club at 1 p.m., which enables them to come earlier if they so wish, making travelling that bit easier for them. From time to time we must say goodbye to all friends — that is life.

We still have things to do: a Bring-and-Buy sale, then our very special 25th Birthday Party, which just has to be the best. We had a lovely party on the occasion of the wedding of the Rev. and Mrs. Forscher's daughter, which took place early in the year. We have also made new members, which means happiness. May we all enjoy many more years of friendship.

On behalf of Mrs. Levy, we thank the Board of Management for its continued co-operation.

MARY WILSON,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

## Mr. & Mrs. ALFRED COLEMAN

*wish the Ministers  
and their friends*

*of the Hammersmith & West Kensington Synagogue  
a very Happy New Year.*

Torah. *Basar BeHalav* teaches every Israelite to live in accordance with the law of his own species, namely, the Torah.

On the other hand, some consider the law of meat and milk in the same light as the other dietary laws, whose purpose is to strengthen the character of the Jew and thus lead to holiness. In support of this view it may be argued that the two verses in Exodus containing the law of meat and milk (Exod. xxiii, 19, and xxxiv, 26) appear at the end of various laws aiming at *Kedushah* — holiness; and the third passage (Deut. xiv, 21) appears in the context of other dietary laws, where the aim of holiness is especially mentioned.

In conclusion, it must be stressed that our obedience to the dietary laws is in no way dependent on our ability to speculate to our satisfaction on the reasons for them. Their ultimate validity rests on the fact that G-d commanded them.

FIONA YOFFEY.

## J. SAMUEL & SON

JAMES SAMUEL 1797-1866

### MEMORIALS & RENOVATIONS

All work under the personal supervision of  
Mr. Louis M. Samuel, a direct  
descendant of Haham Moses Cohen D'Azevedo

SIDNEY STREET, LONDON, E1 2EH

Telephone: 01-247 5181/4256

## ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

- Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild.** Meets first Tuesday evening in the month in members' homes. Tel. 603 4938.
- Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Assn.** Hon. Sec.: Mrs. S. Verby, 45 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions, S.W.6. Tel. 736 3731.
- Hammersmith Friendship Club.** Meets every Wednesday in the Synagogue Hall. Chairman: Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12. Tel. 743 3276.
- Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society.** Inquiries to Mrs. Jennie Caplan, Tel. 748 2727.
- Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee** (under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews). Inquiries at Jewish Board of Deputies, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.
- Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust.** Representative: Miss J. Lichtblau, 56 Fraser House, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx.
- West London Jewish Youth Centre Sponsoring Committee.** Hammersmith Representative: Dr. D. S. Filer, 1 Warwick Dene, W.5.
- West London Young Zionist Society.** Chairman: Miss Paula Goldberg. Tel. 998 7160.
- Jewish Lads' Brigade** — For Information: Brigade Secretary: 28, St. John's Wood Road, N.W.8. Tel. 286 8632.
- Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch).** Hon. Sec.: Mr. A. S. Bankover, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12. Tel. 743 5139.
- Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue Library.** Hon. Sec. and Librarian: Miss R. Loughorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions W.6. Tel. 748 8577.
- Jewish Youth Study Groups — West London Branch.** Inquiries: 997-3717.



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

*from*

**FIDELITY  
RADIO  
LTD.**

(J. DICKMAN)



**FIDELITY HOUSE,  
VICTORIA ROAD, LONDON, N.W.10**