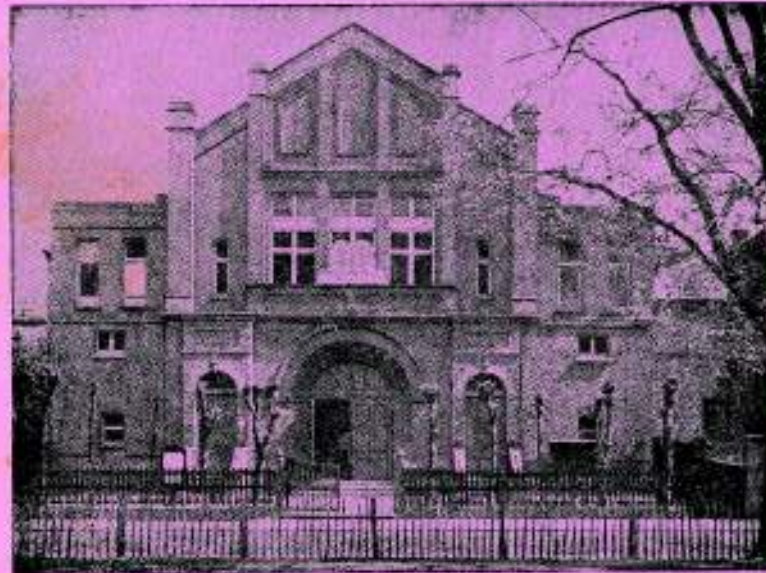


Number 64

September 1988/5749 ט'תשמ"ח

# THE BROOK

1890-1988



THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON  
SYNAGOGUE

"Serve the L-rd with joy; come before Him with exulting"

Psalm 100 verse 2

## HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

### Officials

Minister: The Rev. Sam Venitt, B.A.,  
69 Brook Green, W6 7BE

Secretary: Mr. S. Fainlight

The Minister can be seen by appointment.

The Secretary can be seen any Sunday morning between  
10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. and by appointment.

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

Financial Representative: D. Arram, Esq.

### Board & Council of Management:

A. S. Bankover, Esq.	Dr. C. B. Hobbs	H. Sharpe, Esq.
Dr. L. Collins	J. Langdon, Esq.	M. Talalay, Esq.
F. J. Gertler, Esq.	J. Nisner, Esq.	B. Topper, Esq.
A. Harris, Esq.	H. Rieck, Esq.	S. Williams, Esq.

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

J. Brand, Esq. Councillor S. Grose, Esq.

### Female Representatives on the Council of Management:

Mrs. D. Arram	Mrs. B. Meltz
Mrs. J. Brand	Mrs. A. Phillips
Mrs. Z. Brickman, M.B.E.	Mrs. S. Williams

Representative at the Board of Deputies: D. Arram, Esq.

## Times of Services

### WEEKDAYS

Morning By arrangement 7.30 a.m. Evening By arrangement

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 8.30 a.m. By arrangement

### SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS:

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

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

### "THE BROOK"

EDITORIAL BOARD: The Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.; Mr. M. A.  
Amias; Mr. D. Arram; Mr. J. Brand, LL.B.; Dr. M. D.  
Caplan; Mr. M. DeVries, M.A.; Councillor S. Grose, B.A.;  
Mr. H. Sharpe.

## EDITORIAL

The past year in our community has been marked by two historic events. At the Annual General Meeting the Honorary Officers announced that Rev. and Mrs Venitt had indicated their intention to retire after the High Holydays. The Venitts have served the Congregation for over forty years in our history of nearly a Century. We record elsewhere in our pages a more formal note of tribute, and urge all members, past and present, to join us in marking this event by associating themselves with a Testimonial Presentation to be made at a special function to which invitations will be sent to the community. Rev. & Mrs Venitt's distinguished and remarkable role in the Synagogue and Classes, and in the wider community of the area, is fully disclosed in the Honorary Officers letter to members, in our Magazine, founded by Rev. Venitt. They have expressed over many years the many different aspects of our religious, communal and social life. As a writer of clarity, firmness of expression, and warmth of feeling Rev. Venitt has no equals and members have derived much support and comfort from his Mini-Sermons in these pages and his speeches and addresses on formal and social occasions alike. Rev. & Mrs Venitt are true friends of all the congregation and in wishing them well in retirement it is our continuing pleasure that they will still live among us when not in Israel with their family.

The most recent formal occasion at which Rev. Venitt's address was warmly received was the truly memorable Civic Service in honour of the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith & Fulham, Councillor Joseph Mirwitch, LL.M., and his mother Mrs. Gertrude Mirwitch. This was only the second occasion on which the Mayor was a member of the Synagogue, and indeed the last similar event was over eighty years ago. The synagogue was crowded by representatives of many Jewish and non-Jewish organisations in the Borough and it is entirely fitting that Rev. Venitt's Ministerial Service was able to include such a truly significant event.

In sending our good wishes for a peaceful New Year to our members and friends we hope that these recent events will inspire us to renew our energies in all aspects of our religious and communal life for the future.

## THE BROOK

We wish to complete our library of our magazine "The Brook". Unfortunately we are missing several issues. If any member has a collection of back numbers we should be grateful if they would let us know.

## CHASANIM

We have pleasure in announcing that our Chasanim for this year will be Mr. Alfred Harris and Dr. Denis Caplan.

Mr. Harris was financial representative of our Synagogue in 1950-51. He was a founder member of the Putney Synagogue where he was a Warden for a number of years. On its closure he rejoined Hammersmith and this year was elected to our Board of Management.

Dr. Denis Caplan is a very popular member of our Synagogue and held in very high esteem. He has served for many years on our Board of Management and was our Representative on the Board of Deputies for a number of years.

We wish both Mr. Harris and Dr. Caplan a hearty Mazaltov and look forward to our members and families joining in our Annual Reception on Sunday 16th October when our Chasanim together with their wives will be our Guests of Honour.

## FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

Our function this year was a Supper Evening, held just prior to Pesach. Judy Levey (Soprano) delighted us all with a Programme of Song and we were all very happy to be entertained by one of our own members.

We hope that in the future we will be having a number of functions and ask you to support us.

In February 1990 our Synagogue will be celebrating its Centenary. This will be a year for rejoicing and we hope to arrange a programme of functions and events to suit this memorable year.

You will be notified of all these events as soon as arrangements have been made and we look forward to your support.

The Members of the Functions Committee join me in wishing you all a Happy New Year and hope to see you at our future functions.

David Arram *Chairman*

## CARETAKER

On the retirement of Steffie and Tom Englefield as Caretakers, we are pleased to welcome Jane and Jim as our new resident Caretakers. Both have settled in well with our community and we wish them many years of happy association with us.

## CIVIC SERVICE 1988

Those of us who attended the excellent Civic Service of the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham at our Synagogue on July 31st, will have a lasting memory of a happy occasion, which, if not unique, is rare enough to merit the description of historic.

The climate of public opinion with its respect for ethnic and religious minorities has made it possible for a Mayor to make his own choice in the Borough of a place of worship for his civic service as opposed to the former practice of the Parish Church – albeit in a form of service approved by the Mayor.

How fitting, therefore, that this year's Mayor is our own Joseph Mirwitch, who naturally chose as his venue this Synagogue where he and his family have long been regular worshippers. How fitting, too, that the Mayor should have been the Borough's unanimous choice – impressing all as a modest and unassuming man, a caring man, whose kindness is reflected in his eyes and his gentleness in his voice. May he continue to enjoy the remainder of his term of office with acclaim for his achievements which we are confident will be many.

As to the Service itself – beautiful and entirely appropriate was the most frequent description heard. Indeed, the choice of scriptural readings and psalms could not have been bettered. The Rev. E. Freilich's beautiful voice, aided by the Choir, distilled exquisite harmony from our songs. Above all, the Rev. S. Venitt's inspired sermon encapsulated in fluent phrases the hopes and aspirations for the Borough in the present and the future which bind us all together in brotherhood to pray to Him who is Father to all.

S.G.

## SYNAGOGUE ISRAEL TOUR

I am pleased to report that the Israel Tour proposed in our last issue will take place from 3rd to 17th November 1988.

A number of our members and friends are joining an interesting programme to celebrate Israel's 40th Year.

I am sure that the tour which is being led by myself and Mr. Jeffery Brand will prove successful and enjoyable to all who take part.

Any member who requires further details (even at this late stage) should let me know.

David Arram *Financial Representative*

## REFLECTIONS ON YOM KIPPUR

If a Jew were asked to pick the moment of the year when he feels closest to his personal G-d, there would be little hesitation. The answer would be either the night of Kol Nidrei, the beginning of Yom Kippur, or just prior to Neilah, the end of Yom Kippur. Let us utilize these precious moments to their full advantage. Just what is Yom Kippur and how does it fit into the scheme of Jewish life.

The whole cycle of the year is a preparation for Yom Kippur, the moment of climax. The month of Ellul, the period of Selichos, Rosh Hashanah, ten days of penitence and finally the day of Yom Kippur.

Maimonides wrote in his book of ethics that a man should strive to follow the middle path – neither too proud nor too humble, neither too temperamental nor too unemotional, neither too miserly nor too much of a spendthrift. When a man finds that he tends to turn to one extreme in behaviour, he should endeavour to strive for the other extreme and thereby reach the golden mean. This striving to the other extreme is Yom Kippur.

Throughout the entire year, the Jew tries to be worthy of his name. There are times, however, as the impact of Yom Kippur wears off, that he lapses into a life of convenience. There are times when man follows his eyes and his hands rather than his heart and reason. For this, Jewish law has provided us with a Yom Kippur. The Torah tells us, one day a year you must strive for an extreme in asceticism in order to stay in the middle of the road through the year. This applies to food, physical pursuits and bodily comforts. One day a year you must spend completely in my service, says the Almighty, in order that you may know that you were created in the image of G-d.

On the day of Yom Kippur, the Jew reaches his greatest spiritual heights and he goes out refreshed and strengthened. He communicates with G-d, and experiences a religious rejuvenation.

## GIFTS FOR THE SUCCAH

The Succah will be ready for decorating on termination of Sabbath, 24th September. Gifts of flowers, foliage, wine, etc. will be gratefully accepted; also donations towards the purchase of cake.

## HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

### Annual Report 1987/8

This has been a memorable year for our community. We have been able to celebrate the historic occasion of the election of a member of our community, Councillor Joseph Mirwitsch, as Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, and his choice of our minister the Rev. Venitt as his Chaplain. We were delighted to have the pleasure of welcoming the Mayor at the Annual Mayoral Visit on Shabbat when he was accompanied by the Mayoress Mrs. G. Mirwitsch and several members of the Council. A special Kiddush was also held on that day to mark Ladies' Guild Shabbat.

Our Chasanim this year were Mr. Maurice Devries as Chasan Torah and Councillor Joseph Mirwitsch as Chasan Bereshis (Councillor Mirwitsch was at this time Deputy Mayor). The chasanim were accompanied by their mothers, Mrs. Rose Devries and the Deputy Mayoress Mrs. Gertrude Mirwitsch. After the usual presentations and votes of thanks those who attended were able to remember the occasion by the gift of specially inscribed Benschers donated by the Chasanim. We pay tribute to Cllr. Mirwitsch for the great interest he takes in our affairs, not least as a regular congregant, but in addition for his ready assistance and advice, and extend our heartiest congratulations on his attaining this great honour.

We reported last year that we had completed the redecoration scheme for the Synagogue Hall. We had not anticipated of course the extensive storm damage caused on the night of Shemini Atzereth which resulted in the collapse of the wall on the Caithness Road frontage after a tree fall, and extensive damage to the hall coping and roof. Although the wall has been rebuilt there is a renewed problem with water penetration in the building which we will have to put right. Despite this however, we try, with the able assistance of many members of our congregation, led by our Jack Langdon, to keep our buildings in as well maintained condition as possible. For many years we have had the support of our caretaker Mrs. Steffie Englefield and her husband Tom. We appreciate all they have done for us and wish them a long and happy retirement in the sheltered accommodation to which they have moved after Tom suffered a stroke. We are pleased to welcome Jane Best as our new caretaker, who, together with Jim, will be helping to take care of our buildings.

Services continued regularly throughout the year conducted by Rev. Venitt with the assistance during the Yomim Noraim of

Mr. Moss Amias and Mr. Jonathan Miller. We offer special thanks to them for their help and to our colleague Mr. Hersh Rieck for his excellent davening, constant support and welcome advice. We are delighted that our custom of Kiddushim has been maintained during the year with special enhancement of food and drink donated by members and friends to record simchas. The friendly communal spirit of our services is always extended informally into the kiddush afterwards, but in a different sense.

We are very grateful for the valuable help we receive from our Ladies Guild who undertake charitable duties as well as social ones which are a credit to our community. This year the United Synagogue introduced six places for female members on a committee of management. Whilst we welcome our newly elected colleagues we record that our community was one of the first in London to invite female representatives to attend the meetings of the Board of Management.

We are very pleased that the Friendship Club under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Netta Guyer continues to flourish and creates a welcome social atmosphere for all its members, and in the same way we have also enjoyed the socials organised by our Functions Committee. This year the entertainment at the Pre-Pesach Supper was given by Judy Levey who sang several operatic arias to great acclaim.

We are pleased to report that as we foretold last year, arrangements to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the State of Israel by the Synagogue Tour are well in hand. The party is to visit Israel for two weeks in November and we invite all interested to contact the organiser, Mr. Arram. We endorse the constant efforts of our JIA Committee to secure increased financial support for Israel at this vital period of celebration and turmoil.

At December 31st 1987 (end of our financial year) we were again able to maintain a surplus, and although by direction of the United Synagogue there are increases in membership fees, we hope we will receive the support of the community, as in the past years, and continue to keep our accounts in the black.

As ever we are mindful that without the support of all our colleagues we would not be able to succeed. To our sincere friends and colleagues, Rev. and Mrs. Venitt, as well as our Board and Committee of Management and U.S. Council Representative, and our Synagogue Secretary, Sydney Fainlight, we offer our sincere appreciation and grateful thanks.

M. A. Amias, D. S. Arram, M. DeVries  
*Honorary Officers*

## REV. AND MRS. SAM VENITT

The impending retirement of Rev. and Mrs Sam Venitt from our Synagogue after 42 years of devoted service, though understandable, is greatly regretted by all the congregation.

Each member of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue feels that he or she is losing two personal friends, and happy though we are that they will still be residing in the vicinity, they intend to spend part of the year with their children and grandchildren in Israel.

For so many years they have both been greatly involved in every aspect of the work in the Synagogue and much beyond, and they will be missed so much in so many spheres. They will indeed be difficult to replace.

It is intended to arrange a function, towards the end of the year, in their honour to give expression of the love and sincere affection in which they are held by us all.

In the meantime we wish them many years of happy retirement.

## THE LADIES GUILD 1987/88

Unfortunately I have to start on a sad note. This year our Annual General Meeting was held at the Communal Hall, not in our President's home as hitherto, when it was an outstanding evening, much enjoyed by us all. Our President suffered a bereavement, the lamented passing of her dear husband, Dr. Frank Hodes. We extend our condolences to the family.

The committee meetings held during the year were well attended and apart from the business, were enjoyed socially.

The Guild provided the kiddushim in the Succah which was once again beautifully decorated with fruit and foliage. The Annual Simchat Torah Party was catered admirably by the Ladies Guild.

We now have several new members and on 3rd January, we held a social afternoon, a Bring and Buy and a Tea, to which we invited the new members.

Ladies Guild Shabbat was very well supported. The gathering included ladies from other organisations. This was combined with a civic visit of the Mayor Councillor Joseph Mirwitch, accompanied by his mother Mrs. Gertrude Mirwitch, the Mayoress.

In past years our Annual Fund Raising event was a Bring and Buy and luncheon with an invited speaker. This year we changed the format by having a Spring Fashion Show, presented by Dickins & Jones (Richmond) which was followed by a high tea.

On May 10th five ladies of the Guild attended the Annual Supper of the Association of United Synagogue Women held in Stanmore, when Mr. Robert Winston was the guest speaker.

The Guild again provided and arranged the floral decorations in the Synagogue for Shavuot.

We have re-started the sending of parcels to a selected list of patients at Springdene hospital on some of the Festivals. We extend our grateful thanks to those involved. Thanks are also due to the two ladies who transport disabled to the Centre in Camden Town.

Our subscription is now £4. per annum and we would be pleased to welcome yet more new members.

Rebecca Fox *Hon. Secretary*

## HAMMERSMITH FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Club is still popular and during the Winter months members enjoyed the social afternoons and the occasional quiz afternoons.

Recently we enjoyed a talk by Miss Jean Henry on "Music through the Ages", which she complemented with tape recordings. We had a hilarious afternoon with Lily Benjamin who spoke on "Jewish Humour".

Some of us joined with Richmond Friendship Club and enjoyed a very happy day at Brighton – we were lucky enough to have one of this year's fine days!

New members are always welcome – telephone Mrs. N. Guyer on 748 4797 or Mrs. Z. Brickman on 603 0251 for particulars.

We wish all our Members a very happy and healthy New Year.

N.G.

## CAN YOU HELP?

It is obvious that in a community like ours there must be quite a number of elderly, lonely, isolated and housebound people who would welcome a contact either in person or by telephone. We are looking for people who are willing to perform such a service, which would indeed be a Mitzvah.

Please contact Betty Meltz (603-5398)

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

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

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

Hella Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year, 7 King's Close, N.W.4. Tel. 203 1163.

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

Mr. & Mrs. J. Best send their compliments to the Congregation.

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

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Abrahamson and Family, 47 St. Mary Abbot's Court, Warwick Gardens, Kensington, W14 8RB  
Anita and David Abrams and Family, 11 Mercers Place, London, W6 7BZ

Mr. Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W14

Mr. & Mrs. A.G. Amias, Flat 5/72 Courtfield Gardens SW5

Mr. & Mrs. M. Angelus, 96 Addison Gardens, W14

David & Pearl Arram & Family, 7 Blenheim Road, London W4 1UB

Eve and Bertie Bankover and Family, 2 Albany, Alexandra Grove, N. Finchley, N12 8NN

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

Dr. & Mrs. F.J. Benesi, 11 Cockshut Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1JH

Mrs. R. Berg & Mr. N. Berg, 1 West Kensington Mansions, North End Road, London W14 9PE

Dr. and Mrs. L. Bernstock & Mr. David Silk, 2 Windermere, Lytton Grove, Putney, London SW15 2ER

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

Mrs. Mary Bossick, 2 Sutherland Court, Manor Close, Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury, NW9

Joy and Jeffery Brand, 73 Barons Keep, London W14 9AU

Zara Brickman, M.B.E. and Lionel Kaufman, 3 Rugby Mansions, London W14 8XD

Mrs. Doreen Brown, 3 Milton Mansions, Queens Club Gardens, London, W14

Richard, Elizabeth & Daniel Brown, 1 Queen's Grove Court Queen's Grove, St. John's Wood, NW8

Dr. and Mrs. Denis Caplan & Family, 21 Rochampton Court, Queens Ride, Barnes, SW13  
 Robert and Miriam Clark, 4 Pinewood Grove, Carlton Road, Ealing, W5 2AG  
 Philip, Dorrit & Elizabeth Cohen, 101 Madrid Road, London SW13 9PQ  
 Mrs. Netta Coen & Family, 65 Primley Park Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7LP  
 Mrs. R. Cohen, 292 Latymer Court, London W6 7LD  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis S. Collins, Chanetonbury, Seaview Avenue, Amering on Sea, West Sussex  
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Cook, 13 Strafford Road, Twickenham, Middx. TW1 3AD  
 Thelma & Jack Cowan, 16 Sandykeld, 26 Manor Road East Cliff, Bournemouth, Dorset  
 Lilian & Bernard David, 39 Hamble Court, Broom Park, Teddington, Middx. TW11 9RW  
 Mrs. R. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions, Arundel Terrace, Barnes, London SW13 9DS  
 Mrs. Betty Dickman, 60 Minster Court, Hillcrest Road London, W5  
 Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison Road, W14 8NF  
 Betty & Lewis Gassman & Family, 21 Castelnau, SW13  
 Stella & Harry Gold, 30 Emlyn Road, London W12  
 Mr. & Mrs. Manfred S. Gorvy & Family, 16 Hans Road London SW3  
 Mr. & Mrs. G. Green, 11 Minster Court, Hillcrest Road Ealing, W5  
 Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose & Family, Berkeley House, 10 Berkeley Road, SW13  
 Mr. A. Gross, 31 Kings Court, King Street, London W6  
 Dr. & Mrs. R.D. Gross, 36 Haven Green Court, Haven Green London W5  
 Mrs. Netta Guyer and Maurice, 1 Atherton Road, Barnes London SW13 9NH  
 Mrs. Annette Halfin, 2 Rutland Drive, River Lane, Petersham, Surrey, TW10 7AG  
 Elizabeth & Alfred Harris, 23 Parkside, Wimbledon Common, London SW19  
 Mrs. J. Harris, 20 Goldsmith Buildings, East Churchfield Road, Acton, W3  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Harris, 182 Latymer Court, Hammersmith Road, W6  
 Mr & Mrs. M. Hirth, Flat 1, 18 Flaghead Road, Poole, Dorset  
 Basil & Bella Isaacs & Family, 43 Clifton Court, St. John's Wood Road, London NW8 8HT  
 Mr. & Mrs. M. Isaacson & Family, 8 Rosedew Road, London W6 9ET

Mrs. M. Katits, 24 Bolingbroke Road, London, W14  
 Mrs. D. Kurzman, 35 Suffolk Road, Barnes, SW13  
 Jack & Adelaide Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, Acton, London W3 7LT  
 Hetty and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, NW4  
 Naomi & Philip Lewis & Family, 14 Madrid Road, SW13  
 Miss. Julie Lichtblau, John Aird House, Green Dragon Lane, London, W4  
 Mrs. Hettie Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W4  
 Mrs. Bettie Meltz & Melvin, 69 Addison Gardens, W14 0DT  
 Raie, Joe & Jonathan Miller, 16 Samuel Richardson House, North End Crescent, W14 8TE  
 Mrs. G. Mirwitch & Family, 11 South Side, Stamford Brook Common, W6 0XY  
 Councillor Joseph S. Mirwitch, 66 British Grove, W4 2NL  
 The Mishcon Family - Peter, Penny, Oliver, Anna, Kate and Eliza, 89 Elgin Crescent, London W11  
 Miss. Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington W8 4HX  
 Mrs. G. Moses, 120 North End House, Fitzjames Avenue, London W14 0RY  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Morris, 95 Barons Keep, Gliddon Road, London, W14  
 O.A. & E. Newfield, 52 East Acton Lane, London W3 7EQ  
 Joe Nisner with Rochelle, Maxwell & Daughters, 27 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, Ealing, W5  
 Alfred & Mabel Phillips & Family, Flat 11, Bridge Avenue Mansions, Hammersmith, London W6  
 Mr. Hersh Rieck, 33 Campden Hill Gate, Duchess of Bedford Walk, W8  
 Phyllis Robinson, 14 Lansdowne, Carlton Drive, Putney, London SW15  
 Mrs. Rita Rosen, 59 Montague Mansions, London W1H 1LH  
 Ethel Sacks, 18 Kingfisher House, Melbury Road, W14  
 Mr. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, Fitz James Avenue, London W14 0RT  
 Prof. & Mrs. Al Shiloh & Dina, 36 Barons Keep, W14  
 Lew & Minnie Shooman, Robert, Carole & Family, 10 Tudor Court, Gunnersbury Avenue, W5  
 Gerard Snoeck, 4 Park Avenue, London SW14  
 Mrs. L. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W4  
 Mr. & Mrs. N. Sonnenblik, 14 Vaughan Avenue, London W6 0XS  
 Deborah, Michael & Bobby Talalay, 6 Stamford Brook Avenue, London W6 0YD  
 Mrs. Stella Tesler, 68 Homecross House, Fishers Lane, Chiswick, W4 1YB

Bea & Bertie Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road,  
W14  
 Ilse & Ian Tysh, 58 Prebend Gardens, W6  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Heathfield  
 Terrace, Chiswick, W4  
 Hettie & Sidney Williams & Family, 28 Lime Court,  
 Gipsy Lane, Putney, SW15  
 Elizabeth and Benjamin de Winter and Family, 24  
 Northways, College Crescent, NW3 5DR  
 Vivienne & Barry Winterman, 80 Linton Avenue  
 Borehamwood, Herts WD6 4QY  
 Dina & Philip Wisbey, Wendy & Bob, 2 Rupert Road  
 Bedford Park, London W4 1LX  
 Hilary Wood, 101 Latymer Court, Hammersmith W6 7JF  
 Mr. I. Yoffey, Fiona, Manny, Penina and Shoshana  
 93 Mayfield Road, W12 9LT

**HETTIE & DAVE BALONOV**  
 with their Families in England and the U.S.A.  
 offer sincere greetings for the New Year

### “KENSINGTON & CHELSEA WIZO”

The past year has been a successful one, commencing with a Good as New Shop, and although it was in North West London members made the somewhat long and difficult journey to help. This was followed by the ever popular annual Bring and Buy Brunch and early in 1988 by a large card afternoon. As a diversion from the usual activities a jewellery stall was taken at the WIZO Spring Fair at the Mount Royal Hotel. Once again a very large amount of money was raised for Jewish Women's Week due to the dedicated work of the captain and collectors. The highlight of the year was the lunch held in July to celebrate Israel's Fortieth Birthday, British WIZO's 70th Birthday, and our own Kensington & Chelsea's 30th Birthday. A delicious buffet was prepared by Committee members and this was followed by a most interesting address given by Mrs. Leila Wynbourne, Co-President of British WIZO. Any lady interested in joining the group should contact the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Ilse Tysh on 748 1620.

ETHEL SACKS *President*

## *Social and Personal*

### WEDDINGS

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

David C.P.J. Garrett to Michelle Susan Kass  
 Darryl Simon Robinson to Sara Nicole Pomerance

### BAR MITZVAH

Nicholas Nurock

To these and to all members who had celebrations during the year we extend our warmest felicitations.

### NEW MEMBERS

Mr. S. Fishman	Mr. R. Leiderman
Mrs. S. Gold	Mrs. R. Miller
Mrs. F. Herman	Mrs. A. Nathan
Mr. I. Jason	Mr. D. Robinson
Mrs. S. Lee	Mr. & Dr. R. Spenser

### GIFTS TO THE SYNAGOGUE

Hall Clock	from Grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. David Arram
Electric Urn	from Ladies' Guild
10 Chumashim	from Mr. J. Nisner

### RICHMOND & THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE OF JEWISH WOMEN

Our Members continue to do a great deal of voluntary work, but we are always anxious to enlist new members.

We are very sorry to lose our very efficient Secretary, Mrs. Nadia Caplan, as she and her husband are moving to pastures new. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

The A.G.M. of the group was held at the home of Mrs. Betty Gassman on 12th July.

We hope to arrange another Fashion Show at the end of the year. Particulars will be sent out in due course.

We wish everyone a happy New Year.

Anyone wanting particulars of the League please telephone Mrs. N. Guyer on 748 4797.

N.G.



לשנה טובה

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

Mr & Mrs F. J. WILLIE GERTLER  
and family

37 Campbell Court  
Queens Gate Gardens  
London SW7 4PD

## EINAYIM AID SOCIETY OF THE JEWISH BLIND SOCIETY

We are pleased to report that we had a most successful year having sent £3,600 to the Jewish Blind Society. This was achieved with the continuing support of those who attend our functions. We are particularly grateful to members of the Hammersmith & West Kensington Synagogue on whom we can rely although they are not actually in our area, but are certainly good neighbours.

Our next function is a proposed Theatre Evening at the Lyric Hammersmith during the Autumn. We depend very much on good support for this function as it is our main money raising event of the year. So please reserve Saturday 22nd October for a new contemporary Australian Play, with a Stock Exchange theme entitled "Dream in an Empty City" with Nyree Dawn Porter and Lewis Fitzgerald.

For tickets: please apply to Mrs. B. Topper, 603 9708.

### JIA.

Our Rabbis teach us that it is a great mitzvah to go to live in Israel, and if we are unable or unwilling, to go on aliyah, we should feel an obligation to donate as much as we can for charitable purposes in Israel. Thus we compensate for not fulfilling the primary mitzvah.

In the United Kingdom the JIA is the organisation recognised and authorised by the State of Israel to raise funds and transmit them for welfare, educational and other charitable needs in Israel. It is a sad fact that more money is raised more easily when Israel is at war than at other times, but financial contributions from those of us in the diaspora are just as urgently needed at the present time. Indeed, the welfare and other charitable requirements of Israel continue, regardless of the political colour of the government, or of our own political views.

Each year the JIA organises a general appeal, seeking from every Jewish person in the country the maximum contribution they are able and willing to make. Furthermore, with the approval and support of the Chief Rabbi and of the Council of the United Synagogue, a special appeal is made in synagogues at the Kol Nidre service for a charitable contribution to JIA, in addition to the annual general appeal.

The purpose of our local JIA committee is to ask for and collect donations in our geographical area on behalf of the national appeal. Our aim is to seek a contribution from every one of our synagogue's members; we hope you will give as much as you can

afford, because whatever may be our own personal problems living in this country, we have a traditional and moral obligation to support Israel and our co-religionists living there.

This year, a major change is taking place. The United Synagogue Council and the JIA have agreed that the annual Kol Nidre appeal should have as its joint aims the support of Israel and the support of Jewish education. We need hardly point out that to achieve these aims, our requirement is for even more generous contributions than ever. You, the members of our congregation, have over the years responded generously and regularly to the JIA. Our total raised this last year was £12,877. On behalf of our local committee, we appeal for an even greater response than ever on this Kol Nidre for our sisters and brothers in Israel.

DA & JB

## **REPORT ON AJEX (Hammersmith & District)**

by Percy S. Gourgey MBE, Chairman

The Branch participated in the usual activities in the period 1987/88, such as the Annual Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in November, which was preceded a week before by the local one at the Shepherds Bush Cenotaph. At the latter, the officiating Minister was Rabbi M. Barron of Richmond Synagogue. The Chaplain to the Mayor, Rev. S. Venitt, was abroad at the time. The Branch was well represented, including its Standard Bearer, at the moving and impressive Civic Service of Prayer and Dedication held at the Synagogue in the presence of the Mayor, Councillor Joseph Mirwitch and the Mayoress Mrs Gertrude Mirwitch and a large and distinguished gathering, held on 31st July.

In October 1987, the Branch, together with Richmond Synagogue, showed a video-tape concerning the Holocaust and was addressed by Mr. Ben Helfgott, Chairman of the Board of Deputies Yad Vashem Committee, which was well attended. A resolution proposed by the Branch concerning the need to bring to trial Nazi war criminals residing in Britain since the war, elicited the following reply from the Home Office, signed by Mr. R.C. Caldwell (C5 Division) dated 30th November: "Thank you for your letter of 2nd November, 1987 to the Home Secretary about the presence in this country of alleged war criminals. Thank you for communicating the recent resolution on this subject of your local branch of AJEX. Both the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have made clear that in their opinion the passage of time does

nothing to mitigate the horror of the Nazi atrocities". Addressed to the Chairman, it goes on to say "The present situation is that the substantial body of material presented by the Simon Weisenthal Centre in July has been subject to careful analysis, and the policy and legal implications are now receiving urgent consideration. It is hoped that a decision will be announced in early course." In January the Home Secretary, Mr. Hurd, set up an investigating committee and a preliminary report indicates that the full report will be completed next February when the Home Secretary will decide about war crimes prosecutions. All such representations were useful to inducing the Government to take action. The Branch participated in various national AJEX functions.

## **LEBANON'S JEWS**

by Percy Gourgey, M.B.E.

A recent article by *The Times* correspondent in Beirut headed "Nightmare of Kidnapped Jews in Beirut" has again drawn attention to the sorry plight of the tiny community of Lebanese Jews. Three years ago a number of them were kidnapped by rival militia gangs and six were killed, the first being Raoul Mizrahi, of an old Lebanese Jewish family. Others killed included Abraham Benesti and Dr. Elie Hallak, and possibly Isaac Sassoon, the head of the community. While the media say so much about the American and British hostages – and rightly so – nothing is said about the remaining Jewish hostages. World Jewish organisations should indeed take up their case and show the barbaric nature of Israel's neighbouring states, and the difficulty of coming to terms with them.

When the Israeli army went into Lebanon in 1982 to remove the terrorists' bases which were used to launch attacks on Israel's northern settlements and towns, I wrote to Prime Minister Menachem Begin to get all the Jews out of Beirut to Israel (I was Chairman of the Jews of Arab Lands Committee). Mr. Begin replied that they were free to leave and 75% of the community did so. Others believed that they could weather the storm and maintain their centuries-old businesses. The same arguments were tragically used by Jews in Eastern and Central Europe before Hitler's holocaust, and by the Jews of Iran and Ethiopia in recent years.

We must all nevertheless strive our utmost to secure the freedom of Lebanese Jews and those of Syria and other lands of oppression. It is to be hoped that with the end of the Gulf War (over a million Muslims were killed in eight years of fighting) the 30,000 Jews of Iran will take the opportunity of emigrating to safer countries, as well as will the very tiny community in Iraq.

## THE TOPPER STORY

Mr. Bertram Topper, a member of the Synagogue Council of Management, has been associated with the Synagogue all his life, and has many nostalgic memories. His grandmother was a founder member, and his parents were married in our Synagogue on September 5th 1909.

The name Topper was also, until very recently, one of the most famous names among London's hairdressers.

Toppers! These days you could suppose it to be a punning name dreamed up by a couple of smart young stylists from Milton Keynes, but there really were – and are – Toppers. George Topper, originally from Poland, set up the famous shop above Oxford Circus tube station in 1930. Before that, he had worked in Piccadilly.

His brother Charles ran a salon in Hamann Turkish Baths in Jermyn Street until he was bombed out in 1941. There were Topper outposts on Atlantic liners and in hotels.

Between them, the Toppers cut the hair of the Prince of Wales, subsequently King Edward VIII, his brother the Duke of Kent, the present Duke of Edinburgh, Lord Louis Mountbatten, the Aga Khan, Prince Ali Khan, the Earl of Caernarvon ...

When one first went to Toppers, framed photographs of the royal triumphs hung on the wall, and there were still six or maybe eight chairs.

In their heyday there was a full dozen, plus a ladies' salon and manicurists and chiropodists. The last Mr Topper, George's son Bertram, looks back on this era, not surprisingly, with great affection. A haircut and shampoo cost three shillings, just about the same in real terms as the modest £7 that was finally being charged.

Six o'clock was the busy time for going out to shave or trim customers in their own homes, before the evening's dinner parties or balls. Charles Topper would sometimes have to ring back and bring his appointments forward to 5.30, because he had to go to Buckingham Palace at six. He once got a stern ticking off from the King because he had been first to the Duke of Kent, who had made him late. "In future", ruled His Majesty, "I come first".

If Edward was at his Fort Belvedere home near Sunningdale, it meant a journey by Green Line coach and not home until 9 or 10 at night. After the Abdication, the Duke of Windsor remained loyal to Toppers. The young Bertram – or Bertie, as he was always known – went with Uncle Charles to Paris to cut the ducal hair for the wedding to Mrs. Simpson.

The first encroachment on the business came in 1940. London Transport, still the owners of the freehold, reclaimed part of the premises to install lift machinery for the underground station.

But after the War, fewer chairs made it harder to meet the increases in rent every time the lease came up for renewal. The ladies' salon went. An optician moved in. Then came the admission of the new technology which would eventually drive out the old ministrations.

Hair transplant specialists installed a surgery. In due course they sought to set up a second. Faced with another rent increase, Bertie Topper sold out to them, retaining only a tiny space for the hairdressing business.

Only two chairs! And so cramped: every appointment was like the immortal scene in *A Night at the Opera*, when the Marx Brothers, their womenfolk and their dependents, a steward serving a meal and a manicurist plying her trade, are locked together in a tiny steamship cabin.

Bertie Topper picked up his scissors again to partner the Canadian Charles Landsman, fount of good stories.

The transplanters then wanted it all. At 78 and 76 respectively, Mr. Topper and Mr. Landsman are not too desolate. They will keep private clients and some charitable ones too. But where to goodness can a man go now for an honest old-fashioned haircut?

## THE RAMBAN SYNAGOGUE, JERUSALEM

by J. N. Nisner

At the beginning of July, I had the pleasure of visiting Israel for the purpose of attending a family Barmitzvah. On the Thursday before the actual ceremony, a coach was laid on by the boy's parents and about 40 or so of us went from Natanya to Jerusalem. We actually went to the historic Ramban shool within the walls of Jerusalem. In 1297 the head of the Spanish Rabbinate, the famous physician Moshe ben Nachman, Nachmanides (RAMBAN) emigrated to Palestine. When he arrived he wrote to his son, Nachman, and in it told him there were close on 2,000 inhabitants in the land (including about 300 Christians – survivors of the Sultan's sword). NO JEWS were in Jerusalem except for only two brothers, dyers. He talked to them and found ruins of a home built with marble pillars and a beautiful dome. They took it for a "House of Worship" and they began building and sent to the City of Shechem for Torah scrolls. They, therefore, established the synagogue and they prayed there. On Rosh Hashanna 1267 a minyan of Jews, led by Ramban, had already prayed there and, until 1586, served as the only synagogue where both Ashkenazim and Sephardim prayed together. In a room in the synagogue more than 60 scrolls were kept. The synagogue had no light except from its door in the West side and a small window above it.

Since 1586 it was in Arab hands when it was used as a granary. It was in 1946 that the synagogue was identified and authenticated by an Architect. With the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967 the synagogue was redeemed from its destruction. It was rebuilt by the Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Ramban Synagogue.

This, then, was the shool which we entered for the morning service at about 10.30 a.m. and where all the males donned tephilin, the scroll was brought out and the Bar Mitzvah read the small portion of the law and to which the usual Cohen, Levi and Yisroel were called to the Reading of the Law. (The Bar Mitzvah, on the following Shabos, read the full Sedra and Haftorah in his own shool).

A very uplifting morning and an interesting visit to, it appears, the oldest Synagogue, certainly in Israel.

## SOME FURTHER RECOLLECTIONS

I had meant to write some further recollections about our beloved Jerusalem, but then I met my old friend Ted Barnett recently returned from Israel. He had spent most of the time in Nathanya and it was his first visit to Israel since 1949. Until then he had lived in Nathanya where we first met in 1934. We were members of the Hagana and had shared many experiences.

I tend to regard Nathanya as a sort of Brighton in Israel plus lots of sunshine. You should have seen it in 1934, a mere 54 years ago.

There was one street, Herbert Samuel Street, East West to the beach. There was only one reasonable building on the North side and this housed the municipal offices, the post office and the Bank Bnei Binyamin (does it still exist today?) All the rest was orange groves, unpaved streets, shops, flats, some bungalows, the look of a village that was spreading itself. The Nathanya you see today owes its development to some remarkable characters. Foremost was Oved Ben Ami, who was the Mayor. It was he who swore us in as Haganah members. Then there were the two Machnes brothers, Moshe and Gad. Machnes is today a name prominent in Israeli football. They are grandsons of those two redoubtable characters. This trio headed a company called "Chevrat Pituach Nathanya" (Nathanya Development Co). Those were still the days of the Mandate and they held a franchise from the Government of Palestine for the whole of the seashore back to an Arab village (it no longer exists) called Um Chalid. They also owned the bank!

They were clever, smart, industrious, and they did just as the name of their company implied. I remember when they wanted to impress the Government to win some further concessions. They built a large garden square a few hundred yards from the beach and named it "Wauchop Square". Sir Arthur Wauchop himself, the High Commissioner, came to open it. I am told the square is still there today but the name has been changed.

A great event was when they built the very first cinema in Nathanya and leased it to a restaurant owner named Patkin. This was in 1936 and they made it a municipal occasion; they invited the District Officer to be guest of honour (no less) and make it an official opening. Unhappily it coincided with the Arab uprising of 1936 and since he was based in Tul Karem he arrived with a very large army escort, not too pleased about it. Most of the road from Tul Karem to Nathanya was as yet unmetalled, and very bumpy. I cannot remember how it came about but he sat next to me.

We Jews love long speeches, don't we, and in Israel even today it is almost a national disease. Given half a chance at any occasion they will go on forever. This was no exception. Anyhow they all eventually finished and there were refreshments just before the ceremony. So we talked (in English of course!). I remember how I complained to him about restrictions of Jewish immigration, the Passfield White Paper, the unjust principle of "absorptive capacity" etc., indeed the British injustice of it all. He thought it was all nonsense and to this today I have at least in part to concede his point. He reminded me that a capitalist as defined was a Jew who possessed at least £1,000 of capital, and that a Jewish capitalist had an absolute right to enter and settle, and there were no limits placed on numbers. If you were a qualified artisan then your capital was only £250. Of course those were very large sums of money in those days (£1,000 could buy you two houses!) but as he pointed out, there was such a thing as circulation, and did he really have to spell it out. No, he argued. Better off Jews regarded Palestine as a homeland for refugees and less fortunate Jews and therefore a rather superior charity but they themselves could better serve the cause by staying put. They had better ways of spending their donations. As it is, so many of our leaders, from Ussishkin to Ben Gurion, would have agreed with him. Today in Israel you will meet many veterans who also agree and blame those affluent Jews who would not make Aliya for that and other reasons, for many of Israel's present day problems.

By the way, this young district officer was one Hugh

("Hughie") Foot, brother to Dingle and Michael, later to become Lord Caradon, I do not believe he was anti-Jewish in that context, but certainly I have always regarded him as pro-Arab. He was said to be a great admirer of Glub Pasha, who later would be unceremoniously kicked out of Jordan by that ever so nice King Hussein.

It is remarkable how, as Jews in those days flowed into the land from all directions, they would organise themselves into their original groups. The Germans for instance preferred Haifa, Jerusalem, and of course founded modern Nahariya. The Rumanians liked Nathanya and Tel Aviv. The Poles though, were everywhere, except Nathanya, where I met only the odd few. In 1948 they would predominate in the first Government. They were so numerous and almost everywhere. I could perhaps give them the accolade of my old regiment "Ubique, quo Fas et Gloria ducunt". May they find all of that in the difficult years ahead, with peace and prosperity.

I kept no notes, nor a diary so all that I write is from memory only, more than fifty years ago! One of those memories is the journey by bus as it was then from Nathanya to Tel Aviv. There was a stretch of road out of Nathanya past Um Chalid, from then on it was either sand covered dirt or early preparations for a road, and the bus bumped all the way to Qualqilya over rocks and stones, for its first stop to pick up passengers from Qualqilya and Kfar Saba. We set out to prove that any two sides of a triangle are together greater than the third! When it rained, as often as not we got stuck until rescue arrived. From then only, though, it was a metalled surface all the way to Tel Aviv, skirting Petah Tikvah. I well remember the notice next to the driver, in Hebrew of course, but this is what it said.

No smoking

No spitting

Please do not enter into conversation with the bus driver during the journey.

The driver was as often as not the first to ask for a light for his cigarette. And can you possibly imagine no conversation?

May you enjoy many comfortable journeys between Tel Aviv and Nathanya, and when you do, please spare a thought for what it used to be like. I can tell you that we enjoyed it!

IY

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(and addresses for inquiries)

**Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies Guild.** Meets first Tuesday Evening in the month. Tel, 603 4938.

**Hammersmith Friendship Club.** Enquiries to Chairman, Mrs. N. Guyer, 748 4797.

**Richmond & Thames Valley Group of the League of Jewish Women.** Enquiries to Chairman: Mrs. N. Guyer, 748 4797.

**Kensington and Chelsea WIZO.**  
Enquiries to Hon. Sec. Mrs. Martha Tauber, 373 8437  
or Mem. Sec. Mrs. Ilse Tysh, 748 1620.

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

**Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith & District Branch).** Enquiries: Mr. P. Lamb, 19 Denehurst Gardens, Richmond, Surrey. 878 1080.

**Jewish Youth Study Groups—West London Branch.**  
Enquiries: Mr. Bobby Hill, 387 2681.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Combined Charities Fund.**  
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Printed by HAMAD FIS, 86 Amhurst Park, London, N16 5AR. 01-800 8272