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“ THE
BROOK ”

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

תשי"ט

SEPTEMBER, 1958

NEW YEAR, 5719

“ Let us lift up our hearts with our
hands unto God in the heavens.”

Lamentations 3.41.

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

71, BROOK GREEN, W.6.

Secretary's Office: Riverside 1405

Communal Hall: Riverside 5238

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Emeritus Reader: Rev. B. PALETZ.

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THE CHIEF RABBI'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE FOR 5719

I am pleased to send your readers best wishes and blessings for the year 5719.

In that wonderful chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah which forms the Haftarah for the morning of the Day of Atonement, the Prophet emphasises the spiritual and moral purposes which must animate the forms of worship ordained for a Fast Day. That emphasis applies to all the ordinances and observances. The Prophet singles out especially the observance of the Sabbath. It is not only the day on which one ceases from labours of all kinds as defined by our religious laws. One must be able to acquire the spirit of the day and be able to call it a delight. The delight that the Prophet has in mind is not merely physical rest and enjoyment. He thinks rather in terms of the psychological and spiritual refreshment which provides a sense of the sanctity of life and tranquillity of mind which is the antidote to the frets and rush and work and talk and temptations consequent on the concentration on material things during the work-a-day week. The observance of the Sabbath both in fact and in spirit is a subject worthy of deep consideration during the solemn period of penitence which fills the first ten days of the New Year. The prophetic message should be read and pondered.

The institution of the Sabbath, which is one of the great contributions to civilisation by our Torah, is also the challenge and test of our faith in the Almighty as Creator and Providence. The Sabbath is a well-tryed means of providing and sustaining the beauty and wholeness of Jewish family life: it is the means—historically attested—which will prevent the shattering of Jewish continuity.

I pray that among the New Year resolutions for good which so many of us make will be the resolution—even at material demand and sacrifice—to appreciate and retain the gift of Sabbath which a gracious Providence has bestowed upon Israel for its life and strength and peace.

May the New Year bring to the world some measure of that peace which is associated with the remembrance and observance of the Sabbath.

ISRAEL BRODIE.

Chief Rabbi.

EDITORIAL

This issue of *The Brook* contains an interesting account of all that has been achieved by the Synagogue and its organisations over the past decade. It is quite an impressive record, and one that does particular credit to the writer of the article, Mr. H. Sharpe, our former Senior Warden. His single-minded devotion to the many activities in which he was engaged, has called forth universal admiration and praise.

The coming year shows promise of being full of activity, and should show further progress in many directions. The Synagogue Library is due to begin functioning in November, and will prove amongst other things a useful adjunct to the University Extension Lecture Courses. This Autumn's series of lectures will be on Chassidism. Classes for the ladies in Hebrew and general Jewish knowledge and practices, will soon be re-commencing. A special service of consecration for girls who recently completed a course of studies, and passed an examination approved by the Chief Rabbi, will be held during Chanukah. The Chief Rabbi has agreed to give the Address at the Service, and present certificates. A very important event will be the consecration of the new library, and the new furniture and equipment for the Children's Synagogue and Classes.

It is also hoped that this year will see the reconstruction of the Kitchens and the Modernisation of the Communal Hall.

Once again the Synagogue will present its Annual Ball in November.

This issue of *The Brook* includes several important features.

Of particular interest is the section relating to Alderman Ruth Winston, Mayor of Southgate, whose father was for twenty-nine years, the highly-respected minister of this Community. It must be quite unique for a father to act as his daughter's Mayoral Chaplain. We are pleased to print extracts from the memorable Address he gave at her Civic Service.

The attention of our members is also drawn to the statement made by Dr. L. Freeman recently, on the necessity of introducing Assessed Offerings.

In the near future, the first twenty numbers of *The Brook* will be bound, and put into the Synagogue Library.

Once again, the Editorial Board thanks all who have helped with the publication of this issue, and extends to all members and their families, heartfelt wishes for a happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

RETROSPECT 1948-1958

Looking back and taking stock in order to examine what progress has been made is usually a worth while experience. And if one does just that, in connection with the activities of the Hammersmith Synagogue, it is surprising what has been achieved over the past ten years.

During the immediate post-war period, the primary efforts of the Ministers and of the Honorary Officers were directed towards the re-establishing and strengthening of the Synagogue Religion Classes and of the communal organisations attached to the Synagogue. At the same time every encouragement was given to the day-to-day life of the Synagogue.

The Religion Classes after the war ended, re-started with only seven children. Numbers on the roll were steadily increased each year reaching a peak total of 140 in 1954. Today (in 1958) there are 110 children attending the classes which are well organised, well-equipped and which meet regularly three times a week. Many of the pupils past and present, have gained prizes at the Open Junior and Senior Examinations held by the London Board of Jewish Religious Education.

In order to provide amenities for the children and to strengthen the hands of the Religion Classes Committee, a Parents' Association was formed in 1949. Soon after its formation the Parents' Association made itself responsible for the provision of mid-week teas for all children attending the classes. In 1957, free transport was arranged once a week for the homeward journey of the younger children. Each year, the P.A. arranges an annual outing and provides treats at Simchat Torah, Chanukah and Purim.

In 1950 the Synagogue celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with an historic service in the Synagogue. The stained glass windows (removed and damaged during the war) were replaced in 1950, the Synagogue was re-decorated, brass fittings and electroliers were reburnished, new carpet provided for the Almemar and new pelmets and curtains provided for the Communal Hall. A History of the Hammersmith Synagogue was printed, published and circulated.

The year 1950 also saw the re-establishment of a Social and Literary Society. In 1951, a Study Group was formed which became a Lecture Group and from 1951 onwards Hammersmith has regularly had one or more series of lectures each year under the aegis of the University of London (Extra-Mural Department) and of Jews' College. These lectures have been given by eminent scholars upon various aspects of Jewish History and Religion. Hammersmith Synagogue was the first to pioneer these lectures and is the only Synagogue with a record of an unbroken series of lectures each year.

since 1951. This year was also made notable by the presentation (under the auspices of the West London Zionist Society) of a Sopher Torah and Ark to Kfar Mordecai.

In 1952, a Children's Synagogue was founded as was also the Friendship Club. Both are flourishing and excellent work has been done in both spheres of activity.

In 1953, the Hammersmith Branch of AJEX was established.

In 1954, plans were inaugurated for new classrooms, for a Synagogue Library and new flats for officials. The Synagogue's first M'Lava Malka was held and Extension Classes were introduced for girls in the age group of 15-18.

In 1955, the Annual Dinner and Ball for Social and charitable purposes was re-introduced. In this year a Consecration Service was held for those girls who had attended the special extension classes. Hammersmith, New West End and Bayswater Synagogues joined forces in this project.

In 1956, Special Classes for Women were inaugurated. The Menorah Society (a Ladies Society) was formed in this year. Its objects were social, cultural and charitable. One of its primary aims was to raise funds in order to provide the Communal Hall with a new kitchen and with new Kitchen Equipment.

In 1957, the new Classroom Block was consecrated and opened.

It is only just that a brief mention be made of those organisations that continued to function during the war years or were re-established prior to 1945. These were the Ladies Guild, the J.P.A. Committee, Wizo, the West London Zionist Society, the Combined Charities Committee, Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush and Chelsea District Defence Committee, the Norwood Committee, the Jewish Lads Brigade (Hammersmith Company) and the Youth Clubs. All did, and are doing, excellent work. Particular mention must be made firstly of the Zionist organisations that have raised year after year an average of approximately £2,000 per annum for Israel and secondly of the Norwood Committee that has trebled its Annual contribution to Norwood. From an average of £300 per annum our Norwood Committee now remits an average of £900 per annum. Finally our Ladies Guild has been of inestimable value to the Synagogue. The Guild has catered for most of our functions in the Communal Hall, has contributed Curtains for the Ark, Covers for the Reading Desk and Pulpit, cushions for the Ministers Box, Wardens Box and Almemar besides making generous contributions each year to local, national and Israeli charities. It is estimated that during the past ten years, Hammersmith Synagogue has raised for all charities, excluding Synagogue contributions, the sum of Forty Thousand Pounds.

From the personal aspect and in order to complete this brief survey, mention must be made of the appointment of a new

secretary (Mr. M. Freedman) in 1950 and of a new Reader (Rev. S. Forscher) in 1954. Rev. B. Paletz who had served the Synagogue as Reader for 34 years (1919-1953) retired in 1953 and was appointed Emeritus Reader.

It has only been possible to achieve all this through the devoted service of the Ministers, Officials, Honorary Officers, Members of the Board of Management and Members of Committees, supported by the rank and file of the general members. It is a record of which we may well be proud and it compares favourably with the achievements of synagogues having a much larger membership.

May the next decade prove even more fruitful.

H.S.

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 their relatives, friends and members of the Synagogue.

The Reverend and Mrs. Samuel Forscher and Ruth, wish to convey their warmest greetings for the New Year to the Honorary Officers, to the Board of Management, and to all members of the congregation and their families.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Freedman and Family extend their most cordial good wishes for the New Year to all members of the Congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Busky and Family extend cordial greetings to all members of the Congregation and members of the Choir.

THE SUCCAH

will be ready for decorating on
Friday and Sunday, 26th and 28th September.

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.

SPRING & AUTUMN LECTURES 1958

An inter-festival course of lectures between "Pesach" and "Shevnoth" on the theme of "**Judaism in Home and Synagogue**" was provided by our own esteemed Minister, Rev. S. Venitt, B.A. This was a unique presentation of a veritable Jewish design for living. It was characterised by the informality of the addresses and that enthusiastic participation in the discussions by members of this community. Rev. Venitt gave an admirable resumé of the fundamentals of Jewish belief, their practical application to every facet of daily life and the more general position of Judaism in the world today.

The spirit of enquiry and the thirst for the satisfying waters of religious and spiritual enlightenment are no less evident in 1958 than during the less intensive tempo of past decades. One of the supreme manifestations of the Jewish religious spirit was the advent of the Hassidic movement in the eighteenth century. Here was developed an emotional and mystical expression of Judaism, an ecstatic relationship between man and God, a sense of communal brotherhood and a joyous affirmation of all human experiences. The lives of Jews both in Israel and in the Diaspora have been profoundly influenced during the last two centuries by the penetration of Hassidic thought and ideals.

We feel, therefore, that a masterly insight into the origin, development and literature of this Hassidic movement would intrigue and interest the Hammersmith community. We are privileged to announce the forthcoming autumn series of ten weekly lectures on "**The History of Hassidism**," commencing Monday, 13th October, 1958, to take place at 8.30 p.m. in the Waley Cohen Room of the New Block. The course is to be given by Rabbi Dr. H. Rabinowicz, B.A., Ph.D., who is not only an outstanding authority on this subject, but has descended from renowned Hassidic lineage.

All details concerning this outstanding course may be obtained on application to the Lecture Secretary, Hammersmith Synagogue, 71, Brook Green, W.6.

OUR NEW LIBRARY

We Jews have been dubbed the People of the Book and have, since time immemorial, been regarded as a literary folk, even by our detractors. In the middle ages when most men were unlettered, we produced a learned laity and our love of learning had as its corollary a love of books. Indeed since remote antiquity libraries have held pride of place in Jewish life. In the book of Joshua we come across the town Kiriath-Sepher (Civitas Litterarum of the Vulgate) and according to tradition it was so called because a library was to be found there, and this refers to a period of over 3,000 years ago.

Moreover, throughout the whole period of the Diaspora the Synagogue became not only a centre of worship but also a centre of learning and study, hence the term Schul.

It is therefore fitting that we in Hammersmith should have adjoining our Synagogue a suitable library. The absence of such a library in the past has been keenly felt by some of our members. This is particularly noticed during the "lecture seasons" when those of us who wanted to consult reference books to supplement the talks had to go far afield to borrow the recommended volumes.

Due to the generosity of certain members of our Synagogue we were able to remedy this deficiency and to undertake a new venture in Hammersmith, that of inaugurating a library, which could be used both for borrowing and reference purposes. Moreover, we hope to have an official opening in November of this year, by which time some of the handsome bookshelves may be suitably filled.

There is a Rabbinic maxim that "all beginnings are difficult" and we have already had some "teething" troubles, e.g., it has not been easy to cater for all tastes, but our Selection Committee has tried to include Standard books of reference as well as books written in a lighter vein but of specific Jewish interest. It is our intention, too, to include a representative children's section, for it is to them that we look for the continuation of our tradition and it is our desire that they should be instilled with a love of Jewish learning in their early formative years.

We should like to take this opportunity of expressing our grateful thanks to all donors for their generous contributions: a full list will be published in due course.

This is a brief outline of what we have attempted to do so far. The library will soon be functioning. It is up to you to make full use of it.

L. COLLINS, Chairman.

WINE and DINE

on

30th NOVEMBER, 1958

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE'S

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL

at

The Criterion in Piccadilly

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Make the Community Get-Together a Great Success

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Your Committee

Please contact the Secretary, Mr. M. FREEDMAN, Riv. 1405,
and tell him how you will HELP

A STATEMENT ON ASSESSED OFFERINGS

An Extraordinary GENERAL MEETING of the members of this Synagogue took place on Monday, 30th June, 1958, when by an overwhelming majority, the following Motion was carried.

"That this General Meeting of members ratifies the decision of the Board of Management of 10th June, 1958, to introduce Assessed Offerings for male members of the Synagogue in place of the present system of Voluntary Offerings (excluding offerings in Memoriam and offerings at Special "Simchas"), at the rate of 25% of the basic membership contribution, to take effect from Rosh Hashana 1958, and that this resolution shall be binding on all male members of the Synagogue."

The Chairman made the following preliminary statement:—

"I was present at the annual Budget Meeting of the United Synagogue on 16th June, 1958 when Mr. Rosedale (Treasurer of U.S.) gave a warning notice to all Synagogues. He stated that the financial position of the United Synagogue was most precarious. The gap between Synagogue income and expenditure had widened ominously in the last 2 years. The United Synagogue itself was forced to borrow money in order to finance schemes of Synagogal development and building, having already exhausted its own Capital resources. The only way to guarantee solvency would be to economise in Synagogue Expenditure and also to re-schedule seat rentals of members, primarily by raising the minimum rate of membership contribution above its present level of £6.10.0 per annum. The minimum rate envisaged was £8.10.0 per annum.

"I would also like to remind all members that as a Constituent Synagogue, we of the Hammersmith Community have had to turn year after year to the United Synagogue for monetary help, so that our own persistent deficit would be balanced off annually. For, as you know, the financial system of the United Synagogue is one of mutual aid. Those of you who have attended regularly the past Annual General Meetings will appreciate that the Hon. Officers and Board of Management have always made every endeavour to reduce this deficit.

"You must remember also that it was vital for us to have our New Classroom Block, which apart from the Religion classes, is to house a Childrens' Synagogue, a Communal Library, Lecture Room and to provide extra rooms and space for all our communal activities, as well as housing our Ministers. At all levels, both juvenile and adult, Jewish Religious Education and Culture **must**

be provided for by the Community. It is a religious duty which we owe not only to ourselves and our children but also to ensure the continuity of Jewish Tradition and Jewish Faith in the generations which will follow us. A financial deficit may be unfortunate but a spiritual deficit is a calamity.

"Prior to the building of the New Classroom Block, our deficit each year was of the order of £800 per annum. As a result of the massive financial contribution by the United Synagogue towards this new building, we are liable for Capital charges which are placed annually to the debit side of the Synagogue's Balance Sheet. This has had the effect of increasing our annual deficit during 1957 to the figure of £1,486, an increase of nearly £700. The Officials of the United Synagogue approached us soon after our own Annual General Meeting on 13th May, 1958, with a view to discussing ways and means of ensuring the better financial stability of the Hammer-smith Synagogue.

"The Board of Management of this Synagogue subsequently gave the matter profound thought and deliberation. We decided that the best and fairest way of achieving a greater measure of financial solvency was to introduce a system of Assessed Offerings for male members of the Synagogue to replace the present Voluntary System. A number of important factors influenced us in our decision.

"Firstly, it must be remembered that the Synagogue membership contributions will not cover all the commitments of this or any other Synagogue. We depend on offerings and other sources of income to balance our annual budget. Out of 25 Constituent Synagogues attached to the United Synagogue, no less than 17, in their financial wisdom, undertake a System of Assessed Offerings. They realise the benefit of this method.

"Secondly, for a Synagogue of our dimension, we are one of the poorest contributors from the point of view of offerings. The total sum of our Annual Offerings is between £500-£600. For our membership this is woefully deficient.

"Thirdly, our Sabbath attendance in Synagogue is unfortunately very poor. The Hon. Officers have to exercise an invidious duty in selecting individuals week after week to be called up to the Reading of the Law and for the honour of reciting the "Haftorah". Realising the financial obligation which this may entail on such gentlemen by "Schnoddering", it often becomes a painful and almost insuperable problem for the Hon. Officers. It is wrong to penalise financially the few who make every effort to attend "Shüle" every "Shabbat". It is our opinion, that one of the great deterrents to a better Synagogue attendance is the fear of being put in the position of having to "schnodder". Assessed offerings on an annual basis would eliminate all this and make for a much fairer shouldering of communal responsibility.

"I would like to point out that the 25% Assessment for offerings is based not on your gross Synagogue account but is calculated after the deduction from the main account of funeral Expenses Rates and other voluntary items.

"The fourth and exceedingly important consideration is that we have a written assurance from the United Synagogue, that providing the New Scheme of Assessed Offerings will raise our minimum overall contribution per member, to a figure not less than £8.10.0 per annum; no further steps on our part need be taken, when the time comes when all Constituent Synagogues will inevitably be called upon to re-schedule their seat rentals in order to bridge the present financial gap of the United Synagogue."

THE SCAPEGOAT.

Said Rabbi Lazerov: "We read in Leviticus, chapter sixteen (verse 8), that the Lord commanded one he-goat to be sent into the wilderness for Azazel, the demon, and one to be brought forth as an offering to God. What reason is there for sending a he-goat to the Devil? God teaches us this lesson: If we must be extravagant in our concern for luxuries, let us at least devote an equal sum for charity, for the Synagogue and for our religious duties. Let us treat God as well as we treat the Devil."

(Quoted from the Hasidic Anthology.)

LADIES' CLASSES

It is hoped to recommence these Classes soon after the Festivals, and to continue the good work that was begun two years ago. For a number of reasons, it proved impossible to carry out as successful a programme as in the first year. Nevertheless, great efforts were made from which one important fact has emerged. There is a need for these groups. Many women have at times expressed a keen desire to improve their knowledge of Hebrew and religious customs and observances. Those who have attended the courses were most enthusiastic about the lessons and the excellent approach and understanding of the teachers.

The session was introduced with a most inspiring and instructive talk by Mrs. Springer on Kashrut.

Will all ladies interested in joining one of the courses please get in touch with the Rev. S. Venitt, 69, Brook Green, W.6.
Tel.: RIV 7601.

Alderman RUTH WINSTON, J.P.,

Mayor of Southgate, 1958-59

Alderman Ruth Winston, J.P., is the daughter of the Rev. Solomon Lipson (Hon. S.C.F.), who was Minister of this community 1909-1938. She grew up in Hammersmith, and later taught in the Religion Classes and organised an Habonim Group. Her present achievement is the culmination of years of devoted work in the social services.

Below are extracts from the Sermon delivered by the Rev. S. Lipson (Hon. S.C.F.), on the occasion of his daughter's Civic Service as Mayor of Southgate.

The Rev. M. Lipson first stressed the value of men and women of different beliefs joining in a common act of worship. He then went on :

"You will appreciate the emotions which flow from my heart speaking as I do before the Worshipful the Mayor, my own daughter, who has been raised to hold office for the ensuing year as the Chief Citizen of this attractive Borough of Southgate. Therefore I lay stress not upon those things that separate us, but upon those which knit us together in a bond of common understanding as we strive for the well-being of our Borough and the good of our beloved country.

"This first time that the Borough of Southgate has elected a woman member of its Council to the high office of Mayor, marks a turning point in the conception of the combined equal responsibilities of men and women. It is recognised that while responsibilities must be shared, so is the appreciation of an intellectual equality of ability in the realm of government. History in Southgate has thus become in the making ; and in no less degree is history being made by the practical expression of broadmindedness which has placed one of the Jewish Faith to be the directing influence in the year before us. This is well, for it denotes that loyalties to public welfare are common to whatever faith, so long as heart and mind are devoted to the supreme needs of human and social values. How important is this combination when we consider the modern problems with which we have to contend in these exacting times."

Rev. Lipson then went on to affirm, that Judaism had the answer to the anxieties, conflicts and insecurities of the modern age. He said that it could be found in the words of an old sage, who maintained that it was necessary to keep in mind the three main ideals, truth, justice and peace.

"Let us for a moment", he said, "consider these ideals and apply them to the future well-being of ourselves here in Southgate and also beyond its confines.

"Truth, the Hebrew word for which is Emet, implies stability, firmness, sincerity, righteousness in thought and action. As the Jewish sage has said, the seat of G-d himself is Truth.

"Now next to truth comes justice. Justice stands between truth on the one hand and the ultimate desire of all good men and women on the other—which is peace. Truth then, which means stability and justice, which denotes a right and humane balance are linked up in the thought of the prophets of Israel with that greatest of the soul's need—peace.

There was a short period within our lives when it was expected that science would provide a new condition for humanity's welfare. That hope has been shaken. In many directions science is doing untold good . . . But there is a boundary, a boundary which science cannot pass. Science cannot touch men's hearts . . . Science cannot cause men to be merciful.

"We need today in the councils of our Boroughs and in every aspect of government, a shifting of the contentions for place and power, a shifting of that bombast and boastfulness so much in evidence in all ranks and conditions, so that men and women become awake and in the spirit of truth, in the spirit of justice and in the spirit of peace, seek unselfishly to champion the world's good causes.

And so I pray and hope that it may be granted to the Borough of Southgate in the coming time to lead in those things which will make it a pioneer and the symbol of all which is best in public service under the guidance of its Mayor, its Aldermen and Councillors, and may the Divine Blessing rest upon their work.

"And in saying this I express the hope that there may be granted also to the Mayoress who has undertaken to fulfil the many demands of her distinguished office fulness of strength and health, so that in co-operation with the Mayor her labours may advantage well the Borough of Southgate.

"And now, my daughter, Worshipful Mayor of this Borough, my final civic and affectionate injunction to you today is to fulfil your obligation in the remembrance of your mother who guided you with devotion in the way of public responsibility. May her spirit inspire you to have your heart in Heaven, so that your ways are ways of righteousness. Have your hands also firm on earth so that you serve well the needs of the Borough. Ascend in goodness, so that your thoughts are always uplifted towards your G-d. And descend in charity so that tolerance and kindness toward all you serve marks your way of public duty. And may G-d's blessing be upon you and all who work with you. —AMEN.

THE JEWISH BOARD OF GUARDIANS

What would happen if the Jewish Board of Guardians of London was to close its doors? And where would Anglo-Jewry's needy Kiasfolk turn to for advice, guidance and financial assistance? Yet the work of the Board is often taken for granted and just as long as its essential activities continue to function smoothly and efficiently attracts little attention.

Founded nearly 100 years ago at a time when there was crippling poverty among the Jewish masses of that period, the Board began its work with the capital sum of £500 as subscribed, in equal amounts, by the three major London Synagogues—the Great in Duke's Place, the Hambro' in Fenchurch Street and the New in Leadenhall Street. Its first task was to provide its needy coreligionists with the basic necessities of life and, in full accord with Jewish tradition, to give financial assistance to the widow, the chronic sick, the aged and to those entrusted with the care and upbringing of orphan children. In order to foster a spirit of independence among its able-bodied poor the Board initiated a Loan Scheme to help craftsmen buy the tools of their trade, advanced money to small traders to help them start a new business and through its apprenticeship scheme encouraged school-leavers to train for skilled trades paying the required premium, later recouped out of earnings.

From these small beginnings the work of the Board has grown in volume and variety. Today, the Board maintains eighteen Homes—residential nurseries, hostels for working girls and boys, convalescent homes, flatlets, homes and almshouses for old people, and a home for infirm aged which is the only one of its kind run by the Jewish Community in this country. In addition it runs a home for adults recovering from mental illness. In 1957 the Board's five Welfare Departments dealt with 10,000 cases, all annually presenting a wide variety of personal problems. Because of its heavy commitments in all fields of charitable and social welfare work and the fact that it is now running at an annual loss of £32,000, the Board is launching a special Centenary Appeal to help provide an Endowment Fund to give some measure of permanent income.

There are few of us who cannot spare anything at all for so vital and humanitarian a cause. The Board looks to all who have the Community's interest at heart to respond as generously as possible to its Centenary Appeal and so enable the Board to meet future responsibilities with confidence.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The undermentioned extend to the Ministers, Hon. Officers, Board of Management, and to their relatives and friends heartiest and best wishes for the New Year.

- Dr. and Mrs. F. Hodes and Family, 7, Oakwood Court, W.14.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Schwartz and Family, 117, West Kensington Court, W.14.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Mitchell and Family, 33, Marlow Court, N.W.6
Dr. and Mrs. L. Freeman and Daughter, 46, Sutton Court Road, W.4.
Dr. and Mrs. A. M. Filer and Son, 3, Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.
Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212, Goldhawk Road, W.12.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Collins and Jillian, 20, Hamlet Court, W.6.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Bayes and Family, 3, Eversfield Road, Kew.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Cutler and Family, 146, Shepherd's Bush Road, W.6.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Mendleson and Family, 32, Ringwood Avenue, N.2.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Arram and Family, 37, Uxbridge Road, W.12.
Mr. and Mrs. M. Venis and Family, 27, Poplar Grove, W.6.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Shenfield and Daughter, 37, Kensington Hall Gardens, W.14.
Mr. and Mrs. B. Davis, 18, Palace Mansions, W.14.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Gelpman and Family, 45, Caithness Road, W.14.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Sharpe, 6, Argyll Mansions, W.14.
Dr. L. Sommer and Family, 1, Palace Mansions, W.14.
Dr. and Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 49, Latymer Court, W.6.
Mr. George I. Topper and Family, 84, Watchfield, W.4.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Bondt and Steven, 26, Bede House, Manor Fields, S.W.15.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Topper, 84, Watchfield, W.4.
Mr. I. Gorman, 33, Hamlet Gardens, W.6.
Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Parker and Son, 86, Brook Green, W.6.

A PAGE FROM MY ERETZ ISRAEL DIARY

Wednesday, 23rd April (Erev Yom Ha-atzma-ot)

Today's tour took us to Beth Shearim and to Tiberias with its renowned Hot Springs. On our return journey we pass innumerable Kvutzot and Moshavim, many of them established since my last visit. Every settlement is festooned with gay flags, decorative arches and banners with patriotic slogans and Biblical quotations. Even the remoter settlements are impatient to celebrate the Tenth Independence Day.

We arrive in Haifa, festive with its decorations, its streets alive with celebration; music, dancing, singing and fireworks. Everybody is in the streets and it seems that the voice of rejoicing must surely reach the heavens!

It is quite impossible to reach the hotel, so we leave the coach in a side street some little distance away and elbow our way through the milling crowds. We arrive at the hotel, exhausted but exhilarated.

During dinner, we hear, through the open window, the joyful street demonstrations. After dinner I retire to my room and fall on the bed, too tired and too excited to undress. Perhaps, at my age, I should not run and jump and climb hills, but when I am in Israel I am rejuvenated and I forget my years. I am tired, but how can I rest on such a great day? I rouse myself and go to the window, thinking that, for just a few minutes I will watch the exuberant scenes from the balcony. The enthusiasm of the singing and dancing crowd draws me, and the exultation is infectious!

But I am tired and I am an old man, and I must, I really must, go to bed after the travels and excitement of the day. And tomorrow's another day—a day when the whole Jewish world is thinking of Israel, and every Jew in the diaspora would wish to be here.

As I say good-night I hear my name being called—it is Benjamin, our guide. Some members of the party are going up to Mount Carmel, but "Mr. Benkwich, you must be too tired and it is so late." I agree that it is too late for a "zoken" to go out, but involuntarily I say "I will come."

I follow him and it is quite an effort to push my way through the thronging crowd, but I reach the coach and take my seat. Children—such beautiful children—are crowding into the coach, which is soon full. Still the children are pouring in and soon every

adult lap is occupied by one or more dark-eyed, enthusiastic Israeli child. The coach drives off, and soon I am singing with the children—"Anu olim artza." I am proud to be with these children, growing up in a freedom that their grandparents never knew. Their sturdy independence augurs well for their future and for the future of Israel.

The coach winds its way higher and higher up Mount Carmel till we can see Haifa and the bay below. It seems that we are higher than the moon and the stars. Even from this height we can hear the singing from the streets of Haifa. The twinkling lights and the fireworks viewed from our mountain balcony is a sight that I shall always remember.

H. N. BENKWICH.

YOUR OWN ANNUAL AFFAIR!!

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

BANQUET & BALL

In Aid of the Building Fund (including modernisation of Kitchen, etc.)

The Criterion in Piccadilly

Piccadilly Circus, W.1

on

SUNDAY, 30th NOVEMBER, 1958

from 6 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Dancing to

ISY GEIGER and his BALLROOM ORCHESTRA

RECEPTION 6 p.m.

DINNER 6.30 p.m.

TICKETS

£3 3s. 0d. each incl. of Dinner Wines.

TOMBOLA

NO APPEAL

KEEP THIS DATE OPEN

SYNAGOGUE ITEMS

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

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

Will Secretaries of local organisations please note: Instances have arisen in the past where two or more organisations have arranged committee and other meetings to take place in the Synagogue Hall, or at private residences, on the same date.

A number of people are on several committees. Honorary Secretaries are therefore strongly recommended to advise the Synagogue Secretary of all meeting dates, so that clashing can be avoided if possible.

COVENANTS

Members are once more urged to sign Covenants in connection with their contributions. By signing a Deed of Covenant, a Synagogue Member, provided he is paying tax at the full rate on sufficient of his income, can enable the Synagogue to benefit by recovering income tax at the current rate on his contributions.

The Secretary will be pleased to supply a form and give full details of the scheme and members are particularly urged to sign and return regularly the form R.185 which is sent twice yearly as, without this, no claims will be met by the Inland Revenue authorities.

SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY

A catalogue of available books is now being prepared and would-be readers will be able to borrow books on application to Miss R. Longhorn, Honorary Librarian and Secretary, from November onwards.

Many more books are, of course, required to make the library of real value and benefit. Members having books of Jewish interest in Hebrew or English, might like to present a volume or two to our collection. Alternatively, they might wish to follow the example of some members of the community, who have presented commemorative volumes to mark important family events. Whatever the form of presentation, each book will be suitably inscribed. Any form of help in building up our library would be greatly appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined the Synagogue in the last year, and we extend to them a hearty welcome:—

Dr. & Mrs. Stuart J. Carne.	Mrs. Joan Mitchell.
Mrs. Rachel Saunders.	Mrs. Anne Litman.
Miss Rose Morris.	Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Simon.
Mr. Ronald Landau.	Mr. & Mrs. Herman Gutrieck.
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Hyams.	Mr. & Mrs. Morris Waterman.
Mr. Erwin Mauskopf.	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur I. Handel.
Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Devon.	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Gordon.
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney M. Leigh.	Mr. & Mrs. David Massé.
Miss Pauline Hahn.	Mrs. Kitty Isaacs.
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Benjamin.	Mr. & Mrs. Reuben Gaden.
Mr. & Mrs. David Benson.	Mr. Harry Wise.
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Ingram.	Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Conway.
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Korel.	Mr. Simon Smullen.
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Saville.	Mr. & Mrs. Abraham M. Levy.
Mr. Siegfried Rosmarin.	Mrs. Sarah Harris.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Needham.	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Fogel.
Mrs. Sarah W. Levine.	Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Jacobs.
Mr. & Mrs. David Fry.	Mr. & Mrs. Myer Finberg.
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Lesser.	Mr. & Mrs. Sidney A. Dobkin.
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Gordon.	Dr. David S. Filer.
Mrs. Regina M. Matthews.	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Clements.

WEDDINGS

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

Tony Abraham Shapps to Beryl Grossman.
Ralph Herman Hayman to Anneliese Wolff.
Hyman Kramer to Yetta Yvonne Allweiss.
Malcolm Dash to Rayner Mark.
David Fry to Rachel Blooma Samuels.
Sydney Simon to Hannah Brown.

BARMITZVAHS

The following boys celebrated their Barmitzvah at this Synagogue during the course of the year:—

Anthony Feldman.	Jonathan Yudkin.
Crighton Imrie.	Ronald Waterman.
Kenneth Greenfield.	Lawrence Levy.
Philip Clein.	Terry Tapper.

To the above, and to all members and their families who had celebrations during the year, we extend hearty congratulations.

TRUST YOUR TRAVEL

to

J. ROSE

Personal attention at—

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RIVerside 5036

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Greetings and Best Wishes
from

Mr. & Mrs. JACK LEVY

HAND & FLOWER HOTEL
1 HAMMERSMITH ROAD, W.14

Best Wishes for the New Year
from

M. Brown & Sons

Compliments of the Season

from

Mr. & Mrs. PETER WENDER

Mr. & Mrs. JACK APFEL

with their Son, Daughter-in-Law & Grandchildren

*send their Compliments and Best Wishes for
a Happy and Prosperous New Year to the
Members of the Congregation and the
Members of Hammersmith Friendship Club.*

5 St. John's Wood Court, N.W.8

Compliments of the Season

from

Mr. & Mrs. SIDNEY GROSE & FAMILY

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J. SULKIN & Sons Ltd.

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To the Trade

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PARK 8665

Mrs. M. SHOCKET

Kasher Butcher and Poulterer

*Wishes all her Relatives,
Friends and Customers*

*A Happy and Prosperous
New Year*

109, SHEPHERDS BUSH ROAD, W.6
Riv 3996

With

Mr. & Mrs. S. HYAMS

*Compliments and Best Wishes
for a Happy New Year*

•

694, Fulham Rd., S.W.6

Mr. & Mrs. H. CAPLAN

*extend Cordial Greetings
for the New Year*

61 Lowther Road,
S.W.13

Mr. & Mrs. B. BERNARDI

*wish all the Members of the Congregation and the
Hammersmith Friendship Club*

— *A Happy and Prosperous New Year* —

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

from

FIDELITY RADIO LTD.

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Best Wishes for the New Year

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

★

61 ROEHAMPTON LANE, S.W.15

*Compliments and Best Wishes for a Happy,
Prosperous and Peaceful New Year.*

from

Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

EAST HOUSE, 1a ADDISON CRESCENT, W.14

ORGANISATIONS

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

Brook Drama Club. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. A. D. Berger, 34, Parliament Court, Parliament Hill, N.W.3. Tel.: SWI 2311.

Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Association. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. H. Issacharoff, 65, Talgarth Mansions, W.14. Tel.: FUL 3266.

Hammersmith Friendship Club. Meets every Wednesday in Communal Hall. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. R. Nelman, 25 Lena Gardens, W.6. Tel.: RIV 2127.

The Menorah Charity Group. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. E. Franks, 54, Barons Keep, W.14. Tel.: FUL 1767.

Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee (under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews). Hon. Sec.: Miss H. Berk, 17 Elgar Court, Blythe Road, W.14. Tel.: SHE 2770.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust. Hon. Sec.: Miss J. Lichtblau, 27 Wavendon Avenue, W.4. Tel.: CHI 2207.

The Wessix (Youth) Club. Enquiries to Senior Section: Mr. M. Mark, 90, Fulham Palace Road, W.6. Tel.: RIV 3947. Junior Section: Miss S. Peterman, 62 Pennard Road, W.12. Tel.: SHE 2431.

Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. W. R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 8577.

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

Jewish Lads' Brigade—Hammersmith Coy. All enquiries to Brigade Secretary, 240a Amburst Road, N.16. Tel.: CLI 1068.

Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch). Hon. Sec.: Mr. A. S. Bankover, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12. Tel.: SHE 5139.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue Library. Hon. Sec. and Librarian: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel.: RIV 8577.

TIMES OF SERVICES

WEEKDAYS

Morning 7.30 a.m.
Evening 7.00 p.m. (Sundays excepted.)

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30 a.m.

SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS

Evening 15 minutes after the commencement of
Sabbath,
During Summer Months, 7.30 p.m.
Morning 9.30 a.m.

YOUTH SERVICE

Held every few weeks.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Sabbaths 11.15 a.m.

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

Classes meet every—

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

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

The Secretary can be seen on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or by appointment. (Tel.: RIV. 1405).

The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

Rev. S. VENITT, B.A., 69, Brook Green, W.6.
RIV. 7601.

Rev. S. FORSCHER, 70, Brook Green, W.6.
RIV. 8565.