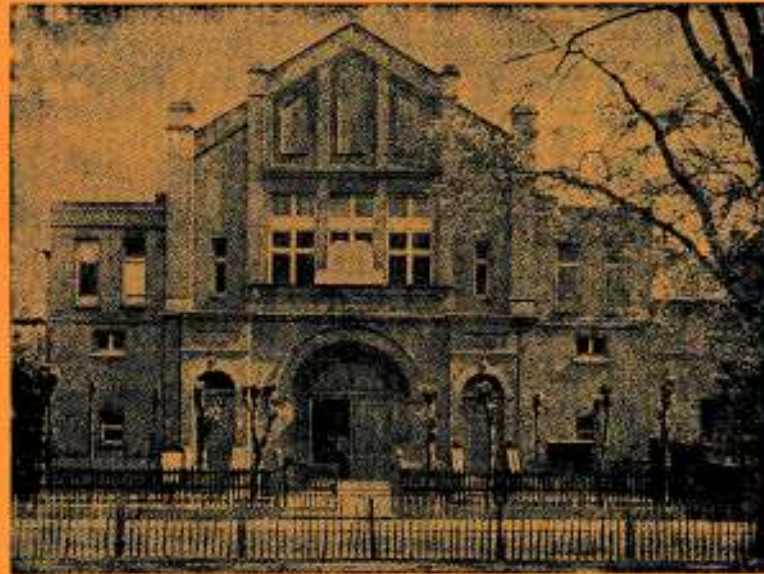


NUMBER 53

תשלי"ח 1977-5738 SEPTEMBER

# THE BROOK



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

"This day wilt Thou strengthen us  
This day wilt Thou bless us  
This day wilt Thou uplift us  
This day wilt Thou inscribe us for happy life."

*Musaph Amidah on High Festivals*

## HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

### Officials

Minister: The Rev. Sam Venitt, B.A.,  
69 Brook Green, W.6

Emeritus Reader: The Rev. Samuel Forscher

Secretary: Miss R. Longhorn  
Communal Hall

### Telephones

603 4938

602 1405

603 5238

The Minister can be seen by appointment.

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

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

**Financial Representative:** D. Arram, Esq.

### Board of Management:

B. J. Benzimra, Esq.	F. J. Gertler, Esq.	J. N. Nisner, Esq.
Dr. M. D. Caplan, Esq.	N. Gordon, Esq.	H. Sharpe, Esq.
M. Cutler, Esq.	Dr. C. B. Hodes	Dr. F. S. Tysch
B. Davis, Esq.	J. Langdon, Esq.	I. Yoffey, Esq.

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

J. Brand, Esq., Councillor S. Grose

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

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

## Times of Services

### WEEKDAYS

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

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

### SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS:

**Evening:** 15 minutes after the commencement of Sabbath.  
During Summer Months, 7.0 p.m.

**Morning:** 9.30 a.m.

### HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE RELIGION CLASSES

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

Classes meet every —

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

### " THE BROOK "

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** The Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.; Mr. M. A. Amias; Mr. D. Arram; Mr. J. Brand, LL.B.; Dr. & Mrs. M. D. Caplan; Mr. B. Davis, F.C.I.S.; Mr. M. De Vries, M.A.; Councillor S. Grose, B.A.; Mr. H. Sharpe.

# THE BROOK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON  
SYNAGOGUE

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6.

SEPTEMBER 1977/5738

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Editorial: Mr. John Shaftesley ... ..	1
Bridegrooms of the Law ... ..	2-3
Mini-Sermon: What are we building? ... ..	3
New Year Greetings ... ..	5-8
The Ladies' Guild ... ..	8
Annual Report 1976-77 ... ..	9-11
Gifts for the Succah ... ..	11
Social & Personal ... ..	12
Annual Prize Distribution ... ..	13-14
The Barmitzvah Boy ... ..	14
From the Secretary's Desk ... ..	15-16
Bat Mitzvah Ceremony ... ..	17
Seeing is Believing ... ..	18-19
Joint Israel Appeal 1977 ... ..	20
Hammersmith Synagogue Tour to Israel ... ..	20
League of Jewish Women on the National Scene ... ..	21
Hammersmith Friendship Club ... ..	23
Stories and Sayings from the Talmud ... ..	24
Memories — The World of Yesterday ... ..	25-27
A Tribute ... ..	28
Hammersmith WIZO ... ..	28
AJEX Hammersmith ... ..	31-32
West London Young Zionist Society ... ..	32

## MR. JOHN SHAFTESLEY

For the first time for many years our Magazine has been compiled by others than our Honorary Editor, Mr. John Shaftesley O.B.E., B.A., F.R.S.A. After a very long association Mr. Shaftesley has felt compelled to relinquish his post owing to family commitments. It was a great pleasure to see him recently, together with Mrs. Shaftesley, at the Annual Prize Distribution where they were our guests of honour. A full report appears in our pages.

Mr. Shaftesley has enjoyed a most distinguished career, attaining great eminence in the world of the Press, justly recognised by a high decoration. He has always been a great help to our Committee in every possible way, and the pages of the "Brook" have often been enlivened by his anonymous contributions both witty and serious. We offer our grateful thanks to him, and wish both Mrs. Shaftesley and him well in the future.

For the present we hope our members and friends will continue to support our Magazine with their literary and financial contributions.

## BRIDEGROOMS OF THE LAW

This year the Chasan Torah will be Mr. M. A. Amias and the Chasan Bereshis will be Councillor Sidney Grose, who is the Mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames.

Mr. Amias has been an Honorary Officer of our Synagogue for many years, and for nearly forty years has been a member of the Council of the United Synagogue. Since moving to this community from the New Synagogue, where he was also a Warden, he has been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement in our communal activities. His lively humour has been a great delight at all functions including the Annual Reception. However, he has most conscientiously taken on heavy duties on the Board of Deputies where he, as Vice Chairman of the Defence Committee, is untiringly active in this important and indeed vital work. He is a never failing support to his colleagues, the Minister, the Board of Management and the Secretary, and we are delighted that he is to be a guest rather than an official at our Reception. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Amias on having attained their Golden Wedding Anniversary some two years ago, and wish them good health and happiness for the future.

Councillor Sidney Grose is a devoted member of our congregation and has served for many years as a Representative at the United Synagogue Council. He is very active in local affairs and is a member of the Council of Richmond upon Thames, being elected

*continued on next page*

## BRIDEGROOMS OF THE LAW—continued from previous page

Chairman of both the Planning and General Purposes Committees. His work has been recognised in his being chosen as Mayor of Richmond upon Thames in the year of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee. His two sons were both Barmitzvah in our Synagogue. Mrs. Grose has always supported him in all his activities, and made it possible for him to pursue his many interests.

Our best wishes are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Amias and Councillor and Mrs. Grose and their families.

## MINI-SERMON

### WHAT ARE WE BUILDING?

Once there was a contractor who had employed the same carpenter for many years. One day he approached the carpenter and said, "Every time you have built a house for me, I have given you a plan in advance. This time, I would like you to build a house for me on this empty site any way you wish". The artisan, desiring to be finished as soon as possible, was careless and shoddy: the foundation was weak, the walls slightly crooked, nails were left out; in a few years the house would undoubtedly begin to sag. On the the day he was finished, the contractor walked up to the carpenter with the key to the front door in his hand and said, "I have always wanted to give you a home as a gift; since you built this home the way you wanted, it now belongs to you." He handed him the key and left.

Man, according to Jewish concept, is distinguished from all other creatures in that he himself is a participant in the acts of creation.

The prerogative is given him to build his own character, to develop his ethical personality, to prove his potentialities. The choice is his, but it is well to remember that that choice is given him by God. He can choose life or death, good or evil, construction or destruction.

The Rabbis in the Midrash tell us that the Torah was in existence before the world was created. This holds two truths for us. First, that before creation takes place, there must be a clear formulation of general principles according to which the work of construction is to proceed. To build blindly is to build unsuccessfully. Second, that our principles must be ethical and spiritual. The work of construction must be based on the eternal precepts of the Torah. Otherwise our efforts could lead only to disaster.

Rosh Hashanah speaks of life and creation—a new life, new hope, new aspirations and new undertakings. It challenges us to become creative—to build something of lasting value of which we ourselves can be justly proud.

S. VENITT

Mr. & Mrs.  
**JOE GODFREY**

★ ★ ★

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

## 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 and Shmuel Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year, and would like them to know that their address in Hendon is 7 King's Close, N.W.4.; Tel. 203 1163.

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

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Abrahamson and Family, 15 Hammer-smith Broadway, W.6.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rebecca and Basil Benzimra and Family, "Wickenden", Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey

Mrs. Rita Berg & Family, 1 West Kensington Mansions, W.14

Mr. & Mrs. J. Bondt and Steven, 3a Aylmer Road, N.2

Jack & Mary Bossick, 87 Park Avenue North, N.W.10

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

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

Sarah, Joe & Ray Canter, 13 Lena Gardens Hammersmith W.6

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

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

Janet & John Clark, 34 Kingfisher Way, Bournville, Birmingham

*continued on next page*

*NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 5*

Miriam & Robert Clark, 46 Lynton Road, Acton, W3 9HP  
Mrs. Rose Cohen, 91 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Collins, 20 Hamlet Court, London, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W.12  
Roger & Bianca Curtis, Kinross, 13 Coombe Lane West,  
Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey  
Mrs. S. Cutler, 288 Latymer Court, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Davis, 18 Palace Mansions, W.  
Kensington, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions,  
Arundel Terrace, Barnes, London, S.W.13  
Rosaly & George Evnine and Family, 120 Oakwood Court,  
London, W.14  
Dr & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6  
Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge,  
Warwick Dene, W.5.  
Pauline & Joseph Finkleman and Children, 291a High Road,  
Chiswick, W.4  
Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison  
Road, W.14  
Joan and Manny Franks and Family, 54 Barons Keep, W.14  
Dr. & Mrs. L. Freeman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gold and Family, 111 Barons Keep,  
Barons Court, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. George Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Acton, W.3  
Mr. & Mrs Harry Gold & Mrs Ada Hayman, 30 Emlyn Road,  
W.12  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Gordon, 25 Stafford Court, Kensington,  
W8 7DL  
Mr. & Mrs. Manfred S. Gorvy & Family, 74 Woodford Square,  
W.14  
Councillor & Mrs Sidney Grose and Family, Berkeley House,  
10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13  
Dr. & Mrs R. D. Gross, 35 Corringway, London, W5 3AB  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Harris, 97 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Road,  
W.4  
Mrs. J. Harris (Chorister), 84 Western Avenue, Acton, W3.  
Mr. & Mrs. M. Hirth, 34 Greystoke Park Terrace, Western  
Avenue, W.5.  
Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes, Angela and Philip, 1 Ashchurch  
Terrace, W12.  
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court,  
Kensington, W.14  
Evelyn & Monty Isaacson, Rhian & Mark, 8 Rosedew Road,  
W.6  
Mrs. Minna Katits-Springer and Granddaughter, 8 Bolingbroke  
Road, W.14

*continued on next page*

*NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 6*

Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W3 7LT  
Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey Levy and Family, 44 Fitzjames Avenue,  
London, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12  
Hettie and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove,  
N.W.4.  
Naomi & Philip Lewis & Family, 14 Madrid Road, S.W.13  
Miss Julie Lichtblau, 56 Fraser House, Brentford, Middx.  
Denise and Melvyn Lux, Danielle and Collette, 62 Traps  
Lane, Coombe Hill, Surrey  
Mrs. Lily Lux, 87 North End House, W.14  
Sally and Alfred Mark, 2 Anne Mount, Madeley Road, W.5  
Pamela, Malcolm and Samantha Mark, 46 Audley Road, W.5.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Miller & Son, 16 Samuel Richardson House,  
North End Cres., W.14  
Mr. & Mrs. H. Mirwitch and Family, 11 South Side,  
Stamford Brook, W6 OXY  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris, 115 Barons Keep, W.14  
Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington,  
W8 4HX  
Dr. & Mrs. O. Moses, 32 Wolverton Gardens, W.6  
Mrs. Olive Naschauer, 249 Latymer Court, W.6  
Mr & Mrs. O. A. Newfield & Norma, 52 East Acton Lane, W.3  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Nisner and Family, 27 Thorntree Court,  
Parkview Road, Ealing, W.5  
David and Doreen Ohayon and Family, Orchard Close, Vine  
Road, S.W.13  
Mrs. Rose Parker and Family, 86 Brook Green, Hammersmith,  
W.6  
Mr. & Mrs S. Perbohner, 121 Castelnau, London, SW13 9EL  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips and Family, Flat 11, Bridge  
Avenue Mansions, W.6  
Mrs. Beatrice Rose, 12a Kensington Hall Gardens, W.14  
Mr. & Mrs Alfred Rosen, 35 Clavering Avenue, S.W.13  
Alfred and Mrs. D. Sacks, 18 Heatheroft, Ealing, W.5  
Ann and Richard Sampson, 66 Stamford Court, Stamford  
Brook, London, W.6  
Mrs. N. Samuels, 258 Latymer Court, W.6  
Mr. & Mrs H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, W.14  
Lewis and Minnie Shooman and Family, 10 Tudor Court,  
Gunnersbury Avenue, Ealing, W5 4HO  
Mrs. Anita Simmonds and John, 14 Cecil Close, Mount  
Avenue, Ealing, W.5  
Mr. & Mrs. N. Sogan, 17 Fairburn Court, St. John's Avenue,  
Putney, SW15 2AU  
Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4

*continued on next page*

*NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 7*

Leslie, Evelyn and Ruth Sommer, 14 Lillian Avenue, London, W.3

Dr. & Mrs. J. Spira, 59a Oakwood Court, London, W.14

Mrs. Elsa Steindler, 7 Glenallan House, North End Crescent, W14 8TF

Mrs. S. Tesler, 89 Watchfield Court, Chiswick, W.4

Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road, W.14

Lily and Alfred Turner, 14 Laburnum Court, Dennis Lane, Stanmore

Dr. & Mrs. F. S. Tysh and Ian, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8

Mr. & Mrs. David Velleman and Family, 88 Howberry Road, Edgware, Middlesex

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court Chiswick, W.4

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Williams and Family, 23 Westmoreland Road, S.W.13

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

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

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

## THE LADIES' GUILD IN JUBILEE YEAR

Over the past 25 years the Ladies Guild activities have not diminished at all. In the 1952 edition of 'THE BROOK' the Ladies' Guild Report by the late Helene Wynbergen, reads very much as today.

This year the Succah was once again beautifully decorated, as was the Synagogue at Shavuoth with the 'Sponsored Plants' by our members.

The Simchat Torah Reception catered by the Guild was once again a great success. The Parcels were made and delivered to the Mental Hospital as usual.

We have had A Bring & Buy Sherry Morning, and A Bring and Buy Coffee Morning. The proceeds were £290.71.

1977 Geranium Day for the Blind totalled £220.56. Our grateful thanks to the small band of helpers this year.

As always we are most anxious to have new members to keep our Flag Flying, not only in Jubilee Year but for all future years.

REBECCA FOX

*Hon. Secretary*

## ANNUAL REPORT 1976-77/5736-37

The past year has been one of steady progress. The most important task has been that of learning to adjust to the retirement (fully documented in the last number of *The Brook*) of the Rev. S. Forscher, now Emeritus Reader of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue. We are pleased to record that we have continued to enjoy the expected goodwill of the congregation and the willing co-operation of Rev. S. Venitt B.A. and Mrs. Venitt in the management of Synagogue affairs throughout the year.

Rev. Venitt leads the congregation in prayer with true feeling and humility; nevertheless the task of taking the entire service every Shabbos and Yomtov, including the Reading of the Law, is an onerous one. However, some support has been forthcoming in that already it has been found possible to have the entire Service conducted by volunteers from the congregation, in the absence of our Minister on a Shabbos. It is no disrespect to Rev. Venitt to say that these occasions were enjoyed by both participants and congregants alike.

The High Holydays are a different problem, and ministerial assistance is a vital necessity. On last Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur we were most fortunate to obtain (albeit at the last moment) the aid of Mr. Jeremy Wallach, and the same arrangements have already been concluded for the coming year.

The Synagogue Classes continue to meet regularly, staffed by Rev. S. Venitt B.A., Mrs. S. Venitt and Mr. M. Venitt. Regular inspections by the London Board have taken place throughout the year on Sundays and weekdays, and high tribute has been paid to the Venitt family for their devoted work in this field.

The Annual Prizegiving was held in July, the Guests of Honour being Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Williams. Mrs. Williams delivered a heartfelt and inspiring address, which was printed in the last number of *The Brook*.

A most successful Chanukah Service, conducted by the pupils, was held, followed by the usual reception for parents and friends at which a choir formed of members of the classes provided the entertainment.

It is by the enthusiastic members of the House Committee, under the untiring chairmanship of Mr. Jack Langdon, that the hardest practical work for the benefit of the Synagogue is undertaken. The Committee is continually concerned to see that, within our local jurisdiction, the fabric of the Synagogue buildings and their contents are preserved to the best of our physical and financial powers. Repairs to the Succah will be undertaken shortly and to Sefer Torah covers, and efforts are being put in hand to encourage more frequent letting of the Hall.

*continued on next page*

*ANNUAL REPORT—continued from page 9*

For 1976, as anticipated, our financial deficit was significantly reduced to £386.73. For the year total income was £16519.59 and expenditure £16906.32. Even so, in common with all United Synagogue a levy of £5.50 has had to be imposed on all male members. It is fully appreciated that this places a burden on many members of our congregation. On the other hand, there is no way in which our small community can be protected from rising costs which affect the country as a whole, and the benefits, direct and indirect, which we hope to derive from positively identifying ourselves with the congregation will not be forthcoming unless we ourselves contribute towards them in every possible way.

The Guests of Honour at the Annual Reception were the Chasan Torah and Chasan Bereshis—Mr. Michael Cutler and Mr. Melvyn Lux, together with their respective wives. Certificates marking their having been called to the Law were presented to the Chasanim by the Honorary Officers, and all those present enjoyed a lively and cheerful social occasion.

The Ladies' Guild, under the chairmanship of Mrs. S. Venitt, have met regularly throughout the year and continued their charitable and social activities. In particular, in so far as the Synagogue directly is concerned, the Guild has two representatives who attend all meetings of the Board of Management and House Committee thus providing effective liaison between the Guild and the Board.

We are very pleased that members of our congregation form the nucleus of the local J.I.A. Committee, of which Mr. Bernard Davis and Dr. M. D. Caplan are Chairman and Treasurer.

Eight members from our Synagogue participated fully in the November 1976 Mission and Conference in Jerusalem, and returned full of renewed enthusiasm to continue the vital work of aid for Israel.

The Kol Nidre Appeal raised over £3000 and the 1977 Appeal, which for our community began with a visit and excellent address by Mr. Adam Kahan, has topped £16,000 and is not yet completed. These figures represent a 50 per cent increase over 1975/76.

The thanks of the entire congregation are due to Rev. S. Venitt B.A. and Mrs Venitt for their thoughtful and hard work throughout the year.

Miss R. Longhorn, the Synagogue Secretary, is always available to give sympathetic guidance and understanding advice on all aspects of Synagogue membership, but it is the Honorary Officers who are most aware of her devoted and tireless work in ensuring the administrative smooth running of our Synagogue.

*continued on next page*

*ANNUAL REPORT—continued from page 10*

The Choir, of Mrs. J. Harris and Miss Longhorn, continue to enhance the pleasure of our services and delight our visitors.

We record our appreciation of the always cheerful attitude of Mr. P. Howard, our able caretaker, and offer to him and to Mrs. Howard sincere congratulations on the recent occasion of their daughter's marriage.

A relatively rare occurrence in our Synagogue affairs is a change of Honorary Officers, but this is one of the ways we are celebrating H.M. the Queen's Jubilee. Mr. Jeffery Brand, after many years as Warden, is not standing for the office this year, although he hopes to continue to be involved in Synagogue affairs. Our new Honorary Officer will be Mr. David Arram, and the present H.O.s take the lead in wishing him (and his family) a hearty mazzeltov on taking office. We feel sure he will enjoy the confidence of our Minister, our colleagues on the Board of Management, the Council and the Board of Deputies, as well as that of all the members of the congregation.

M. A. AMIAS  
J. BRAND  
M. DEVRIES  
*Hon. Officers*

## Gifts for the Succah

The Succah will be ready for decorating on Sunday and Monday, 25th and 26th September.

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

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. ALFRED COLEMAN

*wish the Ministers*

*and their friends*

*of the Hammersmith & West Kensington Synagogue*

*a very Happy New Year*

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

### WEDDINGS

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

Ronald Frank MILLET to Katherine Anne UNGAR.

Thomas David PRINTON to Valerie Joyce SCHAYEK.

David Eric KRANTZ to Laraine SELMAN.

Alan Jeffery DORAN to Susan Michelle LEA.

Laurence Elliott HARRIS to Susan Roberta KING.

### BARMITZVAHS

Amos GELB

Brett GORVY

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

### NEW MEMBERS

We extend a welcome to the following new members, who joined the Synagogue during the past year:

Mr. & Mrs. M. Addisman

Miss S. Barnett

Mr. & Mrs. S. Bennet

Miss P. Cohen

Mr. & Mrs. S. Daniels

Mr. & Mrs. H. Dwar

Mrs. R. Flach

Mrs. A. Foodman

Mr. & Mrs. J. Gaffin

Mr. & Mrs. H. Gold

Mrs. Goldsmith

Mr. & Mrs. E. Harris

Mrs. R. Hayman

Mr. & Mrs. Herman

Mr. & Mrs. M. Kingsley

Mr. I. Lewis

Mrs. I. Lewis

Mrs. R. Lee

Mr. & Mrs. G. Leisner

Mrs. E. Mayne

Mr. & Mrs. L. Nyman

Mr. & Mrs. A. Randall

Mr. W. Reed

Mr. & Mrs. M. Singer

Mr. R. A. Sacks

Mrs. F. Segal

Mrs. R. Stern

Mr. & Mrs. D. Saunders

Mrs. S. Tesler

Mrs. F. Turner

Mrs. S. Defries

## ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

The annual Prize Distribution was held on Sunday 17th July 1977. Prior to the commencement, all present were provided with refreshments prepared by members of the Ladies' Guild.

Mr. J. Brand, who was in the Chair, welcomed our Guests of Honour, Mr. J. M. Shaftesley, O.B.E. and Mrs. Shaftesley, parents, pupils and friends, and extended a special welcome to Councillor and Mrs. S. Grose, the Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond-upon-Thames.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Shaftesley by Julie Chayon.

The Superintendent of the Classes, the Rev. Venitt, gave his Annual Report. Despite the decrease in the number of pupils, progress generally had been maintained and the standard continued to be high. A very happy atmosphere prevailed. Owing to the drop in numbers, the classes were now held on Sunday morning and Thursday evening only. It was hoped however that should there be an increase in attendances, it would be possible to reinstate the Tuesday evening class. The Jewish Child's Day collection reached this year a record of £47.50. Special Children's Services had again been held on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur; a most enjoyable Purim Fancy Dress Party was arranged, and the pupils conducted a Chanukah service which was enjoyed by all. A Bat Chayil service was held on Sunday 10th July, one pupil having passed the London Board Examination and two others a similar local one. The Rev. Mr. Venitt thanked the Chairman and Classes Committee for their continued support and the donors of the memorial prizes for their gifts.

Mr. Shaftesley in his address said how pleased he and Mrs. Shaftesley were to be invited to present the prizes. Having been closely connected with the Synagogue over the past ten years in his capacity as Honorary Editor of the Brook, he had made many friends amongst the members of the congregation. His whole life had been spent with journalists and writers and he was delighted to see such a wonderful array of books being given as prizes. He was sure that the recipients would have many pleasant hours reading them. The Chairman then thanked Mr. Shaftesley for his remarks and invited Mrs. Shaftesley to present the prizes.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. D. Arram to Mr. & Mrs. Shaftesley for honouring us by their presence and to Mrs. Shaftesley for the delightful way she had presented the prizes to the pupils. Thanks were also due to the Hon. Superintendent and teachers for their constant efforts for the children. The happy family atmosphere of the classes was in no small way due to the Venitt family, Rev. and Mrs. Venitt and their son Malcolm, who were the very able teachers. Mr. Arram also expressed very special thanks to Councillor and Mrs. S. Grose (Mayor and Mayoress of Richmond) for being with us, and to

*continued on next page*



the members of the Ladies' Guild and Parents' Association for providing the refreshments.

A presentation was made on behalf of the parents and pupils to Mrs. Venitt to which she replied expressing her surprise and gratitude.

D.A.

## THE BARMITZVAH BOY

by Denise and John Woolwich

With what excitement we greeted the arrival of our first child, a son. With what a thrill two years later did we welcome the birth of our second child, another son.

How quickly the years passed by, and before long, Hebrew Classes were a regular feature in their young lives. With what pleasure did we listen to them both as they recounted to us all they were learning, and with what pride did I accompany our eldest son to his Barmitzvah test. He had practised laying Tefillin, translation, learning Jewish history and reciting the Sidra, Maftir and Haphtorah. How we all hoped he would pass. However, after a short period of time, which did not seem so short in actual fact, I was asked to enter the Examination room at Woburn House, and with my heart beating loudly and quickly, was duly congratulated by the Examiner. With what a thrill did my son clutch his precious Certificate all the way home in the tube, and how thrilled the Grandparents were, when we rang them up to tell them the good news.

With what joy did we buy our boys new coppels, tallisim, navy suits and shoes in readiness for the Great Day.

The thirteen years of preparation for this wonderful day found the four of us one bright October morning, two years ago, briskly walking to Synagogue to greet our family, friends and relatives who had come from as far as the United States of America to witness the first Barmitzvah in the family.

With what pride and humility did my husband and I watch this ancient ceremony and how grateful we were that we were surrounded by our nearest and dearest on this day of all days.

Soon, it will be the turn of our second son to be Bar Mitzvah, and the excitement of his preparation is already with us. Everything stops when he wants to try out a new passage, and he seems to grow taller and more grown-up as each week flashes by.

Hammersmith Synagogue will shortly be the scene of both solemnity and festivity as, once again, a Barmitzvah boy proudly mounts the red-carpeted steps to sing his Portion. With what joy and emotion will we listen to him and watch him.

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I was in the Shul office one morning when an elderly man came in to make enquiries about membership. I gave him details of the various rates from which he could choose, and as he had never been a member of a United Synagogue and was over forty years of age, I explained that he would be required to pay a "Capital Entry Fee" to the Funeral Expenses Scheme which was based on actual age and, in his case, would come to something over £100. He was a trifle taken aback by this and I pointed out that he had reached this point without ever having paid for membership and, if he wished to be buried (when the time came) in a United Synagogue cemetery the cost for a non-member would be very much greater. The gentleman said nothing for a long moment, and I could see that his mind was working furiously. Finally he said "Cost of burial—so much?" "Yes"—then "Right" he said "then I've got to live another five years and I will have *saved* money by *not* becoming a member. Thank you very much" and off he went and I never set eyes on him again. That was two years ago and having no knowledge of "form", i.e. his family history of longevity or the state of his own health, I have not been able to work out the odds against him achieving his goal, but I would dearly like to know whether there still exists a gentleman, now in his eighties, determined to survive another three years, and I do hope that he has allowed for inflation in his plans otherwise he may find that he has not beaten the system at all!

This was one of the more hilarious moments in the life of a Synagogue Secretary. In any job in which one come into contact with the "public" one is apt to find that laughter and tears, joy and sorrow, are never far apart. On the same day that I met the gentleman referred to above, I had a telephone call from the wife of one of our members who had dropped out of sight for some time and whom I had been trying to get in touch with. What she had to tell me was so distressing that in the end we were both crying.

The work of a Shul Secretary is varied and interesting. Primarily, the duties of office are to carry out the directives of the United Synagogue, as relayed by Head Office at Woburn House, to maintain accounts and other records and to supply regular financial and statistical returns. All this, of course, is necessary in order to enable Hammersmith to take its part as one of the Constituent Synagogues of the United Synagogue.

At a local level the main function is to be available to members direct and, under guidance from the Honorary Officers, to serve the interests of both Synagogue and members to the best advantage. It may well be that in some communities one may find Honorary Officers who are not particularly sensitive to the delicate situations which can arise in certain circumstances, but I am happy to say that the Honorary Officers at Hammersmith have always listened sympathetically to any representations which I, on

*continued on next page*

behalf of a member, have made from time to time and no suggestion as to concessions has ever met with outright refusal.

One of the happiest events that can occur is when one makes a "booking" for a wedding at the Synagogue. Alas, with our particular community including few young people, weddings are not so numerous as one could wish, but perhaps that enables all the Shul officials, from the Minister down, to regard each marriage that does take place almost as a personal Simcha.

Of course, weddings, Barmitzvah and Batmitzvah celebrations are only the bright side of the picture, as the Shul Secretary is also involved to a certain extent, in the personal sorrows of members in illness or bereavement. I sometimes wonder whether it would not be better to have no actual connection with the Shul at which one works, as the joy with which one congratulates a member on, say, the birth of a grandchild, does not outweigh the feeling which overwhelms one when having to write a letter of condolence. However, I tell myself that being a member of Hammersmith Synagogue does mean that I can meet other members on common ground, and I can understand any complaint and enter any discussion with a knowledge of local affairs that must help towards amicable relations.

And so, to end on a lighter note, here is the tale of the South American Widow. She came into my office one Sunday last summer and spent nearly two hours telling me her story. She had come from Montevideo to be near her elder son who was (I believe) a doctor, and had brought her younger son with her. Mother and son were living in Kensington. She informed me that it was her dearest wish to get married again, and asked if there were any eligible men in the Hammersmith community, giving me at the same time a fairly detailed resume of her history and financial circumstances. I had to explain, regretfully, that it was no part of the Secretary's function to act as Shadchan and eventually the conversation changed subject to that of a school for her son. I said that I knew little of schools beyond Kensington but if one on this side would be suitable there was St. Paul's at Barnes or Latymer at Ravenscourt Park and, as it was on the direct 27 bus route from where they were staying, suggested that Latymer might be preferred. She then asked how long it would take for the journey and when I said "About 20 minutes" she cried "But he couldn't possibly go all that long way *by himself*". The boy was just under eighteen years of age!! However, she was a beautiful woman so, on second thoughts, if there is any eligible man in the community who would not object to a little volubility and a stepson who is a bit of a molly-coddle perhaps it is not too late.....!

By the way—did you know that the Shul is haunted? But that is yet another story.

## BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY 1977

This year we have again been very fortunate to join in celebrating a Bat Mitzvah ceremony to mark the completion of studies undertaken by two young pupils of the Classes, Danielle Lux and Julie Ohayon.

In the afternoon of Sunday July 10th a special service was held in the Synagogue during which the girls read Psalms and a Bat Mitzvah Prayer. It was a particularly happy occasion attended by a large congregation of members and friends. An address to Danielle and Julie was given by Rev. Venitt, who emphasised the fundamental importance to our entire Jewish existence of the commandment "And you shall teach them diligently to your children". This placed on every Jew the duty not only to study the Torah himself but to see that his children and grandchildren were also made familiar with all the teachings of our Law. A parent's duty extended to his daughters, although the obligations imposed on women in education were not so heavy as those placed on men. However, the difference in the duties of the sexes in Jewish Law is derived from the difference between their natural characteristics and there is no question of inferiority or superiority in this distinction.

Rev. Venitt congratulated the girls on the dignity they had shown in reading prayers and Psalms during the service, and the success they had achieved in their examinations in Jewish knowledge and practice, which had involved a wide range of study. Their parents, he said, had given them every support and encouragement. He concluded by expressing the hope that the girls would always remember the occasion as a constant source of inspiration for the future.

At the conclusion of the service there was a Reception in the Synagogue Hall. Mr. DeVries conveyed the best wishes of the Honorary Officers, Board of Management and Classes to Danielle and Julie. Mr. Melvyn Lux, on behalf of both families thanked Rev. Venitt for his address and the help both he and Mrs. Venitt had given in every possible way in the girls' studies which had been successfully shown in their results.

The happy atmosphere of the service and celebrations was truly festive and it is hoped that we may be able to join in similar occasions in the future.

\* \* \*

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

If ever you have the opportunity to join a JIA Mission to Israel—take it, that is if you've got the health and strength! It will be an experience like no other—and one you will never forget. Last November, we were privileged to be among the four hundred people from all over the United Kingdom—an El Al Jumbo plane-ful—who were attending the JIA Leadership Conference Mission in Jerusalem.

We had visited Israel several times before, but never on a Mission. We saw the country and its people in a different way; we visited places which civilians had never before been allowed to visit; and we were addressed by the country's leaders including the Prime Minister (Mr Rabin) and the Minister of Defence (Mr. Peres).

The novelty and enthusiasm had begun even before we assembled at the Heathrow Hotel, and our excitement mounted as the members of the group met each other over coffee. The special arrangements for the whole week were set by our being taken directly from the hotel to our plane.

After a perfect flight, we landed at Ben Gurion Airport in the evening. Drawn up on the tarmac were our coaches and in convoy we drove along the historic, moonlit highway to our hotel in Jerusalem. It was a particularly moving moment when the convoy halted at the entrance to the City to recite Shehecheyanu. After being welcomed with food and drink, speeches and instructions, we sought our luggage, found our room, and went to sleep at about 2 a.m.

The following morning, we had breakfast and were travelling through Jerusalem at 6.30 a.m. and on to the scenic desert road to the Dead Sea and Massada. Jerusalem in the morning light has its own special beauty. At the Dead Sea, the Hills of Moab were very clear, the sky blue, and the weather sunny and hot.

Thus was the seal set for the rest of the Mission.

Of course, everyone must have his own special memories and choice of what was most outstanding. For us, there were in particular three highspots and three outstandingly moving occasions.

The first highspot was flying over the desert and down the Gulf of Eilat to the Straits of Tiran, where we saw and thus appreciated the vital strategic importance of controlling the Island of Tiran. From the air, the desert looks like moon-scenery, and the clumps of scrub like footprints on a plain. In complete contrast is the bustling noisy airport building at Ophira. At 9.15 a.m. it was already very hot but breezy.

We were driven to the naval base at Sharm-el-Sheik, and accompanied by young, smiling, enthusiastic members of the Navy—men and women—thoroughly enjoyed a beautiful hour—long cruise in a landing craft of the Israeli Navy. Travel agents please copy!

The second exciting highlight was to fly in one of the Army

*continued on next page*

*SEEING IS BELIEVING—continued from page 18*

transport planes which went on the Entebbe Raid from Jerusalem Airport to Machanayim to visit the Golan Heights and the northern borders.

The third highlight occurred that same day when after leaving Tiberias we drove at night in convoy along the Jordan Valley in bright moonlight to return to Jerusalem via Jericho. We knew this route in daylight; but travelling close to the border, stopping at Army check-points, watching the mountains silhouetted against the sky, and then climbing up to Jerusalem was unforgettable.

The first of our three most moving events was the President's Reception. We had on an earlier occasion visited the Residence one morning soon after it was opened, but to go in the evening and see it lit up and occupied by a host of joyous visitors, was to see this beautiful building fulfilling its purpose as designed. The President himself, gentle and unassuming, with deep feeling addressed us on the vital importance of showing solidarity in every way possible with his people.

The second occasion was visiting the Good Fence on the Lebanese border—going through the Fence to stand on Lebanese soil, and talk to the charming young Israeli and Lebanese doctors and Lebanese nurses ministering to the people, whose own country provided no medical facilities for them. If the two peoples can work together in this humanitarian manner, there can and must be hope for a more peaceful future.

Lastly, at Friday night dinner the Guest of Honour was the Chief Rabbi of the Israeli Defence Forces, and with him came the Chief Cantor of the IDF and Army Choir. They sang before, during and after the meal, zemirot, psalms and songs. Their voices were full, melodious and unforced; their tunes and the obvious enjoyment with which they sang touched the hearts and brought tears to the eyes of all of us.

At the end of it all, what does a Mission like this mean? Whether you've never been to Israel before, or have been once or many times, it renews, refreshes and intensifies your desire to identify with and show and give support for our people. This was the essence of the President's Appeal to us: but best of all is to go and live in Israel. Short of that we must give ALL we can, enthusiasm, money and time, to convince Israel that we in the Diaspora understand its needs and problems. Every Jew should go to Israel, to see the fruits of his heritage, to travel the country and thus understand the strategic and economic problems that face the land. You must see at first hand what has been developed in the country and be in no doubt that you cannot consider yourself to be Jewish unless you give to Israel unstintingly and with all your might.

Seeing is believing.

J AND J

## JOINT ISRAEL APPEAL 1977

Two appeal meetings were held this year, the first at the home of Mr. & Mrs Bernard Davis and the second at the Communal Hall. As in previous years our community responded meaningfully and our total including Kol Nidrei Appeal and a canvass of contributions amounted to almost £20,000.

To serve on our J.I.A. committee in general and thus to help Israel in particular is a duty of love and devotion to our heritage. I appeal to members of our community young and not so young to join us in our work.

Please contact the Chairman, Mr. Bernard Davis or the Treasurer Dr. Denis Caplan who will give you further information.

J.I.A.COMMITTEE

## Hammersmith Synagogue Tour to Israel

Following our two very successful previous tours to Israel several members have asked if a third tour could be organized. Of course this is possible provided there is a sufficient response. As in previous years because of the meaningful involvement of so many of our congregants in J.I.A. matters many facilities would be available not normally give to tourists.

If you wish to be included in such a tour would you provisionally give your name to our warden Mr. David Arram. The matter of cost and date can be decided after we know the response.

DOV.

**Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family**

*Extend their Compliments and Best Wishes*

*for a Happy New Year*



50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

## The League of Jewish Women on the National Scene

The League enables the voice of Jewish Women to be heard nationally.

A most important facet of the work of the League is its representation on external bodies, both Jewish and non-Jewish. In the Jewish field, a League member is the British Vice-President of the International Council of Jewish Women. The main object of this body is the advancement of human welfare amongst all age groups, and the work covers the social, economic and legal status of women in both Jewish and secular law. Two members are on the Board of Deputies and the League is represented on the Central Council for Jewish Social Service and the Association of Jewish Women's Organisations in the United Kingdom which is a forum for matters of mutual concern to all women.

In the non-Jewish category, our representation on the Women's National Commission is most vital as this is a Government sponsored body set up by the Prime Minister and chaired by one of H.M.'s. Ministers. When the informed opinion of women is required on any matter of public interest, the views of member organisations are sought. The League is the only Jewish body represented on the Women's National Commission, and a member is on the Executive Committee.

Another organisation on which a League member holds office is the National Council of Women of Gt. Britain, which is an umbrella organisation encompassing the major women's national bodies.

The League is also affiliated to the United Nations Association, and a member was the immediate past Chairman of its Women's Advisory Council. This enables the League to speak for Israel on any policy put forward concerning it.

In recent years the League has increased its involvement with Soviet Jewry, adopting prisoners, writing to families and co-operating in many National ventures on their behalf.

The League also concerns itself with Israel, many members being trained in the demonstration of Israeli produce, entertaining war widows and assisting wherever possible in many other ways.

Therefore, in addition to the need for more workers for our expanding fields of welfare work, it is also important to increase the number of members to add weight to our opinions.

NETTA GUYER

*Chairman, Richmond and Thames Valley*

*Group, League of Jewish Women*

ל ש נ ה ט ו ב ה

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

**Mr. and Mrs. F. J. WILLIE GERTLER**

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

and from

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

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

and from

**Dr. and Mrs. DAVID LOVELL  
and SHAUNA and JONATHAN**

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

## HAMMERSMITH FRIENDSHIP CLUB

How the years fly and this one has been a busy one for us. The Bring & Buy Sale was great fun as usual. Our Silver Jubilee was the event of the year. Over 120 guests attended to pay tribute to our guest of honour Mrs. H. M. Levy, our Chairman, who was retiring after many years' dedicated service. Among our distinguished guests were the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith, the Rev. & Mrs. Venitt, Mrs. F. Spier, Chairman of the Association, Mrs. L. Gassman, League of Jewish Women, Mrs. R. Grodence, Chairman of Marble Arch Friendly Circle, together with guests from Chiswick and Ealing clubs, giving friends of long standing the chance to show their appreciation of the club and the efforts of its workers towards friendship. Speeches were made by several of the guests and Mrs. Nelman presented Mrs. Levy with a cigarette lighter and a Menorah, which delighted her. Every member received a gift to mark the occasion.

Mrs. Levy introduced the new Chairman, Mrs. Barrie.

Our Chanukah party was much enjoyed; entertainment was provided by the Council as usual.

Our programme has been a very full one. Count O'Scheel entertained us with lovely slides of Denmark and Holland. A play was presented by the Common Stock Theatre, dealing with the elderly in London. There was a talk by Mr. Mullins and a colleague on road safety. On another occasion Mrs. A. Hart sang operatic favourites, which proved very popular. Mr. J. Elman of the Magic Circle spoke on "Magic Art". Two members were invited to visit Wimbledon and District Friendship Club. We further enjoyed two family Simchas. Mrs. Barrie our Chairman celebrated the Barmitzvah of her son David with a super party for all the members. David was presented with a gift of a pen. Twenty two of our members spent a holiday in Folkestone. Police and Red Cross workers held the finals of a quiz on "Safety in the Home and on the Roads" in our club. The question Master was Marjory Proops. The prizes were donated by the Mayor and Mayoress, who were present.

One sunny afternoon through the generous invitation of Lady Kaye, fifty-two members visited her country home and enjoyed hospitality. Afternoon tea was served amidst lovely surroundings. The members were thrilled with it all.

The second Simcha was to celebrate the golden wedding of our dear Vice Chairman Rose Nelman. With her family and friends, guests included the Rev. and Mrs. Venitt, and Mrs. F. Spier, Chairman of the Association. Entertainment as always, and what a lovely party we all enjoyed. Our gift to the happy couple was an occasional table which they were delighted to receive.

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

MARY WILSON  
*Hon. Secretary*

## Stories and Sayings from the Talmud (1)

All the blessings of a household come through the wife, therefore should her husband honour her.

Rabbi José said:

"I never call my wife "wife" but "home", for she indeed makes my home."

"Men should be careful lest they cause women to weep, for G-d counts their tears".

One of the Roman Emperors said to Rabban Gamliel :-

"Your G-d is a thief, as it is written 'And the L-rd G-d caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man and he slept. And He took one of his ribs . . . ' Gen. ii. 21)."

The Rabbi's daughter said "Let me answer this aspersion. Last night, robbers broke into my room and stole therefrom a silver vessel. But they left a golden one in its stead."

The Emperor replied "I wish that such thieves would come to me every night."

"Thus it was with Adam. G-d took a rib from him but left Eve instead."

The chief thing is not knowledge but the use to which it is put.

Rabbi Jochanan, the son of Broka, and Rabbi Eleazer, the son of Chismah, visited their teacher Rabbi José and he said to them:

"What is the news at the College; what is going on?"

"Nay", they answered, "we are thy scholars; it is for thee to speak, for us to listen."

"Nevertheless, replied Rabbi José "No day passes without some occurrence of note at the College. Who lectured today?"

"Rabbi Eleazar the son of Azaryah."

"And what was his subject."

"He chose this verse :-

"Assemble the People together, the men, the women and the children." (Deut. xxvi, 12) and thus he expounded it :-

"The men came to learn, the women to listen, but wherefore the children? In order that those who brought them might receive a reward for training their children in the Fear of the L-rd."

Then said Rabbi José "Happy the generation of which Rabbi Eleazar ben Azaryah is the teacher."

To love one's neighbour is the first virtue.

The best quality is a good heart.

Judge your neighbour indulgently and charitably. Judge no one before you are in the same circumstances.

"Righteousness, righteousness shalt thou follow," (Deut. xvi. 20). The meaning of the double exhortation is "towards Jew and Gentile alike."

Thy friend has a friend, and thy friend's friend has a friend; be discreet.

H.S.

## MEMORIES – The World of Yesterday

I may be forgiven for copying the title of Stefan Zweig's autobiography, when telling a story of Vienna at the end of the Habsburg Empire before it was degraded by Hitler's Anschluss.

My journey in the past is the story of my family, the story of the "stieble," the story of wonderful lively communities whose synagogues are now destroyed, damaged or, if still standing, almost empty.

In 1896 Hungary, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire under the "dual monarchy" of Franz Josef, celebrated its millennium. According to history the Kingdom of Hungary was founded by the Magyars in 896 C.E. and, just as in London thousands of visitors came to participate in the Jubilee this year, so in 1896 great numbers of Jews flocked from Galicia (the Austrian part of Poland) in the hope of exchanging poverty for a livelihood in prosperous Budapest.

Among these immigrants were my grandparents both paternal and maternal. The families had been neighbours in the naphtha oil mining town of Boryslav and they started a new life in the Jewish quarter—the 6th and 7th district—of Pest on the opposite side of the river to the older part of town which was and is still called Buda. The two friends, Leizer Gertler and Jankel Lippman, soon joined the "stieble" in the Dob-Utca (Drommel Gasse) and my first memory, just before the First World War, is of being with my grandfathers on the first floor of an old house 'davening and shokeling' on Shabbat.

After entering elementary school I attended the Talmud Torah classes attached to the Great Conservative Synagogue in the Rombach Gasse where my teacher was Rabbi Dr. Tarkas. The certificate, which I unfortunately lost during emigration, earned me a Krone. I was really fond of my teacher and proud of my achievement. The Rombach Temple was justly famed for the performances of its Chazan, Kwartin, who was later called to New York.

When my father was called up for military service in the Austro-Hungarian Army in 1915 I attended services in the Orthodox Central Synagogue in the Kazincy Gasse. Our neighbour, a strictly orthodox teacher named Neuwirth had three sons and regarded me as a fourth son in the absence of my father. I was the same age as his middle boy, the eldest being a year older and the youngest a year younger and they never missed taking me along with them to shul. The Neuwirth family came from the Pressburg (Bratislava) Yeshiva to Budapest and I am sure that I owe my constant feeling of belonging to, and comfort in entering a shul to the fond memory of them and their influence has formulated my desire to find a shul and contact my Jewish brethren wherever I have travelled.

*continued on next page*

*MEMORIES—continued from previous page*

To continue the details of Budapest Synagogues before resuming my personal memories the world famous Tabac Temple is over 100 years old and is, I believe, the largest in Europe with four galleries for the ladies, a total seating capacity of over 3000 and a giant organ with 4000 pipes. It was the showpiece of emancipated, assimilated Hungarian Jewry, many of the members being ennobled or members of the Upper House of Parliament and the famous cantor Sirota was engaged by this wealthy community. No orthodox or even conservative Jew ever attended the Tabac Temple, after all, organ music during Shabbat or Yomtov is against the Din!

During the Hitler deportation era, the Tabac Temple and school were used as assembly areas before deportation to the concentration and extermination camps. More than 25 persons related to me were among the victims. When I visited Hungary after the second World War I went to the one remaining Synagogue still functioning as such, and was deeply moved by the fact that every member attending the service said Kaddish specially for the victims of the Holocaust.

And now to go back to my youth. In 1918 after the defeat of Germany and her allies the Austrian Empire broke up and in the ensuing confusion Hungary was for five months ruled by a Communist Government under the leadership of an atheist "Jew" named Bela Kun, but after being overwhelmed by the Entente forces in support of the Russian Army, power was handed to the Fascist Admiral Horthy. As usual, all the nation's troubles were blamed on the Jews and an Anti-Semitic campaign was launched, particularly against Jews of Polish origin. Under the pretext of "Control of Aliens" these Jews were harassed, under constant surveillance in their homes and subjected to extortion. In 1920, on the morning of my Bar Mitzvah call up, my family was woken up at 6 a.m. by the police and taken, with some other local people, to the Police Station where, after long interrogation, and the payment of a "Penalty" we were at last allowed to go. On the following Shabbat I was duly "called up" at our Synagogue but of course missed the Haftara for which my teacher had prepared me.

In May 1920 my family moved to Vienna, exchanging the Horthy racialistic regime for the—then—milder administration of Austria. After all, Vienna was, so they said, the centre of culture, but that was before the Anschluss!

The Geisterstetten Temple in the Inner City of Vienna also housed the Kultusgemeinde and was the spiritual home of over 200,000 Jews in Vienna. I hardly ever missed attending on Erev Shabbat and Shabbat morning service there, listening to Chazan Matyas and, in the 1930's to Chazan Fischer. One of the greatest

*continued on next page*

*MEMORIES—continued from previous page*

Rabbis of that time was Rabbi Dr. Zwi Peres Chajes. I well remember that on the day of his funeral the Socialist Lord Mayor of Vienna, Karl Seitz, arranged that the street lamps of the Ringstrasse and the road to the cemetery should be draped in black. Chazan Fischer came to England after the Anschluss and was minister at a synagogue in Leeds. He had a wonderful baritone voice which I was able to enjoy once more when I went to Leeds to attend the barmitzvah of Hugh, son of Mrs. and the late Dr. Torrance.

And now—here I am at our own Hammersmith—where I have celebrated my son's Barmitzvah, my daughter's wedding and next year, please G-d, one of my grandsons will be barmitzvah here in *our* Shul where I have happiness with my friends, the ministers, the honorary officers and my colleagues on the Board. At three score years and ten, after 45 wonderful years with my life's partner, the Shul is still where I find contentment in good days and strength and comfort in times of anxiety.

F. J. GERTLER

## **J. SAMUEL & SON**

*JAMES SAMUEL 1797-1866*

### **MEMORIALS & RENOVATIONS**

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

**SIDNEY STREET, LONDON, E1 2EH**

**Telephone: 01-247 5181/4256**

## A TRIBUTE

All our senses were enriched at Ashkelon; the clear blue sky, the sound of children's voices, a soft warm wind and the sweet penetrating smell of orange blossom, which covers Israel at the season of Pesach.

Approaching the school, we saw flags and pennants flying in our honour. Suddenly, the children joyfully started singing "Shalom Aleichem" and we came upon them sitting in a huge circle, some 300 of them, wearing gaily covered hats. The emotion of the welcome was inspiring—an unforgettable moment for us all.

The Principal of the school formally welcomed Joe and Hetty Godfrey, their families and friends, and afterwards invited Joe and Hetty to present the prizes to successful students. The sight of one young lad walking the 30 yards with the help of a metal frame left few with dry eyes. This school is for deprived and handicapped children and was built and donated in 1969 by Joe and Hetty Godfrey. Today, they consecrated a new gymnasium donated by them. After the prize-giving, the children put on a show of controlled drill movements which paid tribute to the patience of the teachers. They sang songs and later we entered the school, but not before Joe and his son David affixed the Mezzuzot to the new Gymnasium, and then the unveiling of the plaque in honour of the Godfreys. The saplings planted in the school grounds in 1969 were now proud trees serving as a reminder to the inspiration of Joe and Hetty when they laid the foundation stone and when these saplings were planted by members of our own Hammersmith community.

The school is a wonderful place, a grand edifice built to satisfy the need of some of the handicapped children of Israel. It is something for which the Godfrey family will always be remembered and serves as an inspiration to others. We dined with the children, inspected the synagogue and the classrooms, talked with teachers and with the chief superintendent of education and the deputy mayor of Ashkelon. We looked around the grounds, said goodbye to the children, and left with our senses recharged and with a wonderful feeling of hope, understanding and appreciation of the good work of Joe and Hetty Godfrey.

## HAMMERSMITH WOMEN ZIONISTS

Hammersmith WIZO is still functioning, in spite of our very depleted numbers. We collected £106.50 for Jewish Women's Week, and £30 in Annual Subscriptions.

We welcome new members, and wish all our present members a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Please telephone me at 748 2727 with your offer to help us.

JEANIE CAPLAN

*NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM*

**HETTY & DAVID BALONOV**

148, CONINGHAM ROAD, W.12

with their families

**JOYCE & DAVID KIPNES,**

with

**LIANE, IAN and DANIEL**

OF LONG ISLAND, U.S.A.

and

**GLORIA DEANER, J.P.,**

**& JULIAN DEANER**

with

**KATHARINE, ADAM & EMMA**

OF 26 GREENHALGH WALK,

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, N.2,

AND OF CANN, MELBURY ABBAS, DORSET,

AND OF HAMMERSMITH BROADWAY, W.6.



## **THE SYNAGOGUE HALL**

**WHY NOT USE YOUR  
OWN HALL FOR  
SIMCHAS AND MEETINGS?**

\* \* \*

**THE SEATING CAPACITY IS APPROXIMATELY 150  
FOR WEDDINGS AND BARMITZVAHS.**

**THERE IS A KITCHEN ATTACHED  
AND A RECEPTION AREA FOR BUFFET  
CAN BE ARRANGED IN THE ADJOINING HALL  
IF SO DESIRED.**

\* \* \*

The Secretary will be happy to supply details.

## **Hammersmith & District Branch of A.J.E.X.**

Comprising Hammersmith, Ealing, Richmond, Hounslow,  
Kensington and Chelsea.

Thirty two years after the second world war, the number of ex-servicemen seeking welfare has increased rather than diminished. Our branch has donated £400 in the past year for this purpose. Though many seek financial assistance, a large number need help and advice to straighten their affairs. A steady stream of cases visit A.J.E.X. headquarters each week and are given this help. There are also many old and lonely ex-servicemen whose burdens are relieved by a visit to their homes. If anyone has time to spare we will be pleased if you will join our band of workers for this worthwhile task.

A new wing to A.J.E.X. House for the elderly was opened recently in Stamford Hill by the Minister of Housing, Reginald Freeson. Although the expense for these flats is enormous, A.J.E.X. is determined to continue with this work as the need is greater than the supply. Negotiations are already taking place for a new block in N.W. London. In June, disabled ex-servicemen were again taken for a day's outing to Brighton.

Israel is dear to the hearts of all of us, and Israeli servicemen particularly so. The Soldiers' House built for the welfare of Israeli servicemen in Beersheba continues to receive our attention, and new sections are continually being opened. Our branch is proud of the contributions that we have made towards this project. If anyone is visiting Beersheba, a tour of the Soldiers' Home is really worth while, and you may notice the plaque commemorating the help given by our branch.

On Tuesday, 21st June, Rudolph Nureyev gave an impeccable performance in the Romeo and Juliet ballet organised by A.J.E.X. in aid of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund. On this auspicious occasion, Lord Mountbatten accepted on behalf of the Queen a crystal goblet suitably inscribed in Hebrew and English, which was presented on behalf of A.J.E.X. by the National Chairman, Mr. Leonard Woolf.

Our branch, competing against other A.J.E.X. branches, was delighted to win the cup at the annual N.A.W.A.C. Quiz. Our winning team were Gilda and Howard Hayman, "Tooly" Manches, and Joe Bondt.

Soviet Jewry still plays an important part in our work. It is essential that the world is constantly reminded of the plight of Jewish 'Refusniks' in the Soviet Union. To keep in touch by means of correspondence and assistance whenever possible is our continuing concern for those in need, and we hope that efforts being made to bring this matter forward at the coming Belgrade

*continued on next page*

*HAMMERSMITH A.J.E.X.—continued from previous page*

Conference of world nations will alleviate the position.

Our own 'Refusnik' tragically still languishes in a labour prison while his wife and two young children who received permission to leave Russia have arrived in Israel.

Our Annual Dinner and Ball held earlier in the year together with Kenton Branch at the Royal Majestic Suite, was a great success with a full house. A substantial amount of our yearly funds was derived from this function.

It is with pleasure that we record that our honorary chaplain Rev. S. Forscher who has recently been indisposed, is now feeling very much better. We all wish him a full recovery.

Reading through these few details gives a glimpse of the important part played by A.J.E.X. in Anglo-Jewry. Our thanks go out to a band of workers of our branch who have worked loyally to improve the lives of their fellow Jews.

If you are an ex-serviceman and wish to help—please 'phone 348 3495.

## **West London Young Zionist Society**

(affiliated to the Federation of Zionist Youth)

West London is a young and active society for youth between the ages of 18—24 years, living in the West London area. We meet every Thursday at 8.30 p.m. in members' houses for either a talk given by an eminent speaker, discussions, debates, folk-evenings, all of which are preceded by Ivrit (modern Hebrew lessons).

Being affiliated to F.Z.Y. means that we can attend National events and meet people from other groups both throughout London and in the provinces. We often arrange joint meetings with others groups. Even though there are members of F.Z.Y. all over the British Isles (including a new group in Dublin) we all manage to get together at specially arranged national seminars or on one of the six separate F.Z.Y. holiday trips to Israel. West London does in fact organise its own seminar which is held in Spring every year.

As well as being a Zionist movement, F.Z.Y. is also a fund-raising one, and we at West London have had and will be having many different and exciting activities as well as the more usual dances.

Everyone who comes along to our society is guaranteed a warm and friendly reception, so if you want any further information about us, just pick up the telephone and call...

Celia on 452-0418/Louise on 866-9156 or Jeffrey on 907-3229.

J.B.

## **ORGANISATIONS**

(and addresses for inquiries)

**Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild.** Meets first Tuesday evening in the month in members' homes. Tel. 603 4938.

**Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Assn.**  
(Now under auspices of Ladies' Guild)

**Hammersmith Friendship Club.** Meets every Wednesday in the Synagogue Hall. Chairman: Mrs. M. Barrie, 20 Campden Hill Road, W.8. Tel. 937 9263.

**Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society.**  
Inquiries to Mrs. Jennie Caplan, Tel. 748 2727.

**Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee** (under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews). Inquiries at Jewish Board of Deputies, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust.** Representative: Miss J. Lichtblau, 56 Fraser House, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx.

**West London Jewish Youth Centre Sponsoring Committee.** Hammersmith Representative: Dr. D. S. Filer, 1 Warwick Dene, W.5.

**West London Young Zionist Society.** P.R.O. Miss Celia Alexander. Tel. 452 0418.

**Jewish Lads' Brigade** — For Information: Brigade Secretary: 28, St. John's Wood Road, N.W.8. Tel. 286 8632.

**Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch).** Hon. Sec.: Mr. A. S. Bankover, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12. Tel. 743 5139.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue Library.** Hon. Sec. and Librarian: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel. 748 8577.

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

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

*from*

**FIDELITY  
RADIO  
LTD.**

(J. DICKMAN)



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

HAMAPPS, 86 Amburst Park, London, N16 5AR