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THE HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

ANNUAL REPORTS

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A P R I L 1951

“ Every man shall bring
according as he is able ”
—Deut. 16, 17

**HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE**

71, BROOK GREEN, W.6.

Tel.: Riverside 1405

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Hammersmith & West Kensington Synagogue Annual Report

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

The period under review has been a notable one and steady progress has been made by the Synagogue in many directions. The outstanding event of the year was the celebration of our **Diamond Jubilee**, at which were present the Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Brodie, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hendon and many leading personalities of London Jewry. (A full report of the function appears elsewhere in this issue.) In connection with this celebration, arrangements were made for the publication of a handsomely bound volume of the **History of the Hammersmith Synagogue** since its foundation, copies of which were sent to members.

Income during the past year reached £5,790. The comparative figure for the previous year was £5,474 (which included a non-recurring item of £457 rentals received from the War Office).

The excellent progress reported in our **Hebrew and Religion Classes** last year has been maintained and the roll is steadily approaching the 100 mark. Thanks to the efforts of the Parents' Association, the amenities provided for the children were continued and mid-week attendances were maintained. Only those in close contact with the work of the Classes and the **Parents' Association** can realise the peculiar difficulties and problems to be faced in this widely scattered area and how few in number are the children of school age.

Members will recall that last year a special appeal was launched to raise a sum of money for the purpose of restoring our stained **glass windows**. Many donations were received, and the sum thus realised together with a loan from the Western Area Jewish Centre Joint Council, was utilised to meet the cost. It was very gratifying to learn subsequently that the whole sum was being met by the War Damage Commission. Subscribers were given the option of having their money refunded or devoting it to other communal purposes. It is with pleasure that we record that the majority of subscribers chose the latter course. The restoration of the stained glass windows, which was completed in time for the Jubilee Service, has greatly enhanced the beauty of the Synagogue.

The Hammersmith Synagogue sustained a grievous loss in the untimely death on January 26th, 1951, of **Mr. Harry Schneiderman**, a warden of the Synagogue. An obituary notice appears elsewhere in this publication.

Following the success of the previous year's function, a **Ballet Dance** was again held at the Porchester Hall on February 15th, 1951. For reasons beyond our control the measure of success achieved fell short of last year's record Jubilee figures. Thanks are due to all those who worked extremely hard to make it the success it was—particularly deserving mention are Mr. S. Gruse, Mr. and Mrs. S. Taylor, Mr. W. Moss, Mrs. Dymond, Mrs. Caplan and Mr. and Mrs. S. Hyams.

The social side of the Synagogue has been immensely strengthened by the formation of the **Hammersmith Jewish Literary and Social Society**. In this the first year of its existence, the Society has enrolled well over 120 members and has, through the medium of its well-planned and well-attended functions, served to bring our members together in an atmosphere of friendliness and goodwill. A very important feature of the Society has been the creation of a **Study Group** on Monday nights which has been consistently attended by a small group of earnest students of Jewish knowledge. This study circle is conducted by the Ministers.

During the year we held a number of **Youth Sabbaths** at which all Mitzvoh and Aliyas, including the Haftorahs, were given to the young members of the congregation. These services were always well attended and we hope to continue this practice at regular intervals during the coming year. A **Youth Study and Discussion Group**, conducted by the Rev. S. Venitt, continues to meet at intervals on Sabbath afternoons at 71, Brook Green.

The Congregation will be glad to learn that the Rev. B. Paletz has again accepted the invitation of the Board of Management to postpone his retirement and serve for another year.

Thanks are due to the Hammersmith Norwood Orphan Aid Society for the honour bestowed upon the Synagogue by the consecration of a bed in the name of the Synagogue and the Norwood Orphanage on November 5th, 1950.

There has been, during the past year, a number of benefactors to the Synagogue to whom our grateful thanks are due. Mr. F. G. Hawkins again provided floral decorations on Shevuoth and for the Succah; Mr. and Mrs. J. Apfel presented two beautiful Sefer

Torah Mantles; the Ladies' Guild presented a beautiful set of drapings for the Ark; Mr. P. Rayman and Mrs. L. Abrahams each presented a Silver Esrog holder.

Mr. Paul Rayman and his son, Mr. Eric Rayman, were Chasan Torah and Chasan Bereshith respectively. They entertained the Congregation generously and graciously. Thanks are also due to the Ladies' Guild and others who helped to decorate the Succah.

On Chanukah a treat for the children was again provided by the now late Mr. H. Schneiderman. We also wish to record the very generous gesture of Mr. and Mrs. J. Apfel in providing a party for the children on January 1st, 1951, at which the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith were present; tea and an entertainment, which the children thoroughly enjoyed, were provided.

As a result of the funds raised by the Diamond Jubilee Ball last year, a number of improvements were effected in the Synagogue and Communal Hall. The stage was improved by having linoleum laid and a new pelmet fitted. New carpet was also laid on the Almemar. It is hoped to carry out further improvements during the coming year.

During the year 15 marriages were solemnised and 10 boys celebrated their Barmitzvah. Each lad was presented with a Certificate and a suitably inscribed Prayer Book to commemorate the occasion.

The Board would conclude this Report by making an earnest appeal to the members of the Congregation for their interest and support in the affairs of the Synagogue, so that its progress may be promoted and its prosperity and varied activities maintained.

Signed on behalf of the Board.

H. SHARPE, Warden

A. HARRIS, Financial Representative.

Financial Representative

We are informed on going to press that Mr. A. Harris is not seeking re-election as Financial Representative. His colleagues on the Board of Management thank him for his useful work during his term of office.

The Diamond Jubilee

October 22nd, 1950

It is amazing how few people realise the amount of painstaking effort and hard work involved in planning a Service and Celebration such as that arranged for the Diamond Jubilee. At every stage there are difficulties, particularly where accommodation is restricted, and these problems have to be tackled, and, as far as possible, anticipated. Beyond all this, there is always the possibility of a situation arising which one could not foresee.

It is therefore a cause for congratulation to all concerned that the celebration on October 22nd proved to be such a triumph of organisation and execution. This can be said particularly of the beautiful and deeply impressive Service.

Amongst the many distinguished guests present were the Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Brodie, Dayan Lazarus, Rev. and Mrs. Lipson, Councillor Brind (Deputy Mayor of Hammersmith) and Mrs. Brind, a number of Aldermen and Councillors of the Hammersmith Borough Council, Mr. Frank Tomney, M.P. for North Hammersmith, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hendon, Alderman J. L. and Mrs. Freedman, Mr. Maurice Hyams and Mr. Sidney Spanjer (representing the Honorary Officers of the United Synagogue), and many past Honorary Officers of the Hammersmith Synagogue.

Mincha was intoned by the Rev. B. Paletz accompanied by an augmented choir under the direction of Mr. A. Hizer.

Psalm LXXXIV was beautifully rendered in Hebrew and English by the Rev. S. Lipson, and a special Mi Shebeirach was recited by the Rev. S. Venitt.

The Ark was opened for the circuits by Mr. H. Sharpe and Mr. H. Schneiderman, Wardens of the Synagogue, and the ten scroll bearers in order of precedence were (1) Chief Rabbi, (2) Dayan H. M. Lazarus, (3) Rev. B. Paletz, (4) Rev. S. Venitt, (5) Rev. S. Lipson, (6) Mr. M. Hyams, (7) Mr. S. Spanjer, (8) Mr. David Sharp, (9) Mr. Sampson Freedman, and (10) Mr. Louis B. Barnett. The last three named gentlemen were the senior of the past Honorary Officers of the Hammersmith Synagogue.

After the Chief Rabbi's sermon the Ark was opened for a special Memorial Prayer by Mr. I. Hill (aged 86) and Mr. B. Bernardi (aged 79), who were the two senior members of the Synagogue. Mr. A. Harris, the Financial Representative of the Synagogue, generously offered to stand down in order to enable this to be done.

The Chief Rabbi in his sermon, based on Psalm LXXXVII, verse 1, stressed the supreme importance of Israel in the Jewish scheme of life. The true foundations of Zion, he said, rested on the inspiration and teaching of two holy mountains, Mount Sinai and Mount Moriah. The one proclaimed law and order, the other reverence. Without these bases Zion could not stand. In the wider application, the nations of the world would have to set their houses in order and realise that by no other process could a state of affairs be achieved in which justice, truth and brotherhood would reign supreme.

The Chief Rabbi recalled the memory of the first spiritual guide of the Congregation, the late Michael Adler—to whom he paid a tribute. He also paid a tribute to the Rev. S. Lipson.

The Congregation, he said, was celebrating its 60th anniversary in great and portentous times, and in the same way that the pioneers of the Synagogue had brought to its creation much zeal, piety, understanding and sacrifice, so they, remembering the example of the past, and the great possibilities of the future, must to-day rededicate themselves through that Synagogue to the service of their God and to that of their people.

At the reception which followed in the Communal Hall, Mr. H. Sharpe, Warden, presided and expressed the thanks of the Congregation to the Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Brodie and to all the distinguished guests for honouring the occasion with their presence. He gave a brief résumé of the Synagogue's history and paid tribute to those who had rendered faithful service over the longest periods of time.

The Chief Rabbi said he had been very happy to notice among the assembled guests a number of ex-Service men and women he had met during the war. He felt that they should be given every encouragement to play an active part in the Synagogue. Rabbi Brodie recalled that during World War I he had himself been for a short time Minister of the Brook Green Synagogue.

The Rev. B. Paletz spoke of some of the outstanding events in the history of the Synagogue in which he had participated.

The Rev. S. Venitt said that that day they had come to pay tribute to the past, and those who were the builders of the Congregation. What they had achieved would serve as an inspiration to those who were continuing the traditions of the Synagogue. He extended, on behalf of all present, a very hearty welcome to Councillor and Mrs. W. Brind.

The Deputy Mayor in his reply stressed the great problems they had to face in their dealings with young people, and appealed to the audience to take a greater personal interest in the youth. He remarked on the very cordial relations which had always existed between the Council and the Synagogue.

Dayan Lazarus spoke of the fine and sympathetic spirit of the British people in their relations to the Jew, and particularly to refugees.

Mr. Frank Tomney, M.P., referring to the previous speakers' remarks, said that Britain would always continue to grant asylum—especially to those subject to religious or racial persecution—as long as England was England.

Mr. Maurice Hyams, an Honorary Officer of the United Synagogue, conveyed greetings on behalf of that body, and said he felt that that day's event would be a source of encouragement for further progress.

The arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations were planned by an Organising Committee consisting of Messrs. H. Sharpe and H. Schneiderman, Wardens; Mr. A. Harris, Financial Representative; Messrs. F. J. Benzina, A. Coleman and A. Sheinfeld; with Mr. Henry Hart as Honorary Secretary. They are to be highly commended for a very fine effort.

Above all, the Congregation must indeed be grateful to Mr. Henry Hart, who with his vast communal experience and organising ability planned this important celebration down to the minutest detail.

It was undoubtedly due to his effort more than to any other that the afternoon proved to be such a tremendous success.

Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Association

The Association is now firmly entrenched in the second year of its existence. A number of meetings of parents and friends have been held and many practical suggestions have been put forward to improve the amenities and conditions of the Hammersmith Synagogue Hebrew and Religion Classes.

We are deeply indebted to those ladies who have so generously given of their time in supervising the recreational period prior to commencement of the mid-week classes.

Our "Magic Carpet" scheme of transporting the smaller children by car to their homes is in full swing, but more volunteers are required to maintain this on an efficient basis.

It has been arranged to give the children of the classes an outing to the David Eder Farm at Horsham, on July 15th.

L. FREEMAN, Chairman.

Hammersmith Synagogue Hebrew and Religion Classes

Due to the unremitting and tireless efforts of Rev. Venitt, who has made an intensive drive for enrolment of further children to the Classes, it is gratifying to note that the roll now musters well over 50 pupils.

We extend a very warm welcome to Miss Perets who has joined the Teaching Staff. She is a graduate of the Beth Jacob seminary and has impressed all by her sincerity and conscientiousness, her idealism and orthodoxy.

Thanks to the co-operation of the Parents' Association, the attendance at the mid-week classes has been doubled. In this manner there has been a more effective continuity of teaching and consequently better scholastic results.

We are proud to announce the success of one of our pupils, Arthur Pottersman, in gaining in open competition, a Jewish History Prize offered by the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. There was a delightful Chanukah celebration in the Communal Hall on Sunday, December 3rd, 1950. A crowded audience greeted the three dramatic presentations of Jewish interest, staged by the children of the classes. These consisted of a symbolic tableau "The Sabbath Queen," followed by "Israeli Quiz" and "Chanukah Geld," interspersed by Recitations, Pianoforte Recital and Dancing.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Apfel, the children of the classes were entertained on Monday, January 1st, 1951, by a Variety and Film Show followed by a high tea. The proceedings were honoured by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith.

The Annual Prize Distribution took place on Sunday, March 11th, 1951. Dr. L. Freeman, the Chairman, referred to the unique influence of the Mother in the Jewish Home and appealed to the ladies of the Hammersmith Community to come forward and exercise their due and rightful share in the deliberations of the Hebrew and Religion Classes Committee.

Rev. S. Venitt, B.A., the Superintendent of the Classes, emphasised the growth of the Religion Classes and appealed for greater communal support of the Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Association.

Mrs. Woolf distributed the prizes to the eager prize winners.

Mr. Alfred Woolf, the Chairman of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education, in the course of a stirring address exhorted the parents of the pupils to live up to the ethical and religious standards of "The People of the Book." He maintained that unless we are prepared to give our present generation of youth an adequate basic grounding in the tenets of the Jewish faith, it was quite useless for the Community to interest itself any further in a constellation of committees.

L. FREEMAN, Chairman.

Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild

Once again we are happy to report a year of steady progress. Following a drive for tinned food and clothing we were able to send to WIZO many parcels for dispatch to Israel. The ladies have knitted and made an assortment of baby clothes for the Jerusalem Baby Home. We also made nightdresses for the London Jewish Hospital.

The Guild supported the Show at the Lyric, Hammersmith, organised by the Hammersmith Women's Zionist Society in aid of the Jerusalem Baby Home.

A dance was held in the Communal Hall and as a result a cheque was sent to the Central British Fund.

A very great effort was made on Geranium Day, and our collection for the blind was very gratifying.

On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee the Guild presented a set of Ark Drapings to the Synagogue.

The ladies co-operated in a function held in aid of Norwood Orphanage, and assisted with the tombola at the Synagogue Jubilee Ball.

As usual, the decorations were provided for the Saccah.

Appeals answered by the Guild included Youth Aliyah, Jewish Blind Society, Home for Incurables, Home of Rest, Anti-T.B. League of Jerusalem, and local relief for deserving cases.

RUBY HODES, Chairman.

The Hammersmith Jewish Literary and Social Society

This new and flourishing Society was founded on July 12th, 1950, when Dr. L. Collins was elected as Chairman, Mr. A. D. Berger as Vice-Chairman, Dr. F. Hodes as Treasurer and Mrs. L. Freeman as Secretary. Mrs. H. Sharpe subsequently very kindly undertook to act as co-Secretary. A Committee was appointed and has been greatly indebted to the kindness and hospitality of Rev. and Mrs. S. Venitt, at whose residence its meetings have taken place.

The aims of the Society are cultural and social; and its functions, interesting enough in themselves, have been enlivened by the friendliness and warmth of the Jewish spirit which is present at all its gatherings. Meetings are held every fortnight, literary and social events alternating. A Study Circle is held every Monday evening at 8.30 p.m. in the Board Room, conducted by Revs. S. Venitt and B. Paletz.

Membership is not confined to our own Synagogue. The minimum annual subscription is five shillings. A fee of one shilling for members and eighteen pence for non-members is charged for admission to the functions, which charge includes refreshments.

At the second meeting of the Society, on October 31st, 1951, the Rev. S. Venitt was elected President and the Rev. B. Paletz Vice-President.

An Inaugural **At Home** was held in the Communal Hall at the end of November, when Miss Mary Bonin sang Hebrew, Yiddish and Spanish folk songs to a large and delighted audience. The President, Rev. S. Venitt and the Chairman, Dr. L. Collins, spoke on the plans of the new Society for supplying the cultural needs of the local community. This event received notice in the "Jewish Chronicle."

In January, 1951, a Drama Section was formed under the guidance of a Dramatic Committee.

On December 20th, 1950, a programme entitled **We Beg To Differ**, was staged. There was a good attendance and the evening was greatly enjoyed. Those taking part were: Mr. A. D. Berger, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. C. Lawton, Mrs. V. Goyer, Miss Renee Canter, Mr. M. Arnold Hyams and Dr. P. Gardner. Many of those present expressed a desire to have further programmes of this sort.

On January 3rd, 1951, Mr. David Cohen gave a graphic and amusing talk on "Hyde Park Corner," practical demonstrations of heckling having been arranged to take place during the meeting. The efforts of nous speaker and heckler (Mr. M. Arnold Hyams) were very well received.

On January 17th, a Brains Trust was held and Rev. S. Venitt acted as Question Master. The team consisted of Mrs. A. Sheinfeld, Miss M. Rosenberg, Mr. H. Orlman, and Mr. G. Paley. This, too, was a great success.

An interesting and informative lecture on "The Board of Deputies" was given by the Rev. Dr. A. Cohen, M.A., President of the Board of Deputies, on January 31st and was well attended.

A Mock Trial was staged on February 21st and this proved to be one of the most successful functions of the Society. The Trial was written by Mr. M. Arnold Hyams, to whom we are greatly indebted. He produced a script worthy of publication, and so great was the enthusiasm with which it was received that one would be justified in saying that in its own particular sphere it can be termed a masterpiece of wit, repartee and "Yiddish" humour. Mrs. L. Freeman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. M. Arnold Hyams for his kindness in writing this Trial for the Society, and also to the cast and to Mr. A. D. Berger, who produced the Trial, for the excellent performance which they had put on. The cast consisted of the following people: Rev. S. Venitt, Messrs. A. D. Berger, Cecil Hyams, M. Arnold Hyams, S. Hyams, E. Aizen, R. S. C. Lawton, and P. Ferst, and Misses F. Singer and Renee Canter.

A brilliant well-attended function in aid of the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Israel, was organised by the Hammersmith Jewish Literary & Social Society, on Saturday Evening, April 7th, 1951.

Two American-Jewish Comedy Sketches, "Music in the Air" and "Chaklit for the Woodwork," received appreciative approbation from the audience. The highlight of the evening was the "rib-tickling" Mock Trial, "Nudden Doin," written by our versatile and active member, Mr. M. Arnold Hyams. As a result of this effort, we were able to aid this worthy cause to the extent of £37.

At the time of going to press the following programme had been arranged:—

April 11th. Mr. Sidney Harrison: Reminiscent Lecture-Recital.

May 9th. Twenty Questions. Dr. Harry Waters, Member of the Magic Circle.

May 23rd. Mr. David Langdon: "Cartoon and Cartoonist."

July 1st. Society Outing by Coach to the David Eder Farm.

Your support is cordially invited to all our future functions.

JEANETTE M. FREEMAN, Hon. Secretary.

Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush and Chelsea Defence Committee

The responsibility for Jewish Defence in this area rests upon the shoulders of a comparatively few keen workers, all of them experts in their own particular field. A report of their activities is not easy to give, because during the past year there have not been any major incidents which could be highlighted. Rather has it been a year of routine checks, observation and intelligence work. The reports sent in by members of the Committee help to provide the Defence Organisation of the Board of Deputies with a day-to-day picture of Fascist activity.

There is no doubt that during the past year the Fascists have lost much ground, their meetings were not so successful and they have abandoned some street corners altogether. The sales of their publication "Union" have declined—so much so that they have been forced to resort to inter-district competitions to improve the circulation.

These facts must not give rise to a feeling of complacency, and the present lull should be used to co-ordinate Defence activity and to recruit and train new members.

A new aspect of Defence is the study of inter-group relationships, and an earnest endeavour is being made to present the Jewish People, their history, their philosophy and their contributions to the national effort, to their non-Jewish neighbours by means of lectures and discussions.

Jewish Defence is not static; the approach to the many problems that occur each day must vary according to the different tactics employed by our enemies. It is with a feeling of conscious pride that I report that the Hammersmith and District Defence Committee has more than played its part in the Defence Organisation and has in many occasions been singled out for special praise from Woburn House.

The work is hard, often arduous, but it is interesting, useful and vital if we are to survive as a Community. If you are interested in "doing a job of work for Anglo-Jewry," please contact the Secretary at 71, Brook Green, W.6.

N. A. MANN, Chairman.

THE LATE MR. HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN

A memorial service for the late Harry Schneiderman was held in the Synagogue on Sunday, March 4th, Revs. S. Venitt and B. Paletz, officiating.

In the course of his address, Rev. Venitt said, "The Synagogue was in need of somebody to help guide its destinies—Harry Schneiderman stepped into the breach.

The social side of the Synagogue—The Western Area Jewish Centre badly wanted an efficient Treasurer—Harry Schneiderman came to the rescue.

The Westbrook Jewish Youth Club needed a big brother to advise, support and champion their cause. Harry Schneiderman was the man.

The first year of the J.P.A., West London, saw Harry Schneiderman as Treasurer. Eventually going to Synagogue for meetings became almost a nightly habit, because apart from those activities already mentioned, he was a very active member of the Norwood Orphan Aid Committee, and in his capacity as Warden, he was automatically on the Committees of the Religion Classes, the Parents' Association and on the Editorial Board of the Brook.

It is hard enough for a man enjoying normal health to be able to cope with all these duties—for a sick man, it was indeed a tremendous sacrifice. But he derived a deep satisfaction and abiding joy from doing these things. He had a remarkably high sense of duty, and a deep-seated love for the Synagogue. He gave freely and generously—and often he gave anonymously.

Undoubtedly one of his greatest joys was to make his annual treat for the children of our Religion Classes.

Harry Schneiderman has gone from the horizon of our communal life. Men like him can ill be spared.

His family and the many who mourn him will find comfort in the thought that Harry Schneiderman left the greatest crown of all—the crown of a good name—a name which will never be forgotten in the annals of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue."

Western Area Jewish Centre Joint Council

We often hear members asking, "What is this Western Area Jewish Centre Joint Council?" Actually it is an essential part of the Hammersmith Congregation. Following a suggestion by our Warden, Mr. H. Sharpe, the Joint Council was recently re-constituted, and is now a co-ordinating council, consisting of representatives of every organisation associated with the Synagogue or using the Communal Hall. Among its aims and objects are the promotion of stronger ties of friendship and fellowship through social functions, the raising of funds in order to improve the amenities and general condition of the Synagogue and communal hall, and provide some funds for charitable purposes to further in some small measure the work of the Ladies' Guild and the Youth organisations.

Through the efforts of the Committee, Annual Dances have been held, the last on February 15th, and it would be both interesting and instructive to our members to learn that the following have been carried out:

1. Restoration of stage.
2. New carpet on Almeida and steps.
3. Grant towards publication of Diamond Jubilee History of the Synagogue.
4. Grants towards expenses of Diamond Jubilee Reception.
5. Substantial grants to the synagogical local fund for essential purposes.
6. Grant to Ladies' Guild for needy cases.
7. Entire replacement of curtains and pelmets to communal hall and stage (work in progress).
8. Substantial loan to Stained Glass Windows Account (since repaid).

The next objective of the Joint Council is to buy a piano. If members happen to have a piano for sale or know of such, would they please get in touch with the Synagogue Secretary.

The Council wishes to place on record its appreciation to Mr. Howard Brickman for the hard work he put in whilst in office.

The Western Area Joint Council is indeed fortunate in having as its present Chairman, Mr. H. Sharpe, under whose able guidance, the functioning of the Committee has proved a great success.

West London Zionist Society

Although the activities of the West London Zionist Society now take place at less frequent intervals than hitherto, our programme during the past year has been a varied and interesting one.

Apart from the lectures, which were of a high standard the following were the outstanding features. A visit by the Society to the Jewish Museum, where a conducted tour by Mr. S. Cohen Secretary of the Museum, enabled us to get a better appraisal of all that we saw.

The next event of importance was a farewell reception held in honour of Mr. and Mrs. S. Samson prior to their departure for Israel. Their names were inscribed in the Golden Book, and they were presented with a certificate recording this, also with a silver Kiddush Cup, suitably inscribed by their friends of the Hammer-smith Community.

This year has also seen a change of chairmanship, the Rev S. Venitt having accepted that office.

I would like here to thank our retiring Chairman, Mr. H. Bayes, on behalf of members of the Committee, for the grand manner in which he carried out his duties as Chairman. It has been a pleasure and a privilege for those of us who worked with him. We look forward to our new Chairman maintaining that high standard set by his predecessor.

A Chanukah Neshet, sponsored by the Society, in which various organisations attached to the Synagogue participated was a tremendous success. This was one of those all too rare occasions when the Communal Hall was packed to capacity.

The Society played its part in the Zionist Congress Elections. Two members of the Society acted as deputy Returning Officers at the local polling booths on election day. Another member allowed his house to be used as Committee Rooms, while other members of the Society placed their cars at the disposal of the Election Committee and acted as canvassers.

Among the lectures given to the Society was one by Rabbi M. Cohen, newly appointed Minister to Kfar Mordechai, the settlement to which Mr. and Mrs. Samson have gone. Rabbi Cohen brought us greetings from Mr. and Mrs. Samson.

The Society expresses its warm appreciation to the Honorary Officers of the Synagogue for the use of the Communal Hall.

New members to our Society will be warmly welcomed. Please address all communications to Mr. P. Ferst, 20, Greyhound Road, W.6. Phone Fulham 3990.

Presentation of Sepher Torah and Ark to Kfar Mordecai

The presentation of a Sepher Torah and Ark to Kfar Mordecai (Eliash) took place on Sunday, April 1st, and proved to be the most impressive and successful function the West London Zionist Society has ever undertaken.

The Service was very similar to that arranged for the Diamond Jubilee of the Synagogue. Rev. J. K. Goldbloom gave a most inspiring address, and the Service was conducted by the Rev. S. Venitt and the Rev. G. Rosenberg (in the absence of Rev. B. Paletz, who was indisposed). The distinguished gathering included Mr. Moshe Eliash, son of the late Israeli Minister, Dr. Mordecai Eliash, of blessed memory; Dr. Yagou, First Secretary of the Israel Legation; Mr. Richtiger, a Vice-President of the Zionist Federation, and Chairman of the Chalutz and Aleyah Committee; Mr. S. Temkin, Director of the Israel Office of the Zionist Federation; the Rev. R. Feldman; Dr. Schaffler, Secretary of the London Office of the Zionist Federation; the Rev. A. S. Super, editor of the "Zionist Review," and Miss Grace Ansell, a member of the Council of the Zionist Federation.

At a reception which followed in the Communal Hall, the Rev. S. Venitt, Chairman of the Society, presided. He expressed apologies on behalf of the Warden of the Hammersmith Synagogue, Mr. H. Sharpe, and also the Rev. B. Paletz, who were both indisposed. A message from Mr. Sharpe was read in which he conveyed his good wishes for the success of the function, and at the same time extended heartiest congratulations on behalf of the Congregation to Mr. Moshe Eliash and to his bride-to-be, Miss Feimaleh Salkind, whose marriage had been arranged to take place in April. The Chairman welcomed all the distinguished guests, and the large gathering that had come to share in the celebration. He said that the West London Zionist Society had undertaken, unofficially, the adoption of Kfar Mordecai, and it would be their main purpose to strengthen the bond in every possible way. That day saw the fulfilment of a promise made to Mr. and Mrs. S. Samson at their farewell reception. He thanked the Maleywitz family for the gift of an ark in memory of Isaac Maleywitz; the Glazer family for the gift of a Sepher Torah; Mr. H. Gelpsmann who

had been mainly responsible for negotiating all the arrangements for the presentation and the function; Messrs. P. Ferst and H. Bayes for their valued assistance; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Apfel for their gift of a mantle; Mrs. Wynberger, for having made the mantle; the Honorary Officers and Board of Management of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue for their kind co-operation in permitting the use of the Synagogue and Communal Hall for the occasion; the Stewards, and all those ladies who had so readily come forward to help with the catering.

Dr. Yapou said how impressed he had been with the dignity of the Service and reception. He drew attention to the terrible plight of Iraqi Jewry.

The Rev. R. Feldman associated himself with the Chairman's remarks, and said that the West London Zionist Society had really achieved something great. He paid a tribute to the Chairman's efforts on behalf of Zionism in the West London Area.

Mr. Richtiger said he had been advocating the adoption scheme at the Zionist Conference. Had the function been held a few days earlier, he would have had this practical example to support his views before the delegates.

The Rev. J. K. Goldbloom expressed his deep appreciation of all he had seen and heard that day. He said he had accepted the invitation not knowing what to expect at a place like Hammersmith. He was now fully convinced that very fine work was being carried out in the area. He said that it reflected great credit on the spiritual leaders of the congregation.

Mr. Shlomo Tenkin brought personal greetings from the Samsons and Gelpsmans and other friends who had settled in Kfar Mordecai, and stressed the importance of the work being done by the Society.

Mr. H. Bayes expressed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and also thanked the Rev. G. Rosenberg for stepping into the breach in the absence of Rev. B. Paletz, and giving an impressive service.

Donations given at the function realised £60.

HAMMERSMITH SOCIAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY RE-UNION

Following a suggestion by Mr. Leo Hill, a re-union of former members of the Social and Literary Society of the '20's, was held in the Communal Hall on Sunday, December 17th, 1950, and proved most successful. Over 100 people attended and many were seeing their friends for the first time in twenty years. Mr. Hill presided, and Revs. S. Lipson, B. Paletz and S. Venitt addressed those present. It was agreed to hold a function annually, and a special committee was appointed for the purpose. Mr. Sidney Harrison entertained at the piano.

Kensington and Riverside Womens' Zionist Society

The local Society is now known as the "Kensington and Riverside Women's Zionist Society."

Under the able chairmanship of Mrs. G. Dymond and an enthusiastic committee, of which Mrs. L. Golding is now the treasurer, many activities have taken place during the past year.

Foremost among these was a joint theatre show with the Ealing Women's Zionist Society at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, when £240 was raised by our Society for the Jerusalem Baby Home.

A very successful Bring-and-Buy Sale was held at the home of Mrs. M. Wiseman, where £150 was realised.

A most memorable occasion was the presentation of £100 Panel of Honour in the Jerusalem Baby Home to Mrs. Max Wiseman, the Hon. Life President. A reception for this occasion was held at 107, Gloucester Place, W.1. The presentation was made by Mrs. Tina Bloch and Mr. Newrock gave an illuminating address on the economic situation in Israel today.

During "Women's Week," the Society will hold a membership drive when it is hoped once again to enrol many new members. Those ladies who are interested in our welfare work for Israel please communicate.

MABEL DYMOND, Chairman.
REBECCA FOX, Actg. Hon. Secretary.

Report of the Westbrook Jewish Youth Club

During the past year the Westbrook Jewish Youth Club has continued to provide cultural and sporting activities for the young people of our Community. Westbrook has always catered for the teenage group and attempts to widen its sphere to replace the Riverpark Club, which unfortunately has closed, have not been successful.

Last February, the Club was in a very difficult position but managed to pull itself together and by June last, was definitely running well and with great promise. The Committee were enthusiastic and quite effective but in July we were again faced with one of our periodic crises when a large section of the Committee resigned mainly because of pressure of work and examinations. Under the circumstances the Executive Chairman took on the Chairmanship and invited a number of people to join the Committee.

An Executive Committee was formed in February, 1950, consisting of three older people and the Chairman of the Club with the objects of advising the Committee and representing the Club in its dealings with outside organisations. It achieved its objects but was also left, in July, to run the Club.

In its activities, the Club has covered a varied range. Successful rumbles, a visit to Madame Tussauds and a trip to Southend provided the highlights to last year's outdoor events. On the Cultural side many interesting talks, debates and discussions have been held. Indoor facilities have been available and full use has been made of the table-tennis. Several competitions have been run and the main competition, for the Coleman Cup, was won last year by Michael Segal, and Mrs. Venitt presented the Cup at our June Dance. Efforts are being made to form football and netball teams but the attempts to form a Drama Group have failed owing to the lack of experienced leadership. The Club has always excelled in its Social Affairs and the past year has been no exception. Rev. and Mrs. Venitt and Mr. and Mrs. Wender have given "At Homes" to the Club. These have proved very enjoyable. Three dances were held at the Communal Hall including one on New Year's Eve which was the finest youth dance held there since the war.

Financially, the Club is in a safe position mainly owing to the success of the dances and a generous advance by the Western Area Joint Council. Nevertheless, prompt and regular payment of subscriptions would improve the position.

Looking back over the year, the Club's chief weakness, as it always has been, is the lack of experienced youth leaders. Young men and women are urgently required to help build up the Club and train the Youth to hold the reins themselves.

Finally, a few words on the work of the late Mr. Schneiderman must be said. His genuine and devoted interest in the Youth will be sorely missed. Men of his character are few and far between and it will be difficult to replace him. The Committee offer their deep sympathy to Mrs. Schneiderman and her daughter, Linda.

JULIAN FLACK, Executive Chairman.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Norwood Orphans Aid Society

The Aid Society has had one of its most successful years since its inception.

The main function of the year again took the form of a Social and Card Evening, which was held on Sunday, May 14th.

This proved very successful, and a total of over £200 was raised to name a bed at the Orphanage to commemorate the Synagogue's Diamond Jubilee. This took place on Sunday, November 5th.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity once again of thanking everybody who helped to make this function such a success and, in particular, members of the Ladies' Guild who helped with the arrangements of the refreshments.

At the same time it must be stressed that the most practical way of helping the Jewish Orphanage is to become an annual subscriber to Norwood.

The Society suffered a sad loss in the passing of Mr. H. Schneiderman, one of the most active members of the Committee.

Report of the Consecration of a Bed at Norwood on Nov. 5th, 1950

On Sunday, November 5th, 1950, more than 50 people were present at the Jewish Orphanage, Norwood, to witness the consecration of a bed to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Hammersmith Synagogue.

Funds for this purpose had been raised by the Hammersmith and West Kensington Orphan Aid Society at a function held on May 14th, 1950.

The gathering was welcomed by Mr. J. Wagman, Vice-Principal of the Orphanage, in the absence of Mr. Lubran, the Principal, who was unfortunately indisposed.

The Service was conducted in one of the dormitories by the Revs. S. Venitt and B. Paletz. Mr. Michael Cohen, President of the Combined Orphan Aid Societies, also addressed the gathering, outlining the work of the Orphanage and stressing the need for continued support.

After a conducted tour of the Orphanage, which included seeing the children at play and having tea in the dining hall, the members were entertained to tea in the library. After tea a tour was made of the Gabriel Pascal Home.

This Home in the grounds of the Orphanage caters for younger children between the ages of 5—7 years. The dormitories and playrooms where everything is in miniature were inspected, and the children were seen having tea.

It proved a most moving and interesting afternoon, and it was generally felt that the Society would endeavour to consecrate another bed as soon as possible.

ROSETTA WENDER, Hon. Secretary.

Hammersmith Company, J.L.B.

Since our last contribution to the "Brook," Hammersmith Coy. has had a change of headquarters. We are now at Swanscombe Road School, off Norland Road. We have been through a very difficult period and there has been a fluctuation in numbers and we can do with many more recruits whose age is twelve or over. I can assure them of a great welcome to a company of good keen lads.

During the first six months of the reforming of the company it was awarded a cup for showing the best progress in the London Battalion.

Our football team was unbeaten throughout the season and went through to the final of the Regimental Cup when we were beaten 3—2 by Leigh-on-Sea Coy. after a very strenuous game. The team is being awarded medals for runners-up.

Our lads are now starting training at the White City Stadium for the Regimental Sports which take place in July.

We are doing our best to keep the prestige of Hammersmith Coy. held in high esteem as it was in the past, and I appeal most earnestly for J.L.B. members whose sons are eligible for membership to send them along. Our parade night is Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

I extend to all members of the Synagogue an open invitation to visit us any Tuesday evening and see the work which is being done to make our lads physically fit, mentally alert, to become good citizens and a credit to the Jewish Community.

IRWIN I. SULKIN, B/Capt.

O.C. Hammersmith Coy, J.L.B.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Bernardi's Eightieth Birthdays

On Saturday, April 7th, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bernardi celebrated their eightieth birthdays, and many friends attended the service and Kiddush which followed.

In the course of his sermon, Rev. Venitt made reference to the occasion and stressed the great service of Mr. and Mrs. Bernardi to the Community. Mr. Bernardi had been a member of the Synagogue for 44 years, a member of the Board of Management for 25 years, and Financial Representative for 14 years. What one appreciated, above all, had been the great activity of the Bernardis during the last decade. He hoped they would remain in the midst of the Hammersmith Community for many years to come, and continue to grace all functions with their genial charm.

Mr. S. Moss, who had been an Honorary Officer contemporaneous with Mr. Bernardi, proposed the toast at the Kiddush in the Communal Hall, to which Mr. Bernardi responded.

To mark the occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Bernardi presented twelve suitably inscribed copies of the late Chief Rabbi's Chumash to the Congregation.

JOINT PALESTINE APPEAL, 1951

Your Communities have combined for a West London effort, Bayswater, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush.

A dinner was held at the Savoy Hotel on April 5th, and was attended by some 90 people. The principal speaker was Mr. Ian Mikardo, M.P., and the response produced a sum approaching £5,000. It is hoped to conduct an intensive personal canvass amongst our members, as this year's appeal is more urgent than ever, in view of the critical situation in Iraq.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE SYNAGOGUE

will take place on

WEDNESDAY, 2nd MAY, 1951

at 8.15 p.m. prompt

Refreshments.

Your Attendance is Earnestly Requested

SYNAGOGUE ITEMS

Covenants

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

Jahrzeits

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

Minyan Rota

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management desire to express their deep appreciation to those Members who have volunteered to take part in services to ensure a Minyan.

Communal Hall

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

Will Secretaries of Organisations Please Note

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

PASSOVER Times of Services

Friday, April 20th—Fast of First-born	...	...	7.15 a.m.
Hafsaiah	...	...	10.15 a.m.
Friday Evening	...	...	7.30 p.m.
Sabbath Morning—1st Day Passover	...	...	9.30 a.m.
Mincha at	...	...	8.15 p.m.
Sabbath terminates at	8.49 p.m.
Sunday Morning—2nd Day Passover	9.30 a.m.
Mincha at	8.15 p.m.

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ORGANISATIONS.

Hammermith Synagogue Ladies' Guild. Meet every Tuesday in the Communal Hall. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. H. Caplan, 61 Lowther Road, S.W.13. Tel.: RIV. 5678.

Western Area Jewish Centre. All communications to the Organising Secretary, 71 Brook Green, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 1405.

Hammersmith Jewish Literary and Social Society. Joint Hon. Secs.: Mrs. L. Freeman, 46 Sutton Court Road, W.4. Tel.: CHL 1014. Mrs. H. Sharpe, 6 Argyll Mansions, W.14. Tel.: FUL 5156.

Westbrook Jewish Youth Club. Hon. Sec.: Miss R. Topper, 15 Dunsany Road, W.14. Tel.: RIV. 6717.

Kensington and Riverside Women's Zionist Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. D. Caplan, 54 South Parade, W.4. Tel.: CHL 0298.

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

Hammersmith and West Kensington Districts—Norwood Aid Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. P. Wender, 109 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 3996.

Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee, under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews. Hon. Sec.: Mr. R. S. C. Lawton, 71 Brook Green, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 7601.

Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Association. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. Yudkin, 160 Oakwood Court, W.14. WES 006.

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.

Jewish Lad's Brigade—Hammersmith Coy. All enquiries to Secretary, J.L.B., Camperdown House, Half Moon Passage, Aisgate, E.1. Tel.: ROY. 1340.

Times of Services.

WEEKDAYS.

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

SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

8.30 a.m.

SABBATH AND FESTIVALS.

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

YOUTH SERVICE.

These are held regularly every few weeks.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

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

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

A Shinar is held each Monday evening from 8.30 to 10 p.m., under the auspices of the Literary Society. Details from the Ministers.

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

The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

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

Rev. B. PALETZ RIV. 4728