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" THE BROOK "

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

ANNUAL REPORTS

תשי"ז

APRIL 1957
PASSOVER 5717

" The stone which the builders rejected
has become the head-stone of the
corner."

(Hallel)

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

71, BROOK GREEN, W.6.

Secretary's Office: Riverside 1405

Communal Hall: Riverside 5238

Minister, Rev. S. VENITT, B.A.

Reader: Rev. SAMUEL FORSCHER.

Emeritus Reader: Rev. B. PALETZ.

Secretary: Mr. M. FREEDMAN.

Wardens: Mr. H. SHARPE. Dr. L. FREEMAN.

Financial Representative: Mr. J. BONDT.

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Mr. B. DAVIS,		

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Dr. L. COLLINS,	Mrs. L. FREEMAN,	Dr. E. SOMMER.

Combined Charities Fund

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Hon. Secretary: Dr. P. S. GARDNER.

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Mr. B. BERNARDI.

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

ANNUAL REPORT

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

It is with the deepest regret that we record the lamented death of Mr. Sydney Moss, a past Honorary Officer of the Synagogue. Mr. Moss was an ardent supporter of the Synagogue in many spheres of activity and his loss will be keenly felt. (A tribute to his memory appears elsewhere in this issue.)

Income shows an increase from £7,055 to £7,375.

Membership shows a very slight increase from 537 to 540. Our target is a membership of 600 and we look to every member to assist us in achieving our target figure by advising the Secretary of any potential new members.

New Classrooms. Members will have noted with pride and gratification the steady progress made in the building of the new Classrooms and of the two flats above the Classrooms for Minister and Reader respectively. It is hoped that the building will be completed early in May and that it will prove possible to hold the official ceremony some time in June, 1957.

Hebrew & Religion Classes. During the last few months, thanks to magnificent efforts made by the Parents' Association, free transport has been provided every Thursday for the homeward journey for the younger children. Free teas, in addition, are also provided for all the children on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. As a result, mid-week attendances have risen in a most heartening fashion. It cannot be stressed too often that the more frequently the children can come to classes, the better able will the teachers be to improve the standard of Hebrew education.

The Children's Synagogue continues to hold regular and well attended Services on Sabbaths and Festivals.

A Youth and Discussion Group conducted by the Rev. S. Venitt continues to meet at intervals at 71, Brook Green.

Popular Lectures. A successful series of lectures was held during the autumn session under the aegis of London University and Jews' College. The Lecturer was Rabbi Dr. A. Melinek, B.A., Ph.D., and the subject "The Prophets of Israel."

Choson Torah & Choson Bereshith. Mr. B. Bernardi, who had accepted the honour of being Choson Torah in this year of his Diamond Wedding, expressed the desire that Rev. Venitt and Rev. Forscher should be offered the honour of becoming Choson Torah and Choson Bereshith respectively. This was duly accomplished, and Mr. and Mrs. Bernardi were most gracious hosts to all the members of the congregation.

Chanukah Service. The whole of the service was again conducted by four boys from the Classes assisted by a Choir made up of children from the classes. Our thanks are due to Rev. Venitt, Rev. Forscher and Mr. Busky for training the children and thus ensuring the success of the service.

J.P.A. Many more contributors have made donations to our Annual Joint Palestine Appeal than ever before at this stage of the campaign. Total collection is, however, far short of our target figure. All those who have not yet contributed are asked to do so at the earliest possible opportunity. Cheques to be made payable to J.P.A., and sent to the Synagogue Secretary. Our thanks for the results so far achieved are due to the energetic efforts of Dr. L. Freeman (Appeal Chairman) and Mr. J. G. Silver (Appeal Treasurer).

Banquet & Ball. Our annual Banquet & Ball was held at the Monaco Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, on Sunday, 14th October, 1956, and was a great social success. As a result, the sum of £400 was raised for the Building Fund. Our thanks are due to Mr. S. Taylor (Functions Committee Chairman) and to all members of his active and energetic committee.

Menorah Society. A new Ladies Society was recently formed, to which we offer our best wishes for its success.

Diamond Wedding. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. B. Bernardi who, on 22nd January, 1957, celebrated their Diamond Wedding. In commemoration, they have established a Bernardi Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund — the moneys of this fund to be expended as decided by trustees for various Synagogue and Charitable purposes. To date there is approximately £350 in the Fund and our grateful thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Bernardi for their most generous action.

Silver Wedding. The Honorary Officers, Ministers and Board of Management extend their felicitations to Mr. M. Freedman, the Secretary of the Synagogue, and his good lady, on the happy occasion of their Silver Wedding which they celebrated on 29th November, 1956.

Benefactors. Our grateful thanks for the following gifts are due to:—

The Ladies' Guild	Decorations and gifts to the Succah during the Succoth Festival.
The Ladies' Guild	8 Dunlopillo Cushions for Wardens' Box, Ministers' Box and for the Almehar.
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Godfrey	Gas Cooker for the Kitchen.
Mr. F. J. Hawkings	Floral Decorations for Shevuoth and Succoth.
Individual Members of the Synagogue	Contributions to the Classes Prizes Fund.
Individual Members of the Synagogue	Decorations and gifts to the Succah during the Succoth Festival.

During the year 13 marriages were solemnised and 14 Boys celebrated their Barmitzvah. Each lad was presented with a certificate and suitably inscribed Prayer Book to commemorate the occasion.

The Honorary Officers desire to thank the Ministers and the Synagogue Secretary for their untiring efforts throughout the year.

Signed, on behalf of the Board—

H. SHARPE	}	Wardens.
L. FREEMAN		
J. BONDT, Financial Representative		

SPECIAL GREETING

We are happy to announce the Silver Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. H. Sharpe, which took place on 5th April, 1957.

Our esteemed Senior Warden has been in office over a period of nine years. He and his dear Lady have gained the affection and respect of every member of the Hammersmith Community. They have played the leading role in every sphere of Synagogal activity with that true Jewish spirit of piety and modesty.

To mark the outstanding event, a presentation was made to them by his fellow Hon. Officers, his colleagues on the Board of Management and representatives at the Council of the United Synagogue on the occasion of a "Kiddush," which was held on Shabbos, 6th April, 1957.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE LADIES' GUILD

The Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild has continued to do good work throughout the year. A number of garments was made and sent to the Jerusalem Baby Home, and at the request of the Mizrahi Women's Organisation a number of woollen scarves, helmets and gloves were knitted and sent for the troops in Israel. Many needy local cases were helped financially.

To augment the funds of the Guild, a very successful luncheon and card afternoon was held at which one of the members acted as hostess.

Cushions for the use of the Wardens and Ministers were made and presented to the Synagogue.

It is felt that many more members of the Synagogue could support the Guild, whose main object is to help local necessitous cases and keep the vestments of the Synagogue in good repair.

The yearly subscription is 12/-, and the Guild members meet every Tuesday afternoon in the vestry room of the Communal Hall.

The Secretary, Mrs. H. Wynbergen, 73, Finlay Street, S.W. 6 (Tel.: REN 4564) will be very pleased to give any further information and to enrol new members.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE HEBREW & RELIGION CLASSES

Improved class attendance has been the primary aim of our efforts this year. Dr. I. Fishman, the Director of Education of the London Board, undertook an inspection of our classes on 11th November, 1956. His report was quite favourable, but with the important reservation that no child could ever reach a satisfactory standard of religious education based merely on one attendance each week on Sundays. The religious enlightenment of our youth by regular attendance at classes is the primary responsibility of all parents.

With the splendid co-operation of the Parents' Association we have endeavoured to overcome the basic difficulties of distance and weather by organising mid-week transport for our younger pupils. This has already yielded valuable results in our attendance figures.

The traditional Chanukah celebration on Sunday, 2nd December, 1956, was a great success. The Synagogal Service was again conducted by juvenile representatives of our classes. We must congratulate Leslie Sommer, Anthony Alexander, Irving Grose, Simon Caplan and Philip Pantelis on the excellence of their vocal rendering. A crowded audience in the Communal Hall enjoyed the dramatic episodes and comedy sketches enacted in honour of the Maccabean festival.

The weekly Sabbath and the High Holyday services for children are being well maintained by the untiring efforts of Mrs. Venitt. By regular attendance at these services, the synagogal ritual and procedure are indelibly impressed on the minds and hearts of our younger generation.

We are glad to announce the achievement of two of our pupils, Vivien Pottersman and Pamela Venitt, in reaching the requisite standard and gaining prizes in the Senior Examination of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education.

A special morning celebration of Purim was held on Sunday, 17th March, 1957. The reading of portions of the Megillah was followed by a Purim treat and traditional fancy dress competition.

The Annual Prize Distribution took place on Sunday, 24th March, 1957. Rev. S. Venitt traced the features of the year's progress in the classes. The Chairman, Dr. L. Freeman, outlined the basic educational requirements desirable to equip our children to ensure religious stability during adulthood. The guest of honour was Dayan M. Steinberg, whose warm personality and powerful address will long be remembered.

THE LATE Mr. SYDNEY MOSS

The death took place on Sunday, December 23rd, at the age of 70, of Mr. Sydney Moss, a past Warden of the Synagogue during the 1930's, and a loyal supporter of all Synagogal and charitable causes over many years. His qualities of heart and mind combined with a natural grace, dignity and charm, gained for him a high respect and deep admiration from all those with whom he came into contact, both Jew and non-Jew. Coming to this country from Riga at the age of 14, he soon established himself in the City of London as a business man of repute. Letters have come from all parts of the globe, eulogising his integrity and gentlemanly conduct in the world of commerce. In 1929 he became a Freeman of the City of London. He was also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Carmen, and a member of the City Livery Club and the Guild of Freemen. He had the cause of Israel very much at heart, and always spoke of aid to Israel as being an investment for the future. His passing is mourned by many friends both within and outside the community, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The good name he left behind him will be a source of consolation to his dear wife and family, to whom he was so devoted.

WEST LONDON ZIONIST SOCIETY

During the year under review, the Society has maintained its membership and carried out successfully a number of functions. The first was a Film Show at Fulham and Kensington Synagogue on Tuesday, 23rd October. Dr. I. S. Fox, a Vice-President of the English Zionist Federation, was present on that occasion and gave a stirring address on the situation in Israel as it existed at that time, and the obligations of Jews in the Diaspora towards it.

A most interesting evening was spent on Wednesday, 7th November, when Mrs. Ruth Winston gave her impressions of a visit to Israel to a joint audience of the West London and Literary Societies.

As in the past, the two societies again joined forces for the Annual Chanukah Party on Wednesday, 5th December. The Chanukah Lights were kindled by Rev. S. Forscher, and the Rev. P. England, Minister of the Fulham Synagogue, and a Vice-President of the Society, gave an appropriate address on the message of Chanukah.

On Wednesday, 20th March, a joint social evening in celebration of Purim, made another memorable and pleasant occasion for both societies.

Apart from these functions, the Society has contributed its share to the Zionist Federation's causes and has helped the J.P.A. Committee in a small way.

There has been some measure of expansion in the direction of Fulham. It is to be hoped that that link will be strengthened in the coming year.

THE MENORAH SOCIETY

A new ladies' organisation came into being on 18th December, 1956, with the object of providing a social and cultural centre for the ladies of Hammersmith and surrounding districts. Any funds raised as the result of the Society's activities will be utilised towards renovating the Synagogue Communal Hall, Kitchen, etc., and thereafter contributing to deserving charities.

The Society is fortunate in having an enthusiastic and hard-working Committee of about 20 members. At the time of going to press it is proud to report a membership of nearly 100 ladies.

To inaugurate their activities the Committee organised a Dance at the Communal Hall at which it was honoured by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith (Councillor and Mrs. T. A. Keating) and "made the headlines" in the local Press. The Dance exceeded everyone's expectations and, although about 150 people were expected, over 220 crowded into the Hall and a jolly social evening was had by all.

A Card Evening was held in March and that, too, proved to be a great social success. In conjunction with the three C's Committee, a jumble sale was held on 4th April.

One of the most popular features in the Society's curriculum is the "Keep Fit" Class held weekly at the Communal Hall and attendances average between 30 and 40 ladies.

The religious and educational side of the Society has not been forgotten and, under the auspices of Mrs. Venitt, Mrs. Freeman and Mrs. Sharpe, a thoroughly instructive and interesting evening was held by the visit of Dayan Rapoport, who gave a discourse on the work of the Beth Din; this was attended by nearly 80 people.

A model Seder took place on Monday, March 25th, at which a number of members were present.

In the field of social welfare a special section under the guidance of our Vice-Chairman, Mrs. J. Bondt, has taken under its wing the Eileen Goodenday Home at Earl's Court and weekly visits are undertaken by members to bring a little cheer into the lives of the old people. In addition, regular visits are made to hospitals in an endeavour to bring comfort to any Jewish in-patient.

The Menorah Society is very fortunate in having Mrs. Victor Mishcon as its President, Mrs. E. F. Benzimra as its Vice-President, Mrs. M. Aston as Chairman, Mrs. J. Bondt as Vice-Chairman, Mrs. A. Turner as Hon. Treasurer, and Mrs. J. N. Nisner as Hon. Secretary. There is also an enthusiastic Committee. The Society should go from strength to strength and be a living force in the Hammersmith Jewish Community.

All enquiries relating to membership and to any of the Society's activities will be welcomed and should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary (details on back cover). New members will be given a warm welcome.

P.N.

NEW EDUCATIONAL VENTURE IN HAMMERSMITH

Once again Hammersmith has given the lead in the field of adult religious education. Every opportunity is given to ladies to acquire a fundamental knowledge of the tenets of Judaism, of Hebrew reading and literature, all grades being provided for.

A new series of classes for women was inaugurated in October, 1956, when 100 ladies thronged the Communal Hall to hear the Chief Rabbi. He paid tribute to the transcendent role played by Jewish women in guiding the destinies of succeeding generations of Jewry. He commended the initiative of Hammersmith in pioneering this educational venture, the success of which would pave the way to its extension on a larger scale to all sections of Metropolitan and Provincial Jewry.

These classes in Hammersmith are entirely free and are conducted by teachers who are imbued with the spirit of Judaism. The sessions take place every Monday evening from 8.15 p.m. till 9.45 p.m. There are four classes at present and there are thirty ladies on the roll. One class is held in the Communal Hall and three at private residences in the near vicinity, by kind permission of Mrs. Venitt, Mrs. Nisner and Mrs. Fox. In order that the classes should function adequately, to allow for occasional absences due to unforeseen circumstances, we sincerely ask for the co-operation of all ladies and invite them to enrol now, so that the numbers in the classes can be increased. Those who attend have found the experience inspiring, stimulating and of wonderful spiritual and educational value.

In the course of an address in the Communal Hall on 12th March, Dayan Rappaport paid tribute to the unique value of these classes and stressed the need for more ladies to attend them. It was announced then that each lady who had attended regularly was to be presented, by the courtesy of the "TORAH" Department of the Jewish Agency, with Dayan Grunfeld's classic book on "THE SABBATH."

We would like to express to Rabbi Sperber, M.A., the cultural Director of that department, our deepest appreciation of his wonderful co-operation and encouragement in helping our venture. Our sincere thanks are also due to Rabbi Dunner, of the "BETH JACOB" Seminary, for his valuable assistance in obtaining teachers of such fine spiritual calibre.

Our pioneer efforts have already been followed by the inauguration of similar classes in Belsize Park. Other Communities are known to be following our venture with profound interest and will undoubtedly follow suit in the near future.

Classes re-commence on Monday, 6th May. Will ladies who wish to avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity kindly give in their names to Mrs. Venitt as soon as possible.

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE COMBINED CHARITIES FUND

This fund exists to make donations to charity so that:—

- (a) All appeals, except one or two of the very largest, are combined into one, and the Synagogue does not have to approach members time after time.
- (b) Even the small charities get something.

The Board of Management have held back several appeals which they had been asked to make to the community. It is up to us to justify this action and to give these causes—all most essential causes—handsome donations.

Our funds are exhausted, but we are running a Boxing Tournament at Wembley Town Hall on Thursday, June 13th, to replenish them and enable us to carry out our tasks (see advertisement below). Please support us by taking tickets and advertising space in our programme and getting others to do the same.

Apart from this, private donations are always welcome, and if any society would like to assist us in our work we should be most grateful. The Menorah Society have already promised us a share of the proceeds of their jumble sale; we do appreciate this very much.
B.J.B.

THE COMBINED CHARITIES COMMITTEE

presents

A GRAND BOXING TOURNAMENT

at WEMBLEY TOWN HALL

on THURSDAY, JUNE 13th, 1957

TICKETS at 2 gns. and 1 gn. from:—

J. BONDT, Esq., 43 Hamlet Gardens, W.6 - RIVERSIDE 7525

M. ASTON, Esq., 93 Hamlet Gardens, W.6 - RIVERSIDE 3725

or any member of the Committee.

Enquiries for advertising space in the programme, which will be sold to a large audience, mainly non-Jewish, coming from all over London, should be directed to:— B. J. BENZIMRA, Esq., 48 Pensford Ave., Kew Gdns., Richmond, Surrey - PROspect 5963 — or any member of the committee.

THE BERNARDI DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

This wonderful event will long be remembered by those who were privileged to join in the celebration. Close on 200 guests assembled at the Empire Rooms, and after partaking of a banquet provided by the genial hosts, Mr. and Mrs. B. Bernardi, heard a number of speakers eulogising the good work done by the couple for many communal and charitable causes. Mr. J. L. Godfrey spoke of the pleasure it had given him helping to arrange that evening's function. He was followed by Mr. Alfred Coleman, who dwelt on the period when he, the late Mr. Felix Benzimra, and Mr. Bernardi were jointly Honorary Officers of the Synagogue, and how devotedly Mr. Bernardi had stayed at his post in the difficult war years. Mr. H. Sharpe, Senior Warden, praised Mr. Bernardi for his continued active interest in the affairs of the congregation as a member of the Board of Management, and also congratulated the host and hostess on their gesture in making over to a special fund all gifts received by them in honour of their Diamond Jubilee. The Bernardi Jubilee Commemoration Fund had realised well over £300 for charitable and communal purposes. After a brief message of good wishes from Mr. H. Jacobs, on behalf of the Masonic Lodge of Israel, Mr. Bernardi responded. He said he was very deeply moved by the warm tributes paid to him and to Mrs. Bernardi. They had looked forward to that day, and they were very grateful to the Almighty for having given them the strength to celebrate it. In conclusion, on behalf of the guests, Rev. Venitt gave the couple his blessing. Grace was recited by the Rev. S. Forscher. Earlier in the evening the Chief Rabbi had paid a brief visit to the Empire Rooms, during the reception, and extended his good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Bernardi.

HAMMERSMITH FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The club is now an established fact and has become part of the life of our members. More people of the older age group are overcoming their shyness and joining the club, where in the warm friendly atmosphere they find relaxation and companionship. The attendance is now between 50 and 60 people every week.

We have again had a full year of entertainments, parties and outings. All the Jewish festivals were celebrated. There were Purim and Chanukah parties and a communal Seder, the service being conducted by Rev. Venitt.

We are indebted to the Local Authority for supplying us with entertainments of the highest quality.

Our Bring and Buy Sale was very successful, and we are grateful to everybody who so kindly contributed towards this. Members showed their appreciation of what is being done for them by giving parties to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries as well as the births and birthdays of their grandchildren.

The grand finale of the year was the fifth birthday party at which Rev. Venitt presided, and which was attended by many distinguished persons, with the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith as the guests of honour.

We had five outings to the seaside in the summer and visited the Jewish Theatre.

Our members have knitted garments for children here and in Israel, and made scrapbooks for handicapped children.

Members who have been sick or in hospital have been visited by our Welfare Officer.

At the Annual General Meeting the following were elected: Rev. S. Venitt, Hon. President; Mr. and Mrs. B. Bernardi, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs. H. M. Levy, Chairman; Mrs. M. Nelman, Hon. Secretary; Mrs. B. Parker, Hon. Treasurer and Caterer; Mrs. M. Levy, Hon. Welfare Officer; Committee, Mesdames Davies, Ellenberg, Gelpsmann, Hayman, Lovett, Massey, Samuels, Steindler, Wells and Weingard.

Thanks are due to the members of the Board of Management for their continued co-operation; to Mr. Freedman for his assistance whenever called upon; and to Mr. Rolfe, who not only gives so much help to the ladies of the committee, but sees to the comfort of all the members. For his unfailing support since the club's inception, it was unanimously agreed at the Annual General Meeting to make him an honorary member of the Hammersmith Friendship Club.

If any member of the congregation knows of a lonely Jewish person would they please get in touch with the Secretary of the club.

MILDRED LEVY, *Chairman.*

A TRIBUTE — FRIENDSHIP

What a lovely word! I am writing this in a friend's house, and that to me represents riches.

I made her acquaintance at the Friendship Club and this has ripened into a firm friendship. I visit her, she comes to me. I cannot describe what a difference this has made.

I know that when a depressed feeling comes over me, and it does very often, I go to my friend and am welcomed with open arms. My fit of depression soon disappears in the warmth of her companionship, and I am myself again.

Truly, whoever thought of the Friendship Club movement deserves a gold medal. I know that he or she has gained the gratitude of all who use them.

My life would have indeed been a lonely one but for the friends I have made there.

MARY LEVY.

SPRING & AUTUMN LECTURES, 1957

The spiritual fire and the searching intellect of Rabbi Dr. A. Melnek rendered our autumn series of lectures during 1956 on "The Prophets of Israel" most memorable.

The historic development of prophecy was admirably traced from the days of Abraham.

The lecturer reviewed most brilliantly the historical background, the personality, the message and the teachings of the pre-Exilic Prophets, Amos, Hosea, Micah and Isaiah, the Exilic Prophets Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Ezekiel, as well as the post-Exilic Prophets, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. The lecturer described them as men qualified by the greatest degree of intellectual development and moral perfection, who were above the superficialities and materialism of worldly existence and whose thoughts were imbued with the greatness of God.

It has become traditional in Hammersmith to hold a short course of lectures between the festivals of Pesach and Shevuoth. Our policy has been to seek authoritative elucidation on important historic and contemporary aspects of Judaism from prominent lay and religious leaders. The Prayer Book has been throughout the ages the veritable touchstone of the heart and soul of the Jew. In this liturgical medium of approach between man and Maker, Judaism has been pre-eminent in its heartsearching, intense and lyrical outpouring.

Thanks to the excellent co-operation of Rabbi S. Sperber, M.A., the Director of the Cultural & Torah Department of the Jewish Agency, we are privileged to announce a course of four weekly addresses by different exponents on "The Jewish Prayer Book" to take place during May. Complete details will be forwarded to every member of our Community. This is a series of such paramount importance in our daily life that none can afford to be indifferent to its significance and appeal.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE CONGREGATION

will take place on

TUESDAY, 14th MAY, 1957

at 8 p.m. prompt

Refreshments.

Your Attendance is Earnestly Requested

HAMMERSMITH JEWISH LITERARY & SOCIAL SOCIETY

The Hammersmith Jewish Literary & Social Society has had an excellent year both socially and financially. The number of members attending each Wednesday evening function is increasing and the atmosphere is very intimate and friendly.

The 1956-57 Season opened in October with a Party and Cabaret; this has been followed by card evenings, panel games, square dancing, a fencing demonstration and contest and visits to West End theatres. The Society has also combined with the West London Zionist Society in having a Chanukah and a Purim Party and a Film Show; the latter was extremely interesting, one of the films showing the latest Israeli News and another the recent Sinai campaign. Other functions include a quiz with the newly-formed Menorah Society and a debate with Brixton Literary and Debating Society. One of the most successful functions was a further edition of the Brook Green Echo, the Society's living newspaper. All these functions have been well attended.

The work of the Brook Green Drama Club, under the direction of Mrs. Sally Mark and affiliated to the Hammersmith Jewish Literary and Social Society, is extending and becoming well known in districts beyond Hammersmith. Their last production, "Bluma Next Door," has been performed five times for charitable organisations in the London suburbs and Southend; the last performance of this play was in conjunction with the Parents' Association at the Twentieth Century Theatre in November; the financial result of this function was mutually satisfactory. The Brook Drama Club has also presented cabaret for the Society's parties during the year, as well as for the Richmond Ladies' Guild and the West London Zionist Society. Another important function was a full length Revue, produced in the Communal Hall in March in aid of Synagogue Funds.

It is hoped to have a new production ready for the summer, and anyone interested in the Brook Drama Club should contact the producer and Secretary, Mrs. Sally Mark, 46, Audley Road, Hangar Lane, W.5.

The Hammersmith Jewish Literary and Social Society has a varied programme arranged for the remainder of the present session, which ends on the 3rd July, 1957. The Committee invite members to come along and meet their friends every Wednesday evening in the Communal Hall at 8.30 p.m., when light refreshments are served.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. D. Berger, 2, Riverside Court, 45, Brook Green Road, W.6. Copies of the Society's programmes will be forwarded upon request.

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON NORWOOD ORPHAN AID SOCIETY

The Society has continued its successful activities during 1956/7. With an enlarged committee and an ambitious programme we have been able to send the Orphanage the greatest sum ever in the history of the Society.

Funds have been raised mainly by two large functions. Nobody who was present at the Princes Theatre for the Variety Show last June will easily forget the marvellous performance given by Micky Katz and his band, supported by a wonderful bill of other artists. More recently, the Dinner and Ball held at the Empire Rooms in January was such a great social success, as well as a financial one, that we are thereby encouraged to make this an annual event.

Plans are now being made for the coming year, and we hope to offer even more attractive inducements for your support. Please remember that in supporting the efforts of this Society you are not only assured of an enjoyable evening, but you are also helping those children who, through no fault of their own, can look only to the community at large for the security and love which every child should have.

R. LONGHORN, *Hon. Sec.*

HAMMERSMITH & DISTRICT WOMEN'S ZIONIST SOCIETY

We have made good progress this year and our membership has increased. It is felt, however, that there are many women in the district who would be willing to help Israel, particularly in view of present conditions, but who are not acquainted with the work and aims of WIZO. I, myself, as Acting Chairman, 36, Rivermead Court, S.W.6 (Renown 2370) and our Secretary, Mrs. W. R. Longhorn, 24, Linkenholt Mansions, W.6 (Riverside 8577) would be very happy to meet or speak to any lady who is interested in the important task of helping the women and children of Israel.

This year, in view of the serious situation in Israel, a Special Appeal was made in addition to WIZO's usual work, and we are happy to say that as the result of an Emergency Meeting and also an Israeli concert held in the Communal Hall in January, £100 was quickly raised and sent towards this appeal.

We have also been fortunate in listening to several good speakers from WIZO headquarters this year, and have had a number of successful smaller functions at the homes of members.

E. SACKS, *Acting Chairman.*

THE HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

It is pleasing to report that the Association has been increasingly active this year, due to the untiring efforts of the Chairman and his working committee, amongst whom are several new members.

The first venture was in April, when the Association took over the New Lindsay Theatre for a performance of the musical comedy "Chrysanthemum." This proved to be a most enjoyable and — more important — highly profitable evening.

Using some of this profit, the P.A. once again arranged the annual outing for the children in June, to Chessington Zoo.

On the Sunday after Simchat Torah, the P.A. for the first time gave the children a 2-hour entertainment by professional artists, who amused them with conjuring tricks, games, songs, and dances. The hall was filled to capacity, and the children were given a generous tea of sandwiches, cakes, fruit-salad, bars of chocolate, etc. Many parents showed their appreciation by writing to congratulate and thank the Association.

A further fund-raising function was planned with the most generous co-operation of the Literary Society who, in November, put on their play, "Bluma Next Door," produced and directed by Mrs. A. Mark. The profit, which was shared between the two organisations, was a highly satisfactory return for the effort involved.

The Chanukah Party proved even more popular than in previous years, and the P.A. is very much indebted to Mr. and Mrs. A. Mark, who once again organised a most impressive series of plays and sketches by the children. This was greatly enjoyed by a large audience of parents and friends.

In addition to these purely social activities, the P.A. has continued to provide teas for the children who come to the Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and we would like to convey our gratitude to the members of the Ladies' Guild and Menorah Society for their assistance in supervising on these afternoons.

The P.A. is financing the car service mentioned in the Wardens' report for children who come to Classes on Thursdays.

Purim fell on a Sunday this year, and a party was given instead of the morning classes. The children, who came in fancy dress, listened to Rev. Venitt reading and explaining the Megillah, and were then given refreshments including the seasonal "hamantashen"; prizes were awarded for the best fancy dresses.

The P.A. will do all in its power to make next year as successful as this and would gladly welcome any parents who are not members of the Association and who feel they would like to join.

A.A. and R.I.

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH EX-SERVICEMEN & WOMEN HAMMERSMITH & DISTRICT BRANCH

During the past year the Branch has continued to play a most virile and active part both in local civic affairs and in matters which deeply concern the Jewish community. At the invitation of His Worship the Mayor of Hammersmith, our members again took the lead in organising the Ball and Tombola at the Town Hall to assist the British Empire Cancer Campaign, and a record sum was raised for this charity. The guest of honour on this occasion was Lord Nathan, one of the Vice-Presidents of A.J.E.X.

A strong contingent paraded at the local service at Shepherd's Bush Green on Remembrance Sunday, and this Branch has every reason to be proud of the splendid turn-out on the memorable Jewish Remembrance Parade the following week. Earl Mountbatten, the Inspecting Officer, sent sincere congratulations to A.J.E.X. "on the successful organisation of such a large gathering and the wonderful march past." This solemn and dignified demonstration by Jewish men and women at a time when world attention has been focussed upon our people could have done nothing but good for our community and the cause of Israel.

The Branch, in concert with the local Defence Committee, has continued its vigilance in combating anti-Semitic activity in any form. Vigorous protests have been made to local M.P.'s in connection with the appointment of General Speidel as N.A.T.O. military chief and the emergence of former S.S. officers in the new German Army. Letters were also sent to all local M.P.'s expressing our concern with and opposition to the "Anti-Shechitah Bill" sponsored by Mr. R. Crouch. Fortunately this measure was defeated (178 votes to 132) but the vote was close enough to suggest that its sponsors may try again and we must remain alert and watchful.

We have organised numerous successful activities for our members, including a family outing and treasure hunt in the summer, excellent Quiz Contests with other Branches and first-class meetings at the Town Hall, Hammersmith. Recent events have included a visit by the local M.P., Mr. Tom Williams, to discuss the new Rent Bill and a talk by Mr. Greville Janner on our American Jewish Allies. Our vigorous social committee plan further activities which branch members and friends are cordially invited to support in increasing numbers.

A.J.E.X. is actively supporting the British Legion in the campaign to secure better pensions for war widows and disabled ex-servicemen and their dependents.

We send greetings to the many hundreds of Jewish ex-servicemen and women in the district, and urge you to join us in the vital work we have to do. The annual subscription is a nominal 7/6, and you should contact our Hon. Secretary, Bertie Banks, at 47, Emlyn Road, W.12 (SHE 5139) or Henry Levy at 176, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.4 (CHI 6258).

THE WESSIX CLUB

Following a meeting of the committees of the Hammersmith Jewish Youth Club and the West London Jewish Youth Club, an amalgamation was effected in September, 1956, the name of the new organisation to be known as the Wessix Club. A committee was elected under the Chairmanship of Cyril Strouzer for a trial period of three months. The formation of a Junior Section followed, to encourage the 14-17 age group. During the first few months the Club ran smoothly, and a large membership was maintained.

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 6th January, 1957, a completely new committee was formed with Michael Wynne as Chairman.

New members will be welcome. The Senior Section meets on Mondays at Poplar Grove, and on Thursdays at Brook Green; the Junior Section meets on Tuesdays at Poplar Grove. Commencing time in all cases is 7.30 p.m. Further details of the Club's activities will gladly be supplied by the undersigned on application to the Wessix Club, c/o 71, Brook Green, W.6.

S. FAUX, *Acting Chairman.*

SYNAGOGUE ITEMS

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

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

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

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

COVENANTS

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

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

ORGANISATIONS

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

Hammersmith Jewish Literary and Social Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. A. D. Berger, 2, Riverside Court, Brook Green Road, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 7327.

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

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

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

Hammersmith and West Kensington Districts—Norwood Aid Society. Hon. Sec.: Miss R. Loughorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. RIV. 7137.

The Wessix (Youth) Club. Hon. Sec.: Miss Norma Share, 232 North End Road, W.14. FUL. 6744.

Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. W. R. Loughorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 7137.

The Menorah (Ladies) Society. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. N. Nisner, 6, Latymer Court, W.6. RIV 6974.

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

Jewish Lads' Brigade—Hammersmith Coy. All enquiries to Brigade Secretary, 75 Baker Street, W.1. WEL. 9627.

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

TIMES OF SERVICES

WEEKDAYS

Morning 7.30 a.m.
Evening By arrangement.

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

8.30 a.m.

SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS

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

YOUTH SERVICE

Held every few weeks.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Sabbaths 11.15 a.m.

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

Classes meet every—

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

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

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

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., 71 Brook Green, W.6.
RIV. 7601.

Rev. S. FORSCHER, 43 College Court, W.6, RIV. 8565.