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# THE BROOK



THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON  
SYNAGOGUE

ANNUAL REPORTS

# HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

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The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

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## 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, 7.0 p.m.

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

### Hammersmith Synagogue Religious Classes:

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

Classes meet every —

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

### " THE BROOK "

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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## Congregational Activities in 1969-70

The Honorary Officers present the following Annual Report for 1969-70:

### INTRODUCTION

We have a special *מי שברך* when someone is "called up" for his 80th birthday. How much more so should we celebrate as a special occasion the 80th anniversary of an institution which is made up of human beings.

The date of the laying of the foundation stone of our Synagogue is February 2, 1890, and its consecration was by the Rev. Dr. Hermann Adler (Delegate Chief Rabbi) on September 7, 1890.

As a community we have entered into our 80th year, and we are pleased and honoured that the Very Rev. the Chief Rabbi will participate in a service of thanksgiving and celebration in the Synagogue on Thursday evening, June 4, 1970.

### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

We are happy to record that, thanks to the zeal, devotion and sincerity of our Ministers, Synagogue services have been held regularly throughout the year, and have been marked by an atmosphere of harmony and dignity. We have again enjoyed having visitors from all parts of the world, who invariably tell us how warm and welcoming they find our community. We especially thank those who attend our services and so help to create this desirable atmosphere.

We should also like to pay tribute to the members of our choir, whose singing enhances our services and gives pleasure to the congregation.

### HOUSE COMMITTEE

Under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Leslie Levy, the House Committee is concerned with the fabric of our buildings and their furniture and furnishings. This committee, the members of which come from the Board of Management and the Ladies' Guild, provides a vital and amicable bridge linking the two main bodies, whose harmonious co-operation is essential to a happy community such as ours.

### LADIES' GUILD

The Ladies' Guild, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Mabel Phillips, have had a successful year of working for the Synagogue. They work cheerfully and unostentatiously, and we strongly urge all ladies who are not yet members to join the Guild.

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*Annual Review continued from previous page*

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We are happy to be able to provide facilities for regular meetings of the Hammersmith Friendship Club under the Chairmanship of Mrs. H. M. Levy.

### M'LAVA MALKA

An outstandingly successful social event took place when a M'lava Malka was held on January 10, 1970. Choral entertainment was provided by the Rev. M. Korn. Refreshments were excellently provided by the Ladies' Guild. The 70 or 80 members who came were enthusiastic in their praise of an evening of entertainment and social get-together.

### LECTURES

During the autumn of 1969, Dr. Louis Freeman arranged and organised a successful series of lectures under the auspices of Jews' College. The title of the course was "An Anglo-Jewish Panorama of the last 100 Years", chosen because the United Synagogue is celebrating its centenary.

We are most appreciative of those who are willing to come and address our community, giving their time and trouble for our edification and enjoyment.

### CLASSES

The Classes Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Louis Freeman, has met regularly throughout the year and in collaboration with the Hon. Superintendent, the Rev. S. Venitt, B.A., the committee has successfully inaugurated an Esheth Chayil Class for girls in the age range 13-14. We have, in Miss Gitte Fried, a wonderfully dedicated teacher for this class, which commenced in October 1969. It is hoped to hold a special ceremony in September for those who will have successfully completed the course.

Apart from this, the classes continue to meet regularly on Sunday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

A most successful annual prizegiving was held on Sunday, June 1, when the Guests of Honour were Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery Brand. Thanks are due to the Parents' Association for catering so ably and cheerfully.

### J.P.A. AND VISIT TO ISRAEL

The Hammersmith and West Kensington J.P.A. Committee has a very strong affinity with the Synagogue. We are pleased to record that the total raised in 1969 was £12,000.

The 1970 J.P.A. campaign was opened last November *in Israel*. This was the brilliant idea of Mr. Bernard Davis, Co-Chairman, whose proposal it was to associate the Synagogue more closely with J.P.A. and with Israel. He personally organised and led a tour to Israel, in the course of which the J. L. Godfrey School in Ashkelon was opened and the Gershon Silver Memorial Gar-

*continued on next page*

*Annual Review continued from previous page*

dens were consecrated. (A fuller report is given on another page.)

By the second stage of the campaign, in London in March 1970, Hammersmith had raised £14,000.

#### **SUCCAH**

Our thanks are very sincere to all who contributed both gifts and wherewithal for the Succah, and the Ladies' Guild for organising and decorating the Succah, which looked beautiful and gave much pleasure.

#### **CHASAN TORAH AND CHASAN BERESHIS**

The Chasan Torah and the Chasan Bereshis this year were respectively Dr. Cyril Hodes and Dr. Fred Tysh. They and their wives honoured the congregation by their presence at the Synagogue Annual Reception on Sunday evening, October 19, 1969, and both addressed the gathering in a manner which combined humour with sincerity and gave much pleasure to all.

#### **YOUTH**

Many of our youth play leading parts in a number of youth activities, e.g., Study Group, Israel, Sports and Social Groups.

#### **INTER-SYNOGOGUE QUIZ**

Hammersmith again entered a team in this competition and finished third in their section, just missing going forward to the semi-finals. Our thanks are due to the team members and their supporters. Entertaining and pleasant social evenings were enjoyed at each match.

#### **OFFICIALS**

The successful viability of our congregation depends on the willingness and co-operative spirit of our officials. In particular, we never cease to be grateful for the presence of our spiritual leaders and their wives, the Rev. S. and Mrs. Venitt, and the Rev. S. and Mrs. Forscher, who, together with their families, are unceasing in their tireless work for the benefit of us all.

Furthermore, we are glad to have the services and company of our (part-time) Secretary, Mr. M. Friedman. And we pay tribute also to our Caretaker and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Riley.

#### **SIR GEORGE BEAN**

Our warmest congratulations and good wishes go to Sir George Bean, newly appointed Judge of the High Court. We are indeed privileged to count him as a member of our congregation, and we all rejoice in the recognition that has been given to his outstanding qualities and consummate skill. We wish him many years of distinguished service in his high office.

#### **CONCLUSION**

We have derived pleasure from working with our colleagues on the Board of Management and are grateful for their co-operation. We also record that we have continued to enjoy working with each other.

M. A. AMIAS

JEFFERY BRAND

H. SHARPE

#### **EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY**

## **Hammersmith Synagogue 1890-1970**

The Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue was founded by a group of men who felt that the New West End was too far away, and were anxious about the religious education of their children. After preliminary meetings, the project was set in motion. On February 2, 1890, the foundation stone was laid, and on September 7 the consecration took place.

It was the smallest Constituent Synagogue of the United Synagogue, had the Almehar in the centre and only one gallery facing the Ark. Seats were installed for 104 gentlemen and 54 ladies.

The first chairman of the Synagogue was Joseph Morris Levy, who, at a later date, while still in office, became the Mayor of Hammersmith. The Ladies' Guild was formed early in 1892, the first classrooms were opened in 1894 and the Synagogue House was consecrated in 1894.

The rapid growth of the congregation necessitated an enlargement of the building, and arrangements were made in 1896 to increase the floor accommodation to 226 seats and the gallery to 180 seats. By 1923 the Synagogue was again overcrowded, and a plan was put forward which, had it materialised, would have given Hammersmith one of the largest synagogues in the Metropolis. There were too many obstacles to the scheme, and eventually the plans had to be modified to give us our present-day Synagogue. The rededication service took place in 1925 and was followed two years later by the erection of the Communal Hall.

#### **DIFFICULT YEARS**

The Golden Jubilee of the Synagogue took place during the Second World War. The next decade was to prove the most trying period of its history. There is no question but that the loyal efforts of the ministerial and lay leaders of the congregation helped to hold the membership together during those difficult years.

Following the war, the Synagogue rapidly recovered from its setback, so that by the time the Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1950, most of the activities had been restored and the Synagogue and Communal Hall redecorated.

From then onwards, the Synagogue made great strides. The following years were to see the establishment of the new Classroom block, the Library, new Kitchens, new furnishings for the Communal Hall, new equipment for the Classes, redecoration and recarpeting of the Synagogue. Hammersmith pioneered new ventures in cultural and educational fields. Many of the congregants will also recall a number of outstanding services and events during the period.

*continued at foot of next page*

SO MUCH WORK BY SO FEW!

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

A nucleus of only a half a dozen or so members forms the Parents' Association's Committee, who meet to arrange functions such as Chanukah parties, Purim parties, prizegivings, etc., at which children from the classes attend with their parents.

It is very much a working committee, undertaking all the preparation and serving of refreshments at all these gatherings. One of our most enthusiastic and efficient helpers is a lady who does not have any direct link with classes in the shape of a child attending there, but she is the mother-in-law of one of our Committee members and is always to be found when there is work to be done.

In addition to the Committee, there are many ladies who offer their assistance on "the day", and their help is greatly appreciated.

The Parents' Association does not have any great number of members, and to a large extent depends on the generosity with which so many parents give their annual membership fee of 10/6 at the annual prizegiving. It should be stressed that this is a voluntary payment.

The aim of the Parents' Association is the welfare of the children of our Classes, and if you are as interested as we are in them, please get in touch with our energetic Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Rita Verby, of 45 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions, S.W.6 (736 3731). Your help—in whatever form you offer it—will be greatly appreciated.

### *Eightieth Birthday, continued from page 5*

June 9, 1963, was the day on which the Civic Service was held to mark the induction of Councillor Stanley M. Atkins, J.P., as Mayor of Hammersmith.

Our Synagogue was again the scene of an important occasion when, on Sunday, June 23, 1968, a distinguished congregation filled our beloved place of worship for a Special Service of Prayer and Dedication to mark the election of Alderman Sir Samuel Salmon as Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith.

Most interesting, too, was the ceremony to mark the presentation of a Sefer Torah by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Godfrey in September, 1967.

In 80 years we have established a pattern and a tradition of synagogal and communal life. However, we dare not rest on our laurels. We are passing through one of the most difficult periods in our communal existence, when we cannot clearly discern what lies ahead in the area as a whole. Nevertheless, we are firmly resolved not only to maintain the prestige and dignity of our community but to strengthen and enhance it still further.

HAMMERSMITH AND WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

## CELEBRATION GROUP TOUR

### TO ISRAEL

BY EL AL SCHEDULED FLIGHT

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## TO CELEBRATE

THE

## 80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYNAGOGUE

1890—1970

AND THE

## CENTENARY OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE

1870—1970

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## Lecture Series 1969-70

In this historic year of the centenary of the United Synagogue, inextricably linked with our local celebration of the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Hammersmith Synagogue, our Lecture Committee decided it would be most appropriate to hold a special series of lectures depicting some vital aspects of the development of the Anglo-Jewish Community in the past 100 years.

With the valuable guidance of Jews' College, a course of lectures was undertaken in the autumn of 1969 by a brilliant panel of religious and lay exponents on the general theme of "Anglo-Jewish Panorama — the Last 100 Years".

An excellent inaugural address was given by Dr. Aron Owen on "Marriage and Divorce in English and Jewish Law". To a well-attended audience, Dr. Owen fully justified his reputation as an outstanding barrister, Hebraist, and raconteur. He gave a scintillating account of the legal and Halachic aspects, with the fullest possible advice to the Jew or Jewess contemplating either marriage or divorce. In a subsequent lecture, Mr. B. Marmorstein, M.A., Chairman of the Council of Jews' College, provided us with a graphic picture of "Some Famous Anglo-Jewish Cases in the Courts", with their legal and religious implications.

### SOCIOLOGICAL PICTURE

The pulsating sociological picture of the Jewish community with the problems of immigration and integration into the British scene during the Victorian and Edwardian era was fully covered by Dr. V. D. Lipman, the eminent historian and statistician.

A colourful account of the historic development of the religious institutions in the British Isles during the last century was given by the Rev. Dr. Barnett Joseph (Minister of Hackney Synagogue). He delineated the basic set-up of these organisations covering the different strands of Jewish observance. The Rev. Raymond Apple (Minister of Hampstead Synagogue) brought to the audience a fascinating description of the religious controversies which beset Anglo-Jewry in the 1890s, the echoes of which are still heard in contemporary British Jewry.

To conclude the series, a challenging final address on "A Century of United Synagogue Judaism" was given by Mr. Norman Cohen, which by its sheer provocative spirit intrigued the listeners. He was critical of what may be summed up as the petrified adherence by the United Synagogue to its constitution, which had been formulated in 1870. He recognised, however, its great positive achievements in moulding the community to its current stability and status and enabling traditional Judaism to maintain its influence.

## THE LADIES' GUILD

As we were reminded by the minutes of the last A.G.M., I am a very new Chairman, and it was with trepidation and doubts as to whether I should be able to cope that I accepted the job. The doubts and trepidation are still there, but the chairmanship would have collapsed had it not been for the wonderful support of my Vice-Chairman and Committee, and, of equal importance, the guidance and advice of Mrs. Venitt.

The balance sheet, presented at the annual meeting on April 7, shows we have supported many charities again this past year, and it was with great delight that this year we were able to associate our Guild with the J.P.A. fund-raising reception held in March at the home of Mrs. de Winter, donating 20 guineas.

The balance sheet also shows that £196 was raised by holding two "Good-as-New Sales" during the year in the Synagogue Hall. A wonderful achievement, all the more so because the first was held in what can only be described as a monsoon. Our thanks must go to our functions Chairman, Mrs. Levy, and the many ladies who helped her so magnificently.

Our duties for the Synagogue and Community were performed as usual: the flowers to decorate the Synagogue at Shavuot were purchased by Miss Cohen at extremely short notice, as Mrs. Parker, who has done this for many years, was not able at that time to undertake it.

### FLAG DAY

Spring is the time for Geranium Day, to raise money for the blind, and once again Guild members rallied round to sell flags and distribute boxes. Mrs. Jeannie Caplan has been associated with organising this event for 25 years.

The Succah was decorated as delightfully as usual, and many thanks are offered to all who came to help. Our Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Forscher, with the help of members of the Committee, prepared a savoury kiddush after the Service. This was most enjoyable and was appreciated by the Congregation. The balance of the fruit from the Succah was packed into three boxes and taken to the Eileen Goodenday Home, and a delightful letter of thanks was received by the Guild.

The Simchas Torah Party was well organised, as usual, and was enjoyed by all.

The parcels for Jewish mentally sick were once more ably made up by Mrs. Parker, ready for delivery.

A M'lava Malka was held at the Synagogue Hall, and Mrs. Forscher and a group of ladies worked very hard to prepare the food. It was a most enjoyable evening, and shows how, even though we are a comparatively small community, we can organise a

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## Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women

The A.J.E.X. year is always a full one, because of the responsibilities the members of the Hammersmith branch have towards the Anglo-Jewish Community, the local Community, and the demands of the National Executive for assistance both financially and of a practical nature. These last include supplying stewards for various meetings, such as the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial and the protest outside the Iraqi Embassy, and observing meetings in various parts of West London. The Branch has always maintained first-class relationships with the authorities at Hammersmith Town Hall, being represented on various Committees, for Community Relations, for the Mayor's Springtime Ball, and have indeed been invited to be founder-members of the proposed new Council of Social Service.

With all this, the Branch still finds time for social events, of which two are currently outstanding. The Gypsy Night and Carvery held in January at Brook Green, which was "sold out" and where the guests were served with an excellent meal and light-hearted entertainment, was a great success. And the Annual Dinner and Ball, which was held on March 1 at the Cumberland Hotel, the Guest of Honour being Mr. Ivor Richards, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Army, was outstanding both for the quality of the kosher meal and for the happy atmosphere.

At the Annual General Meeting on April 13, 1970, the Branch has had the opportunity of electing new Officers and Committee, confident that they will by their earnest endeavours and attention to the needs of the Community maintain the high standard expected of the Hammersmith A.J.E.X.

NORMAN A. MANN, Hon. Secretary.

### *Ladies' Guild, continued from page 9*

Jewish get-together for the enjoyment of all.

The tea for the standard-bearers after the A.J.E.X. parade was once more arranged. This was the only occasion when the helpers were practically non-existent, but many members were in Israel at the time; nevertheless, with the help of friends and relatives, the tea was ably served and much appreciated.

With some of the money recently raised, we intend to re-decorate the kitchen and to have vinyl floor covering laid.

This work, we hope, will have been completed before Passover, as we were to hold a Communal Seder for local people who would otherwise have had no Seder at all. This is indeed a worthwhile project, for which our thanks go to the ladies who organised the evening, and to our Ministers and their wives for making this truly a Yom-Tov.

MABEL PHILLIPS, Chairman.

## Hammersmith Synagogue Religion Classes

Despite the attenuation in numbers, the Religion Classes are being maintained at a reasonable level. As the hours of tuition are comparatively limited, and in order to devote more time to a wider field of tuition in religious knowledge, the co-operation of parents is sought by their personal guidance of their children at home in the matter of elementary Hebrew reading.

A very warm welcome is extended to a new member of the teaching staff, Mr. E. Barsam, who is most devoted to the educational welfare of the pupils.

The formation of a special class for girls over 12 years of age, catering for the special needs of adolescent girls, in the Jewish domestic sphere, had been engaging the earnest attention of the Committee for some time. The creation of this special "Bas Chayil" class is gladly announced, and the appointment since October 1969 of Miss G. Fried, a dedicated teacher of outstanding calibre, who received her basic training at the famous Beth Jacob Seminary in London. The girls who are at present attending this class are enthusiastically receptive of the guidance and tuition of this inspired teacher. All parents with daughters in this age group (12-14 years) are urged to be kind enough to contact the Rev. Mr. Venitt for details of registration for this class.

### CHANUCAH AND PURIM

The annual Chanukah Service took place in the Synagogue on Sunday, December 7, 1969, under the supervision of the Rev. Mr. Forscher. As in previous years, the traditional melodies were sung and the appropriate readings from the Book of the Maccabees were undertaken by the pupils of the classes. Much gratitude is expressed to the Parents' Association for so kindly arranging the tea and entertainment, for both children and parents, after the synagogal ceremony.

There was a special gathering of children and parents in the Synagogue on Sunday, March 22, 1970, to hear the evergreen recital of the Megillah on Purim. There was a wonderful spirit of festivity appropriate to the historic occasion. It is hoped that this will be the forerunner of future similar enthusiastic assemblies on Purim.

The annual Prize Distribution will take place on Sunday, June 14, 1970. The Guest of Honour, it is a privilege to announce, will be Mr. Geoffrey Stalbow, B.A. (Vice-Chairman of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education), who is an ardent advocate of modern trends in the Jewish educational sphere.

## Hammersmith Friendship Club

Looking back on the past 12 months, we feel great satisfaction that our planning resulted in so much happiness within the club, with continued increasing membership.

During the latter part of 1969 the following activities took place:

A visit to the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, for the procession of the Opening of the Courts. I obtained tickets for a small group of members, who were very interested.

An enjoyable afternoon was spent by 40 members at the Drury Lane Theatre — for the show "Mame" — despite inclement weather.

At our Simchat Torah Party, the Rev. Mr. Venitt extended an invitation to members of the club, including residents of the Eileen Goodenday Home, to visit the Succah in the Synagogue Hall, after which a Mincha Service was conducted.

The highlight of the year was our 18th Birthday and combined Chanukah Party. Our Synagogue Hall looked very festive when 110 members and guests assembled. The Rev. Mr. Forscher kindled the lights; the Rev. Mr. Venitt gave an address. Among the guests were Rabbi Abrams, from the Shepherds Bush Synagogue, members of the Ladies' Guild, and representatives from local clubs. Two of our founder-members, who have not been to the club for many years, were brought to the party by car. A delightful entertainment followed, which was arranged by the Local Authority and was very enjoyable. Members and guests all received a gift.

### HELPING THE HOUSE-BOUND

We have now arranged for some of the residents of the Eileen Goodenday Home to be brought to the club once a month. If anybody has a car and is available to bring one or two house-bound members to the club on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock we should be very grateful.

I should take this opportunity of thanking all those that helped during the past year, particularly our Chairman, Mrs. M. Levy, for whom no problem seems insuperable; also the Catering Committee, who work so arduously in preparing for special functions.

Our welfare visiting is well maintained and sick members are regularly visited at home or in hospitals.

We are greatly indebted to the Synagogue Board of Management for the use of the Hall and its amenities.

Life has no pleasure more noble than friendship.

(Miss) SOPHIA MORRIS

## West London Jewish Youth Study Group

West London Jewish Youth Study Group has had a very interesting and worthwhile term. On February 22 an all-London Interfunction was held where 116 Studygroupers attended from all the branches in London of Jewish Youth Study Groups, plus a few people from the Provincial groups. At this Interfunction two lectures were given, by Mr. Maurice de Vries and the Rev. Dr. Gale, on "Joseph Caro" and "Jewish Religious Sects" respectively. Other activities included a discussion, a hat debate, a quiz and a film with, of course, lunch, and ending up with Israeli singing and dancing.

This term the study course was: "Lifetime of a Jew". This is an extremely interesting course dealing with the Jew from birth to the stonemaking. We have also continued with Sidra Reports, which have been very successful.

The second halves have been taken up with talks given by Mr. Harold Levy, the Rev. Michael Goldman, and Rabbi I. L. Abrams, to whom we are very grateful. We have also had group speakers, a hat debate, an interdebate (which West London naturally won), and inter-meetings.

We have had seven new members — six of whom came from this *Shool* — and our average attendance was 23.

Our Israeli singing and dancing have improved by leaps and bounds and with them the enthusiasm has soared.

The meetings are held every Sunday at the Herbert Samuel Hall, Bark Place, London W.2, from 5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. If there are any inquiries about West, please contact Karen Beth, at Flat 9, 42 Gloucester Walk, London W.8, 01-937 2813, who will be very glad to help.

## Wessix Sports Club

Although the Wessix Jewish Youth Club has ceased to exist, the name has been kept alive by two offshoots, "Wessix Sports Club" and "Wessix Jewish Nucleus".

The main activity of the Wessix Sports Club is football, and this season they played for the first time in the Men's Division of the Association of Jewish Youth in the fifth division. They played so well that they will be sure of promotion. Wessix was the first A.J.Y. club this season to score 100 goals. More important, Wessix became known as the cleanest-playing club in the league.

BAREND VELLEMAN,  
Manager.



*YOUTH, continued*

### **Wessix Jewish Nucleus**

"Nucleus", as the club is called for short, used to be the Senior Division of the Wessix Jewish Youth Club. They are not in any way connected with the "Wessix Sports Club". Both clubs went their own way when the Youth Club ceased to exist. Nucleus are meeting in members' homes approximately once a month and have usually an attendance of about 30 per session. Their activities are purely social, including theatre-going, bowling, coffee and card evenings, and in January they held a very successful Club Weekend at Tower House, Folkestone. During the coming summer a group will be visiting Israel. Anyone interested in the activities above should contact the Chairman, Alex Portnoy, 55 Oxford Gardens, W.10, tel. 969 1778; or the Secretary, Babs Kruh, 6 Lynton Hse., Hallfield Estate, W.2, tel. 262 3842.

### **West London Jewish Youth Centre Sponsoring Committee**

Not yet four years after its formation, we are pleased to announce that our project is top of the Grant Application List for 1970-71 presented by the London Borough of Ealing for consideration to the Department of Education and Science. This should mean that, subject to the Committee being able to fulfil the necessary requirements, half the cost of the Centre could be borne by the Department and a further quarter by the Local Authority. We must, however, be able to show that we have enough money to pay the balance (one quarter). *We do not have that required amount yet.* We benefited to the tune of £700 from the show "Morry of Arabia", which was presented on March 8 at the Victoria Palace. A similar amount was handed to the South London Aid Society for the Jewish Blind, in association with whom we presented the show above.

If the plans which our architects are currently preparing for the Town Planning Committee are accepted and the grant approved, building could commence in the latter part of this year. But we need more money. We are a few thousand pounds short. I wonder whether there are any philanthropists among our members who think, as I do, that it is essential for the younger generation to have their own building, purposely built. I should be happy to talk the matter over with them.

DAVID H. VELLEMAN

*YOUTH, continued*

### **"Mirage"**

"Mirage" exists for young people of 17 and over. The Society meets every Sunday evening at 10 Charing Cross Road. It is under the auspices of F.Z.Y.

The Society's activities are both cultural and social. They include folk evenings, parties, dances, debates, guest speakers to give talks on various aspects of Judaism and Israel, and many outside activities.

"Mirage," it is felt, has a great deal to offer young people. New members will be extremely welcome. Anyone interested, please telephone Dave Krantz 992 3136, Denise Latner 262 1612, Karen Merkel 892 9550, or else come along to one of the meetings.

### **West London Young Zionist Society**

West London Young Zionist Society, catering for the 18-24 age group, continues to supply an imaginative and dynamic programme for its meetings. Members' houses provide an informal and friendly atmosphere in which new members quickly feel at home. The programme is varied, balancing topics connected with Israel and Judaism, for which there are some excellent speakers, with a wide spectrum of entertaining internal meetings and social functions. Recent examples of this include speakers on life in Israel, a visit to a play, in which a large number of West Londoners were involved, a lively discussion on "The Death of G-d", and a folk and poetry evening.

One of the Society's main events was the spring seminar held at the King David Hotel, Westcliff, from April 17 to 19, 1970. Taking for its general theme "What is a Jew?", the seminar was enjoyable and stimulating, incorporating Tarbut programmes and garinim of Society members, with an enterprising social side, a quiz, party, midnight ramble, etc. The hotel was supplied with excellent kosher food and good facilities. All those who are interested in the Society, please contact Stephanie Ben-Ezra at 892 9119.

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### **TRIBUTE**

#### **The Late Mrs. Leah White**

A short while ago there passed away from our midst a gifted musician in the person of Mrs. Leah White. A member of many years' standing, she will be particularly remembered as regular synagogue organist at weddings for many years. Her services were greatly appreciated.

## Hammersmith & West Kensington J.P.A. Appeal, 1970

1968 — £8,800  
1969 — £10,800  
1970 — £14,000

As reported elsewhere in this issue, the J.P.A. Appeal was inaugurated for the first time in Israel on the occasion of the Hammersmith Tour to Israel. Subsequently the "HOME" Appeal was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin De Winter, whose charm and hospitality contributed considerably to the success of the evening.

Dr. Louis Freeman, Chairman, welcomed the guests and paid tribute to the Committee.

The Guest Speaker was Mr. Raanan Sivan, Counsellor and Consul General of the Israel Embassy in London, who reviewed the war situation. Israel, he added, had to spend millions of pounds a year on defence. The Social Services would suffer if Israel did not get support from world Jewry. He paid tribute to Hammersmith, who had given, by their example, a lead to others.

Mr. Simon Reiss, well known to us, conducted the appeal with quiet confidence and objective realism. He said Israel could rely only on world Jewry and its own Defence Forces; together they formed the life-blood of the State. In the event of need, a transfusion could always be relied upon by the "blood bank" of J.P.A. contributions. He, too, paid a special tribute to Hammersmith for its leadership in work for Israel.

### A PIONEER TOUR

We were privileged also to have as an honoured guest Mr. Michael Barzilay, Executive Director, who came specifically to congratulate Hammersmith on its pioneering work as the first to organise such a large Group Tour to Israel and to inaugurate its J.P.A. Appeal in Israel. This pioneering work had been officially recognised at top level and five other communities were organising a similar move. He then presented to Mr. Bernard Davis (co-Chairman) a Medal of the State of Israel, as a tribute to his work in organising and leading the Group to Israel and organising the inaugural J.P.A. Appeal. A Medal was also presented to the Hammersmith Committee.

Mr. Joe Godfrey, Vice-President, proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker, and Mr. Bernard Davis thanked Mr. Barzilay for the Medal and proposed a vote of thanks to the Host and Hostess, and to Dr. Louis Freeman for his leadership and inspiration at all times. The Appeal total to date is £14,000.

### SIGHTSEEING, LEARNING AND GIVING

## Hammersmith 1969 Tour to Israel

We have referred elsewhere to the congratulations offered to Mr. Bernard Davis on the successful culmination of almost a year's work in organising what has been acknowledged as one of the largest and most comprehensive tours to Israel. Last November 100 persons were privileged to take part in a unique tour of the country, attending meetings, dinners and inauguration ceremonies.

After three days of intensive touring from Jerusalem, which included sightseeing trips provided by the J.P.A. Office to Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Shechem (Nablus), the Dead Sea and the River Jordan, the Wilderness of Judea, and old and new Jerusalem, the members of the Tour were invited to a briefing meeting at the Keren Hayesod building addressed by Brig.-General Vardi, who presented in factual terms the present military situation in Israel. He invited questions and a lively discussion ensued. Valuable data was then distributed for further study.

### GODFREY SCHOOL AT ASHKELON

The highlight of the Tour was the inauguration of the Godfrey Family School at Ashkelon by Hetty and Joe Godfrey, benefactors well known to Hammersmith members. This school is the most modern in the country and caters for retarded children. The ceremony began with a grand fanfare and a Guard of Honour lined the road on both sides leading to the school. Flowers were presented to the ladies and commemorative kappels to the men. The Mayor and Dr. Israel Goldstein and dignitaries from all sections of Israel attended, the choir sang and psalms were read in both Hebrew and English, greetings were conveyed, including special greetings on behalf of the Hammersmith and West Kensington School by Mr. Bernard Davis. A display was given by the children and then a magnificent lunch was provided for all. Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey also named a Garden in memory of Rubin Chester. A great debt of gratitude is due to Hetty and Joe Godfrey for the public spirit and devotion to Israel as exemplified in this new school.

As a tribute to the late Gershon Silver, a past Vice-Chairman of Hammersmith J.P.A. and Honorary Officer of the Synagogue, a Garden was presented and dedicated to his memory. Mr. Bernard Davis handed an illuminated presentation volume to Mrs. Pearl Silver on behalf of the Hammersmith J.P.A., who had contributed £1,000 for this tribute.

A tree-planting ceremony then took place. Each of the 100 participants in the Tour held a sapling and, after the Rabbi had recited the prayer, they planted their trees as a positive identifica-

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tion with Eretz Yisroel. This was a most moving and inspiring ceremony.

There were further sightseeing tours to Haifa, the Golan Heights, Acre, Tiberias, Caesarea, and the Kibbutz Ayelet Hash-acha. The next highlight was being invited as guests of the Israel Armed Forces somewhere in Israel. A talk was given by an Israeli air officer and the party was then privileged as the first group to see some of the famous Phantom bombers. A buffet lunch was served, by courtesy of the Camp Commandant.

A Quiz was organised by the Zionist Federation, which proved a most stimulating and instructive occasion, nearly all members participating. Refreshments were provided.

A Farewell Reception and Dinner was held on the evening before departure. Mr. Bernard Davis, as Chairman, introduced the Chairman of the Jewish Agency, Mr. M. Pincus, and Mr. R. Rurka, both of them addressing the Group.

So enthusiastic and inspired were the Group that at this dinner an appeal which was made for J.P.A. as the inaugural appeal of the Hammersmith J.P.A. for 1970 resulted in over £5,000 being pledged to the various communities represented by the guests.

As a tribute to Mr. Bernard Davis for organising the Tour and acting as Chairman at all official meetings and functions, the Group planted a Garden of Trees in Israel in his honour.

## Israel Committee of United Synagogue

The first meeting of the Israel Committee of the United Synagogue on an *ad hoc* basis was held in July 1969, on the proposal of the Chief Rabbi. Its purpose was to identify the United Synagogue more closely with the State of Israel. Meetings were subsequently held and policy formulated towards this end. The Chief Rabbi reported that he had attended a conference on Tourism in Jerusalem and stressed the urgency of increased tourism. It was also resolved to consider cultural links between the U.S. and Israel. Recommendations were submitted by members of the Committee. At a subsequent meeting, the Councillor of the Ministry of Tourism in Israel, Rabbi Nathan, addressing the Committee, pointed out that tourism to Israel was a Biblical command and that it should be the duty of Rabbis through their Synagogues to encourage it. His Ministry promised to give every encouragement. Other high officials have also attended the Committee.

The Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Remez, invited the members of the Committee to a cocktail reception at the Embassy

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## Public and Inter-Faith Relations

Commenting on the value of inter-Faith communication, Jean Caplan writes:

"It is most rewarding to feel that, while one cannot change the state of the world, at least one can further an understanding between ourselves and our non-Jewish neighbours, as far as both our religion and Israel are concerned."

During the past few months, Mrs. Caplan has addressed nine groups, which include Co-operative Guilds, clubs and Christian Fellowships over a wide area. Her subjects have included Israel, Anglo-Jewry, Jewish history, and the Jewish religion. She has been elected a delegate to the World WIZO Conference due to take place in Israel next November.

The Rev. Mr. Venitt has also had many contacts with Teachers' Training Colleges and schools. Recently, parties visiting the Synagogue came from the Maria Grey Training College, St. Paul's Girls' School and the Margaret Clitheroe Roman Catholic Junior School at Stevenage. He was also invited to lecture to the Digby Stuart R.C. Teachers' Training College at Roehampton, and to a Toc H Group at Westminster.

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### UNITED SYNAGOGUE ISRAEL COMMITTEE, continued *from page 18*

It was regarded as a tribute to the U.S. that every important member of the Embassy was present, and the reception made a good send-off for the work of the Committee. The Ambassador had expressed a desire to meet the Committee.

It was subsequently agreed to invite all Synagogues to participate in arranging tours to Israel. Secretaries and Boards of Management of Synagogues would, in due course, receive relevant data.

The Chief Rabbi, at a later meeting, made several practical proposals, which will be implemented through sub-committees to deal with tourism, public relations, Aliyah, etc.

Considerable attention was given to the Hammersmith Tour to Israel and a memorandum was accepted from its organiser, together with guide-lines for similar tours.

The Committee will not only provide an additional link between the United Synagogue as a religious body and Israel, but will serve to project its image among the religious groups in Israel.

A Celebration Tour to Israel in honour of the 80th anniversary of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue and the Centenary of the United Synagogue has been arranged, and brief details are given elsewhere in this issue.

BERNARD DAVIS

(Member of the Israel Committee).

## The Synagogue's Early Members

In our last issue (September 1969 — Rosh Hashana) "Perceiver", in our "gossip" column *Private Ayin*, mentioned some of the earliest members of the congregation who helped to found the Synagogue in 1889-90, and asked if any present-day readers had some reminiscences of interest. In response, Mrs. Hilda May, of 13 Victoria Avenue, London, N.3, writes as follows:

"On reading *The Brook* magazine (No. 44) I am interested in the article headed 'The Founding Fathers.' I should like to inform you that my late parents' (Lydia and George Beverley, formerly Isaacs) marriage was the first to be solemnised in the Synagogue. It took place in November 1897 after that of the then Minister, the Rev. Michael Adler. At that time my maternal grandfather was a tailor in King Street, Hammersmith."

If other readers have reminiscences or information on the early days of the Congregation, the Editor would like to hear of them.

"Historicus" also writes to the Editor:

"In the *Jewish Chronicle* of August 2, 1889, the following item appears: 'Mr. Alfred A. Marcus, of Boston (U.S.A.), has sent through the Rev. Dr. Hermann Adler (not long after to be elected Chief Rabbi, in succession to his father, Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler, who died early in 1890) a contribution of £3 17s. 7d. towards the Hammersmith Synagogue Fund, and has requested Dr. Adler to order a Shophar, Megillah, Scroll of the Law, Pointer, and candlesticks of olive wood, which gifts he presents to the new synagogue in memory of his late wife.'

"It would be interesting to learn whether any of these gifts still remains in the possession of the Congregation, as no doubt they had the usual suitable acknowledgments engraved on them.

"Mr. Alfred A. Marcus was an American Jew, a jeweller, who appears to have had a great love for the Anglo-Jewish community, as for many years he made gifts of varying value to various Anglo-Jewish congregations and synagogues. I do not know if he had any particular attachment or connection with the Hammersmith Synagogue, but the probabilities are that he saw reports of the new congregation, or friends in correspondence mentioned it to him, and he decided to help in his usual way."

Kensington's first Jewish Poor Law Guardian appears to have been Henry A. Franklin, who was elected early in 1889.

The first synagogue in Italy to be lit by electricity was that at Leghorn (the birthplace, incidentally, of Sir Moses Montefiore). A resolution deciding on this was passed by the congregation's Council of Administration in May, 1889, with the concurrence of the Rabbis.

## ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

- Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild.** Meets first Tuesday evening in the month in the Synagogue Hall. Tel. 603 4938.
- Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Assn.** Hon. Sec.: Mrs. S. Verby, 45 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions, S.W.6. Tel. 736 3731.
- Hammersmith Friendship Club.** Meets very Wednesday in the Synagogue Hall. Chairman: Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12. Tel. 743 3276.
- Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society.** Hon. Sec.: Mrs. L. R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, Stamford Brook, W.6. Tel. 748 8577.
- Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush & Chelsea District Defence Committee** (under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews). Inquiries at Jewish Board of Deputies, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.
- Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust.** Hon. Sec.: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, Stamford Brook, W.6. Tel. 748 8577.
- West London Jewish Youth Centre Sponsoring Committee.** Hammersmith Representative: Mr. D. H. Velleman, 125a Earl's Court Road, S.W.5. Tel. 01-373 7171.
- Wessix Sports Club.** Mr. Barend Velleman, 125a Earl's Court Road, S.W.5. Tel. 01-373 7171.
- West London Zionist Society.** Hon. Sec.: Miss R. Longhorn. Tel. 748 8577.
- West London Young Zionist Society.** Chairman: Mr. Barend Velleman. Tel. 373 7171.
- Mirage.** Chairman: David Krantz. Tel. 992 3136.
- Jewish Lads' Brigade — Hammersmith Coy.** Brigade Secretary: Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Tel. 387 5148.
- Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch).** Hon. Sec.: Councillor Norman Mann, 61 Clifford Avenue, S.W.14. Tel. 876 3049.
- Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue Library.** Hon. Sec. and Librarian: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions, W.6. Tel. 748 8577.
- Jewish Youth Study Groups — West London Branch.** Karep Beth. Tel. 937 2813.

