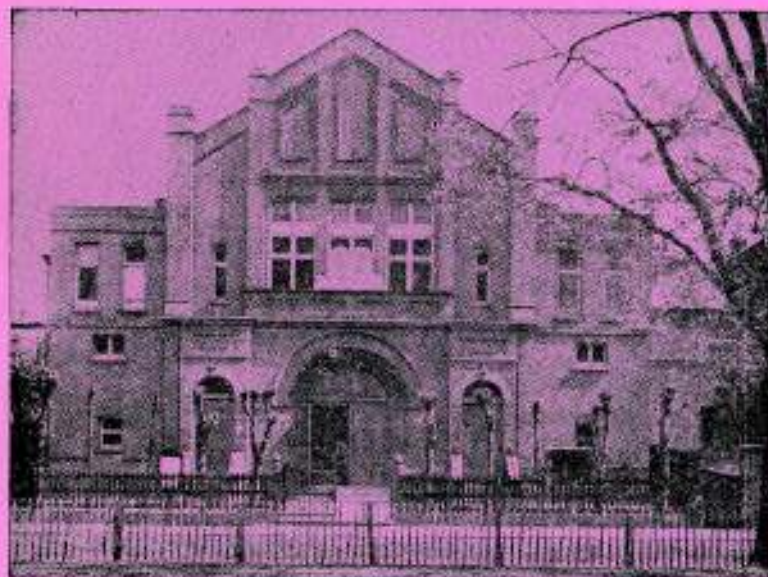


NUMBER 54

OCTOBER 1978-5739 תשל"ט

THE BROOK



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

L-rd, with my whole heart did I call and pray,
Longing I sought Thy presence
And going out toward Thee,
I found Thee coming to me on the way.

Jehudah Halevi
(Trans. Nina Davis)

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

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

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

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J. Brand, Esq. Councillor S. Grose

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

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

Times of Services

WEEKDAYS

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

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

SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS:

Evening: 15 minutes after the commencement of Sabbath and Festivals.

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE RELIGION CLASSES

All inquiries regarding Religious Education and Hebrew Instruction to Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.

" THE BROOK "

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

THE BROOK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6.

SEPTEMBER 1978/5739

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THEME AND VARIATIONS

As we enter a new year our magazine reflects the continued vitality of our community. The members and friends who sustain it with their literary and financial contributions enable a surprisingly wide readership to learn of events and experiences, whether historical or recent, which are of undeniable interest. We can also derive comfort from the serious religious themes appropriate to this solemn season.

Of our own affairs we record, that we have recently had for the first time for some years a most successful function which was not only well-attended and financially helpful but also particularly enjoyable with a most friendly and cordial atmosphere. It was a great pleasure to all members and friends who attended that a happy communal spirit was so much in evidence. Those of our colleagues who work so hard towards it deserve our thanks. We are equally mindful of those who contribute so helpfully throughout the year in the running of the services and the enhancement of our buildings. In expressing our gratitude to them we hope that the reflections of this season will impel others to add their help towards maintaining our community in the future.

BRIDEGROOMS OF THE LAW

We are pleased to announce that the Chasan Torah will be Mr. Sidney Williams and the Chasan Bereshis will be Mr. Robert Clark.

Mr. Williams has been an active member of our congregation for many years and indeed Mr. and Mrs. Williams were married in our Synagogue by Rev. Venitt. Mrs. Williams was Chairman of the Parents' Association and is now Secretary of the Functions Committee. Many members will recall with pleasure the lively interest shown in our children by Mr. and Mrs. Williams and their conscientious efforts over many years are greatly appreciated. Their son David celebrated his Barmitzvah and was married in our Synagogue and his sister Susan was a Bat Chayil.

Mr. Clark after his war service during which he had a narrow escape from drowning after his ship was sunk, was married in our Synagogue by Rev. Venitt. Mr. and Mrs. Clark's kindness and devotion to the community have always been outstanding and it was a particular pleasure for them when their only child John was Barmitzvah in the Synagogue. Mr. Clark had the honour of being a standard bearer at the presentation of the new standard to the Hammersmith Branch of A.J.E.X.

We extend our congratulation and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Clark.

GETTING LIFE INTO FOCUS

The Talmud relates the following incident concerning Rabbi Akiba. The Romans had issued a decree forbidding the Jews to study and practise the Torah. A certain Pappus ben Judah came and found Rabbi Akiba publicly studying and teaching the Torah, so he asked him "Akiba, are you not afraid of the government?" His response was to intensify his work all the more.

Not long afterwards Rabbi Akiba was arrested and thrown into prison, and Pappus was also arrested and thrown into prison with him.

When Pappus saw the rabbi in the cell, he exclaimed.

"Happy are you, Rabbi Akiba, that you have been seized for studying and teaching the Torah. Woe into Pappus who has been seized for busying himself with nonsense."

The Glory that was Rome is now scarcely a memory of Western civilization. No Roman government has imprisoned us but time has caught us. It is a year since we last made a thorough soul-searching, and now we must answer again the question.

"What have we done with our lives these past twelve months? Again we shall be standing before G-d in judgment, but is it after a year of loyalty to our faith and our Torah, or after a year of pursuing the worthless and the inconsequential?"

What concerns us? What do we worry about? Granted we need the opportunity to turn to the lighter side of life, to forget our cares momentarily, to have amusements and entertainment, the occasional relief from the burdens of life. Nevertheless, life cannot be all frivolity. If the High Holydays do nothing more, they should bring our lives back into focus, so that we recognize, at least, the difference between *divrei Torah* and *devorim beteyllim*, the worthwhile in life and the nonsense, the inconsequential. If the High Holydays do nothing more, they should inspire us and stimulate us to put forth our best efforts for the real values, for the serious side of life.

It is said that the sainted Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin once entered the beth midrash of his yeshivah and found his students in a heated debate. He imagined that they were engrossed in the interpretation of a difficult passage in the Talmud until he overheard their words and realised that their argument was over a different matter entirely. His disciples were discussing the ways to banish the bad habit of wasting time! They never realised that precisely what they were doing was itself a waste of time!

So many of us too, devote ourselves enthusiastically to the affairs of life only to find in the end that we have wasted our years on that which is meaningless and unimportant.

continued on next page

MINI-SERMON—continued from previous page

We need to lead lives full of purpose, and this is the period of the year that traditionally calls upon us to begin the road back — back to ourselves, back to the teachings of the Torah, and back to G-d, the Author of life and the Source of all blessings.

THE LADIES' GUILD (1892—)

Last year, being Jubilee Year, I mentioned that our activities over the past 25 years had continued as heretofore. This year I delved even further and learnt that the Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild was started in 1892. I feel positive that there was only a small band of workers, then as now, always willing to give their time for the benefit of the Synagogue.

The first Succah was made of a few boards nailed together and erected at the side of the Synagogue. We have progressed over these past decades and this year the Succah was laden with fruit and foliage in abundance, enabling the children to have fruit for Simchat Torah as well as the traditional sweets.

There was a Simchat Torah Reception catered by the Guild, and we do all Kiddushim throughout the year.

A Bring and Buy Coffee Morning was held in November and again the following June, and at Chanukah the Guild provided the Tea.

A new Functions Group has been formed with the co-operation of the Board of Management. A very successful Social Evening was held in April which we hope will be the fore-runner of many.

Parcels were distributed for Yomim Tovim as usual, to the patients in hospital.

We were able to collect for Geranium Day for the Blind, and this year two of our Committee sold Alexandra Roses.

A highlight during the year was the 10th Anniversary Dinner of the Association of United Synagogue Ladies' Guilds held at the Kinloss Suite in aid of Waverley Manor.

Those who attended had a most enjoyable evening.

The Guild meets every month in members' homes and the attendance is most gratifying. The guild has a great tradition which has been handed down year by year since 1892. It therefore surely behoves all the ladies of the Synagogue to associate themselves with this lasting tradition.

REBECCA FOX

Hon. Secretary

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Hon. Officers and Board of Management extend their compliments and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year to all Members of the Congregation and their Families.

The Reverend and Mrs. S. Venitt and Family wish to convey their sincere wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to the Honorary Officers, to the Board of Management, relatives, friends, and members of the Synagogue.

Hella and Shmuel Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year, and would like them to know that their address in Hendon is 1 King's Close, N.W.4.; Tel. 203 1163.

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

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Abrahamson and Family, 47 St. Mary Abbot's Court, Warwick Gardens, Kensington, W.14.

Mimi & Henry Addisman, 86 Wavendon Avenue, W.4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Irene, Joe and Steven Bondt, 3a, Aylmer Road, N.2.

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

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. J. Canter and Ray, 13 Lena Gardens, Hammersmith, W.6.

Miss H. Canter and Miss R. Canter, 44 Cambridge Grove, Hammersmith, W.6.

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

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from previous page

Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 35 Corringway, London, W5 3AB
Dr. & Mrs. M. D. Caplan and Family, 43 Lime Court, 2 Gypsy Lane, Putney, London, S.W.15.
Janet & John Clark, 34 Kingfisher Way, Bournville, Birmingham
Miriam & Robert Clark, 46 Lynton Road, Acton, W3 9HP
Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Cohen, 101 Madrid Road, London, S.W.13.
Mrs. R. Cohen, 292 Latymer Court, London, W6 7LD
Mrs. Rose Cohen, 91 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6.
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Coleman, 14 Abbots House, W14 8NU
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Collins, 38c Sterling Avenue, Edgware
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W.12.
Roger and Bianca Curtis, Kinross, 13 Coombe Lane West, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey
Mrs. S. Cutler, 288 Latymer Court, W.6.
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Davis, 18 Palace Mansions, West Kensington, W.14.
Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions, Arundel Terrace, Barnes, London, S.W.13.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Dwar and Philippa, 12 Flanders Road, London, W4 1NG
Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.
Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge, Warwick Dene, W.5.
Pauline & Joseph Finkleman and Children, 291a High Road, Chiswick, W.4.
Mr. & Mrs. N. Fishman, 5 Windsor House, Heathfield Gardens, W4 4JT
Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison Road, W.14.
Joan and Manny Franks and Family, 54 Barons Keep, W.14.
Dr. & Mrs. L. Freeman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11.
Mr. & Mrs. Julius Gaffin, 35 Watchfield Court, Chiswick, W.4.
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gold & Mrs. Ada Hayman, 30 Emlyn Road, W.12.
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gold and Family, 111 Barons Keep, Barons Court, W.14.
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Gordon, 25 Stafford Court, Kensington, W8 7DL
Mr. & Mrs. Manfred S. Gorvy & Family, 74 Woodford Square, W.14.
Mr. & Mrs. George Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Acton, W.3.
Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose and Family, Berkeley House, 10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13.
Mr. A. Gross, 31 Kings Court, King Street, London, W.6.

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from previous page

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Harris, 97 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Road, W.4.
Mrs. J. Harris (Chorister), 84 Western Avenue, Acton, W.3.
Mr. & Mrs. M. Hirth, 34 Greystoke Park Terrace, Western Avenue, W.5.
Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes, Angela and Philip, 1 Ashchurch Terrace, W.12.
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court, Kensington, W.14.
Stephen & Kate Hirst, 2 Alexandra Road, Bedford Park, W.4.
Evelyn & Monty Isaacson, Rhian & Mark, 8 Rosedew Road, W.6.
Mrs. H. Katits-Springer & Grand-daughter Mady Rosenbaum, 8 Bolingbroke Road, W14 0AL
Mr. & Mrs. R. Lakota, 39 Holland Park Mews, London, W.11.
Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W3 7LT
Mr. G. Leisner, 131 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Road, W.4.
Miss Ethel Levey, 1 West Kensington Mansions, London, W14 9PE
Phyllis & Godfrey Levy, 44 Fitz-James Avenue, London, W.14.
Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12.
Hettie and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Court, N.W.4.
Naomi & Philip Lewis & Family, 14 Madrid Road, S.W.13.
Miss Julie Litchblau, 56 Fraser House, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford
Denise and Melvyn Lux, Danielle and Collette, 62 Traps Lane, Coombe Hill, Surrey
Mrs. Lily Lux, 87 North End House, W.14.
Sally and Alfred Mark, 2 Anne Mount, Madeley Road, W.5.
Pamela, Malcolm and Samantha Mark, 46 Audley Road, W.5.
Mrs. E. Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.
Mr. & Mrs. J. Miller & Son, 16 Samuel Richardson House, North End Cres., W.14.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Mirwitch and Family, 11 South Side, Stamford Brook, W6 0XY
Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris, 115 Barns Keep, W.14.
Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, W8 4HX
Dr. & Mrs. O. Moses, 32 Wolverton Gardens, W.6.
Mrs. Olive Naschaeur, 249 Latymer Court, W.6.
Andrew, Elza & Norma Newfield, 52 East Acton Lane, London W3 7EQ
Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Nisner, Rochelle & Maxwell, 27 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, Ealing, W.5.

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from previous page

Mr. & Mrs. David Ohayon & Family, Orchard Close, Vine Road, London, S.W.13.
Mrs. Rose Parker and Family, 86 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6.
Mr. & Mrs. S. Perbohner, 121 Castelnau, London, SW13 9EL.
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips and Family, Flat 11, Bridge Avenue Mansions, W.6.
Mrs. Beatrice Rose, 12a Kensington Hall Gardens, W.14.
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Rosen, 35 Clavering Avenue, S.W.13.
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sacks, 18 Heathcroft, Ealing, London, W.5.
Ann and Richard Sampson, 66 Stamford Court, Stamford Brook, London, W.6.
Mr. & Mrs. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, W.14.
Mrs. N. Samuels, 258 Latymer Court, W.6.
Lew & Minnie Shooman, Robert & Carole, 10 Tudor Court, Gunnersbury Avenue, W.5.
Mrs. Anita Simmonds and John, 14 Cecil Close, Mount Avenue, Ealing, W.5.
Mr. & Mrs. N. Sogan, 17 Fairburn Court, St. John's Avenue, Putney, SW15 2AU.
Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4.
Leslie, Evelyn and Ruth Sommer, 14 Lillian Avenue, London, W.3.
Dr. & Mrs. J. Spira, 59a Oakwood Court, London, W.14.
Mrs. Elsa Steindler, 7 Glenallan House, North End Crescent, W14 8TF.
Mr. Michael Susan, 55 Ormiston Grove, Shepherds Bush, W.12.
Mr. & Mrs. L. Tannen, 31 Ashfield Road, East Acton, W.3.
Mrs. Stella Tesler, 89 Watchfield Court, Chiswick, W.4.
Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road, W.14.
Lily and Alfred Turner, 14 Laburnum Court, Dennis Lane, Stanmore.
Dr. & Mrs. F. S. Tysh and Ian, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6.
Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8.
David and Marguerite Velleman, 88 Howberry Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Chiswick, W.4.
Hettie & Sidney Williams & Family, 23 Westmoreland Road, Barnes, S.W.13.
Benjamin and Elizabeth de Winter and Family, 109 Oakwood Court, W.14.
Dr. & Mrs. John Woolich, Anthony and Richard, 1 North End House, W.14.
Mr. I. Yoffey and Miss Fiona Yoffey, Beaulieu, 10 The Drive, Wembley Park, Middlesex.

ANNUAL REPORT 1977/78 — 5737/38

In opening the report of the year's activities it is a particular pleasure for us to extend our renewed congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Venitt on their recent Simcha, the occasion of the marriage of their son Malcolm to Miss Bicky Posen. Many of our members will recall Malcolm as a very young member of our classes, and it is particularly noteworthy that as a young man having studied in Israel he has been able to give expert assistance with teaching. Those members of the community who were able to attend the Chuppah saw a truly memorable event, graced by the presence of the Emeritus Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie. We offer our best wishes for much happiness in the future to the young couple and their families.

Throughout the year our services have been conducted by Rev. Venitt with that dignity and warmth which he brings to every activity connected with our affairs. We have also had support from various members of the congregation who have assisted during services and when Rev. Venitt has been away, and we very much appreciate their help.

Despite the continued financial pressures which affect the community as well as our members individually it is very encouraging to report that our Synagogue finances, after many years in deficit, have now shown a small surplus for the year ending December 1977 amounting to £40. Members will realise that this improvement has been brought about only by the very strictest economy and retrenchment in local matters, but even so it is impossible for us to predict anything other than a constant need to review the level of membership contributions in the light of the pressures brought about by the overall needs of the United Synagogue as a whole. We feel sure that members will appreciate the difficulties and will continue to respond.

The Annual Reception in honour of our Chasanim was held on the Sunday after Simchas Torah and our guests were Mr. M. A. Amias, Chasan Torah and Councillor S. Grose, Chasan Bereshis together with Mrs. Amias and Mrs. Grose. It was a particularly memorable occasion this year as Councillor Grose was in office as Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, and a large gathering of members and friends greatly enjoyed the speeches, presentation of commemorative certificates and excellent replies made by our Chasanim.

During the year the Honorary Officers and the Classes Committee have given earnest consideration, together with Rev. Venitt, to the current state of our Classes and discussions have been held with the officers of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. A meeting was held for parents at which the Director of Education, Mr. A. I. Brown, spoke and in the light of sugges-

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tions made at that time further discussions are continuing. In the meantime Rev. Venitt continues most devotedly to minister to the educational needs of each child remaining.

The Ladies' Guild has met regularly throughout the year and its activities in support of charitable causes have been successful. The congregation is grateful to the ladies for their efforts and support in our affairs, including representation on the Board of Management and House Committee.

After some years the Functions Committee has been re-formed under a new Chairman, and a most lively reception and supper party was held on April 9th. The evening was well attended and was also financially successful but the particular aim of providing a welcome social occasion was fully realised and it is hoped that this can be repeated in the future. Our thanks are due to the hard-working members of the Committee.

The local J.I.A. Committee report that the Kol Nidre Appeal for Israel raised £3,000 and the 1977 Campaign £14,786. We urge all members to renew their support for this most vital work.

A civic service was held on May 13th (6th Iyar) at which the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith and Council members attended and it is hoped to make this an annual event.

We offer our thanks for their support and encouragement to our colleagues, to Rev. and Mrs. Venitt, the members of the Board of Management and Council of the United Synagogue and our representatives at the London Board of Jewish Religious Education and the Board of Deputies. We also have been fortunate to enjoy the services of our excellent Secretary, Miss Longhorn, and of our most tuneful choir, namely Mrs. Jenny Harris and Miss Longhorn. As ever our caretaker, Mr. P. Howard has been very helpful. Our House Committee under Mr. J. Langdon continues its most reliable work in the maintenance of the fabric of our buildings, and we place on record our personal appreciation of the support we have received from our members during the year.

M. A. Amias
D. Arram
M. DeVries
Honorary Officers

NOTE FROM S.O.E.B.

"Are you looking for Employment where Shabbat and Yom Tovim are readily granted? Then contact The Sabbath Observance Employment Bureau, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Tel: 387 3036/7.

Employers seeking staff in any capacity or age group are invited to place their requirements with the Bureau."

BAT MITZVAH CEREMONY 1978

Following on the heels of her hister Danielle, Collette Lux celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on Sunday, July 16th, after completing a similar course of studies.

At the service held in the synagogue, Collette participated by reading a Psalm, and the prayer leading on to the Shema. After an Address by Rev. Venitt, she read a special Batmitzvah Prayer. There was present a large gathering of family and friends, which made the occasion truly festive.

During the course of his remarks, Rev Venitt stressed the vital part played by women in Jewish life. Judaism and the Jewish people owed so much to their virtuous women, who behind the scenes, and publicly too, upheld the standards of Jewish family life and decency by their example and self-sacrifice, and likewise took their place in the highest offices of state, alongside the men. One had only to think of Deborah, Hannah, Huldah the prophetess, Queen Salome Alexandra and the traditional picture of the Eshes Chayil in Proverbs 31.

A conclusive proof of woman's dominating place in Jewish life was the undeniable fact, that the hallowing of the Jewish home was her work.

He praised Collette as an outstanding example of the ideal type of potential Jewish womanhood. She had been most diligent in her studies, which covered a wide range, and had undertaken a searching examination set by the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. Above all, her conduct was modest and unassuming. She deserved high commendation, and her parents, too, were to be congratulated, and their constant help and encouragement given due recognition.

A reception followed in the Synagogue Hall, at which Mr. Moss Amias conveyed the warm wishes of the Honorary Officers, Board of Management and Education Committee to Collette and the Lux family.

Mr. Melvyn Lux, responding, thanked Rev. & Mrs. Venitt for the great help they had given Collette in her studies.

It was a truly memorable occasion, which we hope will be repeated in the future.

Gifts for the Succoh

The *Succah* will be ready for decorating after Sabbath and on Sunday, 14th and 15th October.

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

It will be greatly appreciated if members could send their gifts on the Friday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

WEDDINGS

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

Richard BROWN to Lorraine Anne WILLIS

Donat PERBOHNER to Penelope Ann THEI

• • •

BARMITZVAHS

Mischa ELIGOLOFF Jonathan LOVELL

Mark ISAACSON Richard WOOLICH

• • •

BATMITZVAH

Collette LUX

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

• • •

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr. & Mrs. S. Benmax

Miss L. Morris

Mr. & Mrs. G. Estrin

Mr. & Mrs. H. Rieck

Mr. N. Fishman

Mr. & Mrs. J. Rozenberg

Mrs. C. Graham

Miss B. Stein

Dr. & Mrs. S. Hirst

Mr. M. Susan

Dr. & Mrs. D. Lovell

Mr. & Mrs. R. Wunsh

Miss E. Levey

Mr. & Mrs. D. Williams

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

The newly-formed Joint Functions Committee held its first Function on Sunday 9th April, in the Synagogue Hall. This was a Supper/Social Evening, modestly priced, and extremely well-patronised by members, their families and friends. Demand for tickets exceeded supply due to the limited space available.

The Sit-down meat supper was preceded by a sherry reception, which served to give members of the Synagogue an opportunity to chat with each other before sitting down at the tables with their friends. Entertainment during the evening was given by Gary Mandell who sang and played the Guitar.

Mention must be made of the small committee, chaired by Mr. David Arram, and comprising members of the Board of Management, the Ladies' Guild and their husbands all of whom contributed to the success of the evening by their attendance at meetings, collection of supplies, preparation of the supper, and the numerous other jobs which arose.

No meetings have been held during the summer months, but after the High Holydays, the committee hope to meet again to plan the next function, to which we hope members will give their full support.

All profits made from the evening held on April 9th, and indeed from all further functions, will be used to maintain and restore the appearance of our beloved Synagogue, so dear to the hearts of all of us.

H.W.

Hammersmith & District A.J.E.X.

To most people, the work of A.J.E.X. means welfare to those in need who served in H.M. forces or Jewish Defence and associated activities as well as maintaining comradeship among former ex-servicemen and women.

However, it is interesting to note that in recent years, our activities have widened in scope covering a number of aspects of Jewish life. Of primary importance is the support given to Israel. It is an unfortunate fact that during the thirty years of its existence, Israel has been constantly at war. Close liaison with Israeli Defence forces and ex-servicemen means that wherever assistance can be given, A.J.E.X. is present. A.J.E.X. has raised a large sum of money for the Beersheba project serving members of the Israeli forces, and we continue to do so.

Some have asked why is it situated in Beersheba. The original idea which still applies is that large numbers of Israeli forces are stationed in Sinai. The journey to and from their units

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

is long and tedious. By breaking their journey at Beersheba Soldiers' Home, it enables them to stay overnight and enjoy some of the luxuries which civilians may take for granted.

A second aspect which has taken up much of our time in A.J.E.X. is Soviet Jewry. Whether it be the adoption of refusniks, organising protest meetings and marches, or just the hard day to day writing of letters, A.J.E.X. has played a prominent part to further this work.

Another activity which has widened our scope, is the world-wide co-ordination of activities and ideas of Jewish ex-servicemen and women. More than ever we work on Jewish world problems with ex-service colleagues in U.S.A., Canada, France and many other countries. Two years ago I had the privilege of attending the World Assembly of Jewish war veterans held in Jerusalem, and this included in addition to representatives from those countries already mentioned, those from Israel and ex-servicemen from the Soviet Union now living in Israel. The week was one of high endeavour to co-ordinate activities. Another world conference will be held next February.

There is no doubt that the name 'ex-servicemen' gives an added impetus to any contacts we have for the furtherance of our aims, either to relieve the needs of our brethren in various part of the world or to solve our own Jewish problems at home.

Our own branch of A.J.E.X., comprising the boroughs of Hammersmith, Richmond, Ealing and Hounslow, plays its part in these wider activities. With the coming General Election, we shall take any necessary steps to ensure that people are made aware of the insidious aims of the National Front.

Our Annual Dinner and Ball will be held next year at the Grosvenor Rooms, Willesden on 3rd February, and we are looking forward to an enjoyable and profitable evening.

With the approach of the New Year, it is a thought that would not we all be better off as individuals or as a nation, if the ideals of those who served in the forces, were part of our way of life to-day.

J.B.

HAMMERSMITH WOMEN ZIONISTS

Hammersmith WIZO is still carrying on. We still have a small band of loyal members who never fail to remit their Annual Subscriptions, and help to contribute a goodly sum for Jewish Women's Week.

We wish all members a very Happy and Healthy New Year. New members will be welcome.

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

JEANIE CAPLAN

HARRY BAYES

With the passing of Harry Bayes last January at the age of 67, another link in the chain of those stalwarts of our Synagogue the Benkwich-Moss-Silver families has been prematurely severed.

Harry was the only son of his illustrious father the late H. N. Benkwich the veteran Zionist and Yiddish writer.

It was from him that he inherited his lovable character, his deep love of Zion and his ever-ready sense of humour, which endeared him to his large circle of family and close friends.

He was for many years the Chairman and driving force of the Local Zionist Society and his two sons Jeffery and Alan and daughter Rosalind became active in the West London Young Zionist Society.

He represented our Synagogue with distinction at the Board of Deputies with his special interest in ISRAEL.

He was extremely active in masonic circles and founder member of a new lodge in which he held High Office.

He was particularly proud that as a Freeman of the City of London he was able to be present at a similar honour which was accorded to his son Jeffery.

The Community can ill afford the loss of men of his calibre and he will be missed very much in the councils of so many communal organisations.

May his wife Vivienne and his children and sisters be comforted in the knowledge of the love and esteem in which he was held by so many friends.

M.A.A.

JOINT ISRAEL APPEAL

The Hammersmith Community subscribed £14,786 to the 1978 J.I.A. Appeal and just over £3,000 to the Kol Nidre Appeal.

For the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel this was a very poor response, coming as it did from only 78 contributors. This is compared with 100 contributors in 1977 Appeal which raised nearly one-third more.

At a time when Israel may have to make momentous decisions regarding her future the apathy shown towards our Appeal and towards serving on our committee is very disappointing and we must hope for a more active year in 5739.

Our Committee will greatly miss the guidance of the chairmanship of Mr. Bernard Davis who brought many qualities of leadership to the office, and sought to involve others, by organising missions to Israel. During his term of office, Mr. Davis succeeded in raising the level of giving within the community and the Hammersmith J.I.A. Committee to a respected position within the committees of the Metropolis. We hope that we will continue to benefit from his guidance for many years.

M.D.C.

ל ש נ ה ט ו ב ה

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

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. WILLIE GERTLER

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

and from

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

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

and from

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

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

MME. BASTIANI & THE STATE OF ISRAEL

It is an accepted fact that many great movements of historical significance, can be set into motion by unknown and humble persons who, having played their part, sink back into obscurity. Thus, it may well be that a simple action by a French cleaning woman was the very first step towards the setting up of the State of Israel!

In 1891 Theodore Herzl became the political correspondent of the *Neue Freie Presse* in Paris. He had been among the numbers of Austrian and German Jews who believed that assimilation was the answer to anti-semitism and although he had been rudely disillusioned he had remained un-committed to Judaism and in fact his marriage was not solemnised in Synagogue and his son was not circumcised. In France, Herzl found a growing anti-semitism fanned by the writings of Eduard-Adolph Drumont and the influence of Alphonse Daudet but, although this troubled him as he had thought that France would be free of such animosity towards the Jews, he spent the first three years of his appointment quietly minding his own business.

Then, in September 1894, an elderly woman cleaner named Bastiani, who was employed at the German Embassy in Paris, took the contents of a wastepaper basket to Major Henry, second in command of France's *Deuxieme Bureau*, counter espionage. Major Henry discovered five documents which an anonymous person had offered to the Germans. The information could only be in the possession of a French officer serving in the artillery and on investigation there were only five names that could fit the bill. Out of the five suspects Captain Dreyfuss, a Jew of an Alsatian family was arrested on the flimsy evidence of a superficial resemblance between his handwriting and that of the document — the so called *bordereaux* — and what became known all over the world as the Dreyfuss Scandal tore the population of France into two warring factions and shook Theodore Herzl to the depths of his being.

The history of the case is well known — Dreyfuss court-martialled and sentenced to degradation and life imprisonment on Devil's Island — the re-examination of the case when new wastepaper revealed the incrimination of Major Esterhazy, a Christian aristocrat who wished to find funds to clear his gambling debts. The "Whitewashing" of the evidence by Major Henry and the General Staff in order to pin the guilt on their scapegoat "the Jew Dreyfuss" and finally Emil Zola's article *J'Accuse* finally roused the public to such a height that a second court martial was inevitable. Even then, the Army was reluctant to admit any miscarriage of justice and the sentence was merely reduced to ten years' imprisonment. In the end the only way the unfortunate Dreyfuss procured his release was by petitioning for a free pardon,

continued on next page

MME. BASTIANI—continued from previous page

even though this gave the impression that some guilt did lie on him, but he could see no other course and could not endure another term in prison.

Herzl was, as he wrote, moved to his heart. In his reports to the Neue Freie Presse and in his own diaries he wrote passionate vindications of Dreyfuss, arguing that a Jewish officer on the General Staff, with an honourable career could not commit the crime of which he was accused. Herzl, the freethinker, suddenly discovered that there is no escape from the vindictive animosity of the antisemites, wherever we may be and he realised the truth of Goethe's statement in Faust "Blut ist ein ganz besonderer saft." Truly, if the racists are against the Jews it is for the Jew to take up the battle for his race, for his religion, which gave the Christian world the Ten Commandments which are the basis of human conduct and morality.

Herzl began to write his "Judenstaat" in which he visualised that Palestine, the land without a people, should be a home for the people without a land. At the age of thirty-six, fortunately a young man, he commenced a task which took in many countries to interviews with Barons, Ministers, Princes, to Kaiser Wilhelm, to the Sultan, in his fight to gain a State for the Jews.

Herzl is rightly called the Father of Zionism, but perhaps it would not be amiss to spare a thought for humble Madame Bastiani, who started more than she could ever guess when she picked out the papers from the wastepaper basket in Colonel Schwartzkoppen's office in the German Embassy that day in September 1894.

F.J.G.

WEST LONDON YOUNG ZIONIST SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Federation of Zionest Youth and operating in the Ealing, Kenton and Willesden areas of London, West London Young Zionist Society caters for the 18-26 age group.

Meetings are held on Thursday evenings in members' homes, and topics discussed have included defence of Jewish rights, aliyah, and the Lubavitch movement.

The group has a twin society, Migdal, in Birmingham and joint meetings are arranged throughout the year.

Other activities include bowling, scavenger hunts, folk evenings, beauty contests and the occasional disco.

And for those in the 14-18 age group, West Side has its own range of activities.

For further details, please contact Trevor Spiro at 286 2907 or Jane Eckman (West Side) at 997 1450.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM

HETTY & DAVID BALONOV

148, CONINGHAM ROAD, W.12

with their families

JOYCE & DAVID KIPNES,

with

LIANE, IAN and DANIEL

OF LONG ISLAND, U.S.A.

and

GLORIA DEANER, J.P.,

& JULIAN DEANER

with

KATHARINE, ADAM & EMMA

OF 26 GREENHALGH WALK,

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, N.2,

AND OF CANN, MELBURY ABBAS, DORSET,

AND OF HAMMERSMITH BROADWAY, W.6.

Mr. & Mrs.
JOE GODFREY



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

HAMMERSMITH FRIENDSHIP CLUB

I am pleased to report another year of great activity. We celebrated our 26th Birthday on Chanukah. Members who cannot always be with us, made a special effort to join us, making it a very happy occasion. The entertainment was excellent.

The Bring and Buy Sale, always a popular event, was well supported.

Twenty-two of our members made a visit to the Edith Morrison Holiday Home in Folkstone.

We were sorry to lose the services of our dear Rose Nelman, who resigned on the grounds of ill-health, and distance to travel. We shall certainly miss her sing-along afternoons at the piano. She has promised to visit us whenever she can. We wish her well.

The office has been filled by Mrs. Hilda Cousin, to whom we extend our best wishes for many years of happy service.

Mr. Mullins and a colleague gave another talk on Road Safety, illustrated with slides, and questions were invited. Once a month the Hammersmith Council sent us some first-class artistes for our entertainment.

We also had our share of family simchas. Three of our members celebrated their birthdays on the same day, and provided a party; Another celebrated an anniversary with wine and biscuits.

Rev and Mrs. Venitt gave a party to mark the Wedding of their son Malcolm. He and his wife Bicky were presented with a silver tray.

Mrs. Barrie and I were invited to meetings on *Age Concern Activities for the Elderly* held at Red Cross House. These were most informative.

The finals of the *Learn to Live Quiz* dealing with safety in the home and on the roads, were held at Hammersmith Palais. Our members were invited as guests. The Question Master was Marjorie Proops, and the prizes were presented by the Mayor and Mayoress. Afternoon tea was served, and before we left, we were presented with pens. It was a very enjoyable function.

We have had our usual Bingo sessions, coach outings, and theatre parties, and finished up with another Bring and Buy Sale.

Our membership is good, new member are joining, and absent friends are remembered.

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

MARY WILSON
Hon. Secretary

OF CHOIR AND CHORISTERS

There was once a choirmaster named Pester whose name has become a legend wherever two or three choristers are gathered together. If any of his singers happened to come in at the wrong spot, or sing a wrong note he would fix the culprit with a beady eye and hiss "Not a penny hextra!" In those days, when payments to choristers were relatively small a penny hextra would have been quite a consideration.

Now that Synagogue choirs seem to be diminishing (who would have thought of a "prestige" Shul like Marble Arch without a choir?) it might be appropriate to remember some of the music and personalities that were part and parcel of our services in days gone by.

When I was a child my family were members of Bayswater Synagogue. At that time Bayswater rejoiced in a Chazan who had a truly wonderful voice and a mixed choir of outstanding voices. I grew up in this atmosphere of reverence enhanced by melody, and when my time came to join a choir I had to learn very little, having absorbed all the traditional tunes at the same time as I had learnt to read the words.

Choral music in synagogues in this country owes a great deal to chazanim who have come from the Continent and have brought with them traditional tunes from their home districts. Thus, if one takes, say, three tunes for the Shir Hakovoud one finds that each is derived from a different area. Some chazanim have composed settings themselves, but in many cases these are not true compositions but melodies remembered and what Benjamin Britten used to call "realised". Choirmasters have also composed choral pieces and in this connection both Mombach and Alman have added a great deal to the repertoire. The choristers' Bible is the Songs of Prayer and Praise, known among choristers as the Blue Book, which is a compilation of tunes for all occasions made by a committee of Chazanim in the early years of this century. Incidentally, our own Rev. B. Paletz was co-opted on to this Committee when the book was revised. In this book can be found compositions attributed to such great names as Lewandowsky, Hast, Goldstein, Donayevsky and De Solla. I am always struck by the fact that the music in so many cases fits the meaning of the words so beautifully, for instance just read the words of Shema Kolenu in the Yom Kippur Service, or Zocharti Loch in the Rosh Hashana Service, and see if you could think of music that would better convey the meaning.

As a woman I would like to think that the decline in synagogue choirs coincided with the dismissal of women from those synagogues who had for many years had mixed choirs.

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OF CHOIR AND CHORISTERS—continued from previous page

but it could have started earlier. Before the war there always seemed to be young boys and girls who considered it an honour to be allowed to sing with the choir, and so there was a continuity of service. The last choirmaster at Hammersmith, Ben Busky, of blessed memory, became a choirmaster while still in his teens, having had years of grounding as a boy chorister. Nowadays other things occupy our young people, and they are not prepared to be tied down at week-ends and Yomim Tovim.

In my opinion, from the musical aspect, the loss of women has had its effect. A small combination of voices is always better balanced if it has definite soprano, contralto, tenor and bass. Apart from which, it is much more costly to maintain an exclusively male choir.

Little did I think that I would end up as one of the last two women singing in London Synagogues. However, Hammersmith's unmixed choir still tries with its limited means to enhance the beauty of our service and our voice is truly that of Prayer and Praise.

R.L.

ANGLO-JEWISH SILVER EXHIBITION

A visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, affectionately known as the 'V & A' is always a treat. The first time I went was as a schoolgirl when I tried to copy the embroideries of the Ancient Egyptians, and I have been visiting ever since.

But the other day, visiting the Anglo-Jewish Silver Exhibition was an outstanding event. The Exhibition was beautifully arranged, with some of the most exquisite pieces, both ancient and modern, kindly loaned by private collectors or sent from London Synagogues.

The Central Synagogue had loaned a pair of Rimmonim dated 1887. From the Gustave Tuck Collection an unusual Circumcision Set, in a leather case, circa 1820.

It was customary in the 19th century to present the Lord Mayor with a Silver Salver depicting various aspects of Jewish History. There were six on display, only eleven are still in existence.

The Montefiore Centrepiece designed in 1842 was a most outstanding exhibit. It was a Testimonial to the lifelong work of Sir Moses. I particularly liked the Continental Prints of Succot, Simchat Torah and Hanukah, reminding me of a print from my grandparents that we had at home.

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The modern section was superb with a Torah Crown, Breast Plate and Pointer loaned by the New London Synagogue designed by Prof. Arie Offir of Jerusalem, 1978, pieces of rare beauty. Also in the modern display case, Rimmonim, Havdala Set, Hanukah Lamp and a Citron Box, all these were of the finest artistic work of today. One really needed a second visit to appreciate the whole exhibition. This, fortunately, I was able to do before it closed.

R.F.

SURPRISE YOURSELF!

It would astound you, if you really stopped to think about it for a moment, the number of words and phrases you know which are directly concerned with the Bible and which you yourself use in ordinary everyday conversation. You don't believe me? Let us then consider the first book of the Bible — GENESIS — you will at once remember: — the garden of Eden, "Am I my brother's keeper?", the brand of Cain, one's birthright for a mess of pottage, Jacob's ladder, Joseph's coat of many colours, Potiphar's wife and many, many more. They can all be found in the first book, and the next four books abound in familiar phrases also.

All right then, you have got yourself a pass mark so far. How would you fare in your knowledge of some other books of the Bible! Not too badly, I believe, if you only gave yourself a little time to collect your thoughts and continue surprising yourself.

Everyone has heard of Samson and Delilah (Book of Judges) the Witch of Endor (First Book of Samuel) David and Bathsheba (Second Book of Samuel) Solomon and the Queen of Sheba (First Book of Kings) where you will also find the story of Ahab, Jezebel and Naboth's Vineyard.

"Can the leopard change his spots or the Ethiopian his skin?" You will, of course, guess that this is a quotation from the Bible, but which book? The answer is Jeremiah. "There is no peace for the wicked" Which book? Yes! again Jeremiah. If you doubt the origin of the "no peace for the wicked" then check with your Routledge Machsor and you will find it in the Haphtorah read on Yom Kippur morning.

The list of familiar names, words, and phrases is endless. Remember, we have hardly touched upon any of the works of the prophets, nor the Song of Songs, nor the Book of Esther, nor upon the Psalms (all one hundred and fifty of them). Some other time maybe. Perhaps one day someone will think it worthwhile to compose a popular song with the re-phrased title "Brush . . . Up . . . Your . . . Bible ! ! !

Happy New Year to All.

H.S.

"JUST ANOTHER TRIP TO ISRAEL? . . ."

by Angela Hodes (AllsORT's Executive Committee)

Multifarious excursions and missions to Israel will be found advertised and reported and our own trip would be numbered amongst them, but in no way can our especial experience be put down as 'just another trip to Israel'.

Sixteen members of AllsORTs returned in April from Israel where our objective was simple: to see ORT in action, and in particular the two vocational schools in Ashdod and in Ashkelon for which we raise scholarships. Our hosts for the weeklong stay was the ORT Rogosin Nautical School in Ashdod. Although five of our number had already seen ORT at close hand on a weekend expedition to Paris last year, for the majority of us this was the justification and the sponsored 'climb of Everest'. It is rare that people know or care how their donations are utilized, but our first morning in Ashdod crystalized so implicitly "Organization and Rehabilitation Through Training".

This unique nautical school admits its boys at the age of fourteen and discharges them as men for compulsory military service four years later; qualified as marine mechanics, radio and electrical officers — commissioned officers for the merchant marine. It was the application of the students themselves which stood out, and this was reiterated in all the schools we saw. Here, of their fifty hour week they learnt not only general matriculation subjects in the classroom as well as technology, electronics and seamanship interalia, but forty per cent of their study time was spent in laboratory work and ship practice in simulated ship conditions as well as sailing and working on Israeli Naval and merchant vessels, operating radar equipment etc.

This tough training demonstrates the all encompassing flexibility of ORT. For their School at Ashkelon was as different in every way from Ashdod as a sailor is to a receptionist in an International Hotel.

The day school selects the cream of Israeli youth, as — there is much demand to send one's children to a 'good' school. Their matriculation certificate is eligibility to any university in the World. In this new (seven years old) spacious but scholastic environment we were captivated by an imaginative atmosphere — generated not a little by the School's Director. We were amazed by the completeness of the education; pupils learnt to programme and work a computer, that, in turn, works a lathe, which will produce indefinitely. But they were never merely practising their skills, for example, in the electronics workshops the boys made a 'Counter Keyboard' that the girls would use for their typewriting

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lessons. Largescale self-sufficiency was making the transformers for use in all the ORT Schools!

Completely different again, was the recently opened ORT School of Engineering on the Campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Academically and architecturally it is the acme of ORT Israel and again original, combining High School, Post Military and University education using the most advanced and specialised computer and electronic equipment. A breathtaking place for study at every level.

It did not seem possible that there were so many interpretations to O.R.T. — and our Group only visited four schools. Yet perhaps the most memorable sight was the workshop on the Kibbutz School at Ein Harod. By then we had become accustomed to the concept of vocational training, the technical side was paramount, everything else seemed 'frivolous'. Yet here in the Workshop crammed with heavy duty machinery was the ultimate marriage of nature and technology: suspended from each machine were pots of ivy and plants. We witnessed the ambitious clothes and paintings done by the children that confirmed in our minds the completeness of an ORT Education by the complementary coexistence of arts and science.

It is difficult to convey the enthusiasm brought about by our expedition without fostering the reader with, perhaps, unwelcome zeal. However there is no apology — go and find out for yourself.

For more information: Please contact: Michael Henry, ORT Headquarters 01-486 1922; Mark Mishon, Private number 01-874 2260.

FRUIT COMPOTE

1 lb Cherries (preferably black)

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb Black Currants

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb Red Currants

1 lb Granulated or Caster Sugar

Clean fruit and place in serving bowl

Cover fruit with all the sugar

Having placed a firm cover on the bowl put the bowl in a warm place and leave for at least 12 hours; giving the said bowl a shake whenever you think of it; this melts the sugar and causes the fruit to give off a rich syrup. Do not refrigerate; but if you have a few raspberries or the like these can be added. Cream or the like spoils the flavour; the Compote should be eaten "au naturel".

A.L.

JEWISH YOUTH STUDY GROUPS

During the last war a group of Jewish Youth who were evacuated and anxious to keep in touch with their Jewish identity, began the Jewish Youth Study Groups.

The Youth Group is for boys and girls of 14 — 18 years and is a national movement controlled by the national Va'ad (committee) and organized by Mr. Bobby Hill.

At the national level, there are Annual Summer and Winter Schools, reunions and inter-functions.

At the local level, there are many groups in London and scattered across the country. These are controlled by a local Va'ad who organize the weekly meetings. The meetings start with a summary of a subject of Jewish culture and problems in a modern world, which is given by a member of the group. Usually a discussion follows this.

After a break, when friends are made and acquaintances renewed, speakers, for most meetings, talk to us on a very wide range of subjects. There is a discussion, debate or a quiz at other times.

Then follows the joyfulness and involvement of Jewish singing and dancing, with the singing of the Hatikvah.

Many inter-meetings occur between groups and often outings are organized.

Jewish Youth Study Groups must be the only youth group which brings together so many different aspects of Jewish and social life in such a unique way and it must be experienced to believe.

LONDON GROUPS: Brighton, Kenton, Kingston, Middlesex, North East, North West, Reading, Southgate, South West and West.

PLEASE CONTACT TO FIND OUT MORE: Keith Green 997 3745 — Clive Florentin 567 6195.

Addison Adult Education Institute

Classes in Modern Hebrew will be held at the Flora Gardens School Branch (situated off King Street, Hammersmith) as follows:

Stage 1 6.15-7.45 Elisheva Rakity

Monday

Stage 2 8.00-9.30 Elisheva Rakity

The courses commence on 18th September and the Term times are:

Autumn Term 18th September - 16th December 1978.

Spring Term 8th January - 7th April 1979.

Summer Term 30th April - 30th June 1979.

Enrolment time at Flora Gardens 6.30-8.30 pm

Fee £7.50 for the year: £2.70 for each Term.

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Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

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



50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

A VISIT TO BEERSHEBA

by PHILIP MISHON

*Chairman of the trustees of UK Friends for
Further Education in Israel.*

I was greatly honoured during my last visit to Israel to be invited as a guest to stay a few days in the Beersheba Project for Israel Defence Forces. As a "pioneer founder member" of this project in 1967 my thoughts turned to the years 1967-1971 when we did not have a Trust, we saw very little building work, only a large foundation hole (and that was moved a few hundred yards to the right because of a change of plan) and very few funds to support the pledges made by fellow Trustee Licut-Cdr Stanley Brilliant then National Chairman of Ajex and myself, for 20 rooms.

However, with the active support of Ajex members and countless "Friends" all over the country, funds were raised, the building progressed and United Kingdom House (Beit Anglia) finally opened in January 1976.

Those concerned at the opening ceremony were Ronald Shelley, National Chairman of Ajex 1975-77; Simon Frisner, Honorary President of Polish Jewish ex-Servicemen, and Trustees of U.K. Friends together with the honorary officers and members of Ajex.

My arrival on a very hot July day at the Project was similar in many ways to arriving at a new overseas posting to a depot or ship. First a greeting by Colonel "Tibbi" Isaacs the Manager of the Project, an introduction to his 21/C Major A. Caspi and all the staff, a tour round the project and its various amenities and then to the first floor store room for "kitting out" with towels and room keys.

My room on the first floor was donated by a combined Ajex Branch and U.K. Friends membership. It normally would have held four men but on this occasion I had it to myself. Fully air-conditioned, good beds and mattresses, showers and toilets and plenty of hot and cold water -- all for £1 per night (no breakfast).

I followed the routine of the Project and therefore visited one of the classrooms and took part in a discussion taken by Cpl. "Shoshana". The class was made up of young men who had been in Israel up to four years who came from Canada, Argentina, Rumania, Morocco and Mexico. This was a current-affairs class in order to enlarge their Hebrew vocabulary.

The class were most intrigued by my presence and the fact that I was a Second World War Veteran meant very little to them. They had not been aware of the part played by Jewish ex-Service-

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VISIT TO BEERSHEBA—continued from previous page

men from the U.K., Canada and the USA in developing the Complex as a whole.

A visit to the reading room and libraries, and discussion with the Librarian were most informative as both rooms are in constant use. The reading room was presented by the family of the late Major Denfield, a member of Hendon & Golders Green Ajex branch, and the library by U.K. friends of Ambassador Michael and Mrs. Comay in the name of their late son Yochanan.

The canteen/coffee bar is an essential part of any rest house and is completely staffed by volunteers from 8 a.m. — 11 p.m. This is no mean task and a real labour of love and appreciation.

A tour of the gardens and the choice of a site for the Garden of Remembrance in the name of the late Norman Gaventa, a member of Finchley Branch of Ajex . . .

The constant reminder of the next stage of this magnificent project was the building work only a few yards away, always overshadowing the existing building. The heat at midday was 100 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit and I was fully aware that only two short years ago the one rest house for members of the IDF covering the whole of the Negev area was a small Turkish school building in the city of Beersheba built in 1924, and only giving basic rest and small comfort for about 80 persons. A total of 400 can now be accommodated.

U.K. Friends and members of Ajex should be justly proud of this project and the benefit given to thousands of young men and women who have passed through its rest rooms and classrooms, and who over the next few years will enjoy even greater facilities in Stage II. They will also understand that their "friends", many ex-Service in the Diaspora, were not so many years ago, seeking places for rest and comfort in many parts of the world.

JEWISH MARRIAGE EDUCATION COUNCIL

529b FINCHLEY ROAD, LONDON, NW3 7BG 01-794 5222/8035

J.M.E.C. serves the community by providing:

1. MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES
2. MARRIAGE GUIDANCE
3. DIVORCE COUNSELLING
4. MARRIAGE EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AND ADULT GROUPS
5. PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO JEWISH MARRIAGE
6. COOKERY AND HOME MANAGEMENT COURSES

JEWISH AUTISTIC SOCIETY

(in aid of the Autistic and similarly handicapped)

J.A.S. was founded some months ago to help families, one of whose members displays "autistic" features.

"Autism" means totally involved in self. An autistic person is withdrawn; has language and communication difficulties, doesn't know the acceptable way to behave, and often has severe social problems.

Certainly it is known that autism affects the whole ability range and all social classes.

As a Society, our aims are to develop educational and training centres in a Jewish environment; pupil training centres for the adolescents and young adults; integration into Jewish Youth Centres for the mildly handicapped; hostels for the many who can, with the right training, make a useful contribution to society; and sheltered communities for the most handicapped.

We would greatly welcome Friends of J.A.S.

We are going to hold monthly social evenings where families and friends can meet and talk and exchange views, and sometimes have a speaker to keep us in touch with the latest professional comment. We have our own speakers' group who would be only too glad to tell you more about us.

If you'd like to help us in any way, please contact Mrs. Jean Aaron, 140 Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middx., HA9 8EN, Tel. 904 7717, or the Publicity Officer and Counsellor, Mrs. Olga Deaner, 26 Greenhalgh Walk, London, N2 0DJ, Tel. 458 5344.

ISRAELI CITRUS SALAD

- 2 Grapefruit, peeled and separated into segments
 - 1 Orange, peeled and separated into segments
 - 1/2 Cucumber, cut into 1/4 in. thin slices
 - 3 table spoons Sunflower oil
 - 1/4 tea spoon Lemon juice
 - 1 tea spoon Sugar
 - Salt and white pepper
 - Fresh mint leaves
- Put the grapefruit and orange segments into a shallow serving bowl. Surround them with the cucumber slices, in an overlapping border.

Mix together the oil, lemon juice, sugar and salt and pepper to taste. Pour this dressing over the salad and top with mint leaves. Chill for at least 30 minutes before serving. (Serves 4).

Excellent with grills and roasts. Especially good for low cholesterol diets.

A.L.

THOUGHTS OF YOSEF TEKOAH

(Former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, and currently President of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheva).

I recently had the opportunity to have a long and stimulating discussion with Mr. Bernard Davis, Chairman of the Hammersmith J.I.A. and Trustee of one of our substantial British Charitable Trust donors and with his charming wife Lilian on a wide range of issues of concern to the Jewish people today.

Naturally, as I am currently serving as President of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, much of the conversation centered on the role of education in shaping Israel's destiny and specifically on the role of Ben-Gurion University.

The State's Founding Father, David Ben-Gurion, knew that Israel's future depended on the development of the Negev, an area constituting 60 per cent of Israel's land mass in the 1967 lines, and by personal example (he settled in Sde-Boker, south of Beersheva and is buried there), by Government policy and action, he saw to it that life and growth were brought to the vast arid region. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev was created in response to this challenge.

In its campuses in Beersheva and Sde-Boker, the University embodies Faculties of Technology, Natural Sciences, Medicine, Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as a Research & Development Authority, an Institute for Desert Research and the Ben-Gurion Research Institute and Archives. In addition to serving as the focus of development in the Negev, the University is playing a vital role in meeting the nation's crucial challenges — absorption of new immigrants and integration of communities of diverse cultural, economic and social backgrounds.

As Israel's youngest University, Ben-Gurion University feels most acutely the economic vicissitudes confronting Israel these days. It is struggling to overcome budget cuts in governmental subsidies at a time when there is a critical shortage of funds for such basic requirements as laboratory equipment, books for the Library to properly serve the teaching and research community, scholarship assistance for needy students. The Ben-Gurion University has the highest percentage, of any Israeli University, of students from disadvantaged families, most of them of Sephardic origin. However, despite these limitations, Ben-Gurion University continues to fulfill its nation-building responsibilities. It has dedicated itself to the realization of Israel's fundamental goals and aspirations. The participation of British Jewry in this endeavour would be of decisive importance. They would find in it much personal gratification, happiness and inspiration.

I extend a most cordial invitation to visit our University in the Negev and Mr. Bernard Davis has kindly intimated he would make the necessary arrangements.

YOSEF TEKOAH,
Beersheva, February 1978

ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

West London Young Zionist Society. P.R.O. Mr. Trevor Spiro, Tel. 286 2907.

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

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

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

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

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

from

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(J. DICKMAN)



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