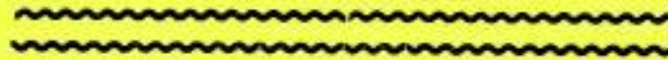


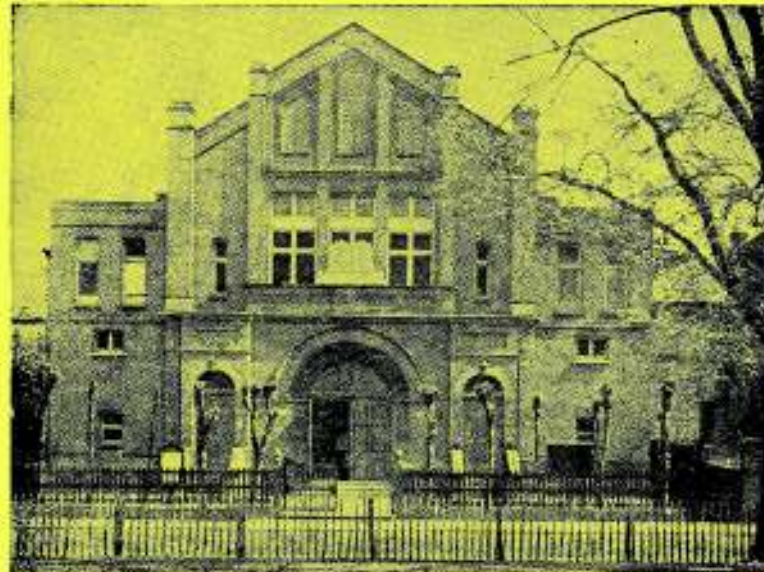
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THE BROOK



1890 - 1986



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

**"A year of plenty, a year of happiness, a year of
peace and tranquillity"**

From the High Priest's Prayer
Festival Prayer Book

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

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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. M. D. Caplan; Mr. M. DeVries, M.A.; Councillor S. Grose, B.A.; Mr. H. Sharpe.

EDITORIAL

REFLECTED GLORY

With our customary informality we begin a new year by reflecting on the happy occasion of the fortieth anniversary of our community being led by Rev. and Mrs. Sam Venitt.

To serve for such a length of time is distinction enough; the fact that it has been marked by the energy and devotion they have both shown in every aspect of our affairs is a substantial bonus for each of us and something we have been privileged to enjoy and still do so. The warm and friendly feeling which greets our visitors is an example of the happy atmosphere they have created amongst us.

Above all, Rev. Venitt has led our services with tuneful dignity. He is a master of nusach and the clarity of his davening and leining enables the entire congregation to join in all our prayers with understanding and devotion. In addition, he has always found stimulating and inspiring words to mark our Festivals and on occasions both of sorrow and joy. There can be few members during the period he has already served who cannot recall public and private words of comfort to the bereaved and their families and few people who do not recall his good humoured, active teaching in which he was so ably joined by his dear wife. We offer our good wishes for health and happiness to Sam and Rifka and hope that we will continue to benefit from their leadership, energy and generosity of spirit.

We are pleased to report, as has been mentioned in the Annual Report, that we have been successful in achieving overdue repairs to our buildings. In particular the classroom block roof has been repaired and central heating has been installed in the Minister's flat. The roof of the Synagogue Hall has been renovated and the hall itself has been redecorated, together with the old Board Room, and new curtains have been provided. Although we have received assistance from the United Synagogue, the decorations and curtains have been met from local funds, especially by a major donation from the Ladies Guild and other generous members and friends. We enter the New Year with renewed confidence and affection for our dear friends the Venitts, for our Community and for our families.

Chasanim

We are pleased to announce that the Bridegrooms of the Law this year will be Rev. Sam Venitt and Dr. Jack Cowan.

Rev. Sam Venitt, Chasan Torah, is this year in his fortieth year of continued, devoted service to our congregation. We join in offering to him and Rifka our good wishes on this happy anniversary.

Dr. Jack Cowan, Chasan Bereshis, needs no introduction to our members. As a well-respected member of the Board of Management for some years, he has always been an active supporter of the congregation. He was for many years associated with the Putney Synagogue and we were delighted to welcome him back to rejoin us. He is a regular Baal Maphtir and always

reads the Haphtorah with clear diction and skilful attention to nusach and meaning, which is always a pleasure to hear. We wish him many more years in good health to be able to assist us in our services as well as in the duchening in which he is always a leading participant.

We extend our congratulations to our distinguished Chasanim on this honour.

MINI-SERMON

RENEW OUR DAYS AS OF OLD

by Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.

During the High Festival Season, we shall be repeating a number of familiar verses over and over again. One of them, taken from Lamentations is

הֲשִׁיבֵנו ה' אֵלֶיךָ וְנִשׁוּבָה חֹדֶשׁ יָמֵינוּ כִּקְדִים

What can these words mean for us today. They seem to tell us that if we want to make real progress, we must pause and look back, and realise how desperately we need the experience of the past to guide us into the future.

We live in days of progress, nuclear energy, electronic ingenuity and outer space. But what have we achieved in other directions. Wherever we look there is upheaval and violence — a world in turmoil. Apparently, with all our progress we have failed to grasp the basic truths which our prophets taught us, and which are the foundations for a life worth living. Where are all those visions of justice, of fair-mindedness, of humility before G-d. As our grip on nature strengthens, so the structure of human nature is crumbling and the visions of Universal Peace which the prophets pictured — when the lion will dwell with the lamb, and men will declare that they have all one Father — seems more remote than ever. We search for new values, but neglect the original values.

There are elementary social truths that have been tested by history and proclaimed in G-d's name. These are largely ignored. Thinkers put forward so called original ideas without reference to the earlier sources which have already been thought of years ago. Might we not be better equipped on many of our social and moral issues if we rather made the old new.

A professor of surgery once told young doctors, "More is learned from the stories of Moses, Isaac, Jacob, Job, David and Hosea than by studying mice in a maze."

"Renew our days as of old".

This is the time of the year when we Jews especially need to summon up the past. Only if we can build on the old foundations, shall we be the better able to move forward with clearer direction and purpose.

Teshuvah, penitence, also implies a return, a restoration of the qualities that enabled previous generations to build new structures.

It is in this spirit, surely, that the United Synagogue is starting off the New Year with a call for an Education Year

for the whole of the Community, young and adults alike. They are seeking to lay foundations which will help ensure the continuity of our traditions into the next century.

May our prayers for the New Year give us the inspiration to turn back and bring up as new the ways of ancient Torah which are ever modern, and guide us to a life that is worthy of Selicha, and that may bring with it peace and blessing.

ANNUAL REPORT 1985/6

In presenting our report we are pleased to note that we have maintained our financial position despite the need to re-schedule membership contributions as directed by the United Synagogue. This is due as always to great care in the administration involved in limiting our expenses as much as can be managed, together with the help we have received from the United Synagogue with financial support for necessary repairs. We have had extensive work done to the roof of the Synagogue Hall and repairs to the Minister's Block including both roof and brickwork repointing. Central Heating has been installed in the Minister's Flat, and work carried out in the Golding Room and in the Synagogue. We thank all those concerned especially the Hon. Treasurers of the U.S., and our colleague Mr. Bankover for taking a major role in furthering this long needed work of renovation.

The Functions Committee has regularly assisted us with not only essential funds but also continuing a happy social and charitable atmosphere. A Chanukah Supper with entertainment was held and enjoyed by all, as was the Purim Tea at which our colleague Dr. Jack Cowan talked about his successful Mediterranean Cruise. Musical Entertainment was provided by Mr. Snoeck on the accordion, and our thanks go to them and to the Committee.

Successful Kiddushim were again arranged throughout the year with the able help of the Ladies' Guild and to those who have experienced it, it is true to say that there is nothing like the friendly, harmonious atmosphere and refreshments (in all senses) provided by them and they are truly appreciated. We extend our grateful thanks to all donors and friends on behalf of our fellow consumers.

We were very pleased to have once again the help of Jonathan Miller who joined Rev. Venitt and Mr. Amias in the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services. We also value the expertise and energy of our colleague Mr. Hersh Rieck in his stimulating davening throughout the year.

Our Guests of Honour at the Annual Reception were our Chasanim, Mr. J. Finkleman, Chasan Torah, and Mr. Michael Talalay, Chasan Bereshis, both of whom were accompanied by their ladies. After the usual vote of thanks they were presented with commemorative inscribed certificates recording the event on behalf of the congregation.

Throughout the year the House Committee led by Mr. Jack Langdon have given us every support, and we record with

pleasure the many gifts and donations from members which have been notified to the United Synagogue.

After a lapse of some time, the New Friendship Club re-opened in the Synagogue Hall under the very able chairmanship of Mrs. Netta Guyer. A first birthday party was held on 12th May. We send congratulations to the club members on this happy occasion and the sincere hope for many more anniversaries.

The Mayoral visit by the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham Councillor Kim Howe, accompanied by the Mayoress and several members of the Council was held on Shabbat Shirah, and a special celebration was held to mark the Ladies Guild Shabbat also on that day.

We welcome Mr. S. Fainlight who has joined us as our new part-time Secretary and wish him well in his duties for the future. We have joined on behalf of the Synagogue in adding our good wishes to our colleagues Mr. John Julius and Mr. J. Lindsey on their retirement from Head Office. We have never failed to receive every support and assistance from them, and feel sure the good relations with the United Synagogue will continue.

Our members have continued to pay every attention to the important work of the J.I.A. Committee. A special meeting was held in the Synagogue Hall, when a talk was given by Mr. Zvi Garcy, Senior Director of Special Assignments for the Keren Hayesod. The result together with the Kol Nidre Appeal was very gratifying.

We are grateful for the good humour of Stephie Englefield our caretaker, as well as the valuable work she does together with her husband Tom, in keeping our buildings and grounds in good condition. Members have commented very favourably on the attractive flower displays we have had from our gardens.

In conclusion, we extend our grateful thanks to Rev. & Mrs. Venitt for their advice, encouragement and support, and their never-failing friendship which is a total pleasure to us. For their help and that of all who work for the good of the congregation we remain truly thankful.

M. A. AMIAS
M. DeVRIES
D. S. ARRAM
Hon. Officers

Gifts For The Succah

The Succah will be ready for decorating on Wednesday and Thursday 15th and 16th October.

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

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

LADIES GUILD REPORT 1985/6

Our Annual General Meeting was once again held at the home of our President, Mrs. Frank Hodes.

The year commenced with the Annual Bring and Buy and afternoon tea at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gold, and £170 was raised.

The Guild gave the Kiddushim in the Succah which was once again beautifully decorated with fruit and foliage. The Annual Simchat Torah Party was catered admirably by the Ladies Guild.

As in previous years the Ladies Guild Shabbat was combined with the visit by the Mayor and his party. This is an occasion when the community honours the Ladies of the Guild, WIZO, League of Jewish Women, the Friendship Club and ORT for their work during the year.

At an evening function Mr. Joshua Rozenberg of the B.B.C. was Guest Speaker at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Williams. This was a most enjoyable evening socially and financially. The sum of £150 was raised.

Geranium Day Collection for the Greater London Fund for the Blind was £183 — there were fewer collectors available than in previous years.

Our fund raising event of the year was the Annual Luncheon Bring and Buy with Mrs. Rose Owen, J.P. as our Guest Speaker. The sum of £324 was realised.

Floral decorations for the Synagogue were again provided on Shavuot and thanks to the generosity of individual members, we were not involved in any expense. A Kiddush was provided by the Guild after each Service.

The Guild is very grateful to all members who have given donations to mark special occasions and to those ladies who help to prepare the Kiddushim. Thanks are also due to the two ladies who transport disabled to the centre in Camden Town.

If you are not a member of the Ladies Guild, you can join us for an Annual Subscription of £3.00 and you can be associated with the charitable work we are doing.

REBECCA FOX
(Hon. Secretary)

Can You Help?

It is obvious that in a community like ours there must be quite a number of elderly, lonely, isolated and housebound people who would welcome a contact either in person or by telephone. We are looking for people who are willing to perform such a service, which would indeed be a Mitzvah.

Please contact Mrs. Rebecca Fox (Tel. No. 602 4242).

FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

During the past year two socials were arranged by the Functions Committee — one a supper, the other a tea party.

The function on 15th December was a Chanukah Supper Party preceded by our annual sherry reception and attended by eighty members and friends. A very enjoyable evening was had and all agreed that once again we had organised an evening where members and friends were able to meet socially over an appetising supper. The entertainers on this occasion were Tony and Shirley Memory with Ivy Esta at the piano.

Our second function was on Sunday, 23rd March, and being held in the afternoon, was a Purim Tea Party, once again proving a great social success. During the afternoon, Dr. Jack Cowan spoke on his Mediterranean cruise.

Our Functions Committee are always looking for ways and means of providing socials which will be enjoyed by members and friends and also be a means of raising money for our Synagogue Building Fund.

Our next function will be a Chanukah Supper held on Sunday, 28th December (2nd Day Chanukah). Further details will be sent to all members in due course. Please note the date and make sure that you and your friends attend this our first supper function in our newly decorated Synagogue Hall.

The members of our Committee wish you all a Happy New Year and hope to have your continued support of their efforts during the coming year.

DAVID ARRAM
Chairman

Inter-Faith Relations

During the past year, I have had over two hundred teenagers visiting our Synagogue from local schools such as Godolphin and Latymer and Sacred Heart Convent School. Several primary schools have sent parties, too, and for the second year running, I have tried to explain the Succah to four year olds. Of particular interest was a telephone call from the English teacher of a fourteen-year-old girl. She said her pupil had been reading the Diary of Anne Frank, and had been so deeply impressed, that she had joined an Anne Frank Fan Club. They both wanted so much to visit the synagogue, in order to understand Anne Frank's Jewish background. The visit took place, and both subsequently sent enthusiastic letters of thanks, and hoped they could come again. In April, I addressed a meeting of the Hammersmith and Fulham Historical Society on the history of the Jews in our locality. Apparently they had been unaware of the presence of any established Jewish Community in the Borough, and wanted to fill in the gap.

In May, I was invited to address the London Group of the World Congress of Faiths. The subject I chose was "Judaism in its Practical Application to Communal Life". This was very well received, and was followed by an interesting discussion.

S. VENITT

ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

By the Chief Rabbi, Sir Immanuel Jakobovits

Shakespeare's "All's Well That End Well" has its Jewish equivalent in the opposite: "All is well that begins well". We sanctify and elevate not the end of the year, not the last days of Ellul, but the beginning of the year, the first days of Tishri.

While at the conclusion of the year we do look back and take stock, atone for the wrongs done and seek forgiveness for our shortcomings during the year that has passed, nevertheless, the principal focus at this season of renewal is on the year to come, the resolve to do better than in the past. The Ten Days of Penitence at the beginning of the year are devoted mainly to prayers for the future, to looking forward, to storing up enough spiritual energy to carry us through the year to come.

This idea has numerous parallels in Jewish law and practice. We sanctify every beginning. The first-born. The first-fruits. The first entrance into marriage, under the **chuppa**, an act called in Hebrew **kiddushin** — "sanctification". We believe that if married life starts with sanctification, with a kosher home, with lofty ideals, with Sabbath and kashrut observance — it will carry on that way — "what begins well will end well".

This idea of concentrating on beginnings rather than ends, of looking forward rather than back, is of course typically Jewish characterising the invincible optimism which has sustained our people throughout its troubled and often bleak history. What mattered were the right beginnings, confident that once we start in the proper way, we will carry on that way.

That, surely, is also the more profound meaning of the Talmudic adage "All beginnings are hard". Once we have overcome the hardships and exertions of a fresh start, the momentum of achievement will be maintained in a constant forward thrust by the dynamics of the initial "ignition".

I share these thoughts with our community at this season in an effort to direct our vision forward with absolute faith and confidence in the future. I do so particularly in the wake of depressing reports which threaten to undermine this faith by prognostications of doom and decline at home, and of escalating strife and bitterness in Israel.

To be sure, there are reasons enough for anxiety in the face of numerical shrinkage and wholesale defections; for fears of progressive polarisation and estrangement rupturing the cohesion of the Jewish people, even to the point when the abandonment of Jewish marriage and conversion practices debars ever larger sections of our people from their ability to marry each other or to recognise one another as Jews. These are manifest dangers. But to overcome them we need first and foremost a renewal of faith, a re-sanctification of new beginnings, a resolve to cleanse the past through atonement, and to hallow the future through the hardship of effort and the uplift of fresh idealism.

May the New Year bring the blessings of success to all our enterprise, the gift of happiness to all our families, the grant of abundant peace to all Israel, and the promise of redemption to all who suffer oppression and yearn for freedom.

Hammersmith Friendship Club

The new Hammersmith Friendship Club has recently celebrated its first birthday and is thriving. We have had many interesting speakers during the year and entertainment provided by Hammersmith Borough Council. Our Treasurer, Mrs. Zara Brickman, M.B.E. gave a lively talk on her work at Victoria & Albert Museum and her visit to Buckingham Palace to receive the M.B.E.

Mrs. Bessie Apfel, one of the founder members of the original Friendship Club, gave a party to celebrate her 91st Birthday and a good time was had by all.

We have many ideas in the pipeline for future meetings, and new members are very welcome — we meet every other Monday from 1.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. and tea is served.

For a programme and particulars please contact the Chairman, Mrs. Netta Guyer, 748 4797.

Richmond & Thames Valley League of Jewish Women

The Richmond & Thames Valley Group of the League of Jewish Women had its Annual General Meeting at the home of Mrs. Betty Gassman on July 15th. A great deal of voluntary work had and is continuing to be done by this Group. We try to meet monthly for a social gathering, and during the year we have had a very successful Bring & Buy and several interesting speakers have addressed our Meetings.

We are always happy to welcome new Members. For information, please contact the Chairman, Mrs. Netta Guyer on 748 4797.

Kensington and Chelsea WIZO

The year just concluded has been a very successful one both socially and financially. The annual Brunch Bring and Buy attracted a very large crowd, and a Card Afternoon, Spring Lunch and a delightful Concert of Victoria Music were all very enjoyable. We had to go all the way to Swiss Cottage for our Good as New Shop, and many members made the long journey without complaint to help. Their efforts were rewarded as a large amount of money was raised. The 28th Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th October at 4 Park Close, Melbury Road, W.14, at 2.30 p.m. and any lady interested in our activities will be most welcome, or our Membership Secretary Mrs. I. Tysh can be contacted on 748 1620.

Synagogue Garden

The gardens and grounds of the Synagogue and Minister's Residence are beautifully kept, thanks to the enthusiasm and expertise of Steffie and Tom Englefield. To them it is a labour of love, and we truly appreciate their magnificent efforts.

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 Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year. 7 King's Close, N.W.4. Tel. 203 1163.

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Fainlight wish to convey their most cordial wishes to the Congregation for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. T. Englefield send their compliments to the Congregation.

Sincerest good wishes for the New Year are extended to the Minister, 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.

Mr. & Mrs. Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W14

Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Amias, Flat 5/72 Courtfield Gardens, SW5

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

David & Pearl Arram & Family, 7, Blenheim Road, London, W4 1UB

Eve and Bertie Bankover and Family, 3 Albany, Alexandra Grove, N. Finchley, N12 8NN

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

Dr. & Mrs. F. J. Benesi, 11 Cockshut Road, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1JH

Rebecca Benzimra & Family, "Wickenden Cottage",

Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9BP

Mrs. Rita Berg, Norman & Family, 1 West Kensington Mans. North End Road, W14 9PE

Dr. & Mrs. L. Bernstock, 2 Windermere, Lytton Grove, Putney, London, SW15 2ER

Irene & Joe Bondt, 24, Berkeley Court, Hale Lane, Edgware, Middx.

Mrs. Mary Bossick, 2 Sutherland Court, Manor Close, Kingsbury Road, Kingsbury, N.W.9

Joy and Jeffery Brand, 73 Baron Keep, London, W14 9AU

Zara Brickman, M.B.E. and Lionel Kaufman, 3 Rugby Mansions, London, W14 8XD

Mr. & Mrs. Alec Brooks, 31 Kempsford Gardens, Earls Court, London, SW5 9LA

Dr. & Mrs. M. D. Caplan and their Families, 58 Fairacres, Roehampton Lane, SW15 5LY

Ann, Harry and Melanie Chaytow, 10, Grosvenor Court, Rayners Road, Putney, S.W.15

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 Janet & John Clark & Family, 41 Elizabeth Road, Moseley, Birmingham
 Mrs. Netta Coen & Family, 65 Primley Park Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7LP
 Philip, Dorrit & Elizabeth Cohen, 101, Madrid Rd., London, SW13 9PQ
 Mrs. R. Cohen, 292 Latymer Court, London W6 7LD.
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Coleman, 14 Abbots House, W14 8NU
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Cook, 67 Meadowside, Cambridge Park, East Twickenham, Middx. TW1 2JQ
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 17 Underwood House, Sycamore Gardens, W.6.
 Dr. Jack Cowan & Family, 22 Granard Ave., Putney, S.W.15
 Lilian & Bernard Davis, 60 Thamespoint, Fairways, Teddington, Middx.
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Curtis with Sandra and Family, 1/53 Penkivil Street, Bondi, Sydney, Australia 2026
 Mrs. Betty Dickman & Family, 60, Minster Court, Hillcrest Road, Ealing, London, W.5
 Mrs. R. DeVries & Family, 62, Arundel Mansions, Arundel Terrace, Barnes, SW13 9DS
 Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.
 Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge, Warwick Dene, W.5.
 Pauline & Joe Finkleman & Family, 26 Meade Close, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W4 3NT
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 Rosemary Foley-Comer, 46, Vicarage Court, London, W8 4HF
 Mrs. Ella Foodman & Son, 91 Barons Keep, Gliddon Road, W.14
 Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison Road, W.14.
 Betty & Lewis Gassman & Family, 21 Castelnau, S.W.13.
 Stella & Harry Gold and Mrs. Ada Hayman, 30 Emlyn Road, W.12.
 Mr. & Mrs. Manfred S. Gorvy & Family, 16 Hans Road, London, S.W.3
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 Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose & Family, Berkeley House, 10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13.
 Mr. A. Gross, 31 Kings Court, King Street, London, W.6.
 Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 33 Corringway, London, W5 3AB
 Mrs. Netta Guyer and Maurice, 1 Atherton Road, Barnes, London, SW13 9NH
 Mrs. Annette Halfin, 2 Rutland Drive, River Lane, Petersham, Surrey
 Mrs. Cecelia Harris, 60 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Rd. Chiswick, W.4.

Elizabeth & Alfred Harris, 23 Parkside, Wimbledon Com. London, S.W.19.
 Mrs. J. Harris, 20 Goldsmith Buildings, East Churchfield Road, Acton, W.3
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Harris, 182 Latymer Court, Hammersmith Road, W.6
 Jane & Cyril Hodes and Family, 1 Ashchurch Terrace, London, W12 9SL
 Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court, Kensington, W.14.
 Mrs. M. Katits, 24 Bolingbroke Road, W14 0AL
 Bella & Basil Isaacs and Family, 70 Woodford Square, Addison Road, W.14.
 Evelyn & Monty Isaacson, Rhian & Mark, 8 Rosedew Road, W.6.
 Lily Jacobs & Ann Keenoy, 8 Aldbourne Road, Shepherds Bush, W12 0LN
 Mrs. D. Kurzman, 35 Suffolk Road, Barnes, S.W.13.
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Lakota, 39 Holland Park Mews, London, W11 3SP
 Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W3 7LT.
 Mildred & Henry Levy, 22b Argyle Road, W. Ealing, W13 8AA
 Hetty and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4.
 Naomi & Philip Lewis, Caroline, Trevor & Joshua, 14., Madrid Road, S.W.13
 Miss Julie Lichtblau, 21 Meadow Croft, Brooks Road, Chiswick, W.4.
 Mrs. Hettie Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.
 Mrs. Betty Meltz & Melvin, 69 Addison Gardens, W14 0DT
 Raie, Joe & Jonathan Miller, 16 Samuel Richardson House, North End Crescent, W.14.
 Mrs. G. Mirwitch & Family, 11 South Side, Stamford Brook Common, W6 0XY
 The Mishcon Family - Peter, Penny, Oliver, Anna, Kate and Eliza, 89, Elgin Crescent, London, W.11
 Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, W8 4HX.
 Mrs. G. Moses, 120 North End House, Fitzjames Avenue, London, W14 0RY
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Morris, 95, Barons Keep, Gliddon Road, London, W.14
 O. A. & E. Newfield, 52, East Acton Lane, London, W3 7EQ
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 Ethel Sacks, 18 Kingfisher House, Melbury Road, W14 8LN
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, W.14.

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 Anita Simmonds & Family, 14 Cecil Close, Mount Avenue, Ealing, W.5.
 Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4.
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 Hyman Spector, 2 Harriot, Grahams Park, Hendon, NW9 5QQ
 Deborah & Michael Talalay & Bobby, 6 Stamford Brook Avenue, London, W6 0YD
 Mrs. Stella Tesler, 68 Homecross House, Fishers Lane, Chiswick, W4 1YB
 R. & J. Toff, 90, Clarence Gate Gardens., Glentworth Street, NW1 6QP
 Bea & Bertie Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Rd., W.14
 Ilse & Ian Tysh, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6.
 Sadie Marguerite Velleman, with Bernard & Ziona, Shirat & David, Richard & Debbie & Sophie, 88 Howberry Road, Edgware, Middx. HA8 6SY
 Rita and Stanley Verby and Family, 11 Cavendish Close, St. John's Avenue, Putney, London, S.W.15
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Heathfield Terrace, Chiswick, W.4.
 Hettie & Sidney Williams & Family, 28 Lime Court, Gipsy Lane, Putney, S.W.15.
 Elizabeth and Benjamin de Winter and Family, 24, Northways, College Crescent, NW3 5DR
 Joel Winterman, 29 Eagle Lodge, Golders Green Rd., NW11
 Vivienne & Barry Winterman, 80 Linton Avenue, Borehamwood, Herts. WD6 4QY
 Dina & Philip Wishev, Wendy & Bob, 2 Rupert Rd., Bedford Park, London, W.4
 Mr. I. Yoffey, Fiona, Manny and Penina, 93 Mayfield Road, W12 9LT

HETTIE & DAVE BALONOV

with their Families in England and the U.S.A.

offer sincere greetings for the New Year

BESSIE APFEL OF WILLESDEN wishes her Son, Daughter-in-law, Grandchildren, Great grandchildren, Friends of Hammersmith Ladies' Guild, Friendship Club, Willesden Friendship Club, Walm Lane Friendship Club, A Healthy New Year, and a comfortable Day of Fasting.

J.I.A. REPORT 1986

We inaugurated our 1986 Appeal earlier than usual because of the ever-increasing need for our financial assistance to the people of Israel. On the afternoon of Sunday 26th January 1986, a worthy number of supporters gathered in the Synagogue Hall under the Chairmanship of David Arram, who was accompanied by the Guest of Honour, Zvi Garcy, and his co-chairman Jeffery Brand, and supported by his Honorary Officer Colleagues, Moss Amias and Maurice DeVries.

Zvi Garcy reminded his audience that he had previously addressed our congregation some 15 years earlier. This time, as Director of Special Assignments for Keren Hayesod, he had accompanied Prime Minister Shimon Peres on the latter's visit to this country, and had stayed on to address our community on the current political and economic situation in Israel. He gave us a brief auto-biography and emphasised why Jews everywhere needed to strengthen their undertaking to help Jews in those countries where they continued to be oppressed, be it in Ethiopia, Russia, Iran, Arab countries, and elsewhere. In Israel itself, the Government of Unity had succeeded in considerably reducing the rate of inflation; this had resulted in unemployment, in the reduction of salaries by 25-30% since the previous July, and in charges being made for e.g. schools and hospitals. This affected of course the very poorest in the country, such as immigrants, and particularly those from Ethiopia. He outlined the costs of training such immigrants for employment and to be able to live in a modern community. He explained, too, that money had to be found to pay for permission to leave countries where Jews were not free to do so, and Israel was determined to bring in all who could be released, whatever the cost. It was a matter of paying the price to save lives, no less.

The Appeal for contributions was made by Jeffery Brand, and a Vote of Thanks to Zvi Garcy was made by Willie Gertler, who had chaired the meeting on the former's previous visit.

* * *

The combined total raised by our community from the 1985 Kol Nidre Appeal and the 1986 General Appeal is £18,439, a significant increase over the previous year. Thanks are due to every individual contributor towards this excellent result; in addition, the co-chairmen especially wish to thank Denis Caplan and Hersh Rieck of our small Executive for their invaluable co-operation.

D.A.
J.B.

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

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

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

WEDDINGS

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

MALCOLM DENIS CAPLAN to NADIA SADOFSKY
ALEC IRVING JOHN DAVIES to SHIRLEY BORTZ

To these and to all members who had celebrations during the year we extend warmest felicitations.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Alan Barnett	Mrs. M. Muskett
Mrs. D. Barnett	Miss S. G. Mendel
Mr. & Mrs. A. Brooks	Miss J. Mirwitch
Mrs. M. D. Caplan	Mrs. R. Rosen
Mr. A. Davies	Prof. & Mrs. A. Shiloh
Mr. P. Levy	Mr. I. Yoffey

Hammersmith & District AJEX

By Percy S. Gourgey, MBE, Chairman

In the course of the year 1985-86 the Branch pursued its normal activities, including participating in the local parade early in November to the Cenotaph at Shepherds Bush and later in the month in the national AJEX parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

The Branch sustained sad losses in the passing away of two staunch and valued members, Mr. C. Herman and Mr. Nat Goldstone.

Our standard bearer, Mr. H. Forman, represented us at the Meeting in Gladstone Park in June and the Warsaw Ghetto function in April, and the Service of Remembrance in Richmond Synagogue.

The highlight of our activities was the film show "Genocide" concerning the Holocaust seen by a large and representative audience at Richmond Synagogue before it moved from its old premises. It is a deeply moving film depicting not only the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis but also the main events leading up to the Second World War. So forceful was its impact that the Hammersmith and Fulham Council for Racial Equality to which we are affiliated and other organisations are intending to present it.

During the year we joined SAJEX, the South London group of AJEX branches to combine our activities and augment our funds. The first was the Quiz at Hammersmith Synagogue Hall with the participation of our Branch, and also Wimbledon, Kingston, Brixton and Staines, on 17th September.

"Read All About It"

This used to be the call of the news vendor trying to sell his evening paper, and this is today my clarion call to my fellow congregants. The reactionary elements of the right and the left, round the globe, unable to solve the economic chaos — world unemployment and financial crises, to a great extent caused by the oil backlash of the Middle East since 1973 — have raised the old bogey — the JEWS!

Camouflaged as **anti-Zionism, anti-Israel, the anti-Semitism** raises its ugly head here in **Britain** and we find protagonists in **all** parties. Who would have thought that in **Austria**, where, from 1938-1945 the Nazis were worse than in Germany, the **Waldheim** supporters were blaming **World Jewry** and increasing numbers voted for him.

What is the lesson? We can only fight prejudice by proclaiming the **Truth**. We can only successfully fight by learning and knowing the **Facts and Truth** by reading, studying the magazines and the books which provide us with **History** and give us the evidence of the **Achievements, Cultural, Scientific Data of Israel**. A nation which since 1948 had to spend 40% of its GNP on defence, has created more Hospitals, Universities, Museums per capita of its population than any other country, is a splendid example of humanitarian efforts. We have every reason to be proud of our **Israel**.

I said in the previous paragraphs that we should fight against **anti-Semitism** by studying and learning the facts, but, my dear fellow-congregants, how often do you go out to buy or borrow an additional magazine or book? It is a fact that perhaps one in a hundred of our co-religionists enters a book shop — and we are the **People of the Book!!**

How many of you visit the **Jewish Book Week**? There are excellent publications telling us about **Jewish History, Giants of Learning** — we can listen to lectures, we can debate with people of University capacity — we can learn and defend our Israel against all our enemies. Israel, our **dear Israel** is our hope, our everything and if the writer of these notes learned **one** thing from Pope John Paul it is to kiss the ground of Israel, kiss the ground of Yerushalayim whenever you are there and I end with **'Read all about it'**.

SHALOM! SHALOM!

CHAIM ZEEV B. YOSEPH

HAVE YOU SIGNED A COVENANT

Our Synagogue can benefit without any extra cost to you provided you are a Tax payer.

For further information contact our Financial Representative Mr. David Arram or our Synagogue Secretary Mr. Sidney Fainlight

Einyayim Aid Society for the J.B.S.

Your support, so much appreciated, has enabled our little Aid Society to collect a further £723 at the end of 1984 (in addition to the £3100 I told you about in my last letter of 1.3.85) plus £3643 during 1985, for the J.B.S.

This year we hope to raise £4000 towards the **£3 Million** needed by the J.B.S. to carry out their programme:

3 Residential Homes, 5 Day Centres, 4 Day Clubs, 2 Holiday Homes, New Home adjacent Kay Court/London NW3, New Day Centre in Manchester, Modernisation of Rokefield, 16 Social Workers, Ambulances, Minibuses, Counselling and Financial Assistance Services.

Please therefore publicise and support our forthcoming function:

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER: Evening performance: Our Theatre Gala — "The House of Bernarda Alba" with Glenda Jackson and Joan Plowright (Tickets £10/Stalls) at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith (Mrs. Belton: Tel. 579 5093)

MEMBERSHIP EINAYIM: Join us for £2 p.a. and introduce new members.

HELP looking after over 2000 blind and partially sighted and some of their families plus physically handicapped Jews and Jewesses in this country.

Call me or drop me a line...

THANK YOU for your support. I know you will do your best.
BERNARD S. MIRELS
Chairperson

One Hundred Years of Ben-Gurion

By Percy Gourgey, MBE

From October 1986 to May 1987 there will be celebrated in Israel, England and elsewhere the centenary of the birth of David Ben-Gurion, first Prime Minister of Israel, who was born in Poland on October 16, 1886. Celebrations in London are being organised by a committee under the chairmanship of Lord Weidenfeld.

At a meeting of this committee I suggested that amongst the many aspects of Ben-Gurion's brilliant career we should not lose sight of his wide scholarship in fields other than Judaism and Zionism. For instance, he was well-versed in the history of Buddhism, philosophy, Greek, etc. On his occasional visits to England he would often browse through famous Oxford libraries. Incidentally, it is worth noting that Ben-Gurion stayed in London during the Nazi Blitz in 1940, and developed a great admiration for the magnificent heroism displayed by the British people under the leadership of Winston Churchill to whom he has rightly been compared. (A plaque marking Ben-Gurion's residence in London during this period is to be unveiled later in the year.)

In a letter to me in 1954 he said that he believed that India was a prominent country amongst the newly emerging nation-

states of Asia and Africa and hoped for good relations between India and Israel.

To Ben-Gurion's everlasting credit, in 1949 he promoted the policy of encouraging the mass emigration of Jews from Arab lands, such as Iraq, Yemen, Morocco, etc. This was despite some opposition from Cabinet colleagues that this aliya could radically change Israel's demographic structure.

In his visionary outlook Ben-Gurion used the phrase "kibbutz-galuyoth" (ingathering of the exiles). He believed that these communities would make a considerable contribution to the up-building of the Jewish State. He also believed that this development would one day help to promote good relations between Israel and her Arab neighbours. He stressed that work remained to be done to overcome the consequent social and cultural gap. He was unremitting in his efforts to achieve peace with the Arabs and was among the first to congratulate President Noguiba, Nasser's predecessor, in the revolution in Egypt that occurred in 1952.

There are many aspects of Ben-Gurion's immense contribution to the Jewish state and Jewish culture which are well worth recalling, both for Jews and non-Jews.

An Act of Humanity

In 1983, Lady Brabourne, the present Countess Mountbatten, addressed the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society at the Charing Cross Hospital, — the title of her talk being "A Family Affair".

In her opening remarks she said that "she was the great-grand-daughter of Sir Ernest Cassel, and he was a Jew", and thereupon unfolded the story of a benefactor who showed great humanity.

Sir Ernest Cassel was born in Cologne, the son of a money-lender, and small-time banker. In a career as remarkable as any Rothschild, he amassed a great fortune, and as a private banker he became financial adviser to King Edward the Seventh. He became one of the richest and most powerful men in Europe.

When his grand-daughter, Edwina Ashley, later to become the Viscountess Mountbatten, lost her mother, she went to live with her grandfather at Brook House, Park Lane, and became his hostess.

During the First World War Sir Ernest Cassel became greatly disturbed by the execution of soldiers on active service, following a Court Martial for cowardice, and in 1919 he endowed a pioneer hospital at Panshurst, for functional nervous diseases because he was convinced that shell-shock and associated disorders had some psychological basis.

Today the Cassel Hospital is situated on the edge of Ham Common in a house which was built 275 years ago, and was the family home of the French Royal Family in exile, following the French Revolution.

The work of the hospital today is the treatment of neuroses, and provides individual, group, and family psychotherapy. Many young people live in a hostel attached to the hospital, and whilst

undergoing treatment they are encouraged to go out to work, and to go home to their families at week-ends.

It has been well-known since ancient times that the state of mind of a sick person influences his response to treatment. In the third chapter of his "Regimen of Health" Maimonides states his concept of "a healthy mind in a healthy body", perhaps the first accurate description of psychosomatic medicine, and it has been postulated that prayer might accomplish the same result as psychotherapy.

The Talmud states that "even if a sharp sword rests upon a man's neck he should not desist from prayer". (Berakhot 10a)

M.D.C.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS

Those who know Machane Yehudah may recollect the bus stop opposite, set in a semi circle, for buses to the Central Bus Station and beyond.

One morning not so long ago, laden with fresh fruit and veg, I arrived there for a bus home, to find that my latest girl friend was no more. She had as it were burnt at the stake; she was no more than a heap of ashes, without even an urn. For some time she had graced one of Teddy Kollek's new and pleasant bus shelters. She was our own Bikini Girl, advertising some cosmetic whose name I no longer remember. She was blond and blue eyes, more shapely than reality, and the bikini was scanty. They used to tell me at Shekem that she sold more cosmetics than all the salesgirls in Jerusalem.

There it was. She had fallen victim to the crusade (wrong word perhaps?) by the Charedim (what a misnomer!) against their version of immorality. They regarded her as sinful and a corrupter of morals, an affront to all decency, and a significant deterrent to pious study. We all missed her of course. We also missed the tinted glass which protected us from the sun while waiting for a bus, or from the rain, that is when we had any. We also missed the seats. So did the elderly, and the mothers with their babies. But of course "they" did not use them. Mostly they used taxis. Any Jerusalem taxi driver will tell you who are their best customers.

I felt sorry for Teddy Kollek. They were burning them down almost as fast as he was putting them up. As ratepayers too we objected to our money being burned like that, of Bikini Girl and all.

You cannot escape religion however hard you may try, and many Israelis try very hard indeed, I think as a reaction. They flaunt it as ostentatiously as they can, and I find that very sad. The Charedim, with their freakish garb, their exemption from army service, their "no go" areas, their denigration of the State, their denial of its legitimate existence, have a lot to answer for. They are dangerous too, with their as yet unassailable political influence.

Just observe what happens with Summer Time. Nobody even attempts to deny that daylight saving correctly applied would save the State hundreds of millions of dollars per annum. The country desperately needs the money if only to improve

water resources; if only to increase settlement in the Galil; if only for slum clearance. If only for whatever you care to name. However, the National Religious Party, small in number, enormous in political power, object. On religious grounds. They managed to delay its introduction altogether for a number of years. Recently and very grudgingly they conceded a limited version, something like single Summer Time for three months. Some months ago I listened spellbound to Mr. Avram Shapira on the radio arguing against it altogether. It is he of huge girth who once found a place in the Israeli Guinness Book of Records by breaking a Knesset seat simply by sitting in it. No mean feat as anybody who knows a Knesset seat will readily appreciate! An Agudist, a leader of the National Religious Party, Member of the Knesset, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee. You might suppose the financial well being of the country would be paramount.

Look, he argued, we are a Jewish people, and we pray every day. Our young people pray every day. Is it fair to expect our young people studying in the yeshivot to be so inconvenienced in their studies that they have to pray at such inconvenient times? Their studies will be seriously affected. Look, he said (he used "look" so often, even though it was the radio, I am only using it twice) we are already saving fifty million dollars a year on falling oil prices, and we shall probably save more, so what is it if we spend fifty or a hundred million on such a vital educational saving? Economists I have spoken to, have varied in their estimates, but applying double Summer Time in Israel for half the year would save between 400 million to **half a billion** dollars a year. Those who understand these matters including Halacha, assure me that he is talking "Shtut", which is the Hebrew equivalent of "absolute rubbish".

We know about their violence of course. The burning of bus shelters is only a small part of it. I am part of the consensus that believes that until they have their political wings clipped, meaning the National Religious Party; and in the broader sense until the introduction of electoral reform, that is to say the constituency system, there will be no effective police action against what has now become a cancer in the body politic.

My final recollection, for this year at least, is of my dear friend Maurice Jaffe who so sadly died last June. He was not just a fellow Mancunian. We were also to meet in Chittagong Erev Chanuka 1944! I was the Staff Captain at the time of 404 L and C Areas, covering roughly the Arakan and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. We were a handful of Jewish soldiers enjoying a Chanuka repast we had managed to organise when Maurice breezed in! He had been appointed Jewish Chaplain to the 14th Army, whose headquarters were at a place called Comilla further North. I have seen him described as Senior Chaplain to Allied Forces South East Asia (of which we were part, and of which Louis Mountbatten was Supremo) but I saw his posting, and that is what it said. Anyhow, he did a marvellous job. There were no roads and the railway finished at Feni. All he had was an 8 cwt. truck and a corporal driver. He displayed the same verve, enthusiasm, courage and determi-

nation that he was to show in his great contribution to the State of Israel. His work in the kibbutzim was no less than his work in Jerusalem, but less well known. I saw him there from time to time, always seemingly full of the most tireless energy. I shall never forget how he and Ella, his wife, took time off from a civic reception to come to Fiona's wedding. I shall never forget his total devotion to what was entirely his own concept, the Jerusalem Great Synagogue. A magnificent achievement and a fitting memorial.

A sincere and devout Lubavitcher, he also had no time at all for the Charedim.

I.Y.

Lionel Leighton Court

I have spoken to various members of Sobell House who have moved into the new block of flats in Beverley Gardens. They all seemed delighted as they spoke of contentment and appreciation, with the knowledge and pleasant feeling that a new way of life still exists for them.

The new purpose-built block of flats is constructed in the grounds adjacent to Sobell House, and is a product of the Housing Committee for the physically disabled and the elderly.

The accommodation comprises of twenty-eight modern flats, a very good laundry and a huge assembly concert room, all part of the comfortable amenities available to the residents. I personally think this is a precious concept. After being invited home by my friend I saw a beautifully appointed entrance with a nice hall, a large bedroom and a good size living room. The bathroom and toilet are also spacious. The kitchen is comfortable being equipped with all necessities, an electric cooker and fridge, a large sink unit and draining board and useful fitted cupboards.

The flat is heated by plenty of radiators, there is natural window light and lots of electric points. I was really impressed with the video entry phone.

May the building function successfully and all the inhabitants who live there enjoy all the facilities that it has to offer, not forgetting those humanitarian, responsible people who played an important role in this development. May they all be blessed with good health, happiness, a minimum of worries and much peace of mind.

To the residents I say, "make the most of everything and enjoy your life to the full." When you have finally settled in, I wish you nothing but friendliness and good relations with each other. Let every day be a happy day.

This building was named 'Lionel Leighton Court', in recognition of a lovable man and a devoted husband who was a conscientious worker for all charities and everyone concerned. Although not with us, he leaves behind a highly respected name. I sincerely trust that to his dear wife Doris, it meditates happy thoughts, which I am sure will give her many pleasant memories.

May we all be inscribed in the "Book of Life" for good health, genuine peace, happiness and tranquility. Shalom.

JOEL WINTERMAN

לשנה טובה

*BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR
AND WELL OVER THE FAST*

FROM

Mr. & Mrs.

JOE GODFREY

★ ★ ★

*TO ALL OUR RELATIVES, FRIENDS
AND HONORARY OFFICERS, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION*

Abner's Death – Revenge or Murder

It is with some degree of hesitancy, since I wish to remain a member of the U.S., that I dare to suggest that the inference in 2 Sam. Chap3v27:-

“And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there in the groin, that he died, **for the blood of Asahel his brother**”, is incorrect.

I believe that Joab's killing while done under the pretext of revenge was nothing less than pre-meditated murder.

There is no dispute that Asahel, a nephew of King David, was chasing Abner, who had been King Saul's commander-in-chief and was loyal to the dead King's son Ishbosheth, with the intention of fighting him. Neither is there any doubt that Abner, not wishing to become involved with Asahel, tried to 'push him away' with the butt or rear of his spear. However the spear touched the unprotected lower abdomen or groin region and with Asahel running fast onto the weapon — he is described as being 'as light of foot as one of the gazelles that are in the field' — the shaft went straight through his body. It would seem that basically Asahel's death was accidental rather than deliberate, because if Abner had wished to kill him, he would surely have used the pointed end of his spear.

Therefore, if it is accepted that Abner did not wilfully slay Asahel, but acted in self-defence, when the latter was chasing him, an important legal issue is involved. In Jewish Law, blood-vengeance was appointed only for intentional killing, and Abner would have been protected by law from it as a person who had killed unintentionally (Deut. 4 v 41sq). According to Josephus, whose view on this incident is accepted by modern commentators, the avenging of blood was a mere pretext — the real motive for Joab's deed was envy and ambition. There was a strong possibility that Abner would have changed his loyalty and become a high-ranking officer alongside Joab in King David's army.

The geographical site of Abner's death is significant, because it supports the view of planned murder. Joab had to arrange their meeting somewhere which would be comparatively private but yet not arouse any disquiet in Abner. He therefore took Abner to a place in the gate-space — an apparently 'neutral' location. In those days, the entrance to cities was often a covered passage way between two sturdy gates. In this area were alcoves where, according to the oriental custom, men used to meet for private conversations and discussions. It is worthy of comment that Joab arranged the meeting in 'the midst of the gate' where there would be the least light. Since both were warriors, the carrying of a sword or dagger by Joab would not have seemed unusual to Abner. Joab would have to come close 'to speak with him quietly' and it is at this moment that he killed Abner by stabbing him in the middle of his abdomen — not necessarily in the lower or groin region as suggested in the original translation.

The immediate and 'long-term' reaction of King David to

this incident suggest that he definitely did not view Abner's death as a mere revenge killing. He, himself, attended Abner's funeral and led 'all the people' in mourning, as well as issuing a terrible curse on Joab and all his family. Finally, as David is dying he reminds Solomon of Joab's actions, including the death of Abner and instructs Solomon thus:- 'Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his (Joab) hoary head go down to the grave in peace'. (Kings 1 Chap. 2 v 6). I, therefore, feel that I am in good company in my reservations about Joab's motivation for killing Abner!

Dr. DAVID S. FILER

BEHIND THE CHALKFACE

It is said, a week is a long time in politics. During the last year, in schools around the country, teachers have been taking each day as it comes. Colleagues of lengthy experience claim that they have never known the teaching profession so low in morale while so much is expected of us.

The press have often seemed to miss the point about last year's dispute. One of the problems has been that we have been arguing about so many different things. Round 1 is now over with a pay agreement for 1985 and an interim settlement for 1986. It was ironic to realise as we received our lump sum that it arrived exactly one year after the pay increase was due. It was also the first time in a decade that it represented a real increase above the rate of inflation. Pay needed to be settled (at least in part) and now the discussions have moved on to new grounds. These had always loomed in the background and gave the lie to the argument only being a pay dispute. It was never that simple.

One of the conditions of the ACAS agreement between the teachers' association and our employers was that ACAS should convene a series of talks to discuss the remaining areas which needed to be tackled. These included a new pay and salary structure, a new negotiating machinery, conditions of service and appraisal of teachers.

There are three main problems with the current pay levels, structure and negotiating machinery. The Burnham Committee which can only make decisions on pay levels, is tremendously cumbersome. A separate committee (CLEA/ST for addicts of initials) negotiates on conditions of service. This creates difficulties as the two increasingly overlap. The other problem which Burnham has to contend with is that the employers (the local education authorities) are restricted by the cash limits imposed by Central Government. It is fairly well accepted that the present committee structure cannot continue. The ACAS talks will have to decide on a suitable replacement.

The second problem involves the structure of the pay scales. At the present time, an ordinary classroom teacher will be on Scale 1. A post of responsibility such as being in charge of lower school maths or being a deputy head of house will place someone on Scale 2. The overwhelming majority of teachers remain on

these two scales. Scale 3 (head of a small department) and Scale 4 (head of a large department) posts are rare and opportunities for promotion are being reduced. Above Scale 4 there are deputy head and head posts for which many people are now unwilling to apply due to the associated stress. This means that a classroom teacher of twenty years experience can be stuck at the top of Scale 2, if they have a Scale 2 post, earning £11,000. This is slightly more (but not much), than an 18 year old would receive for a starting salary as a policeman!

This illustrates the third problem in this area; pay levels are simply too low. It is useless to call on teachers professionalism when people supporting a family on a teachers' wage can be entitled to supplementary benefit. Fortunately the solution is quite simple. The structure of a new pay scale seems to have been agreed. It will have an introductory grade for new teachers lasting two years, a main grade for everyone else, bonuses for the type of jobs which now give Scales 3 and 4 and deputy head and head posts. The difference is that all teachers would now have the opportunity of rising to the top of the main scale. All that remains is the level of these pay scales and this depends on agreement in the other areas of the ACAS talks.

Discussion about conditions of service centre on such issues as substituting for absent staff, length of class contact time, parents' evenings, writing of reports, lunchtime supervision etc. These, and others, are all activities which are not defined in teachers' contracts. A legacy of the long dispute is that teachers are now looking closely at what they have to do. The old days of clubs at lunchtimes, school orchestras, choirs, plays and debating competitions may have vanished for a while if not for good.

Appraisal raises the sceptre of who does the appraising? The teachers' main fear is that people who have forgotten what a classroom looks like from our side of the chalkface will be doing this. The other worry is that it will be linked to pay in an unreasonable way. People fear that promotion will be denied not due to lack of ability but shortage of cash.

Perhaps a gloomy picture, but the past year has been bad and there are not yet enough solutions. When The Brook is published the ACAS talks will have reported and we will be back at school trying to cope with a new school year, the new GCSE examination (an excellent idea threatened by insufficient funds, time, preparation, training and lack of text books), and all the other demands teachers have to expect. I often joke that I came into teaching at a great time since it could not get much worse. This hurts because it holds some truth. However, I know that my choice to become a teacher is not one I regret. I have shown the fun of teaching in previous articles, so this year it was time to paint the other side of the canvas. Despite all the criticisms levied at and by teachers I see in the JFS a level of professionalism and ability with which I am proud to be associated. We can be optimistic. With our charges in the classrooms we are helping to build a better future.

JONATHAN M. MILLER

ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies Guild. Meets first Tuesday Evening in the month. Tel. 603 4938.

Hammersmith Friendship Club. Enquiries to Chairman, Mrs. N. Guyer, 748 4797.

Richmond & Thames Valley Group of the League of Jewish Women. Enquiries to Chairman: Mrs. N. Guyer, 748 4797.

Kensington and Chelsea WIZO.
Enquiries to Hon. Sec. Mrs. Lizzi Hohenberg, 727 8222
or Mem. Sec. Mrs. Ilse Tysh, 748 1620.

Board of Deputies Defence Department, Western Region.
Enquiries to Mr. Moss Amias at the Synagogue Office.

Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust. Representative: Miss J. Lichtblau, Tel. 995 7279
21 Meadow Croft, Brooks Road, Chiswick, W.4.

Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith & District Branch). Enquiries: Mr. P. Lamb, 19 Denehurst Gardens, Richmond, Surrey. 878 1080.

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

Hammersmith and West Kensington Combined Charities Fund.
All correspondence to Hon. Sec.: A. S. Bankover, Esq.
3 Albany, Alexandra Grove, N. Finch., N12 8NN 446 0022

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