

NUMBER 50

SEPTEMBER 1974-5735 תשל"ח

THE BROOK



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON
SYNAGOGUE

"Peace be upon Israel."

Psalm CXXVIII

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

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Reader: The Rev. Samuel Forscher, 70 Brook Green, W.6	603 8565
Secretary: Mr. M. Friedmann Communal Hall	602 1405 603 5238

The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

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

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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.
During Summer Months, 7.0 p.m.

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE RELIGION CLASSES

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

Classes meet every —

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

" THE BROOK "

EDITORIAL BOARD: Mr. J. M. Shaftesley, O.B.E., B.A. (Hon. Editor); the Rev. S. Forscher; the Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.; Dr. and Mrs. M. D. Caplan; Mr. B. Davis, F.C.I.S.; Councillor S. Grose, B.A.; Mr. H. Sharpe; Mr. M. De Vries, B.A.; Mr. M. A. Amias; Mr. J. Brand, LL.B.

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NUMBER FIFTY

With this issue, *The Brook* has reached Number Fifty. If it has achieved little else, it has faithfully recorded the activities and happenings in our Community, and thus made things easier for the would-be chronicler to continue writing up the history of our Synagogue from the time of the Diamond Jubilee and onwards. It also reflects reactions and response by the Community to the tremendous and epoch-making events which have affected Jewry in Israel and the Diaspora. Furthermore, it has been a vehicle for the expression of ideas and ideals of lasting value from the pens of people of prominence in their respective spheres.

One thing must be emphasised. Without the friends and well-wishers who, year in, year out, contribute these advertisements, greetings, and articles in its pages, it would have been impossible to continue. To all of them go our warmest thanks.

May the coming year bring a harvest of blessing from all our undertakings both within the Congregation and in the wider community outside, and we all be spared to reap the benefit of our labours in peace and tranquillity.

May the year ahead see the certainty of a lasting Peace in Israel, so that our brothers and sisters can at last settle down to normal lives, without the constant threat of renewed hostilities and the changes that lurk beyond their borders. This, above all, will be in our thoughts and our prayers when the High Holyday season is with us once more.

Bridegrooms of the Law

We are happy to announce that our Chasanim this year will be Mr. David Arram and Mr. Harry M. Levy.

Mr. David Arram is a member of the Board of Management and was for many years actively associated with the Bayswater Society. Mr. Harry Levy has been very much involved with the Hammersmith Friendship Club where Milly, his wife, has been the Chairman almost since it began, 23 years ago.

Enclosed is an invitation card for the Reception, which will be held on Sunday 13th October.

Gifts for the Succah

The *Succah* will be ready for decorating on Sunday and Monday, September 29 and 30.

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 those days between 10 a.m. and 1 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.

THE GOOD LIFE – NEW YEAR ASSESSMENT

"Our Father, Our King; inscribe us in the book for a good life." This is a theme which is expressed throughout the High Holyday liturgy in a multitude of variations. We shall be praying for a good life in the coming year. What is the composition of this life? Where does it lead? What are its goals? What is our purpose of existence? In short, what are we asking for, or perhaps what *should* we be asking for? According to the Rabbis, "The purpose of God's commandments is to purify human beings." The purpose of Judaism is to develop human kindness, love of neighbour, the spirit and acts of charity, the qualities of goodness, sincerity, and humility. In practice, however, this formula does not seem to work. What are the factors which militate against our taking religious goals seriously? In this practical and material world, religion has little chance. There are apparently no dividends regularly accruing from a religious investment. The Rabbis realised long ago that a spiritual commitment to religious ideals and values does not bring an immediate reward. That is why the Talmud asserts, "*Sechar Mitzvah Mitzvah*," which means the reward for a Mitzvah is the Mitzvah itself.

In modern times more than ever people want to succeed, their ambition is to get to the top of the ladder. How often this becomes an obsession and religious values are tossed aside as so much excess baggage. On the other hand, there is nothing wrong in aiming to succeed if that striving goes hand in hand with personal perfection. You could not have a better example than that of the great medieval philosopher and legalist, Maimonides. He was successful by any modern standards. His medical insights as a royal physician remain a marvel to the present day. Yet Maimonides was also a model of personal perfection, whose goal was not success but service. He studied medical science as a means to the service of man. Before he began his day he uttered a personal prayer, "I begin once more my daily work. Be thou with me, Almighty Father of Mercy, in all my efforts to heal the sick. Grant that I may be filled with love for my art and for my fellow-men. May the thirst for gain and the desire for fame be far from my heart." When we pray that we be inscribed in the Book of the Good Life, and no doubt be thinking of good health and prosperity and above all of *Peace* and *Happiness*, the realisation must come to us of how much these blessings depend on a reappraisal of what constitutes the good life. In today's world, where ethical standards are at a very low ebb, violence is the order of the day, and peace at best hangs on a thread, our happiness and all the precious blessings which we prize so much are constantly threatened.

Let us then pray for ourselves and for mankind for the ability to aspire to higher ethical attitudes in all our dealings, and for the courage to make our own inclinations and ambitions subservient to the pursuit of religious goals.

ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?

Nearly eight weeks ago we observed the Fast of Av, commemorating the destruction of the Temple, and of Jerusalem itself in the year 70 C.E. This was one of the greatest disasters in Jewish history, if not the greatest, not just because of the great loss of life — over one million people are said to have died in the siege and the destruction of the city — but it was also an ignominious defeat of the Jewish State by the Roman legions led by Titus. Many women were taken as slaves into captivity, and a number of the prisoners were taken back to Rome and paraded through the streets in chains — an incident which is depicted on Titus's Arch.

Some of the Zealots who managed to escape captivity attempted to set up a bastion of orthodox Judaism at the fortress of Massada, and the story of their subsequent martyrdom in the year 73 C.E. is legend.

By the fifth century Jews had become dispersed as a nation, until the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, and in the 26 years of statehood only about one-third of world Jewry has settled there.

THE NEWEST MARTYRS

It is on Tisha b'Av that we remember not just those who died defending Jerusalem, not just the destruction of the Second Temple, but all martyrs who have laid down their lives in the cause of our religion. Included in a special lament we remember those six million of our people who died in the Nazi holocaust and the Warsaw ghetto. We might do well to reflect, on Yom Kippur, that twice as many people died at the hands of the Nazis as now live in the whole of the State of Israel. We should remember that only 12 short months ago, as we stood in our Synagogue reciting *Yizkor*, we were not yet aware of the fact that included in those prayers were soldiers on the Golan Heights and the Sinai Desert, who had just fallen defending the new Jewish nation for the fourth time in 25 years, from the onslaught of an enemy who outnumbered them in men and outstripped them in war materials and fire power; that 12 short months ago the Jewish nation was nearly decimated, and it was not the might of Israel's arms that saved her but the indomitable courage of her young soldiers, of whom 7,500 laid down their lives, and many more were maimed and wounded.

On the Sabbath following Tisha b'Av the Haftorah is from the 40th chapter of the Book of Isaiah, "Comfort ye, comfort ye, My people . . .", a word of solace from the Prophet to all prophets, to comfort Israel. Can we feel comforted and at ease this Yom Kippur when we reflect on what each of us has done, personally, to help the State of Israel over the past year? Have we made them any more secure? Have we helped to bolster her security by bringing in more able-bodied immigrants through our contri-

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SELLING IS MY GAME

By Willie Gertler

For Willie Gertler, renowned as the 'blue jeans king of U.K.', huge success in international business has meant dedication and struggle. In this book Mr. Gertler, recently retired, looks back to his young manhood in a poverty-ridden Europe of the 30s, to the terror of life under a Nazi regime in Hitler's Germany, to his escape and the beginnings of his career in this country where hard work and ambition soon brought him achievement.

From a humble job on the factory floor, he soon rose to become manager of the whole business. Finally he came to run his own company and, at the same time, the UK subsidiary of the famous Levi Strauss blue jean company. He was a pioneer in the development of Britain's overseas trade after the war and, in more recent years, he has been a leading figure in the extension of trade with the countries of Eastern Europe.

It is from these experiences that the theme of the book comes, for this is far more than a straight autobiography. It is also a book of great topicality which offers a powerfully-argued explanation of Britain's poor balance of payments record and sets out a radical solution of almost startling simplicity to set every British businessman thinking.

But this is a personal story too and Willie Gertler tells it with a light touch; with humour, with shrewd, unmalicious perception and with a degree of modesty unexpected in a businessman so successfully self-made. An ordinary man, as he is quick to point out (though not everyone would regard his life as such), he has tried always to work, not solely for the financial betterment of himself and family, but for something less tangible; for the general improvement of man's material well-being, for the good of his adopted country, and for healthy international relations between East and West. Between the lines of this engaging, plainly-told story, the reader will discover respect for the so-called 'old-fashioned' virtues of integrity, hard work and loyalty — not arrogantly insisted on, but passionately expressed through Willie Gertler's every thought and action.

PUBLISHED BY

W. H. ALLEN & CO. LTD.

A division of Howard & Wyncham Ltd.

£3.00 net
UK only

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

WEDDINGS

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

Barry Harvey WELCK to Lesley Rochelle MONJACK.
Raymond ROSENBERG to Adrienne Dawn SEVITT.
Joshua Rufus ROZENBERG to Melanie Susan PHILLIPS.
Adrian Robin ROSS to Karen Rosalind BETH.

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

BARMITZVAHS

Maurice GUYER Gary KRAMER
Paul SEARS

NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to the following, who joined the Synagogue during the past year:

Mr. B. Isaacs	Mrs. M. E. Rosen
Mr. A. R. Ross	Mrs. B. Lesser
Mrs. C. Horne	Mrs. M. Penso
Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Simkin	Mrs. J. Alexander
Miss H. Kutnofsky	Mr. and Mrs. R. Sears
Mrs. G. Krantz	Mr. and Mrs. P. Gilbert
Mrs. L. Java	Mrs. J. Sunley

ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY—continued from page 4

tribution to the Joint Israel Appeal? What help have we given through the work of WIZO to the bereaved families and the permanently maimed? Have we given help to the hospitals in Israel, which have done such wonderful work to alleviate pain and suffering? Have we helped Israel's economy by buying Israeli goods in preference to those imported from other countries? Are we encouraging our children to become Zionists, and are we identifying ourselves with Israel? Have we stood up for our Jewish minority groups who are being persecuted or denied the right to emigrate to Israel?

Have we stood up, as Jews, and protested about the persecution of our people? Have we demonstrated publicly as Jews?

The greatest contribution we can make to Israel is Aliyah — to go and live there, or to encourage our children to do so. If we cannot do this, then the very least we can do is to identify ourselves with the Israeli citizen, the most heavily taxed citizen in the world, and tax ourselves, heavily, by contributing, in no small measure, to J.I.A., J.N.F., or WIZO.

This is no time to sit back and let others bear the burden, it is time to stand up and be counted. The peril to our Nation still exists. History will judge whether we lived up to the challenge!

M.D.C.

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.

The Reverend and Mrs. Samuel Forscher and Ruth wish to convey their warmest greetings for the New Year to the Honorary Officers, to the Board of Management, and to all members of the Congregation and their families.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Friedmann and Family wish to convey their 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, Malka and Stewart, 15 Hammersmith Broadway, W.6.

Mr. & Mrs. Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W12 9AT.

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. A. S. 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. H. Bayes and Family, 72 Quickswood, N.W.3

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

Dr. & Mrs. F. J. Benesi, 8 Atherton Road, S.W.13

Marjorie, Leonard Beth and Family, 145 Camelot Close, Andover, Hants.

Rebecca and Basil Benzimra and Family, "Wickenden",

Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey

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

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

Mrs. M. V. Bobbe, 38 Romney Court, Shepherds Bush Green, W.12

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

Dr. & Mrs. M. D. Caplan and Jonathan, 54 South Parade, Bedford Park, W.4

Mrs. Rose Cohen, 91 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Collins, 20 Hamlet Court, London, W.6

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W.12

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued

Roger & 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, W.
Kensington, W.14
Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions,
S.W.13
Mr. & Mrs. G. Evnine and Family, 120 Oakwood Court,
London, W.14
Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6
Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge,
Warwick Dene, W.5
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. Feceman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gold and Family, 111 Barons Keep,
Barons Court, W.14
Mr. & Mrs. George Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Acton, W.3
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Gordon, 25 Stafford Court, Kensington,
W8 7DL
Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose and Family, Berkeley House,
10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13
Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 35 Corringway, London, W5 3AB
Mr. & Mrs. J. Halfin and Family, 32 Granard Avenue, Putney,
S.W.15
Miss M. Halfin, 18 Cloncurry Street, S.W.6
Mr. C. Halfin, 18 Cloncurry Street, S.W.6
Mrs. J. Hartsis (Chorister), 84 Western Avenue, Acton, W.3
Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes, Angela and Philip, 1 Ashchurch
Terrace, W.12
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court,
Kensington, W.14
Mrs. Minna Katits Springer, 8 Bolingbroke Road, W.14
Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W.3
Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey Levy and Family, 44 Fitzjames Avenue,
London, W.14
Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12
Hettie and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove,
N.W.4
Miss Julie Lichtblau, 56 Fraser House, Brentford, Middx.
Denise and Melvyn Lux and Daughters, 62 Traps Lane,
Coombe Hill, Surrey
Mrs. H. Lux, 87 North End House, W.14
Mr. A. Mark, J.P., and Mrs. Mark, 46 Audley Road, W.5
Pamela, Malcolm, and Samantha Mark, 2 Anne Mount,
Madeley Road, W.5

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued

Mr. and Mrs. H. Mirwitch and Family, 11 South Side,
Stamford Brook, W.6
Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris, 115 Barons Keep, W.14
Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington,
W8 4HX
Dr. & Mrs. O. Moses, 32 Wolberton Gardens, W.6
Mrs. Ollie Naschauer, 249 Latymer Court, W.6
Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Nisner and Maxwell, 27 Thorntree Court,
Parkview Road, Ealing, W.5
Mr. & Mrs. David Ohayon and Family, Orchard Close, Vine
Road, S.W.13
Mrs. Rose Parker and Family, 86 Brook Green, Hammersmith,
W.6
Mrs. H. B. Paros, 24 Hartwood Road, W.12
Mr. & Mrs. S. Perbohner, 121 Castelnau, London, SW13 9EL
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips, Melanie and Joshua, 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
Mrs. Betty Rothman and David, 59 Glasgow House, 175
Maida Vale, W.9
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sacks, 18 Heathcroft, Ealing, W.5
Ann and Richard Sampson, 66 Stamford Court, Stamford
Brook, London, W.6
Mrs. N. Samuels, 258 Latymer Court, W.6
Mr. & Mrs. L. Shooman and Robert, 10 Tudor Court,
Gunnersbury Avenue, Ealing, W.5
Mrs. Anita Simmonds and John, 14 Cecil Close, Mount
Avenue, Ealing, W.5
Mr. & Mrs. N. Sogan, 18 Sutherland Gardens, East Sheen,
SW14 8DB
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W.14 8TF
Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road,
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Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Chiswick, W.4
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Williams and Family, 23 Westmoreland
Road, S.W.13

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Mr. & Mrs.
JOSEPH L. GODFREY

★ ★ ★

WITH COMPLIMENTS
AND BEST WISHES

Private ^{Not so} י'י

TOLANSKY TRIBUTE

There is an interesting postscript to the well-deserved publicity that the late Professor Samuel Tolansky received in the columns of recent editions of *The Brook*. It was announced in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, a society of which Professor Tolansky was a member of the Council from 1956 to 1962 and from 1970 to 1973, that an endowment has been received from his family, which has been accepted, for the establishment of a lecture in his memory. And in a further issue of the same *Journal* Otilie Tolansky has shown herself a keen and perceptive critic with a learned review of Volume 2, "The Nature of Nature," of the Notebooks of the famous modern artist Paul Klee.

In New York once, at the great cathedral-like Reform Temple on Fifth Avenue, which I visited as a tourist — there was no service being held at that moment — I marched the whole way, with my hat on, down its vast interior to the front. I was quite aware that an usher was treading on my heels from door to Ark, but I affected to take no notice. Finally, he caught up with me and said respectfully, "Excuse me, sir, but we don't wear hats in this synagogue." I simulated indignation: "What," I said, "you call Orthodox Jews intolerant, and yet you are so intolerant as not to let a Jew wear a hat in a synagogue!" "Well," he said to me apologetically, "we lend them a *yarmulka* if they insist!"

From synagogues one is, I assume, led inevitably to sermons. On this, one of my recollections is of an occasion when the late Dr. J. H. Hertz, Chief Rabbi, was to consecrate two synagogues on the same Sunday, but they were about twenty miles apart. In those distant days, I was Assistant Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle* and combined with that office the duties of News Editor as well. I instructed a reporter to cover both consecrations. He expressed some doubt about getting from one *shool* to the other in time, especially on a Sunday (not even the Assistant Editor, never mind a reporter, could afford a car at that period!). I allayed his doubts and told him that I was sure that Dr. Hertz would be kind enough to give him a lift in his car. This happily eventuated, but when the reporter came in on the Monday morning he lugubriously told me that he didn't know what to do about the reports, as the Chief Rabbi had delivered — as of course he was fully entitled to do — more or less the same consecration sermon at both synagogues. "Never mind," I said cheerfully to the reporter, "we'll use the first half of the sermon for one *shool* and the other half for the other."

And so we did.

PERCEIVER

AN EXCURSION

"Tomorrow," said our cousin, "we'll show you how we spend a holiday in the Israeli style." It was Chol Hamoed Pesach and we were staying in Jerusalem.

The early morning weather was fair, and Ray, Jonathan, and Bina came for us at about 9 o'clock. We had earlier enjoyed the most attentive of service in our hotel when we had a social breakfast with a young Israeli soldier complete with haversack, rifle, and fiancée. We left the city via the Bethlehem Road and on the outskirts diverted to inspect some new housing development which was in course of construction. The accommodation is greatly needed, and our cousins said that the rate of progress was quite good.

We continued on our way, past Rachel's Tomb, and before coming to the centre of Bethlehem, turned eastwards along the lonely road to Herodian. The site itself is fascinating and most interesting. Reputed to be the first of Herod's fortifications of this type, it is like a miniature Massada — but beautiful without the underlying feeling of tragedy, embodying the spirit of modern Israel. It is also different from Massada in that there were only three other tourists throughout our visit. After walking round the ruins and excavations, we sat and enjoyed the view and the weather. The day had turned sunny, with a fresh and balmy summer breeze. One could happily have sat all day surrounded by views of the Judean Hills, and in the distance a tiny speck of the Dead Sea (or so you believe) and the far Hills of Moab.

Before leaving, we wandered around the foot of Herodian, exclaiming at and collecting the variety of wild flowers.

FAVOURITE PICNIC AREA

We returned and by-passed Bethlehem, making for Solomon's Pools on the road to Hebron. This is a favourite picnic area for all the local people, and today was typical. So we enjoyed our boiled eggs and matza (not so different from the traditional Pesach visit to Kew Gardens perhaps), and local avocados and fruit — which we certainly didn't have in our youth.

Despite their names, Solomon's Pools, three big reservoirs, are also Herodian — and the water looks as if it's been there as long. They are occupied by masses of croaking frogs — perhaps Herodian as well! — the keepers of the place. The water for the pools comes down the hills in a conduit, which has been kept in use and repair since Herod's days, and indeed along many parts of it the original Herodian plaster and stone coverings remain. Jonathan wanted to explore, so, *kivnai tzown*, we followed the route of the conduit high up into the hills, far from the picnicking crowds. We five were the only ones about — following the channel of running water, full of myriads of fat Israeli tadpoles and fringed by clumps of miniature cyclamen growing

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J.I.A. APPEAL 1974

General Appeal 1974	£74,000
£46,512 — 1973	£31,142 — 1972
Kol Nidre Appeal 1973	£2,000

The Annual Appeal for the J.I.A. made soon after the Yom Kippur War drew our community together urgently at an emotional and tragic time for all concerned with the survival of Israel. The overwhelming and spontaneous response to the Appeal made by Mr. Willie Gertler produced the largest amount ever raised in Hammersmith. Two hundred and thirty members pledged a total of £74,000 and it is pleasing to report all pledges were redeemed soon afterwards.

Mr. Bernard Davis, presiding at the meeting held in the Shool Hall, gave a factual geographical survey of the embattled borders of Israel and stressed the need for every Jew to identify himself meaningfully with those bearing the full physical impact of the struggle for the survival of our heritage.

He pointed out that emotion was not enough. The situation was critical. Israel needed Aliyah, the financial assistance of world Jewry to help sustain the social services, and constant vigilance to ensure that Israel's case for survival was known, and that the so-called "even-handed" policies adopted by politicians were an indication of the need for unity and closer involvement.

The Rev. S. Venitt proposed an omnibus vote of thanks to the J.I.A. Committee.

B.D.

AN EXCURSION—continued from page 12

on the sides and even underneath the little stone tunnels. It was lonely and lovely and exhilarating.

After climbing a long way the conduit levelled out. Here we picked unusual wild flowers, watched silently by a little Arab boy, and Bina decided to lie down and sleep awhile. We followed the conduit on the level and ultimately it disappeared into the hillside. Jonathan speaks Arabic, and the only other human being we saw on our exploration, an Arab farmer, explained that the channel collected water from springs within the upper hills. We returned, and the silent boy presented us with a glorious bunch of wild flowers which he'd collected; he refused to take anything for them, either money or refreshment. We were very touched by his offering, and embarked on a philosophical discussion about the problem of internecine warfare.

We went back down to the Pools, past the merchandise vendors and the crowds, and drove back to Jerusalem. The air was clear and the Hills of Moab stood out in greater detail than we had ever seen.

It had been an unusual and perfect day.

ON BEING A HOSPITAL VISITOR . . .

Why do I do hospital visiting? Mainly because I felt I owed a debt to hospitals and that, in some small way, this would repay the debt. At least, that was why I started, but now I do it because I like it.

The patients are more than grateful for a friendly face and an inquiry "Are you all right?" or something of that sort. This is essential when one is visiting a hospital which serves such a large area as the Charing Cross Hospital, an entirely different proposition from its forerunner, the Fulham Hospital, which merely served the local area. Now patients come a very long way for treatment and for surgery, and their family and friends, while doing all they can, cannot always visit as frequently as they would like.

The dangers — if one may so describe them — in the job are few, but top of the list is that of getting too involved. There was, for instance, an elderly lady patient at the hospital, an indomitable spirit, with a wealth of stories from the past, intelligent and full of good humour, who really impressed her personality on both my fellow-visitor, Mrs. Ohayon, and myself. Each week she was the one we looked forward most to seeing, and when she died it was a great loss to both of us. Normally, one stays about 7-10 minutes per patient, depending, of course, on whether they have visitors of their own, in which case, one just smiles cheerily and stays only a moment or two, so as not to intrude.

INVITATION TO HOLIDAY

In the course of my travels round the wards, I have received many invitations from men and women to come and see them, even from one gentleman who said I'd be welcome with my family to go for a holiday to the Isle of Wight, where he and his wife had a small hotel.

One day, when inquiring for one of my patients, I was told by a smiling middle-aged man that he would be willing to change his name, and his religion, if I'd stay and chat to him for a bit! Should I have followed this up?

The system I use is to go up to the 15th floor, which is for private patients, and then walk down a floor or two at a time, depending on where the patients are. One day who should step into the lift but a famous comedian, known for his fund of jokes on the TV . . . there was an unnatural hush, and then, when he got out of the lift, one of the nurses said wonderingly, "He didn't say anything funny, did he?" In a hospital lift?

The staff at the hospital, especially on reception, are particularly helpful. For instance, one does not barge into a ward to see a patient, but uses the telephone-speaker to ask whether it would be in order to seek Mr. or Mrs. So-and-so. This is repeated outside each ward on each floor, *i.e.*, North, South, East, and

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AUTUMN SERIES OF LECTURES

The following lectures will take place in our Synagogue Hall:
Wednesday, 16 October, at 8.15 p.m. — Rabbi Dr. A. Ehrman
Subject: PROBLEMS OF PERSONAL STATUS IN ISRAEL

(Who is a Jew? Conversion, Mamzerut)

Wednesday, 30 October, at 8.15 p.m. — Mr. Harold Levy, M.A.
Subject: PRAYERS FOR GREAT OCCASIONS

Wednesday, 13 November, at 8.15 p.m. — the Rev. Dr. Julius G. Jacobs, M.A.

Subject: GREAT DRAMA IN THE BIBLE

Wednesday, 27 November, at 8.15 p.m. — Rabbi Dr. Morris Turetsky, M.A.

Subject: IS JEWISH LAW HIDEBOUND OR FLEXIBLE?

Wednesday, 18 December, at 8.15 p.m. — Dr. S. Sacks

Subject: THE BIBLE IN ART

It is very sad to recall that last year a similar course of lectures was so sparsely attended that on some occasions there were no more than a handful of people in the audience. This was not only unfair to the lecturers but a great loss to those who did not attend. Please put these dates in your diary now! You will receive further notifications in due course and announcements will be made from time to time. Please do not hesitate to bring your friends, who will be most welcome. Refreshments will be served. These courses have been running continuously for many years now and we are determined that they should carry on.

After all, what more pleasant and profitable way can there be of spending what might otherwise turn out to be a rather dull winter evening? Each and every one of our lecturers is an acknowledged expert in his field, with a lively and often witty approach to his particular subject. Discussion and audience participation are always welcome and, as you see, one subject at least promises to be highly controversial.

The Honorary Officers and the Board of Management, together with our Ministers and the Ladies' Guild, extend to you a most cordial welcome and look forward to seeing you there.

I.Y.

HOSPITAL VISITOR—continued from page 14

West. One day, after several inquiries and replies that the patients had been discharged, gone to convalescence, etc., the receptionist at the end of the line on that floor said, "I'm sorry, dear, we seem to have cured them all for you."

Don't think that hospital visiting is all sombre or all cheery, but it is heart-lifting to mark the progress of a patient from stage to stage until he or she is able to go home.

And, finally, let me say that the hospital visitor gets so much out of it herself . . . it is most satisfying and worth while in every way, even though it represents only the minutest part of the curing of the patient. Every little helps. HETTY WILLIAMS.

Mr. & Mrs. ALFRED COLEMAN

*wish the Ministers
and their friends
of the Hammersmith & West Kensington Synagogue
a very Happy New Year.*

BESSIE APFEL

*wishes her dear children, grandchildren, family, ministers, and
members of the Hammersmith and Willesden Ladies' Gullds
and Friendship Clubs, a very happy and peaceful New Year.*

14 Clarendon Court, Staverton Road, Willesden, N.W.2.

J. SAMUEL & SON

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MEMORIALS & RENOVATIONS

All work under the personal supervision of
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AMBULANCE PRESENTATION

A special service and dedication ceremony to mark the occasion of the presentation of a Magen David Adom ambulance by Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Gertler in memory of their cousin, Yaron Ashkenazi, was held on Sunday, 24 February.

In his address during the service, the Rev. S. Venitt paid tribute to Yaron Ashkenazi, outlining the circumstances in which Yaron's family came to Israel, and how on the first day of the recent war, on Yom Kippur itself, he had been killed on the Golan Heights. He laid particular emphasis on a quotation from the Talmud referred to in a letter from Yaron's father to his son, "He who saves one life in Israel is counted as if he had saved the whole world." While it had been said we are a unique people, which was understood in different ways, we are noted for caring for each other and we felt personally involved in Israel's crisis. Only we Jews could understand the depth of feeling which moved us. The close bonds of the people and of our kinship were not confined only to Israel, as all Israel are brothers the world over. We all share a common responsibility for others, and Anglo-Jewry fully shared the anguish felt by those in Israel during and after the Yom Kippur War.

KIBBUTZ'S FIRST AMBULANCE

Every life in Israel is precious and everyone must be accounted for. During the recent war Magen David Adom had made strenuous efforts to rescue the severely wounded. Mr. and Mrs. Gertler could hardly have found a better or more fitting way of commemorating Yaron Ashkenazi than by presenting what would be the first ambulance for Kibbutz Reshafim. Their spontaneous self-sacrifice showed their devotion to good works and deeds in order to help those in distress and need. The whole community would join in prayer that this ambulance would not have to be used except for peace-time emergencies.

After the service, the remainder of the ceremony took place outside the Synagogue, where the ambulance plaque was unveiled and read. The keys were handed to a representative of the British Friends of Magen David Adom, who spoke of the pride felt by the returned prisoners in the work of Magen David Adom, as its medical services were foremost in contributing to the easing of suffering. In recognition of the sincere thanks and appreciation felt in Israel at the donation, a special certificate of merit from the Chairman of Magen David Adom in Israel was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Gertler.

The occasion itself was marked by a deep solemnity, which was clearly felt by the very large congregation of members and friends who attended. After the ceremony there was a reception in the Synagogue Hall to which all were invited.

Classes' Annual Prize Distribution

The Annual Prize Distribution of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue Classes was held during the morning of Sunday, 14 July. The Guests of Honour were Miss Adelaide and Mr. Jack Langdon.

In his Annual Report, the Rev. S. Venitt spoke of the long association enjoyed by the Langdon family with our community, and in relation to today's occasion it was noteworthy that Mr. Langdon still had a Siddur presented to him fifty years ago as a prize while he himself had been a member of the Classes.

At present the roll of the Classes was static, although a slow reduction in numbers had been apparent. Many children attended from other areas and travelled long distances. The attendance record was good except for mid-week classes, as only a minority attended regularly. If attendance could be improved it would be possible to reinstitute the Bat Chayil Class. Those children who did take an active interest in their studies in the Classes were those who studied intensely, and who received the greatest benefit, which was open to all members of the Classes.

USUAL FESTIVITIES

The usual festivities had taken place at the appropriate times of the year. There had been a fancy dress party for children at Purim and the usual services had been held on Chanukah. Special services had been held also at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and at Simchat Torah it was particularly gratifying that many children had produced specially decorated flags to celebrate the festival. To mark the children's efforts, those who had made flags were to be presented with special prizes donated anonymously in the name of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue.

On a less satisfactory note, it was a matter of regret that our regular services were so sparsely attended by the children. We needed to encourage our children but required the support of the parents to convince them that their studies in the Classes were not academic but essentially practical. It was to be hoped that more children would attend Shabbat services regularly with their parents in future.

The collections for Jewish Child's Day this year had been a record and a considerable amount was raised. In conclusion, he wished to thank all the members of the teaching staff, in particular Miss Ruth Forscher, for their co-operation and the Chairman and members of the Classes Committee.

The Chairman, Mr. J. Brand, then called on Mr. Jack Langdon, who thanked the Rev. Mr. Venitt and the Chairman for their kind remarks, and in his short speech wished to address himself directly to the members of the Classes. He urged them to learn as much Hebrew as possible so they would be enabled to follow the services fluently. He also hoped that more children

continued on page 19

CLASSES ANNUAL PRIZES—continued from page 18

would attend on Shabbat and Festivals with their parents — there was much benefit to be obtained in learning our history and laws in the Sedra and Haftorah. In conclusion, he wished the members of the Classes a pleasant holiday.

After Mr. Langdon's short speech, the Chairman invited Miss Adelaide Langdon to present the prizes, which included awards for collections on behalf of Jewish Child's Day. The special prizes in the name of the Hammersmith Synagogue were presented to those children who had made hand-decorated and gaily coloured flags for Simchat Torah, the prize-winners being Danielle and Colette Lux, Julie Ohayon, Nicole Forman, and Tracy, Gary, and Michael Kramer.

A vote of thanks was then moved by Dr. F. S. Tysh. He paid tribute to the work for our community of our guests of honour. While with his usual modesty Mr. Langdon had said he had not done anything unusual, Dr. Tysh said it was to be wished that others had done as much that was equally not unusual. In many ways that were visible to our members, Mr. Langdon as Chairman of the House Committee had contributed to the upkeep and improvement of our buildings, for which we were most grateful. The community could also be proud of the devotion and dedication of the teaching staff of the Classes in their efforts to pass on the trust of Judaism and of Jewish knowledge, and of the role played by the Rev. Mr. Venitt, Mrs. Venitt, and Miss Ruth Forscher. Similarly the community greatly appreciated the work of our Ladies' Guild and Parents' Association, and all who were present were clearly aware of the devotion and sincerity of the young pupils of the Classes.

The Rev. S. Venitt replied, and mentioned his personal gratitude for the support of the Classes Committee and in particular the Chairman, Mr. Brand, who had conducted the proceedings with his customary efficiency. Finally, he hoped that the members of the Classes would be able to spend their time during the forthcoming holidays profitably and would make use of the specially prepared holiday notebooks which all were to receive. The large gathering of parents, members, and friends could be left in no doubt of the keenness of the pupils and of the attention that would be continued to be devoted to their studies in the forthcoming year.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from page 9

Elizabeth and Benjamin de Winter, 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, 139 North End House, W.14.

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**

RESIDENCE DE LA PORTE VERTE

and from

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

5 EASTBOURNE ROAD, CHISWICK, W.4.

THE LADIES' GUILD

I am happy to report a year of activity and success. We were all naturally saddened by the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, but, as our traditional duties demand, the decoration of the Succah went ahead as usual. A new paved floor had been laid and ladies of the Guild, supported by the younger members, once again decorated the Succah most beautifully. Understandably, owing to the situation in Israel, the Simchat Torah celebration was postponed.

The major function of the year was held in November. Organised by Mrs. Betty Dickman and supported by the committee, this took the form of a card evening and supper. Bearing in mind that the proceeds were going to be devoted to the Israel Emergency Appeal, a very special effort was made and £375 was raised. This function was both a financial and social success.

In December a "Good-as-New-Sale" was held in the Communal Hall, and, as a result of this and the previous function, the Guild was able to send £500 to the Emergency Fund. This was greatly appreciated.

The postponed Simchat Torah Reception was held in January. This was catered for by the Guild with helpers from the Friendship Club and proved a very successful evening.

LADIES' GUILD SHABBAT — This was an innovation. The Honorary Officers of the Synagogue were hosts to the ladies of the community to honour the work of the guild and all ladies' organisations. There were about 60 ladies present and a kiddush followed the Service.

Miss Florrie Cohen, who for many years had been our Honorary Treasurer, had to resign owing to illness. At a meeting, Miss Cohen was thanked for her outstanding service, and was presented with a certificate for 20 years. Fortunately, Mrs. Ray Cohen offered to take over the position of treasurer, for which we are very grateful.

In March we held our Annual General Meeting and heard reports from our representatives on the House Committee and Hospital Visitation. We thank these ladies for carrying out this helpful work.

Flag-selling for Geranium Day was again efficiently organised and the collection was the highest we have ever achieved.

Members of the Guild supplied plants and flowers for the decoration of the Synagogue for Shavuot, which was beautifully arranged by the ladies.

Our last function was a Bring/Buy Coffee Morning; this continued with a Self-Service Luncheon and concluded in the afternoon with cards and tea. Organised by the Functions Chairman and supported by the committee, this was a financial and social success.

Four times a year parcels have been sent to the St. Bernard's Hospital, Southall.

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WEST LONDON JEWISH YOUTH CENTRE

One of the most rewarding days this year was Sunday, 9 June. This was the day of the official opening of the Oxford and St. George's West London Jewish Youth Centre at Boston Manor.

This simple and proud ceremony expressed the fulfilled and ultimate aims and aspirations of the dedicated few, who, after eight years of unremitting hard work, were able at last to share their achievement with the many who would enjoy the benefits of the new Youth Centre.

The main hall of the Centre was packed with well-wishers, who had participated in some way towards the building.

Mr. Dennis Gould, Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee, welcomed us all with a most enthralling summary of the trials and tribulations of the many years spent in transforming the dream of a Youth Centre into its present working reality. He mentioned how the first meeting of the Sponsoring Committee had been chaired by Lady Janner and that he was pleased to see her present, with Lord Janner, on this auspicious occasion. He also thanked publicly the members of the committee, who had done so much to ensure the satisfactory outcome that was apparent to all.

The Chairman then introduced his Worship the Mayor of Ealing, who in his speech added the traditional note of official dignity to the occasion. This was followed by a memorable and witty speech from Sir Samuel Fisher, J.P., President of the Board of Deputies, who declared the Youth Centre officially open.

We could not forget the important role played by the Bernhard Baron St. George's Jewish Settlement, and Mr. Charles Dreyfus, its distinguished Honorary Officer, presented us with an illuminating background sketch of its work and personalities.

After the conclusion of the speeches, tea was provided and an opportunity was taken to see around the new Youth Centre.

I am pleased to report that the Youth Centre is flourishing and has an enthusiastic membership. However, financial help is still required. An active Functions Committee has been formed and its first function will be a Gala Variety Show at the Acton Town Hall on 25 January, 1975. This promises to be an exceptional evening and worthy of your support. C.B.H.

LADIES GUILD—continued from page 21

The Guild acknowledges gratefully gifts of trestle tables, roller towels, and decorated trays for kiddush, and also donations from members on the occasion of family Simchas.

We meet once a month in members' homes for a Working Committee Meeting and a social chat.

I, as secretary, would welcome a telephone call from any lady, young or not so young, to join us in all our activities.

Awaiting your call,

REBECCA FOX, *Hon. Secretary.*
(602 4242)

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We are happy to report the continued success of the Friendship Club, which, incredible as it may seem, is in its 23rd year, with a large and growing membership. One of the most gratifying results of our work in the club is the very real friendships formed between members, which continue outside the Wednesday afternoon club meetings. This is a great encouragement for the dedicated service given by the committee. (In passing, if any lady member of the Synagogue could spare the time on a Wednesday afternoon to offer her services we would be most grateful.)

Our summer coach outings to the coast have been very successful; so too have our visits to the theatre and cinema, where prices are very much reduced for parties of Senior Citizens.

We had a particularly enjoyable afternoon when we entertained the Ealing Friendship Club. This was in return for a visit to them last year.

We are proud to report that £100 was collected from our members for the Joint Israel Appeal. Our ladies also knitted helmets and mittens for the soldiers. We received a letter from an Israeli soldier on the Golan Heights thanking us. As you can imagine, we were all thrilled with this.

The Local Authority continue to provide us with entertainment of the highest quality whenever it is asked for.

We are greatly indebted to the Board of Management for the use of the Synagogue Hall and its amenities, and we offer a special "thank you" to Mr. Howard for his help at all times.

We extend best wishes to the Ministers, Board of Management, and the members of the congregation for a happy and healthy New Year.

MILLY LEVY,
Chairman.

Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

Extend their Compliments and Best Wishes

for a Happy New Year



50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

Hammersmith & District Branch AJEX

Nearly thirty years after the end of World War II AJEX is still a necessary and vital force in the Anglo-Jewish community. The work of AJEX, in which this branch takes an active part, is varied and continuous. Here is a resumé of some of these activities.

While there has not been the open antisemitism of former years, one cannot have failed to observe that extreme right-wing political parties like the National Front have recently been putting up a larger number of candidates at elections and have been gaining ground. Experience has shown that these parties flourish when economic conditions are at a low ebb. In such circumstances how easier than to blame the Jews. We must be prepared to deal with antisemitism whenever it rears its ugly head and we never can tell what the future has in store. AJEX is now, as in the past, in the forefront in combating this evil. Our branch have a proud record of past success and, though we hope and pray we shall never be called upon to take action, we are prepared.

Every Jew was disturbed by the events last year when Israel was in grave danger. The war resulted in many of our brothers in Israel being killed or wounded. As a branch of AJEX and as ex-Servicemen we felt it our duty to give whatever assistance possible. An appeal was made to our members for funds to assist in the building of the Beersheba Soldiers' Home — an imaginative scheme of the Israeli Government sponsored by ex-Servicemen in Britain, Canada, and America. Although we are a small branch and many of our members are far from wealthy, we were proud to announce a figure of £1,250 collected in aid of this worthy cause.

MANY IN NEED

Apart from AJEX house, consisting of flats for needy ex-Service men and women, built and maintained by AJEX, there is still a surprising number who are still in need of financial help and advice. A regular stream of applicants visit AJEX Head Office in Crawford Street each week. To help those in need has always been a feature of our Jewish heritage and a large sum is expended by AJEX to meet this necessity.

Of course we would welcome you as a member of our branch, which only costs £1 a year. But from the above you will see we can only continue this work if we have not only workers but the necessary funds. To enable us to do this we are now launching a money draw with valuable cash prizes. Each ticket purchased of £10 entitles you to take part in several draws during 1975 to win one prize of £250 as well as six prizes of £40. To maximise the opportunity to win, only 100 tickets will be sold. If you feel the work of AJEX is worth while and you enjoy a little spiel to win money, just write for details to Mr. Bankover, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12.

J.B.

Jewish Youth Study Groups

The 32nd annual summer school, which was recently held at Carmel College, is living proof that the spirit of Judaism is not dead among young people today. The School lasted two weeks and provided a varied programme which suited all tastes.

The mornings were devoted to lectures, the subjects ranging from "Antisemitism in English Literature" to "The Dilemma facing Jewish Students today," and towards the end of the school summaries of the study courses which the various groups had discussed during the term were given.

The afternoons and evenings were on a far lighter note. The afternoon functions included sub-aqua hockey, keep-fit classes, and a scavenger hunt. Israeli singing and dancing took place after the evening functions, which varied from a hilarious parody of "Fiddler on the Roof" to an enactment of a trial where Aaron was accused of wilful idolatry in the case of the Golden Calf.

Undoubtedly, the high points of the school were the two Shabbatot. The atmosphere generated on both occasions was so vibrant that one could not help being affected. This was especially true on the Friday nights.

The Summer School marked the end of an era, as the Organiser, Harold Levy, retired after 24 years in the movement. He will be missed by all those who knew him, but there is no doubt that his successor, Bobby Hill, will be just as competent as his predecessor.

There is more to Study Group than just summer school however. There are groups spread out all over the country, and West, the group which covers the West London area, meets regularly in the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, 9 Lauderdale Road, Maida Vale, on Sundays, from 5 to 7. The meetings consist of a study course and talk about the week's Sedra by members of the group, a main speaker from outside the group, and Israeli singing and dancing.

If you are aged between 14 and 17, and are interested in coming to the meetings, just let me know and I will give you further details.

PHILIP HODES

Hammersmith Women's Zionist Society

This branch is still functioning. We are the oldest such Society, founded long before 1948. Rebecca Sieff and Selig Brodetsky, after a successful tour in South Africa, spoke in our Communal Hall — the year was 1933. We were then a flourishing Society.

We have 32 paid-up members — the subscription is £1 yearly. During Women's Week 1974 the amount collected was £60. We should be delighted to welcome new members.

JEANIE CAPLAN,
226 Latymer Court, W.6
748 2727

JEWES UNDER EARLY ISLAM

Islam originated in Arabia in the seventh century C.E. Before the rise of Islam, numbers of Jewish and Christian settlements were established in different parts of Arabia; Jews had settled especially in Yathrib, later renamed Medina. They were mainly agriculturists and artisans. Their origin is uncertain and many different theories have been advanced. There were also Jews in other parts of Arabia, and Muhammad was clearly influenced by them, as well as by the Christians, as can be inferred from the many Biblical and Midrashic elements in the Koran.

Muhammad began his religious mission in Mecca, but persecution eventually drove him to Medina; this move from Mecca to Medina was such an important development that the Muslims have reckoned their calendar from the "Year of the Hijra" (Emigration) ever since. Medina had been torn by the feuds of the rival Arab tribes, the Aus and the Khazraj, the first supported by the Jewish tribes of the Banu Qurayza and the Banu Nadir, and the second backed by the Jewish Banu Qainuqa. Muhammad entered Medina as an arbitrator between the Aus and Khazraj and also at first tried to win over the Jews; thus he adopted for Islam the fast of Yom Kippur and also established Jerusalem as the direction towards which Muslims should pray. The Jews, however, ridiculed Muhammad and refused to recognise him as a prophet; furthermore, while they would not oppose his acceptance of the divine missions of Abraham, Moses, and the Prophets, they could hardly endorse his recognition of Jesus as a prophet, nor his claim that Abraham and Ishmael had founded Arabian monotheism, which was thus independent of, and prior to, both Judaism and Christianity.

THE CHANGE TO MECCA

Rejected in this manner by the Jews, Muhammad changed the Muslim direction of prayer from Jerusalem to Mecca, and also substituted the month of Ramadan as a fast time for the Muslims instead of Yom Kippur. Muhammad did not, however, stop at this; the economic superiority of the Jews, their doubtful loyalty to the Medinan regime in its war against Mecca, and their use as a scapegoat for the failures of the Medinan regime, as well as their religious independence, were all reasons for their annihilation. The first community to suffer was the Banu Qainuqa, who were mainly goldsmiths; they were forced to leave the country. Soon afterwards the Banu Nadir fell under suspicion of treachery and were forced to lay down their arms and evacuate their settlements. Valuable land and much booty fell into the hands of the Muslims.

The Banu Qurayza suffered worst. The Meccans, in an attack on Medina, had succeeded in detaching this tribe from Muhammad's force, and after his victory Muhammad immediately turned

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West London Young Zionist Society

West London Young Zionist Society is a large friendly society which has provided activities for its members for many years. The society enables people between the ages of 16 and 30 to meet every Thursday in members' homes in the West London area, and attendances average 35.

We are affiliated to the Federation of Zionist Youth, whose three main aims are Jewish and Israeli culture (Tarbut), emigration to Israel (Aliyah), and fund-raising towards a youth village for underprivileged children in Ashkelon, Israel. Our programmes are therefore arranged to include both culturally and socially orientated evenings, thus covering the broad spectrum of our members' interests.

Among our recent programmes have been debates (we have been F.Z.Y.'s national debating champions for the last three years), rambles, a parents' forum, and speakers on hypnotism, race relations, and Yiddish in the East End of London. An outstanding evening was occasioned when Hyam Maccobi, who has written a book reviewed in *The Times* concerning the death of Jesus and the Jewish role as defined in the New Testament, came and discussed with us his theories. Apart from external help in presenting programmes, the majority of evenings are formulated by members themselves. Such meetings include "*Garinim*". A *garin* is the imaginative presentation in depth of a specific Jewish topic presented and researched by members themselves; for example, we have prepared *garinim* on Jews in Syria, ghettos, Safed, and assimilation — to name but a few!

SPRING SEMINAR

In April we held our annual Spring Seminar in the Kent countryside. The theme was Yom Ha'atzmaut, and 50 people spent an enjoyable weekend debating, discussing, presenting small sketches, and especially having the company of others. A seminar is an event where everyone pulls their weight, whether it be in the presentation of an argument in debate or washing up after a meal.

Over the coming months we shall be holding, amongst other things, a couple of our famous folk evenings; a film evening; a series of programmes based on assimilation; a presentation at the Commonwealth Institute Theatre of Yiddish, "*Mammaloshen*" (details of this can be obtained from myself or the Synagogue secretary, or the Synagogue notice-board); and a two-evening Music Hall at the beginning of January 1975.

During the summer many of our members have spent time in Israel either archaeological digging or sightseeing or both. One member has spent six months at a kibbutz on one of the various youth schemes, and one girl has emigrated to Israel.

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JEWS UNDER EARLY ISLAM—continued from page 26

on these Jews, who, after a short siege, surrendered unconditionally; the men were put to death and the women and children were sold as slaves; only one Jew abjured his religion to save his life.

Before Muhammad's death, Khaybar, one of the last remaining Jewish strongholds, was attacked suddenly and defeated. Here, however, only three people were put to death, and the Jews were allowed to keep their land on condition that they surrendered half the produce to Medina; but the arrangement did not last long, for Umar, the second Caliph, expatriated the Jews with all the other Jews and Christians in the peninsula.

As the Arabic Empire developed, however, Jews were not persecuted. Together with Christians and Sabians, they were termed "People of the Book" (that is, people who had received a revealed religion) and they were exempted from attack on the payment of the "jizya," or poll tax. Against all other "unbelievers," however, the duty of "jihad," or Holy War, was enjoined.

FIONA YOFFEY.

YOUNG ZIONIST SOCIETY—continued from page 27

Our magazine, "The Voice" (a monthly copy is sent to the Synagogue), is now 135 editions old and is written for predominantly by members. The magazine is acknowledged as being the best in F.Z.Y. and is highly thought of in the upper echelons of the Zionist Federation. Articles range from record reviews to news and facts regarding Soviet Jewry. We shall be only too pleased to receive contributions from Synagogue members (further details, please telephone me).

It must be said that West London was one of the only Zionist youth groups to actively participate in the recent protests at the Coliseum Theatre during the stay of the Bolshoi Ballet. We organised a distribution of leaflets after the performance regarding the Soviet family whom we have adopted.

West London Young Zionist Society has set itself high standards over many years, standards which are hard to maintain unless a sufficiently high and spirited membership exists. Such a membership exists now and this forms a strong foundation for the keeping together of the West London Jewish community. If anyone between 16 and 30 wishes to try us one Thursday evening or knows of anyone who may enjoy our society, please contact me and they can be sure that they will be welcomed with true West London hospitality.

PHILIP KERSTEIN, *Chairman*.
(01-736 1567)

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. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. S. Verby, 45 Ranelagh Gardens Mansions, S.W.6. Tel. 736 3731.

Hammersmith Friendship Club. Meets every Wednesday in the Synagogue Hall. Chairman: Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12. Tel. 743 3276.

Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society. 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, 27 Wavendon Avenue, W.4.

West London Jewish Youth Centre Sponsoring Committee. Hammersmith Representative: Dr. C. B. Hodes, 1 Ashchurch Ter. Askew Road, W.12.

West London Young Zionist Society. Chairman: Mr. Philip Kerstein. Tel. 736 1567.

Jewish Lads' Brigade—Hammersmith Coy. Brigade Secretary: Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1. Tel. 387 5148.

Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch). Hon. Sec.: 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 to Mr. Philip Hodes, Tel. 743 2920.

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

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