THE BROOK

1890-1980



THE MAGAZINE OF THE

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

They shall still shoot forth in old age: they shall still be full of sap and green,

(Psalm for the Sabbath Day)

Thought for our Ninetieth Anniversary Year

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W 6

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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

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"THE BROOK"

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THE BROOK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6.

SEPTEMBER 1980/5741

Contents

Editor al: A Future of Hop	e	***	***		***	2
Bridegrooms of the Law	444	4400	0.00	717	***	2
Mini-Sermon: Joy of the I	leart	****	-1255		1.00	3
New Year Greetings		***	***		***	5-8
Annual Report	***	0.00	***	***	399	9-10
The Ladies' Guild	2000	20.50	***	0.555	122	11
Caretaker		***	255		***	11
Social and Personal	***	***		000	***	12
Gifts to the Synagogue	2.650	775	170	***		12
Ninetieth Anniversary Serv	rice	***				13
Gifts for the Succah	***	***			***	13
Israel - Far Away and N	ear	8862	49000			15-16
Joint Israel Appeal			***			16
Place Names	444	***	***		446	17-18
Hammersmith WIZO	000	30000	20120	1200		18
Hammersmith Friendship	Club	2			***	19
Jews in Switzerland	***	***				21-22
Hammersmith & West Ke	nsingto	on Fur	ections	Comm	ittee	22
The Name of the Game	***					23
Jewish Book Week			***	***		23
Far Eastern Journey	***	****	3,860	883	653	24
Board of Deputies Defend	e Dep	artmer	ıt			25
AJEX	***	**-	444		0.00	25-26
Jewish Way of Life	***	****	***	***	***	26
The Jews of Provence	***	***	***	***		27-28
90th Anniversary Tour	***	144	***	4.64		28

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A FUTURE OF HOPE

Our personal sense of balance is an essential counterweight to the conflicting demands which are imposed on us. In approaching another year it is heartening to recall the sense of renewed communal feeling which was so evident at all times in relation to our recent Ninetieth Anniversary. The pleasure created by the celebrations was a well-merited reward for the intense effort which supported the moving Commemorative Service. There was a clear sense of purpose which was entirely in the traditions of our community and there was every indication also that the vigour of the past has not deserted us. Indeed all our members and friends who were able to participate in some way in the celebration were positive proof that we can use the opportunity for reflection given by a notable anniversary to strengthen adherance, our sense of commitment to our work and to the support of our religious and communal affairs.

It is right that we should consider how much we need to use every advantage given by our history to increase our cohesion as a community. In so doing we must be aware that our hopes will fail if we rely on history alone as a guide. Our efforts must be inspired constantly by the need to uphold our religious traditons in relation to present-day influences. A sense of balance both individual and communal can help us as we look to the

future with confidence.

Bridegrooms of the Law

We are happy to announce that our Bridegrooms for this years will be Mr. Lew Shooman and Mr. Simon Perbohner.

Mr. Shooman has long associations with the Synagogue. His parents were members of the congregation in the old days. He himself has taken a great interest in the activities of Hammersmith AJEX, particularly on the social side and in Jewish Defence.

His wife Minnie prefers to work quietly in the background giving a helping hand to many people and many causes.

Mr. Perbohner is held in high regard by our congregation. He has a profound knowledge of Jewish culture, and has been a life-long Zionist. For a number of years he was a leading member of the West London Zionist Society.

His wife Rosa is well known as an ardent WIZO worker, having taken a leading part in the High Wycombe branch and latterly giving much support to Kensington and Chelsea group.

One interesting thing both families have in common, each has one son, who became Bar Mitzvah and married in our synagogue.

The Annual Reception in honour of the Chasanim will be held on Sunday 5th October. Invitation Card is enclosed.

JOY OF THE HEART

By the Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.

The traditional greeting for this season is "A Happy New Year." The very fact that this greeting is universal is an intimation that the experience of happiness is by no means universal.

How is it possible to attain a measure of happiness of the kind that the Psalmist calls "joy of the heart"?

Perhaps we ought to begin by stating how happiness is not attained.

It does not result from the possession of material things. We have more wealth, more leisure, more comforts than any generation before us ever dreamed of. But nobody can say that the possession of things is a barometer of happiness.

Look at the international scene. There is so much wealth, so much space, so much untapped riches. Has it brought happiness, brotherhood and peace? On the domestic scene, beautiful and luxurious homes, television, all the advantages of modern civilization for our children. All this should make for happy homes and happy marriages. Does it?

Perhaps if we shifted our attention from the accumulation of things to the perfection of self, we might draw closer to the source of happiness. Be concerned less with having more, be concerned more with being more. The more self-improvement,

the more happiness.

The lives of the great, provide ample illustration of this truth. Our scriptural readings on New Year concentrate on Abraham, whose whole life was spent on self-improvement. He proved by his conduct and attitude to life that true happiness can be reached through the cultivation of a noble being.

If we accept that this is so, there follows a second truth. Happiness may be achieved through the forgetting of one's self. As the Talmud states "whosoever would truly live, must subdue his self." In other words, instead of thinking and concentrating on your own happiness, reverse the technique. Start thinking of the happiness of others — the peace of mind of others. Isaiah spells out this message which we read on Yom Kippur.

And if you draw out your soul to the hungry.

And relieve men in misery.

The light shall dawn for you in darkness. And your dull hours shall be bright as noon.

What the prophet is trying to say in his prescription for happiness is that the gloom in a person's soul can be dispelled by the light he kindles in another's soul.

Happiness is the dividend that one receives from the

investment he makes in the well being of others.

If we seek happiness in the New Year, we shall realise it to the extent that we aim to improve ourselves on the one hand, and by our capacity to forget ourselves through absorption in the happiness of others. Mr. & Mrs.

JOE GODFREY

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

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

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

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

and members of the Synagogue.

Hella and Shmuel Forscher and Family wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year, and would like them to know that their address in Hendon is 7 King's Close, N.W.4.; Tel. 203 1163.

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

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Englefield send their compliments to the congregation.

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

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

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

Mr. & Mrs. Moss Amias, 38 Barons Keep, W.14.
Mr. & Mrs. M. Angelus, 96 Addison Gardens, W.14.

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

Eve & Bertie Bankover and Family, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12.
Mr. & Mrs. J. Beim, "Tara", Coombe Ridings, Kingston Hill,
Surrey

Dr. and Mrs. F. Benesi, 11 Cocksut Road, Lewes, Sussex, BN71JH

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

Mrs. Rita Berg & Family, 1 West Kensington Mansions, W.14.
Irene and Joe Bondt, 3a, Aylmer Road, N.2.

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

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

Pauline & Harry Brandon, 22 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4.

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

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

Jean & Denis Caplan and Family, 43 Lime Court, 2 Gipsy Lane, Putney, London, S.W.15.

Janet & John Clark, 34 Kingfisher Way, Bournville, Birmingham.

S.W.13.

Mrs. R. Cohen, 292 Latymer Court, London W6 7LD. Mrs. Rose Cohen, 91 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6.

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Coleman, 14 Abbots House, W14 8NU

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Collins, 38c Sterling Avenue, Edgware. Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W12.

Blanca and Roger Curtis, 52 Hendon Hall Court, Parson Street, N.W.4.

Mrs. S. Cutler, 288 Latymer Court, W.6.

Lilian and Bernard Davis, 60 Thamespoint, Fairways, Teddington, Middx.

Mr. & Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 52 Arundel Mansions, Arundel Terrace, Barnes, London S.W.13.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Dwar and Philippa, 12 Flanders Road, London W4 ING.

Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.

Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters. Warwick Lodge, Warwick Dene, W.5.

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Finkleman and Family, 291a High Road, Chiswick, W.4.

Mr. & Mrs. N. Fishman, 5 Windsor House, Heathfield Gardens, W4 4JT.

Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison Road, W.14.

Joan and Manny Franks and Family, 54 Barons Keep, W.14.
Dr. & Mrs. L. Freeman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11.
Mrs. Mrs. Harry Gold & Mrs. Ada Hayman, 30 Embra.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gold & Mrs. Ada Hayman, 30 Emlyn Road, W.12.

Minnie and Henry Gold and Family, 111 Barons Keep, Barons Court, W.14.

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Gordon, 25 Stafford Court Kensington, W8 7DL.

Lydia and Manfred Gorvy and Family, 74 Woodsford Square, W.14.

Mr. & Mrs. George Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Action, W.3. Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose and Family, Berkeley House, 10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13.

Mr. A. Gross, 31 Kings Court, King Street, London W.6.
Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 35 Corringway, London, W5 3AB.
Cecilia and Edward Harris, 97 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Road, W.4.

Mrs. J. Harris (Chorister), 84 Western Avenue, Acton, W.3.
Mr. & Mrs. M. Hirth, 34 Greystoke Park Terrace, Western Avenue, W.5.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from previous page

Dr. & Mrs. Cyril Hodes, Angela and Philip, 1 Ashchurch Terrace, W.12.

Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court, Kensington, W.14.

Stephen & Kate Hirst, 2 Alexandra Road, Bedford Park, W.4. Evelyn & Monty Isaacson, Rhian & Mark, 8 Rosedew Road, W.6.

Mrs. H. Katits-Springer & Grand-daughter Mady Rosenbaum, 8 Bolingbroke Road, W14 0AL.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Lakota, 39 Holland Park Mews, London W.11.
Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W3 7LT.

Miss Ethel Levey, 1 West Kensington Mansions, London W14 9PE.

Phyllis & Godfrey Levy, 44 Fitz-James Avenue, London W.14. Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Levy, 212 Goldhawk Road, W.12.

Hetty and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4.

Naomi & Philip Lewis & Family, 14 Madrid Road, S.W.13. Miss Julie Litchblau, 56 Fraser House, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford.

Denise and Melvyn Lux, Danielle and Collette, Georgian House, 62 Traps Lane, Coombe Hill, Surrey.

Mrs. Lily Lux, 87 North End House, W.14.

Mrs. Hettie Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W.4. Joe, Raie & Jonathan Miller, 16 Samuel Richardson House, North End Cres., W.14.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Mirwitch and Family, 11 South Side, Stamford Brook, W6 0XY.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Morris & Son, 115 Barons Keep, W.14.

Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, W8 4HX.

Dr. & Mrs. O. Moses, 32 Wolverton Gardens, W.6. Mrs. Olive Naschauer, 249 Latymer Court, W.6.

Andrew, Elza & Norma Newfield, 52 East Acton Lane, London W3 7EO.

Phyliss & Joe Nisner, Rochelle, Maxwell & Lauren, 27 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, Ealing, W.5.

Mr. & Mrs. David Ohayon & Family, Orchard Close, Vine Road, London S.W.13.

Mrs. Rose Parker and Family, 86 Brook Green, Hammersmith, W.6.

Mr. & Mrs. S. Perbohner, 121 Castelnau, London SW13 9EL. Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips and Family, Flat 11, Bridge Avenue Mansions, W.6.

Doris & Hersh Rieck, 33 Campden Hill Gate, Duchess of Bedford Walk, London, W.8.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS—continued from previous page

Mrs. Beatrice Rose, 12a Kensington Hall Gardens, W.14. Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Rosen, 35 Clavering Avenue, S.W.13. Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Sacks, 18 Heatheroft, Ealing, London W.5. Ann and Richard Sampson, 66 Stamford Court, Stamford Brook, London W.6.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, W.14.

Mrs. N. Samuels, 258 Latymer Court, W.6.

Lew & Minnie Shooman, Robert, Carole & Claire, 10 Tudor Court, Gunnersbury Avenue, W.5.

Mr. & Mrs. N. Sogan, 17 Fairburn Court, St. John's Avenue, Putney, SW15 2AU.

Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4. Evelyn, Leslie and Ruth Sommer, 14 Lillian Avenue, London, W.3.

Dr. & Mrs. J. Spira, 59a Oakwood Court, London W.14.

Mr. Michael Susan, 55 Ormiston Grove, Shepherds Bush, W.12.

Mr. & Mrs. Lou Tannen, 31 Ashfield Road, East Acton, W.3. Mrs. Stella Tesler, 89 Watchfield Court, Chiswick, W.4.

Mr. & Mrs. Bertram Topper, 41 Rockley Court, W.14.

Dr. & Mrs. F. S. Tysh and Ian, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8.

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Chiswick, W.4. Hettie & Sidney Williams & Family, 23 Westmoreland Road. Barnes, S.W.13.

Elizabeth & Benjamin de Winter and Family, 109 Oakwood

Court, W.14. Mr. B. Winterman, 76 The Paddocks, Wembley Pk., Middx. Dinah & Philip Wisbey, Wendy & Bob, 2 Rupert Road, London, W.4.

Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

Extend their Compliments and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

ANNUAL REPORT

As outlined in the previous year's report, the major highlight of the 1979/80 year was the 90th Anniversary

Celebrations of our community.

It was particularly notable that the long awaited redecoration of the Synagogue, and the exterior of the buildings was completed in time. Members will be impressed with the excellent way in which the interior colour scheme has been enhanced, and the substantial improvements made by the cleaning of the terrazzo in the entrance vestibule, the new door curtains, and particularly the new carpeting. Our thanks are due to those whose active interest and generous donations made these

improvements possible.

The actual anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone in 1890 was marked by a Special Anniversary Service held in the afternoon of Sunday February 3rd. The Guests of Honour were, The Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Jakobovits, The President of the United Synagogue accompanied by Mrs. S. S. Levin and other Hon. Officers Messrs. Frosh and Dunitz, The Worshipful Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith and Fulham, Councillor William C. Smith, J.P., G.L.C. and Mrs. Pamela Mulcaire, the Deputy Mayor, The Leader of the Council and councillors were also present. The Chief Rabbi gave the address and the service was conducted by Rev. S. Venitt and the Emeritus Reader Rev. S. Forscher with the Choir under the direction of Mr. A. A. Bramson. After the service all members and Guests were invited to Tea in the Synagogue Hall. Mr. Amias was in the chair and speeches of congratulations were made by the President and the Mayor. A vote of thanks was given by Mr. DeVries. All who attended, and it was heartening to see so many former members present, were greatly moved by the solemnity of the occasion and the excellent social atmosphere of the tea.

Our Services for the High Holydays followed the excellent pattern of the previous year with the resources of our members being called upon without outside assistance and Mr. Amias

again acting as Baal Shachris.

The Succah was beautifully decorated and enhanced our

Festival Celebrations.

The Annual Reception Guests of Honour were our Chasanim, Mr. B. De Winter, Chasan Torah and Mr. B. Topper Chasan Bereshis, accompanied by Mrs. DeWinter and Mrs. Topper, and suitable commemorative certificates were presented to mark the occasion.

It has been a particular pleasure that it has proved possible to have essential cleaning and repairs arranged for our Silver and special thanks are due to Mr. M. Cutler's expert assistance and support, together with the Ladies' Guild for their help also.

As in previous years the House Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Langdon has given invaluable help in all the necessary activities connected with the premises. Members will already be aware of the redecoration of the Cloakrooms and Kitchen, in the Hall and in addition the Hall Exit Doors have been rehung to comply with safety requirements.

We have been fortunate in securing the services of Mrs.

T. Englefield as our new caretaker. She was previously with
the Chiswick Synagogue, and we have already felt the benefit
of her energetic help; We therefore wish her and her husband,
who has undertaken the Cloakroom and Kitchen redecoration,
a Long and Happy Association with the community.

The Ladies' Guild continues to be very active and held a most successful Musical Evening Supper Party which was not only enjoyable but also financially beneficial. We offer our thanks for their invaluable support by enabling improvements to be made to our premises and equipment, together with the extensive help they give in all spheres of communal work.

In conclusion we would say that this has been a remarkably memorable year. We have been able to mark our 90th Anniversary most suitably by the Special Commemorative Service and also by ensuring with the entire co-operation of the United Synagogue the long-overdue redecoration of our Synagogue and Buildings.

We hope that members individually will mark the occasion by renewing their personal and financial support for all our activities.

We offer our thanks to Rev. and Mrs. Venitt for their work throughout the year and their support, and also to our colleagues on the Board of Management, The Council of the United Synagogue, and the Board of Deputies. Our Secretary Miss R. Longhorn has offered invaluable advice throughout what has been a very active year, and we have enjoyed the excellent participation of the Choir in the Services, Our thanks are due to Mrs. J. Harris for her role in this activity.

At a time of continual financial pressure it has been necessary to raise contributions, at the direction of the United Synagogue. We recorded last year that we hoped that members will do their utmost to meet these, and we feel sure that we will continue to enjoy our members' support on this most vital question.

We ended our report last year by referring to our 90th Anniversary, and we are delighted to announce that the spirit of our Celebrations is being carried forward into next year with the Anniversary Visit to Israel which we wish every success.

M. A. AMIAS
D. ARRAM
M. DeVRIES
Honorary Officers

THE LADIES' GUILD

(In the 90th year of the Synagogue)

This has been a particularly successful year for the Ladies' Guild and it is especially gratifying that this should be so in this 90th anniversary of the Synagogue.

The highlight was the 90th anniversary Tea, when over 200 people were served within a half an hour, a most professional achievement.

Looking back over the year we once again decorated the Succah and helped with the Kiddushim. The Simchat Torah Reception was its usual high standard, and at Chanukah the Kiddushim were again held on the Shabbatot.

On 2nd March our Functions' Committee organised a Purim Supper and Entertainment which proved a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. £300 was raised, part of which enabled us to decorate the Synagogue Kitchen.

During the year the Guild undertook Kiddushim for Barmitzvahs and other Simchot, receiving donations which were put to good use for our appeals, not forgetting 'Charity begins at Home' because we donated the Synagogue Curtains.

On the 15th April, 'Geranium Day' for the Blind, our street collection was £193.93. 21st May flowers and plants were arranged in the Synagogue.

On 9th July an Afternoon Tea, Bring and Buy realised £136. Thanks are due to Mr. & Mrs. S. Gold for their hospitality and a very pleasant social success. In August we rest on our laurels to renew our vigour in the forthcoming New Year.

REBECCA FOX Hon. Secretary

Caretaker

In our last issue of The Brook we welcomed our new caretaker, Mrs. T. H. Englefield.

During the past year Mrs. Englefield and her Husband have settled in very happily and by their friendly and helpful attitude have endeared themselves to us all.

We are sure all members will appreciate the improvements that have taken place in both the Synagogue itself and in the grounds which by their hard work have been converted into floral beauty.

We take this opportunity of thanking Stephie & Tom for their efforts on our behalf, and also extend our appreciation to Mrs. Lewis who has been a great help to Stephie with the cleaning, and has now returned to us after an illness from which we hope she has fully recovered.

D.A.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL WEDDINGS

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

Philip David BRANDON to Louise Sarah MEHLMAN Lionel KREEGER to Linda Anne BANKOVER

BARMITZVAHS

Guy FELD Mark GROSSMAN

Melvin MELTZ Neil OHAYON

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

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr. & Mrs. M. FELD Mrs. J. MORRIS Mr. J. ROZENBERG Mrs. C. SMITH Mr. A. ZETO Mrs. M. VELLEMAN

Gifts to the Synagogue

Door curtains Carpet

Ladies' Guild Messrs J. Dickman, F.J. Gertler. J. Godfrey, D. Ohavon

Renovation of War Memorial Repair and Renovation of Silver Appurtenances

Mr. F. J. Gertler, Cllr. S. Grose Mr. M. Cutler (also for getting the work done)

Non Slip Mat Floor Polisher Annual Dry Cleaning of **Curtains and Mantles**

Ladies' Guild Mrs. B. Topper Mr. & Mrs. H. Gold

Mr. L. Shooman

NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

A special Commemorative Service to celebrate the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue was held on Sunday February 3rd 1980. The Guests of Honour were the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, the President of the United Synagogue, Mr. S. S. Levin and the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, Councillor William Smith.

A very large congregation of members and friends attended and the Synagogue was particularly crowded. It was noteworthy that many members and former members expressed their pleasure at being able to be present at such a historically significant occasion, not last at being able to see how attractive the Synagogue

building itself was, having been recently redecorated.

In his sermon the Chief Rabbi stressed the personal importance for so many at being able to celebrate such an anniversary. He paid tribute to the founders of the community and to all those who had sustained its activities over the past ninety years. The Service itself was conducted by the Minister, Rev. S. Venitt, B.A., and the Emeritus Reader, Rev. S. Forscher and the Choir was directed by Mr. A. A. Bramson.

A reception was held in the Synagogue Hall with Mr. M. A. Amias in the Chair. Messages of congratulation and good wishes for the future were given by Mr. Levin and the Mayor and Rev. S. Venitt replied. The close links which the community has always enjoyed with the United Synagogue were represented by the presence of several Honorary Officers, Mr. S. Frosh, Mr. M. Kosky and Mr. A. Dunitz. A vote of thanks was given by

Mr. M. DeVries.

A truly historic gathering was made even more significant by the reunion of many former members who by their presence stressed the true spirit of communal unity for which Hammersmith has become widely known. In addition to the formal activities, the social side of the occasion was enhanced by an excellent tea, most efficiently prepared and served by the members of the Ladies Guild, who in addition contributed most generously to the expenses of the occasion. The arrangements were undertaken by a special anniversary committee under Mr. D. Arram and we look forward confidently to even greater celebrations for our Centenary which we can be happy to leave in the same capable hands.

Gifts for the Succah

The Succah will be ready for decorating on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, 21st, 22nd and 23rd September.

Gifts of flowers, foliage, wine, etc., will be gratefully

accepted, also donation toward 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.

לשנה טובה

Best Wishes for a happy New Year

and well over the Fast from

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. WILLIE GERTLER

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

and from

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

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

> > and from

Dr. and Mrs. DAVID LOVELL and SHAUNA and JONATHAN

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

ISRAEL - FAR AWAY BUT NEAR AT HEART

One of the central issues in the current Egypt-Israel peace talks is the status of the West Bank and in particular Jerusalem. Despite one's natural bias in that direction it is not until you see the "City of Gold, Copper and Light", as the song calls it, that you realise how really special, how truly a microcosm of Israel, Jerusalem is today. This became apparent to me when on my first trip to Israel, I was fortunate enough to spend three

months in Jerusalem earlier this year.

On one of my first Shabbatot there, some friends took me to the Western Wall. I was later to go back to the Kotel many times, among them Jerusalem Day, the anniversary of the Six Day War, when the city returned to Israeli hands. Sights such as the hordes of people dancing there on this special day or the hundreds who were there for the Fast of Av which commemorates the destruction of the Temple cannot be described — you have to go and see them. My fondest memory was the sight of thousands of people streaming there from 3.30 a.m. on the morning of Shavuot. Crowds were still arriving when we left at 7 a.m. and we saw no signs of the numbers

reducing as we walked away.

Although the Kotel is all that is left standing of the temple it is still possible to see it in its entirety by going to the model of Jerusalem at the Holyland Hotel. This is a scale model of the city as it was in Herod's time which was constructed with amazing accuracy before 1967 and thus before access to the Old City was available. Its accuracy can be seen by looking around Jerusalem and also looking outside. Photographs I took of the model are almost indistinguishable from those I took when I visited Jericho. This beautiful oasis in the midst of the desolation of the West Bank made me wonder what the Arabs want this land back for. They did nothing to develop it when they had it and surely would do nothing to it if they had it given back. The barren wilderness which is the West Bank is in stark contrast to the beauty into which, in a mere thirty years, the rest of Israel has been transformed.

Visiting Masada I was struck by the incredible loneliness which must have been felt, cut off and surrounded in the middle of nowhere by an invading army, whose eventual triumph was just a matter of time. The final bravery of the mass suicide was a courage that would be found again in every persecution that we were to face as Jews in the years to come. The latest of these atrocities is commemorated by the Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem. The name comes from a verse in Isaiah (Chapter 56 Verse 5) which is carved on the outside of the museum. "And I will give to them in My house and in My walls a monument and a memorial better than sons and daughters; I will give

ISRAEL-FAR AWAY & NEAR-continued from previous page

them an everlasting memorial that shall not be cut off." Yad Vashem is indeed a fitting monument and memorial. While making a very strong point the material shown is displayed in a way which shows what occurred, some of what occurred, without pushing it so forcefully that you regret the visit. There is something new for everyone here and although it is not a

trip to enjoy it is one you'll be glad you made.

The message of Yad Vashem is in some ways the message of Israel. The determination that never again will millions of our people have to die because no country will take them. Now, once again, we have a land of our own and it is because of this miracle, in our time, when a country is returned to its people after two thousand years of exile that we can be sure that whatever problems it faces, be they three digit inflation or a floundering of the peace talks, they will be overcome. This time we have Israel forever, never to be lost again.

JONATHAN MILLER

JOINT ISRAEL APPEAL

If I were not an optimist I would be extremely dejected about the result of this year's appeal. True, there was no Appeal Meeting for lack of a suitable speaker, nevertheless our very small committee made contact with most of the Community and only 34 people responded with donations of just under £5,000. Only 15 per cent of our congregation renewed their pledge to support Israel, — one of the poorest responses since the establishment of the State. I cannot believe that there is such indifference to the plight of Israel, particularly during her present state of isolation in the world. The J.I.A. supports the people in need, and not one penny of J.I.A. money goes towards arms or the establishment of new settlements in the West Bank.

The Anglo-Jewish Community has pledged help to the 42,000 under-privileged of Ashkelon in Project Renewal, a programme of rehabilitation of poor overcrowded families. I cannot believe that our community can be indifferent to the plight of Israel's poor.

On November 6th 45 members of our Community will be able to see the facts for themselves on the Synagogue 90th Anniversary Tour to Israel. I hope that they will bring home a new awareness of the needs of Israel to our Community at

large.

One member of our Community has once again made a magnificent gesture by diverting part of his contribution to Israel through the Hammersmith J.I.A. Committee with the sum of £20,000.

M. D. CAPLAN, Chairman

PLACE NAMES

Our readers will remember that one of the projects proposed for 1980 — the year in which we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Hammersmith Synagogue — was a Tour of Israel. This is taking place from 6th November to 20th November, and it is hoped that an article on some place names in Israel which are on the itinerary, will prove of interest to our readers.

JERUSALEM — HEBREW NAME YERUSHALAYIM.
 The city is mentioned under the name URU — SALIM in the Tel-El-Amarna letters dated around 1400 B.C.E. By Jewish tradition it is identified with the city of SALEM (Genesis 14.18) an earlier, shortened or poetic designation of Jerusalem. General etymologies have been suggested such as:—

YERUSH SHALEM = POSSESSION OF PEACE. YARA SHALEM = FOUNDATION OF PEACE.

URU SALIM ITSELF MEANT THE CITY OF PEACE.
According to the Midrash the city was called Shalem by Shem, the son of Noah and was called YIREH by Abraham (Genesis 22.14). The combination of both names, forms YERU-SHALAYIM. It will be noticed that although the Hebrew pronunciation is always YERUSHALAYIM, it is written (or printed) without the letter "YOD" between the final letters "lamed" and "mem". But although there is no "yod" the print form shows a vowel point where the "yod" should be but is not. This could indicate that the original pronounciation was actually Yerushalem — the city of Shalem — the city of Peace. It could therefore be compared to a normal Ktib/Keri arrangement preserving both the Hebrew pronunciation and the older Aramaic spelling.

2. JERICHO — HEBREW NAME YERICHO, also called the city of palm trees (2 Chron. 28.15) and famous for the fertility of its soil. It is said to be one of the oldest cities in the world having been constantly inhabited for the past 5,000 years. The name is said to be derived from the Hebrew word RAYACH = odour and Jericho was known as the fragrant place from the pleasant odour exuding from the balsam trees which grew extensively in and around Jericho. It has also been suggested that the name of the city is derived from the Hebrew word YERACH the older and poetic name for the moon and that Jericho was in early times the centre of moonworship.

3. THE DEAD SEA. This name is not used anywhere in the Bible, where it is usually called THE SALT SEA — HEBREW NAME — YAM HAMELACH. The immense quantity of salt its waters hold in solution give it a specific gravity of 20-25 per cent greater than that of sea water. No form of life can survive in its depths and fish carried down to it by the River Jordan (which flows into the Salt Sea) die immediately.

PLACE NAMES—continued from previous page

The Sea has no outflow, its waters being carried off by the

enormous evaporation.

4. ASHKELON - one of the five cities of the Lords of the Philistines (Josh. 13.3 and 1 Sam. 6.17). It is also mentioned in the Book of Judges in the story of Samson. The town played a memorable part in the struggles of the Crusaders and within such walls and towers that are still standing Richard Cour-de-Lion held his court. The town's name is also known to us because the "eschallot" or "shallot" - a kind of onion - was first grown in Ashkelon and for which it was widely renowned. The word eschallot is believed to be a corruption of Ashkelon.

 JAFFA — JOPPA — TEL. AVIV/YAFO. THE HEBREW NAME YAFO = BEAUTIFUL. The Biblical name is JOPPA and it has been a seaport since the time of King Solomon and Joppa was the port for the delivery of wood from Lebanon for the building of the Temple (2 Chron. 2.15 and Ezra 3.7). Jonah embarked at Joppa for Tarshish to try and escape from his mission (Jonah 1.3). The Joppa area has always been an impoverished one but has now been extensively rebuilt and improved.

It is only possible in such a brief article to give a little information within the scope of its theme. It is hoped our tour party will discover much much more for themselves,

Enjoy every minute of your stay in Eretz Yisroel, Happy

journey and a safe return home.

L'Hitraot!

H.S.

Hammersmith WIZO

Last year WIZO reached its Diamond Jubilee. The Hammersmith Branch has just completed its sixty years, too. It was founded in 1920 by Isaiah Berlin's mother. After she had moved from Hammersmith, it was Grace Ansell and I who continued to build up the Branch, which flourished for a number of years. In recent times, I have carried on alone, with the support and encouragement of many friends in the community. It is with their help that we were able to raise £120 for Jewish Woman's Week.

At a celebration held recently in the Florence Michael Hall. Founder Members of WIZO, which included myself, were presented with special badges, and addressed by the World President of WIZO in the presence of Mrs. Argov, the Israeli Ambassador's wife.

We could certainly do with many more members and I appeal to the Ladies of our Community for their help by joining us in this vital work for Israel.

> JEANIE CAPLAN 748 2727

Hammersmith Friendship Club

We have again had a busy year and how time does fly. Another party of 22 members went to enjoy a week at the Edith Morrison Holiday Home at Folkestone, this is a holiday they do enjoy.

Mrs. R. Parker our Treasurer for many years, has had to resign due to ill-health. Mrs. R. Berman is the new Treasurer. Mrs. M. Barrie the Chairman, resigned for private reasons. Mrs. R. Whitby is the new Chairman. Mrs. F. Turner is now the Welfare Officer, and we extend our very good wishes to them all.

Our 28th Birthday/Chanukah Party was much enjoyed, and

everyone had a gift.

A party of members made a visit to the Milk Marketing Board, this seems to provide much food for thought. Mrs. B. Apfel took a part of members on a visit to Rokefield Home for the Blind, whose friendships all renewed. Entertainment supplied by our local council continues to be varied, and excellent, Bingo The Seder which was made sessions are also great fun. possible by the Ladies' Guild and held in the Synagogue Hall, gave great pleasure to our members, the Rev. S. Venitt conducted the Service.

For health reasons we have decided that half-day outings, during the summer are more suitable for our members and the

response was excellent.

Visits have been made to some beauty spots, one being Wisley Gardens which was very popular, and a return visit was made to Bourton-On-The-Water, for the benefit of members unable to take part in the previous visit. Another outing took us to Henley-on-Thames, and that was really a day of sunshine: and last but by no means least, our afternoon teas are always the best vet.

Now for news of a special celebration.

One of our oldest members Mrs. Sarah Wells has reached the great age of 90 years, her Birthday Party took place in the midst of her family, and friends, and invited guests, and Rev. and Mrs. S. Venitt.

It was indeed her lovely day, flowers, gifts, and the super party with which we did honour to our dear Birthday girl, will long be remembered by us all, songs were sung by our entertainers which delighted everyone.

Membership remains steady, new friends continue to join us. To friends who are now unable to join us, we send our very good wishes, for times remembered,

On behalf of Mrs. R. Whitby we thank the Board of

Management for its continued co-operation.

MRS. MARY WILSON Hon. Secretary NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM

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with their families

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OF LONG ISLAND, U.S.A.

and

GLORIA DEANER, J.P.,
& JULIAN DEANER
with
KATHARINE, ADAM & EMMA

OF 26 GREENHALGH WALK,
HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, N.2,
AND OF CANN, MELBURY ABBAS, DORSET,
AND OF MEDWAY HOUSE, SHEPHERDS' BUSH ROAD, W.6.

JEWS IN SWITZERLAND

During the month of June — as last year — the writer of these notes visited a watering place — a spa — near Zurich, in Switzerland. Baden Im Aargau. The sejour of three weeks gave us the opportunity to study life in this haven of neutrality and peace — surrounded by the countries on the Continent of Europe — Germany, France and Italy which most of the first half of the 20th century were engaged in bitter, bloody battles.

Baden, the City, a 20 minute distance of Zurich, on the river Limmat surrounded by beautiful forests, with manicured parks — excellent hotels and a Casino, has a population of 20,000, among them 35 Jewish families and it is interesting to note that one family is the 8th generation of Jews in Baden — very Orthodox and in charge of a beautiful Synagogue, built early this Century. Situated in the Parkstrasse — near the centre of the city, with a seating capacity of over 100 — with Shabbat Services, all year round. The President of the Synagogue Herr Bolagh died last Pesach at the age of 85 and his two sons are acting as Leaders of the Community. The usual residents' minjan arrives at 8.30 in the morning, hoping that kurgaeste from the hotels will enlarge the Congregation.

The history of this community leads one to the History of the Jews in Switzerland, which I was keen to research and

I discovered the following:-

In the middle ages — especially during "The Black Death" 1348/9 the persecution of the Jews became so violent that it included burning at the stake as the result of accusations of ritual murder and well poisoning. For 200 years the Swiss have confined the Jews to moneylending — but between 1427 and 1453 expulsions from the Kantons of Bern — Zurich — Frieburg, Schaffhausen, Thurgau and Basel made their life unbearable. After 1648 a trickle returned from Poland — Germany and Alsace! The wanderers — from one place to another!

And now comes the interesting connection with Baden/

Aargau.

The returning Jews settled in the Kanton Aargau, which until 1803 was not part of the Swiss Federation. (It sounds like in the Hitler years Jews, who could not obtain entry visas, found the doubtful haven of Shanghai, where visas were not needed!)) Now let me carry on from anno 1803; for more than 150 years, the Jews were segregated — like a Ghetto — in Lengnau and Endingen, within the Kanton Aargau, with the right of worship and movement. Lengnau was the birth place of Meyer Guggenheim, the founder of the world famous family of industrialists, mining tycoons, philanthropists and also of the

JEWS IN SWITZERLAND-continued from previous page

Guggenheim Museum in New York. It was Napoleon's short lived Helvetian Republic in 1798 that ended humiliating head taxes.

In 1843 the first Naturalization of some Jews in Geneva and 1866 full commercial rights and residential status, in 1874 complete religious freedom was granted.

For us, who now enjoy for 32 years the establishment of our state of Israel — for ever and ever — the fact that the first Zionist Congress took place in Basel in 1897 and further Zionist Congresses were held in Switzerland, makes Switzerland a bastion of freedom.

We must also remember that during 1933-1945 Switzerland sheltered 40,000 Jewish refugees.

F. J. GERTLER

Hammersmith & West Kensington Functions Committee

The functions committee of our Synagogue has been formed from members of our Board of Management, Ladies' Guild and their Husbands. The members of this committee work very hard to make a success of each function they arrange. The profits are used for the General Benefit of the Synagogue.

Past Socials have provided the Finances for the complete renewal of the water heating in both the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Cloakrooms in the Hall, Cleaning of the Terrazzo in the Synagogue Vestibule, Painting and General repairs as required in the Hall and Classrooms. It is hoped that in the future money can be raised for the Decoration of the Hall itself and other parts of the Synagogue premises.

The next function will be a 90th Anniversary Supper Evening to be held on Sunday 14th Dec. Further particulars will be sent to members, but you are asked to make a note of this date now. Other social evenings will be arranged from time to time.

Your full support for all these functions will be a way of showing your appreciation to the committee for their hard work, and also provide the funds for the various additions and renovations that will be required.

D.A.

BESSIE APFEL OF WILLESDEN wishes her Son, Daughter-in-law, Sister, 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. How many slices of saltbeef to the lb? Shall we have viennas and worsht Cole Slaw and/or two other salads?

No, it's not a caterer discussing the menu for a clients' simcha, just your friendly neighbourhood Functions Committee in session, planning a supper/entertainment evening to raise funds for the synagogue.

Those who have attended these functions unanimously agree they are most enjoyable and the meal good value and they appreciate that a lot of thought and organisation is needed to make it a success.

But what of the behind the scene traumas! The hitch in well-laid plans! As the time when the arithmetic was wrong and an alert member noticed that the bag of viennas she was collecting would in no way be sufficient for 150 people (1 pair per person).

On another occasion there were more slices of bread than filling and the frozen cream cheese had to be pounded into submission.

And yet another function, when 250 guests were gasping for tea, it was discovered that only one urn was filled and boiling.

The committee make sure the hitches are not repeated

... new ones appear and are equally hysterical.

After the function comes the relief that what could have gone wrong didn't. The entertainer did come at the right time — and was good. The ice cream didn't melt — well not much and the microphone worked! But there is always the unexpected. At one post function meeting it was reported there had been a complaint! 'no egg sandwiches', Egg as a filling had proved unpopular previously so had been omitted, but your friendly neighbourhood functions committee is well able to take these knotty problems in their stride discussing everything fully, sometimes heatedly but always competently. And they hope to end each fund-raising effort, feeling satisfied with the financial success of the function, which is after all the name of the game.

MABEL PHILLIPS

Jewish Book Week

We are pleased to announce that Jewish Book Week 1981 will be held from Monday February 23rd to Sunday March 1st at the Adolph Tuck Hall, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London W.C.1.

Following the great success of Book Week 1980, we have decided to extend the length of this year's event over the weekend. This will make it more accessible to children, family groups and those who find it difficult to come during the working week.

A full programme of lectures, children's events and other special features is being arranged. Further details will be announced later in the year.

FAR EASTERN JOURNEY

The phrase "Kol yisroel haverim" is true no matter what part of the world one visits, and this I found when my husband and I travelled through the Far East at the end of 1979.

First step Hong Kong, and on the first Friday night we made our way to the Oleh Leah Synagogue in Robinson Road but to our surprise we learned that the community comprised some 600 members, half of whom were Israeli. The synagogue had been built in 1902 and has a Jewish Communal Centre attached. The Service was in the Sephardi tradition, and regular minyanim are held throughout the week. Following the Friday night service there was a Kiddush and a proper seuda with pink gefilte fish, (made from red mullet), salad, fruit and coffee, served by Chinese servants, and during which there was the traditional zemirot, and benshing. Apparently this is a regular custom, and is a most welcome one for visitors far away from home.

On arriving in Singapore we found, once again, a thriving community of about 500 members, and they have their own Minister. The supply of kosher meat is restricted to poultry and only rarely do they have a little lamb. They cannot import kosher meat because of lack of a kosher coldstore, and the demand was not great enough on a commercial basis. Britmila has to be carried out by a Jewish surgeon who is a Cohen, and it is only performed in hospital. Although simchas are few and far between, when they occur they are celebrated by the whole community as a family event.

It is not a great distance from Singapore to Bangkok, and here also we found a small but active community of 250 people, mostly Ashkenazim. The Synagogue had been donated by a wealthy lady, who had recently died and left a large legacy for the building of a new synagogue and community centre.

There was a good relationship with the Thai people, and the King is a staunch supporter of all religions. There was no provision for kashrut as such, but an amateur shochet killed poultry only, and at Pesach matzos are sent from Singapore.

Some 25 to 30 children have 2 hours of Hebrew instruction on a Friday afternoon, and the only synagogue services are held on High Holydays and simchas.

During the last Yomim Norayim an Israeli Ambassador from a neighbouring country came to conduct the Services, and among the congregation was the Israeli Ambasador to Thailand, and the American Ambassador's wife.

When we consider that the United Synagogue provides all the religious needs of the Anglo-Jewish community, we should spare a thought, particularly at this time of the year, for those small communities in the far corners of the world which are struggling to keep their identity.

J.H.C.

Board of Deputies Defence Department

Since the establishment of the Board of Deputies just 220 years ago it has never been more active in so many fields to safeguard the Jewish Community.

In this period of economic decline and the climate of world recession there has been a resurgence of racial tension, which has made it necessary more than ever for the Anglo-Jewish community to be vigilant.

In view of the extremist racist groups in this country and the propaganda campaign being waged against Israel, it is essential that we must be organised effectively.

The Board of Deputies Defence Dept., has therefore set up a regional committee based for the time being at our Synagogue, which includes the Hammermith, Chelsea, Ealing and Richmond areas.

We need helpers in the following directions.

Information gathering and reporting.
 Community relations and Inter-faith activities.

(3) Security of local community buildings.

(4) Educational and briefing projects, public speaking, Semi-

nars etc., on matters of vital interest to our community.

If you can help us in Secretarial work or feel you could be useful in furthering the work of the committee please contact Moss Amias at the office of the Synagogue. You are not too old or too young to assist us.

Hammersmith and District A.J.E.X.

It was some thirty years ago that our Hammersmith branch was formed. At a meeting held at the home of David Selwood with the late Dr. Nat Rosen and myself, it was decided to start a branch here. Leters were sent out and within a few months we had nearly 300 enthusiastic members. Since that time we have played our part in defence, welfare, as well as raising money for AJEX and Israel charities. Social functions were organised regularly and the branch has carried on doing its work through the years.

The area around Earls Court was not always the notorious cosmopolitan area it is today. In the early years following the war, it was there that speakers of Moseley's British Union stood week after week on the street corner haranguing passers-by with their fascist and often anti-semitic policies. In those early days of Hammersmith AJEX we had a rota of observers to report back on the results of each meeting. It was no pleasure for us to stand for some two hours, often in cold inclement weather, but we felt it was a necessary duty. The policy was then as now, never to answer back and to discourage others from doing so. It was very difficult to keep our mouths shut,

especially when they poured out their vicious anti-semitic diatribe. But to answer back increased the crowd and made their meetings. The media were also helpful in giving them as little publicity as possible.

Maybe today when the National Front are speaking and marching in various parts of the country it would be better if those who opposed them did so with less violence. Extreme

movements thrive on publicity.

At Earls Court the police were always present in small numbers in case of trouble. On one occasion the speaker was one of Moseley's leading henchmen, Raven Thompson. During the course of his talk he made the remark. "They closed the doors of the gas ovens in Germany too soon". We approached the police on the point that there could be a breach of the peace. The police closed the meeting and promptly arrested Thompson. He was taken to court and heavily fined.

Today as ever AJEX is in the forefront of the fight against anti-semitism. We are never sure that Jews will not be used as a political weapon during times of economic depression.

Having written about the past, if you think we are a lot of ignorant doddering old men and women, we can only tell you that we of Hammersmith branch have won the AJEX Quiz Competition and cup for three years out of the last four. J.B.

Jewish Way of Life

The Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation for their 75th anniversary are holding an Exhibition to increase 'Knowledge and Understanding of the Jewish Way of Life'. This is being held at the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, East Cliff Bournemouth.

It is divided into two parallel sections, one dealing with custom and religious practice, the other mainly concerned with 300 years of Jewish history in Great Britain and the local history of 75 years of Jewry in Bournemouth. It was through the valuable encouragement of Mrs. Ruth Winston-Fox, J.P. and her loan of many of the exhibits that the exhibition was held. One notable exhibit was a large bronze Menorah designed by Benno Elkan originally presented to the Rev. Solomon Lipson, Mrs. Winston-Fox's father which he in turn gave to his old college Emmanuel at Cambridge and kindly loaned by the Master and Trustees of the College.

The exhibits include a Chuppah with Bride, Bridegroom and Minister, a Succah beautifully decorated, a model Synagogue and pictures and history of other Synagogues in England. Some very attractive exhibits are models depicting all aspects of the Jewish way of life made by the children of the Hebrew Classes.

-- The Exhibition is on till 4th October.

It was whilst on holiday in France that my wife and I decided to explore some of the old Roman towns of Provence, where we would find old Jewish communities, or evidence that

they had existed.

Individual Jews are known to have lived in France before 70 C.E. and many Jewish communities flourished during the period of the Roman Empire. However, with the strengthening of Christianity, Church councils adopted anti-Jewish codes. Nevertheless in the 9th century Southern France was the main centre of activity for Jewish merchans, particularly along the Rhone valley, and it was in Provence that Jews came under strong Spanish influence, both intellectually, and economically. However, the crusades, and the religious fervour so engendered, were the cause of murderous attacks upon Jews, and by 1215 there was anti-Jewish legislation. In 1306 Jews were expelled from France with the exception of Provence, where Royal authority was not so effective. Jews were permitted to remain in certain areas under Papal rule. These areas were known collectively as the Comtat Venaissin, and comprised the 4 communities of Avignon, Carpentras, Cavillon, and L'Isle de Sorgue.

We started at Avignon, the former seat of the Popes. Jews had lived in a ghetto known as Carriere des Juifs since the 16th century. We found the small circular synagogue in Place Jerusalem. The building dated from 1844 and was in a very good state of preservation. There are about 2,000 Jews living in and around Avignon, and the small practising community enables the holding of regular services. We found the Rabbi in his flat adjacent to the Shool, and he showed us the interior — very much in the Sephardi style with the boxed Sifri Torah and an Elijah's chair hanging on the wall close to the Ark. The Rabbi asked us if we had been married according to Jewish Law, and if we had a Ketuba, and after hearing our reply he proceeded to

bless us.

The synagogue at Cavillon is much older and much more interesting, although there is no longer a Jewish community there. The building is now a National monument and is to be found at Porte des Juifs. Although the community dates back to the 14th century, the synagogue was rebuilt in 1744 over the gateway to the ghetto. On the ground floor there is now a museum, and an old bakery oven. The entrance to the synagogue is by an outer staircase leading to the first floor with its decorative exterior wrought ironwork. The interior, which is quite small, contains elegant Louis XV woodwork in ivory and gold, and a small ladies' gallery is reached by a serpentine staircase from the back of the synagogue. There is a small central bimah with wrought iron balustrade. The Custodian who sits at the entrance collects the admission fee, and acts as guide.

THE JEWS OF PROVENCE—continued from previous page

At Carpentras one finds a flamboyant Gothic and somewhat mysterious Porte Juive at the ancient Cathedral of St. Siffrein, for which there is no explanation. The Jewish community dates back to 13th century and was of great importance until 18th century, and for most of this time Jews lived in a ghetto. The synagogue, which is, in part, 14th century was restored in the 18th century and is now a National monument. The community number about 150, but unfortunately we could not make contact with anyone to open the Shool for us, during the hour or so that we were in the town.

In the time available we could not visit all the places of Jewish interest, but we did spend time in Arles where there is a great deal of Roman interest, but nothing remains of the Jewish community, nor any reference to the noted scholars who had lived there. In Nimes, a very important Roman town, there is no evidence of the old synagogue, although there is a large present day community.

There is still so much of interest that we did not see, and this will encourage us to return, hopefully, in the not too distant future.

M.D.C.

90th Anniversary Tour

Thursday 6th November 1980 is the departure date for the 45 Members and Friends who are participating in the Synagogue's 90th Anniversary TOUR TO ISRAEL.

The tour, which is being organised by our Financial Representative Mr. David Arram and is being led by Dr. & Mrs. M. D. Caplan, will be for 14 days' duration and will visit many places of interest.

A Full Report on the Tour will be given in the next issue of the BROOK.

In the meantime we wish all who participate 'Bon Voyage' and a Safe Return.

D.A.

ORGANISATIONS

(and addresses for inquiries)

- Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild. Meets first Tuesday evening in the month in members' homes. Tel. 603 4938.
- Hammersmith Synagogue Parents' Assn. (Now under auspices of Ladies' Guild)
- Hammersmith Friendship Club. Meets every Wednesday in the Synagogue Hall. Chairman: Mrs. R. Whitby, 2 Linden Court, Frithville Gardens, W.12. Tel. 743 3920.
- Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society, Inquiries to Mrs. Jeanie Caplan, Tel. 748 2727.
- Board of Deputies Defence Department, Western Region. Inquiries to Mr. Moss Amias at the Synagogue Office.
- Hammersmith and West Kensington Branch of the Norwood Charity Trust, Representative: Miss J. Lichtblau, Tel. 568 7094 56 Fraser House, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx.
- West London Young Zionist Society. Chairman: Mr. David Peters. Tel. 572 1239.
- Jewish Lads' Brigade For Information: Brigade Secretary: 28, St. John's Wood Road, N.W.8. Tel. 286 8632.
- Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women (Hammersmith and District Branch). Inquire: Mr. A. S. Bankover, 47 Emlyn Road, W.12. Tel. 743 5139.
- Hammersmith and West Keneington Synagogue Library. Hon. Sec. and Librarian: Miss R. Longhorn, 24 Linkenholt Mansions W.6. Tel. 748 8577.
- Jewish Youth Study Groups West London Branch. Inquiries: Mr. Bobby Hill, 387 2681.

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