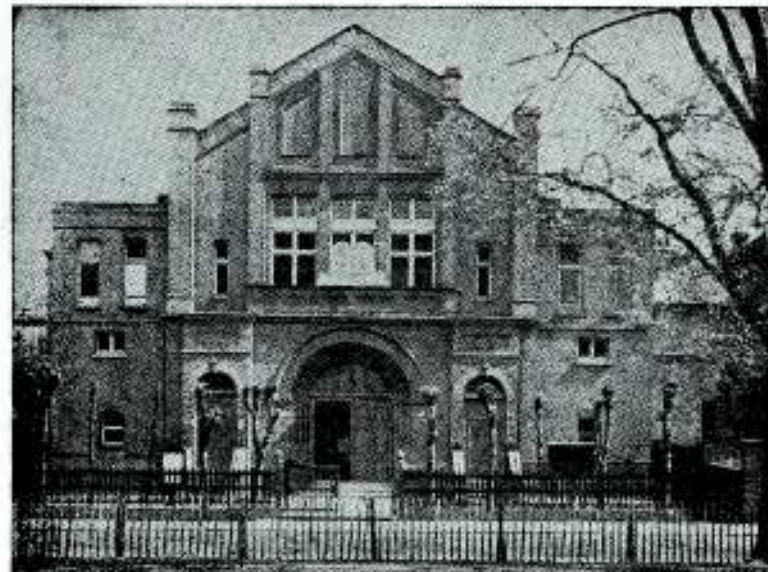


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THE BROOK

1890-1985



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

**And thou hast given us in love O L-rd our G-d
this Day of Memorial, a day of blowing the Shofar"**

Festival Prayer Book

HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE

(consecrated 1890)

71 BROOK GREEN, LONDON, W.6

Officials

Minister: The Rev. Sam Venitt, B.A.,
69 Brook Green, W.6

Secretary: Mr. S. Fainlight

The Minister can be seen by appointment.

The Secretary can be seen any Sunday morning between
10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. and by appointment.

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

Financial Representative: D. Arram, Esq.

Board of Management:

A. S. Bankover, Esq.	J. L. Godfrey, Esq.	H. Rieck, Esq.
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Representatives at the Board of Deputies: D. Arram, Esq.,

Clr. S. Grose.

Representative at the London Board of Jewish Religious Education:

Mrs. S. Williams

Telephones

603 4938

602 1405

Times of Services

WEEKDAYS

Morning By arrangement 7.30 a.m. Evening By arrangement

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

SABBATHS AND FESTIVALS:

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

Morning: 9.30 a.m.

HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE RELIGION CLASSES

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

"THE BROOK"

EDITORIAL BOARD: The Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.; Mr. M. A.
Amias; Mr. D. Arram; Mr. J. Brand, LL.B.; Dr. M. D.
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Mr. H. Sharpe.

EDITORIAL

CONSTRUCTING OPPORTUNITIES

One of the features of our community that always receives favourable recognition from visitors is the warm and friendly relationship between our members and those whose presence may be a unique or infrequent event. During the year it is our pleasure to meet guests from many different parts of the world including Israel, the United States and many European countries. While it would be unfair to pretend that we all agree on every single aspect of our affairs, we certainly disagree on fewer issues and in a more constructive way than other communities. The warmth of devotion of our services easily carries over to other activities, and it is a pleasure to record that after substantial efforts our Friendship Club has been re-opened and is continuing to provide a cheerful social atmosphere for members and friends. It is always revealing to learn what a significant social role this fulfils for many people and the programme of activities and entertainment gives much happiness.

In the current financial year we are to see various repairs and improvements in our buildings which have been agreed after discussion among our colleagues and with the staff and Honorary Officers of the United Synagogue. Again we have been fortunate that our efforts have been undertaken in a co-operative spirit which has been vital to us in obtaining the necessary expert help and encouragement.

We have much to look forward to in developing our activities and as we enter a New Year, we hope it will be a time of constructing opportunities for creative friendship among ourselves and our visitors as well as increasing devotion to our service. Let the New Year be a time of building for each of us individually, our families and the community.

Gifts for the Succah

The Succah will be ready for decorating on Saturday Night 28th September. Gifts of flowers, fruit, wine, etc., will be gratefully accepted, also donations towards the purchase of cakes. It will be greatly appreciated if members could send these gifts on Sunday between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

Bridegrooms of the Law

We are very happy to announce that our Bridegrooms for this year will be Mr. Joe Finkleman and Mr. Michael Talalay.

Mr. Finkleman has been a member of the Congregation for many years. His wife Pauline is a very supportive member of the Ladies' Guild. Their sons Gary and Michael celebrated their Barmitzva in our Synagogue, and Tracey, their daughter, attended the Classes for quite a period.

Mr. Talalay is one of our younger, active members. His wife Deborah is a member of the well-known Benzimra family. She is on the Ladies' Guild, and is a great help with Synagogue activities in general.

THE REAL MEANING OF SACRIFICE

By Rev. S. VENITT, B.A.

The central and predominant theme of our Rosh Hashanah services is the Akeydas Yitzchak, the binding of Isaac. We call upon G-d to remember this incident and to consider it as a credit for us, the children of Abraham and Isaac. We summon the people to repentance by sounding the ram's horn, the symbol of that great sacrifice which fortunately was not brought to its finality.

This is as it should be, for the readiness to sacrifice, to surrender one's independence, to give of one's self, constitute the corner-stone upon which can be built that ethical structure which we call the human personality. Sacrifice is the first element of religion. Sacrifice is not only a gauge of man's love for G-d; it is also the test of our love for our fellowman, and the surest indication of our commitment to any worthy ideal. When our Sages said *אילמלא מעבודת לא נתקיימו שמים וארץ* If not for the sacrificial order, heaven and earth could not be sustained, they affirmed our judgment that the act of sacrifice and the capacity to give are essential strands in the fabric of human existence. We see this most clearly in the sphere of man's relationship to man. Love of another individual must be characterised by sacrifice, by giving of one's self to the beloved.

The classic example of such love is that of the mother who cannot help but share her love, her warmth, her very being with her child.

The same can be said of marital relations and the bond of friendship.

We see that love and giving always come together. Is the giving a consequence of the love, or is the love a result of the giving?

We usually think that it is love which causes giving because we observe that a person showers gifts and favours on the one he loves. But there is another side to the argument. Giving may bring about love for the same reason that a person loves what he himself has created or nurtured, be it a child he has brought to the world, an animal he has reared, a plant he has tended, or even a thing he has made or a house he has built — a person is bound in love to the work of his hand for in it he finds himself. That which a person gives to another is never lost. It is an extension of his own being.

If sacrifice or giving of oneself is the essence of the love of man, it is also the test of man's commitment to a worthy ideal.

To profess belief in an ideal without being prepared to sacrifice for it is an indication that one's words are without value. Living according to an ideal generally requires giving of one's self. If you believe for example in free speech, you must be prepared to allow the right to a person with whom you violently disagree. If you believe in equality, you must make a sacrifice for it. The acceptance of an ideal can never be complete if man is not prepared to undergo sacrifices for it. If sacrifice is the

means for expressing love, and if it is the test of our commitment to ideals, it is surely the key to our relationship with G-d. The fruits of religion may be harvested **only** after planting and nourishing the seeds of self-sacrifice.

Ask not what G-d can do for you — ask what you can do for G-d.

ANNUAL REPORT 1984/85

This year we were able to celebrate the Ninety-fifth Anniversary of the consecration of our Synagogue. The occasion was specially marked by the visit of the Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham, Councillor Mrs. Pat Ward together with councillors, and at a Kiddush after the Service on February 2nd (Shabbat Shirah) suitable presentations were made.

On the following day an Anniversary Supper was held with entertainment provided by the Coleman Family with Sheila and Daphne.

Our Fund-Raising efforts were greatly assisted by those who organised and supported the Grand Anniversary Draw and by all those who donated the prizes. The prize-winning tickets were drawn at the end of the Anniversary Supper which proved a major successful social gathering enlivened with audience participation.

The weekend of celebrations coincided with Ladies' Guild Shabbat and we remain grateful for the constant willing encouragement we receive throughout the year by our colleagues and friends in the Ladies' Guild, not only in Kiddushim, Social Activities and fund-raising, but also the charitable work they undertake.

The Chasanim were Mr. Barry Winterman, Chasan Torah, and Mr. Philip Cohen, Chasan Bereshis, and at the Annual Reception they were presented with certificates. We offer our congratulations to them and in particular look forward to Mr. Winterman's forthcoming marriage to Miss Vivienne Rubin, who was a guest of honour together with Mrs. Cohen.

The Services for Yamim Nora'im were held as usual with support to Rev. Venitt being undertaken by Mr. Amias and Mr. Jonathan Miller. Succot and Simchat Torah were particularly enjoyable and the festivities in the Succah were enjoyed by all. We thank all those who contributed to the necessary decorations and not least the essential consumables.

This year we have been ably supported by the Functions Committee whose activities are always socially successful, as well as providing financial help, and also by the Building Committee of the Board of Management. It is quite clear that in conjunction with the United Synagogue we must undertake substantial repairs in our buildings and we are engaged in the essential preparatory work.

As ever, the House Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. Langdon, continues to see that gifts and donations to the Synagogue are always appropriate and special care is taken over repairs to equipment.

Our caretaker Stephie Englefield does her utmost to help us all and together with her husband Tom keeps a careful eye on cultivating our gardens which are always attractive and colourful.

The J.I.A. Committee activities have continued throughout the year and a very successful meeting was held in connection with the current fund-raising campaign.

We have again been required by the United Synagogue Council to increase membership contributions, and we are fully aware of the difficulties this may cause in individual cases. We hope our members will continue to respond to all our financial efforts. This year we have again avoided a deficit by stringent management and voluntary assistance in a number of areas so that costs may be kept down.

During the year Mr. David Hart was appointed Part-Time Secretary, but has found he is unable to continue because of increased commitments. We offer him our best wishes for the future on his forthcoming marriage and were very pleased to join in the celebration of the Bat Chayil of his daughter Victoria.

We continue to have the benefit and advice of Mr. Barry Winterman and his colleagues at Head Office, for which we are very grateful.

To our colleagues and friends Rev. and Mrs. Venitt, together with the Board of Management and Council Members, we express our sincere appreciation and thanks for their continued support.

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

Security

For many years Mr. Bertie Bankover has been our Security Officer, and carried out this task most conscientiously and efficiently.

Mr. J. N. Nisner has now taken over. He looks forward to your full support in maintaining the security of the Synagogue.

HAVE YOU SIGNED A COVENANT

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

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

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

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

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

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

Vivienne & Barry Winterman of 80 Linton Avenue, Borehamwood, Herts., thank everyone for their good wishes and wish to convey to the Congregation their warmest wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eve & 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, BN7 1JH

Rebecca Benzimra & Family, "Wickenden Cottage", Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9BP

Mrs. R. Berg & Mr. N. Berg and Family, 1 West Kensington Mansions, North End Road, W14 9PE

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

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

Joy and Jeffrey Brand, 73 Barons Keep, London, W14 9AU
Zara Brickman, M.B.E. and Lionel Kaufman, 1 Rugby Mansions, London, W14 8XD

Dr. M. D. Caplan and Family, 58 Fairacres, Roehampton Lane, SW15 3LY

Ann, Harry and Melanie Chaytow, 10, Grosvenor Court, Rayners Road, Putney, S.W.15
 Miriam & Robert Clark, 46 Lynton Road, Acton, W3 9HP
 Janet & John Clark & Family, 41 Elizabeth Road, Moseley, Birmingham
 Mrs. Netta Coen, 65 Primley Park Drive, Alwoodley, Leeds, LS17 7LP
 Philip, Dorrit & Elizabeth Cohen, 101, Madrid Rd., London, SW13 9PQ
Mrs. R. Cohen, 292 Latymer Court, London W6 7LD.
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Coleman, 14 Abbots House, W14 8NU
 Leslie & Sheila Cook, 67 Meadowside, Cambridge Park, East Twickenham, Middx. TW1 2JQ
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cowan, 32 Bloemfontein Road, W12.
Dr. Jack Cowan & Family, 22 Granard Ave., Putney, S.W.15
 Mrs. Betty Dickman & Family, 60, Minster Court, Hillcrest Road, Ealing, London, W.5
 Mrs. S. DeVries and Family, 62, Arundel Mansions, Arundel Terrace, Barnes, SW13 9DS
 Dr. & Mrs. A. M. Filer, 3 Shepherds Bush Road, W.6.
Dr. & Mrs. David Filer and Daughters, Warwick Lodge, Warwick Dene, W.5.
 Pauline & Joe Finkleman & Family, 26 Meade Close, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W4 3NT
Mr. & Mrs. N. Fishman, 5 Windsor House, Heathfield Gardens, W4 4JT.
 Rosemary Foley-Comer, 46, Vicarage Court, London, W8 4HF
 Mrs. Ella Foodman & Son, 91 Barons Keep, Gliddon Road, W.14
Mrs. Rebecca Fox and Family, 3 Monckton Court, Addison Road, W.14.
Dr. & Mrs. L. Freeman, 20 The Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11.
 Betty & Lewis Gassman & Family, 21 Castelnau, S.W.13.
 Stella & Harry Gold and Mrs. Ada Hayman, 30 Emlyn Road, W.12.
 Mr. & Mrs. Manfred S. Gorvy & Family, 16 Hans Road, London, S.W.3
 Mr. & Mrs. G. Green, 19 Ashfield Road, Acton, W.3
 Councillor & Mrs. Sidney Grose & Family, Berkeley House, 10 Berkeley Road, S.W.13.
 Mr. A. Gross, 31 Kings Court, King Street, London, W.6.
 Dr. & Mrs. R. D. Gross, 33 Corringway, London, W5 3AB
 Mrs. Netta Guyer and Maurice, 1 Atherton Road, Barnes, London, SW13 9NH
 Mrs. Annette Halpin, 2 Rutland Drive, River Lane, Petersham, Surrey
 Mrs. Cecelia Harris, 60 Watchfield Court, Sutton Court Rd. Chiswick, W.4.
 Elizabeth & Alfred Harris, 23 Parkside, Wimbledon Com. London, S.W.19.

Mrs. J. Harris, 20 Goldsmith Buildings, East Churchfield Road, Acton, W.3
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Harris, 182 Latymer Court, Hammersmith Road, W.6
 Jane & Cyril Hodes and Family, 1 Ashchurch Terrace, London, W12 9SL
Dr. & Mrs. Frank Hodes and Family, 7 Oakwood Court, Kensington, W.14.
Mrs. M. Katits, 24 Bolingbroke Road, W14 0AL.
 Bella & Basil Isaacs and Family, 70 Woodford Square, Addison Road, W.14.
 Evelyn & Monty Isaacson, Rhian & Mark, 8 Rosedew Road, W.6.
 Lily Jacobs & Ann Keenoy, 8 Aldbourne Road, Shepherds Bush, W12 0LN
 Mrs. D. Kurzman, 35 Suffolk Road, Barnes, S.W.13.
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Lakota, 39 Holland Park Mews, London, W11 3SP
Adelaide and Jack Langdon, 107 Perryn Road, W3 7LT.
 Mildred & Henry Levy, 22b Argyle Road, W. Ealing, W13 8AA
Hetty and Leslie Levy, 46 Raffles House, Brampton Grove, N.W.4.
 Naomi & Philip Lewis, Caroline, Trevor & Joshua, 14., Madrid Road, S.W.13
 Miss Julie Lichtblau, 21 Meadow Croft, Brooks Road, Chiswick, W.4.
Mrs. Hettie Mayne, 40 Thornton Avenue, Chiswick, W.4.
 Mrs. Betty Meltz & Melvin, 69 Addison Gardens, W14 0DT
 Raie, Joe & Jonathan Miller, 16 Samuel Richardson House, North End Crescent, W.14.
 The Mishcon Family - Peter, Penny, Oliver, Anna, Kate and Eliza, 89, Elgin Crescent, London, W.11
Miss Rose Morris, 12 Tor Court, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, W8 4HX.
 Mrs. G. Moses, 120 North End House, Fitzjames Avenue, London, W14 0RY
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Morris, 95, Barons Keep, Gliddon Road, London, W.14
 O. A. & E. Newfield, 52, East Acton Lane, London, W3 7EQ
 Joe Nisner with Rochelle, Maxwell & Daughters, 27 Thorn Tree Court, Park View Road, Ealing, London, W5 2JB
 Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Phillips and Family, Flat 11, Bridge Avenue Mansions, Hammersmith, London, W.6.
 Mr. Hersh Rieck, 33 Campden Hill Gate, London, W.8
 Mark & Gina Ross, 28 Palace Mansions, Earsby Street, W14 8XW
Ethel Sacks, 18 Kingfisher House, Melbury Road, W14 8LN
Mr. & Mrs. H. Sharpe, 55 North End House, W.14.
 Lew & Minnie Shooman, Robert, Carole & Family, 10 Tudor Court, Gunnersbury Avenue, W.5.

Anita Simmonds & Family, 14 Cecil Close, Mount Avenue, Ealing, W.5.
 Dr. & Mrs. E. Sommer and Family, 22 Chesterfield Road, W.4.
 Mr. & Mrs. N. Sonnenblik, 14 Vaughan Avenue, London, W6 0XS
 Hyman Spector, 2 Harriot, Grahams Park, Hendon, NW9 5QQ
 Deborah and Michael Talalay, 6 Stamford Brook Avenue, London, W6 0YD
 Mrs. Stella Tesler, 89 Watchfield Court, Chiswick, W.4.
 R. & J. Toff, 90, Clarence Gate Gardens., Glentworth Street, NW1 6QP
 Bertram & Beatrice Topper, 41 Rockley Court, Rockley Road, W.14.
 Ilse & Ian Tysh, 58 Prebend Gardens, W.6.
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Veiner, 73 Stafford Court, W.8.
 Sadie Marguerite Velleman & Family, 88 Howberry Road, Canons Park, Edgware, Middx. HA8 6SY
 Rita and Stanley Verby and Family, 11 Cavendish Close, St. John's Avenue, Putney, London, S.W.15
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wender, 50 Heathfield Court, Heathfield Terrace, Chiswick, W.4.
 Hettie & Sidney Williams & Family, 28 Lime Court, Gipsy Lane, Putney, S.W.15.
 Elizabeth and Benjamin de Winter and Family, 24, Northways, College Crescent, NW3 5DR
 Mr. J. Winterman, 29, Eagle Lodge, Golders Green Road.
 Dinah & Philip Wisbey, Wendy & Bob, 2 Rupert Road, Bedford Park, London, W4

Mrs. E. F. Benzimra and Family

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

50 LATIMER COURT, W.6

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

THE LADIES' GUILD

At our Annual General Meeting held once again at the home of our President, Mrs. Frank Hodes, we could look back on another year of activity.

This commenced with the now regularly established function at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gold, a Bring and Buy afternoon tea party. As a result, the splendid sum of £150 was sent to the Jewish Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The rest of the year was filled mainly with the usual round of activity, following the summer break. The Succah was once again beautifully decorated with fruit and foliage. A Kiddush was held in the Succah after each Service, provided by the Ladies' Guild. The Annual Simchat Torah Party in honour of the Chatanim was a great success and was catered admirably by the Ladies' Guild.

Ladies' Guild Shabbat was once more combined with a visit by the Mayor and Councillors. This is an occasion when the community honours the Ladies of the Guild, Wizo, League of Jewish Women and ORT for their work during the year. There was an excellent attendance of ladies.

We catered a Bat Mitzvah in February — that of Victoria Hart. The Guild also assisted the Synagogue's Functions Committee with the 95th Anniversary Dinner.

A number of our ladies volunteered to collect for Geranium Day. The collectors did extremely well, in spite of the cold weather and managed to raise £257.00. An excellent result.

The highlight of the 95th Anniversary Year was our Luncheon and Bring and Buy. Mrs. Ruth Winston-Fox J.P. was our guest speaker. She reminisced on her early life in Hammersmith, where her late father the Rev. Solomon Lipson was Minister for many years.

Floral decorations for the Synagogue were again provided on Shavuot and thanks to the generosity of individual members, we were not involved in any expense.

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

The "Can you Help" insertion last year did receive a response from one of our members who now visits housebound people regularly — truly a great Mitzvah.

REBECCA FOX
(Hon. Secretary)

The Democrats

The Democrats who are affiliated to Norwood Child Care is a voluntary group made up of young people who arrange monthly outings for up to forty disadvantaged children, raising all the money for these outings themselves. The Democrats have room for more members to join them both in their fundraising and on the outings. If you are interested and aged 21-30, please contact:-

Adrienne Alderman 01-985 7605
 Michael Bennett 0442-49333

FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

In this the 95th Anniversary Year of our Synagogue, the Functions Committee arranged two functions and a Grand Anniversary Draw.

The Social on Sunday 16th December was a Chanukah Tea Party, and to comply with the wishes of a number of our members this was held in the afternoon, it proved a great Social success, although the numbers attending were below expectations. The entertainment by The Bodlander Twins was received with enthusiasm this being their second appearance entertaining at our Socials.

Our main function of the year was the 95th Anniversary Supper held on Sunday 3rd February. A special effort was made to ensure that this function would be an outstanding success, and we are happy to report that it proved so both financially and socially. The evening commenced with a Sherry Reception followed by a Salt Beef & Vienna Supper at which our beloved Minister the Rev. Sam Venitt ably proposed a Toast to our Synagogue and its members. A suitable reply was made by our ever popular Senior Warden Moss Amias. During the evening we were entertained by Sheila & Daphne (Piano Duo) and the Coleman Family Group who were making a return visit having been so well received on a previous occasion.

The Grand Anniversary Draw took place on the evening of our Anniversary Supper. The draw was arranged earlier in the year, tickets being sold amongst Members and Friends. The success of this venture was ensured by the wonderful prizes given by many members (the first prize being a Fidelity Music Centre donated by the Dickman Family).

The Functions Committee are ever aware that much repair and maintenance is needed for our Synagogue and Buildings. They spare no effort to see that all the functions they arrange are both entertaining for the Members and a means of raising money for our Synagogue Building Fund. Our Supper Parties and other Socials are now a firm fixture in our yearly calendar and it is hoped that in the coming year members will make every effort to give their wholehearted support by attending. Notification of future events and dates will be sent to all members in due course.

The members of our Functions Committee take this opportunity of thanking all who have supported them in the past, of wishing you all a Happy New Year, and the hope that they will see more of you in the future.

D.A.

Can You Help?

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

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

Hammersmith Friendship Club

The Hammersmith Friendship Club reopened on April 15th and was an immediate success.

To date we have had two guest speakers, two excellent entertainers by courtesy of Hammersmith Borough Council, and on July 1st a party given by Mrs. Bessie Apfel to celebrate her 90th Birthday. This was a very happy and emotional occasion. Entertainment was provided by Phillipa Reid and her small daughter Rachel and Rev. Venitt gave an address congratulating Mrs. Apfel on reaching this great age and mentioned how devoted she and her late husband Jack were to both the Synagogue and the Friendship Club in the past. Gifts were presented to Mrs. Apfel on behalf of Club Members by Mrs. Hetty Mayne and little Rachel Reid.

The Club has a very happy and friendly atmosphere and meets fortnightly in the Synagogue Hall. New Members are very welcome. For particulars please contact:-

Mrs. Stella Gold (Secretary) — 743 1705
or Mrs. Netta Guyer (Chairman) — 748 4797

League of Jewish Women

Thames Valley Branch

The local group of the League of Jewish Women have done much voluntary work during the year. However, we are still anxious to enrol new Members, even women who can only spare a couple of hours per month to shop for housebound people, visit the sick, transport disabled, etc. We also meet several times a year and usually have very interesting speakers.

Please do come and join us. We serve all denominations and any age group. For particulars please contact the Chairman: Mrs. Netta Guyer — 748 4797.

Kensington & Chelsea Women's Zionist Soc.

The year 1984/5 was a satisfactory one in spite of the fact that at the time of going to press we had not succeeded in finding premises for a "Good as New Shop" which is our major source of fund-raising. If anyone is able to help us to get the use of an empty shop for a short time we should be most happy to hear from them. Our membership is drawn from a wide area of West/South West London and numbers more than 120. Functions commenced in December with the annual Brunch/Bring and Buy which was socially and financially rewarding, as were two afternoon card parties, a Spring lunch and a Summer lunch both with guest speakers. Our "Operation Moses" appeal for Ethiopian children brought a generous response and the Jewish Women's Week collection was once again very successful. New members are always welcome, and any lady interested in joining us should contact Membership Secretary, Ilse Tysh, 748 1620.

RACIAL EQUALITY

by Rev. S. VENITT Address delivered as Guest Speaker

I thank you, Mr. Mayor, and the Council for Racial Equality for inviting me to speak at your Annual General Meeting. It is quite a few years since I was a member of the first Executive Committee. They were early days, when everything was done by voluntary effort. It was not long before it became essential to engage full-time staff, fully trained in expertise to deal with the very sensitive and difficult problems that would arise. I was present at the meeting when Mr. Rafferty was appointed. How the work has grown since can be seen from the Annual Report.

Speaking as a member of the Jewish Community, racial equality is a subject and a theme very close to our hearts. One of our main Biblical teachings puts it very succinctly "One law shall be for the stranger and the homeborn in your midst."

This command arose as a direct sequel to the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt. What happened to our forefathers in Egypt has been a recurrent experience throughout the millennia of our history, recording both our suffering and our reaction to these grievous wrongs. "You know the soul of the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt".

There is a series being currently presented on Channel Four entitled the Jewish Heritage, which focuses on the variegated history of the Jewish people. For the most part, it is one long story of harassment, inequality, deprivation of rights and expulsion. No people could have experienced more of life's trials and tribulations.

In Egypt we were termed aliens; as aliens we were enslaved and afflicted; as aliens we were outside the law and had no recourse to courts of justice or fair dealing. As aliens we entered the Roman Empire. The mediaeval church called us aliens, locking us up in lightless, airless ghettos, denying us access to field or vineyard, and afflicting us with cruel tax, humiliating garb, and the fury of the incited mobs. As aliens we were enslaved by Czarist Russia and Soviet Russia, to the one we were capitalists, to the other proletarians, to say nothing of the unspeakable horrors of Nazi Germany. The world has not yet grasped the enormity of the horrendous crime of genocide — the doing to death of 6,000,000 people — the ultimate in man's inhumanity to man.

In spite of all this, we were still able to make notable contributions to Civilisation in many fields.

Coming nearer home, the first records of an organised settlement of Jews in this country starts after the Norman Conquest in 1066, in the reign of William the Conqueror. There were important settlements in London (Old Jewry is one of the place-names of those days). There were also Jews in Lincoln and other centres. In 1190 massacres of Jews occurred in many cities. This was immediately followed by the expulsion of the Jews under Edward I. From then onwards, only converts to Christianity or secret adherents of Judaism could live here.

The present Anglo-Jewish Community dates from the period of the Commonwealth. In 1650, Menasseh ben Israel of Amsterdam began to champion the cause of re-admission to England, and in 1655 he led a mission to London for this purpose. A Conference was convened at Whitehall and a petition presented to Oliver Cromwell. In 1656 the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation in London was organised, followed towards the end of the 17th Century by the East European Jews called Ashkenazim. From then on numbers increased fairly rapidly, and soon there were offshoots in provincial centres and seaports.

England has the distinction of being one of the few countries, where during the past three centuries, there have been no serious outbreaks of violence against Jews.

Prompted by this favourable climate of opinion, a movement was started in 1820 toward equality, and the removal of political disabilities against Jews. A Bill was first introduced into the House of Commons in 1830. Jewish MPs were repeatedly elected from 1847 onwards, but were prevented from taking their seats, as the oath had to be a Christian one. Finally, in 1858, a Jew, Lionel de Rothschild, was formally admitted to Parliament. Minor disabilities were progressively removed until full equality was achieved. During the past hundred years, there were a number of waves of refugees coming to these hospitable shores, which substantially increased the Jewish population, from Russia, Nazi Germany and a small number from Arab countries.

As inheritors of the political and civic emancipation that was achieved last century, Jews have been enabled to serve in high offices in the State, in Parliamentary and municipal life, in the civic and armed services, in the judiciary and in the universities — in all profession and occupations — so that the Jewish subjects of the Crown both at home and overseas play their full part.

Turning now to our own Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, we Jews, although few in number, are happy in the knowledge that a very cordial relationship has always existed between the Town Hall and our congregations at Brook Green and Shepherds' Bush. We have always taken an active part in the civic life of the Borough, and have had three Jewish Mayors during the ninety-five years of our existence as a Community.

In which way do we contribute to the work of the Council for Equality? Over the years we have had an important link of involvement through the Hammersmith Branch of Jewish Ex-servicemen and women. They have participated to a very large extent in the social and charitable work going on in the Borough. Mr. Percy Gourgey, M.B.E., is the current Chairman, and as such is a representative on the Council for Racial Equality. He is a man of wide experience in public affairs, serves on the Executive Committee, and has acted as chairman for the Employment Group. The extent of his dedication to the office can be gauged from the Annual Report.

For the past thirty years the Hammersmith and West

Kensington Synagogue has invited groups to visit the Synagogue. In the early days this meant mainly groups from Churches.

Mr. Gourgey, who had heard of these gatherings, suggested that I organise one in conjunction with the Council for Racial Equality. The response was most gratifying, over a hundred people accepted our invitation to attend, the majority coming from minority Ethnic Groups.

A similar function was held last year. Again the response was excellent. By promoting personal contact, the foundation could be laid for greater co-operation. The order of proceedings for these afternoon gatherings is as follows.

Our guests first assemble in the Synagogue, where its history and ritual is explained. Interest is especially centred on the Ark which contains the sacred scrolls, each one containing a handwritten text of the Five Books of Moses, the light in front of the Ark which burns perpetually, the Tablets with the Ten Commandments, and so on. After an Any Questions session, we adjourn to the Synagogue Hall, where an exhibition has been set out displaying Jewish life in the home, a wedding canopy, ritual objects and books. These are displayed mainly on tables. Visitors walk round, and have the various items explained by helpers. After refreshments, a panel of speakers address the audience, or there is an Any Questions Session.

The value of this activity was stressed by the Hammersmith Council for Racial Equality in their Annual Report for 1980-81, when they wrote:

"Another very significant development this year has been the initiative taken by the Jewish Community in organising and hosting the first of a series of Community Relations Seminars aimed at bringing together ethnic minority communities and the majority communities in efforts to bring about better understanding between and amongst them.

This first Seminar was an enormous success. We hope to make this event a regular feature in our work and have approached other ethnic minority communities to host similar occasions."

Apart from this, I have, over the past thirty years, had groups of school children visiting the Synagogue, some schools coming year after year with new classes. The interest of the children is enormous. I have a number of folders containing letters and essays from the pupils describing their reactions and what they had learned. One particular letter was from a teacher who wrote that following their visit to the Synagogue, she had had a number of letters from parents expressing their thanks to her for having arranged the visit, because their children had spoken so enthusiastically about it. Well over half the children in some cases came from ethnic minorities.

We intend to continue with these activities.

May I, once again say Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and members of the Council, for the honour and privilege of being invited to address you. I wish you much success in your further efforts in the coming year to promote racial equality.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

WEDDINGS

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

FRANCINE FRANKS to STEVEN ISAAC

ALEXANDRA JOCELYN COHEN to IAN WELKA

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

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Addisman

Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Abrams

Mrs. S. Canter

Mrs. R. DeVries

Mrs. Rose Daniels

Mrs. E. Esterman

Mr. S. Isaac

Mr. M. Izen

Mrs. G. Jason

Mrs. G. Mirwitch

Miss N. Morris

Mrs. R. Press

Mr. I. Welka

Mr. D. Zec

Hammersmith & District AJEX

A Brief Report by Percy Gourgey, M.B.E., Chairman

The Branch participated in the traditional event organised on a national basis by AJEX, namely, the Annual Parade and March Past at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on the third Sunday in November. It also participated in the local Parade and March Past at the Cenotaph in Shepherd's Bush Green when the Mayor of Hammersmith took the salute. It assisted in a successful fund-raising Bazaar in November organised by the Grand Order of Israel and Shield of David Friendly Society with the active participation of Messrs. Bertie Bankover, Jack Sober and Phil Lamb. It also participated actively in the variety show put on by the Danescroft Players at the Hendon Reform Synagogue after which the Chairman was invited to move the vote of thanks.

With Hammersmith Synagogue as Host, the Branch together with the Hammersmith & Fulham Council for Racial Equality (RFCRE) organised a very successful Ethnic Minorities Afternoon in June 1984 — the second such function since 1981. As a result of this, the Minister, Rev. S. Venitt was invited to be Guest Speaker at the A.G.B. of HFCRE in June 1985. He traced the history of Anglo-Jewry over the centuries and stressed the principle enunciated in the Mosaic Code over 3,500 years ago: "There shall be one law for the homeborn and the stranger in your midst". All should be regarded as equal before the law and any form of discrimination should be eschewed. This writer in the summing-up speech and vote of thanks at the A.G.M. emphasised Anglo-Jewry's successful integration into British

Society and pointed out that because of the Nazi Holocaust the Jewish people were the greatest victims of racism ever. Leaders of HFCRE expressed great appreciation of the initiative taken by the Branch and the Synagogue in organising these functions to foster mutual understanding and respect between different minorities.

The Branch was represented at the Special Service held on 23 June 1985 at the Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street, marking the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Bombay Synagogue Centenary

By PERCY GOURGEY, M.B.E.

In April 1985 there were held the celebrations of the Centenary of the Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue in the Fort area of Bombay. These were to have taken place early in December 1984 but as the President of India, Mr. Zail Singh had accepted an invitation to attend the celebrations, they were postponed for security reasons in the aftermath of the tragic assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India. The President inaugurated the April celebrations.

The Synagogue was established in 1884 by Sir Jacob Sassoon, my great-uncle, in memory of his father, Elias, a son of David Sassoon who founded the dynasty in India — as it later developed — in 1832, having fled as a refugee from Baghdad in 1828, then and until the First World War under Ottoman Turkish rule. Other members of the family attained great fame, following their considerable achievements, but Elias founded the firm of E. D. Sassoon & Co., with extensive business interests in the Far East, Britain and the Middle East. This is not the place to record yet the fascinating history of this family which in one sense became even more notable in the person of Sir Philip Sassoon, Bart., whose father was a Sassoon and mother was a Rothschild, and who was a junior Minister in the Conservative Government in Britain before the Second World War. Incidentally, as far back as 1935 he warned of the rise of Nazi air power and the dangers it posed — this in his capacity as Air Minister.

The Synagogue celebration marked the final chapter of the story of achievements of Iraqi Jewish emigrants to India and the Far East including Burma, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Hongkong, China and Japan beginning in the latter part of the 18th century. Following the Second World War most members of these communities emigrated to Israel, Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia and elsewhere.

Synagogue Secretary

Following the resignation of Mr. David Hart, Mr. Sidney Fainlight has been appointed Secretary. We wish him well.

J. I. A.

We are pleased to report that for the 1985 General Campaign, 56 contributors have donated £9,301; this compares favourably with 1984 when 46 donations totalled £4,972.

For the separate (1984) Kol Nidre Appeal, £5,799 was raised from 124 donors, and this was an improvement on 1983 when £4,082 was collected from 116 donors.

Thus our total raised this last year was £15,100 compared with £9,054 the previous year, but we can't afford to be complacent. We hope that our congregation will surpass this total during the coming year, and that a start will be made by **everyone** associating themselves with the forthcoming Kol Nidre Appeal. Money raised by JIA is used for the welfare and educational needs of the Jewish population in Israel; the requirements are enormous. Whatever our individual and communal contributions to charity, both in this country and abroad, we have an obligation, because we **are** Jews, to associate ourselves with the United Kingdom JIA national appeal. When we consider the history of our people, the persecutions they have suffered, the hardships they still endure, it is incumbent on those of us fortunate enough to live in this country to give what we can to support the people of Israel.

We all have to pay our rates and taxes irrespective of the politics of the local authority or government of the day. Similarly, we **must** support Israel, even if we don't always find ourselves in agreement with its politics.

We therefore **earnestly** implore **every** member of the congregation to make a Kol Nidre pledge to J.I.A., whether you are present in our Shool or elsewhere on that occasion; and furthermore, we ask you all to associate yourselves with the forthcoming 1986 General Appeal. Of course we need to raise as much money as possible, but the important thing is to be identified with Israel, however much or little you can give. Pledge what you can, and be associated with the rest of the community in this vitally important task of aiding Israel.

DAVID ARRAM
JEFFERY BRAND

Einayim Aid Society

We wish to thank Rev. Venitt and all members of the Hammersmith and West Kensington Synagogue for the valuable support they have given us during this past year, and to invite all to our Forthcoming Annual Charity Theatre Show at the Richmond Theatre on Saturday evening, 5th October.

"Dragon's Tail", starring Penelope Keith, prior to West End run. Tickets are £10.

BERNARD S. MIRELS
Chairman

An Oriental Pesach

As this year is the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II, it would seem appropriate to relate a part of Jewish history that occurred on the North-West Frontier of India.

I was in the Royal Air Force at a Group Headquarters at Peshawar, the capital of the North-West Frontier Province of India, far removed from the heart of the fighting in Burma when, just before Pesach 1945, a notice appeared to say that any Jewish personnel that wished to go into the "Old City" could make an application. This order was also issued to Army personnel and it turned out that some 12/15 of us met at a meeting point, we got on a Tonga (a horse-drawn "taxi" holding 3 people) and, in a procession and armed with an official pass, we went in convoy into the "Old City". Now, the "Old City" is exactly what it says — it was the original City of Peshawar and was out-of-bounds to all British personnel including British citizens (mostly the Civil Service) and we had to live in what was called a Cantonment. If I tell you that the "Old City" had an average of a murder a day you can see it was with some trepidation that we went into it even in convoy.

However, we went in and, I should relate at this stage, that we had a Jewish civilian as our guide who lived in the "Old City" and who was instrumental in arranging the visit in the first place. His English was very poor but he just about made some understandable conversation. I cannot describe the scene as we passed through — it was teeming with people of all sorts in their dirty rags they wore, thousands upon thousands doing their shopping in the bazaars and stalls all selling anything you could imagine — even cars. The famous Pataans, each standing at least 6ft tall, and each carrying a rifle (some with 2) over their shoulders with ammunition belts mingled with the vast crowd.

However, we arrived at a place where we all disembarked and our civilian leader led us down a small ally-way and then we all turned into a doorway, went up a small flight of stairs with no light with which to see our way and arrived at a courtyard around which, on 3 sides, seemed to be living quarters. He led us towards one of these rooms from which we could hear murmurings and chanting and we entered a large room and right away we could see it was a Shul. Dozens of men and boys of all heights were davening away, many without prayer-books. All looked at us as if we had dropped from Mars in that quaint-looking manner that people do — we joined in prayers which were quite familiar but we saw that no women were present. However, after a short time we could see there was a white curtain running the whole length of the Shul on one side and, now and again, a parting would occur and we could see some women having a peep at us "curiosities".

The leaders who had taken us there explained that the whole Community lived in the "Courtyard" and had come from Afghanistan, although originating from Russia, and their ambition was to go to Palestine (as it then was). I hope they realised

their ambition. Their womenfolk had to wear the yashmak (veil over their faces) whenever they went into the "Old City" to conform with the muslim practice. However, we were told they were never molested, nor their menfolk. Although we were later split up into parties of 3, 4 and 5, each party being guests at various homes around the Courtyard, none of our hosts and hostesses could speak English and, of course, none of us could speak their language which, we understood, was a mixture of Russian and Urdu (part of the Indian language). However, we partook of the Seder but did not go through the whole of the service as we did not have all that time — we had a curfew and had to be back into the Cantonment by a certain time.

But there was something that my friends and I will never forget. When it came to the first cup of wine, it had been poured out into very small "thimble" glasses and when it came to drinking the men just opened their mouths and it was "down the hatch" in one go! Of course, being servicemen and "knuckers" we did the same. Did we regret it!! We still did not know to this day what the "wine" was, but taking a full swallow, we also did not know what day of the week it was. It took our breaths away, we could not speak for some little while and were our faces red in more respects than one!! That couple of hours or so was imprinted in our minds for over 40 years and it was a night to be remembered. We wouldn't have missed it for anything — and we were not even molested to and from the "Old City".

A RAF-type

Chochmas?

Chicken Zoop — Oil on troubled waters

Schmaltz — Liquid Heartburn

Kreplach — The eternal triangle

Schnapps — Jewish anti-freeze

A Lek oon a Schmech — Hors d'oevres

Kashe, Koogel, Knishes, Knadel, Kreplach — The Jewish "K"

rations

Tsimmes — 18-carrot stew

Mondlen — Edible ping-pong balls

Geshvollen — Bubble gum

Matzoh — Temporary filling for cavities

A Shyleh — The 64-thousand dollar question

Yontefdick — Tight Shoes

Shadchen — Jewish Manpower Commission

A Shench Gelachter — Getting hiccups on Yom Kippur

A Schmooz — A local call

A Machayeh — Bismuth drink

Koved — Allowing the other guy to pay the bill

A Shtick Naches — Finding a 10p coin in a phone box

A Shtick Nahr — The dope who puts it back.

ל שנה טובה

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

FROM

Mr. & Mrs.

JOE GODFREY

★ ★ ★

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

BOOKSHELF

A Vanished World

by Roman Vishniac

Foreword by Elie Wiesel Published by Allen Lane

The title of this beautifully produced and presented book is the truthful story, in photographs of the world of our forefathers, our own great-grandfathers, grandfathers — the millions of our people who inhabited Poland, Russia and part of the then Austria-Hungarian Empire — Galicia. Jews came to Poland in the 12/13th Century. According to various reference books, extensive immigration from Germany and Alsace in 1240 brought the Judaeo-German dialect that became the Yiddish of Eastern Europe. Vishniac produces in this book 197 beautiful pictures which Elie Wiesel, the ex-Auschwitz writer describes in his introduction as "Vishniac, a supreme witness, evokes with sorrow and love the picturesque and fascinating Jewish world he has seen engulfed by fire and darkness. The author dedicates his work "I dedicate these pages with love to my grandfather, father and son".

The family, our people, our Jewish religion, our traditions, our sufferings, our tenacity against all the enemies are the leitmotives of the "Vanished World".

One looks at photos from Warsaw, Lublin, Lemberg (now Lvov), Munkachevo in Czecho-slovakia, Cracow and also in 1937 Berlin and Vienna and sees poverty, cheder, the shtetl with Synagogues, the streets in the ghettos and the antisemitic signs on shops "Jude", which were from 1940 on, 45 years ago, the forerunners of the "Final Solution", the Holocaust resulting in the genocide of six million of our people. The home of our traditions, our wonderful culture was destroyed — a reminder never to forget what we Jews and the World have lost.

May the writer of these notes bring in some personal reminiscences:- My grand-parents, both paternal and maternal, lived and worked in Galicia and like many others had the dream of a better and easier life. They learned — I was told — that in 1896 Hungary was to celebrate the millenium of the foundation of the Magyar State and such a time of jubilation would bring tourists from other parts of the Hapsburg Empire. They decided to pack their belongings in order to go to Budapest. From Czarist dominated parts our Jewish forefathers went to the Northern part of Europe — to England and some even further to the "Goldene Medine" — America. That is how I became Budapest born, where a previous immigrant to Hungary, the father of Zionism, Theodore Herzl, was born in 1860.

"A Vanished World" not only in Poland, but everywhere in Europe, where Hitler was dominating since the "Thousand Year Reich?" was in power from 1933-1945.

This world of our tradition is the leitmotiv of our life: the establishment of our State of Israel on the 8th May, 1948 is the renaissance of our Jewish World.

If the readers of The Brook have the opportunity to open the pages of The Vanished World — look at them — again and again — to relive the places, the faces, and to say — these were our people, people we can be proud of. CHAIM ZEV

ל שנה 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

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

Reminiscences

All of us have memories of happenings in our lives, some goods, some not so good. Some are too vivid and shocking that we simply cannot eradicate them from our minds, as, for example, when I was in the 6th Airborne Division during the war and soon after. I was drafted to Alexandria in Egypt to await demobilization by boat to England, and eagerly looking forward to being re-united with my family after five years in the Forces. We were going through the desert in an open train, when suddenly the rear half of the train exploded and was completely wrecked. Quite a number of the soldiers killed were my close personal friends. I was lucky to escape. When I arrived back in England, I duly handed in my rifle to the armoury in accordance with King's Regulations. Soon afterwards, my name and number came up for me to do a perimeter guard. When I went to collect my rifle and ammunition, the sergeant in command said "What are you playing at! You took your rifle last week and I have your signature to that effect". I assured him that it was not so. On consulting the arms book, it was shown that there was another soldier of the same name. The mistake was rectified. The man who had received my rifle turned out to be a long lost cousin of mine with the same name.

I also recall another incident when we were moving up the line for the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's final assault. The postman who delivered the field mail, told me that he had given some letters to a chap of the same surname as mine, miles away from where we were. I enquired as to the regiment and discovered he was referring to my younger brother. What a relief to learn that he was O.K., because he was involved in an area of very heavy fighting. We were often near each other, but never actually made contact.

As I lie in bed at night ghastly memories come flooding back of happenings in Israel under the British Mandate, the Labour Camp, Belsen, the Falaise Gap, Bostogne, Laroche, Dinant and the Rhine Crossing, when I was driving a laden lorry across a pontoon bridge into Germany, constructed by the R.E. in Holland. There were terrible battles and gruesome atrocities that I witnessed. With the help of the Almighty my brother and I survived, to the joy of our parents and he is happily settled in South Africa.

Having a son of military age of my own, I sympathise with everyone in this category. I only hope and pray they will not have to endure a similar experience.

Finally, there is one memory which will I hope give me enduring joy and pleasure. It is that of the day my son Barry was married to Miss Vivienne Rubin. He has always been somebody very special to me, a young man of quality, and I know he has chosen well in his partner.

A New Year 5746 is dawning for us. A spiritual destiny is written down on New Year's Day and is sealed on the Day of Atonement. May we all be inscribed in the 'Book of Life' for good health, genuine peace, happiness, and tranquility.

Let it be a Happy New Year for everyone, all over the world.

SHALOM JOEL WINTERMAN

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM

HETTY & DAVID BALONOV

148, CONINGHAM ROAD, W.17

with their families

JOYCE & DAVID KIPNES,

with

LIANE, IAN and DANIEL

OF LONG ISLAND, U.S.A.

and

GLORIA DEANER, J.P.,

& JULIAN DEANER

with

KATHARINE, ADAM & EMMA

OF 26 GREENHALGH WALK,

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB, N.2,

AND OF CANN, MELBURY ABBAS, DORSET,

AND OF MEDWAY HOUSE, SHEPHERDS' BUSH ROAD, W.6.

Shavuot and Hanukah

by **A. Shiloh**

Among the many memories one has of our holidays, it is perhaps appropriate to recall a Shavuot and Hanukah some 40 years ago.

In the summer of 1945, there may have been peace in Europe but we in the Pacific were preparing for the invasion of Japan. It was a very sombre time. The optimists said "Golden Gates in '48" — meaning that the war would last another three years before we would ever again see San Francisco's memorable bridge. The pessimists said "D-3" — meaning that by the 3rd day of the invasion it wouldn't matter, we'd all be dead.

I was in a reconnaissance platoon of the 3rd Marine Division. We had recently returned from the invasion of Iwo Jima and now we were preparing for the worst.

It was in this mood that, one afternoon, I received a message from the Jewish chaplain inviting me to attend Shavuot services down at Headquarters. "Shul" was a non-denominational chapel of bamboo and palms. The usual late afternoon tropical storm was blowing up and about 20 of us were there.

The actual services were, I believe, abridged in order to allow us to get back to our respective camps before curfew. The rabbi's sermon, then, was also brief. He described the fire and thunder of Mt. Sinai as Moses brought down the Ten Commandments and he reminded us that great and good things can happen when all about seems dark and dangerous.

A trite message, I grant you, but strangely appropriate. I never saw the Rabbi again, for the next week we went into intensive field training prior to boarding the landing craft. Then one day in August we were informed that a new bomb had been dropped on a place called Hiroshima, then one on Nagasaki, then the war was over.

And so, in September, instead of invading Japan, I was sent to North China. Peace had brought the Communist Chinese out of the hills and they took over the coalfields north of Peking and Tientsin. The Nationalist Chinese government would not last the winter without that coal, and so detachments of Marines were sent to open the coalfields and guard the railroad lines and bridges leading southward.

I was in a platoon dropped off at Bridge 67 — a lonely outpost in the steppes of Asia. The wind howled across the plains — every morning we shook out from our blankets the dust from the Gobi Desert. It was either drink and gamble, or get to know the Chinese.

I used to regularly visit the local village, tried to learn the language, the foods, their kinship, their religion. I really liked and admired the Chinese, and respected their culture. Yet I used to have the Communists continually taking pot shots at me. Fortunately, their aim was as poor as mine.

I talked with the Chinese about the Jews of Kaifeng. They had never heard of Chinese Jews — they were rather amused with the idea — but I actually did meet one old man who said,

yes, he had heard that somewhere to the south there were Chinese who "wouldn't eat pig". That was as close as I ever got to Kaifeng.

For Hanukah, 1945, the rabbi over in Peking contacted me to join them for services. I would have loved the experience and honour, but I couldn't get leave. So I spent Hanukah in that little village, in a small mud and straw-built one-room tea house, with some Chinese friends.

Interestingly enough, from their deep religious heritage and their profound sense of family responsibility, they seemed to grasp very clearly the significance of Mattityahu and his sons the cleansing of the Temple, the long and bitter war, the tragic aftermath.

It wasn't necessarily the way that I had planned to spend the chagim, but then, I suppose, much of life is that way.

A Translation Mistake?

The major part of Judges, Chap. 3 is concerned with the subjugation of the Children of Israel by the Moabites: the assassination of the Moabite King, Eglon, by Ehud; the subsequent defeat in battle of the Moabites and the resulting 'four-score years of peace'. Ehud is described in English translations as "the son of Gera", the Benjaminite, a man left-handed". This left-handedness is emphasized by Ehud hiding his sword on his right thigh and then later using his left hand to hold the sword and kill Eglon.

However, in the original Biblical text Ehud is described as an "itter yad yemino" — a person "unable to properly use his right hand". The essential word is "itter" — "with an impediment". Jastrow (1903) translates "itter yad yemino" as "one whose right hand it tied up or unfit for labour" and only secondarily as "left-handed". Ehud could have had some congenital abnormality of his hand or an acquired lesion, e.g. a form of paralysis leading to a crippled hand — a view supported by Soggin (1979). But surely if this was so, Eglon's bodyguard would have observed the disability and searched Ehud on the right side. To fully appreciate the subtleties of the situation, one has to examine Judges 20:16 where referring to the men of Gilboa, there is the description — "all these people, even 700 chosen men were left-handed; every one could sling stones at a hair's breath, and not miss". In the actual text all 700 were "itter yad yemino". It is not necessary to have a military training or even a very vivid imagination to realise that the context of this phrase cannot mean that all 700 had a crippled right hand. An answer to the problem is suggested by Preuss (1911) who accepted the explanation of the Septuagint and the Vulgate that they were, in fact ambidextrous.

Support for this view regarding Benjaminites is found in 1 Chr. 12:2 "They were armed with bows, and could use both the right hand and the left in slinging stones and in shooting arrows from bows; they were of Saul's brethren of Benjamin". On the other hand, one must not ignore Hurwitz' comment

(1971) — "If the men of Gilboa can be counted as the only left-handed among them all (700 in 26,000) this gives a percentage of left-handedness of 2.6% which tallies well with modern demographic studies of the incidence of strong left-handedness in the population". Finally, there is the superb semantic irony that fundamentally "Benjamin" mean "Ben-Yamin" — son of the right hand!

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Soggin J. 1979 Judges - Old Testament Library.

bAk tOo sKOol aYgeN

A surge of blue pushes forward moving through anything and everything in its path. Suddenly, one of these children sees a member of the public. A path appears in the midst of the throng leading onto the bus. The rather bemused lady walks easily into the number 29. Behind her, the JFS pupils resume their efforts to get to the bus. Meanwhile, to make matters worse, an empty bus calmly sails past ignoring the crowd at the bus stop — the daily chaos caused by 1,000 children trying to go home the same way at roughly the same time.

"Sir, look what I've found on the floor." I look at this scrap of paper. One of the biggest villains in the class has automatically surrendered a blank, but signed, cheque. It could have been cashed in any bank with no questions being asked, but the thought would not have occurred to the boy. When phoned, the signatory was astounded that the cheque was there at all and urged that it be torn up.

In 1983 the article "bAk tOo sKOol" appeared in The Brook. It chronicled my experiences over a fortnight's observation in a primary school. Two years later I have completed my training as a teacher. This last year has been spent at the JFS as one of the two chemistry teachers in the school. In this article it is hoped that a small amount of the flavour of JFS will reach you.

First and foremost JFS is a marvellous school. The bad press caused by the bad behaviour of a minority on the buses and trains is entirely disproportionate. In any event, parents should accept responsibility for this too. It amazes me that there are now reports of the attacks on our pupils by children from other schools which have also taken place this year. I believe that our community is far too ready to knock a superb institution. It has a proud history although the Camden Road site only opened in 1958. As a large school with over 100 on the teaching staff we offer an unrivalled range of subjects. Our examination results are twice the national average and the pupils spend a very happy few years with us.

The pupils do have an endless capacity to amaze us with their ability and inventiveness. Towards the end of the year we ran an energy competition for some of our 3rd year (13/14 years old). The children were competing for a "Government Grant". We had everything from a model of a solar powered house to a self-made T shirt proclaiming the benefits of Project HELP. (The acronym HELP stood for Hydro Electric Leisure Park.) We had a hydro-electric scheme in Ethiopia and a Geothermal scheme in New Zealand (which won). Solar, wind, wave and conventional energy sources were paraded. At the end the 'government' came up to judge in the shape of our Head Teacher, Mrs. Wagerman. She was rather amused that one group suggested that an **average** home consisted of a 4-bedroom semi-detached house!

Some of the best gems in my treasure store of memories come from marking tests. I was told by one child that she preferred radiators to an open fire because you can lean against them to make you really warm. One lad amazed me by asking what either/or meant — he was 15. How can you argue with the assertion that "doing practical makes writing up experiments much more enjoyable."

We teach our third year about iron rusting. This can be prevented by greasing, oiling or painting. One child wrote in the subsequent test that iron won't rust if it is painted over with paint, oil or nail varnish! This conjures up the delightful image of a person painting the Severn Bridge with a small bottle of nail varnish. The lovely thing is that the girl was correct. Nail varnish **will** help prevent rust which is why a new scratch on a car can be dealt with in this way.

We also teach them that seven ways to tell a living object are that it shows movement, excretion, respiration, reproduction, irritation, nutrition and growth. I coined the acronym MERRING as a way to remember them all. Somebody later assured me that one of these seven was in fact Malfunction. He did have the M correct and on thinking about it, should we argue?

I have had a child heat a beaker with a burn St. Bernard instead of a bunsen burner. (A look of incomprehension greeted the question as to whether the dog minded.) Another assured me that concentrated sulphuric acid was so dangerous that no human could handle it — only a chemistry teacher. An Israeli Sixth Former argued in an English essay in favour of conscription because "it bridges the gap between childhood and adultery". Lastly, my personal favourite, Radioactivity being detected using a Glen Muller counter! Perhaps only if the operator was in the mood.

This is just a hint of my life at JFS. I am doing a job which is hopefully useful and which is definitely great fun. In short, as a rule, I don't regret being back at school.

JONATHAN M. MILLER

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