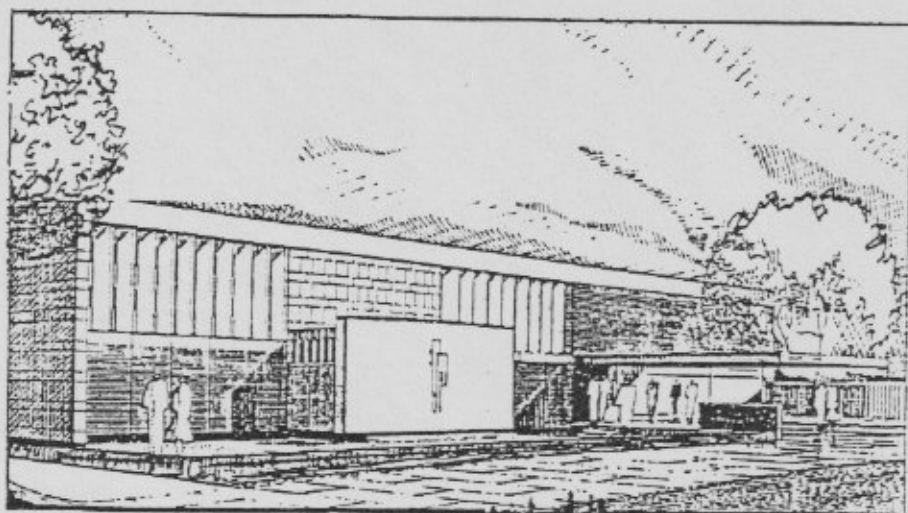
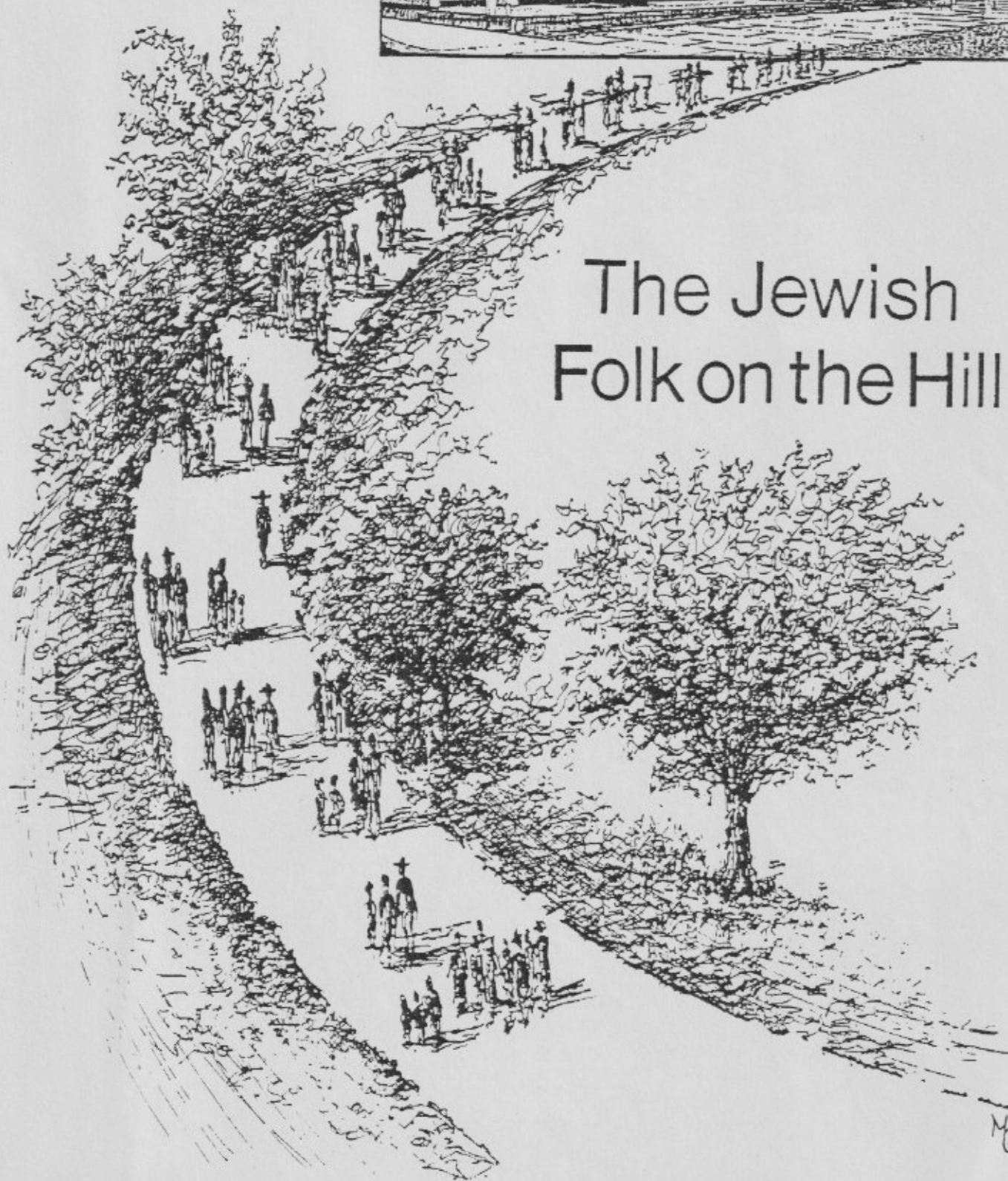


*The survival of Judaism
is like a relay race , each
generation handing over
the traditions to the next.*

Rabbi S.Brazil - 1963



The Jewish Folk on the Hill



THE 'JEWISH' FOLK ON THE HILL

A Brief History of the Muswell Hill District Synagogue.

Compiled by Pamela Wagman

Illustrated by Maurice Grosse

INTRODUCTION.... By Way of an Explanation from Pamela Wagman

PART ONE: In the Beginning.

Exerts from Charles Landstone's Golden Jubilee Tribute - J.C. 1961

'Fifty Years from Rags to Riches in Muswell Hill' by Willie Nalkin Newsletter

1979.

PART TWO... The Atheneum

'I Remember' by Willie Nalkin - Newsletter 1963

'An Odd Place to Play I mean Pray' - by Pamela Kaufman

PART THREE....No Room in the Shul.-

The Decision is Made - All we need is the money! - by Henry Koor

'On with the Show (whilst raising money)' - from trouper Betty Grosse.

PART FOUR....Tetherdown - a New Beginning.

A Brick by Brick Account - by Joseph Mendleson F.R.I.B.A.

Keep Up the Good Work from some great men (with even greater women

behind them) Monty Broza: Mossy Levrant: Jack Roth:

'Talking of Committees' - from the invincible Stella Sandzer.

PART FIVE....30 Years On - Into the Millenium.

'The Best Part of 30 Years' - a personal view from Danny Teacher (who better!)

'A Message for the 30th Anniversary' Rabbi Julian Schindler

BY WAY OF AN EXPLANATION - from Pamela Wagman:

Research is often likened to peeling an onion, just when you think you have uncovered one skin, there lies another. None more so, I found, than delving into the history of 'The Jewish Folk on the Hill'. One opinion, invariably had to be deferred to another, each convincing memory re-confirmed by someone more knowledgeable (or older!)

"You know who'll know", - they said - or - "Have you had a look in the shul basement?"

So what you are reading is ONLY the first draft - a booklet and by no means the final edition. With this kind of project you have to start somewhere - and why not use the occasion of our 30th anniversary in Tetherdown to launch the story so far.... this gives me five years to the Millenium (and p.g. the 35th anniversary) to complete the definitive work.

I know as a second generation member of this community, this unique family, just how hard the struggle was to get where we are today. These efforts, I felt should be recorded, as a testimony to so many passed achievements, but more importantly, so that new members would know that it didn't all happen by magic; that stone by stone a foundation was laid by a group of pioneers who against all odds built a Jewish community in this area, one that has lasted, the proof of which is tonight's event.

You will see that at present this history is just a collection of anecdotes, memories, and the odd fact sandwiched between. I have not deliberately chosen these contributions, nor purposely left others out, I have only used what I have been given and many are still in the pipeline! Ideally, this should be our history, written by us, about our 'family'. By the year 2,000 it is my earnest wish that this shall be printed in hard back form to be placed in libraries and schools throughout the area, as well as sitting proudly on all our bookshelves. It will include the reproduction of some of the lovingly kept memorabilia I have been given, and which is on exhibition tonight.

My thanks to all those who have contributed so far, and those who have pointed me in the right direction. Betty Grosse for being such an inventive hoarder! Albert Hankin for the key to the basement! Mrs Willie Nalkin for taking the trouble to telephone, but in particular to Maurice Grosse for his brilliant illustrations. Should anyone like to contribute to this project I would be delighted to hear from you and to receive any memories of the past, especially photographs of the Athaneum days.

I therefore dedicate this 'tome' to the hard slog of those no longer with us, the stamina of those who continue their dream and all our ambitions for the future - in particular the stalwarts behind the scenes, passed and present, like the Herz., Vickers, Morgan, Kennard and Mansfield families, Dolly Lubell, Jack Roth, Vicky Green, Mossy Levrant, Howard Fox, Jeremy Pollins, and my late father Arnold Kaufman. To name but ONLY a few.



In the Beginning

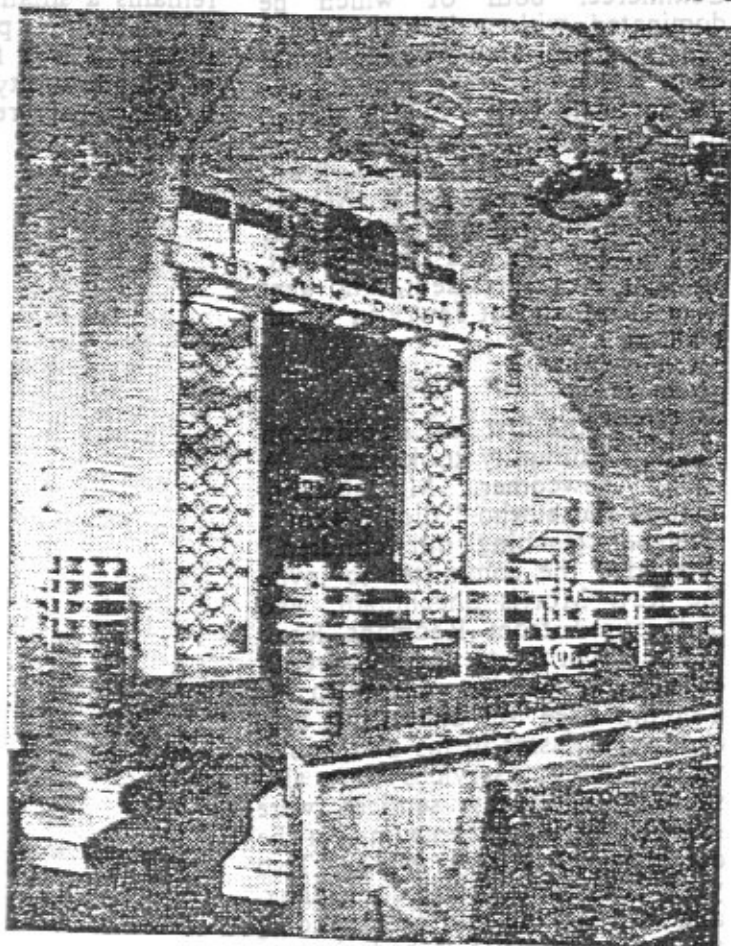
GOLDEN JUBILEE AT MUSWELL HILL

By CHARLES LANDSTONE

WHEN my father and his family moved to Muswell Hill in 1907 there was only one other known Jewish family in the suburb. Two years later, a Mr. Hochberg, an elegant young man from Riga, brought his wife and children to the district, but the numbers were still insufficient for a minyan. In 1911, 50 years ago, however, a Mr. Millstone opened a tailor's shop in the district, and as he had numerous grown-up progeny, a minyan was now assured and the Muswell Hill Hebrew Congregation came into being. Mr. Hochberg was the first President, and I became the first Hon. Secretary, a position I held until joining the army in 1915.

In Muswell Hill there is an Edwardian building known as the Athenaeum, which was in those days used for amateur theatrical performances, bazaars, and political meetings, and in 1911 its small hall was hired and converted into a synagogue for the Holy-days. Ark and Sefarim were also hired, and Mr. L. Creditor, an East End teacher, was engaged as chazan. Mr. Millstone gave him accommodation, and Mr. Creditor brought with him his wife and three pretty little daughters. The eldest of those girls is now Mrs. Hugh Gaitskell.

limited company, which acquired the leasehold of the Athenaeum. In consideration of the sum of £500 (presented by the Ladies' Guild) this company granted a lease of the building to the congregation, which now became a District Synagogue of the United Synagogue, and the small hall, beautifully furnished, was consecrated by the Chief Rabbi as a



Interior of the synagogue

The number of congregants at that opening service was about twenty, and when I returned in 1919 there had been no appreciable rise in numbers, although the faces had changed. Without the attraction of weekly services, Hebrew classes, and social life for the young, there was a constant coming and going of Jewish residents. The numbers did, however, creep up in the '20s, and by 1930 the number of congregants at the Holy-day services had reached about fifty. My place as Hon. Secretary had been taken by a very remarkable character, Jack Ash. Jack, who was Secretary and Treasurer and honorary official for over forty years until his death in 1958, was a genial Cockney with only two passions in life, the congregation and the local Chamber of Commerce, both of which he dominated with a lashing tongue and a genius for getting things done, which made everyone forgive the sarcastic letters which flowed from his pen. It was he and men like the late Alfred Myers—President for 18 years—M. H. Morris, President and honorary worker for over thirty years, and Dr. I. S. Fox, now the Hon. President, who kept alive this island of Jewry in North London.

* * *

In 1937 the first real stabilisation of the community took place. A young newcomer, Mr. Nalkin, fighting those who "didn't want a foreigner teaching our children," persuaded the committee to invite the Rev. Morris Shechtman, who had retired from Redmans Road Talmud Torah, to take up residence in the district. In return for a nominal fee Mr. Shechtman held children's classes in his new house, where Shabbat services were also started. Holy-day services were still held at the Athenaeum, but the congregation was growing. Two years later came the refugee influx, and in 1942 the number attending was 142. By 1945 it had risen to 250, and was too large for the small hall.

In the late 1940s, under the leadership of Dr. Fox, 43 members of the congregation formed a

permanent synagogue in 1950. Here all-the-year-round services are held (with an average attendance of 50 every Shabbat) and on the Holy-days the large hall comes into use. Last year about 700 congregants attended the services.

The synagogue now has a permanent minister, the Rev. S. Brazil. It has a permanent Secretary, Mr. Sorsky, who has followed an indefatigable enthusiast, Mr. L. B. Harris, who is a young man, held that office for eleven years. It has an active Ladies' Guild, Wizo Group, Parents' Association, J.P.A. Committee, and youth club. It has acquired land and in due course intends to put up its own synagogue building.

Muswell Hill is a mixed community of professional, artisan, and business men, and though it remains a small minority group in a densely populated Gentile suburb, it is a flourishing example of a community whose Jewishness is tenaciously retained.

...the Holy-days. Ark and Sholem were also hired. and Mr. L. Creditor as East End teacher was engaged as chairman. Mr. Milstone gave him accom- modation, and Mr. Creditor brought with him his wife and three pretty little daughters. The eldest of these girls is now Mrs. Hugh Gaiskell.

EXTRACTED FROM 1979 NEWSLETTER

Muswell Hill
Synagogue

1979

NEWS REVIEW

NEWS
REVIEW

1929-1979. Fifty Years from Rags to Riches in Muswell Hill

When I moved to Muswell Hill in 1929, only months after I got married, there was in existence a Muswell Hill Congregation, but no permanent synagogue. Services had been held in the past on Rosh Hashanna and Yom Kippur only. Our membership was fifteen families. We were affiliated to Hornsey and Wood Green Synagogue for burial rights only, for a small sum. The United Synagogue told us that if we could increase our membership to twenty they would recognise us direct, for the burial rights.

The small committee (of which I became a member) tried hard to increase the membership. In those days, however, few Jewish families were moving to this area. Nevertheless, that Rosh Hashanna, new faces, to us, attended the services and some had children. Where Sainsbury Ltd. is now in Fortis Green Road, opposite the Odeon, there was a building known as the Athenaeum. The large hall there was used some days of the week as a cinema (for silent films) and later as a dance hall. For a short while a caterer hired the large hall for Jewish functions.

There was also a smaller hall which could be hired and the congregation did this for the High Holidays year after year. This was always done well in advance by our Hon. Secretary, the late Mr. Jack Ash. The congregation possessed appurtenances and these were kept in storage and insured for the rest of the year. When the Yom Kippur service terminated in 1929, some parents complained 'We will not meet again until next year; we have children and would like them to attend Hebrew Classes'.

Without money and without premises, how could this worthwhile aim be achieved? Space is insufficient to describe all the headaches and heartaches at that time but briefly I can tell you that in 1929, to meet the challenge, classes were started in my house, in the dining room, at 9 Muswell Road. Our first teacher was the late Rev. Stein from Highbury. After 18 months our dining room was too small and we obtained larger room at the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Goodman at 96 Colney Hatch Lane. They had three children and were anxious that they be taught. The committee had to look ahead. Our new worry was where, how and with what could be start to have regular services. Membership of the congregation had increased.

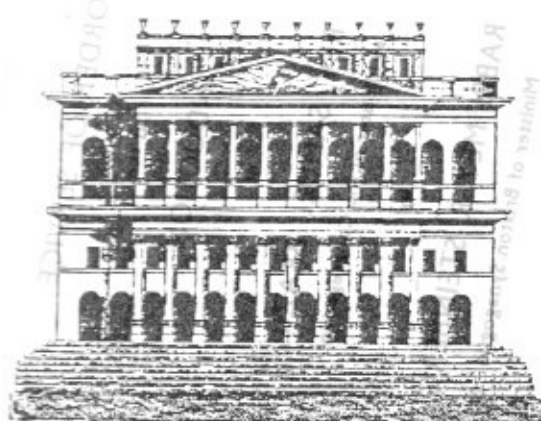
In 1934, I invited a friend with whom I worked, Mr. Frank Shackman, to my house. Muswell Hill appealed to him - it was even nicer in

those days than it is now. He told me his father had just retired after an active post at Bethnal Green Synagogue and would, he thought, be interested to move to Muswell Hill and help with the community. Mr. Shackman Snr. was interviewed. Soon after it was agreed that he would offer us a room in his new house for a synagogue at all times, act as reader and teach the children. In return he would receive a small salary. So in 1936, at 6 Methuen Park, services commenced at the first synagogue in Muswell Hill. The decision was actually taken in 1935 at 8 Wellfield Avenue, the home of Mr. Alfred Myers, C.C. (our Chairman) and Mrs. E. Myers. Our energetic and conscientious Hon. Sec. at this time was Mr Lew Harris. Perhaps it is interesting to note that Mr. Shackman's salary equalled exactly the amount we had saved in hiring a reader for the High Holidays and the amount we saved in insurance premiums! Soon after this big step, big things happened. The membership increased - the number of worshippers (some recently arrived from Germany) increased every Shabbat. Methuen Park was getting too small. We had to think ahead. After a few years the congregation obtained a long lease gratis, and for a nominal rent, of the small hall at the Atheneum, referred to above. This hall was altered, decorated and consecrated as a synagogue in 1950. Are you wondering how we obtained the lease without money? During the thirties a small private company was formed to acquire the whole of the Atheneum. The shares at £75 each were mainly taken up by Jewish residents in the area. So due to the foresight of Dr. I. Fox, our President, continuity of services was guaranteed. In June 1955 Rev. (now Rabbi) Brazil joined us to lead our now flourishing community into current times both as Minister and as Headmaster of the Classes. The sale of the whole of the Atheneum by the company in 1963 and the purchase of a large house with big grounds from the Maurice family, on very favourable terms, made it possible to start building in 1964 our present beautiful synagogue and classrooms in Tetherdown. The work of the Building Fund at this time is another story in its own right. Suffice it to say, modestly and happily, that the classes started in 1929 influenced what we have today and I thank the Almighty for his Blessings and for watching over us and that I and my contemporaries have been able to play some part in our success.

W. NALKIN

* * * * *

THE ATHENÆUM BUILDING, FORTH GREEN ROAD,
 HUNTS CHURCH, HANTS.
 1922



United by the Choir under the direction of
 THE REV. REUBEN TURNER, A.T.C.
 The Service will be conducted by
 Mr. J. D. W.
 13th April 1922
 SUNDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER, 1922

The Athenæum Years

1922

W. ZORBY, Esq.
 Secretary
 H. GRUNBERG, Esq.
 W. HERS, Esq.
 M. I. HITTER, Esq.
 I. B. HARRIS, Esq.
 A. FRANKIN, Esq.
 J. BRUNSTEN, Esq.
 Board of Management
 J. WILSON, Esq.
 J. WILSON, Esq.
 M. H. WILSON, Esq.
 J. WILSON, Esq.
 H. J. & E. FOX
 H. ZUNDERLAND, Esq.
 R. ZEIG, Esq.
 I. WANGELT, Esq.
 M. JACK, Esq.
 H. KODR, Esq.
 A. KERSHAW, Esq.

ק"ק בנמת ישראל

קלודס סאמואל

MUSWELL HILL DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE
THE ATHENÆUM BUILDING, FORTIS GREEN ROAD, N.10

ה"ב

ORDER OF SERVICE

at the INDUCTION

of
REV. SAMUEL BRAZIL

as Minister of the Congregation

by
RABBI MEYER STEINBERG

Minister of Brixton Synagogue

on

SUNDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER, 1955
17th Elul 5715
at 2.30 p.m.

The Service will be conducted by
THE REV. REUBEN TURNER, A.T.S.C.
Assisted by the Choir under the direction of
MR. M. FISHER

1955

Honorary Life President
DR. I. S. FOX

Wardens

S. MOGIL, Esq.
M. H. MORRIS, Esq.

Financial Representative

S. POSNER, Esq.

Board of Management

S. BRONSTEIN, Esq.
A. HANKIN, Esq.

L. B. HARRIS, Esq.

N. J. HELLER, Esq.

W. HERZ, Esq.

H. L. GRUNBERG, Esq.

A. KERSHAW, Esq.

H. KOOR, Esq.

M. LACK, Esq.

J. MANSELL, Esq.

R. SELIG, Esq.

H. SUNDERLAND, Esq.

Secretary

M. SORSKY, Esq.

ק"ק בנסת ישראל

United Synagogue

Muswell Hill District Synagogue

ATHENAEUM BUILDINGS, N.10

HONORARY OFFICERS

Wardens:

Dr. I. S. Fox

M. H. Morris

N. J. Heller

Financial Representative:

N. J. Heller

Board of Management:

J. W. Ash

S. Bronstein (Officiating Warden)

N. Escow

L. B. Harris

A. Hershman

L. Hershman

L. Lasky (Officiating Warden)

S. Mogil (Officiating Warden)

S. Posner

J. Sanson

F. H. Shackman

H. Sunderland

Secretary:

M. Sorsky

81, Cranley Gardens, N.10

ק"ק בנסת ישראל

United Synagogue

זמירות ושירות

לשיר במקהלות

ביום דונח בית דבנח

מוחל היל

ביום א', י"ט טבת, שנת תשי"ז

ביום א', י"ט טבת, שנת תשי"ז

Order of Service

AT THE CONSECRATION OF THE

Muswell Hill District Synagogue

ATHENAEUM BUILDINGS, N.10

on

SUNDAY 8th JANUARY, 1950/19th TEBETH, 5710

by

THE VERY REVEREND RABBI ISRAEL BRODIE

CHIEF RABBI

assisted by

Rev. B. N. MICHELSON, B.A., REV. A. ROSENFELD

and REV. M. SHECHTMAN

The Synagogue will be opened by

Dr I. S. FOX

The Choir under the direction of Mr. D. LEVINE

AN EXTRACT FROM:

MUSWELL HILL DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE

NEWSLETTER

ATHENAEUM BUILDINGS
LONDON, N.10.

CHANUKAH 5724 / DECEMBER 1963

EDITORIAL

The dominating Synagogue news at this season of Chanukah 5724 is the fact that Athenaeum has actually been sold and that the building of the new Synagogue is to begin early in the new year. The proceeds of this sale, added to the moneys so magnificently raised by the Functions Committee over the past few years, the generous donations of individual members, plus a relatively small advance from the United Synagogue, have all combined to assure us the bulk of the funds required for this momentous venture.

The new Synagogue is naturally the most important matter occupying the Community at present, but it must not be forgotten that the regular life of the Congregation proceeds normally and that Services, Classes, Committee Meetings, Functions and other activities are regularly taking place. The subsequent pages of this Newsletter give a fair indication, though not a complete catalogue, of what has been happening in Muswell Hill in recent months. We wish all members and their families a very happy Chanukah.

NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to the following new members and their families who have joined the Synagogue since the previous issue of the Newsletter:-

Mr. & Mrs. L. Silver	Mr. & Mrs. B. Franklin
Mr. & Mrs. M. Arnold	Mr. & Mrs. Marlow
Mrs. A. Bonham	Mrs. S. Witriol
Mr. & Mrs. G. Gordon	Mr. & Mrs. A. Wolf
Mr. & Mrs. A. Horne	Mr. M. Chazan
Mr. & Mrs. W. Friedman	

They are cordially invited to join in the activities of the Synagogue and its associated Committees, and the Honorary Officers will be pleased to welcome them at Services and Social and Religious Functions.

I Remember

By Willy Nalkan

On the eve of Yom Kippur this year, to a packed gathering in Athenaeum Large Hall, Mr. Henry Koor, the presiding warden, made this statement - "This will be the last time we shall pray in this hall." To me this meant so much that a lump came into my throat, possibly tears to my eyes.

I stared at him and at the wooden pulpit he was leaning on. I stared at the Ark, at the Naar Tomid above it, at the White Curtain (Parochus) and then studied carefully the shabby old green carpet. Each article brought back memories of personalities and periods of our local Jewish history.

The carpet and Ark were there in 1929 where I was a newcomer (a few months after I married) to Muswell Hill. By "there" I mean the hall - now our Synagogue - that had to be hired annually almost a year in advance for the High Holidays. There were then 15 families members, so the Hall was hardly crowded. Still someone had to arrange the hire. The late Jack Ash did it for many years before I came and also after I came. He was very well connected with the local non-Jewish Muswell Hill circle and achieved much for us through these contacts. We owe a lot to him.

The pulpit (Shende) reminds me of the late Rev. M. Schechtman, because he made it to use in the room of his house in Methuen Park, which became in 1936 our first Synagogue for regular Sabbath and Festival Services. In this room stood this same Ark and also the Eternal Light (Naar Tomid) which was consecrated in this small Synagogue in memory of my late mother.

The White Ark Curtain was acquired more recently in memory of the late Solomon Mogil, a most capable warden who occupied with distinction an office that was at that time hard to fill: and the interior of the Ark adorned so beautifully with materials donated by Harold Jacobs and Percy Ziege.

Rev. S. Brazil in his Yom Kippur sermon this year likened the survival of Judaism to a Relay Race, each generation handing over the traditions to the next. I remembered with pride that Frank Schechtman and I took part in the relay race. We worked in the same firm in 1929 and through our collaboration, his father a few years later became our reader and teacher, and provided the room in his house to be our Synagogue. While Rev. Brazil was speaking I saw near me Mr. Small, Mr. Berkoff and Mr. Wegoda, all of whose children were taught in our Classes even before Rev. Schechtman came, and are now carrying on the Jewish traditions.

In the "thirties" many helped in the Synagogue's development and I can only mention a few names - the late Sammy Green, Jack Ash, Alfred Myers - who were here when I came and joined them in their work. Then Lew Harris and Maurice E. Morris came and brought their efforts to bear. Mr. Harris was for many years the Honorary Secretary and only recently moved to Southgate. Mr. Morris is still with us and working indefatigably for the Community. There was Dr. Israel Fox under whose chairmanship the Athenaeum was secured for the Synagogue - a step that has proved providential. Our present Synagogue was consecrated in 1950, and I then think of Isaac Lasky, Willy Katz, the late Jacob Bernstein and the late Alderman Alfred Kershaw.

Then later the names of Albert Hankin, Samuel Bronstein, Max Lack, Sid Posner, Herman Grunberg and the late Harry Sunderland come to mind. Forcibly however stands out Henry Koor, whose timely injections into the life-blood of the Synagogue enriched and sustained it. This was, to my way of thinking, the work of the Almighty. I likewise think of Rev. and Mrs. Brazil for their timely endeavours, devotion and sincerity. And following in their wake the Broza and Cohen families, all examples of orthodox precept and example. Particularly I mention all the Brueckheimer family without whom the daily morning services would not have been instituted or regularly maintained.

We have many wonderful workers now, for the new Synagogue, among our members, all working hard to raise funds and increase membership. Outstanding are Walter Hertz, Mick Sorsky, Harold Jacobs, Percy Ziege and a host of others - far too many to mention by name. This is, of course, excellent, but above all, it should be borne in mind that however great the need is for money, a strong social conscience is necessary towards young and old and that the Synagogue (with all its traditions) remains as it ever has been, a religious and not a social movement.

AN ODD PLACE TO PLAY I mean PRAY!

Recollections of a Dance Hall - by Pamela Kaufman.

I suppose I should remember the day I was blessed in the summer of 1948 but forgive me if I don't - however, it was, probably, my first visit to the shul in The Atheneum. In all honesty, my first memory is of being terrified by Mr.

Bronstein (pronounced as if you have a severe chest infection) I think the first Hebrew lesson I had was in a corridor, or maybe that was where we used to assemble. All I know is I stood like a quivering wreck as this ancient sage welcomed me - (of course I was only Melvyn's little sister so nobody knew my name) but I do remember thinking that G-d must be like Mr. Bronstein - or at least they must be the same age!!

As a (shy) little girl I would prefer to sit in shul with my father. It was more fun on the bench seats, even though they smelt of moth balls and I used to follow whatever the boys did..... (making sure everyone's tallasim were tied together that is!) The service seemed unending and to this day I am sure I love Ain KelaHanou the best because it means its nearly finished. In those days I didn't know being Jewish was any different to whatever my friends at school were, I only remember wondering why Jews had to pray in a Dance Hall! I used to get very embarrassed if anyone I knew saw me going in - most of the kids at school said the place was full of witches - well it did look a bit sinister from the outside.

Like most small children, shul was about keeping quiet for hours on end, and wearing your best clothes - this meant you had to accomplish the impossible by leaving the building in the same condition as when you arrived, having prayed for at least 2 hours. This was not made easy by the fact that we, the children of the pioneers were no different to today's kids - most of our shul going was spent outside G-d's house! Of course allowing for some usual nagging from the 'praying' adults, we could usually get away with at least 5 minutes good behaviour every hour - after that our time was our own. With my hand on my heart I can only remember one occasion on which I stayed for the whole service, and that was my brother Melvyn's Barmitzva - well I had a front row seat didn't I!

Outside the 'little shul' in the Atheneum was a terrible temptation for children, a veritable wonderland. It was full of strange equipment, like a bar, a cash register, grills begging to be prised open - but best of all turnstiles..... hard to believe, I know but the ladies toilets had turnstiles. Well, competition was great between Rosalie Freeman (Teddy & Albert's), Diane Jacobs (Lona & Harold's), Susan Zeige (Hetty & Percy's) and guess who (Bab's & Arnold's) - we became experts at swinging bodily over the turnstile polls (and keeping clean) - of course aided by such paragons of virtue as, Norman Martin (Celia & Sid's), Warren Levy (Pearl & Sid's), and Ivor Spector (Sadie & Alf's). Even though we are too old to get told off now, I do tremor when I hear Albert Hankin raise his voice!!! But going to shul was always fun.

An Odd Place/continued/.....

I must have learnt something at Hebrew classes, while Lotte Herz and mother Babs prepared sumptuous teas in wartime conditions in the kitchen. Undoubtedly the dressing up bits were the best of cheder- the Purim and Chanukah parties that Rita Brazil made into (educational) West End Shows. Prize Giving was always a big event, when they'd get a famous speaker (or somebody from Woburn House) to talk to us. It was the only academic occasion at which I was commended for anything - but knowing then that every child got a prize could have damaged me for life. The most sacred event of all was Sports days on Parliament Hill, grown men and women steadying an egg on a spoon whilst running for their lives - all in the name of religion - but it was a great way to get together with the other local communities.

Most of us went to non-Jewish schools, so traditional life revolved around the Shul. All our parents were on the PA or the Building Fund (the committees seemed a religion in themselves) I can still remember the smell of Percy Zeige's cigar the morning after a meeting at our house. But it wasn't all good times, our year had more than it's share of tragedy.....the devastating loss of my best friend, Barry Mendleson left a mark on us forever as did the brutal accident which robbed us of Laurence Marron and David Gordon - three boys from our family, who'd grown up in the cheder, been barmitzvahed in our shul and loved the Youth Club.

The Youth Club...Now that was a phenomenon in it's own right. - where it all happened - a real club - I mean before John Hill's time. I mean early Martin Berkoff, I mean going with a group to Lorette de Mar with Jose pregnant with her first! I mean where dynasties like the Kings and the Oshers, joined forces. It always seemed so unfair that we weren't able to go to the dances because we were still too young - (totally unreligious of course, boys dancing with girls) - they were the centre of Rock n'Roll, where we all learnt to jive. However, by the time it was our turn to join in - Muswell Hill Club, or The 'Ath' as it was known, was the hit of London Jewry. Youngsters came from all communities - drinks (soft of course) were served in those enchanting, well furnished class rooms - with the little antique kitchen, and unique lavatory systems whose odour seemed to penetrate every corner of the place- Those were the days. - the 102 bus route was never so busy

Of course memories of the overcrowding in the big dance hall at Yomtovs, remain everlasting. The ladies, if they could get a seat, sat on a balcony, which always felt like it was about to give way and where the smell of perfume was overwhelming. Big hairstyles were the fashion and I remember not being able to see anything because Jennifer Martin was sitting next to Pearl Levy and between them their hair piled up to the ceiling - or so it seemed. All the young girls wanted to sit next to Mrs. Brazil, who was our mentor, and how our mums wished we would listen to them as much as we did to her!! Decorum was a word I learnt from those dance hall yomtovs.

An Odd Place/continued/.....

As you know I am still an undisciplined shul goer, but when it was time to leave the Atheneum I thought praying would take on a whole new look - it was a very sad day for me, and the end of an era for those kids who had grown up within its walls. Of course I was 17 at the time so watching the new shul being built wasn't exactly on the top of list of priorities (sorry Uncle Jo) but I do remember the huge excitement at home, the meetings, then more meetings, everyone was trying to squeeze as much money out of complete strangers as possible - I really thought one day I'd call for Susan Zeige and she'd be buried under a pile of adverts, forever.

So celebrating 30 years in Tetherdown not only makes me feel old, it makes me feel tremendously proud, and part of our communities history. In fact, each time I walk through these doors I am always amazed that the place ever got built, the odds were so great. You know, there is a great satisfaction in carrying on in your parents footsteps, especially workers like mine, although I think my husband has only just forgiven the many who referred to him as Colin Kaufman for years. We are so thrilled that our son Mark and daughter Julietta both attended the cheder classes and celebrated Bar/Batmitzvahs in the shul - there maybe no turnstiles but they managed to find ingenious ways of combining playing with praying too - I suppose it would be too much to ask that our grandchildren (pg) follow on.

Dear Member,

You are no doubt aware that the Synagogue has outgrown its site in Tetbury, N.10. (adjoining Tetbury Grammar School) where it is proposed to build a new Synagogue, at least a classroom and a Communal Hall, which will serve the needs of the community both present and future. Outline planning permission has already been granted by the appropriate authorities.

At the rear of the proposed building there will be space which the Honorary Officers and Board of Management have agreed shall be made available to the Highgate and Muswell Hill Jewish Youth Club for the erection of a new Youth Club.



No room in the Shul

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management have decided that a permanent home for the Synagogue is essential in order to secure a permanent future for the Jewish community in Tetbury. We are writing to inform you that representatives of the Board will be calling on you shortly for this purpose. I do hope that we will be able to count on your co-operation and assistance in this worthy cause.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Davis
President

MUSWELL HILL DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE

Dear Member,

You are no doubt aware that the Synagogue has purchased a site in Tetherdown, N.10. (adjoining Tollington Grammar School) where it is proposed to build a new Synagogue, at least 6 classrooms and a Communal Hall, which will serve the needs of the community both present and future. Outline planning permission has already been granted by the appropriate authorities.

At the rear of the proposed building there will be space which the Honorary Officers and Board of Management have agreed shall be made available to the Highgate and Muswell Hill Jewish Youth Club for the erection of a new Youth Club.

The Congregation's growth, both in number and spirit, has been very marked in recent years, and the need for new premises from every communal aspect is both necessary and urgent. You will, however, appreciate that the proposed cost of such a project is very considerable, and the total cost of the land, buildings and appurtenances will amount to approximately £90,000. Out of this sum we will be in a position to raise and borrow approximately £66,000, but we need the balance of £24,000 immediately from our Congregation, in order that building can be commenced.

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management have therefore decided that a personal approach be made to every member of the Synagogue in order to secure donations either in cash, by Deed of Covenant, or pledges for the Building Fund, and I am writing to inform you that representatives of the Board will be calling on you shortly for this purpose. I do hope that we will be able to count on your co-operation and assistance in this worthy cause.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Koor

Presiding Warden.

1963/4

ON WITH THE SHOW.....

As a past secretary of the Parents Association for 13 years, but not the first, I have been asked to recall a few memories from the exciting days of the old P.A.

The P.A. started when we had a large number of children in the community, and at a time when there were very few Jewish schools. So like many other schools we established a proper cheder as we felt it essential that our children had the opportunity of having a Jewish education and the companionship of other Jewish children.

Our aims were to provide extra and better teachers than were generally provided by the United Synagogue. The provision of books and equipment was also one of our top priorities. We were very successful in our endeavours, for in 1963 we had 130 children enrolled in our classes. We even managed to have the highest mid-week attendance figures in London!

We were particularly good at raising money at our numerous functions, which included the Mini Raffle, Quiz Suppers, New Year Parties for the adults, and parties at Purim and Chanukah. We held competition cricket matches at Brook Farm, Whetstone. For several years we organised an Annual Sports Day at Parliament Hill Fields in conjunction with the cheders from Palmers Green and Southgate. When the Jewish schools were established, the numbers in the cheders began to dwindle, with the result that amalgamations took place and the small cheders disappeared.

In those halcyon days before the decline in attendance, no charge was made to Parents for their children's Jewish education, so our £1 subscription per year to the P.A. was given willingly.

The P.A. was particularly famous for its P.A. Players. We started as an Old Thyme Music Hall show, but soon progressed to a full Musical Review, and very successful we were too. Our success was largely due to the original and brilliant lyrics written by Marian Cohen (the Brazil's sister-in-law). She adapted lyrics relevant to our community from popular songs from the shows. As we were in the throes of raising money for the synagogue as well as the classes, money surplus to the requirements of the children were handed over to the F.R., Harold Jacobs, who never missed a trick when it came to amassing money for the school! We were so successful that other organisations booked our shows to help them raise money for their own funds. When we did these outside shows the lyrics were adapted to suit their audiences.

OH AND BY THE WAY.....

The first Kindergarden and Batmitzvahs took place in 1973. The first Barmitzvah was a double event in 1965 in our new school, and the two boys were Richard Grosse and Keith Eriera! I now understand that events have gone full circle and that Stanley and Amanda Miller want to start a cheder again in Muswell Hill. I, for one, wish them every success in this venture. I have always lamented the fact that we no longer have Hebrew classes in Muswell Hill, believing that the children are the heart and soul of any community. Muswell Hill will benefit greatly if their efforts come to fruition.

As a past secretary of the Parents Association for 15 years, but not the first, I have been asked to recall a few memories from the exciting days of the old P. A.

OH AND BY THE WAY

[illegible]

ק"ס בנסת ישראל

United Synagogue

זמירות ושירות

לשיר במקלות

ביום חנוכת בית הכנסת

מוזול דילי

1965



Muswell Hill District Synagogue

31, TETHERDOWN, N.10

Order of Service

at the

UNVEILING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE

and

CONSECRATION

of the

SYNAGOGUE, COMMUNAL HALL AND CLASSROOMS

on

SUNDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER, 1965/15th ELLUL, 5725

The Consecration and Service will be conducted by

DAYAN DR. M. LEW, B.A.,

REV. S. BRAZIL and REV. S. HASS

The Foundation Stone will be unveiled by

M. H. MORRIS, ESQ.

and the Synagogue will be opened by

HENRY KOOR, ESQ.

Choir under the direction of Mr. P. BAUMBERG

ק"ס בנסת ישראל

United Synagogue

MUSWELL HILL DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE

Minister:

Rev. S. BRAZIL

Hon. President:

Dr. I. S. FOX

Wardens:

M. BROZA, Esq.

H. KOOR, Esq.

Financial Representative:

H. JACOBS, Esq.

Members of the Board of Management and
Representatives on District Synagogues Council:

L. COHEN, Esq.

G. GODDARD, Esq.

M. GROSSE, Esq.

H. GRUNBERG, Esq.

A. HANKIN, Esq.

W. HERZ, Esq.

M. LEVRANT, Esq.

M. H. MORRIS, Esq.

N. PAMPEL, Esq.

S. POSNER, Esq.

J. ROTH, Esq.

P. ZIEGE, Esq.

Secretary:

M. SORSKY, Esq.

Architect:

J. MENDLESON, Esq.

A Brick by Brick Account

BY JOSEPH MENDELSON F.R.I.B.A.

On the 12th September 1965, the present Synagogue was consecrated, thus by next September it will have been in continuous use for 25 years as a House of Worship, a House of Study and Learning, a Cheder for our children and for various activities and festivities, including Weddings and Barmitzva's. A Youth Club building adjoining but entirely separate was added about two years later so that the whole development became an extremely useful and closely knit complex.

In retrospect, how did this all come about?

After World War II the Community began to grow and the Rev Shackman found an acceptable house in which to hold services, but this soon became inadequate, so in or around 1948, a number of Jewish businessmen purchased the Atheneum Hall in Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill and had a section of the building converted into a very small but pleasant Synagogue, with its own ancillary accommodation, which included the "Bronze Hall" and the "Petite Suite", not quite as glamorous as they may sound, but nevertheless very useful.

The remainder of the premises was separately let as a private/public dance hall, entirely divorced from the Synagogue.

The membership grew rapidly: young, keen, enterprising families, moved into the area and it soon became blatantly obvious that larger premises would be required in the not too distant future, to satisfy the rapidly expanding and exceptionally virile congregation.

Consequently, a Building Fund was started for the future project, but initially this took time to develop and gather momentum until one man came to the fore and stood out, sometimes against intense opposition, and that was the late Henry Koor. Although small in stature, he was a giant among men, with great strength of purpose, vision, drive and a capacity to coerce the best out of those around him.

He stirred individuals, so that some achieved great feats, by literally going from door to door, cup in hand, for funds.

Others arranged functions or gave physical assistance whenever necessary, often working long into the night, such was the intensity of their fervour and effort. The response was tremendous and electric.

It was Henry Koor who approached and invited me to submit a preliminary scheme based on a very comprehensive brief that he and his co-honorary Officers had prepared at that time.

The first steps were to sell the Atheneum and to acquire a site on which to build.

I therefore prepared a sketch scheme, which included a Supermarket and a number of flats, and obtained Planning Permission. This established a site value and enabled the Atheneum to be sold to Sainsbury's for a reasonable sum.

In turn, this provided the funds to purchase the site on which the Synagogue now stands and left an appreciable amount of money to be added to a relatively small Building Fund. On this basis the United Synagogue agreed in principle that the project could proceed, subject to very stringent budget and cost control.

Strangely enough, this can be an advantage in design, for it exerts discipline on the designer, which is a fundamental principle of good design, as against abandonment of these principles where one can go berserk and the result becomes an aesthetic nightmare.

Thus I thought of a simple box structure in the form of solid brick walls, supporting simple steel castellated beams over quite long spans, with a prefabricated patent wood-wool slab covering, topped with asphalt to achieve a waterproof layer, to form the roof.

Transparent domelights were introduced in the roof between the steel beams on either side of the main building to provide shafts of daylight internally where these were most needed.

Another larger dome-light was placed immediately above the Bima, this being enclosed by a substantial metal Lantern, to deflect the daylight down to the Reader's Desk and to emphasize the central point.

Artificial lighting was incorporated inside the lantern. The other main source of daylight was created by the introduction of tall narrow windows in the East Wall, separated by reinforced art-stone self-finished mullions. Echoing the mullions in the centre section are substantial timber slats with shaped metal strips held on horizontal rods that span between these slats. They signify in a stylized manner, trees and birds: "The Tree of Life" and "The Birds of the Air", both playing significant parts in the evolution and life of man.

The Ark also received much attention, being the sacred core and central hub of the edifice, and I designed both the gates and the motif on the Main Curtain.

Although I have as yet only mentioned parts of the

effect of the treatment of the East Wall on the main facade externally, and as part of the Brief was to provide a Minister's Robing Room. I used the projection to form a feature that includes the large sculptural mural panel, made, incidentally, by a special process, from glass-fibre mixed with bronze powder, a cheaper version of solid bronze.

To finish the interior of the Main Synagogue, I created a decorative suspended plaque with pressed steel slats and hangers covered by selected Oregon pine slats fixed with 10,000 self-tapping screws.

Recessed fluorescent fittings were incorporated to provide a general artificial lighting. The timber surface also functions as a resonant acoustic baffle. It is, not solely decorative.

Hidden above the suspended plaque is a large extract fan to remove air and give some air circulation when required. This has rarely been used, although available. Around the walls at the lower level, relatively cheap preformed birch-faced plywood planks of varying widths were used as panelling, with ebonised block-board fascias above for continuity and to provide a strong horizontal motif. This fascia is also continued round the demountable partition which separates the Synagogue from the Communal Hall adjoining, so that while in position the shape of the regular Synagogue appears permanent.

During construction, I was told that the late Walter Herz had raised funds for a memorial window to commemorate victims of the Holocaust.

The main walls carry the main roof and supporting steel beams, so the opening width for the window had to be restricted to just over three feet and this dictated the size of the window and the shape of the design.

I placed the opening in the South Wall with a clock immediately below this to signify time being endless.

The window was brilliantly and ingeniously designed by that great international artist Abe Games, who, together with his late father were at the time members of the Synagogue. Needless to say, his services were free.

This dramatic glass-fibre and barbed wire mural window is enhanced in my view by the plain stark wall surfaces that surround it, making the result more powerful and prominent. It weighed three quarters of a ton and required scaffolding and lifting gear to place it in position. The Gentile artist, an ex-pupil of Abe Games, refused payment for making this masterpiece in view of the cause, and only charged for the actual material used. Its sparkle is retained at night by the artificial lights I incorporated in the fabric for that purpose, otherwise it would have become a dull patch on the wall.

An Israeli Student at the Hornsey School of Art made

the brass letters from a sheet I gave him. These are fixed on the black fascia below and at the side of the clock and read as follows:

"From the depths I called unto thee".

Another interesting and important structural element of the building is the balcony, which appears to be entirely unsupported, except at each extreme end. Its plan shape was adopted to create the maximum open space and visual angles for the men on the ground, looking up to the main ceiling and for the women, looking across the interior diagonally. Furthermore, as the face of each has considerable space in front, good sight lines were more easily achieved. If they had faced each other, that would have been more difficult. This is a fundamental and very important factor, often ignored by some architects, with disastrous results.

The balcony supports stem from the fronts which are in fact, reinforced concrete upstand beams and other beams that are incorporated in the steps of the balcony, but hidden by the underside ceiling soffits.

The main balcony at the rear, forms the ceiling of the Rose Epstein Hall and the side balcony is partly above the Main Entrance Foyer, so every bit of space is utilised.

Two classrooms are formed out of part of the main balcony and two out of the Rose Epstein Hall.

There is provision for approximately 276 mens seats and 250 womens seats in the permanent Synagogue, which can be increased up to about 960 seats in total when demountable partitions are removed.

The rear wing contains a further four classrooms, one being used as a Boardroom and two of the others as a Beth Hamedrash, which incidentally contains the Ark and other appurtenances from the Athenaeum.

I have been asked many times what inspired me and how I obtained my ideas for the project. It is a difficult question to answer, but in all honesty I do not know.

I did get some valuable guidance from Rabbi Brazil on religious aspects and detail, he being always at hand to advise me, but otherwise I would say that it was training, an aptitude for detail and above all, one per cent inspiration and ninety nine per cent perspiration. Perhaps it was also a deep spiritual feeling for the subject and a hidden hand that motivated and guided me to produce something extraordinary.

Finally and fittingly, the Shool was officially opened by that grand and gracious Lady, Mrs Fan Morris now 95 years of age, the wife of the late M. H. Morris, who was President of the Synagogue at the time, but too ill to attend.

The new building was consecrated by dayan M. Lew and Rabbi Brazil in a very moving and dignified manner.

**AN EXTRACT
FROM:**

HELP THE BUILDING FUND



1965

ANNUAL DINNER & BALL

MUSWELL HILL JEWISH YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Message from the Chairman

I extend on behalf of the Building Fund Committee a most cordial welcome to our guests this evening.

Funds from this function are being used to repay the large sums of monies which we have borrowed for the building of our new Synagogue, Communal Hall, Classrooms and provision of Youth Club facilities in Muswell Hill.

Now that our beautiful building has been erected people might think that the task is over. In fact, we are just beginning and your further active help is essential, for our project requires a continuous effort for some years to come.

The continual support of Advertisers in our Brochure and Donors of gifts to the Tombola and Raffle are sincerely appreciated.

Our grateful thanks are again due to all members of our Committee, exceptional workers who never seem to tire and whose efforts have ensured the success of tonight's function.

MONTY BROZA

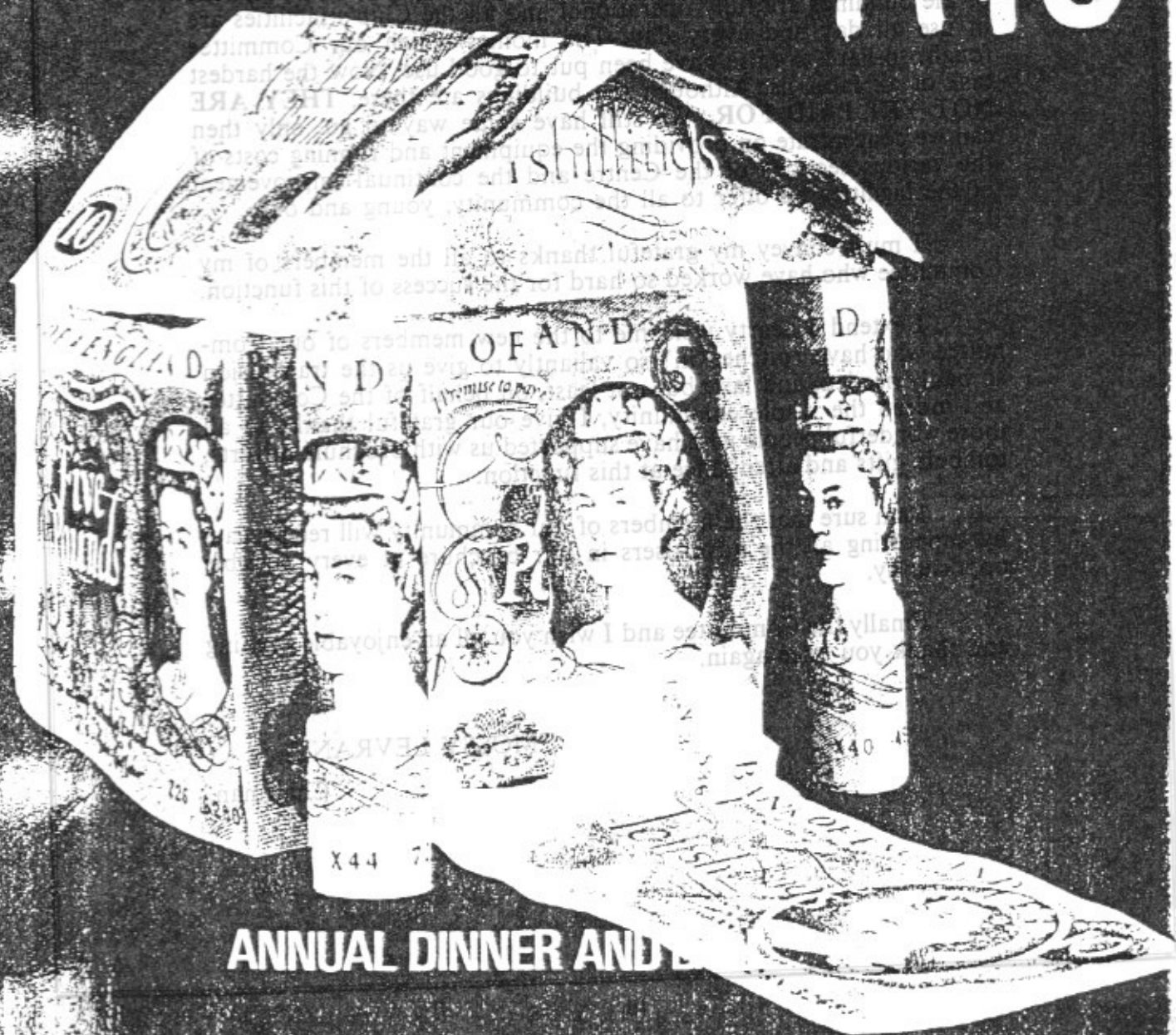
Chairman

This space has been donated anonymously

EXTRACTS FROM:

help the building fund

1970



ANNUAL DINNER AND

MUSWELL HILL JEWISH YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Chairman's Message

Dear Friends,

It is with humble pride that I write this year's Chairman's Message. We are so nearly there! Our wonderful Community Centre is a living actuality, the Youth Club Building is completed, all sections of the buildings are fully operational and all the Club's facilities are in use all day and every day. The monies which our Committee fought so hard to raise have been put to good use. Now the hardest task of all faces us. Although the buildings are there, **THEY ARE NOT YET PAID FOR.** We still have some way to go, only then can we concentrate on providing the equipment and running costs of the various sections of the Centre and the continual improvement of the facilities we offer to all the community, young and old.

I must convey my grateful thanks to all the members of my Committee who have worked so hard for the success of this function.

I extend a hearty welcome to the new members of our Committee who have "pitched in" so valiantly to give us the transfusion so badly needed, and last, but not least, on behalf of the Committee and indeed the whole community, I give our grateful thanks to all those wonderful people who have supported us with brochure adverts, tombola gifts and attendance at this function.

I am sure that the members of our community will reciprocate by supporting all the advertisers in our brochure at every possible opportunity.

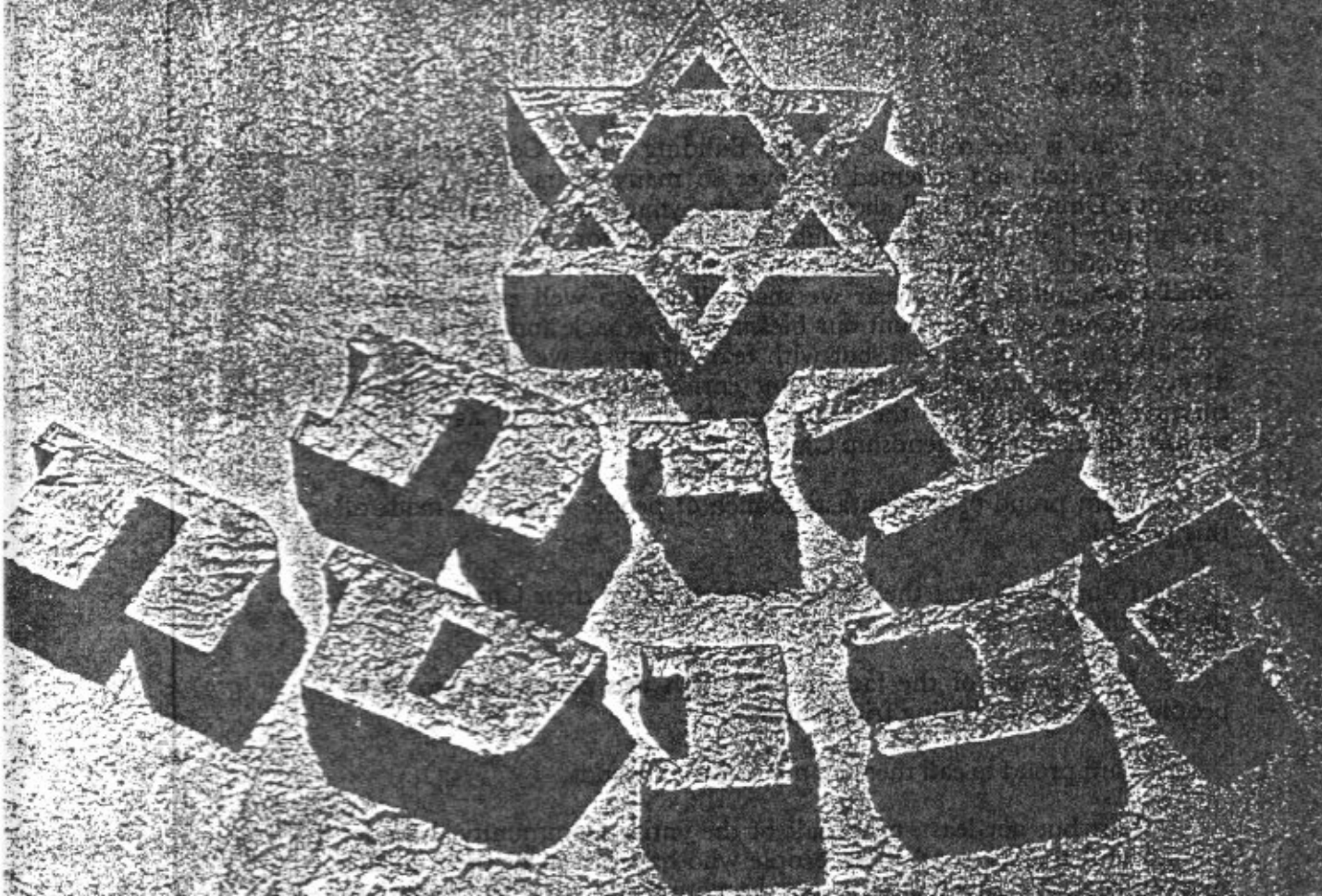
Finally the Committee and I wish you all an enjoyable evening and thank you once again.

MOSSY LEVRANT,

Chairman.

EXTRACT FROM:

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



"Help the Building Fund"

ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL

1971

Muswell Hill Jewish Youth & Community Centre

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

This is the night we of the Building Fund Committee have worked, waited and schemed for over so many years. The results of tonight's Dinner and Ball should see our Synagogue, Communal Hall, Friendship Club and Youth Club almost paid for. This has taken a most fantastic effort by a relatively small committee on behalf of a small Community. Next year we shall all take a well earned rest, sit back, lick our wounds, count our blessings, look back and laugh a little, perhaps cry a little as well, but with tears of joy as we look with pride at our tremendous achievement. Our entire community centre is now running successfully for the youngsters right through all ages to our senior citizens of the Friendship Club.

I am proud of the fantastic bunch of people who have made all this possible.

I am proud that they have accepted me as their Chairman over the last three years.

I am proud of the fact that through this committee, so many people have formed lasting friendships.

I am proud to call them all my personal friends.

Last but not least, on behalf of the entire Community, I tender our grateful thanks to all those people who have given us their invaluable support, by advertising in our brochure and for their donations and gifts.

Once again I remind our community that they can repay a little of these kindnesses by using the Yellow Pages of our brochure as their number 1 shopping guide.

Thank you all once again,

Yours most sincerely,

Mossy Levrant

EXTRACT FROM

Community Charity Fund Report on Dec 2nd
At the May

Chairman's Message

1973

Jewish Male Choir

Choir

Choir

Choir

Choir

Choir

Choir

Choir

Chairman's Message

I have just been reading the Chairman's letter in last year's brochure, in which my predecessor, Mossy Levrant, wound up the Building Fund. What a sigh of relief must have gone up when people read that "there was now no longer a need for a Building Fund as such". What a disappointment when it was realised that the Building Fund was dead, but the Community and Charities Fund had taken its place.

Yes, the Synagogue building may be almost paid for. Certainly not the Youth Club premises. Nor the cost of the upkeep of both in the manner we think they deserve. Unless our shool bill is to reach astronomical proportions, we have got to subsidise it by our functions. Then there are the very many local and national charities which we support. As a community with a sense of responsibility, we cannot let our obligations go by default; the amount needed is £4-5,000 a year.

This has been a very difficult year for this committee. First, the apathy engendered by the thought that no more money was needed. Then the tragic Yom Kippur war, when everybody's energies were rightly turned to Israel's needs. Our shool rose magnificently to the occasion. Could we have co-ordinated such efforts without a shool? Just one more reason to support it — and these functions.

We have a very small committee this year; mainly a few of the old faces, but these have given Trojan service and earn my grateful thanks. It is invidious to mention names. Everybody has worked to capacity. However meagre our achievements, we would not have attained this without their tremendous efforts. My thanks to you all. I sincerely hope that you will support my successor equally well.

Finally, thank you all for your support.

Sincerely,

JACK ROTH

TALKING ABOUT COMMITTEES

You were right, Pam, I have been around for a long time, 37 years in fact, serving the Muswell Hill Community, and thank God, still in harness having been involved in organising the 30th Anniversary celebrations.

In 1958 Bill and I were invited to join the Building Fund by Hetty Zeige. Shortly afterwards, Babs Kaufman resigned as secretary to the late Harry Sunderland and I was asked to take over. I worked with him (I being thirty something and he over eighty) until he retired as Brochure Chairman. I mention the question of age because in the "old days", all age groups worked happily together within the various committees, Hetty Zeige then became Chairman and together we raised £40,000 from the Brochure alone and she was crowned Brochure Queen!

The Building Fund was a highly professional, hard working and close-knit committee raising funds to achieve the dream of our warden, the late Henry Koor, - to erect a purpose built Synagogue for the community of Muswell Hill. This came to fruition in 1965. The committee continued for several years but, around 1974, Mrs Brazil asked me to take a more active part in the work of the Guild commencing as Membership Chairman, graduating to Treasurer then Chairman in 1985 the year of the 25th anniversary when the Guild was responsible for the celebration dinner. I then resumed my duties as Treasurer until the sad demise of the Guild in February 1994.

During most of this period, for 15 years in fact until 1994 (together with my husband until his death in 1985) I served on the Board of Management having taken over from the late Dollie Lubell when one Guild representative was allowed "observer status" only.

Over the years I have also contributed regularly to the Synagogue magazine on diverse subjects such as the Guild, The Association of United Synagogue Women (alias U.S. Synagogue Ladies Guilds) this has brought us a long way from "observer status" and we now have a full voice in the running of communal affairs with women on the Board. I am also associated with the Muswell Hill and Highgate groups of the League of Jewish Women and the International Council of Jewish Women having represented them at home and abroad at conferences and seminars, which has greatly broadened my horizons.

Within my work for the community lasting friendships have been cemented. I greatly value the friendship of so many wonderful families within the community and I hope that present and future members will enjoy the same comraderie and caring that has been synonymous with the name of the Muswell Hill Synagogue.

I hope to bring you an update for the 35th anniversary in the year of the millennium!

Stella Sandzer.

THE BEST PART OF 30 YEARS - A PERSONAL VIEW

My wife and I have been members of the Minswell Hill Community for nearly 25 years the majority of the life of the building. When we joined the "holy trinity" were still in power Henry Koor, Monty Broza and Harold Jacobs who together had conceived planned and built the synagogue. Rabbi Brazil was still a Rev. and Mrs. Thornley was still running the kitchen.

Gradually the life of the community changed. The PA which had been the backbone of the social side of the community gave way to a new one which has provided most of the leadership of the community over the last 15 years. The Building Fund gave way to the Community Fund, but without the same success or purpose. There will never be another

Hetty Zeiger

1907 1965 1995 2000

30 years on into the Millenium

very new faces in the shul from my first visit; indeed there are very few people who remember the 3 honorary officers who opened the building. Joe Mendelson the architect of the building, and Freda Mendelson his wife who together with Vicky Green founded the Luncheon Club are still around. We have been very fortunate with Synagogue secretaries for the community and that for the majority of the life of the building we have been served only by Jack Roth and Albert Hankin who we have given a very special service and continuity to the community.

"Warm and friendly" is the epithet that easily comes to mind to describe the community. Every Simcha belongs to each of us and we endure each other's tragedies; regrettably there have been no shortage of tragedies through the years strengthening the great spirit of the community. For a long time Leon Leigh was our shammash even everything else and who

THE BEST PART OF 30 YEARS - A PERSONAL VIEW

My wife and I have been members of the Muswell Hill Community for nearly 25 years the majority of the life of the building. When we joined the "holy triumvirate" were still in power Henry Koor, Monty Broza and Harold Jacobs who together had conceived planned and built the synagogue. Rabbi Brazil was still a Rev. and Mrs Thornley was still running the kitchen. This team dominated the first 10 years of the community.

Gradually the life of the community changed. The PA which had been the backbone of the social side of the community gave way to Hahorim which has provided most of the leadership of the community over the last 15 years. The Building Fund gave way to the C Community Fund, but without the same success or purpose. There will never be another Hetty Zeige.

The face of the membership has changed dramatically. Members have passed away, gone on aliya and some have even had the audacity to move to other communities. There are very few faces in the shul from my first visit; indeed there are very few people who remember the 3 honorary officers who opened the building. Joe Mendelson the architect of the building, and Freda Mendelson his wife who together with Vicky Green founded the Luncheon Club are still around. We have been very fortunate with Synagogue secretaries for the community and that for the majority of the life of the building we have been served only by Jack Roth and Albert Hankin who we have given a very special service and continuity to the community.

"Warm and friendly" is the epithet that easily comes to mind to describe the community. Every Simcha belongs to each of us and we endure each other's tragedies, regrettably there have been no shortage of tragedies through the years strengthening the great spirit of the community. For a long time Leon Leigh was our shammash cum everything else and who

can forget the Seudah he prepared every Saturday afternoon. Our children grew up there, the Seudah is still a special event in Muswell Hill.

The last 30 years have seen at least 4 rabbanin produced Avi Brazil, James Kennard, Adam Hill and shortly Simon Abeles; two Honorary) officers of the United Synagogue, Alan Kennard and Les Wagner who together with Bernard Krichefski served on the committee to select the Chief Rabbi not to mention our own Commander of the Bath, Michael Abrams. We have been fortunate in having a very stable community with only Rabbis Brazil and Shindler and the most reliable caring Honorary Officers, a list of whom is annexed, the last 20 years have been dominated by Leo Abeles, Howard Fox and Michael Abrams and it has been a pleasure to serve with each of them.

A major change in the community over the 30 years has been the demise of the Hebrew classes for which most of its life was dominated by Mrs Brazil. Who can ever forget "Tora Tora Tora" and I do not mean the World War II movie. With the advent of Jewish primary schools like most synagogues we have lost our Hebrew classes but the children's' service and the toddlers' service are very strong. Jeremy Pollins and Jackie Carlebach are doing a tremendous job in this respect.

For the many years the ladies' guild was under Mrs Brazil's domain followed by Gloria Morgan and then Estelle Gunstock. To the regret of some the ladies' guild has now passed into history and its functions are distributed elsewhere within the community. Though we have never been regarded as one of the wealthier communities in London it is with great pride that we have never been a "deficit synagogue" thanks to Harold Jacobs, Howard Fox, Anthony Sober, Avran Shapir and last but not least Colin Wagman. When called upon in emergencies such as 1967, 1973 and 1991 our fund raising for Israel compared with any community in the land. The majority of our younger people in recent years have spent at least a year in Israel indeed several members of the community have gone on

We had the Norwood Houses in the community for a long time. Sheila and David Miller were a firm feature of the shul. Dave even became a warden. Their Simcha's were real community Simchas.

Clore House has always had a firm place in the hearts of all members. There has been for many years support committee and young men of the community in particular Nicky Mansfield, Max Lewis, Daniel Abeles, Alex Shindler and my son Aron supported and kept going the Minyan on a very regular basis. Regrettably most of them are away from the area now and the Minyan only takes place on a more irregular basis.

My family has had strong memories whilst being in the community, the especial ones that come to mind apart from Simchas of our family and close friends are the duets of Rabbi Brazil and his son Avi shortly before the Rabbi's retirement, Jeremy Freedman's first public appearance on the Bima and tragic news of Eileen Freedman's death on the second day of Rosh Hashanah last year.

We look forward to the next thirty years!!

Message for the 30th Anniversary Dinner

The Mishna, in the Ethics of the Fathers, identifies a number of 'landmark' stages in life. Thirty years is one of these. 'Ben sh'loshim l'ko-ach' - 'at thirty years,' says Rabbi Yehudah ben Taymah, 'a person achieves full strength.' This refers not only to physical prowess but also to spiritual attainment.

In this 125th Anniversary year since the founding of the United Synagogue, we celebrate thirty years in this building. Its erection, thirty years ago, inspired and driven by the tireless efforts of our members, many of whom are now the 'elders' of the synagogue, marked a kind of 'coming - of - age' of the Muswell Hill Community.

'Ko-ach' not only denotes strength. It also means potential. Thirty years on, the community has reached maturity and this anniversary is an opportunity to take stock of our strengths and plan for the future. Apart from a range of on-going established activities such as the Friendship club and JACS., we have seen, in recent years, an influx of many younger families who are associating with our community.

We boast one of the most successful childrens' services in the United Synagogue, a flourishing toddlers' group, active S.E.E.D. learning programmes for both men and for women plus a varied and vigorous programme of other communal events. Thirty years on, therefore, we can take heart that there indeed exists here a great deal of 'ko-ach' - human potential.

May it please the Almighty to help us to develop that potential, both individually and collectively, so that our community will continue to flourish and thrive for many years to come.

Rabbi Dr. Julian Shindler

מספר 10000 77
 מוסדות
 זמירות ושרות
 לפרטים
 חתום: מרתה פרידמאן
 777 7777

Muswell Hill District Synagogue
 31, LUTHERAN RD
 N10

Order of Service

at the
 UNVEILING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE
 and
 CONSECRATION
 of the
 SYNAGOGUE, COMMUNAL HALL, AND CLASSROOMS
 on
 SUNDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER (JEWISH EILUL 529)

The Consecration and Service will be conducted by
 Rabbi Dr. M. J. Fox, M.A.
 Rev. S. Meiri and Rev. S. Hays

The Foundation Stone will be unveiled by
 Mr. M. Morris, Esq.
 and the Synagogue will be opened by
 Henry Kinn, Esq.

Please make the donation of Mr. P. Bussaniga.

THE BUILDING FUND

MHPA... Presents
A WESTERN PURIM PARTY
 Only \$5 (Lobby 250)
 at the BAR-MITZVAH
 FRANCH
 ROSE EPSTEIN HALL, SYNAGOGUE,
 TETHERDOWN N 10
 15-11.30 SUNDAY MARCH 2nd '89
 WESTERN or CASUAL TUES
 GRUB STAKES - LOULIE - DANCE



THE LIBRARY

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

MUSWELL HILL SYNAGOGUE LADIES GUILD
 invite all
 MEMBERS and FRIENDS
 (including Children) to their
 CHANUKAH
 BRINGING and BUNN
 COFFEE MORNING 10.15
 SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER
 ROSE EPSTEIN HALL
 MUSWELL HILL SYNAGOGUE
 INCLUDING RECEPTIONS TETHERDOWN

TETHERDOWN

THE INDEX
 1985-1995
 MUSWELL HILL SYNAGOGUE LADIES GUILD
 SUNDAY April 24th 1988
 7.30pm
 Tickets £7.50 (incl. refreshments)

THE YOUTH CLUB

HA KORIM

MUSWELL HILL SYNAGOGUE

PLAYERS PLEASE
 THURS 8.00 and SATS 10.00 FEBRUARY 1989

ADULTS' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
 Full Page £10.00
 Half Page £5.00
 Quarter Page £2.50

BEYOND THE PYRAMIDS
 STELLA SANDLER
 ON Wednesday 25th January 1989
 8pm. FRONTR!
 ROSE EPSTEIN HALL, MUSWELL HILL SYNAGOGUE N 10
 Donation £2 including refreshments

THE HERDOWNS

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

THE LADIES GUILD

WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER '85

ON THE
ROSE EPSTEIN HALL
7.30pm PROMPT
TICKETS £15.00p

SPORTS DAYS

JUDY LENS
 TEL: 0181-883-5884

MUSWELL HILL SYNAGOGUE
 CHANUKAH NIGHT
 SUPPER
 KLEZMER
 SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER
 TETHERDOWN N10