

SYNAGOGUE CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Our week of celebration began on the morning of the 5th November when towards the end of the Sabbath morning service 200 children of all ages came into the Synagogue and sat on the floor to listen to a "story" related by Rabbi Jackson, and then the children themselves conducted the end of the service. In the evening each child was presented with a special gift as a memento of the anniversary.

On Tuesday November 8th we held a Brains Trust with a distinguished panel of speakers and it was a very interesting evening.

On the following two evenings a revue was presented entitled "The Jubilee Line" which was written, directed and produced by Stephen Kirsch and the entire cast were members of the community. It was an excellent show with topical and hilarious sketches and it played to capacity houses on both nights.

A family dinner took place in the Max Weinbaum Hall on Friday evening, the 11th November and over 230 guests, including many children, dined together. There was a superb family atmosphere and the highlight of the evening was a speech by the Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks who, with his wife, were the guests of honour.

The following morning there was a Commemorative Shabbat Service in the presence of the Chief Rabbi who gave the sermon, and also present was the former Chief Rabbi Lord

Jakobovits who was accompanied by Lady Jakobovits. Several local dignitaries attended among whom were the Rev. Spring of the Free Church and also Linda Bailey of the Golders Green Police Community Services. There was a festive kiddush after the service.

This momentous week in our community culminated in a dinner at the Dorchester which was hosted by Mr and Mrs Fred Worms (long-standing members) and the Guest of Honour was Lord Young. Mr Worms and Lord Young gave interesting speeches and there was an unexpected contribution from Mr John Segal who had not really intended to speak but as he is now 93 and one of the original members of the community, he felt he should say a few words. He recalled vividly the early days of the Suburb when he came to look for a plot on which to build his house . . . "there were fields as far as the eye could see . . . and almost no roads, only dirt tracks."

Amongst the 350 guests attending was Rev. I. Levy who was the first Minister in 1936 and Rabbi Jackson gave a composite 'vote of thanks' to him and other Rabbis past and present who had served the community. Grace after Meals was conducted by the Rev. Emmanuel Freilich, the greatly loved and highly respected Cantor of the Synagogue for many years from 1948 until his retirement, who was accompanied by his wife, June.

During the evening the Youth Dramatic Society presented a short play from an original script by Linda Glancy, the 15-year-old daughter of one of our members. The youngsters had all worked hard and gave us an imaginative production on an interesting theme.

This was indeed a great and memorable week which will be long remembered by the entire community and we look forward to our 70th anniversary, proud of our past and confident in the future. **Shirley Kleiman**



Old girls' get-together

The Henrietta Barnett Old Girls Association will be holding our Old Girls Annual Dinner on Monday 20th March 1995 and anyone who has attended the school is most welcome. We would be particularly interested in anyone who left the school 10 or 20 years ago. Anyone interested in coming can obtain further details by contacting Mrs Louise Eilan on 0181 455 3581.

Greening the Suburb - an English Heritage initiative

An English Heritage report sent this month to LB Barnet makes a point that whilst buildings on the Suburb are subject to rigorous planning controls the same degree of attention has not been given to the wider townscape. They advocate a holistic approach and make a number of specific proposals for the Suburb.

Traffic calming

A comprehensive strategy for traffic calming for the whole area is urged and they point out that "one of the most important characteristics of the Suburb is the consciously planned relationship between the buildings, their

boundaries, the footways, verges, planting and carriageways. This is a very subtle factor which could be wrecked by misguided interference in the highway." For this reason many conventional traffic calming measures are wholly unsuitable.

English Heritage are particularly

critical of the recessed parking bays in Hampstead Way which "have accelerated traffic speeds and compromised the linear geography of the footways and carriageways".

Footways

The report expresses concern at the gradual loss of carefully designed elements such as the original paving slabs which "have a textured aggregate surface in a variety of subtle tones of grey and pink which provide an effective neutral backdrop to the buildings". The patchwork effect where harsh white concrete slabs have been used as replacements is deplored.

This is particularly noticeable at the top end of Hampstead Way.

Verges

Road verges are a vital component of the Suburb's layout and a long term strategy is needed for their preservation or replacement "Grass verges have a major softening effect. Where they have been removed the street is more sterile, the streetscape harsher and the original design intention diminished."

They recommend that verges over 18" wide, now tarmac, be replaced systematically with grass and that the red brick pavior verges be repaired or replaced.

Street furniture

A number of recommendations are made to reduce street clutter caused by the unplanned proliferation of road signs, bollards and other street furniture.

The RA is considering undertaking a detailed audit of street furniture.

The Residents Association Executive Committee has warmly welcomed the report and is hoping to initiate a working party with a positive approach including representatives from LB Barnet, the Trust and the RA to try to implement many of English Heritage's proposals.

Richard Wakefield

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