

The Organ of the Bristol Jewish Community

SAYING OF THE MONTH

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children."

(Deut. vi, 6/7).

The Festival of Chanukah, which we celebrate this month, is best known for the ceremony each evening of the kindling of the lights in our homes and in the midst of our family circle. To have the opportunity of performing this time-honoured function with many of our families once more reunited after the anxious separation of the past war years should be particularly welcomed this year. But for many people who find the present times darkened by doubt and made gloomy with fears of the future, the significant symbolism of the shining lights—increasing in number throughout the Festival—should carry a cheerful message of optimism and should revive in them a determination to look forward to the future with resolute hopes and steady confidence.

Towards this end, we may well fortify ourselves by recalling that our heroic Maccabean ancestors were inclined and empowered to resist evil and aggression because they were inspired by the teachings of their religious leaders, and realised the paramount necessity of keeping alight the living flame of Judaism—even in their darkest hours and direst distress. They were imbued with a keen sense of personal and communal duty to pass on to their offspring the sacred and strengthening religious principles which had, in turn, been handed down to them by past generations.

To-day the Jew—indeed in common with all humanity—finds himself beset by problems and difficulties no less formidable and terrifying than those which faced the Maccabeans—but, alas, far less adequately equipped with the spiritual force and religious resources to face them with hope and confidence, and to overcome them by the strength of that firm faith which assuredly brings success to all endeavours.

In recent years, our own religious leaders have been forced into a realisation of the necessity for moral re-armament, and many of them have taken advantage of the opportunity of contact with Jewish personnel in the Services to lead such a campaign with the object of rekindling the flickering flame of religion by an urge for spiritual inspiration and a desire for religious knowledge.

Such movements are to be commended, as is also the attention now being given to Jewish religious education in this country as described elsewhere in this issue. We understand that in our local community, religious education is by no means all it might be, both as regards the number of children attending classes, and of the adequacy of the instruction provided. Is it too much to hope that someday the "powers that be" in the congregation will turn their attention to this problem and try to bring the scope of our Jewish religious education more into line with what is being done in other communities throughout the country?

May the celebration of Chanukah and the sight of the bright lights we then kindle serve to remind them of the urgency of this vital part of their duties!

DECEMBER

SHABBOSIM			YAHARZEIT
	Comm.	Term.	
6/7th	3.42	4.48	Tues., 3rd, 6.30—Messrs. I. & H. Myers at 49 Cranbrook Rd.
13/14th	3.42	4.48	Wed., 4th, 6.0—Mr. B. W. Dembo.
20/21st	3.44	4.50	Sat., 7th, 4.15—Messrs. H. R. & M. Levy.
27/28th	3.48	4.54	Tues., 10th, 7.0—Mr. A. Wapnah.
Rosh Chodesh Tavase—			Fri., 13th, 3.42—Messrs. J. Levi & M. Belcher.
Chanukah commences	Mon./Tues., 23/24th.		Sat., 14th, 4.15—Messrs. I. & H. Myers.
evening 17th (First Light) and ends on Wednesday, 25th.	Tuesday		Mon., 16th, 7.0—Messrs. Geller.
			Mon., 23rd, 7.0—Mr. I. Raphael.
			Sat., 28th, 4.15—Messrs. N. Cohen & M. Redstone.

A SPECIAL CHANUKAH SERVICE will be held on Sunday, 22nd Dec., at 4.45 p.m.

WELCOME TO BRISTOL HEBREW CONGREGATION

The Wardens are pleased to welcome the following who have recently become associated with the congregation:—

Mr. and Mrs. D. Assael, 11a Beaconsfield Road, Bristol, 4.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Berg, 17 Belmont, Bath.
Mrs. L. and the Misses K. and E. Blohm, 5 Teresa Ave., Bristol, 7.
Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Chalmers, 222 Ridgeway Road, Fishponds, Bristol.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Cohen, 42 Alma Vale Road, Clifton, Bristol.
Mr. G. Cole, 77 Parry's Lane, Bristol, 9.
Mrs. F. Glanville, 5 St. Michael's Park, Cotham, Bristol.
Mr. L. Garcia, 41 Maxse Road, Knowle, Bristol.
Mr. L. Jacobson, 246, Gloucester Road, Bristol.
Mrs. Lewis, 24 Ashleigh Road, Weston-super-Mare.
Miss L. Laquer, Red Maids' School, Westbury-on-Trym.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Pinnick, Woodlands Grange Road, Saltford.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Seymour, 1 Ellesmere Road, Bristol, 4.
Dr. and Mrs. F. G. Saloman, 77 Newbridge Hill, Bath.
Mr. R. Schryber, 29 Falcondale Road, Bristol, 9.
Mr. and Mrs. V. Schlesinger, Synagogue House, Park Row, Bristol.
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sefton, 9 Deanery Road, Kingswood, Bristol.
Mr. P. Wynberg, 109 Bishop Street, Bristol, 2.
Mr. M. Zimmerman, 40 Stafford Road, Weston-super-Mare.
Mr. and Mrs. N. Davidson, 24 Rozel Road, Bristol, 7.
Mr. D. Livshin, Synagogue House, Park Row, Bristol.

COUNCIL OF BRISTOL JEWISH WOMEN

At the Annual General Meeting of the Council, the existing executive were re-elected 'en bloc,' with a committee of eleven.

Miss Erica Lunzer of the Central Relief Fund, London, recently returned from the Continent, in an address which followed, told a story of the appalling conditions which existed there, and made a poignant appeal for help, particularly for baby layettes.

Miss Lunzer's appeal has met with an instantaneous response. Very many parcels have been sent to London for abroad, and appreciative letters received from the Depot. Mrs. N. Sacof, President, has been instrumental in obtaining a huge consignment of baby clothes from Miss Dean, Matron of the Maternity Hospital, Bristol. These have already been forwarded.

Our grateful thanks are extended to the many members of the Council who have sent clothing, etc., and we hope the remaining members of the congregation will soon follow suit.

Will Committee Members please note that there will be a Committee Meeting on Sunday, December 15th, at 3.30 p.m.

Mrs. N. Sacof would like to remind all ladies interested that there will be a General Meeting of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, on Wednesday, December 4th, at 3 p.m., at the Synagogue Rooms.

Would all members who have collected monies for the monthly subscriptions to the Central Relief Fund send them with the white cards to Mrs. Sacof, The Reddings, Mariner's Drive, Bristol, 9.

BRITISH LEGION—POLACK BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17th Nov., when the Chairman, Mr. S. Jacobs, welcomed and enrolled four new members—recently demobilised ex-servicemen. The chairman outlined the work of the Legion and of the Branch, and appealed for whole-hearted support and co-operation from all those eligible for membership.

The Treasurer, Mr. I. Freeland, presented a very satisfactory balance sheet.

The following were elected:—

President, Mr. A. I. Polack; Chairman, Mr. S. Jacobs; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. E. Morris; Treasurer, Mr. I. Freeland; Secretary, Mr. S. J. Alexander; Standard-bearer, Mr. A. Goldberg.

Committee: Messrs. J. Burke, D. Cohen, G. Cole, S. Dytch, A. Glick, A. Goldberg, E. Malin, S. Ring and R. Schryber.

It is hoped to organise a Re-union Service and Tea early in 1947, and to attend the proposed Jewish Ex-servicemen's Parade and Service in London next year.

Thanks were accorded to Mr. A. Goldberg for his splendid services as Secretary, Standard-bearer and Collector.

Will ex-service personnel desirous of becoming members please contact the Secretary (8 Effingham Road, Bristol, 6, Tel: 45266).

BRISTOL JEWISH LITERARY AND SOCIAL SOCIETY

Talk by Colonel H. Morris, M.P., Sunday, October 27th :

A very interesting and enlightening series of 'Parliamentary Reflections' were related to us by Colonel Morris at this function. The fact that a large audience gathered to hear him paid tribute to his fame. The fact that a large proportion of the audience took part in the discussion that followed paid tribute to the interest aroused by his 'Random Reminiscences' which were met with fire and vigour from many sections of the audience. Criticism and support were hurled with the velocity of an election time meeting and a good time was had by listeners and participators.

All was taken in good faith, however, and we certainly owe Colonel Morris our heartiest thanks for helping to make another landmark on the road of the Bristol Jewish Literary.

Visit to Bristol of the Cheltenham Jewish Youth Circle.

On Sunday, November 10th, it was our pleasure to be hosts to the Cheltenham Jewish Youth Circle who came in full strength to take part in an inter-social and debate.

The debate, "That Religion is the only basis for the survival of Jewry," was well supported (by Cheltenham) and opposed (Bristol), both sides using well grounded views. The debate was thrown open for discussion and speakers from both towns took the floor and helped to make the meeting very interesting.

The speakers were, for Bristol, Bobbie Landau and Sonia Berk, and for Cheltenham, Rev. C. Braslavsky and Nathan Field. Mr. S. J. Alexander was in the chair and votes of thanks were accorded to the speakers and to our guests.

After some refreshments, all took part in dancing and games for the rest of the evening. A very pleasant interlude was provided by Ernie Morris with his impromptu Quiz.

At 10.30 the coach arrived to take the visitors home; and amid parting cheers we watched it leave. The enjoyment derived by all, through this inter-social, endorsed an unspoken hope in everyone's mind that we might meet them again soon.

Badminton Section.

May we inform all those energetically inclined that we now have a very flourishing Badminton Section which meets in the Synagogue Hall every Monday evening at 7.0 p.m. Two table tennis tables are also available for anyone who wishes to play. Many keen players have already made use of this chance to keep fit, but we still have room for a few more, and all are welcome.

All those who have taken part in these enjoyable evenings owe their thanks to Mr. A. Steinberg, whose kind gift to the society of all the Badminton kit and rackets has made this possible.

We hope, in future, to provide tea at these evenings for players. A small charge of 6d. is made to cover cost of shuttles and table tennis balls.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS :

Dec. 8th, 4.30 p.m.—Cardiff Jewish Institute will be our guests for an inter-debate and social evening. "That the man in the street is no fool" will be proposed by Bristol and opposed by Cardiff, and should prove very amusing as a subject for debate. Social and dancing to follow.

We should like all members to be present to help welcome our visitors.

Dec. 22nd.—Grand Chanukah Dance.
Details to follow later. Keep this date vacant.

IN PALESTINE FOR THE HIGH FESTIVALS

We have to thank Bombadier A. M. Malin, now stationed in Egypt and looking forward to early demobilisation, for a lengthy contribution (unfortunately far too long for publication in full) describing his experiences while on leave recently in Palestine.

He gives a vivid account of conditions in that troubled land, where he spent a very interesting and enjoyable Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur; and pays an eloquent tribute to the kindness and hospitality extended to him by his fellow-Jews in Eretz Israel.

THEY ARE AT IT AGAIN!

Last time it was Henry with his excellent idea of the collecting box—and with very successful results too; and this time it is little sister Hilary, who, on her recent first birthday, instead of personal gifts, had given to her baby clothes, which her mother has kindly accepted in order to send them to the babies of the Belsen Camp, where clothes are terribly urgently required. A topping idea! They lead—who will follow?

Mrs. B. W. Dembo, 3 Grange Park, Henleaze, will be delighted to hear of some further good ideas and wishes to express special thanks to Mr. M. Dobojs for his valuable assistance in her appeal.

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