

The Bristol Jewish Recorder

MARCH 1958



ADAR 5718

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NEWS ITEM

COMMUNAL SEDAR.

ONE Letter of Apology.
FIVE Telephone Apologies.
SIX Attended Meeting.

NETT Result - GROSS indifference.

Please note:

The Editorial Committee asks its readers to bear in mind that they do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed nor do they necessarily agree with these opinions.

for your diary . . .

Talmud Torah.
Synagogue.
Wednesday, March 5th 7 p.m.

B'nai B'rith.
1st Annual General Meeting.
Synagogue Hall.
Sunday March 9th 3 p.m.

B'nei Akivah.
Synagogue Hall.
March 9th 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Ladies Guild.
Cookery Demonstration.
Radiant House.
March 10th, 7.30 p.m.

Students Open Night.
Mr. Leonard Jackson LL.B.
Visits Bristol.
Wednesday 19th March. 7.30 p.m.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mrs. Coburg, Mr. N. Saccof and Mr. S. Ring who are indisposed.

We wish Mazaltov to Mr. S. Jacobs on the birth of a grandson to his daughter Pearl and Norman Herwood.

YAHRTZEITS.

ADAR.

Saturday,	March 1st.	Mr. H. Seymour.	9 ADAR
"	" 1st.	Mr. B. Kaye.	9 ADAR
Sunday.	" 2nd.	Mr. D. Goldman.	10 ADAR
Tuesday.	" 4th.	Mrs. Bradley & Mrs. Coburg.	12 ADAR
Saturday.	" 8th.	Mr. S. Rosenberg.	16 ADAR
"	" 8th.	Messrs. Lazarus Bros.	16 ADAR
Sunday.	" 9th.	Mrs. Goldberg.	17 ADAR
Monday.	" 10th.	Mr. M. Roth.	18 ADAR
Wednesday.	" 12th.	Mr. S. Maxwell.	20 ADAR
Thursday.	" 13th.	Messrs. Saccof Bros.	21 ADAR
Tuesday.	" 18th.	Messrs. J. & C. Berk.	26 ADAR

NISSAN.

Sunday.	March 23rd.	Mr. Edelman.	2 NISSAN
Friday.	" 28th.	Mr. S. Elcom.	7 NISSAN
Thursday.	April 10th.	Mr. M. Belcher.	20 NISSAN
Wednesday.	" 16th.	Messrs. Saccof Bros.	26 NISSAN
Thursday.	" 17th.	Mr. I. Raphael.	27 NISSAN

Kaddish to be said the previous Evening.

To Parents and Members of the Congregation.

You are cordially invited by the pupils of the Talmud Torah to attend the Reading of the Megillah to be followed by showing of Israeli films and a Purim Nosh. The celebration will be held at the Synagogue on Purim Evening Wednesday March 5th at 7.00 p.m.

H. Seymour.
Hon. Secretary.

Reprint of Report on The Bristol Jewish
Women's Guild from The Western Daily Press.
on February 1st.

How many organisations there are in Bristol, which exist just "to help", and whose help is given quietly and efficiently, without thought of return or reward. One such, the Bristol Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society was founded over 100 years ago to work for needy women of the Jewish community. Members visited hospitals and the sick in their homes in days when the State health service had not even been dreamed of.

Later, it affiliated to the Bristol N.C.W., and in 1952, became amalgamated with Jewish Board of Guardians to form the Jewish Welfare Society. Relief continues, advice and help are given; a special feature is assistance to stranded casuals, passing through the city.

True to the same tradition of service is the Jewish Women's Guild, which like the Welfare Society, does not confine its generosity to those of its own faith, but is ever ready to support the city's charitable appeals.

The Guild, affiliated to N.C.W. Bristol, was founded 10 years ago, to gather Jewish women for cultural and social purposes, and to help in maintaining the Holy Vestments of the Synagogue. Its president is Mrs. G.R. Saccof. Mrs. Saccof has represented the larger body, the Welfare Society on the committee of the Bristol Council of Social Service, from its inception 17 years ago, and has given invaluable service. There is national affiliation between N.C.W. and the Union of Jewish Women in London. N.C.W. values highly the support it has always received from leading women of the Jewish faith.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Co-ordinating Committee.

I would like to send my very best wishes and tribute to the Co-ordinating Committee of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation and say how very much both my husband and I now enjoy reading the Recorder.

In the present form it is all that it should be in a Community such as Bristol. It helps to keep closer contact between the various societies and members, and I warmly congratulate and wish every future success to the Organizers.

Sincerely,

G.R. Sacof.

Re Mrs. Dambo's Letter.

I too would like to pay tribute to the two ladies who took so much care of one of our old congregants. I have had many talks with these real two people before and after they lost their friend. I must add that whatever care was taken, there was never a thought of thanks or personal gain for themselves. They lived to serve and do only of their best for our old friend who was not of their faith. Truly the right spirit in this present age. They gave of their best but never took.

Yours etc.,

G.R. Sacof.

Jewish Students.

"The Mizrahi Federation of Gt. Britain and Ireland" is sending their representative Mr. Leonard Jackson, LL.B. to address the Students on Wednesday, 19th March, 1958 at 7.30 p.m.

All members of the Congregation are cordially invited to the function which will take place at the Shool Hall.

The speaker is coming specially from London, to address us. It is therefore desirable that the meeting should be well attended.

Haifa Technion. -

You have no doubt received a communication from Dr. Lynn -
Do please try and help this worthy object.

TO THE LADIES OF THE HEBREW CONGREGATION.

Dear Ladies,

Statistics, I am sure, hold some interest for you! Have you seen those on the front page of this issue?

They are vital - vital to the community, because they indicate a regrettable trend in our communal life.

In addressing this letter to the Ladies I am aware that they alone are not responsible, but I am prompted so to do, because I have reason to believe that they (or some of them) were responsible for the utter failure at birth of the proposed Communal Sedar.

This was just an idea (I thought an exciting one) and in addressing the entire community to come to an exploratory meeting I felt that here was a grand opportunity of a real Communal effort.

It was not to be - the Bush Telegraph got to work. Phones rang and verbiage shook the wires. Impossible! Impracticable! Can't be done! said the voices. Why go to the meeting - You'll get roped in. Don't go. DON'T GO -

And they didn't!

Now why should I care. I'll tell you.

I took the trouble to sound certain people in the Community as to the general idea - I found a positive response. I studied the difficulties of organisation - I found they were not insurmountable.

I recognised that it must not involve those participating in the Sedar in the preparatory work of cooking and preparations - it would not have done.

Finally it had to offer value for money - a real Sedar meal, in congenial surroundings, and despite the drabness of the Synagogue Hall, I had ascertained that comparatively very little cost, much could be done to cheer the Hall up for an evening.

Now I am prepared to accept that the meeting, had it taken place, may well have come to the conclusion that it was impracticable for this year, perhaps because of the event falling on the Sabbath, but is there not next year?

Why did YOU not come - you could have had your say, and with a positive approach a happier outcome would have been achieved.

Must the overcoming of apathy result in frustration?

Yours sincerely,

HARRY AMSEL.

DO WE REALLY NEED A MINISTER?

I ask this question in all seriousness despite the uproar which was created when our last Minister resigned. In fact it was at the first of the emergency general meetings which resulted from Mr. Wolfson's resignation that this thought occurred to me.

"Here", I said to myself, "is a very large and representative gathering of the men of our community, discussing vehemently and apparently with genuine feeling the reasons why we were once again without a Minister, how we were to afford the cost of maintaining the Synagogue and its associated buildings, and what our future policy regarding Ministerial appointments ought to be. Yet how many of those present ever extend to a Minister the simple courtesy of attending his services?"

What must be the feelings of a Minister, whatever his temperament and capabilities, to be faced every Friday evening and Saturday morning by rows of empty seats; to lead in prayer the few, the pitifully few, who bother to attend these services? What could be more depressing than to be confronted with the situation in which a Sabbath day can pass without a recital of the Kaddish because of lack of a Minyan, and this in a community which, during the High Festivals, can fill every seat in the Synagogue?

The Friday evening service lasts half an hour, that on Saturday morning two hours. I would respectfully suggest that very few of my fellow congregants would find it a real hardship to attend one or two of these services each month. The alternative is that every Minister we engage must inevitably lose heart and look elsewhere for consolation. It follows that unless there is a change of heart among us, we must be prepared to face the prospect of engaging new Ministers as frequently as most of us go to Synagogue, - or of managing without any Minister at all!

To anybody who may feel that I am overstating my case I would point out that last Friday evening, January 31st, the congregation in our Synagogue totalled six. Four only were members of the community, and one of these left before the end of the service!

Am I wrong to ask, "Do we really need a Minister?"

ALAN COHEN.

NEWS FLASH -

So far £125. profit from WIZO evening.
Full details next issue.

BRISTOL B'NEI AKIVAH.

The Bristol B'nei Akivah Presents, on Sunday 9th March, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
at the Synagogue Hall.

"NO CHILD'S PLAY".

An afternoon's entertainment for Adults and Children.

Including:-

A Purim Play.

C A S T.

ACHASHVEROSH.	-	Ralph Culank.
HAMAN.	-	Mandy Tuchband.
PERSHANDATA.	-	Stewart Nirenberg.
VAYZATA.	-	Alec Schlesinger.
KARMASHTA.	-	Gillian Silverman.
ZERESH.	-	Naomi Yoffey.
AMLYA.	-	Hilary Steinberg.
AZLATA.	-	Leon Smith.
GUARDS.		Larry Glick, Karen Seymour.
Prologue read by	-	Pamela Glick.
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Costumes.	-	Valerie Silverman.
Make-up.	-	Colin Berkovitch.
Music.	-	G. Carmi, Y. Aharonov.
Producer.	-	Jill Pomerance.

Also.

Impromptu Children's Brains Trust - Consisting of:

Leslie Culank, Stephen Myers, Valerie Silverman, Deborah Yoffey.

Dealing with parents' problems.

Also.

A SURPRISE.

T.V. or not T.V. ? That is the Question.

By Sam Silverman, Hon. Sec. Polack Branch.

With a swish and a plonk the card comes through the letter box and falls on the floor. Pick it up and it reads "On Thursday 29th of Jantember a general meeting of the Polack Branch will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Synagogue Hall".

Now come with me on to the top of the Shool Hall and we will look through the glass roof and see what happens at the meeting.

We strain our eyes and we see the first two people arrive. One is carrying a brief case and the other is shlopping a small trunk. The one with the trunk has a row of pens in his top pocket that appear so heavy they almost make him look round shouldered. They both walk past the rows of empty chairs to the top of the table. One sits on the extreme left, the other on the extreme right. Both open their cases which give a sigh of relief and the papers fly out in all directions.

We look at the door again and we see two hats appear, underneath of which are two stomachs. These also walk to the top table and sit between the two earlier arrivals.

The time is now 7.30 and time to start the meeting. Ah yes, three more people have come in and are sitting in the front row of the chairs, facing the officers on the top table.

The Chairman leans over and asks the Vice Chairman, "How many members are present?".

"Three Mr. Chairman".

"Nonsense Count again".

"O.K. One, Two, Three".

"Heavens above, well how many members have we got on the book?".

The Vice Chairman leans over to the Secretary and asks for this information. The Secretary leans over to the treasurer and asks him how many members have paid their subs.

40 says the Treasurer to the Secretary.

40 says the Secretary to the Vice Chairman.

40 says the Vice Chairman to the Chairman.

"Oh -----!" says the Chairman.

However by now four more members have arrived making a total of eleven including the officers, and the meeting is duly started.

After much shouting at the Treasurer and the Secretary, the business is discussed at length and the meeting closes. So we all go home.

I sit down by my fire and start thinking, Only Eleven at the meeting out of a possible forty, what percentage is that. Let me see its 11 over 40, multiplied by 100, so its 11 over 4 multiplied by 10, or 110 divided by 4. So it works out about 27% or just over $\frac{1}{4}$.

This I think to myself is a disgrace. The branch hold meetings about 3 times a year and yet $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members cannot spare the few hours, but they can spend hours, days, weeks, criticising the Committee.

Often I hear people say "Whats the use going to the Meetings, It's all out and dried before hand anyway". Well let me answer this age old belief.

In all organisations a Committee is elected by the MEMBERS and its the Committee's job to discuss all the matters that arise. To sift out the practical solutions from the impractical, thereby saving time and words at the general gathering, where the Committees proposals are put forward for approval.

However, if you do not attend the meeting, the committee does not know your views and therefore cannot act upon them.

So the next time you receive that card telling you about a meeting. Make a special note in your diary, and if there is a certain programme on T.V. that you won't see, Well, just pretend your tube has broken for one night. Or better still bring your T.V. to the meeting and let us all enjoy the programme.

THE WOMENS GUILD REPORT.

Members thoroughly enjoyed a recent talk by Mrs. Yeffey on some of her reflections as a guest at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party: the Meeting due on January 27th was cancelled because of the weather conditions.

At the Business Meeting held on February 10th, various matters were discussed: a letter received by the Guild from the Jewish Relief Organisation was read.

It contained an urgent appeal for Clothing in a clean condition to be sent to the Eastern Countries and to Israel in particular: we shall be grateful for a response to this appeal from the Community.

Clothing can be left at the School Hall on Friday and Sunday mornings, these will later be dispatched to the London Depot in Charge.

The Guild are organising a Raffle on a large Scale, the Prize Drawings will take place on May 18th at a Social Supper Evening to be held at the School Hall. The proceeds of the Function will be allocated between the Guilds Charitable Funds and The Synagogue Building Fund. We hope to have the support of the entire community in this venture. Please keep the date open.

Members are invited to a Cookery Demonstration at Radiant House on March 10th at 7.30 p.m. (Side entrance). The Demonstrator has kindly agreed with our suggestions, please make an effort to attend.