

The Bristol Jewish Recorder



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

SYDNEY CURWEN
LEONARD GOULD
HAROLD SEYMOUR

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JANUARY 1968

TEVET 5728

**BRISTOL HEBREW CONGREGATION
THE SYNAGOGUE, PARK ROW, BRISTOL**

Synagogue Services:

Friday Evenings 7.30 p.m.
Saturday Mornings 10.0 a.m.

Minister:

Rev. M. Modell,
66 Harcourt Road,
Bristol 6.
Tel.: 40615

Hon. Sec. Dr. S. Curwen,
77 Parry's Lane,
Bristol 9.
Tel: 68-3033

Talmud Torah Classes - Sunday
Mornings 10.0 a.m. - 12.45 p.m.

Hon. Sec. A. Elliman,
12 Paulton Drive,
Bristol 6.
Tel: 41022

Bristol Jewish Women's Guild,
Hon. Sec. Mrs. C. Culank,
113 Nags Head Hill,
St. George,
Bristol 5.

Bristol W.I.Z.O. Group,
Hon. Sec. Mrs. B. Burke,
4 Downs Cote View,
Westbury-on-Trym,
Bristol.

Both Ladies Organisations hold
regular meetings and functions
throughout the year.

for your diary . . .

Mon. Jan. 8th. Evening Meeting
11 Glen Drive.

Tues. Jan. 16th. Evening Meeting
at 160 Cranbrook
Rd.

Tues. Jan. 13th. Nearly New
Shop Open.

Mon. Feb. 5th. Evening Meeting
14 Oakdale
Court.

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YAHREZEITS

Saturday	5th January	Mrs. Tuchband (Mother)	Tevet 5
Sunday	7th January	Mr. N. Cohen	Tevet 6
Sunday	7th January	Mr. M. Redstone	Tevet 6
Monday	8th January	Mrs. Tuchband	Tevet 7
Saturday	13th January	Mr. G. Geller	Tevet 12
Saturday	13th January	Mrs. B. Kaye	Tevet 12
Wednesday	24th January	Mrs. B. Rosenberg	Tevet 23
Friday	26th January	Mr. A. Elliman	Tevet 25
Saturday	27th January	Messrs. J. Burke and C. Berkovitch	Tevet 26

KADDISH WILL BE SAID THE PREVIOUS
EVENING

The Memorial Prayer (El Mole Rachamin) will be recited by the Minister, during the Reading of the Law, on the Sabbath prior to the Yahrzeit, in the presence of the bereaved.

COMMUNAL NOTICES

We regret to announce that Mrs. B. Coburg is a patient at B.R.I. following a slip on the ice in the recent bad weather, when she fractured her thigh. She is now recovering and will shortly be convalescent. We all wish her well.

Congratulations to Mark Ornstein in passing his finals -
M.D., Ch.B. at Bristol University.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death on 12th December, 1967 of one of our elder Congregants, Mr. Abel Mass. We wish his family long life.

We also regret to announce the death of Mrs. R. Meisbeiser on Saturday, December 23rd, 1967 at the age of 95. We wish all her family long life.

Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Victor Tunkel who have kindly donated Tallaisim to the shool.

Once more this year the Community has rallied magnificently to the aid of A.J.E.X. and turned up in number to help at the B.R.I. over Xmas.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, December 10th. The following officers and Committee were elected.

PRESIDENT: L. G. Gould, Esq.
VICE PRESIDENT AND HONORARY TREASURER: M. C. Berkovitch, Esq.
HON. SECRETARY: Dr. S. Curwen

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

J. Carlebach, Esq.	S. Dysch, Esq.	Mrs. N. Smith
A. S. Elliman, Esq.	S. Bloom, Esq.	G. Geller, Esq.
S. Silverman, Esq.	A. E. Morris, Esq.	Mrs. M. Goldman.

LIFE MEMBER: A. Mass, Esq.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: H. Seymour, Esq. (Talmud Torah)
S. Nirenberg, Esq. (Chevra Kadisha)
J. M. Burke, Esq. (Retiring President)

HON. AUDITORS: I. Raphael, Esq. J. Ginsberg, Esq.

REPRESENTATIVE TO BOARD OF DEPUTIES: Myer Malin, Esq.
(Continues without re-election) 35 Bentley Way,
Stanmore, Middlesex.

Resignation of Mr. A. E. Morris
as Honorary Treasurer

After nearly seventeen years as Honorary Treasurer, Mr. A. E. (Ernie) Morris has retired as Honorary Treasurer. It is of course quite out of the question that he will not serve the Congregation in some other capacity, but at this moment, it is right to express our gratitude and thanks to him for the conscientious and devoted way in which he carried out this considerable task. It is in no small measure due to his efforts, that the Congregation finds itself just in the borderlands of credit, after several extremely red years. Apart from the excellent way in which he has administered the accounts, Mr. Morris has rendered the Community many kind and often completely unpublicised services. It is only occasionally that one hears of the many gifts both monetary and in kind which he has bestowed. We send him our message of goodwill and sincere thanks for everything.

Mr. Cyril Epstein

After very many years on the Council, Mr. Epstein was not re-elected at the recent A.G.M. He need feel no sense of shame at this, because in every society or council or even in Parliament or Government, the most ardent committee men and members are superseded. The fortunate thing is that they invariably come back and it is our fervent wish that it will not be too long before the Congregation may have the benefit of Mr. Epstein's long experience once again. In the meanwhile we send him our grateful thanks.

We also have to welcome Julius Carlebach as a member of Council. We are sure that his wide knowledge of community matters will be a great asset.

S. Curwen

Hon. Sec.

Abel Mass

With the death on December 12th of Mr. Abel Mass, yet another link with Bristol's pre-war Community has been severed.

Abel Mass, a Liverpudlian, spent all his working life in this City and played an important part in the story of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation. He was a man of complex character: outspoken in his opinions, sometimes violent in expressing argument, but also capable of great gentleness and unadvertised kindness. If one were to borrow from Robert Louis Stevenson's famous characters it was as if he was shy or almost ashamed of the Dr. Jekyll side of his character and yet when the Mr. Hyde aspect ascertained itself, he was filled with secret (but occasionally and privately expressed) remorse. Many will remember him for one side of this character or another, but the writer saw both aspects and recognised in him, as did others, the true quality of friendship. In his later years he enjoyed watching football and cricket. He had a great sense of humour, although sometimes mischievous and biting.

He represented his Liverpool Congregation on the Board of Deputies for many years. He was President of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation in the early thirties and in later years a Life Member of the Council. For many years he took an active interest in the Chevra Kadisha and until his illness was Honorary Auditor.

So one of the great stalwarts of the Congregation passes on to join Messrs. Jacobs, Fox, Morris, Tanchan and many others who, through a strong sense of duty did yeoman service for our Congregation.

We have heard a lot recently about spiritual leadership, but the men of the last generation were leaders in every sense and while one must not detract from the qualities of lay leaders of today's Congregation, when men like Abel Mass and his contemporaries led, the Community followed. May his Soul rest in Peace.

S.b.Z.M.

An Editor of the Recorder

by Sydney Curwen

Now that two thirds of the Editorial Committee have resigned and thanks have been duly given and gratefully received, I feel that I should say a word or two about the job of helping to edit our "Parish" Magazine. I have no intention of sermonising or of lecturing the Congregation and if what follows may appear to give the lie to this resolve, it is merely because I wish to bring home the fact that this particular communal duty is not quite as easy as many people would think. I make no secret of the fact I took it on willingly and that I enjoyed doing it.

Our usual practice was to meet on or about the 25th of each month and carefully consider every item for inclusion in the coming month's issue. Sometimes, the secretaries of the various organisations; and other contributors are late sending in their notices and articles; and this leads to extra work chasing these otherwise blameless citizens. However, that particular aspect has been much improved over the years.

Another item which causes a great deal of trouble is that of Communal notices. Although this is a small Congregation, it often happens that the Editorial Committee are unaware of events affecting the lives of the individual members, or their families. In spite of this, the Committee often are submitted to indignation, rebuke and sometimes (but fortunately rarely), abuse. A word of reminder to the Editors about matters of joy, sorrow or cause for concern would always ensure inclusion of the particular item in the Recorder.

It is one of the principles of journalism that while the Editors are responsible for the publication of all material, they do not necessarily have to agree with the sentiments expressed in any article. In order to save the Committee the trouble of reminding the Congregation of this in every single case of con-

troversy, it should be remembered by those who castigate them for publishing some material. I and my colleagues always tried to give each side in an argument a fair hearing and to call a halt to that argument when it was considered that communal interest had been served. It is quite true as the new Editors say that they "don't write" the material. In spite of this, and sometimes with a complete lack of understanding, the Committee have been not only castigated for including (or not including) a particular article, but also criticised in such a way as to imply that a member of the committee actually wrote the contribution.

Lastly, may I remind everyone, that we were not (nor are the new Committee) either journalists or paid officials. The Editors are simply public spirited individuals with their own work to attend to and their own family problems and interests. They can, and do, enjoy this voluntary chore, but I would ask Congregants not to give them the impression that the task is a thankless one. Constructive criticism, I know, will always be welcome.

"The New Boy"

On a cold wintry day I entered the editors office of the Bristol Recorder to meet the senior editor and also to meet my new accomplice as joint sub editor.

The upholstery of the chair I sat in was sagging pitifully as if it had been supporting a great weight, and I with my small frame perched on its edge wondered if I could live up to the reputation of the previous scribe who used it.

Of the three members who make up this editorial committee, we two members who have entered this room for the first time naturally viewed the pile of letters and articles with awe, and turned our eyes to the senior editor who was the only experienced member.

My mind shot back to the Annual General Meeting when a certain member of the gathering suggested that this senior member should resign leaving a completely new editorial team. Should this have been the case we would still be there now looking at an empty Recorder with just the address and date at the top of page one.

I took an array of pens from my pocket and placed them on the table in front of me. I thought it might make it look as if I knew what I was doing.

After sorting out the correspondence the nimble hands of the editor soon had the pieces of the jigsaw falling into pattern, and with a few nods of approval from us novices you now have another edition of Recorder before you.

Sam Silverman

The following is an extract from a letter from the Board of Deputies of British Jews:

"I have been asked to take this opportunity of extending to all the members of your Congregation the appreciation of the Honorary Officers of the Board for the continued support which we receive from the Synagogue, and we should be glad if you could, in some way, indicate our thanks to those who contribute, for their assistance in helping the Board to carry out the important work which it does on behalf of the Community. We look forward to similar assistance in the future.

Change of Treasurer

As you are all aware, I have now relinquished my office as Honorary Treasurer, and I should be glad if all matters concerning payments of subscriptions and accounts will be referred to the new Treasurer, Mr. C. Berkovitch at the following address, as from January 1st.

Flat 5,
"Dunmurry",
Goodeve Rd.,
Sneyd Park,
Bristol 9.

A. E. Morris

STRICTLY FOR WOMEN

Have you ever been asked to put a budgie to bed? It can be a most hilarious experience as friends of ours discovered one cold evening recently.

The bird in question belongs to a lady who asked our friends to do this seemingly simple task. Our friends, being goodhearted neighbours, readily agreed.

On seeing the list of instructions that went with the bird their enthusiasm was slightly dampened. Wouldn't yours have been?

"Before going out this evening, please put on dining-room light, draw the curtains and turn on the wireless - left knob (just quietly will do).

At bedtime, shut the cage door, slide out seed container from right hand side of cage (from the outside) blow off husks and add more seed from packet on sideboard.

Switch off wireless. Peter will have a few nibbles, then you say "Goodnight, go to bed Peter" and put off the light - when you think he is up on his swing, switch on again to make sure, then shut door of room. Leave the tiny heater on all the time.

Anytime next morning, draw curtains and open the cage door and switch on the wireless for company."

ARE YOU STILL A BIRD LOVER?

The Editors acknowledge with thanks letters of encouragement from Mrs. G. R. Sacof, President of Bristol Jewish Women's Guild.

WEDDING OF THE YEAR

In a hushed but crowded Synagogue, all faces were turned towards the door and as the radiant bride slowly walked up the aisle a murmur of appreciation was heard.

For although this day belonged to the Lever family, all Bristol was there in force to share their joy.

The Synagogue was delightfully arrayed with flowers and the service with organ and "hassan" was a melodious one indeed.

With Kate and Ernest looking distinguished yet excited and the young couple, Annick and Allen, obviously so much in love, surely the hope of every parent on that day must have been "Please G'd by our children".

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BRISTOL JEWISH WOMEN'S GUILD

The Dinner & Dance which was held at the Synagogue Hall on Sunday, December 3rd, was a most successful affair, both financially and socially, and enjoyed by everyone present. Our grateful thanks are due to all the ladies who so kindly donated to this function.

Unfortunately, the meeting which had been arranged for Monday evening, December 11th, at Mrs. Roydon's home, had to be cancelled owing to bad weather conditions.

Future Meetings

Monday, January 8th.	Evening meeting at 11 Glen Drive. Mrs. Goldman will be the hostess.
Monday, February 5th.	Evening meeting at 14 Oakdale Court, Downend. Mrs. Sonia Silverman will be the hostess.

C. Culank
(Hon. Sec.)

BRISTOL W.I.Z.O. GROUP

On Sunday, 26th November, Dr. Sophie Tomlinson gave a most interesting talk showing with slides her experiences in Israel after the Six-day War. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

An Evening Meeting was held on Tuesday, 5th December at 2 John Cozens House. Our hostess was Mrs. B. Silverman.

An Evening Meeting took place on Tuesday, 19th December at 7 Melrose Place. Miss Ena Blohm was hostess.

The next meeting will be an Evening Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16th January 1968 at 160 Cranbrook Rd. Our hostess will be Mrs. R. Smith.

We shall be opening our Nearly New Shop on Tuesday, 23rd January and should be very pleased if you would collect together any clothes, china, jewellery, toys or useful household articles which you would care to give for Israel. Mrs. Goldman, Mrs. S. Silverman and Mrs. Burke will be pleased to collect them from you.

Bette Burke
(Hon. Sec.)