

The Bristol Jewish Recorder



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

HAROLD SEYMOUR
BETTE BURKE
SAM SILVERMAN

All communications to

59 The Dell,
Westbury-on-Trym.

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• • • APRIL 1969: • • • • • NISAN 5729 • • •

BRISTOL HEBREW CONGREGATION THE SYNAGOGUE, PARK ROW, BRISTOL

Synagogue Services:

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

Ministers:

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

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

Talmud Torah Classes -
Sunday Mornings 10 a.m. to
12.45 p.m.

Bristol Jewish Women's Guild:

Hon. Sec. Mrs. C. Culenk.
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 . . .

Wednesday, 2nd April

1st Seder

Thursday, 3rd April

1st Day Pesach

Wednesday, 9th April

7th Day Pesach

Tuesday, 15th April

Evening Meeting -
36 Oakdale Court

Monday, 21st April

Evening Meeting -
15 St. Ronan's Ave.

Wednesday, 23rd April

Jumble Sale

Sunday, 27th April

Talmud Torah -
General Meeting 3.00 p.m.

YAHREZEITS

Monday	7th April	Mr. M. Newman	Nisan	19
Monday	14th April	Messrs. N.&I. Secof	Nisan	26
Tuesday	15th April	Mr. I. Raphael	Nisan	27
Wednesday	16th April	Lezarus Sisters	Nisan	28
Saturday	19th April	Lezarus Sisters	Iyar	1
Saturday	3rd May	Mrs. C. Culank	Iyar	15

KADDISH WILL BE SAID THE PREVIOUS EVENING

The Memorial Prayer (El Mole Rachamim) 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

Kosher Meat

Congregants are reminded that all Kosher meat supplied should be received wrapped and sealed and stamped with Rev. Moddel's Kosher stamp.

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The March Lottery was won by Miss Lynne Geller.

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Ballot Form - Sephardi Pronunciation

Will all congregants who have not yet returned the referendum form, please do so as soon as possible.

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A letter has been received from Mrs. Dora Norvick, thanking all those who sent their condolences to her on her recent bereavement. Her address is 1 Earle Place, Canton, Cardiff.

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Pamela Glick has emigrated to Israel. We wish her every success and happiness in her future life in our State.

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We welcome as new members of the Community Mr. & Mrs. David Wax, who have moved from Birmingham recently, and have settled in Whitchurch.

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Synagogue Premises

Many members of the Congregation have, over the past few months, taken the view that rather than spend large sums on repairing the premises, we should endeavour to sell them and acquire a smaller property more suitable to our requirements. In view of the frequent requests for this, your Council instructed Messrs. Lalonde Bros. & Parham, Surveyors, of Queen's Road, Bristol 8, to negotiate with the University authorities with regard to the premises being acquired by them, but this has proved fruitless, as the University do not have sufficient funds at the present time to continue with their expansion programme.

Messrs. Lalonde Bros. & Parham wrote to the Honorary Treasurer on the 17th February, and the following is a résumé of the letter:

1. The University have no intention to force us to sell our premises at the present time whereby they would have to compensate us on the basis of the cost of reinstatement.
2. It might conceivably be possible to persuade the Corporation to accept a Purchase Notice on the property by establishing that it was impossible to dispose of it in the market at the present time because of Planning Proposals affecting the area, but the basis of compensation in this case would be the market value, which would be relatively small compared with the reinstatement value.
It seems, therefore, that a purchase of the property at the present time by any of the authorities is not a practical proposition.
3. The property is virtually unsaleable in the open market for development for any other use because it falls within the area zoned for University Precinct and planning permission is not likely to be granted; even if it were the site is too small to afford adequate scope for redevelopment in any form because any new buildings would have to be set far back from the road to comply with the Planning Authority's requirements.

It therefore appears that the Congregation must make do with its present premises for the time being, and the Council look forward to the Congregation's full support by way of donations to the Building Fund to keep the fabric of the premises together.

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Many members have as yet made no contribution, although we have received several generous donations from non-members. Cheques will be gratefully received by the Honorary Treasurer, and please remember that everything is acceptable however small.

MESSAGE FOR PASSOVER 1969/5729

Jews all over the world are getting ready with the preparation of this lovely festival of Passover. If there is any proof that Judaism is not only a religion of the past but of the present time, then we have to become familar with this richly illustrated and popular book of the Haggadah for the Seder-service in the home. This affection for the Haggadah reflects more than past historical interest in the Passover story but as a present event as it is clearly expressed:

"In every generation each individual should regard himself as if he personally had gone out of Egypt."

Do we need to bring to our mind the miraculous six day war when Israel was facing our modern Pharaoh in Egypt and his accomplices? This threat which is still endangering the State of Israel will occupy our minds when we sit round the Sedertable explaining the Exodus from Egypt.

Parents retelling the ancient story to their children and comparing the events of the past with the problem of the moment. The message of hope for the future redemption passes from father to son in the story and in the replies which are given to children's questions. The father not only recalls the past deliverance but dreams of the future. He sings hymns of praise for past benefits but he encourages his family to pray for the day when we will witness our redemption. Passover brings memories of the night of watching not just in Egypt when Israel awaited the sign of deliverance but to so many nights which brought sorrow and tregedy to so many communities of the Middle Ages.

On our Passover we Jewish People are ready to welcome the prophet Elijah who will proclaim the coming of the Messiah. Let us celebrate our Passover with our brethren in Israel with

"Leshanah ha-be-ah Birushalayim ha-bnuyah"

"Next year in Jerusalem rebuilt"

With these famous words at the conclusion of the Haggadah, I would like to take the opportunity to wish the Hon. Officers and all the members of the Congregation a very pleasant and happy Yomtov.

With Chag Sameyach,

Rev. & Mrs. Moddel & Susan.

The Festival of Passover commences on Wednesday, 2nd April, 1969 in the evening and terminates on Thursday, 10th April, 1969.

Timetable for Passover

<u>Tuesday, 1st April, 1969</u>	-	Search for Leaven at night-fall
<u>Wednesday, 2nd April, 1969</u>	-	Erev Pesach Eating of Chametz is forbidden after 10.20 a.m. Fast of the First-Borne 7.00 p.m. Mincha-Maariv Service.
<u>Thursday, 3rd April, 1969</u>	-	First Day 9.15 a.m. Morning Service 7.00 p.m. Mincha-Maariv Service
<u>Friday, 4th April, 1969</u>	-	Second Day 9.15 a.m. Morning Service 7.30 p.m. Mincha-Maariv Service
<u>Shabbat, 5th April, 1969</u>	-	Intermediate Shabbat 9.30 a.m. Morning Service
<u>Tuesday, 8th April, 1969</u>	-	Erev Yomtov 7.30 p.m. Mincha-Maariv Service
<u>Wednesday, 9th April, 1969</u>	-	Seventh Day 9.15 a.m. Morning Service 7.30 p.m. Mincha-Maariv Service
<u>Thursday, 10th April, 1969</u>	-	Last Day of Pesach 9.15 a.m. Morning Service (Yizkor)

The Festival of Passover terminates on Thursday, 10th April, 1969 at 8.45 p.m.

A.J.E.X.

The Annual General Meeting of the Polack Branch of the British Legion of A.J.E.X. was held on Sunday, 2nd March, 1969.

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The following officers were elected:-

President: A. I. Polack, Esq.

Chairman: V. Schlesinger, Esq.

Vice Chairmen: S. A. Silverman, Esq.

Hon. Sec.: G. Gee, Esq.

Joint Treasurers: (M. Newman, Esq.,
(N. Cohen, Esq.

Committee: Messrs. A. Glick, N. Smith,
S. Dysch, E. Lever

County Rep.: I. Freeland, Esq.

A resolution was passed to allow the subscription to be raised to £1 0s. 0d. per annum, to cover the higher cost of running the Branch.

A letter was read by the Secretary from the Fishponds Branch, saying how pleased they were to read of the Knighthood awarded to Dr. Israel Brodie, the former Chief Rabbi.

Talmud Torah

A General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 27th April at the Synagogue Hall at 3.00 p.m.

All parents who have children attending classes or about to attend are urged to be present. A new Committee is to be elected, and nominations for this Committee and any resolutions to be proposed should be sent, together with names of seconders, to me on or before 20th April.

There will be no classes held on Sundays 6th April and 13th April.

H. Seymour,
Chairman.

Bristol Jewish Women's Guild

The Social Afternoon and Tea held on Wednesday, 12th March at the home of Mrs. Sacof was a great success both socially and financially, and thanks are due to our hostesses Mrs. Sacof and Mrs. Roydon. The sum of £36 0s. 0d. was raised which will go to the new Jewish Girls' Residential Club in London to help with the purchase of equipment.

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Mrs. Sacoof was one of the first to suggest to the Union of Jewish Women in London that such accommodation was desperately needed for girls coming from the provinces.

An evening meeting took place on Monday, 24th March, at 2 John Cozens House when Mrs. Berthe Silverman was our hostess.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 21st April, at the home of Mrs. Schlesinger, 15 St. Ronan's Avenue, Redland.

C. Culank,
Hon. Sec.

The Case for Sephardi in Schools and Shools

by Dr. Judah J. Slotki

(Reprinted by kind permission of "CAJEX")

The big talking point to-day is whether the time has come to change Ashkenazi into the Sephardi pronunciation now current in Israel.

Some assert that such a change is revolutionary: nay, that it is against the Din. Others argue that whether you say "boruch" or "beruch" is not of world shaking consequence, since what really matters is the educational progress of the children at school and the sincerity of the worshippers at shool.

There are of course also the sheer obstructionists and the bone lazy stick-in-the-muds who wave in our faces the terrible word "confusion" because to them all change is painful.

Let us try and see the issues in their proper perspective.

When the early pioneers of the Jewish national revival first realised that the Jews were a national entity like other nations and not a mere conglomeration of communities loosely linked by religious beliefs and observances, they were confronted with one supreme problem above all others, which can be formulated as follows: A nation must have a history; well, we have one. It must have a literature; indeed, we have the finest in the world. It must have a land; Zion is waiting for us. What we do not possess as yet is a language of our own, a common means of communication. What shall it be?

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The vernacular? We have a host of vernaculars - Russian, Polish, German, French, English and what have you, none of which has any claim whatsoever to be called our common vernacular. Shall it then be Yiddish? No; this is a debased speech deriving from German and spiced with importations. It is a galut acquisition. Besides the Sephardim do not speak it.

Obviously then the only choice was Hebrew. But what pronunciation of Hebrew shall be chosen? Ashkenazi? If so, whose version? the Galician with its "boorich shtoo"? The Anglo-German with its "boeruch shtoe"? Should we be condemned to say "veyowmer" or "vayoemer," or "veyaimer"? And why, to start with, should one dialect give way to the others, and who should give way to whom?

Besides, all these pronunciations were acquired in the European ghettos and carried with them the savour of persecution, pogrom and expulsion. They represent the decaying dying past. What was needed was a language with new associations, a speech that had its roots in the ancient soil of free Israel and represented the resurrection of the Jewish people as a nation, a language symbolising life and progress.

There is every reason to believe that the Sephardi Hebrew was the one in use in Biblical times.

Firstly the pronunciation is in line with that in use among Semitic peoples generally - Arabic, Syriac, Accadian to mention but a few.

There is actually evidence as to the way in which Hebrew was pronounced in Biblical times. The most easily understood proof is that derived from the spelling of Biblical names in English. This came to us via Greek and Latin. Names like Abraham and Sarah would surely have been spelt as they are only if they were pronounced in Sephardit. Otherwise they would have been transcribed as Abrohom and Soroh; Dan as Don; Nephtali as Nephtoli; Asher as Osher; Miriam would have been Miriom; Hanneh would have been Hannoh, David would be Dovid and so on.

There is other evidence. A non-Jewish scholar Origen became a close-student of the Bible in the original and in Greek translation. He arranged his texts in six columns, the first two of which interest us: 1. Hebrew characters in Hebrew; 2. the same characters in Greek transliteration. The remaining four columns contain the translations of various Greek scholars. The Greek transliteration betrays the Sephardi pronunciation.

If this is so then how is it that we now have so many different pronunciations? The reason is obvious. The Jewish communities after the destruction of the State by the Romans scattered all over the world. Each developed its own dialect, often

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under the influence of the language of the country in which they had settled. As there was no standard pronunciation, no norm of comparison, it was impossible to check any variations which circumstances brought about. Consequently the differences increased with time.

Now that the State of Israel is in existence and its language is official, we have a norm, a standard of comparison - a kind of "Queen's Hebrew" and there is no longer any need to retain confusing variations.

More and more communities are adopting the standard pronunciation - America the Commonwealth, here in England, and even in Manchester. There is no explicit Din forbidding the pronunciation. The Chief Rabbi has given ministers discretion regarding its introduction into the Synagogue. There is thus no excuse for delaying its adoption. The advantages are many. It will help towards a uniform pronunciation of Hebrew. It will forge closer links with sister communities the world over and with Israel. It will facilitate the acquisition of Hebrew as a living language so that even people whose acquaintance with Hebrew is obtained from a knowledge of the Bible, will realise that the same language is in fact identical with, and indeed is the parent of, the spoken language of Israel.

(Dr. Judah J. Slotki is the Director of Education, Manchester Central Board for Hebrew Education and Talmud Torah.)

Bristol W.I.Z.O. Group

An evening meeting was held on Tuesday, 4th March at 23 Ormerod Road. Our hostess was Mrs. N. Dembo.

A coffee morning was held on Tuesday, 18th March at 51 The Dell. Mrs. N. Silverman was our hostess.

Annual Supper Dance

At the Supper Dance held at the Synagogue Hall on Sunday, 16th March, approximately £80 was raised. Our thanks go to all those who helped with this function, with special mention of Mrs. Nan Newman for her delicious meal and also of Mrs. Golde Seymour and Mrs. Kate Lever for their delightful flower arrangements.

Spring Jumble Sale

Our coming Jumble Sale will be held on Wednesday, 23rd April.

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All jumble should be left at the Synagogue House. Once again may we stress the urgent need for helpers both in the morning and for the actual Sale. Without your help we can never hope to raise the large amounts we know are possible and so we look forward to seeing as many people as possible on the day.

The next meeting will be an evening meeting on Tuesday, 15th April at 36 Oakdale Court. Our hostess will be Mrs. S. Silverman.

Betty Burke
Shelagh Hart
(Joint Hon. Secs.)