

The Bristol Jewish Recorder



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

HAROLD SEYMOUR
BETTE BURKE
SAM SILVERMAN

All communications to

59 The Dell,
Westbury-on-Trym.

Published on the 1st of every
month. Material to arrive on the
24th of the month preceding.

JANUARY 1970

SHEVAT 5730

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. Mr. I. Kushner,
37 Long Eaton
Drive,
Whitchurch,
Bristol 4.
Tel: Whitchurch
3576

Talmud Torah Classes: Sunday Mornings
10.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.

Hon. Sec. Mrs. M. Kushner,
37 Long Eaton Drive,
Whitchurch,
Bristol 4.
Tel: Whitchurch 3576

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 . . .

Tuesday, 13th January

Evening Meeting at 7
Melrose Place.

Tuesday, 27th January

Bring & Buy Tea at 51
The Dell.

Y A H R Z E I T S

Sunday	4th January, 1970	Messrs. J. Burke & C. Berkovitch	Tevet	26
Thursday	8th January	Mr. S. Bloom	Shevat	1
Sunday	11th January	Mr. C. Epstein) Mr. A. Glick) Dr. G. Culank)	Shevat	4
Wednesday	21st January	Mr. P. Tanchan) Mr. M. Zimmerman)	Shevat	14
Sunday	25th January	Mr. P. Winberg	Shevat	18
Tuesday	27th January	Mmes. Lazarus	Shevat	20
Thursday	29th January	Dr. H. Howard	Shevat	22
Monday	2nd February	Mmes. Lazarus	Shevat	26
Tuesday	3rd February	Miss R. Coburg	Shevat	27

KADDISH WILL BE SAID THE PREVIOUS EVENING

The Memorial Prayer (El Mole Kachamin) 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.

C O M M U N A L N O T I C E S

The December Lottery was won by Mr. S. Bloom.

Mrs. Mollie Gee has recently been in hospital for an operation. We are pleased to say that she is now home, and making good progress.

Mazel tov to Michelle Kushner and Paul Blackstein on the announcement of their engagement, and also to their respective families.

We are pleased to report that Mrs. Ruth Gould has now recovered from her operation, and she wishes to thank all her friends for their kind wishes and gifts and visits while she was in hospital.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Silverman have recently been moved to No. 1 Corey Close, St. Paul's, Bristol 2. Their telephone number has not been changed, and is still 551152.

The new arrangements for the supply of Kosher meat are now in operation and after the first week's delay in arrival at Synagogue House, we are pleased to report that all is now working well. Our thanks are due to

.../

/...
Rosina Smith for her much appreciated efforts on our behalf.

Dr. G. Culank wishes to express grateful thanks to Rev. M. Modell, the Bristol Jewish Women's Guild and the numerous members of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation who so kindly sent him expressions of sympathy on the sad loss of his brother.

Ike and Minnie Kushner are happy to announce the engagement of their younger daughter Michelle to Paul Blackstein of London, and are delighted to invite friends and members of the Congregation to an "At Home" to celebrate their simcha at 37 Long Eaton Drive, Whitchurch Park, on the evening of Saturday, 10th January, from 8.00 to 11.00 p.m.

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation was held on 30th November, 1969, and was, as usual, very sparsely attended. It was with regret that we had to accept the resignation of Mr. Gould after a very successful term as President. After much discussion, Dr. S. Curwen, C.B.E., was persuaded to accept office as President, Mr. S. Bloom was elected as Vice-President, Mr. I. Kushner as Hon. Secretary and Mr. M. C. Berkovitch as Hon. Treasurer.

The following were elected to the Council:-

Mmes.	R. Smith, M. Goldman
Messrs.	S. A. Silverman
	H. Springer
	A. Gee
	M. Newman
	L. G. Hart
	L. G. Gould
	G. Gee

Representatives on the Council:

Chevra Kadisha	-	S. Hirenberg
Talmud Torah	-	H. Seymour
Representative on Board of Deputies	-	A. Malin
Hon. Auditors	-	E. Lever, N. Smith

Special mention ought to be made that Mr. S. Dysch, after many years of great service to the Community, was unanimously elected Life Member of the Council. May he enjoy many years of this office, and help us resuscitate this Congregation.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Congregants,

This letter is addressed to all members of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation, but especially to those sixty or so odd members who did not manage to attend the Annual General Meeting, where, after a long debate, I reluctantly took office as your President for the coming year. I realise that there were those who were genuinely prevented from being there; some of these kindly sent their apologies, but the vast majority stayed away because they do not care how the affairs of their Synagogue are conducted. What a strange membership this is - non-attendance of Synagogue (except once or twice a year) and absence from vital meetings. Why do you belong? Why do you pay your annual dues? I suppose social and charitable functions have their attractions. The benefits of the Burial Society must also be a binding factor. But this is not enough. Those of you with young children must show them the way, by teaching and by example, and all of you must realise that dances, pizza parties and other social activities will not make or save a Jewish Congregation. Jewish knowledge and Synagogue worship have kept the Jewish people alive through untold and unrepeatable agonies through the centuries. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. This is the focus and around it can be built the body of a vigorous and enthusiastic congregation. Many of you hide behind the economic facts of life, but services are still held in the Synagogue on Sabbath eve (at 7.30 on Friday evenings for convenience of the late workers), and there are those amongst you who could manage one and a half hours on Sabbath morning. You owe it to the past, to your immediate ancestors, to your heritage, to the martyrs who died for their religion; and to the millions who died because they would not deny they were Jews.

This Congregation of ours is an old one with a glorious past. I am a comparative newcomer. Like other Presidents before me, my reluctance to take office was overwhelmed by a sense of responsibility. I simply ask you to share that responsibility. I am not your conscience. I hope you will realise that by taking a greater interest in your Synagogue and in the religion to which you profess to conform, you are not only keeping this historic congregation alive, but you will be helping yourselves.

Yours sincerely,

Sydney Curwen.

"JUST LOOKING, THANK YOU"

(All characters in this article are non-fictional. They exist. Are you one of them, madam?)

I needed a part-time job. I wanted an interesting one. I found it. In a dress-shop. It couldn't have turned out more

.../

/...

interesting or educational.....

I stand near the desk, and therefore I am in a good position to see what is taking place "on the floor". The salesgirls stand in a formidable line, armed with all the answers and ready for attack. The first customers straggle in and are sorted, served and despatched back into the busy bustle of Broadmead. I marvel at the speed with which these girls work.

Yet it is the tiny individual occurrences that catch my attention. Some customers obviously feel sorry for their working counterparts (do I detect an unintentional pun there?), and try to lessen the blow. "Well, I'm really sorry, dear. I do like it, but it's too long. That is, the LENGTH is too long". Well, I suppose it could have been worse - the WIDTH could have been too wide!

However, one must not be too cutting about the customers - I have come to observe the more noteworthy salestalk techniques, and these, I must admit, are abundant and thought-provoking.....

"No madam, it's MEANT to be tight-fitting."

...
"High waists are the thing now, you know."

"Too short? No, it's nice to show a few inches of skirt below these coats." ...

And to a short person trying on the same coat:

"Three-quarter length? Of course not, it was MADE to fit you. We stock all sizes, you know."

...
Madam is dressed completely in sombre browns and black, she has been persuaded to buy a bright red coat.

"I'm glad you chose this, madam. Bright colours do suit you; you're so pale-skinned." (Think about it!)

...
Standing by a rail of fifty identical coats, salesgirl to hesitant client:

"If you go now, it may be gone when you come back."

...
These are only a few examples of what is happening everywhere all the time. Who is more to blame - the salesgirls for saying it, or the customers for believing it? Think about it next time you walk into a dress-shop.

By the way, I'm now looking for another job. Any offers?

Karen.

BRISTOL W.I.E.O. GROUP

A Coffee Morning was held on Tuesday, 2nd December, at 27 Reedley Road; our hostess was Mrs. Kate Lever.

On 16th December, a Coffee Morning was held at 77 Parry's Lane. Mrs. Ruth Curwen was hostess.

Future Meetings

Tuesday, 13th January There will be an Evening Meeting at 7 Melrose Place. Miss Ena Blohm will be our hostess.

Tuesday, 27th January There will be a Bring and Buy Tea at 51 The Dell. Our hostess will be Mrs. Nancy Silverman.

Bette Burke
Shelagh Hart
(Joint Hon. Secs.)

The Talmud Torah Committee wish to convey their appreciation to the Ladies' Guild for a most enjoyable and entertaining Chanukah Party, which made a pleasant afternoon for children and adults alike. The kindling of the candles and the singing of the children during the service was a credit to Rev. Modell; although the smaller children found some difficulty in reaching the menorah, this in no way detracted from their charm, and with a few extra inches next year, we hope they will find the task easier. A very special thank you to a Clifton College pupil of the chalda, Master Paul Simon, for his rendition of the Mincha service. It was a pleasure to see one so young, with the learning and confidence to lead the Congregation in prayer.

Classes will recommence on Sunday, 4th January, 1970.

FOR OUR YOUNG

The December Quiz.

Only two entries were received for the December Quiz. This lack of interest is very disappointing. Great credit goes to Lynne Goldman who sent in a completely correct answer. She therefore wins the prize of 5/-. The other entry came from Stephen Silverman, to whom I have sent 2/6 as a consolation prize and as a prize for his excellent effort.

The January Prize will be awarded for an account of the story of Jacob and Esau. It is sincerely hoped that all children between the ages of five and twelve will compete. Prizes of 10/-, 5/- and 2/6 will be awarded. Mrs. Curwen and I will be the judges. Please send

.../

/...
your entry, clearly and neatly written to me:

Dr. S. Curwen, 77 Parry's Lane, Bristol BS9 1AN.

to be received on or before 20th January, 1970. The prizes will be awarded not only for the merit in telling the story, but bearing in mind age and effort. Illustrations will help. (Your own work, of course).

Answers to the December Quiz

1. The first President of Israel.
2. The King of Babylon who was responsible for the destruction of the First Temple.
3. Syria and Jordan (also Egypt).
4. Gamal Abdul Nasser.
5. Dinah.
6. The Minister of Defence for Israel.
7. Purim.
8. Ruth.
9. Shevat.
10. At least seven.
11. Hagbah. Holding up the Sefer Torah for the Congregation to see. Gellilah. Dressing or re-adorning the Sefer.
12. As a remembrance of the fact that, as a search of manna in the wilderness was forbidden on the Sabbath, a double supply was discovered on Friday.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

At the Annual General Meeting, the retiring President, Mr. Gould, made the oft-made point that the work of the Congregation always fell on the shoulders of the few. The rest felt that as long as they paid their fees their job was done. But a few members of the Council have decided that it is not enough to appeal to your better instincts to save this Congregation - rather we must dig - deeply - and see whether perhaps you have any better instincts. We are going to chase and harry you until you do awake to your responsibilities to yourselves and to the youngsters who will have to take over in years to come. This is the New Inspiration, and its aims. We are fed up with the words "We have tried it before, but...." and no longer will we let you hide behind the mask of indifference. If anything happens to this Congregation, we will approach as many people as possible personally. We are not interested in past history, but the sad present state of this Congregation. We may be small in number, but big in spirit and enthusiasm, and support for the Bristol Jewish Congregation, lest it dies.

I. Kushner,
Hon. Sec.
