

The Bristol Jewish Recorder



MARCH 1970

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

HAROLD SEYMOUR
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All communications to

59 The Dell,
Westbury-on-Trym.

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ADAR II 5730

BRISTOL HEBREW CONGREGATION THE SYNAGOGUE, PARK ROW, BRISTOL

Synagogue Services:

Friday Evenings 7.30 p.m.

Saturday Mornings 10.0 a.m.

Minister:

Hon. Sec.

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

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 . . .

Monday, 2nd March

Evening Meeting at
10 Oakhurst Road.

Sunday, 8th March

Mothers' Day Social
Synagogue Hall.

Sunday, 15th March

Fork Supper - Synagogue
Hall, preceded by Extra-
ordinary General Meeting.

Y A H R Z E I T S

Thursday	12th March	Mrs. G. Seymour	Adar II	4
Friday	13th March	Mr. S. Dysch	Adar II	5
Tuesday	17th March	Mr. H. Seymour	Adar II	9
Wednesday	18th March	Mr. D. Goldman	Adar II	10
Wednesday	25th March	Mr. A. Glick	Adar II	17
Sunday	29th March	Mr. S. Dysch	Adar II	21
Thursday	2nd April	Mrs. G. Wapnah	Adar II	25
Friday	3rd April	Mrs. B. Cohen	Adar II	26
Sunday	5th April	Mrs. D. Cohen	Adar II	28

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.

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

Members of the Congregation are reminded that the Fast of Esther will be observed on Thursday, 19th March, terminating at 8.05 p.m.

The Festival of Purim will be celebrated on Sunday, 22nd March.

Minchah Service on Saturday, 21st March will commence at 7.30 p.m. This will be followed by Maariv Service and the Reading of the Megillah.

There will also be a Service on Sunday, 22nd March at 9.00 a.m., followed by the Reading of the Megillah. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend to make a minyan.

We record with regret the passing of Mr. Isaac Norvick, a former member of our Community, who died recently in Cardiff. Our sincere condolences to Mrs. Norvick and Martin, and we wish them long life.

Congregants are reminded that, preceding the Women's Guild Function on Sunday, 15th March at 7.00 p.m., there will be an Extra-ordinary General Meeting for the purpose of discussing the Seat Rentals. All are urged to attend this meeting, whether they intend to stay and .../

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enjoy themselves afterwards or not !

The February Lottery was won by Mr. L. Hart.

Talmud Torah Classes

No classes will be held on Sunday, 29th March, but will recommence on Sunday, 5th April.

Purim Service will be held on Sunday, 22nd March, and a Party at 3.00 that afternoon. All children are welcome.

A letter has been received from the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Jakobovits, regarding the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union. He requests monetary aid from individuals via their communities for the purpose of sending parcels through special channels to give them practical support from their brethren in other more fortunate countries. Any donations would be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, for forwarding to the Chief Rabbi's Office.

MESSAGE FOR PURIM 1970/5730

We are again approaching the very popular Festival of Purim. It is indeed a very topical Festival in spite of the fact that the event of Purim happened over 2,000 years ago. It is a day of merrymaking, feasting and drinking. According to our Rabbis, we should be already in a festive mood from the beginning of the months of Adar.

But with all this rejoicing, we should not forget that the Book of Esther mentions how serious the situation was when Haman issued the decree to exterminate all the Jewish People of the Persian Empire on the thirteenth of Adar. What was the reaction of the Jewish People ? Inspired by Mordecai, Queen Esther gave the order that the Jewish People should gather to the places of worship and fast and pray to the Almighty. Mordecai acted immediately; he brought thousands of Jewish children together to the Beth Hamidrash and told them that their lives and the lives of their parents and families were in danger. The children were joined by their parents and families in prayers and fasting.

The following night, not only King Ahasuerus, but also the King of Kings could not sleep because the lives of the entire Jewish population were at stake, and seeing the determination of the Jewish people to hold firm to the tradition of the Jewish faith, decided to bring salvation to the Jewish people.

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What is the message of Purim in our present time ? The historical event of Purim should give us encouragement in our present crisis with Israel and the situation in the Middle East. Of course, Israel needs to be firm and militarily strong to meet the continuous Arab terrorist actions, but our final salvation will not depend on the settlements of the great Nations but on our own decision towards our traditional Judaism as we have seen it in the past. We will again P.G. witness the defeat of our modern Hamans and celebrate our Purim with joy and happiness as we find it in the Book of Esther, Chapter 9, Verse 16 -

"The Jews had light and gladness, and joy and honour."

With Chag Sameyach,

Rev. & Mrs. Moddel & Susan.

JOINT PALESTINE APPEAL

This year's appeal will be held on Thursday, 9th April, 1970. The guest speaker will be Mr. Arish Eilan.

Mr. Eilan settled in Israel in 1948 and has since held the following posts:-

- 1950 Attache at Geneva to the Permanent Mission of Israel to the European offices of the United Nations.
- 1953 Returned to Israel and appointed Liaison Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 1956 Appointed First Secretary in the Israel Mission to the U.N. in New York.
- 1958 Promoted Counsellor.
- 1960 Attained the rank of Minister.
- 1962 Appointed Consul at Bombay.
- 1963 Appointed Israel's First Ambassador to Kenya.
- 1966 Returned to Israel where he was appointed Director of the Department of Political and Economic Planning, and subsequently Director of the Eastern European Department. He has also been a member of the Israel Delegation to the U.N. General Assembly.

He is married and has two children. His daughter is presently serving with the Israel Defence Forces.

First may I digress (not entirely a digression, but not fully in keeping with the title). My first clarion call for better Synagogue attendance was met with a positive wave of enthusiasm. Three adult males (once regular attenders) came to Sabbath morning service. Hallelujah ! Religious revival was on the way !!

Alas, what, at first sight, seemed to be a Roman Candle (nothing to do with ecumenism) turned out to be only a damp squib.

However, the New Inspiration, that gallant band whose main work is more obvious after dark, have converted the Friday evening service into a regular congregational effort for the first time in many years. It is therefore ironic, and totally unconnected that the Sabbath morning service is once again lacking in worshippers. Two weeks of bare minyans (ten adult males) were followed by a minyan minus one (nine adult males). Not to have a minyan at this time of the year is unusual to say the least of it. Summer, with the large exodus on package deals and weekends away, or the severe snow or frost of winter are understandable reasons for poor attendance, but what is happening now ? Are the community relying on the University students ? If so, their faith (in this as well) is misplaced, for the student body - large though it may be in theory - is often represented by one or two constant attenders.

So now the New Inspiration must get to work to devise plans for a regular minyan on Sabbath morning service, and those members of the congregation (and there are many) who can "spare" one and a half hours per week in traditional worship and prayer must follow the example of the New Inspiration who have restored a semblance of congregational service to the Eve of Sabbath.

Now the ladies !! (He's a persistent nagger, isn't he?). No more ladies (except one, once) have joined the regulars. The special Kiddush is still a president's dream. The recent efforts of one good lady, to organise such a Kiddush were met with apathy and disinterest, and yet, if by some miracle, there were a Barmitzvah or the prelude to a Wedding, once a month, the ladies' gallery would have large numbers, and even the men would turn out in numbers unthought of at the present time. Twenty years ago, the ladies' Sabbath morning attendance was good, because the then mothers of young children had a sense of responsibility. I cannot believe that the mothers of today are completely devoid of that concern. One or two mothers have shown this to be so, but there are many others who could demonstrate the fact, and help in the essential part of their children's religious education - an awareness of one of the corner-stones of Jewish life - attendance at Sabbath morning service.

POLACK BRANCH & A.S.E.M.

All members are reminded that their annual subscriptions of £1 for .../

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this year are now due.

The Treasurer, Mr. E. Lever, would be grateful if as many persons as possible would forward their subscriptions to him at 27 Readley Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol 9.

A.J.E.X. OLD AGE HOME FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

The branch, at their Annual General Meeting, decided to open a subscription list from the Bristol branch of A.J.E.X. to contribute towards the cost of equipping the Ex-Servicemen's home now being built in London.

Donations should be sent to our Treasurer, Mr. E. Lever, and it is hoped as many members as possible in the community and branch will contribute towards this most worthy cause.

The Home, when finished, will be open for disabled and Aged Jewish Ex-Servicemen.

BRISTOL JEWISH WOMEN'S GUILD

An evening meeting took place on Monday, 2nd February, when members of the staff of Frederik & Jean, with their delightful models, entertained us with a most interesting and enjoyable demonstration of their artistry in Hair Fashions. Our hostess was Mrs. Golda Seymour.

Future Programmes

Monday, 2nd March	Evening Meeting at 10 Oakhurst Road. Our hostess will be Mrs. Marcia Gee.
Sunday evening, 15th March	An informal Fork Supper to be held at the Synagogue Hall, in aid of Guild Funds. <u>Sherry - 7.30 p.m.</u> Tickets - 12/6d. each
Monday, 13th April	Evening Meeting at 11 Glen Drive. Our hostess will be Mrs. Miriam Goldman.

C. Culank,
Hon. Sec.

BRISTOL W.I.Z.O. GROUP

An afternoon meeting and "Bring and Buy" was held on Tuesday, 27th January at 51 The Dell. Our hostess was Mrs. Nancy Silverman.

A Coffee Morning was held on Tuesday, 10th February at 4 Rockleaze. Our hostess was Mrs. Saeof.

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Annual Dinner and Dance

Our Annual Dinner and Dance will be held on Sunday, 12th April at the Newman Hall. Tickets 27s. 6d. We hope that you will make every effort to attend to ensure the success of this function.

Spring Jumble Sale

Our coming Jumble Sale will be held on Wednesday, 15th April. Both jumble and helpers will be needed.

Market Stall

On Sunday, 17th May, we are holding a morning Stall in Canon's Marsh Market. We should be grateful for any new items, such as clothes, china, glass, etc., or any handmade articles members would care to make or donate.

Bette Burke
Shelagh Hart
(Joint Hon.Secs.)

<u>Free</u> Dancing	<u>Free</u> Prizes	<u>Free</u> Refreshments
<u>THE NEW INSPIRATION</u>		
INVITE YOU ALL TO A GRAND MOTHERS' DAY SOCIAL ON 8th MARCH AT 8.00 p.m.		
MOTHERS ! BRING YOUR HUSBANDS OR ANY PARTNER OF YOUR CHOICE		
AT THE SYNAGOGUE HALL		

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JUNE IN JANUARY

Oy vays mier
It's abundantly clear
The "knockers" are at it again.

1. The stairs are too steep
We're missing our sleep
Oh spare me the ancient refrain.

2. A pound to get in
No Whiskey or Gin ?
What kind of a party is this ?

3. The band is too loud -
Not much of a crowd
Why didn't we give it a miss ?

4. So little food
The Barman was stewed
The Cabaret - oh what a bore !

5. The Hall is so cold
It ought to be sold
And look at the state of the floor !

6. But when all's said and done
It's part of the fun -
Pushing back every advance.

7. So DON'T take the train
We'll invite you again
And give you ANOTHER chance !

Author's Note:

1. We know
2. Among other things, a full bottle of best Brandy went into the "fruit cup".
3. Wasn't it !
4. A programme like that after two rehearsals !
What did you expect for a quid, Sammy Davis Junior ?
5. Isn't it !

Some people like to criticise
But never help to organise
If only they did realise
They are not really very wise.

On New Year's Eve we held a party
People came all gay and hearty
Some complained about the band
The noise they said they couldn't stand.

One alta boba sogged oy vey.
vas gate on dorten ich ken nisht shtay
Ich gay a hame ich muss gay shloffen
The yunger kinder are tze tzlossen.

The New Inspiration are really trying
To save the community from actually dying.
We do what we can, but we want you to know
We need your support to make ALL SYSTEMS GO.

S. A. Silverman.

A POEM IN REVERSE

On New Year's Eve a bitter cold night,
June Charles dressed up hoping to get tight,
A dash to the Shool Hall, she parked her car,
What a pity she came, it was too far.

In fancy dress we bravely stand,
The party has begun, but why no band ?
At eight o'clock the band did arrive
The caretaker said, you're in the wrong dive.

Where were the drinks to warm us up ?
On the bar with Brandy - in the Cider cup.
There's a break for food, which made a great score
Followed by the cabaret, but June asked for more.

Who said that you were the chosen
While we all danced, you stood frozen.
Although there was plenty more to do,
You went home - more fool you.

Although we tried hard for a successful occasion,
Perhaps it would have been better with your earlier observation
If you wish to go to another station,
I'll carry your bags, without hesitation.

Irene Springer.

WHAT DO YOU WANT -- BLOOD ?

Apropos of nothing, over a friendly meal at the home of a Member of this community, the general conversation that ensued turned to the problems of small Jewish Communities, and, inevitably to the particular problems of our own Community. Quite spontaneously, the company present threw back and forth various ideas, old and new, which might encourage larger Social gatherings, improved Shool attendance, more Communal activity, etc. I should emphasise that this was NOT a "pre-convened" meeting, just "after dinner" conversation. Somebody suggested why don't WE have a go, and eventually, from the suggestions made, one or two were agreed upon in principle. Having reached this point, some amusing names were bandied about for the "Group", and the name "New Inspirations" came into being.

The "New Inspirations" first effort was the New Year's Dance. From start to finish, the arrangements for this dance, the booking of the Band, Decoration of the Hall, Printing of Invitations, Provision and Preparation of Food and Drink, Selling Tickets, etc. etc., was at the personal expense, in time and money, of the "Group". We of course, hoped to clear ourselves, but our OWN time and cash was at risk, and any ensuing PROFIT was to be used for the benefit of the WHOLE community. As most people now know, (especially those who were there, and stayed to bring the New Year in), the dance was a great success, IN SPITE of the weather, and a small misunderstanding involving the Band.

Inevitably, one expects criticism, however well intentioned the effort, but on this occasion, it would appear that the sole adverse criticism carried with it a touch of bitterness. Personally, I find this very sad. Sad that it seemed to embody the seemingly standard cliches of the disgruntled customer who comes with the singular INTENTION of finding fault, whatever.

A Group of well intentioned people are trying to DO something. All of them are ALREADY involved, as Shool Councillors, members of WIZO, the Ladies Guild, the J.P.A., the Chevra Kedusha, the Talmud Torah, A.J.E.X., etc. etc. They also all work, have problems, run homes, and have families - as well as being MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION. What do you want -- BLOOD ?

P.S. The "New Inspiration" are not a Secret Society, or a "closed shop", they have no affiliation fees, and do not exclude women, or professional critics. If you'd like to help, CALL US.

Hosan ben Dov.