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# THE BRISTOL RECORDER

*NEWS SHEET OF  
THE HEBREW  
CONGREGATION*

1989

AUGUST

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## OFFICIALS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

Mr R Emanuel	Tel 739669
Mrs A Hutter	Tel 682033
Mr A Greenwood	Tel 683954

### BRISTOL WOMENS GUILD

CHAIRLADY  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

Mrs S Tobias	Tel 93 - 412831
<i>Rochdale King</i>	Tel No. 738720
Mrs H Channack	Tel 681803

### BRISTOL W.I.Z.O GROUP

CHAIRLADY  
SECRETARY

Mrs J Jacobs	Tel 502728
Mrs R Curwen	Tel 683033

### CHEVRA KADISHA

PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURERS

Mr S Nirenberg	Tel 693040
Mr N Smith	Tel 247492
Mr S Silverman	Tel 560700
Mr H Springer	

### TALMUD TORAH

SECRETARY

Mrs L Love	Tel 681852
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### WELFARE SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN  
SEC/AST TREASURER  
TREASURER

Mr G Gee	Tel 684013
Mrs R Curwen	Tel 683033
Mr V Schlesinger	

### A.J.E.X.

SECRETARY

Mr G Gee	Tel 684013
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*Services - Saturday mornings 10am.*

### RECORDER EDITORS

Mr S A Silverman  
Mr N Smith  
Mr G Gee

36 Oakdale Court, Downend	Tel 560700
160 Cranbrook Road, Redland	Tel 247492
10 Oakhurst Road, Bristol	Tel 684013

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### YAHZITES

Thursday	August 10th	Mrs Sonia Silverman	Av 9
Monday	August 21st	Mrs C Culank	Av 20
Sunday	August 27th	Mrs M Kushner	Av 26
Sunday	September 3rd	Mr W Samuel	Ellul 3
Saturday	September 9th	Mr W Samuel	Ellul 9

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### Communal Announcements

The next council meeting will be on Monday August 21st.

Tish B'Av                      Wednesday 9th August  
Fast commences 8.35 (London Time)

Fast ends                      Thursday 10th August  
                                    (9.25 London Time)

The July Lottery of £10 was won by Raphael Emanuel and the £50 was won by Miriam Gordon.

### Social and Personal

Congratulations to Miriam Gordon who has recently passed her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Mazel tov to Henry and Irene Springer who celebrate their Ruby Wedding anniversary on 19th August. Irene has recently made a name for herself in the world of Bridge and Henry is becoming famous as a Hotelier. Irene and Henry have presented a set of Yom Kippur / Rosh Hashanna Machzor to the Shul to mark the occasion.

Mazel tov to Ann Senel on the occasion of her Grandson Richard's Barmitzva which took place in London last month.

Mazel tov to Jenny Dysch on the wedding of her granddaughter Tracey to Dr Ian Bernstein on August 13th in London also to Pauline Finkleman, mother of the Bride.

Mazel tov to Valerie and Theo Goldberg of Guildford on the Occasion of the Barmitzva of their son Joseph on August 26th.

We are sorry to hear that Ann Emmanuel has broken her arm and hope that she will make a speedy recovery. (Is there a Doctor in the house?)

Mazel tov to Gill and Mark Ornstein on the Batmitzva of their daughter Anna which was on July 16th in London.

Mazel tov to Anthony Elman who has announced his engagement to Elisabeth Winkler-Reid. We send them both our good wishes.

We have just heard that Mr Lou Cohen has been admitted to hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery back to good health.

### Obituary

A passionate fighter for justice, and a champion of the underprivileged, has sadly gone from the Bristol scene. Berta Sacof died peacefully in Hospital on 23rd June 1989. She is survived by her husband Mike, daughter Natalie, son David, four grandchildren and a baby granddaughter, the loving family who were her constant support and joy.

From the time she was secretary of the Jewish Literary and Debating Society, through the War years as a WVS member of Bristol's Own Fund for the Forces, public service attracted her.

A founder-member of the local Fabian Society, Berta was a prominent member of the Labour Party, holding many offices.

As a Magistrate for 15 years, she lived to see many of her suggested reforms come into being on the Bristol Bench. Education was Berta's consuming interest. During her 25 years on Bristol Education Committee she became a Governor of Brunel Technical College, Chairman of Henleaze and Claremont Special Schools, and held many other public appointments.

A unique trio of sister Councillors was formed when Berta served on Bristol City Council together with Hon. Alderman Jeannette Britton and the late ex-Lord Mayor, Hon. Alderman Helen Bloom - "the Strimer Sisters" as they were known.

A vibrant character, Berta feared no-one in pursuit of any cause she embraced. Countless Bristolians will thank her for her zeal in helping them to solve their personal problems.

Warm, humorous and a great communicator, Berta will be remembered with fond affection by all her family, many friends and former colleagues.

J.B.

The tombstone in memory of the late Jeremy Sanders will be consecrated at Bushey Cemetery at 12.30 p.m. on Monday, 28th August.

We are very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Lori Wetzler, mother of Dr Michael Wetzler who died suddenly on June 22nd. We send our deepest sympathy to Michael and the whole family and wish them Long Life.

I am researching a television series called THE WEST AT WAR and I am particularly interested in hearing the memories of the non-British Jewish community in and around the Bristol area during the Second World War. It was a time when anybody who was thought to be of 'foreign' origin could be considered a threat to the national security and people who had in fact been living in Britain for many years were suspected of being spies !! I would like to hear from anybody who suffered at this time and especially from anybody who was actually put into an internment camp as a result of these unfounded war time suspicions. Please send your memories to me, Pamela Gordon, 10 Hawthorne Way, Stoke Gifford, Bristol B12 6UP.

### Bristol Womens Guild

At the recent A.G.M. held at Irene Berkovitch's home, the following people were elected to office.

Chairman	Sheila Tobias
Vice Chairman	Eve Gordon
Secretary	Rochelle King
Treasurer	Helena Channack

### Committee Members

Marcia Gee, Audrey Greenwood, Doreen Harris, Min Kushner, Eve Levy, Sonia Silverman, Helen Vegoda.

### Catering Committee

Co Chairmen Irene Berkovitch, Min Kushner

### Chairperson's Report

The Chairman reported it was a very successful year in which we raised over £1000 and thanked all members of the Guild for all their hard work.

### Future Events

### Sunday 10th September

## BAR-B-Q

Come and join the sizzling barbecue, plenty of food and fun, at the home of:

Eve Gordon  
15, Downs Park West  
Westbury Park  
Bristol

Price:	Adults	£5.50
	Children	£3.00
	(Under 18)	

Time: 12.30 pm

Please contact Eve Gordon Tel 620187 or Audrey Greenwood Tel 683954 if you would like to join us.

Could everyone please start collecting white elephants for the stall.

Look out for the student brunch on Sunday 26th November!!

The next Ladies Guild meeting will be on:- Monday 18th September at:

Sheila Tobias 23, Pentland Ave Thornbury. Time: 8pm

### Cake Rota for Shabbat

August 5th	Ann Handel
August 12th	Sonia Silverman
August 19th	Rochelle King
August 26th	Marcia Gee
September 2nd	Sheila Tobias

Finally: If anyone has a Shool Card Table could they please return it.

## BRISTOL WIZO

We have now reached the end of our WIZO year.

By the time you read this, our Annual General Meeting will have taken place, but as I am writing prior to it, I am not able to give you any details in this edition of the "Recorder", but I am taking this opportunity to thank everybody for their continuing dedicated support with venues and events throughout the year, for without this support Bristol WIZO would not have been able to carry out its part in the vital national WIZO effort.

In the next edition of the "Recorder" details of the programme we have formulated for next year will be published, so we should be continuing with successful fund raising efforts.

Finally, a piece of great news!! Eve Gordon tells that our £1000 "target" for Jewish Womens Week has been reached!! Congratulations to both Eve Sheila on their efforts, and to everyone for their support.

Shalom, and with all best wishes

Joy

### YOUR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER KOSHERINA DATES

6 August

20 August

3 September

17 September

24 September *[nb special pre-yomtov opening]*

Our shop is open outside the Frank Cohen Hall 10.15 - 11.45.

We stock a full range of kosher goodies - frozen and dry - served at your leisure with a chance for a chat with your friends thrown in.

Indeed, KOSHERINA would like to thank all its friends - customers and volunteer servers - for your tremendous support since we opened; without you there would be no shop.



## JACOBS WELL

The old spring which gave its name to the area and to the road has recently been re-opened. Visitors are welcome to see the spring and the small bottling works and to sample a glass of water. It is open from Monday to Friday, from 9 am - 5 pm, at 33 Jacobs Wells Road (about 10 yards up the hill from the junction with the bottom of Constitution Hill). The telephone number for enquiries is 252245.

The history of the spring goes back to the Roman times and is recorded from 1042. By 1089 it was under the control of the local Jewish community who used the water for their Mikveh or ritual bath. This is the oldest-known Mikveh in Europe. On the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290 the spring passed to the Crown, which allowed the St Augustine's monks to use it and it was granted Scriptural Title. The waters were supposed to have curative powers for both physical and mental disorders. It was visited by travellers and by pilgrims.

In 1373 King Edward III granted the spring to the City of Bristol by charter, with the provision that a conduit was created to supply water to the City. A system was built in the late Middle Ages which supplied properties on the north side of College Green, the Grammar School in Trinity Street and the Hospital of the Gaunts (later Red Maids' Hospital) in Denmark

Street. A survey made in 1720 also shows that conduits led to the docks so that the ships could take fresh water on board.

In 1723 the City of Bristol granted a tenancy to Robert King to take possession of the spring and to sell the water for one penny a bucket. In 1840 a water company was formed under the name of Rough, Sedge and Summers, and the water was bottled until the 1880s, being sold as "Genuine Superior Aerated Waters".

The spring head was sealed when, in the late nineteenth century, the site became the Fire Engine House. In 1986 the property and land was sold for development. The source of the spring was, at that time, unknown and the Bristol Temple History Group took the opportunity to investigate. They cut away the concrete wall which had been erected when the Fire Engine House had been built and re-found the spring head and its stone surround, on which there was an inscription. Staff from the Bristol Museum were called in and it was examined with care. The inscription is somewhat worn but would appear to have significance for the Jewish religion and dates back to the eleventh century.

We are lucky to have this unique historical site on our doorstep and it is delightful to find that modern enterprise is making use of the old spring and that we can buy our own local water in an elegant Bristol Blue bottle.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

(For the purposes of this article "Progressive" includes Reform and Liberal Judaism)

**IN THE BEGINNING** - The Napoleonic Wars broke down many of the social barriers in Europe and Moses Mendelssohn endeavoured to include Jews also in secular schools and universities which resulted in Jews' losing their faith, in assimilation and intermarriage - an outcome he could not have envisaged.

Reform Judaism was founded to prevent this. The first Reform service took place in Berlin in 1810 led by Israel Jacobson. The first Reform prayer book was published by the Hamburg Temple in 1819. In England the West London Synagogue of British Jews was founded in 1842. Reform Congregations accepted Torah as the word of God but rejected Talmud as a human document. However by rejecting the laws and precepts of Talmud much traditional ritual was changed, services were shortened, in some Synagogues men and women sat together, the vernacular was used in prayer, sermons were regularly given and Sunday prayer was considered. Later they developed along more traditional lines.

But numbers decreased. The conversionist organisations won some converts, others were baptized as a reaction against current Synagogue practice & politics. Throughout the 19th century assimilation & intermarriage caused the greatest losses.

**LIBERAL JUDAISM** - In 1899 the Jewish Quarterly Review published an article entitled "The Spiritual Possibilities of Judaism Today" written by the Hon. Lily H. Montagu, the daughter of Lord Swaythling, a product of Anglo-Jewish Orthodox aristocracy. She, assisted by her sister Marian, was to remain in the forefront of the Liberal movement all her life. In 1902 the Jewish press carried a lengthy correspondence under the title "Has Synagogue service failed?" showing that many Jews neglected Sabbath services either from disinterest or from working on Saturdays.

The Jewish Religious Union was formed in 1902 and the first service was held at the Wharnclife Rooms, Marylebone Road, London, attended by over 300 people. Many leading orthodox Jews were involved and the original intention was to supplement rather than replace existing services. The orthodox supporters were forced to withdraw and the West London Synagogue of British Jews offered the use of its premises on terms unacceptable to the J.R.U. Claude Montefiore, great-nephew of Sir Moses Montefiore, a scion of orthodox Anglo-Jewry, wrote a pamphlet in 1909, entitled The Jewish Religious Union, a New Religion in Anglo-Jewry. They would hold services on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings and afternoons, two weekday services a month and all Festival services. The Union would stand for "English" and Hebrew, instrumental music, mixed seating, modern prayers, English hymns and a revised ritual. He said the Union was most anxious that those who were drifting away from Judaism should join the Union and remain Jewish.

Later the same year the J.R.U. was renamed "The Jewish Religious Union for the Advancement of Liberal Judaism" and in 1910 acquired a disused chapel in Hill Street, London, for services and religion classes. Rabbi Israel Mattuck, a young American, was appointed in 1912 and he led the congregation and the movement until his death in 1952. In 1925 the Liberal Jewish Synagogue moved to St. John's Wood and in 1944 changed its name again to the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues.

**BRISTOL** - Other congregations were established in London and the provinces. In 1961 the Bristol Liberal Jewish Group was founded by Len Hart and a nucleus of Jews not attached to or dissatisfied with the Bristol Hebrew Congregation. In 1969 they changed their name to the Bristol and West Progressive Congregation, felt to be more in keeping with their image and the geographical coverage. In 1971 the present building in Bannerman Road was purchased, since when the congregation has gone from strength to strength.

(With thanks for use of information provided by Rosita Rosenberg in the 1989 ULPS YEARBOOK)

*Justth Samuel*



### EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

At the extraordinary general meeting held on Sunday 9 July 1989, it was resolved, by thirty votes with three abstentions and none against, to appoint Nitzan Chen as part-time Minister to the Congregation while he is in post in the South West region as Student Chaplain appointed by the Chaplaincy Board. The passing of this resolution was in line with an unanimous recommendation to this effect from Council to the egm.

The full extent of Nitzan's responsibilities to the Congregation have still to be decided by a joint management committee comprising representatives of the students in the region, of the Chaplaincy Board, and of Bristol Hebrew Congregation. Our representatives on that committee are the President, Vice-President and Secretary.

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### DO WE HAVE A HIDDEN CHEDER TEACHER?

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The TALMUD TORAH need someone to teach from SEPTEMBER.

If there is anyone in the Community who would like to join the "Team", please contact GERALD LEVY.....NOW!

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### SMALL ADS.

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### FOR SALE & WANTED

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Small ads will be accepted to help defray the cost of printing and publishing the Recorder. A fixed price of £3.00 will be charged for adverts of any reasonable length. Please contact the Eds. for further information.

#### For Sale

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Erica Typewriter. Good condition  
Portable/manual. £30.00 ono.

Telephone. 560700

#### Wanted

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Electric fan for 3 very  
overheated editors.

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### FOR YOUR DIARY

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9TH.	TISHA B'AV	FAST COMMENCES	8.35 P.M.
MONDAY AUGUST 21ST.	COUNCIL MEETING.	FRANK COHEN HALL	@ 8.00 P.M.
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH.	BAR-B-QUE.	15 DOWNS PARK WEST	@ 12.30 P.M.
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH.	WOMENS GUILD MEETING.	23 PENTLAND AVE.	@ 8.00 P.M.
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH.	ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE.	RIDGEWAY CEMETERY	@ 2.30 P.M.

1989