

JUNE 1974

NEWSLETTER

TAMMUZ 5734

OF THE
BUSHEY & DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE
NUMBER 14

It is pleasing to note, elsewhere in our columns, that there was a minyan recently for a Shabbat afternoon/evening service. Further, the need to wait for a minyan on a Shabbat morning seems to be occurring less frequently. It is to be hoped that this trend will continue; and that the introduction of a five minute talk on a point of interest arising out of the sedra will serve as yet another means of attracting more members to the Shabbat services.

ooo

In Newsletter 10, which came out last December, we mentioned the idea of a "Can You Tell Me?" column, aimed at answering Readers' questions on Judaism. In view of the overwhelming response to this suggestion we are, in this issue, starting a "Did You Know?" feature. Perhaps someone would care to put pen to paper and give us their views on this?

ooo

Editor - Ronald Cole
"Colne View"
32 Elstree Road
Bushey Heath
WD2 3QY
Tel: 01-950.3566

ooo 000 ooo

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members of the community

- Vivian & Heather Highman, and Alexander
- Ronald & Ruth Kaye
- Reuben Soames

ooo 000 ooo

We wish a very hearty Mazeltov to

- Daphne & Jack Berkovi on the birth of a son, Justin
- Philippa & Ivan Gold on the birth of a daughter, Melanie Lisa, a sister for Marc and Simon
- Marilyn & Robert Goldsobel on the birth of a son, James Anthony
- Lilian & Herbert Hellerman on the birth of a grand-daughter, Joanne Rachel
- Arthur Kaye, on the birth of his first grand-daughter, Melanie Gold
- Laurel & William Levy, on the birth of a son, Andrew Simon
- Harry Silveaton, on the birth of a first great grand-daughter, Melanie Gold

ooo 000 ooo

We send all good wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to

- Mrs. Myra Grays

ooo 000 ooo

An 'Open' Letter

Dear Editor,

May I, through the pages of your illustrious journal, appeal to all those members of the Synagogue who have not yet paid their current subscriptions to attend to payment as soon as possible.

In several cases members have fallen substantially in arrears with payment and it is embarrassing (to say the least) to write to people, who in most cases one knows personally, requesting payment of outstanding accounts.

In addition, for certain reasons briefly discussed at the A.G.M., the Synagogue needs to raise a substantial sum within a very short period of time and the lack of payment of membership subscriptions certainly does not help matters.

Finally, I would mention in passing that at the end of each half year a list of members whose accounts are outstanding has to be supplied to the United Synagogue, and it is - in my opinion - a bad reflection on this Synagogue for the list to be as long as it has been in recent years.

Sincerely, Davis Shulman (financial representative)

ooo 000 ooo

Report on the KINDERGARTEN: 'Gan Aviv' - 'Garden of Spring'

Having started the Kindergarten in January with only five children, we now have 17 with the very real prospect of being at our present capacity by September. A not inconsiderable achievement in five months.

The activities of the Kindergarten are already ensuring it a good reputation, and we now have children attending from Watford, Stanmore, and Edgware, as well as Bushey.

The aim of Gan Aviv is to provide an environment where the children can be stimulated to develop their inherent capabilities and engage to the full their need to express themselves.

Here, Mrs. Lefton, the headmistress, continues to strive with immense ability and enthusiasm to guide the children through their activities and to bring out the best of their natural talents.

As an example: last April, the Ben Uri Gallery held a Jewish Child Day Art Exhibition Exhibition.

All the best pieces of work from Jewish Schools and Kindergartens were exhibited. As there was a shortage of space in the Exhibition Hall (there were approximately 200 exhibits) we were very proud to have six pieces accepted, especially so as there were only 5 children at the Kindergarten at the time.

We still have room for a few more children, but it should be noted that with the entrollements for the next two terms we will be very near to our maximum numbers. So, any Parents who are going to want to send their children to Gan Aviv within the next eighteen months are advised to get their names down as soon as possible, rather than find that they have to be put on the waiting list!

ooo 000 ooo

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Pamola Kay and I were very annoyed at your comment about the Ladies Keep Fit class folding because it "had obviously proved far too strenuous for the Ladies!". The reason we stopped the class was that (a) I am pregnant, and (b) because Mrs. Kay is very busy business-wise, and this takes up her evenings, (c) it was also due to the lack of support from the ladies in the community: half of the ladies that attended did not even live in Bushey.

If anyone wishes to recontinue the classes, please contact Pam or myself and we will give them all the help we can. Please next time get the facts correct. For a number of weeks we came to start the class and no-one showed up.

Sincerely, Jenny Baum.

Editor's note: Jenny Baum can be contacted at 950.2064, and Pamela Kay at 954.1728

ooo

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to see the letter from the correspondent in your last issue, with reference to the lack of social gatherings and informal evenings etc. for the members of the community.

I have recently been appointed, by the Board, to chair the Social Calendar Committee and having been a member of the Shul for nearly 2 years, I too have felt a real need for the kind of things mentioned earlier. We are at present forming our Committee and would welcome suggestions from anybody with ideas to encourage the Jewish families in the area to become a more cohesive and friendly community.

The reason for the polarisation that exists at present is, as I see it, the fact that people are not able to meet and socialise together in any enjoyable atmosphere.

The job of the Social Calendar Committee will be to rectify this, by means of parties, card evenings, film shows, car rallies, outings, talks, music evenings, dances, etc. These get-togethers and social gatherings will be spread through the year and will place a greater emphasis on bringing people together for their entertainment than on raising money. Thus we will become a little bit better acquainted with each other, and perhaps more people will take an active interest in the Synagogue and its affairs.

Sincerely, Geoffrey Silver

Editor's Note: Geoffrey Silver can be contacted at 92.34064

ooo 000 ooo

..... on Saturday, 15th June, there was a Shalosh Seudot in the Synagogue, between Mincha and Meariv, and it is most pleasant to be able to recall that there was a minyan. There will be a Shalosh Seudot on Saturday, 20th July, and also on Saturday, 17th August: Mincha will be said at 8.45 p.m. and 7.45 p.m. respectively

ooo 000 ooo

We wish a very happy

- 6th birthday to Alexander Collis
- anniversary to Heather & Vivian Highmen
- birthday to Phillipa Gold
- birthday to Iven Gold
- birthday to Robert Goldsobel
- 7th birthday to Joanne Gotlieb
- anniversary to Sheila & Leonard Joseph
- birthday to Godfrey Keye
- 10th birthday to Ashley Kaye
- birthday to Ada Mandel
- anniversary to Louise & Aron Sager
- birthday to Solle Sheinman
- birthday to Harry Silveston
- anniversary to Louise & Edmund Verrey

all of whom have recently or will shortly be celebrating

oooooo

.....please do not forget the Scavenger Hunt being organised by the Bushey United Football Club on Sunday, 21st July. Entry is £2.00 per car. Please contact Ivan Gold (950.7507) or John Nash (950.7341) for tickets

oooooo

'Did You Know?'

The Three Weeks.

On Sunday, 7th July, we commence the sad period in the Jewish calendar known as 'The Three Weeks'. This begins with the Fast of Tammuz, known in Hebrew as 'Shiva Assar B'Tammuz', which means the 17th of Tammuz. In the time of the first temple, the walls of Jerusalem were breached on the 9th Tammuz and in the time of the second temple on the 17th Tammuz. Many other sad events in Jewish history have occurred on the 17th Tammuz, the most noteworthy being that Moses broke the tablets of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written, when he saw the Israelites worshipping the golden calf.

The fast is followed by 'The Three Weeks' which end with the Fast of Av, known in Hebrew as 'Tisha B'Av', which means the 9th of Av. This is the saddest day in the Jewish calendar since it commemorates the destruction of both temples, the first in 586 B.C.E. by Nebuchadnezzar and the second in 70 C.E. by Titus. On this day G-d decreed that the Jews would have to wander for 40 years in the wilderness.

'Shiva Assar B'Tammuz' begins at daybreak and lasts until nightfall, but we are allowed to carry out our daily occupations. From this day until noon on the day following 'Tisha B'Av' one is forbidden to cut one's hair or to listen to music. Weddings are also not allowed during this period.

The last 9 days of this period, from Rosh Chodesh Av (1st Av) have even stricter laws of mourning. In addition to the above laws concerning 'The Three Weeks' one must not put on new clothes nor may one eat meat or drink wine except on Shabbat.

'Tisha B'Av', which this year falls on 28th July, lasts from sunset on the 8th Av until nightfall on the 9th. However, the stricter laws of mourning are extended until noon on the 10th. During the fast one does not wear leather shoes. In the Synagogue, the covers of the Ark and of the reader's desk are removed. Worshippers

sit on low stools or on the floor as a sign of mourning. The evening service is followed by the chanting of the Megillah Eicha (Lamentations) which was written, according to tradition, by Jeremiah. The Megillah is an elegy on the destruction of the temple and is followed by the reading of the Kinot (various liturgical poems recording sad events in Jewish history).

The Tallith and Tephillin are not worn at the morning service which is also followed by the recital of numerous Kinot. If possible one should avoid doing non-essential work on this day, though it is not forbidden. The level of mourning decreases in the afternoon and one puts on the Tallith and Tephillin for the afternoon service.

This year there is an additional complication since 'Tisha B'Av' falls on Sunday and thus the fast commences before the termination of Shabbat. One does not, therefore, say Havdalah on Saturday night but postpones this until Sunday night, when we can say only the blessing over wine and the concluding blessing ('Hamavdil').

ooo 000 ooo

.....congratulations to Harvey Burton who came fifth in the recent finals of the National Scrabble Championship.....in fact, this is the 3rd consecutive year that he has finished in the top ten.....

ooo

Barnet Synagogue have apparently challenged us to a Cricket Match, to be played on Sunday, 18th August. Would anyone interested in defending the glory of Bushey please contact Brian Binstock (950.3641). More details about where and when in our next issue - spectators will be welcome.

ooo 000 ooo

OTHER ACTIVITIES (not under the auspices of the Board of Management)

Bushey Israel Fund

At a meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 12th June, the 7th Monthly Draw was made:

1st prize: £50 : J. Corrie, Esq., 91 Woodcock Hill, Kenton.
2nd prize: £25 : J.G. Phillips, Esq., 24 Hartsbourne Avenue, Bushey.
3rd prize: £15 : Mrs. S. Burkeman, 30 Fastnet House, South Parade, Southsea.

Please do not forget the BARBECUE which is being held this Sunday, 30th June, at 'The Grove Lodge', Chandlers Cross. Tickets, at £3.50 per head, can be got from either Harvey Burton (950.4209) or Ronald Cole (950.3566).

ooo 000 ooo

We have been notified of a Bridge Competition and a Squash Competition being organised by the Barnet Israel Committee. Entry for both of these events is £1.25 per person, closing date for entries is 31st July. Anybody interested should please contact Jenny or Howard Salter at 368.8989.

ooo 000 ooo