

THE MEGILLAH BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

After all the interesting and useful material of previous Bulletins, we thought this would make a change.

There is a special message we want to bring in this Bulletin - it only applies to a small minority of the community - it is rather private and embarrassing. The subject can, for obvious reasons, only be spoken of in general terms, but all those people involved in this scandal will know what it refers to. People in other communities are already talking about this matter, and it's high time we put an end to it.

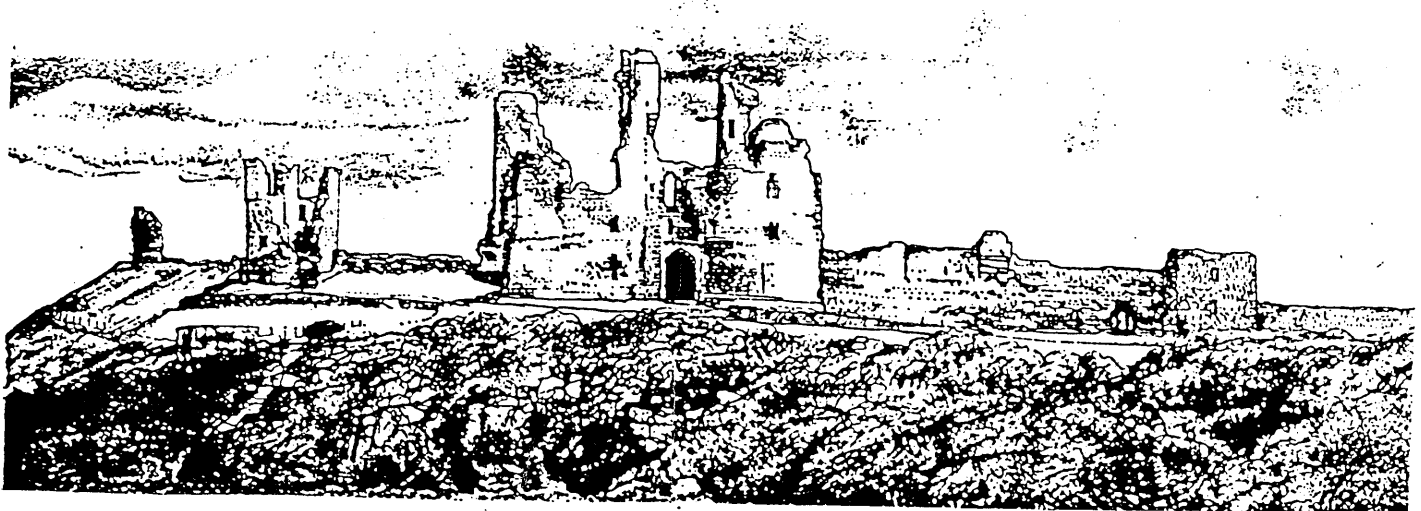
Purim falls on Adar 14th this year - it is also a Thursday - and this is rather unique. The day before, it Ta'anis Esther, a day on which many people fast.

Services throughout the summer will be held on Friday and Shabbos in the main Shul - it's only the fiftieth year since we started introducing this tradition. Purim is a special event for all children who dress up for the occasion, and their parents who spend a lot of money on this!

We hope that you will read between the lines of this most important editorial, which applies to each and everyone of our dear friends and members. We wish you all the best for a Happy Chanukah in Kislev too.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

This article discusses news about our sheltered accommodation project which is making excellent progress whilst waiting for the local authority and central government to make up their mind after only 18 months whether or not to support this scheme, notwithstanding this excellent news, I must mention that in previous bulletins we have had a number of very long sentences containing as many as 75 words but this bulletin will contain an article which will beat that record by a considerable margin whilst ensuring that it also makes even less sense, achieved by, (pause here for breath!)



Artists impression of new sheltered accommodation designed by DR.

delaying as long as possible the position of the fullstop and sometimes the verbs at the end of a phrase putting or alternatively adding meaningless/repetitive words which convey the urgency and importance of the article in question - factors which are vital to the whole concept of keeping the members of our shool up to date with all the exciting projects in which the board and its members are so active although we cannot guarantee when they will be finished.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Zir,

Firstly, I must ajopolise for the smelling mistaeks in this letter. You zee i left Jurmannee only 42 years ago, and am still learning English. To be prezise it was on January 17, 19 hundred mit 12 at 4.25pm (ze train was 10 minutes late) from my house on the zecond flaur at number 233b Bahnof Avenue, in SchweinHead - I can give you the telepone numner if you want, and the age of my wife und tochter.

Anyhow, I am writing about an important matter connected with pronounciation of Hebrew as used in the Rodelheim Ziddur.

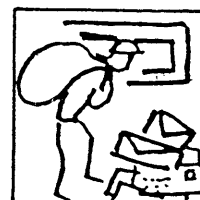
I am sure you will have all noticed the way in which OWE is now being pronounced as OY - zis is a zcandal! Ven I was a little bOWE, I remember that the gOWE from next door brought me a lovely tOWE to play with, tea was always being serviced with sOWEa milk to make us to jOWEful and not destrOWEing ourselves with zis substance.

Aalzo, the ozzer thing is the way zome beebul mix up the 'S' and 'Z' - in barticular the correct word is 'ZEHLOH' not 'SELOH' Some people think the Zamech is pronounced Samech - if you have real problems with your teeth then THAMECH is still far better than SAMECH. I don't know if you realise that this can even change the whole meaning of the davening and you could be asking for Israeli shekels instead of dollars in your brayers.

Ze influence of ze chasidim, moosholichims, non-yekkes u.s.w. is having a zerious effect on our tradition. I zink we must all try harder when we daven and return once and for all to the old way of davening broperly. Please can I appeal to all of you to try much harder and pronOYce all the vords correctly, and show to our children how vonderful our old traditions are.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply.

HANS JACOB STRUMPFELSTEIN (Geborn 01, 2, 1874)



LETTER FROM ABROAD

It's some time since I last wrote to you on the way down to Antartica, well I am pleased to tell you that we arrived safely and have joined the local YESHURUN shool (it used to be called Young Israel, until they discovered my age). It took me only 6 months to get my membership, the reason for the delay was that I and my wife insisted on eating Kugel on Shabbos to offset the cold weather - now of course we just eat kartofel salad that has remained on the paraffin heater for 30 hours. This is the price we have to pay for joining this shool.

There used to be two minyonim -the Haschomoh has one person (Who doubles up as a Chazan, Mohel and Ba'al Tokeah - sometimes at the same time) and a baby seal-pup - (who always has Aanim Zemirous with some difficulty) The Second Minyan has 11 people. The nusach in the first minyan was difficult to determine and the Nigunim left something to be desired.

Luckily everyone saw sense and we now have only one minyan, but living in the Antartic brings with some interesting problems.

Duchenin has be done on top of the central heating to stop the water freezing before it reaches the Cohans hands. They dance around on top of the heating with cold hands and boiling feet - on the whole their temprature is average. No-one dares open the window, and even the fresh air fiends (yes we have some of those) daven outside, but so well wrapped that they can't hear the davening. We have a very accomodating Rabbi, he has allowed us to count penguins to the minyan, providing they are inside a tephilin bag - although we understand that Kedassia still hasn't pronounced penguins as being Kosher.

We have no Mechitzah yet, mainly because it's dark for 6 months in the year and we can't see our neighbour, the chazan or even the Rov, let alone our wives. In fact our Rov left us for a 3 week holiday in the East Grinstead YESURUN shool and no-one noticed - he doesn't speak very often.

There is an open invitaton for anyone from the GGBH to come here to visit us - you would be very welcome. The thing we miss most of all is the Shabbos announcements and the Kashrus News - so you know what to bring as a present.

Regards to all my friends - Yankel Meir Hotfoos.

FRANKFURT IN 1905

I have been asked to write about my experiences of Purim in Frankfurt and I am pleased to do this for the younger generation to show them what a real Purim should look like.

Aalzo! First of all came Ta'anis Esther. Fasting for us Yekkes is really something we all enjoy (if thats the right word), because we prove our devotion to our traditions in a positive way. Everyone of course fasted.

In the evening of the Megilloh Leyning the shool was packed and not a sound was to be heard. The Megilloh was Ley'ned but no banging for HOMON. What nonsense is this minhag today when people bang and stamp their feet - obviously Ost-Yuden, but with us NEVER.

Wait a moment, I remember one year in the late 80's when some relation of Mr Hirsch who was visiting Frankfurt actually banged at HOMON. The chazan stopped, the WHOLE SHUL turned round, women screamed, little children started crying and the Rav was Mafsick to take immediate action. Mr Hirsch and the whole Hirsch family were asked to leave the Shul in the middle of the Megilla and not to return until the following Rosh Hashonoh. They were not even allowed to attend the special reading for ladies and other such people.

No, this nonsense was not tolerated!

After shool everyone went to work - but we all wore our Shabbos bow-tie. In the meantime the women and children prepared the Shlach Monous. TWO Shlach Monous ONLY two, not like today, car loads of parcels and dressed up children - what a waste!. Monous in the plural means at least two - so all good orthodox people did ONLY two.

Oh Yes, one year I remember, Papa insisted on three because a cousin of Oncle Max had lost his wife and Papa felt that just once we should be allowed to break the rule. But the next year he had remarried and cheered up a little - Papa said it wasn't necessary any more.

Matonous Lo'evyonim - well there was a plate in shool, we all put something in it and THAT WAS THAT. No knocks on the door, no meschelochim, no people walking around shool in ridiculous fancy dress of long black coats, beards and curly Payous. I mean, if anyone was really poor, he was asked to take it straight from the plate in shool - it was properly organised.

Dressing up was kept to a minimum. The odd top-hat was worn by a child - usually from a lower class family or Ost-yud. Once a member who had been to Poland for a few years, forgot himself and put on an army uniform (Kapitan) for Schacharis. He was not given an Aliyah for 3 years not even Gelilah - far worse than stamping at HOMON. I mean what sort of person is this.

The Seuodo was a family affair. Aunties, Uncles, cousins, second cousins, grand-uncles and third cousins. You see with us Yekkes - the Mischpocho is very important, certainly on Purim.

When Purim was over we all looked forward to next year Purim because we knew that the day before Purim was Ta'anis Esther.

THE GGBH BREAKFAST CLUB

What started up as a simple suggestion in a recent Kehilloh Bulletin shows signs of getting out of control. It is the excellent idea of a breakfast served to schoolboys and students after davening.

For those who dont attend weekday services regularly, it now takes place in Mr Humphreys flat six days a week. At first, it was located in the Boardroom, but the numbers grew too rapidly, and the noise of slurping rice krispies was a source of serious complaint from those attending the layening at the 15th minyan at 10am in 171 Golders Green Road.

Mr Humphrey was kindly volunteered to give us his main room, bedroom, kitchen, and goldfish pond in the back to house the swelling numbers of people who attended breakfast (swelling largely as a result of double and triple portions of All Bran).

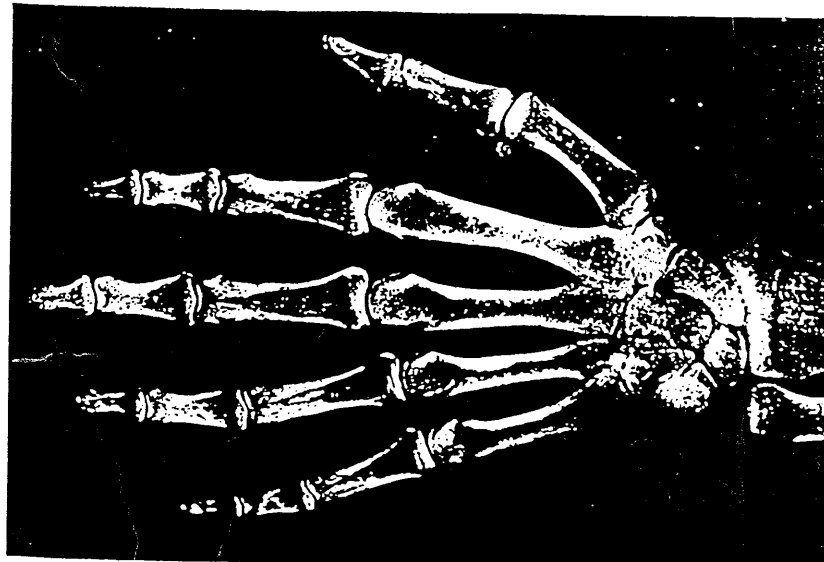
On Thursday last, we had a record attendance of 327 people of whom 3 belonged to the GGBH. When questioned about their membership, 91 percent said they were thinking of joining the Shul, but wanted a reduction because they would only attend the breakfast club and leyning on Taanis Esther in leap years, or when it falls on a Friday. The remaining 82 percent said they were on probation, and would make up their minds when the breakfasts had larger portions of prime_ bowler.

We are indebted to the Ladies Guild who provide this service absolutely free. We know that they are so willing to offer their services and have a rota of 152 women working throughout the day and night (except alternate Wednesdays) to prepare the food. They have also recruited five women mescholoachim to collect money in Israel for this marvellous scheme. Special thanks must be given to Messrs Posen, Neuberger, Thatcher and Sainsburies for providing the food at no charge.

Among the plans for the coming month are :

- An increase in the number of courses from 5 to 11
- To serve milchig to those suffering from dietary problems
- To increase the number of Daily Telegraphs from 50 to 90, and the Times from 1 to 2. The Jewish Tribune are considering a daily copy for the club.
- Davening to be speeded up to last only five minutes so that more time can be spent on eating.

For the longer-term, anyone over the age of 18 will be allowed to attend This will introduce special problems - it's likely that the breakfast will be held in the Shul itself and davening in Mr Humphrey's kitchen - for those who can swim an overflow service will be held in the keilim mikva.



Members are politely reminded

not to keep Mescholoachim

waiting too long!