

חדשות



Tu B'shvat
Sameach

MAGAZINE OF THE
KINGSTON, SURBITON AND
DISTRICT SYNAGOGUE
JANUARY 2003

CHADASHOT

Kingston, Surbiton & District Synagogue

33-35 Uxbridge Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2LL

Telephone:- 020-8546 9370

Please let me have details of all births, engagements and bereavements to ensure that they do not get missed out of Chadashot.

Please submit articles via the computer if possible.

The Editor

JANUARY
2003

SHEVAT
5763

The United Synagogue Women's Shabbat will be on 8th February 2003

Skeimatzki's

On Wednesday 5th March, Skeimatzki's of Golders Green will be visiting the Synagogue.

A selection of Israeli Books and Giftware will be available for purchase.

Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Coffee and Cakes will be provided

PLEASE NOTE: To avoid the clashing of functions and meetings and to obtain the maximum support for all communal events, Secretaries of Committees and Groups are advised before confirming a date to first clear the date in the SYNAGOGUE DIARY to ensure that the date has not been previously booked for another communal event and that the function booked will receive the maximum publicity. You can contact the Shul at info@kingston-synagogue.org.uk.

NEXT EDITION CHADASHOT:

Copy date: 8 May 2003

Publication 4 June 2003

Some readers may not be aware of the range of youth groups available to youngsters in our community. Here is a brief outline for you.

FZY – YOFFI

Open to teenagers in Years 9 to 13. They meet every other Sunday during term time in members homes from 7 to 9 p.m. The group has been running successfully for some years now but is always looking for new members. They feel it is important for young people to meet new Jewish friends within the community. For further information please contact the Shul.

JLGB

For youngsters aged 11 and over. They meet every Monday night from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. during term time at a School in Sutton. Youngsters have the opportunity to learn new skills from learning Japanese to doing magic tricks! The Brigade holds successful winter and summer camps with an average of 20 youngsters attending from the Kingston/Sutton group. For further information contact the Shul.

AJ6

This group is for those people in year 11 and 6th form. South West London region runs meetings frequently and there is always a good turn out. It's as religious as you want to make it. AJ6 doesn't force religion upon you, you do as much or as little as you want. There are 4 national weekends and a conference each year. Meetings are normally held in people's homes on a Sunday night. For further information contact the Shul.

Hanoar Hatzioni

Children aged 8 and over are welcome to attend this group which has meetings alternately on Sunday afternoons in Sutton and Kingston. Part of a national group members are invited to join in with Summer and Winter camps. For further information please ring the national Head Office on 020 8883 1022/3

Study Group

Recently started up with a couple of meetings this term. This is for youngsters aged 12 – 16, also on Sunday evenings. For further information please contact the Shul.

For general information on youth activities in the area please contact the Shul at info@kingston-synagogue.org.uk.

For South-of-the River residents, venturing across the great divide is often fuelled by the necessity to restock on 'sweet-'n-sour' heimische cucumbers or Bloom's garlic wurst. Certainly, the prospects of a foray into Camden Town would be considered a mishugas but for the Jewish Museum, the jewel in Camden's Crown. For those who have never had the pleasure of visiting the museum in Albert Street, it has two galleries on the ground floor, one of which is the History Gallery which covers the history of Anglo Jewry 1066-mid 1900s. The other gallery is the Temporary Exhibition Area which houses exhibitions changing approximately three times a year. Since the 8th of May, 'Continental Britons,' the story of Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe, has been on show very successfully. This ended in November – for those who missed this exhibition, eat your heart out.

This exhibition marked the 60th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR). About six years prior to the outbreak of World War II some 70,000 Jews fled their countries of origin, primarily Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia including 10,000 Kindertransport children. The essence of the exhibition was to reveal the remarkable contribution these refugees made to their adopted society in the last 60 years.

The exhibition had three main features. First, a rather limited number of personal exhibits, letters, photographs and documents which could have been expanded, I felt. Secondly, there was an interesting recreation of the Cosmo restaurant situated on Finchley road but now no longer in business. This café was the meeting point of literary celebrities for five decades, no doubt complaining about the fog, rain and the poor quality of apfelstrudel in England. Most valuable was a video of a few celebs and not-so-celebs with graphic accounts of early and subsequent experiences as refugees. Contributions from Andrew Sachs, ('Manuel' in Fawlty Towers) and Lord Moser for example were of interest. No one seemed anxious to forget his identity and ignore his origin in spite of his fame. In fact there was a certain pride.

Finally, central to the exhibition was a very large map of South Hampstead/Swiss Cottage with 50 landmarks of Jewish interest. This would have been interesting to the older NW London resident who could remember Rebenstein Kosher Butcher or Maison Rochelle's Grocers but I must admit it hardly filled me with nostalgia, except for the fact that it sharpened by yearning for a good fress in Camden Town. More positively, 'Continently Britons' was a graphic reminder of the huge contribution of the Jewish immigrants to Britain. This is well illustrated daily in the columns of 'The times' for example, where we find with every 5-6 obituaries there is one report of a person of Jewish of 'central European' origin. As only one in two hundred Britons is Jewish, that is a considerable overachievement. I came away feeling that the Jewish Museum is somewhat overcrowded and is desperate for eight millions

pound, or more, to fund a much needed expansion. It is really not in the same league as the Paris Museum in the Marais District but as I understand property has been purchased at the rear of the existing building, there is need for additional funds for internal work.

The current exhibition entitled 'By the Rivers of Babylon' was opened on the 20th November by Allan Yentob of BBC fame, it illustrates the history of Iraqi Jewry. There are a few wonderful exhibits on loan from some Iraqi families who have settled in Britain. Their origin may be traced to the dispersal and exile following the destruction of the 1st Temple 2,500 years ago.

The crossing of the Thames to visit 'Rivers of Babylon' is a must as it emphasizes the parallels of the oldest Jewish community in 'Babylon' with our own Ashkenazi history but as the exhibition ends on the 6th of April, 2003 no excuses will be accepted.

The Jewish Museum
129-131 Albert St.
Camden Town
Open: Sun.-Thurs. 10am-4pm

Marcel L

**The Kingston Surbiton and District Synagogue
Ladies' Guild Annual Dinner
Sunday 9th February 2003**

We are delighted to announce that our guest speaker will be Professor Michael Baum, Emeritus Professor of Surgery and Visiting Professor in Medical Humanities at UCL, who will be giving an illustrated talk on

**Fine Art and the History of
Breast Cancer**

Time: 7 for 7:30 pm
Place: The Synagogue, Uxbridge Road, Kingston
Donation: £15 per person

For further details and information please contact the Shul.

Kingston, Surbiton & District Synagogue Reunion

Chol Hamoed Succot in Israel, is a national holiday, schools are of course on holiday, so are all government officers and factories. When one wakes up to greet a new day the awareness of the intermediate days of Succot is before ones eyes.

The weather is hot, the sun shines brightly and everybody appears to be out – the roads are crowded with families going out for the day; the parks are full with picnics and despite the difficult situation which we have lived with for the past two years, we are constantly reminded of the sacrifices the country has suffered, since 29th September 2000 – 22nd September 2002 there have been 14,270 Palestinian attacks. 614 people have been killed and 4,510 wounded, despite the enormity of bloodshed we have been forced to endure; we have maintained our sense of purpose and adherence to principal, succumbing to neither despair nor vengeance and that is why visitors to Israel are struck by the normality of life and that explains why, during the intermediate days of Pesach and Succot, there is a most definite ‘festive period’ in the air.

On Tuesdays 24th September, Mark H and Sharon K (Berkovitch) organized the first Kingston Reunion in Israel. From 10.00 a.m. Kingstonians began arriving at The Gan Harvadim – The Rose Garden, opposite the Knesset. A number of people who came to the reunion from outside Jerusalem, were somewhat concerned about the security, but on arriving, they saw numerous soldiers and being so close to the Knesset, a police helicopter hovered above, in addition, there were the Parliamentary Guards around the corner, so everybody felt a sense of security.

A total of 63 people attended. Mark in his efficient way, organized a programme of activities for both the adults and children and awarded token certificates and prizes to those successful in the various competitions. Mark handed a message of good wishes from Rabbi Stanley Coten to the former minister of the community, Mordechai Berkovitch, who read it out to all those assembled. Mordechai Berkovitch also greeted the Kingstonians who travelled from various parts of the country and commented that ‘could anybody have ever visualized say in 1985, that in the year 2002, more than a hundred people would be living in Israel from the Kingston and Surbiton District Synagogue and here we are, the majority of us, assembled in this beautiful spot, a park opposite the Knesset in the very heart of Jerusalem’.

A vote of thanks was conveyed to Mark and to Sharon for organizing the event in such an efficient manner, and its immense success could well result in an annual Kingston Reunion.

Mordechai Berkovitch

On Wednesday 16 October Kingston hosted what is commonly believed to have been the first semi-official visit to South London by an Israeli ambassador, when – on the night when England failed to overcome Macedonia - an almost full gathering, comprising members from the Jewish Communities of Kingston, Richmond, Sutton, and Catford and Bromley United, Northwest Surrey and Wimbledon Reform and Kingston and South London Liberal along with members of the Council of Christians and Jews, was addressed by the Ambassador.

In 1995 Dr Zvi Shtauber retired from the Israel Defence Forces after 25 years with the rank of Brigadier. He has since been Vice-Chancellor of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, holds a doctorate from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and, most appositely, was Foreign Policy Adviser to Ehud Barak.

Addressing his audience on Israel's current predicament – to use his own words – as to how best to deal with the Palestinian incitement, his words, in so far as they were not muffled by a sound system which calls out for immediate improvement, fell upon eager ears but their reception was mixed; an exit poll varied between “sincere and inspiring” and “anodyne”!

Speaking for just over twenty minutes, the Ambassador clearly believed in the justness of Israel's cause. Therefore they, the Israelis, had to have stamina and be patient.

At Camp David they had believed that they could change history. They had wanted there to be two separate states, for which they were willing to make great concessions and painful compromises. Instead they got the Intifada, of which the only achievement was “to shatter families and goodwill and cause harm on both sides” – the concept being that “Israeli pain – any pain, is a gain”!

They had never dreamt that they would have had to re-occupy the “occupied territories”. The occupation enabled them to destroy the bomb factories. The Ambassador did not say if he considered that there were any other advantages flowing from the occupation.

Israel must never lose sight of its quest for peace - this is necessary for future generations - and, he believes, the Palestinians also need peace but “peace can be achieved only by efforts on both sides.” Although there is an awakening and understanding among Palestinians, many of whom are questioning the leadership of and direction being taken by Arafat, the problem is that of incitement, which he claimed – and one wonders with what justification, as he put forward no evidence – the world now understands better than it did previously. Essentially that was his address. He commenced, however, with the stark statement that Israel was “in a great predicament” but never actually proffered any options or alternatives let alone solutions.

The Ambassador then set aside twice the amount of time he had spent on his address for answering questions from the audience, although it must be said that some of his answers were less than clear.

Many people were perturbed by media bias and anti-semitism: David A referred to the extremely biased John Pilger programme on Channel 4, to which the Ambassador responded by – possibly naively – stating that the majority of the Jewish community supported Israel; and Hannah G sought advice as to how she could effectively stand up for Israel at school or university – the Ambassador said that there was a “programme” dealing with this. Others were concerned about counter propaganda: Mark F sought Ambassadorial confirmation of his view that the anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist propaganda was barely disguised pure anti-semitism – the Ambassador did not appear to answer this point directly but was of the view that, as both peoples had, as neighbours, to live side by side, sharing a small piece of land, they had “to find bridges”; and, when Hilda S, wanted to know what propaganda Israel used with the Palestinians, Dr Shtauber agreed that this was a “big problem,” apparently opining that Barak had been winning the propaganda war, but admitted that there seemed to be no clear policy as to what they should now be doing.

When asked by Anthony F if the power vacuum created by the removal of Arafat would be filled by men of vision or hard liners, he was optimistic. Politicians invariably say that if they were not in power, one would have someone far worse. As Israelis believe that Palestinian fundamentalists constitute only 20%, presumably any successor to Arafat would be likely to be an improvement. It is of course impossible for us to judge.

Jackie G’s question was like a bombshell. What would happen if the Israelis withdrew from the occupied territories? This elicited his most interesting and controversial response. He said that he understood the implications but did not spell them out. When he said that the vast majority of Israelis would like there to be a withdrawal, this was greeted with what seemed to be audible noises of dissent. He accepted, however, that peace and the retention of all the territories was not possible. To fix borders was problematic. He was clearly against a withdrawal prior to agreement, as this would simply encourage the Palestinians to demand more and more.

The most controversial point was reached in his comments on the media; it seemed that he personally did not value propaganda that highly, when he said “don’t forget we’re strong and not dependent on what the BBC says.” He was, however, at pains to dilute the apparent meaning of that statement when I spoke to him after the meeting.

After Robert L’s vote of thanks Colin G expressed his gratitude to all those connected with the meeting, namely the Ambassador, his staff, the Ladies Guild, WIZO, the Police, the CST, Neil C and his security team and the Adult Education and Israel Committees.

Larry K

To walk through the magnificently illuminated rooms of Hampton Court Palace in the evening, greeted at every doorway by flunkies impeccably clad in 18th century dress, is indeed a treat. To then have the pleasure of listening to the pianist Robert Taub playing Beethoven in the Great Hall is perfection. The position of Visiting Professor in Music Performances at Kingston University School of Music has been created specially for Robert Taub in recognition of his international profile as a performer and scholar. He will play a key role, leading master classes and engaging in performance research. Indeed, by strange coincidence a visiting American cousin told me his brother-in-law was at this moment composing something for Robert as one of his jobs at the University in Ohio where he worked.

As a concerto soloist Robert Taub has performed with many of the leading orchestras of the world, such as the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and has had numerous works commissioned for him. He is indeed a virtuoso pianist and is hoping to play all 32 of Beethoven's sonatas in Britain during the next four years. The concert last weekend started with a short talk by him, during which he darted backwards and forwards to the piano to illustrate points more clearly. When he did begin with the Sonata in A major his fingers barely touched the keys. The lightness of his touch and sheer pleasure on his face as he lost himself in the music was magical.

I did suggest to him afterwards that he might like to visit our community on one of his appearances over here, and he smiled and said 'maybe'.

Simone H

New End Theatre

It is always a pleasure to visit the New End Theatre in Hampstead and last night was no exception. *More Lies About Jerzy*, by Davey Holmes, a young and very talented American playwright, expertly directed by Guy Retallack, is an extremely slick drama, which was a sell-out in New York last year.

It is loosely based on the life of author Jerzy Kosinski, who claimed to be a Holocaust survivor but was subsequently discovered to be a complete literary fraud.

Polish Jewish émigré author Jerzy Lesniewski's life however is much more colourful and his flamboyant personality, brilliantly played by George Layton, with an impeccable Polish accent, combined with his complex love life gives this drama a zing. Part psychological thriller, part love story and part painful memories, this compelling story concludes with the suicide of Jerzy, at the very height of his fame.

To distinguish between truth and lies, fact and fiction, art and life, made the evening into an intellectual exercise. Nothing is completely what it seems in life, and this play exploits the extent people will go to to disguise the truth. An excellent evening.

For details about the New End Theatre's programme telephone 020 7794 0022

Simone H



JUDAISM AND GAIA: ANCIENT EARTH WISDOMS REDISCOVERED

Deep Ecology and Gaia Theory hold that the earth is a complete, self-regulating organism and that humans, rather than standing above nature, are an intrinsic and interrelating part of it. The connection between these ideas and the beliefs of Paganism or the Eastern religions has often been noted. Judaism, though, for reasons of political correctness, has been overlooked. This course seeks to bring to light the strands in Judaism that share the insights of new ecological thinking.

The classes will offer a mixture of the intellectual and the experiential, using ritual, poetry and writing, music, visualisations and meditations, and art.

Dates: Thursday evenings 16, 23, 30 January, 6, 13, 20 February
 Time: 8.00 - 10.00 pm
 Venue: Digby Stuart College
 Facilitator: Vivienne C
 Cost: £7 per evening or £40 for the block of 6 sessions

Concessions may be available

Advance registration essential, by Friday 10 January, please

Presented by Jewish Resource Centre in association with the Spiro Ark
 Further information from 020-8392 3349, email: a.clark@roehampton.ac.uk

Israel needs tourists

For the last five years or so, after Succot, Philip and I have gone to Netanya for a short break. However, this year, feeling it might be safer to go elsewhere we decided to go to Cyprus, which is very expensive and we thought we would try for a last minute bargain. Hence when we went to Shul on Kol Nidre night we had not yet booked.

When I heard Colin G's appeal I was so moved that the next working day I phoned a travel agent and booked for Netanya. I don't regret my decision at all. The hotel and shopkeepers were all grateful to see us and it was a really enjoyable holiday. The only thing lacking was British tourists and reluctantly we thought it best not to travel on a bus. While we were in Israel there was the bombing in Bali and since the hotel in Mombassa, proving that if you worried about travel you wouldn't go anywhere, and therefore you may as well, and should, go to Israel to give your support.

I hope as many people as possible will read this and feel the way I did.

Bobby W



March 2002: I remember sometimes waking up every morning to the sound of ambulances. You could tell if it was a terrorist bomb because the wail of the sirens would not drift away. It would continue to drone on as ambulances ferried medics to the scene and the dead and wounded away to hospital. Going to work would sometimes involve travelling over the very spot where the bomb blast occurred an hour or two before. This was Jerusalem, springtime 2002. I had made Aliya from the UK in 1999 soon after completing my studies and had settled into Israeli life very successfully. I had completed army service, had begun to work in the hi-tech industry, and drove just as badly on the roads as the average Israeli.

Fate was to remind me just how 'Israeli' I had become. At the end of March I was called up in an emergency draft of reserves along with thirty thousand other Israelis. The situation was war. As part of 'Operation Defensive Shield' our mission was to prevent suicide bombers from reaching their intended targets in central Israel. Having sat in a field with a pair of binoculars and a rifle for a whole month, the Israeli government has now decided that a wall can do a better job. Maybe they are right. Nobody really knows. What we do know is that it will cost billions. What's worse is that many imagine the Palestinians digging tunnels under the wall, flying terrorists in hang-gliders over it, or even building Katyusha type missiles to lob over it. Most of all I think of the huge morale boost the terrorists will gain for having forced the scared Jews to hide behind a wall.

The whole situation doesn't make much sense really. Israel has one of the world's finest fighting forces. It's army is the envy of military generals the world over, able to mobilize the bulk of it's half-million reserves in little more than forty-eight hours where other countries would struggle to mobilise in months; an air-force second to none, and a navy that consists of the world's most advanced submarines armed with the ultimate deterrent. Today Israel is the only country in the world that fields a total umbrella against long-range ballistic missiles. There will be no repeats of the Gulf War where Sadaam rained down missiles on Israeli targets unhindered. Having made Aliya I joined one of the Israeli army's elite undercover units. The training we went through was some of the toughest in the world. Israeli politicians are always eager to reassure us that Israel is strong, more than able to hold it's own in negotiating the sticky ins and outs of regional diplomacy.

Despite all of our apparent strength, Jews face more chance of being killed or injured right here in Israel, in the shopping malls, on the buses, and on the roads. All of the military and technological advancements made in the past fifty years have suddenly been cancelled out by something never counted on: the willingness of our 'peace partners' to blow themselves up for the sole sake of taking as many Jews as possible with them. It seems to be a repeat of Nazi ideology, but much worse, since this time the murderers do their work in the name of G-d.

Living in Israel today is no longer so much about the good nightlife, the warm people, the beach, or the tranquillity of kibbutz. For Israelis the temptation of foreign lands is stronger than ever. Freed of the burden of religion we could have chosen some other stretch of empty country to live in, a corner of Australia perhaps – somewhere with a nice climate, more water and less people to challenge our right to exist on a daily basis. The Intifada has forced home an important fact: that unless we are firmly tied to our tradition and our history we no longer have a reason to support Israel, make our homes there, or continue fighting the Palestinians.



Now back in London I can compare more clearly the differences between here and there. Staying in London represents personal comfort and economic independence. Living in Israel means something less definable. A struggle in fact, but at least a struggle for a vision to do something more than just 'be comfortable'. For me the choice is between what I can get if I stay, and what I have to give if I go, the classic argument of rights as opposed to obligations. Our tradition states that the human desire for 'things' or the need to 'take' implies that we lack something and represents an imperfection of character. Conversely, the ability to 'give' is a far higher spiritual trait, closer to our creator and closer to our true purpose.

All of us remember the tragic collapse of the Versailles wedding hall in Jerusalem last May. I remember waking up yet again to the sound of sirens at around midnight and thinking that perhaps it was another terrorist attack. When we found out what had really happened my roommate and I did not have to think twice before rushing to the hospital at one o'clock in the morning to donate blood. We eventually got home at around dawn. Looking back, we did nothing extraordinary. I later found out that many of my friends had done the same; some had even rushed to the disaster site to offer their assistance in digging out victims. This is how Israel works. And while the current situation in Israel is very far from good, it brings out the best in Israeli society; the desire and ability of it's citizens to give selflessly over and over again. Anyone choosing to make their home in Israel must be prepared to make the mental switch to this way of thinking and behaving. This is not always easy coming from England, but the effort is worth it.

Despite the Intifada, Israel will continue to thrive in the long-term. Statistics show that it is now the largest Jewish community in the world, and will continue to grow while the communities of America and Europe lag under growing assimilation and negative birth rates. Increasingly, Israel will become the central focus and wellspring of Jewish culture, tradition and achievement. If this is not a convincing enough argument for being more involved in Israel and Israeli issues, we should remember that a Jewish state is a rare thing. It comes along only once every two thousand years. Today, in these most difficult times, we have the opportunity to make a difference, to give of ourselves. Let's not miss that chance.

Sam G
Executive Director, Mizrahi Federation, UK



INTRODUCTION

The present system is out of sync with the realities of the social and political life of the country. When conceived and introduced it fitted the social framework of the time. It is now utterly out of date. Everybody says so but owing to a variety of reasons and vested interests its reform is pushed aside. However the delay is becoming manifestly harmful to the future stability of Israel and the ability of its government to function in the best national interest.

This proposal is constructed to meet the specific challenge of a population made of disparate Jewish cultural segments together with a sizeable Arab minority. It is based on the premise that every single vote cast in the Keneset election has to end up with representation in the Keneset whether directly or indirectly. Its purpose is to avoid the defect of the 1st past the post system whereby (as e.g. in the U.k.) votes cast for the successful candidate are represented in the Keneset while all the rest of the votes (which may very well be more than 50 per cent of the total) are not represented.

This proposal is a contribution to what should be an urgent debate to find an acceptable and workable alternative system to the present one. It is based on the following principles:

1. It is simple to operate. Voters vote for one single candidate.
2. It preserves some elements of the present proportional representation system and endeavour to combine it with a constituency first past the post principle.
3. It seeks to integrate the Arab voters into the body politic through inter dependence to a degree on Jewish votes in certain constituencies and vice versa.
4. Through its operation it helps to relegate sectional interests to national interests and it draws politics towards the centre away from extremism.
5. And above all it makes up for the basic deficiency of a pure constituency system (such as the UK system) whereby votes of the failed candidates are not represented and in fact wasted causing apathy amongst sections of the voting public.

THE NEW SYSTEM

This system calls for the enlargement of the number of Members of the Keneset to 150 members of which 120 to be constituency members (CMK) and 30 to be party members (PMK). CMKs are elected directly in each constituency in the same way for example as the British MPs are elected i.e. by 1st past the post. PMK's are elected by pooling all the votes cast for the unsuccessful candidates added together and distributed amongst the parties on proportional basis. This system should operate as follows:

- 1) Boundaries would have to be drawn to divide the country into 120 constituencies, which would elect 120 CMKs. Their behaviour and bias will naturally reflect their regional allegiance not unlike the case with American Senators or Congressmen. The Commission, which will draw these boundaries, has to attempt where possible in each



constituency to encompass both Arab and Jewish groupings where they neighbour each other. This task is probably the most difficult part of the initiation of this system and has to be entrusted to persons of the highest reputation

- 2) CMKs would be elected directly in exactly the same manner as e.g. that followed today in the general election for the House of Commons in the U.K. Under this 'first past the post' system, invariably either a substantial minority or indeed in many constituencies a majority of the electorate arguably are disenfranchised through having voted for one of the losing candidates. The core of the failure of the Westminster democracy to excite the voters is the lack of accounting for the votes of these minorities which unlike the case in proportional representation are not represented in fact they are rendered lost votes. This new system is calculated to rectify this defect thereby creating genuine interest for every voter and answering the cries for fairness through a partial proportional representation operated automatically on the same ballot paper to elect the PMKs.
- 3) These PMKs (i.e. Party Members of the Keneset) are elected in the following way. Every party which fields candidates in the General Election to the Keneset would declare a list of candidates for the PMKs. Each of these Lists would form a declared alliance with one other List before the date of the Election to pass any votes, which are not utilised by one List, being surplus, to its allied List. Each of these Lists have to put up names of all their candidates for PMKs in a similar fashion to the one that is followed under the proportional regime today in an order of priority up to say 120 names. For example, the Likud may choose to put Ariel Sharon as No 1 on their list and Mr XYZ as number 120. Labour might put Mr Shimon Peres as their No 1 and so on. Both of them would also have been nominated as candidates to represent constituencies. All names appearing on the Party Lists must be those of Constituency candidates.
- 4) The successful constituency candidates would gain their places in the Keneset as CMKs having been chosen by a simple majority of the votes cast for them in their respective constituencies. These votes thus cast are represented by these CMKs in the Keneset. All votes for failed CMKs' candidates end up with no direct representation. These votes would be added together and allocated to the different Party Lists. The total number of these votes will be divided by 30 and the product number 'X' would be the number required to elect a PMK. Each List's total votes would then be divided by the product number and any surplus votes on one list would be given to the List with which it had previously allied itself or vice versa. The transfer is made to the list with the higher surplus of the two allied lists. Each list must obtain altogether at least say 5 per cent of all the failed votes to qualify, otherwise it has to cede its votes to its allied List. This requirement would prevent the fraction of the Keneset into splinter groups each with narrow interests.
- 5) The new Party Keneset Members (PMKs) gained by each List would be allocated by priority to each Party's published List. For example the Likud would allocate its first seat thus gained to Ariel Sharon if he had failed to gain his seat in his constituency and so on and so forth. Under this system the big parties will have the lion's share of



CMKs but a smaller share of PMKs which would go to the smaller parties to give them representation in the Keneset. It is this balancing which results from the combination of proportional and constituency systems which while supports a more stable government does not sacrifice the absolute right of the citizen to democratic representation.

- 6) By-elections will take place under this system for Constituency CMKs but without utilising failed votes in between Parliaments for electing Party PMKs. On the other hand when a PMK seat falls vacant through death or resignation, the next unsuccessful available person on the same List will automatically accede to the vacant seat without a by-election taking place.
- 7) This system redresses the balance especially if one Party in the Keneset secures a huge majority in the general election as is the case for example today in the U.K. House of Commons. In such situations the PMKs will provide an added weight to the opposition.
- 8) The system also gives voice to ethnic, religious and other groups especially the Arab minority. However those ethnic, religious or Arab MKs (CMKs and PMKs) would have secured their places directly or indirectly as a result of the General Election for the Keneset having been fielded through parties or pressure groups in the constituencies. Candidates in both categories who put themselves up in the different constituencies, would reflect carefully and hence refrain from overemphasising their factional interest when canvassing in order to gain the support of all the voters in the constituencies. Thus National programmes rather than factional policies will prevail drawing sentiments towards national integrated interests rather than emphasising and encouraging sectional strife.

Electing the Party Leaders in the future as a follow up if the new electoral system is adopted.

The following is a simple and democratic method for electing the leaders of the main parties in the Keneset who by virtue of being elected in proxy by all votes cast for the party in the general election automatically assure the leadership of the party in the country.

1. Any member of the Keneset / (CMK or PMK) can stand for the leadership contest for each party in the Keneset if sponsored by at least 10 per cent of the total MKs of that party.
2. Voting is to be open and not by secret ballot. However if secrecy is preferred the counting and checking of the accuracy of the votes can be entrusted to a panel of either 5 elders in the party or 3 judges. The records can be kept secret for say 10 years.



3. Each serving MK casts his or her vote to be the number of votes cast for him or her at the preceding General Election. These of course are mixed votes either cast for the CMKs directly by the constituent voters or those votes allocated by the various Lists to elect the their PMKs.
4. In this method the Party Leader is elected in proxy by all the voters who had actually voted in the last General Election for the Party. The emerging leader will have more legitimacy than a leader chosen by a caucus behind closed doors.
5. The first party to adopt this method would show itself to be innovative and forward looking and adopting such open politics it may cause other parties to follow its lead.

**Aharon N
Wimbledon, London**

Comments please. Editor



STUFFED AUBERGINES (serves 6)

Ingredients:

2 lb aubergine (small ones)
8 oz. diced lamb
2 medium onions, chopped
4 tablespoons oil
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 large tomato, peeled
3 tablespoons chopped parsley
2 teaspoons sugar
4 tablespoons melted margarine
pinch of chilli powder or 1 teaspoon chilli sauce
5¼ oz. rice
3 tablespoons ground almonds
3 tablespoons tomato puree

Method:

Cut aubergines in half, lengthwise, and scoop out almost all the flesh, without breaking the skin. Fry the meat, then cut up the aubergine flesh and onion and fry in half the oil. Remove from heat and add half the salt, pepper, tomato, parsley, sugar, 1 tablespoon of melted margarine and the chilli. Add rice, almonds and 1 tablespoon of tomato puree. Half fill the aubergines. With the remaining oil fry them in a shallow pan. Add water to reach the rim of the aubergine. Mix together and add the remaining margarine, another dash of chilli and the rest of the salt, sugar and tomato puree. Cook over a medium heat for about 30 minutes, then remove to a baking dish and bake in an oven Gas Mark 6 or 400OoF for approx. 20 minutes, basting from time to time.

A Jewish couple won twenty-million dollars in the lottery. They immediately set out to begin a life of luxury. They bought a magnificent mansion estate in Southampton and surrounded themselves with all the material wealth imaginable. They then decided to have a butler and, wanting the best, they travelled to London to hire one.

They found the perfect butler through an agency and brought him back to their estate. The day after his arrival, they instructed him to set up the dining room table for four, that they were inviting the Cohens to brunch. The couple then left the house to do some shopping. When they returned, they found the table set for eight.

They asked the butler why eight, when they had specifically instructed him to set the table for four.

The butler replied, "The Cohens telephoned and said they were bringing the Bagels and the Knishes."

Oui!