

Memorial Services

One of the main bases for the existence of the Society is to hold the memorial services in memory of those who perished in sanctification of the Name [of God] and the People [of Israel].

The Society's new Executive, which embarked on its activities at the end of 1948, began to organise the 1049 memorial service - viz. from the seventh death anniversary [of the liquidation of the "Big Ghetto"] and on.

The services in the years 1949 to, and including, 1962 (viz. the twentieth death anniversary) were held in the halls of the *Arbeiter-Ring* [Workmen's Circle], the Jewish Public Library and the Zionist Centre.

Speakers at these services were Dr Benjamin Orenstein, Rabbi Benjamin Borzykowski, Szlojme Waga, Harry Klein, Kuba Goldberg and Berl Ickowicz.

Dora Waserman, Mr Rubinek, Josef Aronoff, A. Irlicht, Aba Igenfeld, Ruth Sohmer, Shirley Bernstein and Yetta Feldman¹ took part in the artistic programme.

Every memorial service already has an established programme which has three parts:

- the first is the religious one, consisting of lighting candles, [then] the cantor performs *El Moleh Rachamim*², *Kaddish*³ is sung and a eulogy is delivered by the *Częstochower landsmann*, Rabbi Benjamin Borzykowski, who is the Dean of the *Meor Ha'Golah* Yeshiva.
- the second part consists of two lectures: one encompasses the destruction and the other the resistance and struggle of *Częstochowa* Jewry during the Nazi epoch.
- the third part - recitals and the singing of ghetto songs.

The memorial services close with the singing of the partisan anthem, [which opens with the words] "*Never say you are walking your last road*".

For the 21st annual memorial service, which was held on 27th October 1963 at the Adath Jeshurun-Hadrath Kodesh Synagogue, Dr Benjamin Orenstein especially wrote an oratorio entitled "*Częstochowa*", which was performed by the two actresses Shirley Bernstein and Yetta Feldman, members of the Jewish Cultural Club.

The cantor, who performed an "[*El*] *Moleh [Rachamim]*" and sang a Psalm, was Mojsze Zamar. Dr Benjamin Orenstein and H. Rosenblum gave speeches. Mojsze Altman chaired the function.

The 22nd memorial service was held on 4th October 1964 at the *Beth Ha'Medrash Ha'Godol* [Heb., The Large Study-Hall]. The President of the Society, Lajbke Jakubowicz, opened the ceremony and gave the chair over to Harry Klein. The cantor was Mojsze Kaufler. Reb Szlojme Lerner said *Kaddish* and the speakers were Dr Benjamin Orenstein and Harry Rosenblum.

¹ [TN: The people listed here were not necessarily connected to *Częstochowa* – they were simply professional entertainers.]

² [TN: Heb., "God full of mercy"; the opening line to the traditional prayer for the souls of the dead.]

³ [TN: Also funeral prayer; it is said only in public.]

The Chairman, Harry Klein, read a message from the Czenstochover Relief Committee and Ladies Auxiliary of New York.



The Executive of the Czenstochover Landsmanshaft of Montreal