

Mrs Bessie Silver (Zylberberg)



Mrs Bessie Silver *née* Perelman married Yechezkel¹ Silver in Częstochowa in 1929. The marriage ceremony was performed by Reb Josse'le "Kira"² [Prokosz] ztz"l. Bessie arrived in Montreal in 1931 and gave birth to two children here – a son Louis and a daughter Roslyn.

The Silvers - she, Bessie, and her husband Yechezkel - were among the first founders of the Society. Her husband Yechezkel was longstanding President of the Society to the last moments of his life, when he gave up his soul during the night between 12th and 13th September 1959.

Bessie Silver has conducted - and continues doing so to this day - an activity in benefit of the Society with great devotion and selflessness. Her house was open to all the *landsleit* who arrived following the destruction, and she took everyone in graciously, with advice and action.

Sessions of the Executive were held at her house, and the most important works were carried out there. This was during a period when letters were streaming in from all corners of the globe. The newly-arrived *landsleit* were not yet able to contribute and the Silvers were, therefore, the ones who in all instances lent the sums of money required to meet the requests of *landsleit* overseas regarding aid. This was also a time when very frequent functions were held, which entailed a great many meetings and preparations to carry out the delineated plans of activities.

The Silvers were always the first to willingly contribute in aid of the Society. Let it also be mentioned here that the Silvers generously aided their own family, which walked the path of hell during the Nazi epoch. Their children, Louis and Roslyn, were also pulled into the activities and have been very instrumental to the Society.

Bessie Silver participates in all the Society's activities and continues in the traditions of her dearly departed husband, Yechezkel Silver z"l.

¹ [TN: We have rendered this name throughout the book as it appears in the English-language part of "Czenstochov, Our Legacy"; in Poland, however, it would have been spelt "Jechaskiel" or shortened to "Chaskel".]

² [TN: Yiddish nickname for an Austrian; as explained in "Sefer Częstochowa", Vol. I, in the chapter "The Halachic Authority Reb Józef Prokosz z"l", Rabbi Józef Prokosz was a native of Galicia, which was under Austro-Hungarian control – thus the nickname "Austrian".]