

The Book Committee

Reb Chaim Weksler



Chaim Weksler was born in Częstochowa in 5653 (1893) to a respected family of *Gerer Chassidim*. He received a religious education and also trained himself in economics. He was endowed with a developed sense of commerce and, in his youth, became an expert on finance and banking.

Early on, he became a staunch Zionist and dedicated much of his time to activism, although he did not distinguish himself as a public speaker. But his energetic character and wakefulness helped him to convert people to his views and prompted them to act for his cause. He was one of the city's central figures. He served as President of the *Kehilla* council and was recognised as a sensitive man who sacrificed himself for the public good. He was elected *Prezes* of the *Kehilla* after Szmul Goldsztajn left that position.

Chaim Weksler was also active as a leader of the city's "*Ha'Mizrachi*" and was the driving force in the activities of the movement's local branch. He was among its council members. He was a member of the City Council for many years. He was affiliated with the right-wing faction of "*Ha'Mizrachi*" and opposed the youth's desire for independence. He maintained that the only difference between old and young in "*Mizrachi*" was that of age, thus making separate youth groups redundant and unnecessary.

By his way of thinking and his persistent readiness and willingness for the movement's work, he became the prototype of an excellent, Zionist-religious activist, and was also cherished in town as a kind-hearted and charitable man.

During the Nazi regime, he contracted meningitis, thus becoming "privileged" with a natural death.

The *Judenrat* paid the illustrious, former president his last respects and his funeral was finely conducted, as befitted the deceased.