

THE LAST MEETING OF THE KUTNO JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

by Nathan MOSZKOWICZ, Herzliya

translated from the Hebrew by Thia Persoff z"l

A stifling heat wave lay over the town, saturated with the clouds of dust raised by thousands of feet running to and fro over the streets – cobbled and asphalted.

The trees stood listless from the heat, their top branches motionless, the moaning wind gasping and silent.

The green of the grasses at the boundaries of the town is bright and pleasantly captivates the eyes. A shade of muted greens reflects from the mirroring water of the Ochnia River, on which white swans swim with their heads drooping down.

The weekly Tuesday market day has ended.

In both the old market and the new one, loud sounds of commotion are heard, as the remains of the merchandise left over at the stalls is being packed away. The clanging of tools and assorted goods, and wild rolling of herring barrels, fill the air. In the distance a heap of small and large baskets piles up, and Jews pulling handcarts, or carrying their heavy packs on their backs, drag themselves slowly to their homes, tired and exhausted, longing for a bit of rest after a blazing August day.

From the corner of Zamenhof Street, Moshe Blank appears, tall and shriveled like a cut palm branch. On his chest is a heavy brass container, and with a depressed voice he calls "Soda Water!".

His voice is drowned by the stamping horse shoes of the horse that pulls Moshe Itshe's (Rotkop) wagon.

On the other side of town, the Plotkin brothers are rushing home. Wearing their white aprons and white caps,

they push their green-wheeled crates, their last cries of "ices! ices!", left echoing behind them.

At the same time, on the darkening horizon, appear the town's Jewish leaders making their way to the council meeting taking place in the brightly lit hall owned by the community, which is in the house of Shmuel Asz, in the new market.

Among the audience who were lucky enough to get entrance tickets, according to a political party pass, is also the eldest son of the late Pinchas Dayan, may he rest in peace, Itshe'le, who pushes in inquisitively towards the partition dividing the leaders from the audience.

An odd person is that short Itshe'le, always rushing as if his time is not determined by he himself, when the fact is that he never did any work and the community was supporting him.

Although he is a religious man, he is full of complaints against all those that preach morals and ethics, and in particular against his father for not teaching him a craft, so that he could fight for justice with all the workers of the world.

Kleczewski, his neighbor, followed him – he, too, was a regular visitor at the council meetings – wearing his Shabbat clothes now, after a hard day's work tailoring. He came to listen with special attention to the budget items for Israel, like the "National Fund", the "Foundation Fund", and to ensure support for the pioneers who plan to immigrate, in case they will be discriminated against.

The members of the council, representatives of the various political factions, were already seated at the long tables arranged in an "L"-shape.

Behind the table was hanging the photograph of Theodor Herzl, and opposite it was the calendar pointing to the month of August 1939. A copy of the proposed budget for the current year and the next one, prepared and printed on the typewriter by Yoav Borowski, the regular council secretary, was laid on the table in front of each leader.



Rabbi Y. Y. Trunk with community leaders Y. Sztajnfeld and Kam.

Chairman Alexander Falc gave the opening speech. He made an excellent impression with his grey suit ironed and his tie tied properly.

From the many items of the requirements presented by the religious, the secular-cultural and the constructive demands like the "*Talmud Torah*", "basic Torah *cheder*", "*Beit-Yaakov*" school. "*Am HaSefer*", "*Medem*" school, the "*Perec*", "*Ahad HaAm*", "*YIVO*", and "*Taz*" libraries, the sports-clubs and the institutes for professional training, a

picture of the large variety of social and cultural activities is apparent.

After the opening remarks of the chairman, the representative of the "*Bund*" party, Y. M. Zylberberg, had a turn. He analyzed some of the numbers, pointing out that they are unrealistic, and expressing a concern that they may be a cause for increasing the taxes and would be a great hardship for a large segment of the population. Defending the budget was the always-gloomy Meir Łęczycycki, his skinny face and gray eyes expressed intensity. After him, Eliezer Zandberg, the representative of the "General Zionists", who is never aggressive, gave his agreement for the budget proposal. Then, to the speakers' podium came, one after the other, the orthodox council members Fishel Zandberg and Yoel Sztajnfeld. Both claim that the items for the religious needs have to be increased. Helping to prove it, they quote parallel items in the budgets of other towns. Full of rage, average height Leibush Kam steps up to the stage. His face dark, his eyes like glowing embers, and with a movement of his hands negates the claims of the previous speakers, saying that in his opinion a large amount of money is spent by the community for religious items, even though only a small section of the Jewish community benefits from it.

Szor, the representative of "*Poalei Zion*" and "*Zeirei Zion*" is the last speaker in the first meeting of the council's plenary session.

The hands of the clock are getting close to midnight. The full moon had burst through from behind the houses and trees; the branches whisper and exchange secrets. The town is cloaked in relaxing calm, somewhere a dog is heard barking.

In the quiet of the night's majesty, no one is contemplating the unforeseen future.

However, unfortunately, the continuation of the meeting would never come to be...

התקציב הקהילה בערך לשנת 1927.

פרג'ו-אימניקל קאמיוניטי אסוסיאציען יאר 1927.

אונטערזוכט אין באשעפטיגט גארק ס וואס זענען געווען
פארעוואקסענע אין קולטור פון 3 און 4 יארן פריער קולטור
אויסגעצויגן.

אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור
אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור, אונטער
אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור.

התקציב 1927	התקציב 1926	התקציב 1925
144-26	21-50	
1000 -	4,257-35	2,750 -
4000 -		1926 " " "
442-50		
300 -		
13-24		
65,000 -	15,545-50	25,000 -

הכנסות	אויסגעצויגן
I הכנסות וכו' אונטער:	אויסגעצויגן וכו' אונטער:
1. אגודת ישראל	אגודת ישראל
2. חובות קהילה	חובות קהילה
3. " " " "	" " " "
4. " " " "	" " " "
5. " " " "	" " " "
6. " " " "	" " " "
7. הכנסות אחרות	אויסגעצויגן אחרות
8. " " " "	" " " "
9. " " " "	" " " "
10. " " " "	" " " "
11. " " " "	" " " "
12. " " " "	" " " "
13. " " " "	" " " "
14. " " " "	" " " "

250 -		
50 -		
65,000 -	50331 -	50,000 -
3,000 -	891 -	2,000 -
400 -	158-50	500 -
	2,200 -	6,000 -

אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור	אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור
אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור	אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור
אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור	אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור
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אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור	אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור
אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור	אויסגעצויגן פון קהילה קולטור

100 -	85 -	100 -
1,000 -	1,258-24	1,000 -
500 -	257-50	500 -
	1,336-65	
15,000 -		
500 -	3,621-94	
88,575 -	79964-18	157,500 -

II הכנסות	אויסגעצויגן
1. הכנסות אחרות	אויסגעצויגן אחרות
2. " " " "	" " " "
3. " " " "	" " " "
4. " " " "	" " " "
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9. " " " "	" " " "
10. " " " "	" " " "
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14. " " " "	" " " "
15. " " " "	" " " "
16. " " " "	" " " "
17. " " " "	" " " "
18. " " " "	" " " "
19. " " " "	" " " "
20. " " " "	" " " "

Preliminary budget of the community for the year 1927

Party of the Kutno community committee in August 1939



Protokół przeprowadzonej sesji
 Komitetu Zarządcy, w dn. 29.12.1934 r.
 Na przewodniczącego sesji wybrano...
 Zarząd: J. Szapiro, A. M. Liechtenstein, Dr. M. Finkelsztajn, Ch. M. Arlos, A. L. Lurczyński, A. M. Faj.

R-ek zamknięcia sum pozabudżetowych na dzień 31 grudnia 1934 r.

Stan bieżący		Stan bierny	
1) Kasa i inne do dysp.		1) Sumy przechodzące	2053,42
a) gotówka w kase	1185,47	2) Zaległ. budż. stanu biern.	22645,56
b) pozostał. w kase	2836	3) Zaciągnięte pożyczki	6614,46
c) w KKO	2	4) Rezerwy	504,25
2) Zaległ. budż. stan. biern.	21334,23	5) Multek gminy	170475,00
3) Rachmowski	1797,00	Legaty	1000,00
4) Rezerwy	127,50		
5) Rachmowski	218,00		
6) Nieurządzone	19210,00		
7) Zaliczenia budżetowe	2106,49		
8) Rachmowski	1107,00		
Legaty			
Razem	41374,29		201709,23

Sekretarz: (-) J. Narowski.

Rachunek zamknięcia sum budżetowych na dz. 31 grudnia 1934 r.

Wzrost	Wzrost
1) Wyd. budżetowe w r. 1934	5487,80
2) Pożyczka Narodowa	250,00
3) Rachmowski	178,90
Nadwyżka budżetowa	22-5,74
	99301,29

Kutno, dn. 31.12.1934 r.
ZARZĄD
 Prezes: (-) J. Szapiro
 Członkowie:

DECYZJE W ROKU SPRAWOZDAWCZYM bez sum bilansu otwarcia i zamknięcia.

Typy rachunków	W-r	Ma
1) Kasa	107368,28	100965,30
2) Dochody budżetowe		98794,04
3) Wydatki budżetowe	95631,60	510,75
4) Zaległ. pod. państwowe	681,42	
5) Zaległ. budż. st. czynnego	2513,75	8249,00
6) Rachmowski	8500,77	12737,18
7) Zaciągnięte pożyczki	8329,39	6135,00
8) Rachmowski	178,90	
9) P. K. O.	3610,26	3624,00
10) Akcepty	30,00	
11) Rezerwy	150,00	306,75
12) Papiery wartościowe	192,00	
13) Banki	1000,00	1015,00
14) Zaliczka budżetowa	2476,49	272,54
15) Umorzenie składek	1975,00	1975,00
16) Niedobory i nadwyżki	2367,50	
Razem	241194,05	241194,05

Zarząd: (-) J. Szapiro, (-) J. Steinfeld, (-) Dr. M. Finkelsztajn, (-) Ch. M. Arlos, (-) A. L. Lurczyński, (-) A. M. Faj.

Wyszczególnienie dochodów budżetowych z r. 1934

	Prelim.	Wpłynęło	Zalęgnięte
Składka za rok 1934	33116,00	25602,28	7513,72
Roznie	52000,00	47901,40	
Cmentarz gminny	6000,00	14476,40	
Ofiary na przys. itp.	2900,00	8225,24	
Różne wpływy	209,00	75,00	
Razem	93425,00	91280,28	7513,72

Wyszczególnienie wydatków budżetowych za r. 1934

	Prelim.	Wykonano	Zalęgnięte
Wypłaty personal. admn.	30926,00	50975,04	5850,96
religijne	3920,00	2050,41	
Rem. budyn. gmn.	1124,00	1289,00	
Opieka społeczna	509,00	1113,35	
Pod. państw. z Kom.	3750,00	14913,52	
Potrzeby ogóln.	2100,00	10940,20	1239,77
Nieprzew. wydatki	745,00	1310,58	
	1390,00	22-2,50	
Razem	64700,00	85510,40	9610,80

Budget of the Kutno community in 1934