

city, Israel stood at the head of the organization thanks to its fine action and tactical approach, not to mention his great musical talent. In 1937 he became very active in the cinema business in Kutno.

In that year, it was reported in the city that Israel's sister, Ryvka, who was living in Palestine at the time (she is now living in the country), had asked him to return to Poland, as the doctor had recommended her, for health reasons. Israel told his sister that "we must even leave Poland, because for Jews it has become an antisemitic hell." He emigrated with his family to France where, in 1942, he shared the tragic fate of the deported Jews – together with his wife Leah and daughter Zoshe.

His younger brother, Abraham-Yitzhak, died in a horrific manner in Kutno, as soon as the Germans occupied the city. The assassins grabbed him, tied him to the tail of a horse and dragged him across the streets of Kutno until he expired.

The three sisters Shifra, Mirel and Perel were killed in the gas chambers.

Azriel SZYMONOWICZ, Givatayim

## THE GORSZKOWICZ FAMILY

Among our neighbors in Kutno, about sixty years ago, I began to differentiate and get to know particular families, their children, properties, employment and character.

I remember the Gorszkowicz family with their four sons: Israel, Chaim-Yaakov, Abraham-Yitzhak and Eliezer. They were all musically gifted, played different instruments and had rare lovely voices. Of course, they owed it to their father Michael. His striving for the children to dedicate themselves to the vocal and musical arts was a matter for him not only of livelihood, but of faith, excessive soul<sup>1</sup> and ideal.

My childhood ears at that time absorbed the beautiful sounds that the father and the four sons made from their instruments and throats. Israel, the eldest son, enthusiastically assisted the father in his craft. Over time, the family became recognized as gifted musicians, and it was considered an honor and achievement to have them in Jewish, as well as non-Jewish celebrations. Israel later graduated from a musical school, and as soon as the first cinema opened in Kutno, "Modern", he became the conductor of the orchestra, which accompanied everything that took place on screen. This was in 1909.

After Poland's independence, when the cooperative of Christian and Jewish cinema owners was established in the

<sup>1</sup> TN: Kabbalistic Jewish concept.