

History of the Monor Jewry

The following is taken from the Hungarian Jewish Lexicon, published in 1929.

The Monor Community was formed in 1862, but Jews settled there as early as 1845, including Mór Löwi and Antal Feuermann, the Head of the Community.

The group (then 25 people) built a temple in the year following its formation. Since the expenses were above the small Community's capacities, King Franz Joseph I. contributed 200 forints and the people of Monor also made generous donations. The temple later proved too small; it was expanded to its final size in 1899, during the leadership of Jakab Huppert.

The Congress movements stirred great waves in the life of the Monor Community. At the Universal Convention the Community was represented by Mór Löwi, at whose initiative the Community unanimously joined the Congress Organisation.

The school, founded in 1886, presented a heavy financial burden for the members of the Community, and so was closed in 1903. At the same time however, the late Izrael Krausz launched a private school. After the founder's death in 1921, the Community bought the institution, opened it up for the public, and operates it today employing two teachers.

The Jewish education of the town's youth is ensured by the Talmud Torah, lead by Chief Rabbi Izsák Pfeiffer (Papp). At the time of its founding the Community was under the Rabbinate of Pécel, then later, in 1885 became an independent Registry and now includes the Districts of Monor and Gyömrő, as well as Kispest and Pestszentlőrinc.

The first Chief Rabbi of the newly independent Community was Mihály Kohn, who, under his beneficial 26-year period made Monor into one of the most significant Communities of the country. He was killed in a train accident in 1912, and shortly afterwards Kispest chose to become independent.

After a two-year interregnum the Community elected Sámuel Schlesinger as its Chief Rabbi. His eight-year period was highly important: he founded a Talmud Torah, a youth organisation, library, and reopened the school. He moved to Debrecen in 1922. The Community Library was named after him and his portrait was commissioned for the Council Chamber.

The current Rabbi is Izsák Pfeiffer, who is by all accounts a fitting successor to Sámuel Schlesinger. The difficult economic situation of recent years has left its mark on the Community, but nonetheless it has thrived and has even added new institutions to its estate, thanks to its excellent leaders, Márton Rosenberg, Jakab Huppert and Ferenc Szilágyi.

The religious education of young people is promoted by the recently established youth organisations. The library, founded by Vice-Head Adolf Szántó and his wife in memory of their deceased daughter is also a cornerstone of local cultural development.

The members of the Community play an important role in the town's economy. Béla Fried's mill and brick factory provide 80, Ignác Polacsek's timber-yards 42, Gyula and Sándor Huppert's trade company 48, and Bernát Huppert's companies 20, jobs.

Monor's famous sons are Adolf Willheim, violinist Sándor Kőszegi who currently lives in the U.S.A.; Chief Rabbi Sámuel Schlesinger worked there for eight years, and the current Chief Rabbi, Izsák Pfeiffer is also a valuable contributor to Jewish culture. The Community's yearly budget is 22,000 pengős, of this 8500 is spent on philanthropic and social causes.

The Community has 850 members, with 320 families and 295 taxpayers. By profession: 4 wholesale retailers, 8 farmers, 2 teachers, 10 soldiers and railway employees, 106 businessmen, 7 lawyers, 7 public servants, 64 workers, 2 industrialists, 5 doctors, 45 private officials, 6 entrepreneurs, 42 artisans, 1 engineer and 20 persons of independent means. Welfare institutions: a hospital during the War (now defunct), and an orphanage. 116

members of the Community took part in the War, with 9 casualties. The counter revolution claimed one life.

The following Communities belong under Monor: Vecsés, Gyömrő, Tápiósüly, Tápióság, Maglód, Üllő, Mende, Gomba.

The leaders of the community today are: Chief Rabbi Izsák Pfeiffer, Head Ferenc Szilágyi, Vice-Head Adolf Szántó, cash-clerk József Goldstein, supervisor Izidor Révész, administrators Gyula Nemes, Ignác Deutsch and Márton Rosenberg, teacher/clerk Henrik Friedlander, school council president Zoltán Szöllősi and cantor Mendel Wax.