

# Ella Goldstein on Musical Life in Palestine.

## ADDRESS AT MASSADAH LUNCHEON.

Miss Ella Goldstein, the brilliant young Palestinian pianist, and her parents, Professor Uriel Goldstein and Madame Vera Goldstein, were the guests of the Massadah Luncheon Club at the Talmud Torah Hall on Thursday, 21st December.

Mr. E. Charlaff was in the chair and extended a cordial welcome to the guests as citizens of the National Home. Eretz Israel, he said, was becoming the meeting place of men of culture, art, science and literature. A new culture was being created there and emissaries were coming from there to all parts of the world. He was proud to welcome so eminent an artist as Miss Goldstein and her parents and hoped they would take back the message to Eretz Israel that Jews here were making their contribution to the cause of Zionism which they all had at heart.

Miss Goldstein said that at the outset she desired to express sincere thanks on behalf of her parents and herself for the invitation to attend the luncheon. She had already heard of the excellent work the Massadah Association was doing and was particularly happy to be present. She and her parents would like to take this opportunity of expressing their heartfelt thanks to everyone in South Africa in general and Cape Town in particular for the very warm welcome they had received and also for the enthusiasm shown at her recitals. She loved playing here as much as she loved playing to our people in Palestine. It gave her double pleasure to be able to play in centres where people appreciated good music and Cape Town was already well known everywhere for its high standard of musical culture. The things of the public and their outlook towards music were always a source of great help to the musician as it enabled him or her to express to the utmost their feeling of the music. What particularly impressed her here in Cape Town was the manner in which audiences thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed the more uncommon works of the great masters. She could assure them that when she returned to Palestine she would share her impressions of South Africa with her friends there.

### PALESTINE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

Miss Goldstein then dealt with various aspects of the musical life of Palestine. The Palestine Symphony Orchestra, she said, could fully compete with the great orchestras of Europe and America. In the orchestra there were 70 musicians, all of whom were specialists in their individual instruments. In the ten years of the existence of the orchestra the progress of music in Palestine was so great that it was to-day considered one of the most musical countries in the world. The people of Palestine were proud of their music as it was part of their very being. The high standard achieved in the world of music was, for the most part, due to the fact that from all over the world for the past ten years, talented Jewish artists of the highest order had come to Palestine, and to-day they could safely say that in proportion to its population, no other country in the world had so many talented musicians. Whenever concerts were held it was necessary for tickets to be bought months in advance and in addition many thousands of people could be accommodated at outdoor concerts. Due to the large number of musicians in Palestine, they now had twelve schools of music.

One of the most famous professors in Palestine was Leon Kastenberk, and under him children in Palestine received the best tuition in music. Special attention was paid by the Orchestra to providing Jewish music; no programme

(Continued in Second Column).



## FOR MAURICE—

*You go,  
And take with you the promise of all morrows  
And the sharp, harsh clangour of departure  
Stabs, and wounds the heart  
To a pain that has no part  
In the facile play of farewell.  
Come darkness, cloak  
This scene in nightmare quality.  
The dusk is never deep enough  
To hide the ignominy of such an elemental  
grief.*

*In the drab bulk of your kitbag is stowed  
away, reality  
Together with the silky spool of unwound  
time.*

*You leave behind  
The light and careless play of youth  
And all the transcendental things.  
Beauty you leave, and colour,  
Sunlight and starglitter,  
Loving and easy laughter and music,  
Splendid music!  
And the crass, bold rhythm of a dance tune  
Heralding the dawn.*

*How many dawns?  
I have an instant's vision of you—  
See you greet a sterner dawn by flying  
towards the sunrise;  
And if it seems you tremble  
It is for the load of immortality you carry  
with you  
Into screaming battle.*

*The fierce high wind of chance pursuing,  
I see you caught, enveloped  
In that rushing wind.  
And the earth holds nothing now, but in my  
ears  
The sound and fury of the rushing wind.*

*And you go,  
And in your keeping  
All futurity.*

MINNA LEVITAS.



(Continued in First Column).

was presented which did not include items of Jewish interest. There were a number of Jewish composers in Palestine, such as Rozovecky, Sternberg, Boskoviz, Ben-Chaim, Lavry, Naudi, Kaminsky, Stuchevsky, Garochov, Poztosh and others.

At the close of her address Miss Goldstein was asked a number of questions to which she very ably replied.

Professor Goldstein, at the request of the gathering then gave a short address in Russian which was interpreted by Mr. Hadley. He said that in the course of his travels in various countries he had always been confronted by the fact that he was a Jew and felt the effects of anti-Jewish discrimination. Only in Palestine, where he had lived for the last seven years, did he have the feeling that all Jews, no matter where they came from, were one people. In spite of all the setbacks and disappointments, he was sure that the time was approaching when Palestine would be the real Jewish National Home and would be a more secure and better place to live in for all Jews.

Mrs. H. Levin proposed a vote of thanks to the guests.

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## Cape Board of Jewish Education.

### "AT HOME" TO STUDENTS OF ADULT HEBREW CLASSES.

An "At Home" to the students attending the Adult Hebrew Classes was given by the Cape Board of Jewish Education on Tuesday, 19th December, at the Zionist Hall. Amongst those present were Dr. C. Resnekov (Chairman), Professor Rabbi I. Abrahams, Dr. A. Birnbaum and the teachers of the Adult Education Classes.

In an opening address the Chairman stated that the classes had proved a very great success indeed. The results of the Board's efforts showed that if the facilities were made available there were always people who would make use of these facilities. It had been the Board's policy to concentrate more on adults; they wanted every Jew and Jewess to have a working knowledge of the Hebrew language and literature. In the present contingencies we must have Jews who would be proud of their heritage. Only people who knew their heritage could appreciate it fully. The aim of these classes was to build a knowledgable community in South Africa.

The Chairman then called upon Dr. Birnbaum to address the gathering. Dr. Birnbaum said that the idea of adult education was not a new one and it was an idea that had become very fashionable to-day. But the Jews have always advocated adult education and they considered ignorance to be the greatest anti-Semite and the greatest enemy of progress. In Palestine, too, there were adult classes; most of these were for immigrants who know nothing of Hebrew at all. The Hebrew University had given 1,200 lectures to the public during the last year, outside the University. He hoped that the students would reach the stage where they would be able to read our cultural treasures in the original and be in a position to refute the allegations made against us by ignorant people.

Mr. J. Blesovsky, one of the teachers of the classes, addressed the students on behalf of the teachers. He congratulated the Board of Jewish Education for organising these classes for adults. These classes would help the students to understand Judaism and the students, in turn, would influence the children going to Talmud Torah. Finally he thanked the students on behalf of the teachers for taking such an interest in the classes and also for the excellent attendance.

Three students replied on behalf of all the students. They thanked the Board for giving them the opportunity of learning Hebrew and the teachers for taking such an interest in the classes and making them so enjoyable.

Rabbi Abrahams congratulated the Board on starting these classes; they had been inspired by a great hope which had been realised. He himself had been very impressed when he had visited the classes. He noted the enthusiasm of the students and congratulated the teachers on genuine achievements. These classes had proved that adult Hebrew classes were possible and it was also possible to carry out an intensive programme. The youngsters would have new zeal to go to Talmud Torah when they saw that the adults were showing such an interest in the classes.

During the evening the students were entertained with a piano recital by Miss Ruth Rome and a number of songs by Cantor Boris Rome, which were highly appreciated. There was community singing and refreshments were served. Altogether it was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

## שבת

Sabbath commences on 29th December at 7.40 p.m. and ends on 30th December at 8.30 p.m. Portion of Law: Vaychee, Genesis 47 to 50. Haftorah: Vayikreyvu Yemei David, Kings a, 2.