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Phenomenal Young Violinist Who Stirred America



Sybil Copeland To Play In Johannesburg

ON a short visit to this country from America is the outstanding 16-year-old violinist, Sybil Copeland, who will be heard at the City Hall on February 12 and February 15.

Discovered at the age of 8 by Mischa Elman, during his tour of this country, she was advised by him to continue her studies overseas. Sybil went to New York in 1938 where she studied under Mr. Elman's own supervision. In 1940 she went to Hollywood where she studied under Mr. Meremblum, the well-known conductor of the California Symphony Orchestra. It was during this period that she appeared in the Warner Bros. short film featuring this orchestra. The orchestra consisted of 100 members all under 16 years of age, and they gave numerous concert performances aside from movie work. Miss Copeland appeared as soloist with this orchestra three times in Los Angeles, playing the Mendelssohn and Mozart D Major Concertos.

During one of these concerts, Basil Rathbone heard Sybil play, and engaged her for many concerts for the British War Relief Fund. Sybil played to packed houses with per-



formers such as Charles Boyer, Rosalind Russell, Herbert Marshall and other personalities. She also did much radio work on coast to coast networks.

In 1941, Miss Copeland went to Cleveland and there appeared as soloist with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. For the next two years she had the good fortune of studying under America's leading violin professor, Mr. Hans Letz.

Sybil appeared as soloist at Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra conducted by Rudolph Ganz, playing Lalo's Symphonic Espagnole. For this performance she was selected from 250 aspirants—the cream of America's youth. After this success Sybil was booked for two appearances with Leopold Stokowsky and his symphony orchestra, to play the Tchaikowsky concerto. While in New York, Miss Copeland broadcast many recital programmes, and did many modern American works for their first performance.

Miss Copeland is a member of a well-known Zionist family in East London.

Activities of Pretoria W.Z.L.

The five branches of the Pretoria Women's Zionist League have maintained their activities during the past three months. The standard of all branch functions has been on a very high level, and there has been a marked co-operation between all branches.

Arcadia Branch.—A number of cultural functions took place, all of which were well attended. During the month of October an afternoon was held at the home of Mrs. Lazar, when Mrs. S. Weinstein delivered a paper on "Jewish Women of the Bible." A number of musical items, including a piano solo by Mrs. M. Goldberg and songs by Miss O. Voigt, as well as recitations by Marlene Sapirstein, were greatly enjoyed. In December this branch combined with the cultural section of the league by holding a joint meeting at the home of Mrs. Zway, when Mrs. Milner read a paper on Dr. Th. Herzl (by Paul Goodman) and Mrs. Klein read several pertinent extracts from the "Judenstaat." Miss Lazarus recited some poems most attractively.

Brooklyn Branch.—At a cultural afternoon Mrs. A. Levi, chairman of the league, read an interesting and instructive paper on "Lovers of Zion," and Mrs. B. Taback entertained with two piano solos. A most successful function in the form of a garden party was held at the home of Mrs. A. Cohen.

City Branch.—Besides an educational afternoon held in conjunction with the cultural section at the home of Mrs. D. Katz, this branch arranged a novel function in the form of an exhibition of art needlework. A number of attractive prizes were awarded.

Hatfield-Colbyn Branch.—One of the outstanding events of this branch was a jumble sale at the home of Mrs. A. Sachs, the proceeds of which went towards the J.N.F.

Sunnyside Branch.—An enjoyable afternoon in the form of a radio news-reel took place at the home of Mrs. Simon, when Mesdames A. Levi, Arkin and Bloch assisted in the programme. This branch had its cultural meeting in conjunction with the Arcadia branch at the home of Mrs. Leps. Mrs. C. Laks delivered a paper on Max Nordau, and Mrs. R. Katzen

read extracts from the book "Max Nordau."

All branches took an active part in the selling of trees on Balfour Day and considerably increased the total figure of last year. The league's cultural group, the active convener of which is Mrs. C. Laks, meets regularly once a month, and is doing valuable work.

Members attend sewing circles regularly and also participate actively in quarterly box clearances, the last quarter of which was an unqualified success in Pretoria. A number of members have now formed a special committee for Wizo Month, and an attractive programme of events to make this drive an outstanding success is under consideration.

CAPT. J. GREEN ADDRESSES HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI

CAPT. J. GREEN, Jewish Chaplain to the U.D.F., who served "Up North" for a considerable period, was the guest-speaker of the Hapoel Hamizrachi at a meeting held in their Maon, Sherwell Street, on January 20.

Dealing first with Jewish life in Egypt, Capt. Green mentioned that the strongest youth group of the community was the Bnei Akivah, which was affiliated to the Hapoel Hamizrachi.

He gave an interesting account of the activities of the Hapoel Hamizrachi Religious Labour Zionists on their settlements in Eretz Israel. In spite of many difficulties, he said, these Chalutzim were determined to remain on the land.

"In view of the grave plight of our brethren in Europe and the serious political situation confronting the Zionist movement, it behoves us to rally to the banner of Torah Va-Avodah as never before," he concluded.

Numerous questions were asked to which Captain Green ably replied.

At the opening of the proceedings Sgt. S. Caplan, chairman of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, extended a warm welcome to Capt. Green on his return to the Union.

RABBI DR. ISRAEL HARRIS RETURNS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Rabbi Dr. Israel Jacob Harris, who lived in South Africa for a number of years, arrived in Cape Town last week from America where he had a brilliant rabbinical career.

Rabbi Harris, in his early youth, studied at the yeshivos of "Slabodkah" and "Telz" in Lithuania, and subsequently proceeded to the Hebrew Colleges and Teachers Seminary of Kovno and Vilkomier in Lithuania, from which institutions he graduated. In South Africa he continued his studies at the University College of the Orange Free State and the University of South Africa, where he received his M.A. with honours in Hebrew Studies and Semitics.

In 1938 he was awarded a scholarship to the renowned "Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary" of New York. After studying there for several years, he was ordained as a Rabbi with honours, having earned a reputation as a scholar of Talmud and Rabbinics. He also pursued his research work in philosophy and semitics at Columbia University, for which he received his degree of Ph.D.

After his ordination, Dr. Harris accepted the pulpit of the Young Israel Synagogue of Pelham Parkway in New York City.

Histadruth Ivrit (Port Elizabeth)

A large gathering attended the monthly meeting of the Histadruth Ivrit at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Klaff.

Mr. J. Mizrachi, the chairman, specially welcomed Mrs. Nassau, a Palestinian visitor to South Africa, who spoke on the political situation in Eretz Israel.

Mr. J. Feitelson, from Pretoria, spoke on the activities of the Pretoria branch of the Histadruth Ivrit.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Mizrachi reported on the Histadruth Ivrit Conference held in Muizenberg. Miss Leah Mailowitz read an interesting story written by herself.

Discussions took place in which the following took part: Mr. L. Goodman, Mr. Bichunsky, Mr. Mizrachi, Mrs. Nassau, Mrs. Lipschitz and others. The meeting concluded with Hebrew songs delightfully rendered by Rev. Klaff.