

In and Around the Peninsula

New Hebrew Congregation

The newly elected President of the New Hebrew Congregation, Cape Town, Mr. L. Kantor, gave an "At Home" to many of his friends and representatives of various congregations and institutions at his residence.

The Chairman, Mr. D. L. Davidowitz, welcomed the guests and expressed the hope that the function would lead towards complete unity in all spheres of Jewish activity. Other speakers were Rabbi Morgenstern, Revs. Michelson and Kaufman and Messrs. J. Shenckman, P. Marks and Beinart.

Rabbi Dr. E. W. Kirzner, in an address, dwelt on the requirements of the community from every aspect and the great benefits that could accrue if all worked in harmony for the great Jewish ideals.

Songs were rendered by Mr. B. Padowich and Gantors Inspektor and Goldwasser; these were highly appreciated. Mr. L. Kantor thanked those present and assured them that he was prepared to devote himself wholeheartedly to his task in which, of course, he could only succeed with the co-operation of the various local communities.

Mr. D. L. Davidowitz was thanked for so ably conducting the chair.

Pidyan Haben.

The Pidyan Haben of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Kurland, of Kenilworth, was celebrated at the residence of the child's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Kurland, Henley Road, Muizenberg, on Sunday, 10th December. The Rev. M. J. Cohen officiated.

After the ceremony "The Cohen" gave an address; he then donated his redemption money towards the planting of trees in the child's name. Mr. Emmanuel Brodie, a grand-uncle of the child, who was in the chair, replied, stating that a family garden (100 trees) would be started in honour of "baby Eizer Kurland." Rev. I. Frank and Mr. P. Phillips of the Balmoral Hotel, Muizenberg, also spoke. Mr. P. Dreisenstock, a great-grandfather of the infant, thanked the speakers and the guests.

Kowno Hebrew Friendly Society.

The annual Chanukah celebration took place at the Zionist Hall on Sunday, 17th December. There was a large attendance of members and their families.

Mr. H. Lifson presided and extended a hearty welcome to all the guests. Rev. S. H. Michelson lit the Chanukah candles, after which the audience joined in singing of "Moez Tzur." In a short but eloquent address Rev. Michelson stressed the significance of Chanukah and compared the celebration throughout the ages with that of present-day events. He stressed the importance of the activities of the society which was playing a big part in raising funds for the relief of our Jewish brethren in war-stricken countries. During the course of the function the sum of £16 was raised through an American auction sale of a rug which was kindly presented by the vice-president, Mr. L. Kantor, and a children's frock which was knitted and presented by Mrs. C. Schlosberg. Mr. N. Tobias was the able auctioneer.

The distribution of members' emblems then took place and Mrs. E. W. Kirzner presented each member with a certificate.

Rabbi E. W. Kirzner delivered a very interesting address on the festival of Chanukah which was greatly enjoyed by all those present. He appealed to the members to maintain the friendly and brotherly understanding which existed among the members, and to endeavour to increase the Relief Fund which will be needed shortly.

Mr. S. Lipshitz sang a fine humorous song. Mr. L. Kantor moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers and Mrs. Kirzner. Mr. H. Lifson expressed his appreciation to the committee for providing the refreshments and arranging the pleasant evening.

Durbanville Zionist Society.

A Chanukah evening was held on Wednesday, 13th December, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lipshitz, Wellington Road, Durbanville. Eloquent addresses in Yiddish on the festival of Chanukah and on Dr. Chaim Weizmann were given by Rev. N. L. Marcus, of Durbanville, and Mr. Padowich, of Cape Town, respectively. After a tea interval a vote of thanks to the speakers and to the host and hostess was proposed by Mr. H. Schus.

Zionist Hall Library.

The Zionist Hall Library has received about seventy Hebrew and Yiddish books which were bequeathed by the late Mr. M. Salber.

Great Synagogue Forum.

The last luncheon before the summer recess was held in the Talmud Torah Hall, on Wednesday, 20th December, the guest speaker being Mr. Elsley Zeitlyn, a well known visitor from England.

Mr. Zeitlyn spoke on "Menace of Liberty," and pointed out in the course of his address that in those countries where the Jews had been afforded greater liberties as well as in those countries which themselves were not particularly religious the Jews had given up the careful observance of many of the most important traditions of Judaism.

Mr. Zeitlyn also referred to the top heavy economic pyramid of the Jewish communities throughout the world, and made an appeal for normalisation. The homeland, said Mr. Zeitlyn, might be a centre but the circumference must be an entirety.

Rabbi I. Abrahams proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

Bnoth Zion Association.

A successful cultural meeting of the "Eleventh" Branch was held on 19th December at the residence of Mrs. F. Rifkill, "Craigmillar," Herschel Walk, Kenilworth.

Mrs. Henry Harris presided. The Wizo work for the year 1945 was fully discussed and many suggestions were put forth.

A rummage sale which was organised by Mesdames Anne Lipschitz and F. Sarif in aid of the Tombola Stall of the Holiday Fair, Muizenberg, which the "Eleventh" Branch are convening, was a huge success, bringing in an amount of £72 15s. 10d. to date. Another effort for the Tombola Stall was a social card afternoon held at the residence of Mrs. Jessie Abraham, Kenilworth, which brought in the sum of £6 3s. 6d.

Mr. H. Hadley, who was welcomed by the Chair-lady, gave a talk on his impressions of Palestine. This was most enlightening and interesting. It brought to those present many points of interest unknown to them in connection with the present-day situation in Palestine.

A hearty vote of thanks was moved by Mrs. Harry Bashew to Mr. Hadley, and to the hostess, Mrs. F. Rifkill, for her hospitality.

Massadah Association of Vredehoek.

The last meeting of the present session was held on Wednesday, December 20th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. Sebba, Upper Maynard Street. Mrs. H. Lieberman spoke on "Our Peasantry," showing the great differences that existed between workers on the land in Palestine and in other countries. The Jew in Palestine, although he spent long hours working the soil, did not neglect his culture nor his learning, and the reason for this was the background of learning that every Jew possessed. A long and interesting discussion followed Mrs. Lieberman's talk.

Massadah Association of Rondebosch.

The last meeting of this society was held on Thursday, 21st December, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. Tuch. Speakers for the evening were four members of the Ort-Oze Vocational Guidance Bureau, viz., Dr. Zelda Rosenberg, Mr. M. Katovsky, Mr. C. Marks and Mr. B. Levitas. After discussing the ideology of the Ort, the speakers went on to general South African problems and finally descended to special cases. They pointed out the good work the Ort has done in saving many young Jewish people from entering avenues in which they would only be "square pegs" and also stressed the fact that their general aim was to persuade more young Jews who might so easily become "luftmensch," living as it were on their wits, to learn a skilled trade or profession. They concluded with an appeal to all employers present to employ more skilled Jewish labour. The speakers were then thanked by the chairman, Mr. L. H. Berold.

This meeting was the final one of the present year and the society now goes into recess until January 29th, 1945. Members are warned, how-

ever, to keep Saturday, January 20th, free, they will be badly needed by the society on that night.

Cape Jewish Aged Home.

The Hon. Treasurer of the above Home gratefully acknowledges a bequest of £25 from the estate of the late Mr. Meyer Friedman.

Maritime Evening at Muizenberg

The third in the series of weekly Holiday Conversations, arranged by the Western Province Zionist Council in conjunction with Muizenberg societies, took place on Tuesday evening, 26th inst. The Palestine Maritime League was responsible for the programme, and its chairman, Mr. J. M. Weinreich, presided.

After piano solos had been rendered by Miss Shulman and Mrs. J. Weinreich had read an appropriate poem by Yehuda Halevy, an address was given by Dr. L. Behr, of Johannesburg. Stressing the importance of Palestine for post-war Jewry the lecturer said that the absorptive capacity of the country would depend upon its economic development. There was no end to industrialisation and great scope was offered by the new vista—the sea. Maritime work supplemented the redemption of the land. Other small nations bordering on the sea had become great through shipping, fishing, etc. The Maritime League sought to establish a national fleet to train personnel, to open ports and to develop deep-water and coastal fishing. Two thousand youths were already serving in the Royal Navy and the Merchant Marine. It appealed for public co-operation.

Chief Engineer Schwersensky, who is at present serving on a Palestine ship, then gave an interesting talk, relating many of the earlier experiences of Palestine shipping ventures. He described how our youth were taking to the sea, and how the Maritime League was doing excellent work through its nautical school and the provision of many useful facilities. He also recalled the early struggles of the Tel Aviv harbour. Palestine Jewish lads were doing a fine job of war work.

The Chairman warmly thanked the speaker, the artists and the ladies responsible for refreshments.

NEXT FUNCTION.

Next week's meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 2nd, will be devoted to the work of Yoram Aliyah. Mrs. Mary Segal will describe the achievements of this humanitarian undertaking and in addition sound films of Palestine depicting recent reconstruction work will be shown.

Social & Personal.

At the graduation ceremony of the University of Cape Town, Miss Miriam Levin obtained her M.A. Degree, with Honours in Anthropology. Mrs. Ruth Levin obtained the B.A. Degree with distinction in Anthropology, Archaeology and Ethnology. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Levin, of Molteno Road, Oranjezicht.

The marriage took place on Sunday of Sydney of Mr. and Mrs. M. Walt, of Sea Point, and Miriam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Klevansky, of Port Elizabeth.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Blumberg (née Vera Gradner) of Rondebosch, are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Massey (née Dorothy Rogoff) of Johannesburg, are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Levinsohn (Fanny Gross) of Paarl, are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. E. Weinstein is leaving for Palestine during the week-end.

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