

In and Around the Peninsula

Union of Jewish Women, Cape Town Branch.

The members' monthly meeting was held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday afternoon, September 14. Mrs. D. Harris presided. She referred to the untimely death of Dr. A. Birnbaum, and members stood as a mark of respect.

In reviewing past activities, the Chairman reported that she and Mrs. Leib had convened street collections for U.N.A.C. in the Sea Point and Muizenberg areas respectively. The branch had also participated in the street collection for the Red Cross Children's War Memorial Hospital. The National War Memorial Health Foundation fete has been a great success, and Mrs. Movsovic and Mrs. Solomon had been the convenors of the stall there. Tickets for the Blue and White Ball on September 21 at the Rotunda Hotel were still available, and tables should be booked at the Union of Jewish Women office.

Mrs. Harris reported on a meeting of the Cape Committee of the Jewish Board of Deputies held recently.

A letter was read from the Civil Rights Action Committee, and the following resolution, moved by Mrs. P. M. Clouts and seconded by Mrs. I. Hickman, was passed unanimously: "That a letter be sent to the Civic Rights Action Committee associating ourselves with their efforts to make a clear demonstration to the Government with regard to the retention of the rights of non-European citizens of South Africa."

Mrs. R. Sperber presented a most interesting and informative precis on reports which had been received from the Hebrew University, and Mrs. Clouts, chairman of the women's section, reported on recent and forthcoming activities of the Israeli United Appeal.

Address by Mrs. T. B. Davie

Mrs. T. B. Davie, wife of the Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, spoke on social welfare work in England. She said that in England all social work had been begun by voluntary agencies, but under the present Government in England health services had become the work of the State. She referred to insurance whereby married working women were covered for six weeks before and after confinement. The children's allowance now made provision for the sum of 5s. to be paid for every child, except the first, and this act had been brought about by the untiring efforts of the late Eleanor Rathbone.

Under the new Education Act every school maintained by the State provided free schooling, free medical services, food, and, where necessary, free boarding and clothing, for children between the ages of five and 16. A Royal Commission had been appointed to investigate the maintenance and welfare of children not living with parents, which included those living in institutions; those boarded with foster-parents, destitute and delinquents and war orphans. The outcome of this report was the establishment of a special children's department. The Curtis report recommended, inter alia, that the institutions were too big and should be broken up into smaller homes and that children should not be classed according to age groups.

Mrs. Davie also spoke on youth work and community centres. Boys' and girls' clubs had expanded tremendously in the last few years, and a National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs had recently been formed. These clubs provided informal education and had the full backing of the Education Department. She said that Community Associations had been formed in new townships, and these eventually led to the establishment of community centres.

Mrs. P. Solomon proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker, and the chairman thanked the Rondebosch Group for acting as hostesses.

Vilno and Province Society.

A members' social was held at the Zionist Hall, Cape Town, on Saturday, September 11. The vice-chairman, Mr. N. Glezer, who presided, welcomed all those present, and announced that among the guests were Mrs. Fanny Rabinowitz and Miss Esther Rechtenberg, who were fortunate to escape from the ghettos and were now happily among the audience present. Mr. Glezer extended to them a warm welcome to South Africa, and wished them all the happiness and hospitality they richly deserve. Dr. M. Kaplinsky then extended his hearty thanks to the members on behalf of the newly arrived visitors and expressed his gratitude for the fine welcome and encouragement shown to them by the society. He gave a brief outline of some of the authors, poets and philosophers who wrote numerous books on the life and the miseries of the Jews who were tortured, degraded and put in the gas chambers. He quoted some of the works by Katzenellson, Katcherginsky, Dr. Dworzcki and other heroes who witnessed some of the most terrible atrocities committed by the Germans during their occupation and extermination of the ghettos in Vilno, Warsaw and Lodz. Dr. Kaplinsky appealed to the members to support the funds of the society, which is helping those few who miraculously escaped to Italy, France and Cyprus, and some who have already reached their goal and are now in Palestine.

Mrs. Rabinowitz, who was greeted with thunderous applause, gave a dramatic account of her experiences, relating some tragic episodes in the course of her address which moved the audience, and stressed the fact that had it not been for the generosity of some of the landsmanschaften and individuals who sent food, clothing and letters of encouragement hundreds of the refugees would have perished. She expressed her very heartfelt gratitude to the Krupenia family in Stockholm, who sheltered her, and gave her all the comfort and assistance, and likewise, the family Krupenia of Cape Town, who were responsible for bringing her over to this country and accorded her the hospitality and kindness which was beyond her imagination.

During the course of the evening Cantor J. Passman sang some Hebrew and Jewish songs, accompanied by Miss Berman, and Mr. M. Rubinstein recited a poem by Katzenellson; these were greatly appreciated by the audience.

Mr. E. Nowikow moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers and artists, and appealed to the members to meet socially more often in order to maintain the friendly and cultural relations which existed in the great Jewish city of Vilno.

Cultural Evening at Wynberg.

A cultural evening under the auspices of the Wynberg Men's Zionist Society and the local branch of the Bnoth Zion was held at the Wynberg Communal Hall on Monday evening, September 6. The chairman, Mr. Galloon, introduced and welcomed the guest speaker, Advocate Dave Cohen. Advocate Cohen, who chose as his subject "Zionist Peace Aims," said it was necessary to get together for the ultimate objective of Medinat Israel, our vital task being the defeat of the foe. The establishment of a Jewish State was not only for the remnants of Jewry in Europe but affected Jewish life outside all over the world.

The bitterness and animosity of party feuds amongst the youth and the necessity to become soldiers caused a deplorable lack of idealism; the time must come when we must bring the youth back to idealism, with gentleness and purity, and that was vital because of the future link with Israel, when there will be no more fighting and no war. Various tasks will have to be performed

amongst us in the Diaspora. We will have to aim at interdependence, mutuality of obligations and loyalty to the State. Medinat Israel can bestow on us a greater sense of pride and higher prestige. Advocate Cohen concluded by saying: "We do not yet possess a sense of security, which can only be given by a happy Jewish State. Medinat Israel needs us, our help and loyal support, and we need Medinat Israel, when we shall no longer be a lonely people, but a proud and happy people with our own national home."

After tea Mr. A. M. Matz, chairman of the Wynberg Hebrew Congregation, presented Rev. and Mrs. Gordon with a Golden Book certificate on the occasion of their silver wedding. Rev. Gordon suitably replied.

A vote of thanks to Advocate Cohen for his very interesting and thought-provoking address was proposed by Mr. J. L. Feinberg.

Bris Melah.

Mr. A. Shifrin presided over a large gathering of relatives and friends at Rosecourt, Breda Street, on Sunday, September 19, to celebrate the Bris of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Derman of Woodstock.

Mr. M. Morgenstern stressed the importance of the occasion. Mr. S. H. Michelsen, in a few well-chosen words, toasted the newcomer to Israel. Mr. E. Charlaff announced the donation by the parents of £25 towards the Magen David Adom on this happy occasion.

Dr. I. Kaplinsky and Mr. A. P. Bank, and the grandfather, Mr. J. Seltz, also spoke.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Shifrin are inscribing the young Jonathan Raphael in the Sefer Hayaed.

Birthday Fund.

Deanna Blacher, of Cape Town, celebrated her eighth birthday this week. She is a pupil of the Herzlia Day School, and to mark the occasion handed a sum of £3 to the principal of the school for distribution to the Israeli United Appeal, Jewish National Fund and Magen David Adom. Receipt of £1 each is acknowledged by these funds, and Deanna's splendid example is warmly commended to others.

Hebrew Teachers' Association.

The annual general meeting of the Cape Hebrew Teachers' Association took place on Sunday, September 5.

Mr. J. Blesovsky, the chairman, reported on the activities of the association during the year. He also referred to the great loss sustained in the sudden death of Dr. A. Birnbaum. The financial report was presented by Mr. J. Potashnik.

A new committee was elected consisting of the following members: J. Blesovsky, E. Levite, J. Potashnik, I. Bitnun, I. Gulis, J. Smith and Rev. S. Efron.

The gathering decided to issue a special booklet in memory of the late Dr. Birnbaum. Members are kindly requested to send in contributions for this booklet to the hon. secretary, Mr. E. Levite, Royal Road, Muizenberg.

Lecture by Dr. Romm at Woodstock.

There was a record attendance of members at the Woodstock-Salt River Cultural Circle and Bnoth Zion branch when Rabbi Dr. Romm delivered a most instructive lecture. His subject was "The Imponderables of Israel". In the course of an hour Dr. Romm dealt with the causes of Israel's survival and revival. Dr. Romm's original and eloquent address, delivered in English and Yiddish, was most enthusiastically received.

Mr. A. J. Basker presided and described the lecture as the best intellectual treat that Woodstock had had for years; he expressed the hope that Dr. Romm would find time to pay another visit shortly. He referred to the outstanding scholarly work which Dr. Romm had achieved

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Social & Personal.

The engagement is announced between Queenie, only daughter of Mrs. M. Maisel, of Vredehoek, and Tobias (Toby), elder son of Mr. and Mrs. David Weiner, of Warwick Street, Cape Town.

The engagement is announced between Rae, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Langman, of Woodstock, and Arnold (Okkie), only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Rabinowitz, of Vredehoek.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holesh (nee Ruth Cohen), of Johannesburg, are being congratulated on the birth of a son.

Raphael - Rabinowitz

The marriage of Freda, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Rabinowitz to Joe, only son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Raffalowitz, took place on Sunday, 19th September, at the Great Synagogue, Gardens. Rabbi I. Abrahams, assisted by Rev. S. Kassel and Cantor B. Rome officiated.

Mr. Arnold (Okkie) Rabinowitz was the bestman; the poleholders were Messrs. G. and H. Rabinowitz and S. and J. Marine.

Mrs. F. Finkelstein was the Matron of Honour and little Rosalind Abrahams and Avra Sebba were the flower girls.

A Luncheon was held at the Zionist Hall after the ceremony and was attended by a very large number of guests. Mr. S. M. Levin was in the chair and proposed the toast to Israel. Rabbi I. Abrahams proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom and of the parents. The bridegroom suitably responded.

Dr. J. Harte made a presentation of a pair of silver candlesticks on behalf of the United Hebrew Schools and paid a tribute to the bride for her services as a member of the staff. Mrs. V. Friedman, on behalf of the Gardens branch of the Bnoth Zion Association, presented a certificate of ten trees in appreciation of the services to the Zionist cause of the bride's mother, who is Vice-Chairman of the branch.

The names of the bride and bridegroom have been inscribed in the Golden Book by their parents. The names of the parents of the bride and of the parents of the bridegroom have been inscribed by the young couple.

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in all branches of Jewish and Afrikaans culture.

Mr. Z. Galloon, in a few words, praised the work of Dr. Romm. Mr. I. Gulis proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker, and thanked the following ladies for their co-operation and the refreshments: Mrs. B. Munitz, Mrs. J. Geffen, Mrs. A. L. Furman and Mrs. I. Gulis. The Rev. L. Baron rendered a few songs which were very much appreciated.

Zionist Socialist Party.

A very interesting and enjoyable evening was spent at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. D. Dektor on 9th September, when they met informally Mr. Louis Pincus, the former Chairman of the Zionist Socialist Party of South Africa, who was in Cape Town on a visit from Israel.

Mr. Pincus gave an illuminating account interspersed with many personal touches of the establishment of the Jewish State and the position there.

As this was the first gathering of members since the untimely death of Dr. A. Birnbaum, Mr. E. Kluck, Chairman of the party in Cape Town, in opening the meeting paid tribute to the departed and all present stood up as a mark of respect.