

40th Anniversary of Miriam Marks School

Celebration by Pretoria Community

AN important event in the history of the Pretoria community was the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Miriam Marks Hebrew School, at a function held in the Memorial Hall last Sunday afternoon. A representative gathering of about 400 people attended, including Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik, Director of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, Mr. Louis Marks, eldest son of the late Senator Samuel Marks, the founder of the school, and other representatives of the family. Mr. M. J. Freedman, Chairman of the School Board, presided.

Rabbi W. Hirsch, an ex-officio member of the School Committee, paid tribute to the services and generosity of the late Mr. Samuel Marks, mentioning that he had left a legacy of £20 per month for the maintenance of the school. He praised the high educational standard attained by the institution, but expressed regret that the number of girls attending the classes constituted not more than 5 per cent. He appealed to the mothers to remedy this state of affairs.



The late Senator Marks.

Rabbi Zlotnik said that the institution was one of the most efficient Hebrew schools in the country. He stressed the importance of Hebrew education and appealed to parents to keep their children in school at least until matriculation.

Mr. M. Leibman, one of the founders of the Pretoria Synagogue, who has been closely associated with the school since its inception, reviewed the growth of the community during the past 56 years. He also spoke of the outstanding contribution of the late Senator Marks to the upbuilding of Jewish life in Pretoria.

Mr. Louis Marks also addressed the gathering and apologised for the unavoidable absence of his elder sister, whose name the school bears.

Tribute to Principal

All the speakers paid warm tribute to the loyal and devoted services rendered by Mr. M. Silber, who has been principal of the school ever since its inception. High praise was also given to the excellent work of the rest of the staff.



Mr. M. Silber.

A handsome purse, subscribed by past students and parents of present pupils, was presented to Mr. Silber by Mr. J. Goldin, treasurer of the School Board. Mr. S. Silverman also made a presentation on behalf of the staff. In his reply, Mr. Silber said that he was grateful to Providence for having been chosen to train two generations of children in Pretoria. He was almost on the border line of teaching the third generation.

Delightful musical items were rendered by Cantor Zwick and Mr. D. Zaidel, accompanied by Miss L. Samuels, and the Habonim choir.

Mr. Sapperstein, President of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation, proposed the vote of thanks, giving special praise to the ladies' committee

for the excellent catering arrangements.

History of School

The institution, endowed by the late Senator Marks in memory of his mother, Miriam, was officially opened on January 17, 1905, by the late Mrs. Marks and Lady Solomon, wife of the then Lieut.-Governor of the Transvaal. The consecration service was conducted by Dr. J. H. Hertz and the late Dr. J. L. Landau, assisted by Cantor Gold and choir.

The secular education was taken over by the Transvaal Education Department which provided a qualified staff with Rev. M. Rosenberg, of Liverpool, as principal. A new impetus was given to the school when the Education Department recognised Hebrew as a subject for the Junior and Senior Matriculation Examinations.

Among those who helped to build up the school were the late Mr. J. Brill and Mr. L. J. Hack, a past president, who was instrumental in establishing a pension fund for teachers in 1936. The present president, Mr. M. J. Freedman, is also deeply interested in the school, and is assisted by an active committee.

Histadruth Ivrit Reception to Rabbi Rabinowitz

A LARGE gathering attended the Histadruth Ivrit's reception to Dr. Rabbi L. Rabinowitz, which was held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday night last.

Mr. J. Blumenthal presided. In his address to the gathering he pointed out that South African Jewry had of late been clamouring for a spiritual uplift, and expressed the hope that in Rabbi Rabinowitz they may at last have found a fearless leader.

Rabbi Rabinowitz stressed the urgent necessity for every Jew to study Hebrew and to acquaint himself with his spiritual heritage. He also paid a glowing tribute to the Palestinian Jewish soldiers who spread Jewish knowledge and Hebrew culture wherever they went.

Cantors I. Alter, S. Backon, S. Mandel and O. Altshuler delighted the audience with their Hebrew traditional songs and nigunim. Cantor I. Alter conducted the whole programme. Later in the evening the gathering joined in popular Hebrew songs and Chasidic melodies under the leadership of Mr. H. Himmelstein.

Mr. M. Lazar proposed the vote of thanks to Rabbi Rabinowitz. He also thanked Mr. Tucker, Mrs. T. Miller and others who had helped to make the function a success.

Good Results of Goldstein Concert

THE results of the Ella Goldstein concert held on March 4 in aid of the Palestine Orchestra, Habimah Theatre and Ohel were most gratifying, reported Mr. S. Yellin at the last meeting of the committee of the Friends of the Habimah and Palestine Orchestra. Mr. Yellin, who presided in the absence of Mrs. Ethel Hayman, who was indisposed, said that the success was all the more pleasing in view of the fact that no general publicity had preceded the function.

At the reception after the concert given by Mrs. F. Behrman for Miss Goldstein, the committee, workers and friends, Mrs. Ethel Hayman thanked all those who had taken part in making the concert such a success. Mr. S. Yellin had made history in his work on the programme and deserved special congratulations. Miss Goldstein stated that wherever her travels took her in the future she would always be pleased to give her music for such a deserving cause as the Palestine Orchestra and Habimah Theatre and Ohel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY BETH DIN

The Beth-Din regards it as their duty to warn the Jewish public that they do not take any responsibility for the Kashruth of all the various food-articles and drinks, like confectionaries, brandies, wines, etc., which are being advertised by the various firms as "Kosher L'Pesach," unless these are being manufactured under the special supervision of the Beth-Din. All those who are anxious not to be involved in the ISSUR of "Chometz b'Pesach" must abstain from buying anything for Pesach which is not under the supervision of the Beth-Din.

The Beth-Din regards it also as their duty to remind the Jewish public that Erev Pesach falls this year on a Wednesday when all the butcheries will be closed and will remain closed on account of Yom-Tov, Sabbath and Holidays till the next Tuesday (except Saturday evening). It is therefore advisable for every Jewish home to provide Kosher meat on Tuesday, the day before Erev Pesach.

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