

Pretoria Miriam Marks School

In presenting his report at the prize distribution held recently, the principal of the Miriam Marks Talmud Torah, Mr. M. Block, said that there were 130 pupils attending the school and its branches.

He praised the work of his predecessor, Mr. Silber, and thanked Mr. S. Silberman, Miss Wilenchyk, Mrs. Wine and Mrs. Silberman for their assistance as members of the teaching staff. He also thanked the Union of Jewish Women and the committee of the Talmud Torah for their untiring help.

The following is the list of prize-winners:

MIRIAM MARKS SCHOOL

Special Class: Razel Gershter, for application and progress.

Beginners' Class: 1st, Mervyn Spungin; 2nd, Martin Ossip.

Standard 1: 1st, Jeffrey Davis; 2nd, David Goodman.

Standard 2: 1st, Ruth Miller; 2nd, Stanley Rodkin.

Standard 3: 1st, Ben Kanowitz; 2nd, Sam Smith.

Standard 4: 1st, Denis Davis; 2nd, Ben Penzik.

Standard 5: Reuben Lan.

Standard 6: 1st, Hymie Berson and Berence Mervis.

Senior Class: 1st, Dorothy Mirvis; 2nd, Miriam Movson (Deirdre Breanach Memorial Prize).

L. J. Hack Matriculation Prizes: Solly Chait, Elie Etting, Monty Sher, Victor Siskind.

ARCADIA BRANCH

Special Prize for Progress: Bentley Novis.

Standard 1: 1st, Beryl Melamed; 2nd, Lionel Friedland.

Standard 2: 1st, Ruth Taub; 2nd, Denise Hack.

Standard 3: 1st, Phyllis Cohen; 2nd, Daphne Abrahamson.

BROOKLYN BRANCH

Standard 1: 1st, Julian Ginsberg; 2nd, Ivan Spitz.

Standard 2: 1st, Leon Seligson; 2nd, Ida Metzkin.

Standard 3: 1st, Brian Slater; 2nd, Michael Jaffe.

SUNNYSIDE BRANCH

Standard 1: Tony Factor.
Standard 2: Gerald Silber.

HATFIELD BRANCH

1st, Eugene Davis; 2nd, Michael Factor.

Colourful Musical at Twentieth Century

"Mother Wore Tights," which is now showing at the 20th Century Theatre, Johannesburg, has been filmed in Technicolor, stars Betty Grable and a new screen personality in Dan Dailey.

Producer-writer Lamar Trotti based his screen play on the true story of the hilarious life of a pair of vaudeville actors, Frank and Myrtle Burt, whose adventures were chronicled in the best-selling biography, "Mother Wore Tights," written by their daughter, Miriam Young. It is the story of how they worked to achieve success as a dance team concurrent with fulfilling their duty in raising two daughters; and it is the story of the girls and their problem of being the children of show people.

Connie Marshall and Mona Freeman are the two Burt children.

Vanessa Brown, Robert Arthur, Sara Allgood, William Frawley, Ruth Nelson and Anabel Shaw have other important roles.

Walter Lang directed the film and Mack Gordon's lyrics and Joseph Myrow's melodies combine to provide the perfect musical complement to an enthralling story.

A Zionist Lecture Tour

By W. Rybko

Gatooma

AT first a happy hunting ground for a few prospectors and small mine workers, Gatooma is now a centre of one of the most flourishing agricultural and mining areas of Rhodesia.

Jews started to settle in Gatooma in the early years of this century.

Mr. Solomon Chimowitz, the earliest pioneer, told me that when he came to Gatooma in 1908, he found quite a number of Jews, amongst them Messrs. B. S. Leon, Aranowitz, Kapnek, Friend, L. Rubinstein, R. Isaacson, W. Sussman, T. Sussman, Lewin, Hofman, Yodaikin, Bloch, Myers, H. Shapiro, M. Joffe, and S. Amato. They were all shopkeepers, except one butcher and one hotel-keeper. There were also a few Jewish prospectors, some of whom were in partnership with non-Jews.

No Brick Houses

There were no brick houses in Gatooma at that time. All lived in huts of corrugated iron, or of the pole and dagga type. The Jews usually lived at the back of their shops.

Life at that time was very trying. The Jewish settlers suffered severely from lack of food and other essentials. But they bore their ordeal bravely, and brought out relatives from Russia to come and settle there. By 1912 about four minyonim attended the High Festival services.

During the first World War, Sephardic Jews from Rhodes Island began to settle in Gatooma. The community felt the need of a synagogue building, and began to collect funds for that purpose.

But shortly afterwards the economic position of the mining industry deteriorated and many people left Gatooma.

And so started a process of coming and going: Jews came, tried to settle down, but failed, and left for some other place.

The synagogue was not built.

Amongst a non-Jewish population of about a thousand whites, Gatooma has a Jewish community of 83 souls, of whom 26 are children. They include three Jewish farmers and one printer.

The only existing Jewish institution in Gatooma is the cemetery.

There is only one society in Gatooma, called "The Jewish Ladies' Circle," which is very active.

There is nominally a Jewish congregation which functions once a year, on the High Festivals. The chairman of the congregation is M. S. Chimowitz; Mr. E. Ferera is the non. secretary.

There are only six Ashkenazi families in Gatooma, all the others are Sephardim.

Jewish Practices Neglected

Mr. L. Ferera, who came out to Rhodesia 25 years ago, explained why the Sephardim of Rhodesia, who originated from such a devout and pious community as that at Rhodes Island, had neglected religious practice. He said that practically all came out to Rhodesia while they were very young. There were no aged Sephardim in their midst to remind them of their duty towards

Jewish tradition, and they never had any spiritual guidance of their own—neither a Rabbi nor a school—of their own. The Ashkenazi synagogue, with its different pronunciation of some of the Hebrew vocals and consonants, and with its different chant and liturgy, did not attract them and did not appeal to their religious sentiments. This was the reason that they became estranged from practical Judaism.



Mrs. S. Hyman, active Zionist worker, with her two children.

His son, Mr. J. Ferera added, that only the first generation, the immigrants, feel the difference between the Sephardim and Ashkenazim, but the youth—those who were born here—do not feel any difference between Jew and Jew. He complained that the Jewish children in the schools feel the lack of the scripture lesson which is allocated to all the Christian children. They feel degraded...

The most distinguished member of the Sephardim in Gatooma is one of the very first settlers, Mr. B. S. Leon, a famous benefactor and leading Zionist.

The Jewish community of Gatooma is scattered over a radius of 20 miles. Only Zionist functions bring them together. The Zionist leaders there are Mr. and Mrs. Tarica and Mrs. S. Hyman, who is a very active Zionist worker, and she is the only one who gives her children a Hebrew education.

REV. YESORSKY VISITS SHABANI

UNDER the auspices of the Rhodesian Zionist Council, Rev. W. Yesorsky, minister of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, visited the Shabani community recently. He conducted an impressive Chanukah service and addressed a meeting in the evening. A pleasing feature of the Chanukah service was the number of young children present.

Mr. Max Goldberg presided over the meeting, which was attended by the entire community.

Mrs. I. Aberman, in proposing the vote of thanks, expressed the community's appreciation to Rev. Yesorsky for his inspiring address and to the Rhodesian Zionist Council for making the visit possible.

Mrs. Aberman took this opportunity of welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Alhadeff to Shabani, and also thanked the hostess, Mrs. L. Menashe, and all the ladies who had helped to make the evening such a success.

After community singing, led by Rev. Yesorsky, the meeting concluded with Hatikvah.

MR. A. GOLDBERG ADDRESSES DURBAN MEETING

The Durban Jewish community met at the Durban Jewish Club on Saturday, December 14, to show their appreciation of the UNO decision granting statehood to the Jewish people.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Zionist Council of Natal and the Council of Natal Jewry. Advocate J. J. Friedman presided. Supporting him at the table were Rabbi A. H. Freedman, Mrs. Kalf (chairman, Union Jewish Women) and the chairman of all Zionist bodies, Mrs. S. Bilch, chairman of the Women's Zionist League, and Mr. H. Levy, chairman of the Revisionist Party, were unable to attend owing to absence from Johannesburg. Apologies were all made for Mr. E. Schragenheiser (chairman, Zionist Council) and Mr. H. L. Magid (chairman, Council of Natal Jewry). A message was read from Mr. H. Moss-Morris, who was prevented by illness from taking the chair. Mr. P. Wartski, Natal's veteran communal worker, also sent a message of goodwill to the gathering. Extracts from letter from Palestine describing scenes of rejoicing at the great news, were read to the meeting.

Mr. R. Abrahams, vice-chairman of the Council of Natal Jewry, associated himself with the chairman's references to the historic occasion. Mr. Abe Goldberg, M.P., was the main speaker, and chose as his subject the "Significance of Partition."

The debt of the Jewish People to Chaim Weizmann was warmly acknowledged by Mr. Goldberg, who hoped that this great man would not be spared to the Jewish people and the world. He hoped that a just state would be built, where man could live in peace, and where there would be co-operation with the Arabs. There should be faith, and a striving towards making the new Judea, though small in size, great in the field of human relationships.

The audience were also greatly appreciative of the kindling of the Chanukah lights by Cantor F. Metzger, who led them in the singing of Moz Tzur.

Mr. H. Freed gave a dramatic reading of Chapter 37 of Ezekiel and Mrs. D. Avrich's three Hebrew songs were a very popular contribution. Miss P. Kay acted as accompanist.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Mrs. R. Liberman, Northumberland Rd., Kensington, for her generous donation in memory of her late husband, Mr. Morris Liberman £25 0 0
- Killarney Golf Club 5 5 0
- Palestine Society (further Minyan donation) 17 10 6
- Aberdeen Hebrew Congregation 3 8 0
- De Aar Zionist Association 10 0 0
- Union of Jewish Women, Cape Town, for functions in aid of MDA 32 9 6
- Heilbron 10 10 0
- Oudtshoorn (including £5 5s. from Mr. David Green) 20 5 0
- Pretoria Centre MDA under auspices of the Union of Jewish Women, Pretoria 43 1 0
- Pretoria Jewish Women's Benevolent Society, per Pretoria Centre 10 10 0