

JEWISH HAPPENINGS IN THE GOLDEN CITY

"SHEKEL BALL."

BIG GATHERING AT THE JOHANNESBURG TOWN HALL.

The annual Johannesburg Shekel Ball, held on July 2nd, taxed the capacity of the Town Hall, as a large number of guests were present. All the arrangements for the function had been carefully carried out by a committee of enthusiastic workers. As a result, nothing was left undone which could have added further comfort and delight to the many dancers, who keenly enjoyed the music supplied by Ed. Adeler's personal orchestra. The hall was tastefully decorated, and arranged with a platform in the centre for the musicians. Zionist flags and Union Jacks were draped over the boxes and from the gallery. On the platform stood a large illuminated Mogen Dovid, and also a large photograph of the late Dr. Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement.

The refreshments had been arranged by the members of the committee, and Mr. C. Ginsberg supervised the kitchen arrangements and provided all the crockeryware free. There was a chocolate stall and a carnival novelty stall in the vestibule which did excellent business, and Miss J. Kroomer presided at a flower stall, assisted by Miss Slabodsky.

The dance committee consisted of Mr. I. B. Rudaizky (D.C.), Mrs. C. Ginsberg (Assistant D.C.), the Misses L. Kottler, F. Kroomer, M. Ticken, Y. Rabinowitz and J. Horwitz, (M.C.'s), assisted by Messrs. B. Gering, P. Blend, J. Socher, S. Joffe and W. Schneider.

In the next issue of the "Zionist Record" it is hoped to publish the financial results of the function.

The Committee extends its thanks to the large number of donors of refreshments and those ladies and gentlemen who assisted on the night of the ball, at the doors, in the cloakrooms, and in the kitchen. Thanks are also due to Mr. M. Halaban, who made an excellent Chancellor of the Exchequer.

JOHANNESBURG HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

A large gathering filled the hall of the Hebrew High School in Johannesburg on the occasion of the annual concert and prize distribution, which took place before a crowded audience of parents and relatives of the children.

The Mayoress, Mrs. M. J. Harris, who was accompanied by the Mayor, distributed the prizes.

The programme included songs in English and Hebrew, recitations in English and Afrikaans, musical drill, and a bright little sketch "Scouts to the Rescue." The second part was occupied by a Hebrew play, "Purim Jesters," which was cleverly acted by Leah Gonafas, Esther Sher, Pauline Steinger, Annie Gouber, Rachel Borowick, Rose Lille, Godfrey and Leonard Rabinowitz, D. Bloomberg, D. Tanne, S. Stein and S. Witkin.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, praised the excellence of the performance and the good work done by the school under the tuition of the principal, Mr. D. Mann, M.A., London, and his admirable staff. He appealed for the erection of a larger and more suitable building.

Mr. Bernard Patley, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Mayoress, stated that Mrs. Harris was the first Jewish Mayoress to present prizes at the institution. He was pleased to see such a large gathering of parents and relatives, which showed that they were deeply interested in the work of the institution.

Mr. Bernard Patley has inaugurated the presentation of two special prizes for the coming year. These will be presented to the most popular boy and girl in the school.

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HEALTH

Jewish Happenings in the Golden City—(Cont.)**JEWISH GUILD.****MEMORIAL HALL HANDED OVER.**

The handsome building of the Jewish Guild in Johannesburg is now in the final stages of completion. On Wednesday, the 9th instant, there was a representative gathering in the hall of the building when the committee responsible for its erection handed over the club rooms to the Jewish Guild.

Mr. B. Gordon, acting president of the Guild, paid testimony to the valuable services rendered to the institution by the late Senator "Sammy" Marks, who had supplied the bricks necessary for the building.

Dr. J. L. Landau, the Chief Rabbi, testified to the needs of such an institution as the Guild for the furtherance of Jewish ideals. It would be a real national calamity and moral suicide if the Jews neglected to study their literature and national duties. The Guild had a great task before it, and there was no reason why in time it should not become the nursery of Jewish thought, culture and education.

Mr. B. P. Marks, speaking on the "War Memorial aspect," said that the building stood as a living and lasting monitor and reminder of the spirit in which the Jews in South Africa came forward to play their part in the great struggle that begun in 1914.

Mr. E. Solomon made an earnest appeal for funds to assist in the completion of the building, the cost of which would be £35,000. A sum of £5,000 was still required.

The Mayor, Mr. M. J. Harris, said that he had spent many years of his life in the interests of the Guild, which now had over 1,500 members, and which, in the near future, would have 3,000. There was no effort in local Jewish activities that deserved more support than the Guild.

During the evening, an excellent musical programme was rendered by the Misses Dora Dorfman, Jane Weiner, Rose Kowarsky, Mrs. E. Solomon, Messrs. I. Mirwish, Aubrey Feitelberg, and Master George Moss.

Mr. J. Ratzker proposed hearty votes of thanks to all concerned in arranging the function, including the artistes, and the proceedings concluded.

"THE DEBT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE."**INTERESTING LECTURE BY MR. L. PEKARSKY.**

Mr. L. Pekarsky, the young Jewish poet, who won the Bardic Chair at the 1922 Johannesburg Eisteddfod, gave an interesting lecture to members of the Jewish Guild on Sunday evening, July 6th, on the subject of the "Debt of English Literature to Judaism." Mrs. S. B. Asher presided over a fair attendance of members and friends.

The lecturer demonstrated a very keen knowledge of English literature, which, he declared, owed much to Jews and to the Bible.

The greatest Gentile poets, philosophers and thinkers had vied with each other in praising the rich beauty of its poetry and the grandeur of its message. The Bible had been an endless fountain of inspiration, and had normously influenced the English language.

The English version of the Bible had fanned the great literary flame that had kindled it, and shaped the speech of England. The Bible, as a source of poetic themes and drama, had no equal. It inspired Milton's "Paradise Lost," the greatest as well as the longest poem in the English language, and among the five greatest epics of all time. The other four were Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey," Virgil's "Aeneid," and Dante's "Divine Comedy."

Tennyson was unable to escape the spell of the Bible, and as far as the greatest of the more modern writers were concerned, they all went to the Bible or to Jewish history as the source of inspiration for plots for their poems and plays.

In discussing the subject one had to refer to the Hebrew psalms. Modern poets had felt the magic of the psalms, notably Francis Thompson, one of the most spiritual of all poets.

The Jew throughout the ages—now penned up in the Ghetto, now driven from his home, insulted, martyred, mocked at and butchered—had been the theme of many a novel, poem and drama. Very often the depicting of the Jew in modern English literature had been far from flattering, as in Dickens' "Oliver Twist" and Marlow's play, "The Jew of Malta."

On the other hand, most of the great English writers who had written about the Jew had been filled with pity for the outcast of the nations, and realised that the Jew had been more sinned against than sinning, that his virtues generally were his own and that his faults were the results of the brutality and inhuman injustice meted out to him.

An interesting discussion followed, and at the conclusion Dr. Manfred Nathan, K.C., proposed, and Miss Fanny Klenerman seconded, a vote of thanks to the lecturer and Mr. Isaac Goodman proposed a vote of thanks to the chairwoman.

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JEWISH HAPPENINGS IN THE GOLDEN CITY—(Continued)

PALESTINE CLUB IN PARKTOWN.

A meeting of the Palestine Club, Parktown Branch, was held on Tuesday, July 1st, at the residence of Mrs. E. Saas, "Bethesval," 1, Loch Avenue, Parktown.

Mr. H. Beemer presided over a good attendance of members and friends, who had come to listen to Miss F. Klenerman deliver a lecture on "Is There a Jewish Problem?" The lecturer displayed great eloquence in dealing with the various phases of Jewish history.

"When asking the question 'What is a Jew?' one is met with a conflict of definitions and cannot decide upon the right one. Are they bound together by a common tie of religion or nationality? There are among us agnostics, who are yet proud to call themselves Jews in the national sense, and it would be difficult to exclude them from our race."

The lecturer then spoke of her belief in Zionism, and a home in Palestine as the only solution to the Jewish problem. Spiritually the Jews will gain by having a home of their own. She optimistically hoped that in the near future all barriers of race, language and religion will be entirely eliminated, and the problem of the Jewish race would likewise cease to exist.

An interesting discussion followed, in which Mrs. Goudvis and Mr. D. Dainow took a prominent part. Various members placed questions, which the lecturer answered cleverly.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Klenerman for her lecture, which was keenly enjoyed. Thanks were also accorded to the hostess, Miss Rose Sass.

Miss KLENERMAN.—A lecture was given at the last monthly meeting of the Women's Enfranchisement League by Miss Klenerman, who chose as her subject "Woman as a Citizen."

DR. OLSVANGER'S LECTURE ON "SPINOZA."

Under the auspices of the combined Palestine clubs of Johannesburg, a lecture was given by Dr. Olsvanger on Sunday evening, June 29th, at the Grand National Hotel.

Advocate P. Millin presided, and there was a good attendance of club members.

In a few well-chosen words, the chairman referred to the significance of the philosophy of Spinoza, and said it was desirable that a lecture of this kind should be held, in order to re-create our interest in one of the greatest philosophers in history.

Dr. Olsvanger, who spoke in a facile and cultured English, then delivered an address in which he gave a masterly interpretation of the philosophy of Spinoza. The lecturer did not concentrate on Spinoza, the Jew, or upon his personal life. He merely dealt with his philosophy. The address was listened to with great interest by those present, and made a very deep impression upon all.

It is hoped that the Palestine Clubs of Johannesburg will organise lectures of similar character, although they cannot always secure so brilliant a lecturer as Dr. Olsvanger.

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JEWISH HAPPENINGS IN THE GOLDEN CITY—(Continued)**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND.****JOHANNESBURG!—REMEMBER AUGUST 17th.**

A special meeting of the Johannesburg Jewish National Fund Club was held at the Zeire Zion Hall, on Thursday, July 10th, when the National Fund affairs of Johannesburg were seriously considered. Mr. B. Gering, assistant National Fund Commissioner of the Zionist Federation, presided, and all societies were well represented.

The Chairman pointed out that the National Fund work had been sadly neglected in Johannesburg, and that it was felt the time had now come when an attempt should be made to establish the activities of this club on a systematic basis. All societies had been communicated with, and had been given an outline of the proposals suggested by the Committee.

Mr. I. B. Rudaizky then formally moved:—

That the first business of the Club shall be to organise a thorough distribution of boxes throughout Johannesburg and regular clearances of these boxes.

That Johannesburg be divided into a number of areas, and that supervisors be appointed for these areas, these supervisors to undertake to obtain a number of workers who would place their services at the disposal of the club once every three months.

That the opening campaign be fixed for one particular day throughout the whole of Johannesburg.

After considerable discussion and the moving of various amendments and other proposals, the original motion was put to the vote and carried.

The appointment of supervisors resulted as follows:—

Fordsburg and Mayfair.—Fordsburg Zionist Society and Mrs. Meyerowitz with Dr. P. Snideman and Mr. Bloch as representatives of the Society.

Jeppes and Wolhuter.—Eastern Districts Young Israel Society.

Belgravia and Malvern.—Miss H. Amoils.

Troyeville, Fairview and Kensington.—Mr. H. Broer.

Bertrams, Judith Paarl and Bez. Valley.—Mr. M. Halaban.

Doornfontein.—Mr. A. Kirson, representing Doornfontein Zionist Society.

Yeoville, Bellevue and Houghton Estate.—Women's Zionist League.

Berea.—Schmarya Levin Zionist Society.

Hospital Hill and Hillbrow.—Mrs. Millstein.

Parktown.—Mr. I. Sass.

Braamfontein.—Mr. M. Eidelman.

Southern Suburbs.—Misses Kottler and Gingold.

Norwood and Orange Grove.—Mr. Sieff.

Vrededorp and Brixton.—Mr. Joffe.

Melville and Auckland Park.—Miss Feinstein.

August 17th, 1924, was the date fixed for the opening of the campaign.

It is hoped that the system now adopted will prove a huge success, and so remedy the present unsatisfactory state of National Fund activities in Johannesburg: All Zionist workers willing to assist in this branch of activities are requested to communicate with either the supervisors as enumerated above, or with the Honorary Organiser, P. O. Box 2730, 'Phone 5045, Johannesburg.

RELIEF FUND NORTHERN SUBURBS BRANCH.—The president of the Jewish Relief Fund in South Africa, Mr. Bernard Alexander, was present at the annual meeting of the Northern Suburbs Branch. Mr. Alexander stated that the fund had done one part of its duty. It had saved hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives, but the next part was even more important, and that was, to enable these Jewish War victims to re-establish themselves. Mr. Alexander praised the work of the Northern Suburbs Branch.

Mrs. L. Epstein, chairwoman of the branch, stated that in the last three years they had been responsible for the collecting of £8,700. She was very pleased with the good work done by the junior section. The executive and committee were re-elected.

Special mention must be made of the good work carried out during the year by Mrs. L. Epstein, chairwoman, Mrs. Udwin, vice-chairman and Miss G. Falcke, the hon. secretary.

WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE.—It is the intention of the League to hold a Cabaret in the Town Hall early in September. This function will, it is anticipated, be a great success. The proceeds will go to the Women's International Zionist Organisation, which looks after special work in Palestine, such as child welfare, nursing and hospital work, hostels and other branches of similar activity. Mrs. I. W. Jacobson of Joel Road, is hon. secretary of the cabaret committee.

RELIEF FUND, BERTRAMS BRANCH.—The third annual ball was held at the Selborne Hall on Saturday, July 12th, and proved to be a delightful function. Great credit is due to the committee of honorary workers for their efforts.

The comfort of the guests was looked after by the following members of the general committee:—Mr. T. Blank (chairman) and Mrs. Blank, Mr. S. Metz (secretary) and Mrs. Metz, Mr. Fix (treasurer) and the Misses Fix, Miss E. Blomson, Mr. and Mrs. Metz, Mrs. Light, and Mrs. Gabriel. Miss Romaine and Miss Cohen rendered useful service at the door, and the Misses Fix sold chocolates.

MISS MARJORIE COHEN.—At the July meeting of the National Council of Women, a letter was read from the League of Nations Union, London, announcing the forthcoming visit to South Africa of Miss Marjorie Cohen, a member of the headquarters staff, who has done much to strengthen the movement. Miss Cohen has also worked in connection with the International Labour Organisation, which is an integral part of the League of Nations.

DANCE.—The concert and dance of the Northern Suburbs Branch of the United South African Jewish Relief Fund, will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd, at the Jewish Guild Building, instead of August 6th as originally arranged. Ticket holders and sellers, please note.

Jewish Happenings in the Golden City—(Cont.)

JOHANNESBURG MACCABEAN CIRCLE.—The Johannesburg Maccabean Circle continues to progress and their monthly meetings have been well attended. Mr. Bernard Gering read a paper at the June meeting, which was held in the Guild Building. He took for his subject "Herzl's Judenstaat," and the audience found the lecture both interesting and instructive. Miss Klenerman was in the chair.

Mr. Dainow presided over a large audience at the July meeting, which was held at the residence of Mrs. Schaiowitz, when Mr. Samuel Couzin read a paper on the "Idolatrous Jews." His lecture opened a lengthy and interesting discussion, in which many of the members participated. The evening ended with a dance, and a most interesting and enjoyable time was spent.

On Monday, August 11th, a dance will be held at the residence of Mrs. Couzin, 30, Berea Road, Judith Paarl. It is hoped that all members and their friends and those interested in the above Circle will make an effort to attend.

S. A. JEWISH ORPHANAGE.

The Secretary's Office of the South African Jewish Orphanage is now situate at 154 (Second Floor), New Stock Exchange, Telephone No. 6285, Box 7486.

DELVILLE WOOD SERVICE.—The Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. M. J. Harris, has stated publicly that he regretted the recent arrangements made for the commemoration of Delville Wood Day did not allow of his Jewish co-religionists joining in the service. Interviewed in connection with the matter, the Mayor pointed out that at a Council Meeting some years ago, he had made a protest in a similar matter.

"In spite of that," said Mr. Harris, "when I attended the Armistice Day service in my capacity as a councillor, there was not a word in which I could not join in with the rest. There was nothing introduced which a Jew might not utter. If it could be done then, surely the same thing could be done now."

MR. MORRIS KRAMER.—Mr. Morris Kramer of Kingwilliamstown has been elected President of the S. A. Federated Chamber of Industries, which recently held its conference in Johannesburg.

SCHOLASTIC SUCCESS.

Arthur, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Lourie, was placed in the first class of the Cambridge Laws Tripos (Part 1). He has been elected to a foundation scholarship at St. John's College and awarded Wright's Prize in Law.

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