

# Warm Enthusiasm Greets "Hebrew Week" Concert

## IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE OF WELL-ARRANGED PROGRAMME

**H**EBREW—language of the prophets of old, and now the language of the New Palestine—was heard in a striking modern setting last Sunday night, at the Grand Hebrew Concert which inaugurated "Hebrew Week" in South Africa.

A packed hall at the Jewish Guild, Johannesburg, experienced the thrill of their ancestral tongue as they listened to the fine Hebrew items performed by the artists of the evening.

The curtain rose, and the babble of chatter in the audience died down... On the stage a choir of Zionist youth sang in soft voices Israel's Song of Hope, the immortal "Hatikvah" and "Hebrew Week" had begun.

In a clear, rich Hebrew, Dr. A. Birnbaum then addressed the audience, urging the use of Hebrew, the necessity of the knowledge of one's own language, and the importance of the Hebrew Revival. He stressed the value of Hebrew to Zionist youth in the Galuth, and delivered a message of encouragement to this new undertaking of the youth to champion the cause of their national tongue.

He was followed by Mr. Heinz Hirschland, who rendered several piano solos from selections by Chopin, which were well received.

A deep silence greeted the next gem, Bialik's great epic, "The City of Laughter," which was rendered by Mr. S. Reuveni, known to local Jewry for his fine command of dramatic expression.

The majestic words of the original Hebrew broke in upon the silence of the audience. Fierce denunciation of the pogrommed Jew's cowardice, the lamentations and cries for pity of the Jews in the synagogues of Russia, the cry of the God of Israel bidding his people flee to the desert to hide their shame and sorrow in the vast wastes of sand—all these phases of the mighty poem were superbly communicated to the audience in the interpretation of the artist. The mighty poem was greeted with tremendous applause.

After a short interval, Miss Peggy Dayman, who is rapidly establishing a fine reputation for herself in this country, delighted her audience with several violin solos from the "Baal Shchem" suite by Ernest Bloch. It was, indeed, an artistic rendering. The sensitivity of her playing and her profound feeling stamped her as an artist of note. Mr. Herman Hertz suitably accompanied Miss Hayman at the piano.

Chief Cantor Israel Alter was the next to appear, and commenced his recital with songs by Engel and Rubinstein. His strong, operatic tenor filled the hall, and the prolonged applause, which brought several encores, well demonstrated the appreciation and tribute of his audience.

Mr. S. N. Herman, convener of "Hebrew Week," then addressed the audience. Mr. Herman emphasised the significance of "Hebrew Week," coming as it did at so critical a period in South African Jewish life. He went on to point out that through a knowledge of Hebrew Jews in the Galuth could obtain that dignity and self-respect which comes with the possession of one's own national tongue; and that through Hebrew they could link themselves more intimately with life and endeavour in Eretz Israel.

The effort of Zionist Youth to arouse interest in Hebrew would not end with "Hebrew Week"; they would endeavour to secure for Hebrew its rightful place in South African Jewish life.

A fitting conclusion to this memorable evening proved to be the singing of a Hebrew choir whose members had been drawn from local Zionist youth ranks, trained and conducted by Mr. Aaron Abrahamson. Arranged as a group of chalutzim seated around a fire with a shomer on guard, an inspiring effect was obtained. The rousing Hebrew songs brought the audience to a climax of enthusiasm. Many present joined in the choruses and many of those unable to sing the words firmly resolved to lose no time in learning them.

Miss Ray Kimmel, who made a special trip from Bloemfontein, contributed much to the concert by her able accompaniment to both Cantor Alter and the choir.

S.H.

## ONEG SHABBAT TO-MORROW

**T**HE Oneg Shabbat which is due to take place on Saturday, 6th February, at 4 p.m., at the Jewish Guild is yet another function of Hebrew Week.

Mr. S. C. Ostrofsky will preside and the speakers will be Mr. S. Kuper, chairman of the South African Zionist Youth Council, Mr. D. Dunsky and Mr. Ehud Ben Yehuda.

Mr. Ehud Ben Yehuda is the son of the famous Eliezer Ben Yehuda, one of the greatest figures in the modern Hebrew revival. He will speak on "Eliezer Ben Yehuda—Symbol of the Hebrew Revival." His address is expected to be interesting and inspiring, and it is anticipated that a large number of people will gather at this function to listen to the addresses and to take part in the happy spirit of an Oneg Shabbat. Refreshments will be served, Hebrew songs will be sung and the proceedings will close with a Havdallah ceremony followed by Hatikvah.

## CHILDREN'S RALLY ON SUNDAY

On Sunday morning, 7th February, at 10 a.m., a great rally for Jewish boys and girls will take place at the City Hall. A fine programme of songs and recitations has been arranged and Mr. Ehud Ben Yehuda will speak to the gathering on "The First Hebrew Child in Palestine." Mr. I. Dunsky and Mr. N. Lurie will also address the gathering, while Habonim and Hebrew Schools will provide the rest of the programme. A nominal charge of 3d. per child is to be made for admission to cover expenses. Parents and teachers are advised to see that the children arrive at the hall early to facilitate seating arrangements.

(Further reports next week).

# PALESTINE EXCURSIONISTS LEAVE TODAY!

**T**HE following ladies and gentlemen are booked to sail from Capetown this afternoon on the "Guilio Cesare" as members of the first party of visitors to Palestine travelling under the excursion arrangements of the South African Zionist Federation. They are due at Genoa on February 20 and at Haifa on February 25.

Mr. U. Abramov, White River;

Mr. J. Burland, Johannesburg;

Mr. H. D. Cohen, Johannesburg; Mr. B. Cartoon, Johannesburg; Mr. Jacob Cohen, Johannesburg; Mr. Max Cohen, Capetown;

Mr. and Mrs. L. Daniels and family, Vereeniging; Mr. D. Dainow, Johannesburg;

Miss Gladys Egnal, Johannesburg.

Mr. N. Fux, Johannesburg; Mr. and Mrs. E. Franks, Johannesburg.

Mrs. L. Gore and children, Johannesburg; Mrs. E. Gordon, Nelspruit.

Mrs. L. Hareven, Germiston.

Mrs. R. E. Jaff, Johannesburg; Mr. Henry Jacobs, Johannesburg; Mrs. A. Jaspán, Johannesburg; Miss Y. Jedwick, Johannesburg;

Mr. and Mrs. N. Klempman and family, Johannesburg; Mrs. Sylvia Katzen, Pretoria;

Mr. and Mrs. P. Lochoff, Johannesburg; Mr. and Mrs. B. Liebman and Mr. A. Leibman, Germiston;

Mrs. E. Menachemson and Mrs. Ch. Menachemson, Johannesburg; Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Markowitz, Johannesburg; Mr. Ch. Miller, Benoni;

Mrs. A. Rosenstock, Germiston; Mr. Michael Rabinowitz, Worcester;

Rev. and Mrs. Steinberg, Johannesburg; Mrs. B. Smith and Miss Smith, Johannesburg; Mr. and Mrs. I. Selipsky, Johannesburg; Mr. and Mrs. M. Silberberg and family, Johannesburg;

Mr. A. Tanur, Merriman;

Mr. Edward Young, Pietersburg.

A similar list will be published in a later issue giving the names of the second party who will be sailing from Capetown on the "Duilio" on February 26.

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