



THE  
MAITLAND  
ECHO

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

OF

THE MAITLAND JUNIOR ZIONIST SOCIETY.



# THE MAITLAND ECHO.

VOL. II.

FEBRUARY 1939.

NUMBER 4.

## THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

On Sunday February 5th 1939, another bi-annual general election of the Maitland Junior Zionist Society will take place. This will give the chairman the opportunity, on behalf of his committee, to take members to task for whatever weaknesses have been discovered during the past six months. It is to be hoped that the general body of the Society will reciprocate by criticising the administrators during the past session for their defects which undoubtedly do call for comment.

During the past half year meetings were held very irregularly. What was the cause? It is only logical to see in this some connection with the poor attendances at committee meetings, a list of which is published elsewhere. We accuse the committee of nonchalance, but do not exonerate ordinary members from the same crime. They elected this committee in spite of a fair knowledge of each member's capabilities. They either suffered from a lapse of memory at the time or were indifferent as to who managed their affairs - the latter is most probably the case. Let us now learn from the past rather than brood over its failings. Members will then realise the extent to which they control their own destinies and will use their voting power only after careful consideration.



## RELIEF AND NATIONAL FUNDS.

In the wake of the ever-increasing refugee problem numerous relief funds have been inaugurated. The liberal peoples of the world, including practically every Jew who still lives according to civilized codes, have, out of sheer humanitarianism contributed to these funds. Unfortunately humanitarianism is closely interwoven with sentiment, which has always been a softener of hearts. As a result donations are made to relief funds which in comparison to contributions to our national funds are entirely out of proportion. Let us not allow untold misery to drown our reasoning powers. National Funds, constituted by the Keren Hayesod and the J.N.F. represent monies used towards the permanent solution of the Jewish Problem. Relief Funds on the other hand only offer temporary relief from the prevailing distress and consequently must be treated in the light of a temporary measure.

We do not for a moment wish to belittle the good work done by the relief funds, nor do we doubt that the money is very urgently required, but National Funds bear the stamp of permanency and therefore are of major importance. Continue to donate to all funds but lay the emphasis on National Funds when doing

80.

-----oOo-----

### EXAMS.

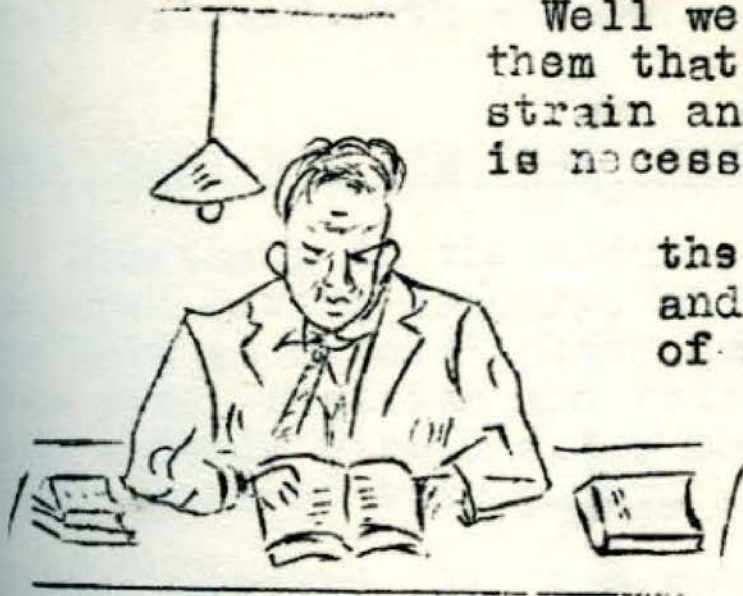
It is amazing how many Junior Zionists are busy with examinations towards the end of each year, and yet they find time to carry on their Zionist endeavours. Or shall we rather say that Zionist activities take second place to examinations? Yes, that is the position. If it were possible to be excused from



doing Zionist work one of the best reasons would be exams. And in fact this is so, Countless Junior Zionists have an enforced lapse. "Wait until after the exams", they say. We all know what happens then -- holidays.

Well we shall even concede them that. After so much strain and stress a holiday is necessary.

Holidays are over, the results are out, and now the beginning of another year sees us either commencing work or further studies. What more opportune occasion could there be



for those who said, "Wait until after the exams".

-----oo-----

## NEWS OF THE MONTH.

### NO QUORUM.

A committee meeting was called for Thursday night, the 12th January, but as only three members attended, the meeting could not be held.

The following is a list of attendances at committee meetings during the last session:-

	<u>Attendance.</u>	<u>Possible.</u>
B. Kaufman. (Chairman)	7	7
E. Gootman.	7	7
F. Gootman (Secretary)	6	7
L. Jacobson. (Treasurer)	6	7
P. Katzenellenbogen.	2	4
S. Bernberg & H. Jacobson.	0	7
M. Kramer. (Menorah)	5	7
B. Joffe (J. N. F.) & J. Kramer (Sport)	0	7



STUDY CIRCLE.

Wolfe Fish has formed a small group, which meets every week to discuss topical Zionist matters. The development of this group is being keenly watched with a view to others being formed.

THREE MEETINGS IN ONE NIGHT.

Something in the nature of a record was established during January, when three meetings were held at Saacks' place during one night. These were, Austrian and Polish Jewish Relief Fund, a Study Circle and a meeting of the Editorial Board of this paper.

COUNCIL MEETING AT STRAND.

- - - by our delegate.

On Sunday morning the 8th January, 1939, the 3rd Youth Council Meeting was held in the Marquee at the 14th Strand Young Israel Camp.

Mr. S.M. Levin, Head of Camp, briefly stated at the opening of the meeting, the position of the Jews in Eretz Israel to-day. "The Yishuv", he said "was determined to hold every inch of land they had and to consolidate their position".

Mrs. (Ma) Maissel, in a very sincere appeal asked all societies to fulfil their pledge to the Abraham Katz Memorial Fund.

Thereafter Mr. D. Meyerowitz, Chairman of the local Executive, delivered his report of the activities of Zionist Youth in his province. A feature of this was the establishment of societies at Mossel Bay and George by the Oudsthoorn Y.I.S. and their sending of over 30 members to the Strand Camp.

At 1.0.p.m. the delegates were treated to a hearty and excellent Camp Dinner.



# Society Social Skits.

Our Society was well represented at the Strand Camp Dance. Amongst others who were in high spirits, SYDNEY SAACKS and SOLLY BERNBERG added to the zest of the affair.



So the South African Government has employed CHARLES KAW-ALSKY to build National Roads. Did you keep on the level at Piquetberg, Charles?

This is what our three campers think of the Young Israel Camp:-

BENNIE MILLER..... "Marvellous".  
 ARCHIE SIEFF..... "Damn nice".  
 YEHUDA OZINSKY..... "Very enjoyable holiday".

I asked HILDA FRIEDMAN how she enjoyed her holiday.

"Did I have a nice time, man? Don't talk, man. I met so many fellows I used to get mixed up with their names, man".

I wonder who's the MAN?

I take off my hat to the Strand Camp which has succeeded in making BENNY MILLER a more ardent Zionist than our Society could ever have done.



What a pity!  
 Poor Barney Seidle,  
 His Rose has left,  
 And now he'S(e)idle.

Congratulations to Morris Drus, Hymie Seidle, Monty Singer, Rae Mumitz and Larry Jacobson on passing the Senior Certificate.

*The Wandering Jew*

SOLUTION TO M. J. Z. S. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 2.

Down (1) Jaco (2) Tars (3) Alee (4) Ahem (5)  
 Ruth (6) Klal (7) Barmitzvahs (8) Sereni (9)  
 Strict (11) Eretz Israel (14) An (19) Americas  
 (Reversed) (20) Chanukah (22) Ta (23) Tel Aviv  
 (26) and (34) Hertz (29) Hale (Reversed) (30)  
 Ebon (Reversed) (32) Rome (35) Mbir.

Across (1) J.T.A. (4) Ark (7) Baal (10) Hule  
 (12) Acre (13) Eat (15) Etar (16) Rose (17)  
 RER. (18) Mhle (19) Se (21) It (23) Tanach (24)  
 Ta (25) A trice (Reversed) (26) Hi (27) Li  
 (28) Venar (31) Sturmer (35) A love (36) Cobra  
 (37) Habimah (38) A mite (39) Sheva (40) Herzl.

-----oOo-----

THANK YOU.

We thank Dr. H.W. Altschul for judging the essays in our competition.

J.W. Fish was declared the winner, with S. Saacks as runner-up.

For winning essay, see overleaf.



## THE VALUE OF JEWISH FESTIVALS.

by - J.W. Fish.

Every healthy and prosperous nation has its festivals and times of rejoicing and thanksgiving. As most of the people are farmers or tillers of the soil these festivals are intimately connected with their life and occupation. The festivities have usually some agricultural or pastoral significance, such as the ripening and reaping of the crops, etc. Even so is it with the Jews. In the land of their ancestors

they lived as a healthy and happy people, even as they again will after the Return from the Exile.

The first mention of such festivals is made in the Torah. It refers constantly to the Exodus, and the Liberation of the Israelites. How intimate is the connection between this historical event and the

first awakening of the plants, the commencement of Spring. Side by side with the religious, historical and moral observance of the Feast of Passover is the rejoicing and welcoming of Spring. New life and hope is imbued into us not only by the optimism of the Seder and the hopefulness of Elijah's Cup, but also by the freshness and strength of the young plants and flocks.

Coincident with the Giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, of the Law on which Jewish life was to be based and of the first sign of a great nation, is the rejoicing of the first fruits and ewes on Shevuoth. Great are the festivities of the Jews in Eretz Israel during the Festival when all the first crops are brought to the city and distributed amongst





the poor.

The Torah mentions still a third festival, Succoth. Whereas Peisach is the beginning of the agricultural season, and Shevuoth, the ripening of the first fruits, so Succoth is the gathering in of the flocks and the crops. Eight days are spent in "huts" of palms, flowers and pine to commemorate the passing of the farming season and al-



so to remind us of the temporary dwellings of the Israelites in the wilderness. On the ninth day, Simchas Torah we celebrate the conclusion of the Pentateuch and rejoice in the reading of "Bereishit" again.

Very different are the High Festivals. Then we are concerned as individuals. Poor and rich, great and small for all are equal on the Day of Judgment and the Day of Atonement. These are purely religious holidays and bear no significance to the agricultural life of the people. The Ten Days of Penitence are a solemn season of retrospection. On Yom Kippur as on the last days of Peisach, Shevuoth and Succoth, a special prayer, "Yiskor", is held in memory of the Departed.

Purim and Chanukah are two festivals with an historical background, not mentioned in the Torah. The former signifies the economic and political plight of the Jews in Persia, the cruel persecutions, great sacrifices and ultimate liberation. How symbolical is this not of the recurring anti-Semitic outbursts and the programme of racial and religious persecutions conducted against the Jews all over the world. Purim is celebrated by carnivals, masquerades, etc.



Of greater significance, however, is Chamukah. As it is connected with the homeland and is more religious it has been taken up into Jewish Life much more than Purim. It re-

calls the heroic stand of the Maccabees against the Roman invaders, the erection of an independent state, the cleansing and sanctification of the Temple once more to the service of God.

Chamisho Oser B'shevat is Arbor Day in Eretz Yisrael.

This festival, the New Year of the Trees, is observed by the planting of new trees and forests and is of special outdoor interest



THE WRITER.

As seen by our artist.



to the children.

In Palestine, the Festivals are bound up with the soil and bind the nation to it. Great is the welcoming of Spring, the rejoicing of the first fruits and the planting of the trees, and the thanksgiving for the harvest. So, in the Diaspora also, each festival has its particular significance and manner of observance, its peculiarities of food and delicacies, atmosphere, etc., which lend more interest to them.

In the Galuth, however, the Festivals take on a different aspect. The agricultural significance cannot be so strongly felt, and the religious side is thus more strictly observed. The synagogue, during festival time, is the

house of Prayer and Assembly for the nation. The Sounding of the Shofar rallies the Jews, exhorts them to stand together and thus to survive the anti-Semitic persecutions. The very atmosphere becomes more Jewish, the home more homely and a new spirit and hope is born.

"Leshono Habo B'rishulaim".



-----oOo-----

### NOTICE.

The next J.N.F. Box Clearance will take place on Sunday 5th February 1939.

Will anyone who is willing to assist kindly communicate with Fanny Gootman.

Holders of boxes are requested to facilitate the clearance by keeping their boxes in readiness.



AUSTRIAN AND POLISH JEWISH RELIEF FUND.

We have been asked to acknowledge the following further contributions to the above fund:-

Previously acknowledged	£15.12.6.
Miss P. Katzenellenbogen	1. 1.-.
Mr. B. Bledin	1. 1.-.
Miss L. Miller	1.10.-.
Messrs. Kawalsky Bros.	1.11.6.
Mr. P. Wallace	1. 1.-.
Miss F. Gootman	1. 1.-.
Miss L. Jacobson	1. 1.-.
M. J. Z. S.	
(Proceeds of Camp Fire)	2. 2.-.
Mr. J. Bledin	1. 1.-.
Mr. A. Munitz	1. 1.-.
Mr. H. Carlin	1. 1.-.
Mr. B. Seidle	15.-.
Miss B. Gootman	<u>1. 1.-.</u>

£31. - -

-----oOo-----

DO YOU KNOW? - - - - - by JACO.

- (1) That the New Moon was in ancient times celebrated as an important festive occasion?
- (2) That our months start with the New Moon?
- (3) That some occasions we celebrate this for two days and others for one day?
- (4) That January 21st 1939 was "Rosh Ha Chodesh" Shevat, i.e. the first day of the month of Shevat?
- (5) That the 15th day of Shevat (4th Feb. '39)



is the New Year of the Trees?

(6) That our ancestors celebrated this festival by planting special trees other than those on which they thrived, and called them "Trees of Rejoicing"?

(7) That it was customary in Jerusalem to plant a tree for every newborn child - a cedar (tall and strong) for a boy and a pine or cypress (fragrant and gentle) for a girl. These trees were cut down and used as posts for the canopy (Chuppah) at their wedding ceremony?

(8) That in Eretz Yisrael the Hebrew Schools organise outings and in festive spirit, singing folk songs and national melodies, the children proceed to the site chosen for a new grove or avenue and are given the opportunity of performing the "mitzvah" (duty) of planting trees?

(9) That in the diaspora this Palestinian Arbor Day is celebrated by partaking of fruits that grow in Eretz Yisrael?

(10) That this festival is meant to bind us to the soil and impress the significance of our Homeland in our lives?

-----oOo-----

STOP PRESS.

The committee has donated £2.10.0 to the Cape Zionist Youth Executive. This represents 10% of the profit made on our last Annual Dance.

Syd Saacks and Max Bledin have passed their law examinations.



LETTERS TOTHE EDITOR.WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

The Editor,  
The Maitland Echo.

Sir,

As an ex-member of the committee, I have been watching the activities of the Maitland Junior Zionist Society, with keen interest. I regret to state that I have watched in vain.

What has happened?

PAULINE KATZENELLENBOGEN.

Newton House,  
22, Kloof Street,  
CAPE TOWN.

SPORT.

Sir - Through the mediums of your columns I would like to draw attention to the indifference shown by members of our society towards sporting activities.

It is only by the combined efforts of individual members that we can raise the level of the sporting affairs of the society.

The position in regard to sport is becoming more hopeless as time passes. Why has'nt any member stepped forward and criticized the state of affairs? What do the members of the Society expect of the committee? Haven't they done enough for the members? Why can't the members reward the efforts of the committee by showing a little more interest in the Societies activities. This past session the committee have really pulled their weight.



One has not to look very far to see their efforts materialising, viz. "The Maitland Echo" and the Tuesday Evening Sporting inauguration. How many members are really interested in these important efforts?

As sports convenor of the society I do not wish to put all the blame on the committee and the members. I, of course, have to accept part of the blame, but do I deserve to be blamed? Does anyone think that one person can see to all arrangements, cater for everybody's likes and dislikes, especially when he does not receive the slightest co-operation from either the committee or the members.

On no occasion whatsoever have I been approached by a member with a suggestion. Apparently the members of the society do not mind very much whether they indulge in sports or not.

Unfortunately during this session, most of my time was taken up owing to pressure of work, with the result that I was unable to attend committee meetings.

I end my criticism on a happy note, in hoping that during the coming session members will try and show a little more consideration towards the committee, and also come forward with many helpful suggestions.

JACK KRAMER.

(Sports Convenor)

Highclere Street,  
MAITLAND.

(The extent to which Mr. Jack Kramer co-operated with the committee may be found at the bottom of page 3. - Ed.)



MAITLAND JUNIOR

ZIONIST SOCIETY.

# GENERAL ELECTIONS

Talmud Torah Hall

ON

SUNDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> FEB. '39

ROLL

UP

AND

ELECT

YOUR

EXECUTIVE.