



THE
MAITLAND
ECHO



A
MONTHLY JOURNAL
OF THE
MAITLAND JUNIOR ZIONIST SOCIETY.

THE MAITLAND ECHO

VOL. III No. 9.

1st MAY 1940.

KEREN HAYESOD 1940.

The 1940 Keren Hayesod campaign will be opened in Cape Town early this month.

It is this fund which is primarily responsible for the transformation in twenty years of a desert into a living national structure. Due to its work of restoration in Eretz Yisrael a new country has been created from desert and swamps. Year by year has the structure of this country grown; new settlements, towns, electricity, the first industries, the rebirth of Hebrew, new folk ways, schools, song, music and the stage. For the first time in 2,000 years Jews have returned to a normal pattern of life, agriculture and industry, trade and science, learning and art. All this is due to the work of the Keren Hayesod.

The last few years have been a terrific strain on Eretz Yisrael. Disturbances amounting to Civil War have tried the whole structure of the Yishuv. Men and women resisted attack and went on building. Great achievements like the construction of the Tel Aviv port and fifty new settlements was Jewry's answer to these disturbances. Furthermore since 1933 Eretz Yisrael has become a home for many thousands of refugees, a home which means work and freedom. This great effort of salvaging a distressed nation would not have been possible

without the Keren Hayesod.

It is apt to quote from General Smuts' stirring message to the opening banquet held recently in Johannesburg:- "There is a danger that the war may cause a falling off of funds at a time when they are more than ever necessary, not only to carry on the great work but also to provide for the settlement of refugees from many parts of Central Europe..... There is no fear that the present appeal to Zionists will go unheeded. There is no more generous community in South Africa or in all the world and South African Zionists have established a record of support for their cause which is the envy of the world".

When shortly you will be asked to make your contribution to the campaign think of the amazing achievements of the Keren Hayesod and do not forget that the measure of Eretz Yisrael's success in saving Jewry depends upon the support you are prepared to give to the Keren Hayesod.

---ooOoo---

PESACH.

Many of us are familiar with the observance of Pesach. Some of us too are aware that it commemorates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. But few of us realise the great historical significance of this festival.

The Torah every now and then, for an obvious reason, recalls the exodus from Egypt. The experiences of the Israelites were to be an example and so important a lesson to us that we continually had to be reminded of it.

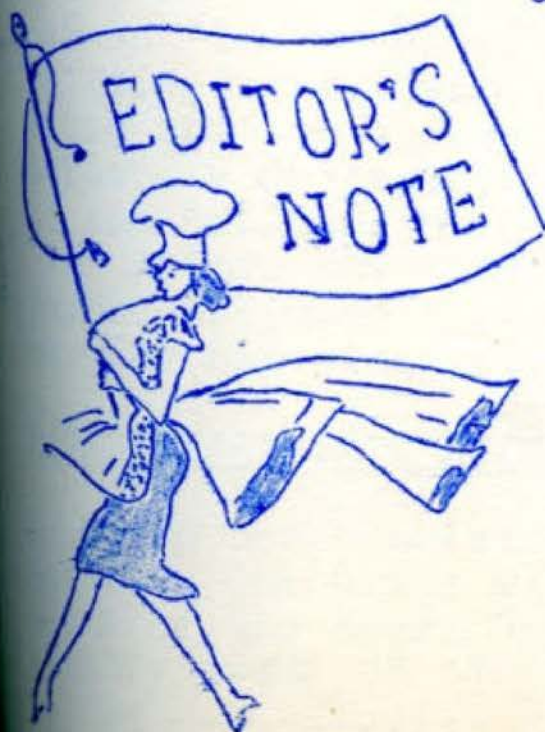
It is the Matzo which still conveys this lesson to us today. Matzo - "the bread of

"haste" - tells of the unpreparedness of our brethren in Egypt and is a warning against that great failing of the Jews. We have throughout the ages not been prepared to take full advantage of any sudden opportunity which time and again has presented itself. The Balfour Declaration is merely one example which would not have become a scrap of paper had we been ready to accept it in 1917.

Side by side with this physical readiness comes the spiritual acceptance of freedom and nationhood. Forty years the Israelites were destined to wander in the desert so that a new generation might be imbued with the ideals of the Torah, and be educated to bear the responsibilities of nationhood.

The opportunity to regain our freedom may come at any unexpected moment. Let us heed the writing on the wall which Pesach so clearly amplifies. Let us take good care that we may not once again be caught both physically and spiritually unprepared for our redemption.

---ooOoo---



YOUNG ISRAEL PAGE.

At the time of going to press the Maitland Young Israel Society page was not yet to hand. Will the Secretary please note this omission. All contributions, letters, etc. should reach the Editor by not later than the 25th of each month.

N E W SO FT H E M O N T H .COMMITTEE MEETING.

At a committee meeting held at the Hall on Sunday 7th April it was decided that Ben Kaufman would act as Treasurer until the end of the term in view of Myer Kramer's transfer.

SPOTLIGHT EVENING.

On Sunday evening 7th April, the Society held a novel function at the Talmud Torah Hall. Each person present was given a paper or article on a pertinent subject, and after time had been allotted for the perusal of the paper, the lights were switched off. The spotlight was then turned on and caught Jack Joffe, who read an article on "The women of Palestine", after which came Gladys Saacks who read a paper on "The women of Galilee". The next was Phillip Ozinsky who read a short talk on "The Bible and its influence". Lastly Miriam Schwabsky delivered an interesting description of the building of the Tel Aviv harbour.

Before the close of the meeting Bernard Barron proposed a vote of thanks to Ben Kaufman for choosing very suitable subjects.

LATEST PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

Two new booklets were received during April. One dealt with the work and achievements of the Keren Hayesod, the other was the monthly issue of "Topical Talks", published by the S.A. Zionist Youth Council.

Amongst other articles it contains subjects on "Advance in Palestine", "Pesach" by Nahum Sokolow and the story of the Jewish National Exchequer.

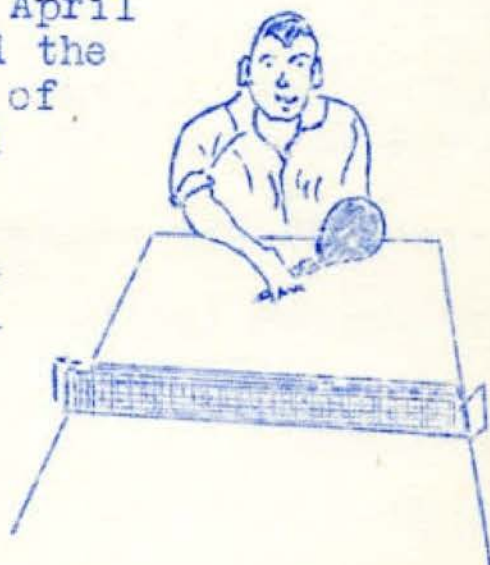
Any of the above papers and those announced in previous issues may be had on application to our Hon. Secretary - Gladys Saacks.

TUESDAY EVENINGS.

Though members do not attend these meetings regularly they sometimes come in crowds. An enjoyable evening was spent by all on Tuesday 9th April.

On Tuesday the 16th April the Society team defeated the strong table tennis team of the Maitland Young Israel Society by 13-12.

On the same evening a rehearsal for our Seder evening was held, Mr. Lederman being in charge of the Singing.



STUDY CIRCLES.

As usual two discussions took place on Friday evenings during last month. The first was at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. A. Saacks

and the subject was "That a women's place is in the home".

The second discussion held a fortnight later, at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. S. Singer was on the following:-- "That hereditary and not environment is more important to mankind".



This group will meet next at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. A. Kaufman on

Friday, 10th May at 8.30. p.m. to debate "That the observance of Pesach is unnecessary in these times.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members have received accounts for their respective debts and it is hoped that they will co-operate with Ben Kaufman in easing the Treasurer's work.

EXECUTIVE SEDER EVENING.

At the opening of this meeting held on the 21st April at the Zionist Hall, Mr. A.Z. Berman spoke on "Jewish Youth in South Africa" and Adv. M. Alexander on "The duty of Jewish Youth in South Africa".

After these two speeches the following four questions were asked:-

- (1) What is the significance of Pesach to Jewish Youth in South Africa?
- (2) What are the experiences of refugees in Europe?
- (3) How will refugees fit into the life of Eretz Yisrael?
- (4) What form does the struggle for Jewish Freedom take?

These four questions were very ably answered by Mr. Sam Levin, Mrs. Abe Herman, Miss Nechamah Gennusow and Mr. Abe Herman.

SPORT.

Now that the rugby season has started a number of our members are playing for various clubs.

Syd Saacks plays for Maitland Second Team while Solly Bernberg plays for the Third. Sam Solomon is a member of False Bay Third; Monty Singer and Phillip Ozinsky are playing in the Varsity under nineteen teams.

There are of course quite a number of younger members who represent their various schools at Rugby.

DANCE COMMITTEE.

On Thursday, 25th April a Dance Committee meeting was held at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. A. Kaufman. A representative committee was formed with Abe Kawalsky Chairman, Lily Jacobson Secretary and Abe Urdang Treasurer.

This year's dance will be held in the Maitland Town Hall. Sarah Disner's Orchestra will once again be in attendance and the price of tickets will be 7/6d. double, 5/-d. single.

Tickets may be obtained from any member of the Committee. Any person selling ten double tickets or its equivalent will be entitled to one double ticket free.



OUR SEDER EVENING.

Despite the inclemency of the weather there was a good attendance at our Seder Evening held in the hall on Sunday April 28th.

Mr. A. Kaufman acted as head of the family for the Seder. After Kiddish the following four questions were asked:-

- (1) Why is it that at every Seder someone in the house should ask questions, and why are these put after Kiddish and the second cup of wine filled?
- (2) Why, when slavery is a thing of the past and there are no more Pharaohs, does the Hagadah say that if the Lord had not

taken our ancestors out of Egypt, we their sons and their grandchildren would still have been subordinated in Egypt?

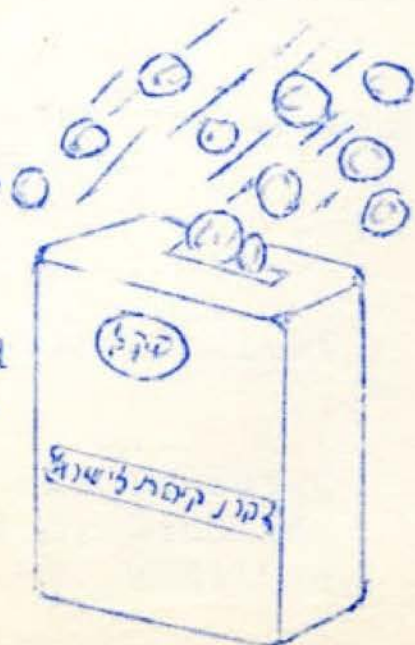


- (3) What is the difference between the Chochom, i.e. the wise son and Roshoh, i.e. the wicked son?
Do they not both ask "What is this Service?"
- (4) Why do we make special mention of three things, viz. Pesach, Matzo and Morer, and why is it that if these things were not mentioned our duty would not have been fulfilled?

The Head of the family answered these four questions after which songs were sung in the usual Pesach fashion.

J.N.F. BOX CLEARANCE.

the next quarterly J.N.F. box clearance will take place on Sunday May 13th. All those members who are prepared to assist in this are asked to communicate with the J.N.F. Commissioners - Becky Gootman and/or Wolfe Fish.



The initial letters of the solutions make up the answer to No. 9.

- (1) The feast of the unleavened bread (matzo)
- (2) The half of the middle cake which every boy tries to take from underneath the cushion.
- (3) The Hagadah is read during these most impressive religious home services.
- (4) This festival is celebrated at the beginning of this season.
- (5) The second day of this Yom Tov is the first of 49 days of this.
- (6) The third of the 10 plagues which fell on Egypt.
- (7) He is said to come in through the opened door and drink of the wine in His special cup on the table.
- (8) Its crossing was one of the miracles of the mighty hand which delivered the Israelites from Egypt.
- (9) The festival which commemorates the season of our Liberation from Bondage.

---ooOoo---

The following is the solution to last month's Word-Puzzle:-

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <u>M</u> ordecai. | 2. <u>E</u> lijah | 3. <u>G</u> enesis. |
| 4. <u>I</u> nquisition. | 5. <u>L</u> echah Dodi | 6. <u>L</u> incoln. |
| 7. <u>A</u> dar. | 8. <u>H</u> aifa. | 9. <u>M</u> EGILLAH. |

TWIX T OURSELVES

Every military training centre in the Union seems to find a local representative there at some time or another. Apart from the other fellows that have been to camp, Myer Manasewitz returned last month with the Engineers. Now Arthur Joffe and Harold Jacobson are spending a month in Oudtshoorn training with the "Jocks". It is good to see local boys doing their bit.

- - - - -

The Jewish communities near the camp have provided for the Jewish soldiers during Pesach. The boys must have had a good tuck in for the eight days.



- - - - -

In last month's issue I deprecated the lack of enthusiasm in the Maitland youth for the Purim holidays but Pesach was also spent by them in the same unenthusiastic manner. Gone are the days when the local young Jews looked forward to the "nuts season" with zest.

Years ago every one was in possession of his few hundred nuts and matzo mehl bag. Who of the old boys will ever forget the great games of pontoon that were played in Kramer's garden? Nowadays it is only "Try your luck at the hoopie" and odds and evens.

- - - - -

Perhaps the most pleasing feature in recent activities of the Society was the appointment of Abe Kawalsky as chairman of the Dance Committee.

Some of the older hands will remember how in 1929 Abe re-formed the Maitland Junior Zionist Society after it had been abandoned a year previously. So successful was he that he occupied the chair for five years consecutively until 1934.

It is good to see Abe in the chair again after six years in the wilderness. You can take it from me that this year's dance is booked for a huge success.



It is gratifying to see a number of newcomers in the Maitland Junior Zionist family. I shall watch with keen interest the progress of Sylvia Rochman, Tilly Sacharowitz, Esther Sharanowitz and Harold Bass.

In the meantime I am expecting the older members to make them feel at home.

In a letter which I received last week from Myer Kramer from Port Elizabeth this is what he writes:-
 "This place is proving quite a rest cure. I've got through quite a lot in the time I've been here, but I've still got a devil of a lot to do. The girls aren't bad, but I've



no time to spare at the moment".

Myer seems to have become very blase since he left Maitland.

As a result of my request for a Society song, Barney Seidle our Poet Laureate has forwarded me an effort which is published on page 14.



I am sure some of my readers will not let this entry go unchallenged and by next month I expect to find either some improvement on this song or an original attempt.

Can anyone suggest a tune?

The Wandering Jew

STOP PRESS.

NEXT FUNCTION.

This will take the form of an inter-debate with the Green & Sea Point Jewish Guild at the Talmud Torah Hall, Maitland on Sunday 12th May at 8.15. p.m.

Messrs. F. Robinson and H. Newman will move for the visitors "That the task of leading the Jews out of exile today is greater than the task which confronted Moses".

Messrs. B. Barron and M. Manasewitz will oppose the motion for our Society.

OUR MONTHLY ALMANAC.MAY 1940IYAR 5700

All Jewish occasions commence at sunset on the day previous to the date mentioned below.

April 24 to "SEPHIRAH" - THE SEVEN WEEKS.
 June 11. NO SOCIAL FUNCTIONS MAY BE
 Nisan 16 to HELD DURING THIS PERIOD.
 Sivan 5.

This is because of the sad memories of the oppressive treatment of the Jews during this period of the year in the days of the Romans, and also, in the latter middle ages. During this period a plague broke out amongst Rabbi Akiva's pupils

May 8-9
 Nisan 30-
 Iyar 1.

TWO DAYS ROSH CHODESH.

An exception is made on these two days and social functions may be held even during "Sephira".

May 10
 Iyar 2.

PEACE CONFERENCE AT SAN REMO (1922)
GRANTED PALESTINE MANDATE TO GREAT
BRITAIN.

This was subsequently ratified by the League of Nations on July 24th.

May 26
 Iyar 18.

"LAG B'OMER" - 33RD DAY OF THE OMER

This is another day during "Sephira" on which social functions may be held, because tradition records that the plague raged amongst Rabbi Akiva's pupils ceased on this day.

M. J. Z. S. - SONG.by Barney Seidle.

We are the Maitland youth
 Filled with zest and ambition,
 Believing in honour and truth
 To keep up the Jewish tradition.

Some countries have barred their doors
 And besmirched the Jewish name,
 Still we advance our cause
 Still we labour to reach our aim.

We'll strive to the very end
 Working hand in hand,
 Nor e'er our efforts unbend
 For Eretz Yisrael, our land.

CHORUS.

So let's all join in chorus
 Tho' there's plenty of work before us,
 With a song and a little play
 We are sure to win the day.

---ooOoo---

CORRESPONDENCE.

All correspondence should be addressed to
 The Editor,
 The Maitland Echo,
 Zion Villa,
 5, Ferndale Road,
MAITLAND.

REMEMBER SATURDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 17TH, 1940.
 OUR TWELFTH ANNUAL DANCE -- SELL TICKETS!

LETTERS TOTHE EDITOR.OUR ANNUAL DANCE.

The Editor,
The Maitland Echo.

Sir,

As one who has been closely associated with the annual dances of the M.J.Z.S. in the past, I wish to take this opportunity of stressing the importance of good teamwork in respect of the organisation of this year's dance.

Last year's dance was an example of what combined efforts can do, but we cannot rest on our laurels. Each member must surely realise what this Annual Dance means to the Society - it provides the means for us to carry on the good work which we have been doing. I therefore urge that one and all should co-operate and start NOW (not a week before the Dance) to do his or her utmost to make this Dance an even greater success than in the years gone by.

RAIE KAUFMAN.

5, Ferndale Road,
MAITLAND.

---ooOoo---

SAVE THE JEWISH NATION BY CONTRIBUTING TO
THE KEREN HAYESOD, THUS BUILDING ERETZ
YISRAEL.

MAITLAND - BROOKLYN TALMUD TORAH.

Talkie films that have stirred the Jewish World!

Two latest releases from Palestine

"A HOMELAND IN THE MAKING"

(Portraying graphic pictures of achievements in the Holy Land)

AND

"THERE IS HOPE FOR THY CHILDREN"

(The dramatic story of the rescue of young victims of persecution)

WITH FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

will be shown in

THE MAITLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL HALL

on

WEDNESDAY, 8th MAY 1940

at 8 p.m.

ADMISSION. (Including tax)

Adults: 1/3.

Children: 8d.