

COMBINED CORONATION AND BAT MITZVAH SERVICE HELD AT UPINGTON.

The Upington Hebrew Congregation held a combined Coronation and Bat Mitzvah Service on 2nd June. Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson officiated. It was the first time in the history of the congregation that a Bat Mitzvah Service was held. The Bnot Mitzvah were Miss Doreen (Doreen) Broude, Ahuvah (Luba) Bellon, Miss Bat-Immerman and Miss Sarah...

The Upington Synagogue was filled to capacity while outside a guard of honour was given to the four Bat Mitzvah girls by the youth of Upington, each of them carrying the White and Blue Flag. The proceedings opened with a Mincha Service by Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson, and thereafter the President, Mr. Joe Kowen, and Mr. Abraham Nurick opened the holy Ark, and the three holy Scrolls of the Torah were carried to the Bima, where the Rabbi, in a very impressive manner, recited the prayer for Queen Elizabeth II and for the State of Israel. Then the Rabbi called upon the four Bat Mitzvah girls to recite their prayer, which was followed by the blessing pronounced to the four Bat Mitzvah girls and their parents.

The Torah was put into the Ark, while the Rabbi addressed the Bnot Mitzvah. In a very impressive sermon the Rabbi said that while Queen Elizabeth had been crowned with kingship, the four Bnot Mitzvah girls were crowned with the Torah. He also said that Jewish women have a great task in the building and the moulding of a nation began in the home. He blessed the young girls and wished them success. After the sermon the Psalm Shabbat was sung by the children of the Hebrew School. The very impressive service was terminated with the singing of Hatikvah.

After the service there was a reception at the Communal Hall. Mr. Joe Kowen acted as master of the ceremony. He called upon the gathering to toast Queen Elizabeth II, and God save the Queen was sung, and the toast to the State of Israel. Mr. Joe Kowen thanked the parents for giving him the honour to preside over such a unique and historic occasion, which was the first in Upington. He expressed his thanks and gratitude to Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson for his good work done in the Hebrew School, and also said that this was a forerunner for many Bnot Mitzvah to follow. Then he called upon the Rabbi to propose a toast to the Bnot Mitzvah. In his toast Rabbi Abrahamson spoke very highly about the Bnot Mitzvah and their parents, who encouraged their children in the study of Hebrew history and traditions.

Certificates of merit for the Bnot Mitzvah who had distinguished themselves in their examination were presented by the Rabbi on behalf of the Cape Board of Jewish Education.

Mrs. Joe Kowen presented to the Bnot Mitzvah presents on behalf of the Upington Hebrew Congregation.

Miss Doreen Broude thanked the Rabbi, the parents and Hebrew Congregation in Hebrew, while Miss L.

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BIKKURIM AND BATMITZVAH CEREMONIES AT PAROW.

The ancient ceremony of Chag-Habikkurim was celebrated for the first time Erev-Chag Shavuoth at the Parow Communal Hall by the children of the community. There was a fair attendance of parents present. The ceremony opened with an address by Rev. Lipshitz, who spoke about the history of Shavuoth and the revival ceremony of Chag-Habikkurim. He then announced that the ancient ceremony of the bringing in of the First Fruits would take place. A group of young girls singing Saleinu al Ktpeinu and carrying baskets of fruit and vegetables on their shoulders entered the hall. Inside the hall they recited biblical verses and sang other songs. Another procession then entered the hall, namely the children of the Kindergarten; these children, under the guidance of their teacher, also recited and sang songs appropriate to Shavuoth. The Rabbi then addressed the children and spoke about the connection of the Chag with the Jewish National Fund, a fund, he said, which bought land that would for ever remain the property of the Jewish people. The sale of the Bikkurim then took place, each child dropping a coin in the Blue Box. After serving light refreshments to the children, which they obviously all enjoyed the ceremony ended with the singing of "Yigdal" and "Hatikvah."

The Parow Shul was well filled with worshippers on the first day of Shavuoth, when the Bat Mitzvah of the twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kree took place. The girls each read a special prayer prepared for them by their teacher. Rabbi Lipshitz, in his address to the Congregation and to the Bnot Mitzvah specially, took as his text the verse: "Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel." After the service a reception in honour of the Bnot Mitzvah was held in the Communal Hall. The President of the Parow Congregation congratulated the Bnot Mitzvah and presented to them each a prayer book and also a certificate from the Cape Jewish Board of Education. The girls suitably replied and Mr. Kree also spoke, thanking everybody for their presence and for their good wishes.

BEQUESTS BY MR. A. A. DE PASS.

Mr. Alfred Aaron de Pass, the fine art connoisseur, who died in the Cape on 10th December at the age of 91, left £200 and that part of his land used as a Jews' burial ground at Falmouth to the Jewish congregation at Plymouth, and £100 to the wardens and elders of the congregation of Spanish and Portuguese Jews in London.

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Bellon thanked on behalf of the Bnot Mitzvah in English.

Mr. B. Wulf and Mr. Solly Bellon replied to the toast. Both spoke very highly of Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson's service to the community and as the Principal of the Hebrew School Bialik.

During the proceedings Mr. Joe Kowen presented to Natan Davis a Certificate of Trees and wished him and Mrs. Davis good luck in his new sphere, and Mr. Davis replied.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Soccer: The visiting Dundee soccer team gave an artistic exhibition of football in their match against Western Province. In the first half Province managed to hold their own, but were completely outplayed in the second half. Mendel, who played centre-forward, was closely marked by Boyd and had few opportunities to score. On the one occasion he managed to elude the centre-half he scored, but was adjudged to be offside.

Another Scottish team, Falkirk, is at the moment touring Israel. In their first match they beat Maccabi Tel Aviv, who are the Israel champions, 2-0. The game was played at the Ramat Gan Stadium before 30,000 spectators.

Rugby: Wilf Rosenberg, the young Wits University centre, has again been chosen by Transvaal to play in the friendly match against Western Province at Ellis Park on 13th June.

Maccabi Film: The film of the 3rd Maccabiad, now in Cape Town, runs for 35 minutes and is in Technicolor with an excellent commentary spoken by Norman Lourie. It contains many shots of the South African team in training and in action. Any organisations or clubs interested in this film are invited to contact the Secretary of the Maccabi Association, Jack Galloon, phone 3-3081.

Swimming: The Western Province

water polo players, Solly Yach, Manfred Salamon and Brame Fialkov, who were selected for the Maccabi team, are training hard at the Long Street Baths under the watchful eye of Harry Getz. Jackie Wiid, the British Empire 'backstroke swimming champion, is on holiday in Cape Town and is assisting them with their training.

Rhodesian Bowls Team for 4th Maccabiah Selected: During the week-end 24th/25th May, the Rhodesian Maccabi Association conducted trials at the Weizmann Country Club, Bulawayo, to select the team of bowlers to represent the Rhodesias at the 4th Maccabi Games. Interest was at fever-pitch and the standard of play very high. The task of the selectors was not an enviable one and the final selection assures that Rhodesian Jewish sportsmen will be worthily represented in Israel later this year. The following five players have been selected: H. Rosenberg (Bulawayo), skip, J. J. Susman (Salisbury), N. Krikler (Salisbury), J. Marks (Bulawayo) and A. Rubel (Bulawayo).

This will be the first time that Rhodesian Jewry will have participated in an international competition as a separate unit.

In addition to the Bowls entry, it is hoped to send over to the Maccabiah other sportsmen who have excelled in different branches of sport.

PAARL WOMEN'S ZIONIST SOCIETY.

An interesting and enjoyable film evening was held at the Talmud Torah Hall, Paarl, on Thursday evening, 14th May. Mr. B. Zetler presided and Mr. A. Rose spoke on J.N.F. work in Israel.

A Study Circle has been formed by Rabbi Dr. I. H. Levine, with representatives on its Committee from the Paarl Women's Zionist Society and the Union of Jewish Women, and the various Men's Committees. A very suc-

cessful inaugural function was held on Monday evening, 11th May, at the Talmud Torah Hall. Mr. Jack Lichtenstein was elected Chairman. It is planned to hold monthly meetings.

A Shavuoth evening was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. Bloom, Protea Street, Paarl, on Monday, 18th May. The lounge was beautifully decorated with foliage and fruit depicting the spirit of Shavuoth. Rabbi Dr. Levine spoke on "Shavuoth." Songs were sung by Rev. Kur, and there were readings by Mrs. Anne Stein and Mrs. Hilda Volks.



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